



THE  
CONNOISSEUR.

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CRITIC and CENSOR-GENERAL.

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NUMBER XXI.

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THURSDAY, June 20, 1754.

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— — *Studeo, bullatis ut mihi nugis*  
*Pagina turgescat, dare pondus idonea fumo.* PERS.



QUASSOUW, the son of KQVUSSOMO, was Konquer or Chief Captain over the Sixteen Nations of *Caffraria*. He was descended from *N'ob* and *Hingn'ob*, who dropt from the Moon; and his power extended over all the *Kraals* of the *Hottentots*.

THIS Prince was remarkable for his prowess and activity: his speed was like the torrent that rushes down the precipice, and he would overtake the Wild Afs in her flight: his Arrows brought down the Eagle from the clouds, the Lion fell before him, and his Launce drank the blood of the Rhinoceros. He fathomed the waters of the deep, and buffeted the billows in the tempest: he drew the Rock-Fish from their lurking-holes, and rifled the beds of Coral.

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Trained from his infancy in the exercise of war, to wield the *Hassagaye* with dexterity, and break the Wild Bulls to battle, he was a stranger to the soft dalliance of love; and beheld with indifference the thickclipped damsels of *Gongeman*, and the flatnosed beauties of *Hauteniqua*.

As *TQUASSOUW* was one day giving instructions for spreading toils for the Elk, and digging pitfalls for the Elephant, he received information, that a Tyger prowling for prey was committing ravages on the *Kraals* of the *Chamtowers*. He snatched up his Bow of Olive-wood, and bounded, like the Roe-Buck on the mountains, to their assistance. He arrived just at the instant, when the enraged animal was about to fasten on a Virgin, and aiming a poisoned arrow at his heart laid him dead at her feet. The Virgin threw herself on the ground, and covered her head with dust, to thank her deliverer; but when she rose, the Prince was dazzled with her charms. He was struck with the glossy hue of her complexion, which shone like the jetty down of the Black Hog of *Hessaqua*: he was ravished with the prest gristle of her nose; and his eyes dwelt with admiration on the flaccid beauties of her breasts, which descended to her navel.

*KNONMQUAIHA*, (for that was the Virgin's name,) was daughter to the *Kouquequa* or Leader of the *Kraal*; who bred her up with all the delicacy of her sex. She was fed with the entrails of Goats, she sucked the eggs of the Ostrich, and her drink was the milk of Ewes. After gazing for some time upon her charms, the Prince in great transport embraced the soles of her feet: then ripping up the beast he had just killed, took out the Caul, and hung it about her neck, in token of his affection. He afterwards stripped the Tyger of his skin, and sending it to the *Kouquequa* her father demanded the damsel in marriage.

THE eve of the full moon was appointed for the celebration of the nuptials of *TQUASSOUW* and *KNONMQUAIHA*. When the day arrived, the magnificence in which the Bridegroom was arrayed amazed all *Caffraria*. Over his shoulders

shoulders was cast a *Krosse* or Mantle of Wild Cat-skins: he cut Sandals for his feet from the raw hide of an Elephant; he hunted down a Leopard, and of the spotted fur formed a superb Cap for his head; he girded his loins with the Intestines, and the Bladder of the beast he blew up and fastened to his hair.

NOR was KNONMQUAIHA less employed in adorning her person. She made a varnish of the fat of Goats mixed with foot, with which she anointed her whole body as she stood beneath the rays of the sun: her locks were clotted with melted grease, and powdered with the yellow dust of *Buchu*: her face, which shone like the polished Ebony, was beautifully varied with spots of Red Earth, and appeared like the sable curtain of the night bespangled with stars: she sprinkled her limbs with wood-ashes, and perfumed them with the dung of the *Stinkbingssem*. Her arms and legs were entwined with the shining entrails of a Heifer: from her neck there hung a pouch composed of the stomach of a Kid: the wings of an Ostrich overshadowed the fleshy promontories behind; and before she wore an apron formed of the shaggy ears of a Lion.

THE Chiefs of the several *Kraals*, who were summoned to assist at their nuptials, formed a circle on the ground, sitting upon their heels, and bowed their heads between their knees in token of reverence. In the centre the illustrious Prince with his sable Bride reposed upon soft cushions of Cow-dung. Then the *Surri* or Chief Priest approached them, and in a deep voice chaunted the nuptial rites to the melodious grumbling of the *Gom-Gom*; and at the same time (according to the manner of *Caffraria*) bedewed them plentifully with the urinary benediction. The Bride and Bridegroom rubbed in the precious stream with extasy; while the briny drops trickled from their bodies, like the oozy surge from the Rocks of *Cbirigriqua*.

THE *Hottentots* had seen the increase and wane of two moons since the happy union of TQUASSOUW and KNONM-  
QUAIHA,

QUAIHA, when the *Kraals* were surpris'd with the appearance of a most extraordinary personage, that came from the savage people who rose from the sea, and had lately fixed themselves on the borders of *Caffraria*. His body was enwrapped with strange coverings, which concealed every part from sight except his face and hands. Upon his skin the sun darted his scorching rays in vain, and the colour of it was pale and wan as the watry beams of the moon. His hair, which he could put on and take off at pleasure, was white as the blossoms of the Almond Tree, and bushy as the fleece of the Ram. His lips and cheeks resembled the Red Oker, and his nose was sharpened like the beak of an Eagle. His language, which was rough and inarticulate, was as the language of beasts; nor could TQUASSOUW discover his meaning, till a *Hottentot* (who at the first coming of these people had been taken prisoner, and had afterwards made his escape) interpreted between them. This interpreter informed the Prince, that the stranger was sent from his fellow countrymen to treat about the enlargement of their territories, and that he was called among them MYNHEER VAN SNICKERSNEE.

TQUASSOUW, who was remarkable for his humanity, treated the savage with extraordinary benevolence. He spread a mantle of Sheep-skins anointed with fat for his bed, and for his food he boiled in their own blood the tripes of the fattest herds, that grazed in the rich pastures of the *Heykoms*. The stranger in return instructed the Prince in the manners of the savages, and often amus'd him with sending fire from a hollow engine, which rent the air with thunder. Nor was he less studious to please the gentle KNONMQUAIHA. He bound bracelets of polished metal about her arms, and encircled her neck with beads of glass: he filled the Cocoa-shell with a delicious liquor, and gave it her to drink, which exhilarated her heart, and made her eyes sparkle with joy: he also taught her to kindle fire through a tube of clay with the dried leaves of *Dacha*, and to send forth rolls of odorous smoke from her mouth. After having  
sojourned

sojourned in the *Kraals* for the space of half a moon, the stranger was dismissed with magnificent presents of the teeth of Elephants; and a grant was made to his countrymen of the fertile meadows of *Kochogua*, and the forests of *Stinkwood* bounded by the *Palamite* River.

TQUASSOUW and KNONMQUAIHA continued to live together in the most cordial affection; and the *Surris* every night invoked the great *Gounja Ticquoa*, who illuminates the Moon, that he would give an heir to the race of *N'ob* and *Hingn'ob*. The Princess at length manifested the happy tokens of pregnancy; her waist encreased daily in circumference, and swelled like the Gourd. When the time of her delivery approached, she was committed to the care of the Wife Women, who placed her on a couch of the reeking entrails of a Cow newly slain, and to facilitate the birth gave her a potion of the milk of Wild Affes, and fomented her loins with the warm dung of Elephants. When the throes of child-birth came on, a terrible hurricane howled along the coast, the air bellowed with thunder, and the face of the Moon was obscured as with a veil. The *Kraal* echoed with shrieks and lamentations, and the Wife Women cried out, that the Princess was delivered of a MONSTER.

THE product of her womb was WHITE.—They took the child, and washed him with the juice of Aloes:—they exposed his limbs to the sun, anointed them with the fat, and rubbed them with the excrement of Black Bulls:—but his skin still retained its detested hue, and the child was still WHITE. The venerable *Surris* were assembled to deliberate on the cause of this prodigy; and they unanimously pronounced, that it was owing to the evil machinations of the Dæmon *Cham-ouna*, who had practised on the virtue of the Princess under the appearance of MYNHEER VAN SNICKERSNEE.

THE incestuous parent with her unnatural offspring were judged unworthy to live. They bowed a branch of an Olive Tree in the Forest of Lions, on which the white monster was suspended by the heels; and ravenous beasts feasted on

the issue of KNONMQUAIHA. The Princess herself was sentenced to the severe punishment allotted to the heinous crime of Adultery. The *Kouqueguas*, who scarce twelve moons before had met to celebrate her nuptials, were now summoned to assist at her unhappy death. They were collected in a circle, each of them wielding a huge club of Cripplewood. The beautiful criminal stood weeping in the midst of them, prepared to receive the first blow from the hand of her injured Husband. TQUASSOUW in vain assayed to perform the sad office: thrice he uplifted his ponderous mace of iron, and thrice dropt it ineffectual on the ground. At length from his reluctant arm descended the fell stroke, which lighted on that nose, whose flatness and expansion at first captivated his heart. The *Kouqueguas* then rushing in, with their clubs redoubled their blows on her body, 'till the pounded KNONMQUAIHA lay as an heap of mud, which the retiring flood leaves on the strand.

HER battered limbs, now without form and distinction, were enclosed in the paunch of a Rhinoceros, which was fastened to the point of a bearded arrow, and shot into the Ocean. TQUASSOUW remained inconsolable for her loss: he frequently climbed the lofty Cliffs of *Chirigriqua*, and cast his eyes on the watry expanse. One night, as he stood howling with the Wolves to the Moon, he descried the paunch that contained the precious relics of KNONMQUAIHA, dancing on a wave, and floating towards him. Thrice he cried out with a lamentable voice, *Bo, Bo, Bo*: then springing from the cliff, he darted like the Eagle sousing on his prey. The paunch burst in sunder beneath his weight; the green wave was discoloured with the gore; and TQUASSOUW was enveloped in the mass. He was heard of no more; and it was believed, that he was snatched up into the Moon.

THEIR unhappy fate is recorded among the Nations of the *Hottentots* to this day; and their Marriage-rites have ever since concluded with a wish, "That the Husband may be "happier than TQUASSOUW, and the Wife more chaste than "KNONMQUAIHA."

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