



EXTRACTS.

THE ADVENTURES OF CEPHALUS AND PROCRIS.

CEPHALUS, the son of Deioneus, king of Thessaly, married Procris, daughter of Pandion, king of Athens. They bound each other by a vow never to love any one else.

Their security in each other's exclusive attachment was increased if possible, by a passion which was conceived for Cephalus by Aurora, the Goddess of Morning.

Aurora, however, was not angry. She was too much in love. Cephalus began to feel a softer pride when he found that she still loved him secretly, and that she did all in her power to gratify him.

By degrees, Cephalus began to think that Procris might spare a little of so great a love; and as these wicked thoughts stole upon him, he found Aurora steal nearer.

The husband in whose mind this suggestion seemed to awaken all his exclusive tenderness for his wife, readily accepted the alternative. But how was Procris to be tried? Aurora soon found an expedient.

The fawns, with a yearning yet easy swiftness, wound along down the side of the hill. Their snowy figures flashed in and out of the trees; the peacock's tail trailed along the air; the jewels sparkled in the stranger's turban.

Procris, with whom the ice had been thus broken, and who already thought herself half faithless to the strictness of her vow, scarcely knew whether to feel more angry at the warmth, or piqued at the ceremonious indifference of the stranger.

Procris. "We always do so in Phœnicia," said he, "when presents are received;" and without more ado, he kissed her in a sort of formal and cabalistic manner, first on one cheek, then on the other, and lastly on the forehead.

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and hoped (which was kind of her) that her husband might receive great pleasure from the present she intended to make him of the fawns. "I think he is coming down the hill," said she. "No," said the stranger.

Cephalus, in his chariot of fawns, sought her a hundred ways in vain. He was at once angry and sorry; and Aurora found that her artifice had been of no use.

He was sitting at home one evening in a melancholy manner, after an unsuccessful day's sport, when a beautiful female with a dog appeared at the door; and begged permission to rest herself.

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her, though a huntress, was what might have been expected. She begged her, in very explicit terms, to withdraw. Procris, however, though she could obtain no sympathy purely on her own account, contrived to waken an interest in the bosom of the divine virgin, by telling her of the trick played her by Cephalus and Aurora.

It is not on record, that our married couple were never so fond of each other, or so contented, as now. Procris, in the gratitude of her joy, was not disposed even to quarrel with Aurora, whom her husband, no doubt, saw occasionally.

What a pity that such a happy state of things was not to last! But Procris had early been taught jealousy. She had even identified it with a virtue; and by degrees, as little fits of ill-temper were exchanged, and she began to think less kindly of herself, she began to be uneasy about others.

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At last, her husband speaks. She parts the box-trees a little more, to listen the keeper. "Come gentle Aura," cried he, as if in a tone of reproach: "come, and breathe refreshment upon me:—thou scarcely stirrest the poplars to-day."

THE VENTRILOQUIST.—Brabant Lewis was a ventriloquist, and a favourite valet of Francis the First, King of France. Having become desperately in love with the daughter of a wealthy citizen of Paris, and being rejected on account of the inequality of condition, Lewis had recourse to ventriloquism in order to succeed in his suit.

THE CAUTIOUS WIDOW, with whom Lewis was far from being a favourite, resisted for some time these apparently supernatural calls, till they were many times repeated, and sometimes in the presence of the operator, who appeared motionless and silent.

In his way home, he recollected a banker in the neighbourhood, remarkable for wealth, for avarice, and superstition; he resolved to try an experiment on the old man, and repairing to his house, worked so powerfully on his imagination, in a manner similar to the widow, and with the detail of which it is not necessary to detain the reader, that the old miser actually advanced him a large sum of money.

By these means, Lewis was enabled to furnish his house handsomely, and purchased a splendid side-board of plate; these favourable appearances, together with a large sum of ready money, which he produced, satisfied the cautious mother, and he became in a few days the husband of a wealthy and beautiful heiress.

During the time of the sanguinary war between the Genoese and the Catalans, a galley, belonging to the former, was intercepted by the fleet of the latter. The Admiral, who was a man of ferocious disposition, ordered the whole crew to be thrown overboard in retaliation of some cruelty inflicted on his countrymen by the Genoese; and, adding insult to his barbarity, he made each man kneel down on the deck, and cut half a biscuit, saying as soon as he finished, now let him go and drink; on which he was thrown into the sea.

THE SENIOR WRANGLER, of a certain year piping hot from the Senate House at Cambridge, went to the play at Drury lane; it so happened, that a certain great personage entered at the same moment, on the other side of the house, but unobserved by the mathematician. The whole house testified their respect, by a general rising and clapping of hands.

King Charles had appointed a day for dining with his chaplains; and it was understood that this step was adopted as the least unpalatable mode of putting an end to the dinner. It was Dr. South's turn to say the grace; and whenever the king honored his chaplains with his presence, the prescribed formula ran thus: "God save the king, and bless the dinner."

A TOBACCO STOPPER.—The celebrated Dr. Samuel Parr was an inveterate smoker; his friends, knowing his penchant for this practice, never failed to be prepared for its indulgence whenever the learned and reverend doctor honored them with his company to dinner.

PAYING DEARLY FOR LOVE.—At Hull, a man named William Williams, was charged before the corporation magistrates, with being found in the house of Mrs. William Hall, of the Anchor road, late on the previous night.

CANDID CURFEW.—The Duke of Osenna, Viceroy of Naples, passing through Barcelona, and having got leave to release some slaves, went on board the Cape Galley, and passing through the crew of slaves, he asked several of them what their offences were?

THEODORE, KING OF CORSICA.—This unhappy monarch, whose courage and enterprise had raised him to a throne, not by a succession of bloody acts, but by the free choice of an oppressed nation, for many years struggled with fortune, and left no means untried which indefatigable policy or solicitation of succours could attempt, to recover his crown;

THEODORE, KING OF CORSICA, Who died in the year 1736, Immediately after leaving The King's Bench Prison, By the benefit of the Act of Insolvency, In consequence of which, He registered his kingdom of Corsica For the use of his Creditors.

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A BULL FROM ENGLAND.—In the eighteenth number of the Imperial Magazine, published in Liverpool, we have the following passage in a paper on "Ancient Manners and Customs of the English." "The nuts of St. Mary, Kingston, in Wilts, were often seen coming forth into the Nymph Hay, with their rocks and wheels to spin, sometimes to the number of seventy; all of whom were not nuts, but young girls sent there for education."

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