



Still to divert our Melancholy
Each year brings forth some favorite folly;
Balloons, with leartied geese & hogs,
The monstrous Craws, & dancing dogs.

THE
Gymnastic
Contest.

Have made us fools & had their day,
Now Princely boxing bears the sway;
And every macaroni now Sir!
Can square & tip, ye a MENDOZA.

Published as the Act directs, by Henry Lemoine, Jan. 7. 30. 1788.

MODERN MANHOOD;
OR, THE
ART AND PRACTICE
OF
ENGLISH BOXING.
INCLUDING THE
HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE
OF
NATURAL DEFENCE;
AND
MEMOIRS OF THE MOST CELEBRATED
PRACTITIONERS
OF THAT
MANLY EXERCISE.

Jam Messis in ore tibi erit mergis pugneis.
PLAUT.

L O N D O N:

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fields, and No. 28, Minories.

P R E F A C E.

TH E taste for exhibitions of this kind, are, I believe, entirely peculiar to this nation; other countries have their gymnastic and athletic exercises, but the English are singular in their exercise of the Fist, and are curious in this manner of settling disputes, which, among foreigners, are often terminated in dangerous wounds, and sometimes in death itself.

Of all methods of self-defence, it is certainly the least dangerous, and the most ready upon any sudden occasion. Politeness and good manners forbid the frequent exercise, but it is not altogether unnecessary to know somewhat of self-defence in this way, particularly to correct the impudence of over-bearing and insolent fellows, who push themselves forward, where their presence is not wanted; or to chastise the insolence of aggravated and pointed remarks, which reflect upon
B. character;

character, situation, or any local circumstances whatever.

In this view, Milton* recommends Boxing to be allowed to boys, not only as a useful athletic exercise, but as serviceable to them for this purpose in after life. Humanity is certainly contrary to the practice, and it shocked the pious Dr. Watts so much, that he wrote a Poem against it. The Spectator, and other polite Authors, have disapproved spectacles of this kind, but never altogether condemned the practice as totally unnecessary: while it is necessary that boys should be left to their own inclinations in the manner of settling their own disputes; a too great proficiency in these manœuvres, ought by no means to be encouraged, as it may incline them, as they grow up, to be quarrelsome in company, and make them fond of fishing in troubled water.

If the following happy instance of vindictive justice was principally effected from a knowledge of this Science, it may, with several others, powerfully tend to obviate

* Tractate on Education.

the stigma of inhumanity, that has been by some national persons wrongly fixed upon the same.

A short time since, as a countryman (whose appearance bespoke a state of emaciation) was driving a cart along Snow-hill, and finding the way (as is often the case) impeded by a brewer's dray, and the driver not within call, he took the liberty of leading the fore-horse, to open the passage. This being observed by the drayman, who was drinking in a public-house, he came out, and without any ceremony, felled the countryman to the ground. Before this was recovered, a gentleman, whose chariot had been stopped, had stripped himself to his black fatten breeches, and coming out to the drayman as a combatant, was willingly received; one of the former's colleagues exclaiming, "Dam'me, this is a gentleman, thrash him!" The coachman would have taken the office upon him, but this was refused by the gentleman, who displayed so much skill in the business, that the drayman was unexpectedly, and to the satisfaction of all the spectators, completely drubbed in ten minutes; he was

cut in several places, thrown every close, and was able to strike his antagonist very seldom during the whole time. The gentleman, satisfied with the fellow's concessions, &c. gave him half a crown to get his wounds dressed, and the same to the countryman to drink his health.

Excellence in every art whatever, is a pre-eminence to which but few can attain, and this is one, that every well-bred man would wish might produce but few imitative votaries ; but those who esteem these things as curiosities, and exertions of a singular ingenuity, and wish to see what has been written on this subject, may read Borelli de Motu Animalium ; a small scarce Tract, intitled, *Ars Pugnantis* ; Sir Thomas Parkyns's *Inn-Play-wrestler and Cornish Lug* ; and Captain Godfrey's *Science of Defence*, from all which, the present sheets are partly compiled.

Painters and Poets who wish to describe the efforts of muscular strength, are referred to the Statue of the raving Maniac at the front of Bedlam ; the figure of Hercules, which supports the monument of Sir Peter Warren, in Westminster

minster Abbey ; and that summary of Statuary skill of Ryfbrach's, at Stourhead, the feat of Mr. Hoare, where masonry and marble are taught by genius to depend on nature for their best ornament.

This exquisite piece, is a full sized figure of Hercules ; and for which the Artist (as Mr. Walpole informs us in the fourth Volume of his Anecdotes of Painting,) “ borrowed the head of the Farnesian God, and compiled the rest from various parts and limbs, of seven or eight of the stoutest, and best athletic made men in London, chiefly, the boxers and bruifers of the time ; the Sculptor selecting the parts that were the most truly formed in each : the arms were Broughton's, the breasts a celebrated Coachman's, a bruifer ; and the legs were those of Ellis the Painter, so that Ryfbrach's Hercules, may be considered as the monument of those Gladiators.”

During the present reign, the science of natural defence, has met but moderate encouragement till last year. Though scarce a season has elapsed, without affording
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some diversion of this sort, to the sanguine sons of this manual exercise ; yet no year like the last, and the present, has presented such perfect examples.

Mendoza, and the Bath butcher at Newmarket, were honoured with the presence and patronage of the greatest personages of the day, except one. It happened also fortunately for these heroes, that both houses of Parliament rose up the day immediately preceding the battle at Stains, between Johnson and Ryan, and no doubt many of the Members of that political body, contributed by their bets, to enhance these champion's valour. Richard Humphreys, who conquered Mendoza at Odiham in Hampshire, the 9th of January, 1788, is at present the last successful man ; and should he fight him again, I wish him success as an Englishman, and that he may transfer as much again, from the Hebrew interest over to our's, as he is said to have been the occasion of before.

H. L.

I N T R O-

INTRODUCTION.

IT is usual for Authors to introduce whatever subject they write upon with the sanction of Antiquity, borrowing examples from the remotest ages and customs, to produce a greater degree of consideration to their Works than they very often deserve.

In this manner the Antiquity of Boxing may be traced as far back as the time of Adam. It may be presumed, that Abel died under his brother's blows, for want of a good second to prevent unfair play. Jacob wrestled with an Angel who hammed him, and gave him an unfair fall, and for that reason the sinew is taken from the leg by the Jews to this day, which occasions that joint to cut a different appearance upon their tables, than it does upon ours.

The Egyptian, who had the misfortune to encounter Moses, was under the same dilemma, his antagonist being too powerful

ful for him, over-came and buried him in the sand. Had he had a good second, Moses might have had another bout, in which he might not have come off so well as from the first; but we must here seriously suppose the Egyptian was the aggressor, or like a foot pad attacked the Jewish-law-giver, whom the laws of nature obliged to resent the injury, and that his conduct was the result of that invariable principle in human nature, self-preservation.

In fact, all nations have had their gymnastic amusements, by which they endeavoured to keep alive the fire of warlike genius. * Benaiah slew two Lion-like men, or, as it is rendered in the margin, *Lions* of God, and also a real Lion in the bottom of a pit in a time of Snow. He also slew an Egyptian, a *Godly-Man*, who had a spear in his hand, but he appears to have performed this last feat with a staff, although he was a boxer, and as such had his name with the three mighty men. David, in consequence of these great actions, enrolled him among his mighty men, as our late king George, to whom that Jewish

* II Samuel, xxiii, V. 20.

monarch has been compared, made Broughton one of his Yeomen.

Sampson slew a Lion most probably with his Fists. Some ancient critics suppose, that by the same weapons he flew the thousand Philistines, as the word *Jaw-bone*, might be translated *Fists*, with as much propriety as sheaves of corn are called in our language *Foxes*.

The Romans had their gladiators : accordingly St. Paul says, “ If, after the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, &c.” so one of the fathers is of opinion, that by *beasts* in that passage is implied Prize-fighters, or whom we call Boxers. If that commentator is right, he very well accounts for the modern expression in the mouth of every son of Broughton—“ As Paul paid the Ephesians over the face and eyes.”

Wallace, the Caledonian hero, whom Edward Long-Shanks envied, and at last sacrificed to his cruelty, in his early days fought a pitched battle in a cock-pit, with an English Hercules, who had dared the whole country round, man after man, to encounter him. The young Scot first
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darkened the *day-lights* of his antagonist, then knocked out his jaw-bone, and with that same fist, felled as many of the surrounding croud, as offered to retard his escape from impending justice.

Modern times have even produced a Woman who could Box, and she was the famous Hannah Snell, of martial and naval memory. This extraordinary woman, besides her other martial qualifications, was the terror of the principal Bruisers in Liverpool and Portsmouth, about the years 1740 to 1750. After the discovery of her sex, his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland granted her a pension, and she exhibited among other characters for a long while, that of a Bruiser, upon the little Theatre, called the Wells, at Goodman's Fields, where she always came off with great applause.

T H E

ART AND PRACTICE

O F

ENGLISH BOXING.

CHAP. I.

*Definition of Boxing—Position considered—
Use of the Arms in first Advances—Hurt-
ful Blows—Where—Their Effects anatomi-
cally considered—Hints for Defence—
Wind and Spirit, a good Boxer's Bottom.
—Fame, the great Incentive to honoura-
ble Actions.*

BOXING is a combat, depending both upon strength and manual dexterity: strength must be the foundation, but art will execute more with a lesser share of strength, than a considerably greater degree of this, unassisted by that. Strength is certainly what the Boxer ought to set out with, but without art, he will succeed but poorly. The deficiency of strength may be greatly supplied by art, but the want of it will be severely felt

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by

by the strongest man, who may have the temerity to oppose, with mere strength, a practised and artful antagonist.

As the greatest advantage we can derive from instruction, is to learn how to apply the natural powers of the human system, it will not perhaps be amiss, to inquire into the most advantageous disposition of the human frame, from which the active arms of the body, derive their greatest degree of force.

From anatomy we learn, that, the strength of man consists in the power of his muscles, and that power is greatly to be increased by art. The muscles are the springs and levers, which execute the different motions of our body : but by art, a man may give an additional force to them.

The nearer a man brings his body to the center of gravity, the truer line of direction will his muscles act in, and consequently with more resisting force. If a man designs to strike a hard blow, let him shut his fist as firm as possible ; the power of his arm will then be considerably greater,

er, than if but slightly closed, and the velocity of his blow vastly augmented by it. The muscles, which give this additional force to the arm, in shutting the fist, are the flexors of the fingers, and the extensors are the opposite muscles, as they open or expand the same; yet, in striking, or using any violent efforts with your hand, these different orders of the muscles contribute to the same action. Thus it will appear, that when you close the fist of your left arm, and clap your right hand upon that arm, you will plainly feel all the muscles of it, to have a reciprocal swelling. From hence it follows, that muscles, by nature designed for different offices, mutually depend upon each other in great efforts. This consideration will be of much advantage in the application of that artificial force required in fighting, which beats much superior strength, unaided by art.

The position of the body is of the greatest consequence in fighting. The center of gravity ought to be well considered; for by that, the weight of the body being justly suspended, and the true equilibrium thereby preserved, the body
stands

stands much the firmer against opposing force. This depends upon the proper distance between the legs, which ought to be the Boxer's first object, or all his manly attempts will prove abortive.

In order to form the true position, the left leg must be presented some reasonable distance before the right, which brings the left side towards the adversary; this the right-handed man ought to do, that after having stopped the blow with his left arm, which is a kind of buckler to him, he may have the greater readiness and power of stepping in with his right hand's returning blow. In this posture he ought to preserve an easy flexion in the left knee, that his advances and retreats may be the quicker. By this proper flexion, his body is brought so far forward, as to have a just inclination over the left thigh, in such a manner, that his face makes a perpendicular, or strait line with the left knee; whilst the right leg and thigh, in a slanting line, strongly props up the whole body, as does a large beam an old wall: the body by this means is supported against all violent efforts, and the additional strength acquired

acquired by this equilibrium, has the most profitable effect.

When a man stands thus collected, all his body, which seems tranquil, is nevertheless in action. The muscles, the tendons, and the nerves, from the feet to the head, and arms and the hands, are stretched, in order to support him with firmness, and repellent strength.

Now consider from this, how much greater weight must not your adversary stand in need of, to beat you back from this firm position, which is, perhaps, the stiffest that our frame is capable of.

By this resisting reclamation of the body, your blows will acquire an additional weight from the laws of gravity, which a less-forward reclamation can never give. However, you may recline also too much, and so by over-ballancing yourself, fall too much forward ; which will give your antagonist a great advantage over you.

By

By this disposed attitude, you will find the whole body gently inclining forward, with a slanting direction ; so that from the out-side of the right angle, all the way to the shoulder, a strait line of direction, somewhat inclining or slanting upwards, will be the strongest position a man can contrive ; and it is such as we generally use in forcing doors, or resisting strength, or pushing forward any weight with violence ; for the muscles of the left side, which bend the body gently forward, bring over the left thigh the gravitating part, which by this contrivance augments the force ; whereas, if it was held erect, or upright, an indifferent blow about the head, or breast, would over-set it.

The body, by this position, has the muscles of the right side partly relaxed, and partly contracted, whilst those of the left, are altogether in a state of contraction ; and the reserve made in the muscles of the right side, are as springs and levers, to rise or let fall the body at discretion.

By delivering up the power to the muscle of the left side, which, in a very strong contraction,

contraction, brings the body forwards, the motion which is communicated is then so strong, that if the hand at that time be firmly closed, and the blow at that instant be pushed, or projected forward, with the contracting muscles, in a straight line with the moving body, the shock given from the stroke, will be able to overcome a force, not thus artfully contrived, twenty times as great.

From this it is evident, how it is in our power to give an additional force and strength to our bodies, whereby we may make ourselves far superior to men of more strength, but not seconded by art.

Let us now examine the most hurtful blows, and such as contribute most to the battle, though very few of those who fight, know why a blow on such a part, has such an effect, yet by experience they know it has; and by these evident effects, they are directed to the proper parts; as for instance, hitting under the ear, between the eye-brows, across the nose, and about the stomach.

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The blow under the ear is esteemed to be as dangerous, as any that can be given about the head, and particularly if it lights between the angle of the lower jaw and the neck ; because in this place there are two kinds of blood-veffels, considerably large, the one brings the blood immediately from the heart to the head, whilst the other carries it directly back.

Thus it happens, when a man receives a blow on these veffels, the blood proceeding from the heart to the head, is partly forced back, whilst the other part is pushed forwards vehemently to the head. The same effect is produced from the blood returning from the head to the heart, for part of it is precipitately forced into the latter, whilst the other part tumultuously rushes to the head ; whereby the blood-veffels are immediately overcharged, and the sinews of the brain become so overcharged and compressed, that the man at once loses all fenfation, and the blood often runs from his ears, mouth and nose, altogether owing to its quantity forced with such impetuosity into the smaller veffels, the texture of whose coats being too tender to resist so great a charge, instantly break,
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and cause the effusion of blood through these different parts.

But this is not the only consequence, for the heart, being over-charged with a regurgitation of blood, (for such is the effect of that forced back on the succeeding blood proceeding from its left ventricle,) stops its progress, whilst that part of the blood, coming from the head, is violently pushed into its right auricle ; so that as the heart labours under a violent surcharge of blood, there soon follows a suffocation, but which goes off as the parts recover themselves, and conduct the blood forward.

The blows given between the eye-brows contribute greatly to the victory ; for this part being contused between two hard bodies, viz. the fist and the *Os frontale*, or bone of the fore-head, there ensues a violent extravasation of blood, which falls immediately into the eye-lids ; and these being of a lax texture, incapable of resisting this influx of blood, swells almost instantaneously : which violent intumescence soon obstructs the sight, and the man thus

disbed and artfully hood-winked, is soon over-come and beat at discretion.

The blows on the stomach are also very hurtful, as the diaphragm and the lungs share in the injury. This is called winding. The vomits produced by these blows are seldom unaccompanied with blood, the cause of which being obvious, shall be passed over here without any further notice.

Most men hit harder with one arm than another, which, when observed and known, should be guarded against; thus, with your left fist, if you strike now and then upon or under the right arm of your antagonist, just between the elbow and the shoulder, you greatly weaken his principal fort, and have a great advantage over him; for the effects produced upon his nerves by this blow, remain some time, and if repeated render that arm considerably of less use and strength, and you have still your own right arm to use about him, which if you can get to *lay it into him*, as they term it, about his loins, will give you a great chance for the battle.

It must here be recommended to those who box, that on the day of combat, they forbear much meat, and charge not their stomachs with much food; for by observing this precaution, they will find their advantage. This will prevent that extraordinary compression on the *Aorta Descenders*, and in a great measure preserve their stomachs from the blows, which they must be the more exposed to, when distended with aliments. An empty stomach yields better to the blow, than a full one, the consequence of which may be attended, with a vomiting of blood, caused by the eruption of some blood vessels, from the over-charging of the stomach; for when full it must necessarily be more exposed, as it is more expanded, therefore it is most adviseable to make use of some good cordial, but not too great a quantity of any liquid should be swallowed, and whatever is used on the occasion, should be astringent, that by its contracting quality, it might reduce the fibres into a smaller compass.

The injury the diaphragm is subject to from blows, which light just under the breast-bone, is very considerable; because
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the diaphragm is brought into a strong convulsive state, which produces great pain, and lessens the cavity of the thorax, whereby the lungs are compressed, and deprived in a great measure of their liberty, and the quantity of air retained in them, from the contraction of the thorax through the convulsive state of the diaphragm, is so forcibly projected forwards, that it causes a great difficulty of respiration, which cannot be overcome till the convulsive motion of the diaphragm ceases.

The artful Boxer may, in some degree, render the blows less hurtful on this part, by drawing in the belly, holding his breath and bending his thorax over his navel, when he sees the stroke is coming.

Strength and art were mentioned at first, as the two principal ingredients necessary to form a good boxer; but there is another qualification, which is very necessary, and that is what is called a *bottom*. There are two things required to constitute this bottom, and that is wind and spirit, or heart, or whatever name you may call it, or wherever you may fix the residence or seat of courage.

courage. The spirit is the first thing required, and wind may be greatly prolonged by exercise and diet. Some men cannot fight well till they feel acutely their adversary's blows, and in this they are like some native bull-dogs, who cannot fight till they are well licked. In fact, courage is the most substantial thing, for without this, either art or strength will avail a man but little, as will be seen hereafter, in our observations upon the manner and character of the principal boxers.

It is not the design of the writer of this pamphlet, to form a boxer out of a man quite ignorant of the manner of the art; it is only offered as an assistant to the memory of those who are judges; these leaves are not therefore designed as formal methodical rules to learn by, or such as a teacher is obliged to advance to his pupils; but only an expatiation upon the art itself in theory, with a view to the correcting of formal or habitual mistakes, and supplying young unexperienced practitioners with such practices, as will hold good, and are likely to succeed upon all trials.

Every

Every nation have their defensive and offensive amusements, to which they are particularly attached. The French taste is for the small sword; the Italian, the Stiletto; the Portuguese and Spaniard, the Poignard and Pistol; the Turks exercise the Scimeter; the Arabians, the bow and Javelin; and the Indians, the feather-edged arrow. In the new discovered Islands, from Captain Cook's relation, they have a method of exercising their heels, according to a method of their own contrivance. The Negroes, in many parts of the West-Indies, are very expert at the use of the short stick; our Northern neighbours, the Scots and Islanders, are clever at the dirk, and an Irishman will rather flourish his Shellaly than his fists; but an Englishman, open, bold and brave, bids defiance with his fists, and thus generously gives his adversary an equal chance for superiority, if his wind, spirit, and bottom, can bring him through the contest with superior advantage.

We are allowed to be more expert in war time than our enemies. Courage to us is natural, probably owing to the connexion and constitution of our bodies, and
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flowing in the very substance of our different juices, and our blood. To be sure, it is in a great measure acquired by use, and familiarity with danger. Emulation, and the love of glory, are great incentives to it. To what pitch of daring do we not see men go, to get a name, and to be admired? And how observable it is seen in miniature among our boys, who, rather than be deemed cowards among their companions, get into their defensive postures, and fight with bloody noses for a name.

It must be allowed, that these amphitheatrical exhibitions may be productive of some ill, as they give encouragement to idleness and extravagance among the vulgar. But there is hardly any useful good thing, but what leaves an opening to mischief, and which is not liable to abuse. Therefore, I think, fighting and boxing commendable, as it serves to support and keep up the British Spirit.

C H A P. II.

*History of the ancient School—Fig—Pipes---
Gretting — The Venetian Gondelier and
Whitaker---The Rise of George Taylor---
Prince Boswell---James Moss, and John-
son.*

BEFORE we enter upon the history of the first school of Boxing, it may not be amiss to say something of the famous Fig.

He was the most successful prize-fighter of his time. His genius and his judgment was so great, that the first sporting characters of that day applied to him for his advice, and when the weapons were dropt, and Boxing became the vogue, he was then in greater request than ever. No match was made without his advice and concurrence ; he knew the men and their abilities, and always matched them to the satisfaction of the spectators. Captain Godfrey gives him a great character in his *Treatise upon the Useful Science of Defence*, and calls him the *Atlas of the Sword*.

His

His Theatre was the first where regular exhibitions were displayed for the amusement of the public. One Preston kept the place before him, but then only as a Fencing-school. Fig, who originally came from Thame, in Oxfordshire, exhibited himself against all comers, with three different weapons, viz. the small sword, the back-sword, and quarter-staff, and bore the character of understanding time and measure, better than any other Swords-man of his time.

It was upon this stage, that Mr. Broughton first contended in public, and from his out-set in the world, he was proclaimed the captain of the Boxers, and beat his competitors with as much ease as he would have eaten a beef-steak, and drank a pot of porter afterwards.

Thomas Pipes was the neatest and next principal Boxer of his time. He fought at the face most, and put in his blows with surprising agility, time, and judgment. He maintained his battles for many years, by his extraordinary skill, against men of far superior strength. Pipes was but weakly made; his appearance bespoke activity,
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but his hand, arm and body, were but small : though by that acquired spring of his arm, he hit prodigious blows ; and at last, when he was beat out of his championship, it was more owing to his own irregularity in life, than to any merit in those who beat him.

Gretting was a strong antagonist to Pipes. They contended hard together for some time, and were alternately victors. Gretting had the neatest way of going to the stomach, which is what Boxers call the mark. He was the most artful man of his time at that, and at hitting what they call the *Bread-basket* ; stronger made than Pipes, and dealt the straitest projectile blow of all his competitors.

But what made Pipes a match for him, was his rare bottom spirit, which could bear a deal of beating, and with this, Gretting was not so well furnished ; for after he was beat twice together by Pipes, *Hammer Smith Jack*, a meer blunderer of a Boxer, beat him by dint of hard blows ; and so did every one that fought him from that time. However, this is due to his memory, that his own folly contributed more
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to his several defeats, than any endeavours in his antagonist's; though at the same time, he never possessed the bottom of Pipes.

Much about this time, there was one Whitaker, who fought the Venetian Gondelier. He was a very strong fellow, but a clumsy Boxer. However, he had two qualifications, that very much contributed to bring him through, and help him out, where his deficiency in bottom rendered him inferior to his antagonist's; and that was, a peculiar extraordinary way he had of throwing, and contriving to pitch his weighty body upon the fallen man. Another of his manœuvres, was bringing his knee into the stomach of his adversary while falling, by which he often put them out of wind. The other, that he was a hardy fellow, and could bear a deal of banging.

This was the man fixed upon to fight the Venetian. The match was made at Slaughter's Coffee-House, by a gentleman of an advanced station. Fig was employed to procure a proper man, and had particular charge given him, because it was
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for a large sum ; and the Venetian was a man of extraordinary strength, and famous for breaking the jaw-bone in boxing. Fig replied, in his rough manner, “ I do not know, Master, but he may break one of his own countrymen’s jaw-bones with his fists ; but I will bring him a man, and he shall not break his jaw-bone with a sledge-hammer in his hand.” Untill the man appeared, it was doubted, whether the Venetian’s antagonist had not had the bone extracted after some former contest.

The battle was fought at Fig’s Amphitheatre, before the politest company that had ever been seen on the occasion. While the Gondelier was stripping, several English gentlemen particularly remarked the tremendous figure of the man. His arm took up all observation ; it was surprisngly long, large, and muscular. He advanced, pitching himself forward with his right leg, and his arm full extended, and as Whitaker approached, gave him such a blow upon the side of the head, that knocked him off the stage, over the railing, which was remarkable for its height. Whitaker’s misfortune in this fall was, that the company being very genteel, they would

would not permit any common people in, who there usually sat upon the ground, and lined the stage all round. It was then all clear, and Whitaker had nothing to stop him but the bottom. As he fell, there arose a general, clamorous, foreign, huzza, on the side of the Venetian, pronouncing our countryman's downfall; but Whitaker took no more time than was necessary to get up again, when finding his fault in standing out to the length of the other's arm, he with a little stoop, ran boldly in, beyond the heavy mallet, and with one English peg in the stomach, quite a new thing to the foreigner, threw him down on his back-side. The Venetian got up again, and, after scrambling with him about the stage for a few minutes, soon gave out, declaring he would have nothing more to do with his slovenly fist.

So fine a house was too engaging to Fig, not to wish to raise such another. He therefore, as soon as the battle was over, stepped up to the company, and told the gentlemen, that whatever they might think of the man he had picked up to beat the Venetian, he was far from being the best man for the fist in London; and
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to convince them he was in earnest, he said that if they would come that day sen'night, he would produce a man, who should beat this Whitaker in ten minutes, by fair hitting. This brought as fair, and near as great a company, as the week before. The man pitched upon was Nat. Peartree, who, knowing the other's knack, and his deadly way of flinging, took a most judicious way to beat him, and that was, in closing his *day-lights*. His judgment carried in his arm so well, that in about six minutes both Whitaker's eyes were shut up; when he, groping about a-while for his man, and not finding him, he very prudently gave out, with these odd words, Dam'me I am not beat--but what signifies my fighting, when I cannot see my man?

It is difficult, where information depends upon the memory intirely, to be absolutely certain in the dates; what has been related, though in the remembrance of many, is yet so long ago, that it is not easy to ascertain the exact time; however, we now approach to times, a little fresher and of more recent remembrance.

George Taylor, known by the name of George the *Barber*, sprang up surprisingly

singly. He had but one eye. He beat all the chief Boxers but Broughton at first, and he even beat him at last, as well as Broughton's conqueror, Jack Slack. George was wrong in engaging the standing Champion of the day, and the opinion of the publick was so much in Broughton's favour, that there arose a hiss among some of the audience, which made him soon give out. He was not then twenty, and Broughton was in the zenith of his age and art. However, he was a strong able Boxer, and had a considerable knowledge of the small and back sword, and a remarkable judgment in the cross-buttock-fall, but still he was not full bottomed, and blows of equal strength too much deranged his conduct.

It will not be improper perhaps in this place to introduce a most extraordinary character for a Boxer, and that is *Prince Boswell*, a Gypsey, and son to the king of that wandering people. He was remarkable for a particular blow with his left hand at the jaw, which seldom failed of having its proper effect; but with all his judgment he wanted spirit, and a good English bottom, or else he had been a

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match for Broughton himself. All that is
recollected of him now, is, that he was
hanged for stealing a mare.

James was reputed a very neat Boxer :
he had a good wrist, and the best spring
in his arm, of all his contemporaries, up-
on the boards. He was a compleat mas-
ter of his art, and when he was beat, it
was only for want of strength to stand to
his man.

Thomas Moss, a Kentish man, and
Thomas Johnson, from Whattlington,
ought not to be forgot, as they bravely
displayed their abilities in those days of
public heroism. And here I cannot help
regretting the scantiness of my intelligence,
which, depending upon the recollection of
facts long since passed, is now very im-
perfect. However, this memorandum
may serve to amuse those who wish to be
informed of the actors and manners of
these things in former times, and to re-
fresh the memories of those who may not
yet have forgot the blows they received
from the champions they engaged.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

Anecdotes of Boxing—Curious Advertised Challenges, from the Daily Advertiser in 1742.

THIS Science, peculiarly English, which, though fashionable, is not yet licenced, and affords an instance of the repugnance that may for a time subsist between the laws and the manners of a nation, was once as regular an exhibition, as we now see at any of the places of public amusement, the Theatres alone excepted. It was encouraged by the first ranks of the Nobility, patronized by the *first subjects* in the realm, and tolerated by the Magistrates. Before the establishment of Broughton's Amphitheatre, the booth was kept at Tottenham-Court, in which the proprietor, Mr George Taylor, who succeeded Mr. Fig, invited the professors of the art to display their skill, and the public to be present at the exhibition of it. The bruisers then had the reward due to their prowess, in a division of the entrance money, which sometimes was an hundred, or an hundred and fifty pounds. The general mode of

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sharing

sharing was for two-thirds to go to the winning champion, while the remaining third was the right of the loser ; though sometimes, by an express agreement of the parties, the conqueror and the vanquished shared alike.

We have lately seen in some of the Papers an *Advertisement Extraordinary*, as a satire on the present rage for this gymnastic exercise ;—but how little *extraordinary* it would have appeared about half a century ago, we may judge from the following advertisements, which are taken from a news-paper of those times.

BOXING CHALLENGES.

Extracted from the Daily Advertiser of the Year 1742.

November 22, 1742.

“ This is to acquaint all true lovers of manhood, that at the Great Booth, Tottenham-Court, To-morrow, being the 23d instant, 'tis believed there will be one of
the

ENGLISH BOXING. 41

the most severe Boxing Matches that has been fought for many years, between

RICHARD HAWES, Back-maker,

and

THOMAS SMALLWOOD,

For Fifty Pounds.

“ The known hardiness and intrepidity of these two men, will render it needless to say any thing in their praise.

“ Gentlemen are desired to come soon, for, as this battle has been deferred a fortnight, *at the particular desire of several Noblemen and Gentlemen*, a full house is early expected.

“ There will be several bye-battles, as usual, particularly one between *the noted Buckhorse*, and *Harry Grey*, for two guineas; and a good day's diversion may be depended on.”

Daily Advertiser.

April

April 26, 1742.

“ At the Great Booth, at Tottenham-Court, on Wednesday next, the 28th instant, will be a Trial of Manhood between the following champions :

“ Whereas I, William Willis, (commonly known by the name of the *Fighting Quaker*) having fought Mr. Smallwood about twelve months since, and held him the tightest to it, and bruised and battered him more than any one he ever encountered, though I had the ill-fortune to be beat by an accidental fall; the said Smallwood, flushed with the success blind fortune then gave him, and the weak attempts of a few vain Irishmen and boys, that have of late fought him for a minute or two, makes him think himself unconquerable; to convince him of the falsity of which, I invite him to fight me for ten pounds, at the time and place above-mentioned, when I doubt not but I shall prove what I have asserted, by pegs, darts, hard blows, falls, and cross-buttocks.

WILLIAM WILLIS.”

“ I, Thomas

“ I, Thomas Smallwood, known for my intrepid manhood and bravery on and off the stage, accept the challenge of this *puffing Quaker*, and will shew him, that he is led by a *false spirit*, that means him no other good, than that he should be chastised for offering to take upon him *the arm of flesh*.

THOMAS SMALLWOOD.”

“ Note, The doors will be opened at ten, and the combatants mount at twelve.

“ There will be several bye-battles, as usual ; and particularly one between John Divine and John Tipping, for five pounds each.”

This Smallwood was a thorough man, and had judgment equal to any of his time, and superior to most; but he was too light to stand before a bottom-man. At his first starting upon the stage, he was beaten by Dimmock, but he acquired more honour in the contest than he lost. At that time a man who wished to raise a School, could only get pupils in proportion to his adventurous courage; and those who

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who could not engage a standing champion, could obtain but small encouragement for their labours.

These public challenges were very frequent at this time. In May following, the same year, was advertised in the same Paper :

May 4, 1742.

“ At the Great Booth, at Tottenham-Court, to-morrow, the 5th of May, will be a Trial of Manhood between the following champions, viz.

“ Whereas I, John Francis, (commonly known by the name of the *Jumping Soldier*) who have always had the reputation of a *good fellow*, and have fought several bruisers in the streets, &c. nor am I afraid to mount the stage, especially at a time when my manhood is called in question by an *Irish braggadocio buffer*, whom I fought in a *bye-battle* some time since at Tottenham-Court, for twelve minutes, and though I had not the success due to my courage and ability in the art of Boxing, do invite him to fight me for two guineas,
at

at the time and place above-mentioned, when I doubt not but I shall give him the truth of a good beating.

JOHN FRANCIS."

"I, Patrick Henley, known to every one for the truth of *a good fellow*, who never refused any one on or off the stage, and fight as often for the diversion of gentlemen as for the money, accept the challenge of this *Jumping Jack*, and shall, if he don't take care, give him one of my *bothering* blows, which will convince him of his ignorance in the art of Boxing.

PATRICK HENLEY."

This last advertisement is, together with the others, a curious specimen of the boasting stile used by those boxers in challenging each other. It must not, however, be supposed, that the challenges were penned by the respective parties—by the generality of these men, the *art of writing* was not esteemed a manly or an honourable accomplishment; besides which, the uniformity of the language shews, that all the advertisements from the Tottenham-Court Booth, were written

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by one person, who was employed for that purpose. We find, indeed, that this was really the case; and that, in the true spirit of the heroic ages, a *Poet* undertook to celebrate the exploits of these *champions*; and that Poet, the readers perhaps will be a little surprised to hear, was no less a man than Mr. Theophilus Cibber.

Another Poet of note, of this time, also undertook to celebrate these *Pugilists*, in a mock heroic, with hyocritical notes, which are truly humorous. The subject was, the battle between Broughton and Stevenson, and the Poem is intitled, the GYMNASIAD. It was written by Paul Whitehead, and may be found in Fawke's Poetical Callendar, as well as in the volume of his works.

CHAP. IV.

Broughton Fights at the Tottenham-Court-Booth—Beats Stevenson in forty Minutes—Opens an Amphitheatre of his own by Subscription—Is patronized by the chief Nobility—The Performers at the Booth come over to Him—Catalogue of Bruisers.

IT is not absolutely necessary, in a Compilation of this kind, to give a minute detail of every combat fought upon the stage, or elsewhere, between the champions of the day; but before we take our final leave of the Tottenham-Court booth, it will not be amiss to notice an engagement between Broughton, and the one-eyed Coachman Stephenson, as it will serve to shew the valour of the champions, and also that Broughton's art excelled every other Boxer's of the time.

According to the best account, Broughton was ill at the time; besides, it was an hasty made match, and he had not that regard for his preparation, as he afterwards found he should have had. But here his true bottom was proved. The

coachman was a beautiful hitter; he put in his blows faster than Broughton, but then one of the latter's told for three of the former's. The booth was railed at the end towards the pit. After about thirty-five minutes, being both against the rails, and scrambling for a fall, Broughton got such a lock upon him, as no Mathematician could have devised a better. There he held him by this artificial lock, depriving him of all power of rising or falling, till resting his head for about three or four minutes on his back, he found himself recovering; then he lost the hold, and on setting to again, he hit the coachman as hard a blow, as any he had given him in the whole battle. In fact, the coachman could not stand it, and his bravery was forced at last to yield to superior force. The contest lasted forty minutes.

The nobility and gentry, who patronized this exercise, and amongs whom were reckoned the first character in the kingdom, having complained of the inconveniences sustained at the Tottenham Court Booth, they prevailed on Mr. Broughton, who was then rising into note as the first bruiser in London, to build a
place

place better adapted for such exhibitions. This was accordingly done, in 1742, principally by subscription, behind Oxford Road. The building was called Broughton's New Amphitheatre, and, besides the stage for the combatants, had seats corresponding to the boxes, pit, and galleries, much in the same manner with those at Astley's. The following advertisement, in the spring of 1743, announced the opening of it to the public, though several matches had been fought in it before,

March 10, 1743.

“At Broughton's New Amphitheatre, in Oxford Road, the back of the late Mr. Figg's, on Tuesday next, the 13th inst. will be exhibited, The true Art of Boxing, by the eight famed following men, viz. Abraham Evans, Sweep. Belos, Glover, Roger Allen, Robert Spikes, Harry Gray, and the Clog-maker. The above said eight men are to be brought on the stage, and to be matched according to the approbation of the gentlemen, who shall be pleased to honour them with their company.

“ Note,

“Note, There will be a Battle Royal between the noted Buck-horse and seven or eight more; after which there will be several Bye-battles by others. Gentlemen are desired to come be-times, by reason of the number of battles.”

“The doors will be opened at nine, and some of the champions mount at eleven.—No person to pay more than a shilling.”

This undertaking of Mr. Broughton justly gave alarm to the proprietor of the Tottenham Court Booth, who immediately engaged Taylor, Stevenson, James, and Smallwood, four first rate champions, under articles, like regular performers, not to fight on any stage but his. Mr. Broughton's advertisement was answered by the following appeal to the public:

*To all Encouragers of the Manly Art of
Boxing.*

“Whereas Mr. Broughton has maliciously advertised several battles to be fought at his Amphitheatre on Tuesday next, the
13th

13th of March, in order to detriment me, who fight Mr. Field the same day at Tottenham Court, I think it incumbent on me to undeceive gentlemen, by informing them the greatest part of the persons, mentioned to fight there, never intended any such thing, or were ever acquainted with it; therefore hope this assertion will be understood (as it really is) a spiteful undertaking.

“ Mr. Broughton has likewise inserted in his bills, that their never was any imposition on the champions who fought at his Amphitheatre, and has in vain endeavoured to make it appear, which gentlemen will be sensible of, when an account of his exactions are set forth at large in print, which will be done with all expedition.

“ And to convince Mr. Broughton, that I have no disgust to his Amphitheatre, I am willing to meet him there, and fight him for an hundred pounds, whenever he pleases; not in the least regarding (as he expresses himself) the valour of his arm.”

March 12, 1743. GEORGE TAYLOR.²²
Mr.

Mr. Broughton, in his reply to this declaration, stated, that he had built his theatre at the express solicitation and desire of the public; that it had cost four hundred pounds, of which eighty were by contribution; and that, having himself been at the expence of what was required beyond that sum, he thought it but fair and reasonable, that he should appropriate to himself a third part of the money collected at the door, the rest going to the champions.

All the principal amateurs and encouragers of the science gave their sanction to Broughton's cause; and in the end all the professors were obliged to come over. Taylor, and the others, finding that their exertions could not prevent the Tottenham Court Booth from being deserted for Broughton's more commodious theatre, gave up the contest; and on condition that Mr. Broughton engaged to make good to them the loss incurred by the forfeiture of their articles, they agreed to leave the booth, and to fight no longer but on his stage.

Mr.

ENGLISH BOXING. 53

Mr. Broughton thus become sole manager and proprietor of the boxing theatre, engaged all the first performers, and reared many pupils, who were afterwards expert professors of this gymnastic art.

The rage for Boxing was at its height when Broughton opened his Amphitheatre. Here he established a school for boxing, in which he was himself the lecturer. He invited the young gentlemen of the army, and all other men of spirit, to engage under his directions; and promised to secure their arms and wrists with mufflers, so that nothing might be apprehended by the softest hand, or tenderest skin. A few, indeed, were hardy enough to try a fall with him, and went through the whole of his manual exercise, and, though gentlemen of fashion and fortune, were not ashamed to distinguish themselves this way, for it was then as fashionable to throw away a shilling at Broughton's, as to give Orator Henly one to hear him philosophise upon the antiquity of nonsense.

In the bills and advertisements given out by Broughton, the public were informed

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ed his art, when thoroughly understood, and properly encouraged, would undoubtedly supersede, and entirely abolish the only use that was made of the sword; and men of honour, instead of tilting at each other, might have the satisfaction of drubbing one another in a tight set-to, behind Montague House.

The success Broughton met with in this very remarkable way of gaming, created him many competitors, who occasionally exhibited upon some temporary stage or other, and mostly within the bills of mortality, until an act of parliament put a period to these heroes exhibitions in London.

Among many more, the following were the most famous prize fighters of this time :

George Taylor, commonly called George the Barber, from his other profession. He was reckoned the next to Broughton. He originally came from Turville Heath Park, Oxford, where he lived in the family of Squire Parsons, and died

died Master of the Fountain Tavern, at Deptford.

James and Smallwood, who were called by Mr. Theophilus Cibber the *deliciæ pugnacis generis*. Smallwood latterly kept the Packhorse upon Smallberry Green, near Turnham Green.

George Stevenson, who maintained, for a long time, with doubtful success, a hard struggle with Broughton himself.

Field, the sailor, who was hanged in 1752, for a highway robbery.

Benjamin Boswell and Patrick Henry, who were two celebrated champions.

John Francis, called the Jumping Soldier, and William Wallis, known by the name of the Fighting Quaker. These men fought twice, and the former was victorious.

John Smith, better known by the appellation of Buckhorse. This man

was not a good boxer, but was famous for taking a severe drubbing.

Edward Hunt, a pupil of Broughton's, and the best man in the kingdom of his weight and inches. He fought countrymen from all parts of England, of whatever size; and among them the Slaughterman, who weighed 17 stone, while Hunt was not more than nine. This is what Humphreys could not pretend to do, and it shews the superiority of Broughton's art.

John Dart, a Dyer of Bankside, he beat Cochran before Cellars fought him, and Rossy Gregory, a left handed man at Barnet; but the Nailor beat him afterwards almost without a blow. The last battle of note Dart fought, was with Stephen Oliver the Carpenter, known by the name of Death, and he beat him, and soon afterwards was beaten by one Bow, a Waterman at Pepper-Alley Stairs.

One King, a Butcher at Stanton Green, who fought many good battles, and once beat Smallwood himself.

Besides

Besides these, and many other pugilists, there was another kind of prize fighters, with the sword, quarter-staff, &c. who exhibited their skill on Broughton's stage. The most famous among them were Johnson, the Yorkshire-man, John Needs, of Frome, in Somersetshire, entitled the Green Knight, Thomas Hodgkins, who was called the Proud Salopian, and in 1746, kept a School for the exercise of the cutlafs, in which he gave lessons, as he called it, gratis—that is, for what he could get—and William Holmes, an Irishman, who fought Johnson twice with the broad sword, and was beaten by him both times; but afterwards challenged the other to the naked faulchion, which Johnson declined.

C H A P. V.

*Broughton's Method of Fighting considered—
Fights Slack and is beaten—Anecdotes
of Slack and the Nailor.*

BROUGHTON's was the first regular School for Boxing, and Broughton was the founder and the teacher.—When he faced his antagonist, he stood square, with his legs even, and stopped and struck equally well with either hand. Sometimes his method was to catch blows with his open hand, and to change his guard, by which he frequently threw his antagonist from his.

In Broughton's method, the pit of the stomach was more exposed, but his loins were removed totally. On the stage at that time, *shifting*, so much practised now, was unknown, or held as very mean and contemptible. Before Broughton had engaged with Slack, he had beaten every competitor. The old Duke of Cumberland was his great patron ; and, on the battle with Slack, had betted large sums of money.

money. On mounting the stage, the odds were two to one in the favour of Broughton. At the first onset, it seemed as if Broughton thought very meanly of Slack's fighting. The first blow Broughton got, he knocked down his antagonist; a second time he knocked Slack down, before he had received one blow himself. At the third *set-out*, Slack gave Broughton a very violent blow, which so totally deprived him of recollection, that he leaned against the rails for more than a minute, while Slack kept *paying* him, without his making any defence.

These blows he did not recover; for though he fought some-time after, he stopped very few blows; and the odds immediately changed in favour of Slack, who won the battle with great ease.

As many partial and mutilated accounts have lately been circulated in conversation relative to the battle between Broughton and Slack, we have procured the following, as it was inserted in a periodical paper the day after the event. — “Wednesday, April 11, 1750, was fought the grand Boxing match

match between the famous Broughton, master of the Amphitheatre, hitherto invincible, and Slack, the butcher, of Norwich. Before they began, Broughton gave Slack ten guineas to fight him according to his promise, which Slack immediately betted against 100 guineas offered against him. The first two minutes the odds were two to one on Broughton's head; but Slack soon recovering himself, beat his adversary blind, and following his blows, obtained a compleat victory in fourteen minutes, to the great mortification of the knowing-ones, who were finely taken in, particularly a Peer of the first rank, who, betting ten to one, lost a thousand pounds. The money received at the door was 130l. besides two hundred tickets at a guinea, and half a guinea each; and as the battle was for the whole house, it is thought that the victor cleared 600l,

Broughton never fought after this. This battle was the ruin of him. The Duke of Cumberland, who lost immense sums of money upon the battle, had an idea he played *booby*, forsook him entirely, and his School was soon after shut up by Act of Parliament.

The

According to a paper (No 30) in the *Connoisseur*, Slack had a bout with one Pettit, a Frenchman, and beat him. The account extracted from a paper of the day, is as follows.

“Harlston in Norfolk, July 30, 1754. Yesterday in the afternoon Slack and Pettit met and fought. At the first SET-TO, Pettit seized Slack by the throat, and held him up against the rails, and GRAIN'D him so much as to make him extremely black; this continued for half a minute, before Slack could break Pettit's hold; after which for near ten minutes Pettit kept fighting and driving hard at Slack, when at length Slack clos'd with his antagonist, and gave him a very severe fall, after that a second and third; but between these falls Pettit threw Slack twice off the stage, and indeed Pettit so much dreaded Slack's falls, that he ran directly at his hams and tumbled him down, and by that means gave Slack an opportunity of making the falls very easy. When they had been fighting eighteen minutes, the odds ran against Slack a guinea to a shilling; whereas on first setting out, it was three or four to one on his head; but after this

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time

time Slack SHORTENED Pettit so, as to disable him from running and throwing him down in the manner he had done before, but obliged him to stand to close fighting. Slack then clos'd one of his eyes, and beat him very much about the face. At twenty minutes Pettit grew weaker, Slack stronger; this was occasioned by Slack's straight way of fighting. At twenty two minutes the best judges allow'd Slack to have the advantage over Pettit very considerably, as he was then recovering his wind, which was owing to Game: when they had box'd twenty-four minutes, Pettit threw Slack again over the rails. This indeed Slack suffered him to do, as by that means he fixed a blow under Pettit's ribs, that hurt him much. Whilst Slack was again getting upon the stage, (it was not half a minute before he was re-mounted) Pettit had so much the fear of his antagonist before his eyes, that he walked off without so much as civilly taking leave of the spectators, or saying any thing to any person. This the Cockers call Rogueing of it; for it is generally thought, that Pettit ran away full strong. The whole time of their fighting was twenty-five minutes; and this morning the battle was
given

given to Slack, who drew the first ten guineas out of the box."

The winter of 1760, was rendered memorable in the Boxing Calendar, by a battle fought in the month of February. It was decided in the hollow, called Mary-bone-Bason, a place as commodious for battling, as the ancient Roman Amphitheatre; between Stevens, the Nailor, and celebrated bruiser, and Jacob Taplin, Coal-heaver. In the center of the Bason, which held above three thousand spectators; a ring was formed, and the champions commenced to the satisfaction of the eager croud. Taplin for some minutes, had the better of the Nailor, who received several terrible blows on the *bread-basket*, though guarded with two mighty arms. Stevens fell, but rose again like a lion roused from his temporary tranquillity, and laid his opponent at his feet. The next round, the Coal-heaver received a blow on the left breast, which again laid him along. When he rose, he suddenly closed in with the Nailor, and both fell. The next round terminated the battle: the Nailor struck the Coal-Heaver over the
 I 2 left

left eye with one hand, and with the other dealt him an almost deadly blow on the right temple, which *laid him*, and obliged him to yield.

The same year 1760, was rendered famous for two other strong battles, fought on a stage in the Tennis-Court of the Hay-Market, at which the late Duke of York, the late Duke of Cumberland, and many of the Nobility of the Kingdom attended.

The first was in June, between Stevens and Slack. Slack was a butcher, and had knocked down many a bullock, and Broughton into the bargain; yet was he obliged to yield the day, and give up his wreaths to the Nailor, whom the Duke of York personally applauded, by clapping him on the Herculean shoulders, able to support the whole Royal Family.

Stevens now was deemed the Alexander of England. Like Philip's son, he sat down and wept, because he could find no more heroes to conquer.

This

This modern Vulcan, working at his forge, one day suffered his iron to cool on the anvil, whilst with his hammer suspended, he listened to the news of a Taylor, who read the *Gazetteer* in his shop.---

“George Meggs, a baker of Bristol, hearing of the fame of William Stevens, thus offers to fight him for fifty pounds, to the winner, and half the stage money, on any day when he shall say *Done Dam’me*.

GEORGE MEGGS.”

At length the Nailor’s challenger came to town, and the day of the decision being fixed, the expectation of the public rose so high, that the Tennis-Court, where the battle was fought, was so crowded, that many gave a guinea for entrance, just as the combattants were stripping to begin.

As one battle is like another in most respects, a particular detail of the *shifting* scene may be omitted in this place. Suffice it to observe, the *knowing ones* were completely taken in. Stevens was knocked down so often, that he fell at last like the
great

great Goliath of Gath, to rise no more on that stage.

Meggs had been tutored and prepared for the battle, by Slack, who then kept a butcher's shop, in Chandos-street; but he would not have beaten Stevens yet, had he not given him forty guineas for that purpose. Stephens had a curious knack of keeping off the blows of his antagonist, and seldom hit so many as they did, besides he practiced a blow which seems to be at present not known, or forgot, and that was thus; he struck the right arm of his adversary with his left fist, and with his right he struck them on the left temple, at the same time tripping them of their center with his foot, they fell with an encreased force from the shock they received at their head. This was the blow decided the conquest over Dart the Dyer, as before observed, when he beat him almost without a blow.

Some years after this, the Nailor was taken out of Jail to fight the Coach-spring-maker, whose name is not now remembered

remembered; but he suffered himself to be beaten shamefully.

So bare-faced a *Cross*, disgusted the public, and prevented the encouragement of Boxing so much, that from this time, stage-fighting, was consigned to contemptible neglect.

An acquaintance soon after meeting Stevens, and wondering at the manœuvre which occasioned his defeat, was answered in nearly the following words; "The day that I fought Jack Slack, I got ninety guineas; but I got forty more than I could have got otherwise, by letting Meggs beat me, and *Dam'me*, I'm the same man still."

Slack died a few years ago; soon after a curious copy of verses appeared in many of the papers upon his prowess, and an encomium upon boxing; but as they are not now before me, they cannot be placed in this compilation.

It is a well known fact related of him, that he was upon more occasions than one indebted

indebted to the terror of his name for success in accidental conquests. At a country fair in Norfolk, of which place he was a native, he engaged in some dispute with a countryman, who, trusting to his natural strength, without any idea of skill, made no scruple of giving Slack a severe blow on the face. This Slack immediately returned, and a severe contest ensued, in which the countryman had evidently the advantage. In the midst of it Slack cried out, it shall never be said that a clumsy ploughman beat Slack. The very name communicated such an impression, that the countryman imagining his adversary had only been playing with him, did not attempt another serious on-set, but yielded an easy victory. The same thing happened to a dragoon of the Inniskilling regiment, who once absolutely beat Slack. They met a second time by appointment, but the soldier, upon hearing he was to fight Slack, took it into his head that he was made a tool of by some gentlemen of the turf, and under this idea, when he met, his opponent could hardly be prevailed upon to exchange any blows. Upon the issue of this battle Slack staked all he was worth, which, but for the circumstance of his name, he would infallibly have lost.

It

It is not amiss in this place to remark, the cutting and shuffling of these gentry; as money is the bait, every one catches at the golden prize. It signifies not how, but a *stage* is to be made, and if money or betts can but be obtained, it matters not at what rate, and one half of the door profit, will always induce some one or other, to be beat for half an hour or more, making a shew of fighting, to put on appearances, while parties are previously agreed to make a *Cross*.

Nothing however in this, is in the least intended to reflect upon the late action at Odiham, though it is a notorious fact, that, after Mendoza's Umpire had betted a considerable sum on his success, in his presence, he *did very deep* upon Humphries, which easily accounts for his suffering the latter to pull off his shoes, and put on worsted stockings. This circumstance, trifling as it may seem, not being originally stipulated, was an unfair advantage granted by this Umpire.

Stevens had been promised a place at Court, as a Beef-eater, but the death of his late Majesty, deranged the plan of his patron the Duke of York.

The Nailor was one of the warlike heroes, who were hired to guard Lord Bute, when he rode into the City on the Lord Mayor's day of 1762, when Beckford began his first mayoralty. In this our hero had often occasion to use his fists, which many of the mob, whose temerity carried them too near his patron's carriage, could then abundantly testify. Yet was Stevens but scurvily rewarded by his fair-promising employers ; and he was under the necessity of summoning a certain great man in those days to the *Court of Conscience*, before he could obtain his lean reward.

CHAP. VI.

*Battle between the Pavior and the Butcher
—A curious Song—Cellars and Cochran
Fight—Johnson and Ryan Fight near
Stains.*

MUCH about this time, or a little afterwards, a famous battle was fought at Guildford, between Thomas Juchau, a Pavior, otherwise known by the name of *Disber*, and one Coant, a Butcher from Cläre-market. Before the fight, the odds were 4 to 1 upon Coant, and for the first 25 minutes the Pavior could scarce get a blow at his antagonist, and was knocked down five or six times. At 35 minutes, the odds were so great, that money was offered at any rate; but just then *Disber* changing his mode of fighting, gave him such a blow as turned the odds greatly in his favour. After three or four rounds more, the Butcher coming full up to the Pavior, and missing his stroke, fell flat on his face, and not being able to continue the contest, *gave it in*, and the Pavior was pronounced victorious. The engagement lasted 47 minutes. Some time after this affair, Mr.

Juchau married his mistress, and she made him sign articles that he never should fight any more upon the stage, in the penalty of 300l. and he now lives in credit near Shoreditch Church.

In the year 1762, the following humorous verses appeared in a periodical publication, and was sung about the streets at the same time.

The BRUISER'S PROGRESS,

Written in the Year 1752.

A Link-boy once I stood the *grin*,
 At Charing-Cross I plie'd;
 "Here, light your honour for a *win*,"
 To every *Cull*, I crie'd.

On Sundays oft I *lounge'd* the *gag*,
 And *shul'd* at the Church-door,
 "Good people pray bestow a *mag*,
 "I'm *panumless* and poor."

In

In Leis'ter-Fields, as most can tell,
 " Come black your honour I ;
 But *dirty work*, I lik'd not well,
 And *gaffling* then did try.

At Tottenham-Court, I first sat out,
 With lusty Jumping Jack,
 With Hunt and others had a bout,
 And carried off the *wack*.

With Slack at Broughton's once I fought,
 And there gave him his fill ;
 His *twenty guineas*, vict'ry bought,
 And I'm the same man still.

But these professions all are bad,
 They bring so little *bit* ;
 So I'm turn'd *Roadsman* on the *pad*,
 My eyes ! a lucky *bit*.

Ye Jockies *rum*, and *blowings queer*,
 Of whatsoever fame,
 Depend upon it never fear,
 Die when I will, I'm *game*.

And if I should my exit make,
 At Tyburn's fatal tree ;
 Poor Field, my master did partake,
 The self same destiny.

This

This piece must not be considered as a fair representation of the employment and taste of these heroes, only as a Satire upon the whole corps, drawn from the unlucky exit of some of its votaries.

Mr. Juchau's battle with the butcher, was esteemed the most honest and fair fight exhibited upon any stage; but the example was not followed by any professor of note, till Peter Cochran fought Charles Cellars in 1778. The battle was decided at Stains, very near the spot where the late action happened between Johnson and Ryan. When the combatants mounted the stage, a noted lover of the bruising art, threw a purse of ninety guineas upon it, and soon after another followed the example, and threw one of twenty-five, which Cellars catching up, gingled, and cried out, "This is for the best man." It is sufficient to observe he conquered, though Cochran's method of boxing, was allowed to have great merit.

From this time, to the present day, this manly Science, has met but trifling encouragement. The late action of the 19th of December, seems to have revived the
latent

latent ardour of the British spirit in the knuckle way.

They fought on Wednesday, December 19, 1787. The stage was erected at Stains, but the Magistrates interfering, they were obliged to chuse another place for their contest. They then went forward about four miles to Wyredsbury, in the county of Buckingham, where a temporary stage was quickly erected.

The battle commenced at half past two o'clock, when the odds were six to four in favour of Ryan, and he had the advantage for some time; but in ten minutes the betts turned in favour of Johnson, when two to one were offered. and refused; and soon afterwards ten to one. Johnson gave Ryan several severe blows on the head, which terminated the battle in his favour in about twenty-four minutes.

Johnson knocked Ryan down eleven times, and was knocked down himself only three times. They had twenty rounds. It was remarkable that the blows of Johnson were directed principally at the head, those of Ryan, at the body of his antagonist; and the last blow of Johnson took place

place over the eye-brow of Ryan, which laid open a space of two inches.

Johnson exhibited much activity, and was very dexterous in shifting, by which means he evaded many hard blows; had he stood up to Ryan, it is very probable he would have been beaten: he guarded his head so well, and stood so low, that Ryan constantly struck over his guard. Ryan's blows were given with greater force than Johnson's; but want of management tended greatly to lose his battle; he gave his adversary many severe blows about the body, which are usually felt a long time after.

Ryan, after the battle, could only stand to be dressed; but Johnson did not appear to be much hurt. He declared that he never would again accept of another challenge, and he has since inserted this declaration in the public prints.

Humphries seconded Johnson, and Dun, Ryan. Mendoza, and Tring, were the bottle-holders. A great deal of company were present; Sir Richard Simmonds, Colonel Hamilton, Colonel Fitzpatrick, Mr. Wynham, of Norfolk, Mr. Bradyll, Major Hanger, &c.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

*The Battle between Richard Humphries and
Daniel Mendoza.*

WHERE the art depends so much on its celerity, it is as difficult to catch observation as blows. What has been observed on the late memorable contest, is as follows:

So high was the public anxiety on the issue of this bruising match, that neither the distance from Town, nor the state of the weather, could prevent a very large concourse of people from assembling at the scene of action. Several hundreds of people paid half a guinea each, to gain admission within the paddock, where a twenty-four foot stage was raised. The paddock was well defended against the multitude by Tring, Ryan, Dunn, and a number of others, of the stoutest men in England, who with clubs, looked like so many giants; but what can resist the torrent of an English mob? The paddock was broken down, and the torrent rushed in.

L However,

However, let it not surprise, the people were so quiet, that there was less noise than there often is at a church charity sermon.

At one o'clock, Humphries mounted the stage, and D. Mendoza appeared in a few moments after. Previous to the battle, the odds were much in favour of Humphries. At 20 minutes past one o'clock, the battle began, and lasted some minutes before any offer, excepting feints, was made. Mendoza struck the first blow, and recoiling, fell on his back, in consequence of the stage being very wet with rain. The second blow that Mendoza struck, brought Humphries down to the ground; in the next round they closed, and Mendoza threw Humphries. Mendoza gained much at this time, and kept the lead for nearly a quarter of an hour. The odds at this time, changed greatly in favour of the Jew. Humphries received many falls; but recovering himself he soon came about, and had greatly the advantage in the four following rounds.

Here

Here the shewy action of the Jew, had its effect on the multitude ; and those who knew no more of the two men than what appearances exhibited, changed their betts, and the consequence was, that the real *amateur* won much money.

Upon Humphries recovering himself, the betts became even. In one of these rounds, he threw Mendoza, and pitched him on his face, which cut his forehead just above the right eye, and bruised his nose ; he however recovered a little, so as to give Humphries a blow in the face ; but stepping, at the same time, and falling with his leg under him, sprained his ankle, which made him give it in. Immediately afterwards, Mendoza fainted, and was carried off the stage.

A battle, in which there was so much dexterity and skill, perhaps never was fought, and certainly there never was a contest on which so much depended. The battle lasted 28 minutes, and 54 seconds.

As a professor, Mendoza, though beaten, has acquired more fame than he has lost. He certainly hit his antagonist oftener than Humphries hit him, and in close fighting much oftener. In strength of arm, he seemed to have the advantage: and when struggling, he kept down the head of his adversary, and at that time hurt him most. In his standing up, in the first position, speaking according to art, Mendoza kept his guard closer to his body, and by that measure gave a greater momentum to his arm when struck out; and he stopped blows to the full as well as Humphries.

In manliness of manner, in grace of position, in judgment, and in force of blow, he was inferior to Humphries. In point of personal courage too, and contempt of himself, Humphries likewise had the advantage. But in point of throwing falls, the advantage, which was supposed to lie on the side of Humphries, was intirely transferred to Mendoza; whose activity agreed better with the slippery state in which the rain had left the stage.

Humphries

Humphries fell down six times successively, owing to this circumstance; and gave to the Jew an appearance of superiority, which was more seeming than real. In point of Boxing it was difficult to ascertain which was the neatest, though the character and manner of each was very obvious. In the defensive position, Humphries held his arms more out at full length: and though he kept his adversary at a distance by that method, yet he lost the advantage of striking quick.

In point of manly and fine attitude, the posture of Humphries was the most graceful; and if ever the character of an English boxer, like that of the Roman Gladiator, was to be transmitted to posterity, the eye, the countenance, and the extended nerve of Humphries, should be selected for that picture, to succeeding times.

The umpires were a Mr. Allen, and a Mr. Moravia; Johnson seconded Humphries, and David Benjamin, seconded Mendoza.

Mr. Bradyl,

Mr. Bradyl, the patron of Humphries, was not present at the battle, but sent his servant to bring him the earliest intelligence of the event of the conflict. The messenger arrived in town about nine o'clock, with a letter from Humphries, which was delivered to Mr. Bradyl, at Cramer's concert in Haberdasher's-Hall. It run as follows :

S I R,

" I have *done* the *Few*, and am in good health at this present writing."

RICHARD HUMPHRIES.

It is generally allowed, that this contest was the sharpest that ever was seen, and as it has raised so high the public curiosity, I hope I shall not be thought prolix, if I add the following critical observations from an Ipswich paper, and evidently written by a judge of Boxing, who was present on the spot.

" Although the major part of the company were the well-wishers of Humphries, yet they could not but admire the
masterly

masterly manner of boxing in the latter, which was frequently acknowledged by the numerous spectators by clapping of hands. It was the scheme of Humphries to act at first upon the defensive only; in doing which, he received many hard blows, and at one time was knocked down near the edge of the stage, and would actually have been thrown over by Mendoza, had not Johnson interfered. The umpires much resented this transaction, and declared, that Humphries had won the battle; but he chose a more honourable way to decide the dispute, by endeavouring fairly to beat his adversary. The stage was erected with oak plank, which had been plained, and rendered so exceeding slippery by the rain, that Humphries could not add firmness to his action, and he once fell upon his side in aiming a blow at his adversary. Mendoza seemed to have had an idea of this, for he had taken the wise precaution of having small screws, with very sharp points, fastened at the bottom of his slippers. Humphries was soon convinced of the disadvantage he laboured under, and requested to have a pair of worsted stockings; when he had got one half on, the umpires called out, *Time expired* (meaning the minute allowed

lowed between each fall) and Humphries arose from his second's knee; but before Mendoza was ready, he had leisure to put both on. This evidently gave a fresh turn to the contest in favour of Humphries, who appeared as if he was going to begin a battle rather than renew one. Mendoza's second, observing this, called out, *turn out his eye-balls!* Whether Mendoza meant to follow this *humane* advice, we cannot say, but certain it is, when they closed, the Jew screwed his adversary's nose, and thrust his knuckles in his eyes; but Humphries soon extricated himself, and threw in a short buttock, and after that, planted a blow under the left ear, which was thought to be decisive; Mendoza having rallied again, but evidently so much worsted, and off his guard, that Humphries *tip'd* him the *coup de jarnac* in his body, for the blood he had swallowed issued copiously from his mouth, and he fell motionless on the stage. The palm of victory being thus given to Humphries, he offered to fight David Benjamin immediately, for his behaviour, and after that, he challenged the bottle-holder, neither of which accepted. Although the Jew had at first apparently the advantage, Humphries was remarkably cool, and collected

collected throughout. At every successful blow, he bowed with his hand, and smiled to his acquaintance with a confidence of superiority. The combatants shared near 80l. each from the stage, after deducting the expences of erecting it, &c. There were about 1000 of the tribe of Ephraim present. No accommodations were to be had at Odiham; many persons of fashion were obliged to sleep in hay-lofts; some were obliged to go 15 miles the same day for want of horses and carriages, and scarcely any provisions were to be had.

Mr. Bradyll is said to have cleared some hundreds by the victory of *Humphries*:—and as even countries have their fashions—the day preceding the battle—*above ten thousand pounds* were betted in the ROYAL EXCHANGE, on the issue of it.

It is thought, by the best judges, that men in general are not qualified to box in a main battle for more than four or five years of their life, and *Humphries* is one year advanced beyond that period, while *Mendoza* is not yet arrived to it. *Humphries*, with infinitely more practice, is much stronger than his adversary, as

M

was

was proved from his being able to second Johnson, while Mendoza could not act as second to Ryan, for want of strength to pick him up. Therefore, this accounts for Humphries's blows going farther than Mendoza's.

Humphries, the founder of the new school of boxing, is obliged to Captain Lloyd for the greatest part of his knowledge; the Captain used to practice with him every day previous to his fighting Martin.

The method of stopping blows, pursued by Humphries, is with the left arm totally, and he stands with the left side much advanced. He cannot strike with any force, except with the right hand, and he sometimes catches blows upon his elbow, and thus cripples the knuckles of his adversary. He is likewise famous for the quickness of his eye, and, according to the phrase of the Science, *he fights honest*.

Mendoza's *closing*, and attempting to *gouge*, is in imitation of the Creole manner of fighting, which is both unmanly and barbarous. It should be recommended
to

to him, never to attempt any thing of the kind. The beauty of boxing is in *bitting clean*, guarding, fending, and keeping off blows with judgment, all which depend upon the eye, but *Hugging*, more properly, belongs to wrestling.

By Humphries's method, that of Broughton is reversed. The stomach is removed, but the loins are more exposed. However, it remains for the *Amateurs* of the art, to determine which system is preferable. In point of men, there is no doubt, but Broughton would have beaten Humphries completely, as he was about five feet eleven, wonderfully broad over the chest in proportion, and as muscular as any man that ever appeared upon a stage. In addition to these, he was perfectly cool, and collected in his mind, whenever he fought, and very seldom made a blow, but he brought his adversary to the ground.

This Pamphlet would have been published a week ago, but was delayed, in expectation of something decisive between the two last combatants; but as their literary correspondence has run to a great length,

length, has hitherto produced nothing, and is now come to a conclusion, their quibbling, *pro* and *con*, is not at all necessary in this place, as it would swell the matter, without adding any thing to the utility. Most persons have read their reasons in the public papers; from an attentive perusal of which, the following conclusion may be deduced, viz. "That Mr. H. *may, if He thinks proper, fight Mr. M. where, upon what conditions, and whenever, he pleases.*

February 4th.

F I N I S.

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