

man to whom constant occupation is not necessary to supply his daily food, or to promote his ambitious views, will sometimes be depressed by the employment of his mental faculties. He will look forward, with dejection, to events which may never happen, and shrink from future evils, which he may never have to encounter: while the trifling bustle and engagements, which belong to each succeeding day, will interest his feelings, and afford him happiness, if he will suffer himself to be diverted by them; but when he directs his thoughts to distant years, he fancies he shall be miserable, and lose his relish of the joys he now possesses; he forgets that fresh objects (equally frivolous, perhaps, with those that now engross him) will have their power to charm. The mind of man accommodates itself to every situation: and as one, who at the first entrance into a hot house, feels a suffocating heat, which gradually becomes a comfortable warmth; so there is no change of life, no reverse of fortune, and no loss of friends or connections, that time and habit will not reconcile. We grieve now, lest we should have cause to grieve hereafter, and are unhappy, through fear of becoming really so. We see the approaching evil, but are blind to the obstacles that may prevent its ever reaching us; and while we fix our eyes on the mountain of calamity, we forget that possibly our destined road may lie in the valley of peace, which surrounds its base; or that perhaps, we may sink into the river of death, which flows at its foot, and sometimes kindly snatches

us from the painful labour of struggling with insuperable difficulties. After all, there is one source of consolation which should never be overlooked, viz. That we are often mistaken in our judgment of what is good or evil. Thus the widow Hopeless, whose husband died insolvent, leaving her with six small children, in a state of dependence on the bounty of her friends, has lived to see those children settled in the world in affluence, and has repaid her benefactors the obligations she has received.

There is, perhaps, no source of mental anxiety and pain, more common or more poignant, than that of providing for a numerous offspring. What agony can equal that of an unsuccessful industrious man, who, by his failure, dreads the utter ruin of the fortune of his family? Imagination paints his children beggars, and himself advanced in years, no longer able to support them. But let him not despair: let him look round, and he will find numerous families like that of widow Hopeless, who have arisen to affluence and power, from circumstances the most unpromising; at the same time that he will see the single heirs of great paternal riches, reduced to sudden or to gradual poverty. But who can assert, that affluence or power will actually secure felicity to their possessors? or that by entailing wealth, he can entail happiness on his posterity? wealth too often is the cause of leisure, and he who is not employed will be most wretched. The man of business has the fairest chance for happiness. The servant is oftener happier than his master; and those who have been nursed in the enfeebling lap of indolence and ease, envy the lot of the poor labouring hind. The felicity of shepherds has been the constant theme of poets. What idle man does not envy the industrious cottager, and feel the force of an old song, beginning nearly in these words:

‘ Strong Labour gets up at the first morning dawn,

And stoutly steps over the dew-spangled lawn;
For him goes Health from a cottage of thatch,
Where never Physician had lifted the latch.’

Children frequently owe their misfortunes to the too provident ambition of their parents. Thus because our own times have given an example of two sons of a mere country curate, having risen to the highest honours in the law and church, every fond father hopes to see his son equally successful. Rather let him sow and cherish the seed of humility, content, œconomy, and obedience to superiours, than plant the dangerous slips of ambition, or graft on their tender minds, the hope of greatly augmenting riches. By such conduct he will render his children more useful members of society, and infinitely happier in themselves. We are seduced by wishes, which we have no right to encourage, and are miserable at the failure of hopes, built on bad foundations. Let us, then, rather enjoy our present happiness, undisturbed by what may or may not befall us in a future distant period, a sentiment so well expressed by Horace, that I cannot resist the temptation of quoting it as a conclusion:

‘ Carpe diem, quam minimam credula postero.’

‘ There is, at last, a day which you least expected.’

PROCEEDINGS IN FRANCE
ON THE FLIGHT AND CAPTURE OF THE
KING, QUEEN, AND ROYAL FAMILY.

(Continued from our last.)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25.

M. Bonnay. ‘I move, that as the pocket book passed through two hands before it was given to M. Lecoulteux, it be sealed up, that it may be ascertained that nothing has been added to its contents.’

M. le President. ‘The key of the king’s carriage has been delivered to me; I learn