

A KEY TO  
THE DELICIOUS GAME  
OF THE  
FRUIT-BASKET:  
CONTAINING  
A LITERARY TREAT FOR A PARTY OF  
JUVENILES,  
AND RUNNING OVER WITH CHOICE SUBJECTS FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT  
AND DIVERSION,  
IN VARIOUS FAMILIAR SCENES  
CONNECTED WITH  
Old England.

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LONDON:  
DARTON AND CLARK, HOLBORN HILL.



### Directions.

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*TWO or THREE Persons may amuse themselves at this agreeable Pastime; and if a double set of Counters and Pyramids be purchased, SIX Persons may play at it.*

*The Totum must be marked ONE to EIGHT on its several Faces, with a Pen and Ink, or with a Blacklead Pencil.*

*The Game may be begun agreeably to the following*

### Rules :

I. EACH Player must have a Pyramid and FOUR Counters of the same colour.

II. Spin for first player; the highest Number to begin the Game.

III. Let the first player spin, and place his or her Pyramid on the Game, according to the number turned up. The others, in turn, are to do the same; referring to the Explanation for a Description of the Plates.



IV. At each following spin, add the Number turned up to that on which the Pyramid stands; and proceed accordingly, till some one arrive at No. 20, who wins the GAME.

V. Whoever goes beyond No. 20, must go back as many as he exceeds it; and try again when his turn comes.

VI. When directed to stop one or more turns, the player is to place so many counters on his Number, and take one up each time, instead of spinning, till all be redeemed.

VII. When the spinner reads an article which has a Note, he or she must refer to the page of Notes for an explanation, and read the same aloud.

## THE

## GAME OF THE FRUIT-BASKET

## 1. PENITENTIARY.

THERE is a melancholy look about this building, which, with the name, gives an idea of its nature; and at the first glance we feel it is not an habitation in which we should wish to reside. A prison, however, is a useful residence for many hundreds of erring mortals, who, if not checked in crime, would soon merit a worse punishment.

## 2. TRIAL BY JURY.

This Spin has brought us into a fine predicament;—which of our young friends is to stand forward and plead Guilty, or Not Guilty. I see, by the general smile, that the latter will be the answer; and as this assurance gives me courage, I shall venture to examine the scene before us.

Of course that is the Judge to the left; those



are the Jury in the box, and that gentleman standing in such a graceful attitude is the Counsel for the prisoner; the whole court seems interested, and we may conclude the case is of some importance.

Juries are sworn to inquire into a matter of fact, and declare the truth upon such evidence as shall be delivered before them. If the accused be a foreigner, he may demand that half the Jury be also foreigners. Thirty-six are summoned on such occasions, from which the twelve are selected, and the person accused has the liberty of challenging or rejecting twenty-four out of the number. When the trial is concluded, should the case not appear so clear as to allow of their giving an instant verdict, the Jury withdraw into a chamber by themselves, where they remain, without victuals, drink, fire, or candle, until they come to an amicable and unanimous opinion of the defendant's guilt or innocence.

It must be an anxious period for the accused, while they are thus debating on his case: if guilty, how poignant his feelings! But there is a fortitude in innocence that arms us against evil, and inspires hope when it seems most distant.

A Grand Jury consists of 24 gentlemen, or the heads of the yeomanry, chosen by the Sheriff out of the whole shire: these inspect the bills of

indictment, and write upon them their approval or otherwise. In cases of life and death, these bills are referred to another Jury after being approved by them; sometimes they do not approve, or 'find the bill' as it is called, and in this case the accused is set free at once. This must be a pleasant determination for the prisoner.

*Stop one turn, and read Note the First.*

### 3. DOMICILIARY VISIT TO THE INDIGENT.

This is a pleasant Spin, one that gratifies our best feelings; not that we have pleasure in witnessing distress, but when the power of doing good is within our reach, there is surely no higher enjoyment.

A domiciliary visit signifies one made to a person when in his own house; and we see by our picture that this visit is one of benevolence. The gentleman stands with his purse in his hand ready to bestow the bounty required. The poor man kneeling before him is no doubt an object for charity, and his piteous tale has come to the gentleman's knowledge, who very judiciously, as well as charitably, comes to inspect the true merits of the case, that he may assist accordingly. This is all right: but we do not quite approve of the sufferer's attitude; man should not kneel to



man ; that humble posture is only due to the Master of all, at whose name every knee is taught to bow. However, this poor man may not deserve our censure ; his may be an act of devotion, and the unexpected sight of a friend in the midst of his distress, having awakened his gratitude to the Divine Power who had given ear to his petition, we see him thus returning thanks to his God.

How delightful to step forward in the time of need, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked ! How can the selfish heart deprive itself of this exquisite enjoyment ? Those who have once sipped at the fount of Charity, will not relinquish the delicious draught for all the fancied pleasures of the world.

This Numbers offers a beautiful example to our present sportive party, and we hardly think our Basket contains choicer fruit. I advise the Spinner to try its flavour, and he may be assured it will be found sweet without cloying, and most refreshing to the taste. Another Spin, if you please.

#### 4. STUDENTS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Let us put on our spectacles, lest we lose any part of this interesting scene. What a variety of countenances, animate as well as inanimate ! but

the former are to me most expressive : the statues and busts are quietly fixed in the position most favourable to the artist, regardless of praise, or censure. Not so the student : in every face we read what is passing in the mind.

In one is depicted anxiety to catch every turn of the original ; another is deeply intent on examining what he is about to copy ; another looks dissatisfied with what he has done ; and a fourth has the flush of success glowing on his youthful cheek.

Emulation inspires the whole assembly ; and we may reasonably expect, that amongst all this rising talent some great genius will spring forth and rival the boasted arts of Italy. The names of Reynolds, West, Wilson, and Chantry, are sufficient to excite example ; and surely it is more praiseworthy to encourage native talent, than purloin the treasures of other countries, like our neighbours the French, and who, after all, were obliged to restore the valuable specimens they had removed.

But remember, fame in the fine arts is not to be acquired without much study and practice ; besides which, those of the highest branch, viz. historical painters, have something more to learn than the use of the pencil, for they should be well read in the classics as well as history. I



just give this hint to our present company, lest they flatter themselves that a few years attendance at the Royal Academy is to seat them in the president's chair.

*Stop one turn, and read Note the Second.*

#### 5. EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Here is entertainment for a whole day, and subjects enough to entertain each of us separately: so we need not hurry from room to room like some of the fashionable folks, who scarcely look at one object before they proceed to another.

In the picture we observe a lady pointing to a large portrait: we presume it is of a public character, probably the King or some of his ministers; not that the portraits are confined to the gentlemen, for many fair ladies grace the walls of these apartments, and bring fame and business to the artist who has the honour of taking the likeness.

*There* is a gentleman who appears highly gratified in viewing a landscape, for he kneels to observe it more closely: perhaps he is himself an amateur, — I hope not a critic, for they are disagreeable company at a public exhibition. *There* is more to interest and admire in landscape or

historical pictures, than in personal ones; yet it is pleasing to trace the countenances of friends, public or private, and we are generally attracted by the faces of those we know.

This is not our only exhibition of pictures; the British Institution in Pall Mall offers a treat of no common kind. One half the year it exhibits the works of living artists, and the other half it is furnished with pictures painted by the most celebrated masters: and here rising genius may study from the choicest subjects; and if their improvement be equal to the opportunity afforded, they often receive a liberal price for their works.

This gallery was first opened in one thousand eight hundred and six.

#### 6. AN INFIRMARY.

We have come to a melancholy abode; but as we do not feel any hurts or sickness ourselves, we should not grumble to seek into those of others, and do all in our power to assist them in their afflictions.

Infirmary signifies a place of refuge for the sick and wounded, for there is little distinction between this and Hospital, only that in charitable institutions where education or maintenance are alone



the object, that part destined for the sick is always called the Infirmary.

In England, these truly noble buildings are numerous and well maintained. Charity is the strongest of our national characteristics; we have asylums for every class of the distressed, and some hospitals for one disorder alone, such as the small-pox, &c. We know that a large sum of money is required to erect one of these; but if our wealth does not allow of such an undertaking, we may spare a trifle by way of subscription, and thus be enabled to assist the afflicted poor, who need such advice and attention. Among our present circle of friends, the real miseries of life are only known from description. If they remember to have been confined to a sick chamber, they also remember the tender care of parents, the kind assiduities of friends, and the skilful attentions of a doctor. They may also have another recollection, which I leave to their candour to acknowledge.

Have they not rejected with petulance the necessary draught of physic, and kept the anxious mother or nurse in waiting while they decided on the nice thing to be taken after it, if they really deigned to take the nasty stuff; not considering that all the benefit was the sick person's, and the trouble and expense the parent's?

I am sure those who have so acted, now feel ashamed of their caprice, and would not repeat the folly. What a contrast such a scene as the picture here shown presents! See that poor man whose leg the surgeon is inspecting: who knows but that his case may be a dangerous one, even to the losing of the limb? yet he appears to have no friend at hand who would encourage his drooping hopes, or soothe his pains, by well-timed consolation.

To one so circumstanced, an Infirmary is a real blessing; here he has the best advice, good attendance, and a clean bed, besides proper food: all these his own humble roof could not afford; there he must have pined in want and neglect.

At a little distance we see another invalid taking medicine. I trace no sour looks at the nauseous draught; to him it is a cordial, and requires not barley sugar, oranges or sweatmeats, to induce him to take it. The hope of health is alone sufficient for his obedience to his doctor's rules, and he knows this is the surest way to regain strength.

Our Basket may offer more tempting-looking fruit than this article, but I doubt if there be any sweeter; like the almond, its contents are a kernel of sweetness, from which may be expressed an oil of the most healing nature. The English



well know how to apply it; may they ever retain a skill so acquired!

#### 7. AN ALMS HOUSE.

This Number presents a striking contrast to our present gay and youthful party, whose morning of life is but in its prime; but our picture tells a different tale: here age and infirmity seek repose from the early cares of life, and in preparing for a better world forget the sorrows they have experienced in this. It is grateful to behold the aged poor thus sheltered from poverty and neglect: indigence is a sad evil at all times; but when our strength has decayed, and we have outlived our dearest connexions, the trial is doubly severe. An asylum like this before us is therefore most desirable, and we reverence the memory of those who bequeathed their riches for a purpose so laudable.

See how contented and happy those persons look, now seated on benches in front of the building; another supported by a stick, is going homewards, not to the general receptacle of the infirm poor, "a workhouse!" but to a home of his own provided by the hand of charity.

Should any of the present Spinners possess more wealth than they need for their own main-

tenance, I advise them without delay to begin a building on this plan; and when it shall be completed and endowed, we will soon help them to worthy tenants, whose gratitude shall prove the best payment a charitable landlord can desire.

#### 8. A LECTURE ON CHEMISTRY.

We must be very attentive listeners and observers here, if we hope to make any progress in the art of chemistry. How busy these students seem! The learned man who delivers the lecture may be Sir Humphry Davy, for aught we know to the contrary; if so, we are in excellent company, for his abilities are well known, and his discoveries most valuable.

The antiquity of this science is undoubted; Tubal Cain, and those who assisted him in the working in brass and iron, must have been able chemists. Let us here remind the juniors of our party, that chymistry, or chemistry (as the moderns call it), is the art of separating natural bodies by fire, by which means their different properties are discovered, and their hidden virtues revealed to the great benefit of mankind.

Egypt, even at this early period of time, cultivated the sciences with the greatest success, and



it was from the Egyptians that the philosophers of Greece derived their knowledge.

The preservation of the mummies shows what a high degree of perfection the Egyptians attained in chemistry; for these have gone through a series of operations yet undiscovered by the modern professors of the art.

I shall only add, that should the shadow of a *dunce* or *idler* have intruded on our cheerful game, they will do wisely to vanish in the twinkling of an eye, lest our lecturer deem them fit subjects for experiment.

*Stop one turn, and read Note the Third.*

#### 9. A BLUE-COAT BOY.

To a Londoner this young student is an old acquaintance; he is constantly seen in the City, and in holiday time we meet him in all parts of the town, going to visit his friends, or hurrying back to school lest he should incur punishment for exceeding his leave of absence.

This noble school is of royal foundation, and does honour to the noble and youthful monarch Edward the Sixth, who granted its charter, besides lands to the value of six hundred pounds a year, with other benefactions.

On its site once stood a monastery of the

Gray Friars, which with others was surrendered to Henry the Eighth, and he granted it to the City for the relief of the poor; but this object being neglected, his son, by the advice of Bishop Ridley, invited the Lord Mayor to assist in relieving the distressed, and a regular system was formed for this purpose. St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's Hospitals were appropriated to the diseased; Bridewell to the idle; and Christ's Hospital to maintain and educate the young and helpless.

Virtue, talent and industry have here taken root, and in proper season being transplanted to proper soil, have flourished to the honour of their tutors, and themselves. Let me beg Number Nine to visit in person this intellectual treat, where he will soon be convinced that our game does not say too much in its praise.

#### 10. A NATIONAL SCHOOL.

If our ancestors could take a peep at this scene, they would be puzzled. In their days so confined and illiberal were the ideas of education, that they never considered it necessary for the poorer classes to be enlightened as they are at present. Reading, writing and arithmetic were accomplishments many of the wealthy did not acquire.



The very title of National School suggests its useful and extensive purpose, and we shall prove that sound is not its only merit.

Mr. Joseph Lancaster, one of the Society of Friends (usually called Quakers), and the Rev. Dr. Bell, have been the chief instruments in this plan of education; and under their guidance it is brought to the highest state of perfection. In London alone, many thousands of children have been so instructed. Some of the first characters in the kingdom patronize these National Schools, and take the warmest interest in their prosperity. But I suppose our party will have no objection to some explanation of this able system, which is very different from any other.

In the first place, there is a room appropriated for the boys, and another for the girls: against the walls of these apartments are placed desks and benches, at which the children sit, in certain numbers at a time; they use slates for the purpose of writing. In one part of the room trays of sand are placed in a row, and the children are taught the alphabet and stops in them, the letters and points being traced in the sand; and the younger classes so write a portion of their reading lessons.

The children quit school at twelve, and return at two, when the boys pursue the morning stu-

dies with the addition of learning arithmetical tables: to this last study the girls also apply; knitting and needle-work filling up the remainder of the time.

At five o'clock the children of both schools sing *Gloria Patri*; one reads prayers; and they are dismissed.

They learn to read by cards, first spelling, then by words. In tables of numeration they count upwards, and then backwards, so that they are soon proficient in reckoning. All is done in sand, till they are sufficiently forward to have slates, or occasionally copy-books.

Observe the different groups in the picture being examined. The visitors look gratified; and no wonder. It is a scene of mental delight. I think we may call this produce of our Basket,—grapes; for do we not behold clusters of ripening fruit, that promise a rich vintage to the cultivators, who have so wisely planted them in the vineyard of knowledge? Some of the schools differ in the arrangement of pursuits, according to the sect to which they belong.

#### 11. CONFIRMATION.

This is a rite of the Romish and English churches of very early origin; for it first took



place in the time of Tertullian, who was considered a father of the Christian church, in the year one hundred and ninety-one. We learn, from ancient authors, that this ceremony immediately followed baptism; but in the present order of things baptism is performed in infancy, and therefore the child is incapable of making any promise of itself. The godfathers and godmothers stand as sponsors or pledges for the infant, who at the age of fifteen is considered capable of releasing these persons from their promise.

Confirmation signifies a renewal of the baptismal vow (which is a part of the church catechism). We then take upon ourselves the responsibility of our future actions, and from that moment should be doubly watchful of our conduct. The order of confirmation requires that none be confirmed who cannot say the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and Ten Commandments, on all of which they should be questioned, to prove that they perfectly understand the vow they are taking upon themselves.

In the picture we may observe the bishop so employed. It is particularly interesting and solemn to witness this ceremony; and we beg to remind our young friends, that they will do well to be prepared for the blessing so bestowed, and prove themselves worthy of the trust reposed in them from this time.

## 12. A BAZAAR.

Who will run away from this spin, replete as it is with novelty and amusement? Indeed every one seems to think the same; for the youthful and gay are hurrying to Soho Square, certainly the first bazaar in London.

Until late years we knew nothing of this depôt of wares but by name. The term is of eastern origin. In Persia and Turkey they are called *bezestins* also. They are a sort of public exchange, where their finest stuffs and other wares are sold. Some of the eastern bazaars are open like the market-places in Europe, and serve for the same uses. Others are covered with lofty ceilings, or domes, pierced to give light; and here the jewellers, goldsmiths, and other dealers in rich wares, have their shops. In the city of Ispahan, which we know to be the capital of Persia, is a bazaar said to surpass the exchanges in Europe; and another at Tunis is yet more magnificent, and so large that it has in times of war held thirty thousand men. At Constantinople are two buildings of this kind. But it would be tedious to enumerate all the bazaars of the East.

There are no gold or silver stuffs, or jewels; but the articles are fine enough for our pockets; and



all must allow they are arranged with much taste. It is difficult to fix on a purchase where the whole is so tempting, and the young are sometimes very whimsical : however, the respectable persons who preside at these stands are very obliging, and patiently await the little buyer's decision. More than two hundred females are here employed, and the articles they vend are so handsome and various, that our fancy is puzzled more than our minds would be in learning a dozen lessons. Mr. Trotter, the founder of this establishment, deserves much praise for assisting so many industrious individuals.

*Stop one turn, and read Note the Fourth.*

### 13. GREENWICH PENSIONERS.

These are real British articles, no contraband goods ; their value is sterling, as their country knows by experience. You will say these good men in the picture do not look very capable of service to their nation. No, we do not require it of them ; they have spent their youth in perilous voyages, and in defending us from our enemies. They are now old and feeble ; we must not let them pine in want because they are past their labours. Our old friends appear to be in snug quarters.

This is Greenwich Park. The men are called Greenwich pensioners ; and the magnificent building you see at a little distance is their home.

Greenwich Hospital was founded by William and Mary for invalid seamen. It is of Portland stone ; was designed by the celebrated Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren on a scale of vast dimensions and beauty, and as a whole is one of the grandest structures in Europe. The chapel is a beautiful piece of architecture, and capable of accommodating upwards of a thousand persons. The altar-piece, executed by the late Mr. West, represents the "Escape of St. Paul from shipwreck on the island of Malta." Beautiful sculpture and carvings adorn the chapel.

The Painted Hall is of equal size with the Chapel. The ceiling is much admired, and was painted by Sir James Thornhill. At the upper end of the hall are portraits of King William and Queen Mary, and several princes of the house of Brunswick. The council-room is well worthy the stranger's notice, and contains portraits and other paintings. To view this noble hospital from the water, its appearance is grand beyond description ; and when it is considered in the light of a charitable institution, we may challenge the world for its equal.



## 14. FEMALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

This is a procession very different from any we have seen ; and I imagine the female part of our company feel no desire to join in the show.

Indeed we are tempted to think these good ladies would look to more advantage seated in consultation for the good of the society, than thus parading the streets with painted flags. However, we can pardon this display when we consider the nature of the laudable undertaking which gives rise to it.

The noble Roman ladies did not visit prisons, to reprove the guilty, soothe the penitent, and instruct the ignorant : they did not meet to clothe and feed the aged and destitute, or rescue their fellow creatures from the horrors of a jail, and lead them into the path of rectitude. Yet these are deeds which bear comparison with all their boasted ones ; and while English women act thus, we desire not to rival the heroines of history ; but flatter ourselves, that the benevolent exertions of our female friends will bear recording by the future historian.

## 15. SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

This is a Spin of Industry. In the scene before us there is no appearance of idleness, all are employed. But how is this ? These poor children are blind, and yet can be useful. What a reflection on those who are blessed with all their faculties but shrink from proper exertion !

This school for the blind is situated in St. George's Fields, and maintains a number of persons from the age of twelve, under the afflictions of blindness and poverty ; and surely no greater objects for charity can be selected, than such as are deprived of sight.

Helpless as we might suppose the blind to be, we find they can be taught to assist in maintaining themselves. The manufactures here carried on are those of baskets, clothes lines, and sash-cords, which are sold at the school, and the profit is said to amount annually to six hundred pounds.

Great abilities have been displayed by persons born blind, particularly in music, a science to which they are extremely attached, and many prove themselves able teachers.

We read of a blind guide who conducted the merchants through the deserts of Arabia, a task of a most difficult nature. And one John Met-



calf, a native of Lancashire, who lost his sight at so early an age as to be unconscious of light and its effects, was employed during the early part of his life as a wagoner, or sometimes as a guide in intricate roads when the common tracks were covered with snow: he afterwards became a projector and surveyor of highways in mountainous parts, and, with the assistance of a long staff, traversed the roads, and explored valleys, till he brought his plans to bear; and in this way he has improved the roads over the Peak in Derbyshire, those in the vicinity of Buxton, &c. May we while we enjoy the inestimable blessing of sight, ever lend our assistance, as well as commiseration, to the indigent blind, and thus show our gratitude for the favours of Providence.

*Stop one turn, and examine Note the Fifth.*

#### 16. CHELSEA PENSIONERS.

This is a sorry sight. One poor man has lost a leg, the other an arm. By what accident? you will ask. Alas! from no natural cause; they are thus maimed by the cruel consequences of war. How full of import is this little word! to what dangers and evils does it expose mankind! If the wise and noble are led away by its false honours, we cannot expect men in humble life to

decide with more judgment. These poor men in the picture think they have done their duty in defending their country, and we see what they have gained. However, it is but justice to acknowledge that England does not discard her poor soldiers when no longer able to fight her battles.

Chelsea Hospital is situated on the north bank of the river Thames, and is an asylum for invalid soldiers: it is a handsome building of brick and stone. The front next the river has an elegant appearance; the centre has a fine portico, with a piazza on each side, and two spacious wings, the whole designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The gardens which lie towards the river do not possess much taste; but there is a fine avenue planted with trees before the north front, and here may be seen the veteran enjoying the fresh air as he saunters up and down the shady walk, or seated beneath a spreading tree.

The chapel is a plain building, the floor paved with black and white marble. The dining-hall is a fine room decorated with paintings representing Charles the Second, with devices, &c. Chelsea Hospital, or College as it was originally called, was founded by King James the First for disputations on theology or divinity; but Charles the Second converted it to its present use. James the



Second improved, and William and Mary completed it.

The Royal Military Asylum is situated near to the Hospital, and is a magnificent building, in which five hundred children of the soldiers are maintained and educated.

#### 17. MATRIMONY.

What have we here? No less than a couple going to be married. We wish them all happiness, and hope that their tempers may be well suited; otherwise our wish would be vain.

Matrimony is an early institution, ascribed to Cecrops, king of Athens, in the year one thousand five hundred and fifty-six, before the birth of Christ. And here let the Spinner inform the company, when they meet with the letters B. C. placed after a figure or figures, that they signify that the event named happened as many years before the birth of our Saviour as such figures may express. Marriages were first celebrated in churches in the year one thousand two hundred and twenty-six, during the reign of our Henry the Third.

Our late excellent monarch George the Third and Queen Charlotte his consort were considered the happiest pair among the crowned heads of

Europe,—a distinction honourable to themselves, and a bright example to their subjects.

At Dunmow, in Essex, a singular custom is yet preserved; viz. that a couple who have been married one year and a day, without having disputed once in that time, may claim a flitch of bacon from the manor of Dunmow, by applying in person. This singular reward is sometimes claimed; and we may suppose much merriment is excited by the whimsical demand. As our present juvenile party have many things to learn, and habits to improve, before they think of matrimony, we advise them to examine the Basket more closely for new specimens of the fruit of instruction.

#### 18. HARVEST HOME.

This Spin has brought us to a scene of rustic cheerfulness in which we participate most heartily. It is not the revels of a drawing-room, distinguished by splendour and fashion; such entertainments are but the pleasures of the moment, without cause or reason; but the harvest home is a feast of real enjoyment, the result of successful labour, which has secured us bread for the next year at least. Thus we are all interested in the scene, for we are all gainers in the cause.



It is gratifying to behold all these merry faces round the jovial board ; they have completed their duties, and are at liberty to enjoy their innocent mirth. Sad will be the day for England when harvest home is no longer a season of festivity like the picture before us.

The custom is of ancient date in this country ; and if not so general now as formerly, is yet kept in all counties.

The ancient Romans considered agriculture an honourable employment, and the Chinese do so to this day. Of its utility we must all be convinced, though perhaps we do not always remember our obligation to the farmer and his labourers.

Should any of our young friends possess landed property, we trust they will encourage the plough, and prove lenient landlords ; we shall then be proud to make one at their annual treats, and wish success to their *Harvest Home*.

*Stop one turn, and read Note the Sixth.*

#### 19. A BIBLE SOCIETY.

This is a choice article in our Fruit-Basket, and will bear culling at any time ; it is always ripe and in season ; the seeds have been found suitable to all climes, and whenever it is once propagated

the most beneficial consequences ensue. Our opinion seems to be a general one, if we may judge from the large party assembled, who no doubt intend to further the interests of the society by every means in their power.

This noble and benevolent institution is the fountain-head of many minor ones, all tending to the same purpose by liberally distributing numerous copies of the Bible in different languages, and, with the aid of the missionaries, into the most barbarous countries, the good effects of which have been the converting of sinners, and the checking of crime in all classes. Should the future success of this plan but equal the present, we may confidently hope that the sacred volume will grace every known language, and be placed in the hands of the yet unenlightened natives of the earth.

The promotion of this desirable object is not confined to any particular sect. All unite in giving it their support ; for the basis of the true religion is alike revered by all ; and where shall we seek for the glorious foundation, but in the words of holy writ ? England first set the example, and now other countries are following the steps. Bible societies are springing up all over Europe.

Since their commencement, more than eight hundred thousand Bibles have been circulated ;



and should their perusal have bettered the heart of one-twentieth part that number, who shall say the society is not entitled to the warmest gratitude of every true Christian ?

20. GLORY INCITING AN OXONIAN AND A CANTAB  
STUDENT TO EMULATION, LEARNING, AND THE  
ARTS.

We have here a grand and imposing picture ; but as it may not be quite suited to the capacities of our very juvenile friends, we will endeavour to explain who this stately lady is that appears so interested in the education of the young scholars. This scene is an allegorical picture. Allegory is a description of things in a figurative sense, by using terms which, in their proper sense, mean something else than what they denote thus used. In ancient times it was a favourite method of delivering instruction ; for what we call fables are no other than allegories, in which, by words and actions said to belong to beasts or inanimate objects, the dispositions of men are *figured* ; and what we call the Moral, is the unfigured and plain meaning of the allegory. The admired parables of the Scriptures are allegories.

We all know there is no such person as Glory,

the female here represented. We are therefore to take the sense in an amusing point of view, and understand that Glory signifies the desired end we shall attain by studying to deserve it ; and this is the hope, or leading star, which carries us through all difficulties of learning.

Our students appear very desirous of obeying her wishes ; they listen to her instructions as though determined to follow them. The wreath of laurel she holds in her hand, is to crown the scholar when his labours are ended ; that is to say, should he persevere in his studies, and endeavour to reach perfection, as far as beings of this world are capable of doing, he will be rewarded by the approbation and esteem of the wise and virtuous ; and no greater reward need he desire. Oxford is one of our two Universities, and famed for having reared learned men. It was founded by King Alfred in the year eight hundred and eighty-six. Edward the Second, Henry the Eighth, and Queen Elizabeth, founded additional colleges ; and many private individuals have been liberal benefactors to this noble seminary of learning, as the various buildings and libraries testify. We advise all our young tourists to visit Oxford ; and should any be destined to pursue their studies here, they will do well to keep the allegory of Number Twenty in mind.



*Note the First.*

William the Conqueror, among other Norman customs, introduced a species of trial, called "Wager of Battle," in which the innocence of the party was to be determined by combat. Much pomp and ceremony preceded this trial; and if the accused killed his antagonist, or maintained the fight from sun-rising till the stars appeared in the evening, he was acquitted; if, on the contrary, the defendant fell in battle, it was believed that Providence had punished him for his guilt; or, if overcome by exertion, and incapable of fighting any longer, he declined the contest, he was adjudged to be hanged immediately. Such arbitrary and superstitious laws deserved not the name of justice.

*Note the Second.*

The Royal Academy, Somerset House, was established in the last reign by King George the Third, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight. Sir Joshua Reynolds was the first President; the celebrated Mr. West the second; and Sir Thomas Lawrence has succeeded him. George the Fourth, who was a great promoter of the arts, conferred several honours on this institution.

*Note the Third.*

Roger Bacon, just mentioned, was a learned monk, born in Somersetshire; he introduced some curious chemical experiments into Europe, and, it is said, first discovered the composition of gunpowder, though not its dreadful effects. In those early times his knowledge was considered a species of magic, and the learned philosopher a magician. A belief in sorcery existed even in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

*Note the Fourth.*

The present style of the London shops is of great magnificence, and such as was quite unknown to our ancestors; for in early times the shops were mostly open, without windows, the upper parts of the houses projecting over them, while clumsy and tawdry signs creaked from the door tops; even so late as the last century traders displayed their choice goods in rooms, often up one or two pair of stairs, distinguished only by whimsical signs. Our bazaars are something superior to these.



*Note the Fifth.*

Milton, one of the most distinguished poets of any country, was blind when he wrote some of his most beautiful productions. Homer, the celebrated Grecian poet, also laboured under the same melancholy infirmity. Belisarius, the Roman, who rose from a peasant to the command of an army, rendered such services to his country, that a triumph was decreed him, and he was created sole consul ; but it is said he outlived all his honours, was deprived of sight, and died in indigence.

*Note the Sixth.*

It appears that our ancestors were not desirous of witnessing streets crowded with passengers, as we are at the present day. To us it brings promise of trade and prosperity, but to them an increased population was a sign of famine : thus we find in the reign of King James the First, that twelve granaries were built at Bridewell to hold six thousand quarters of corn, to prevent sudden dearth of the article by the great increase of inhabitants.