

T H E  
Town and Country Magazine;  
O R,  
UNIVERSAL REPOSITORY  
O F  
Knowledge, Instruction, and Entertainment.  
For S E P T E M B E R, 1790.

Embellished with the following Engravings. 1. A beautiful Profile of the Female Defeater. 2. A Striking Likeness of the Chemical Lover. And 3. The Town and Harbour of Portsmouth, with a View of his Majesty's Fleet at Spithead.

Containing, among a Variety of original and interesting Articles,

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS to our CORRESPONDENTS

T. S \_\_\_\_\_'s letter came too late for insertion but will certainly have a place in our next Number.

A letter signed C.C.M.L.M.D. is received, complaining of our not having noticed a poem which he had transmitted to us, but we do not recollect any such poem.

The Plebeian's right to glean in Harvest, vindicated from Reason and Revelation, is arrived, and shall be attended to.

We are much obliged to the correspondent who favoured us with his judicious remarks on the situations of the two pest-houses. Any future favours from the same quarter will be highly acceptable.

The Bastard has also a claim to our acknowledgements.

The elegy on the death of the Duke of Cumberland, by S.H., one of His Royal Highness's domestics, is doubtless meant as a grateful tribute to the memory of that Prince; and we wish it had sufficient merit to entitle it to admittance to our Repository.

Chrononhotonthologus is under consideration.

Manslaughter, a poem by a Lady, is a murder of Common Sense. A coroner's inquest would bring it in *sello de fe*<sup>1</sup>.

The General Mourning, a Satire, is in many instance indelicately personal. We are therefore under the necessity of rejecting it.

Observations on the misapplication of the term *good* in our next.

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<sup>1</sup> Sello de fe = seal of faith (Spanish)



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**or**  
**UNIVERSAL REPOSITORY**  
**of**  
**Knowledge, Instruction, and Entertainment.**  
**for September, 1790.**

Histories of the Tête-à-Tête annexed; or Memoirs of the CHEMICAL LOVER and the FEMALE DESERTER (No. 26. 27.)

The heroine of this tale is the daughter of a Captain F \_\_\_\_\_, and has more than a moderate portion of personal charms, however as she had two daughters and a son, she had no pecuniary allurements to attract prudent or mercenary lovers.

Captain S \_\_\_\_\_, then verging on his fortieth year, happened to be quartered in Tiverton in the year 1780, where he first beheld the beautiful and accomplished Lydia. He interrogated his host respecting the family and connections of this young lady, and had the mortification to be informed, among other particulars, that she had no fortune. The Captain was however so smitten with her air and figure that this intelligence did not abate his ardour,

or occasion him to deliberate a moment about tendering her his hand and heart. Being a Hibernian and a soldier, he made a furious attack and Lydia yielded at discretion.

In less than a month, she was legally enlisted, by solemn banns, into his corps, and soon became proficient in the military tactics. She was perfect mistress of the science of attack and defence, and a complete adept in all the branches of manual exercise. She was not even deficient in point of valour (though properly a masculine virtue) and often dared her husband to the combat. In these amorous duels, she always came off victorious; and her disposition was so irritable that she was eternally giving challenges.

These skirmishes were very frequent for three successive year, and three recruits were raised, by their joint endeavours during that period. At length the melancholy mandate arrived informing the captain that he must set off immediately for America. Though the same billet communicated the intelligence of his having been promoted to a majority, he thought his advancement a poor substitute for the sufferings he must endure in the course of a long separation from the idol of his affections.

But as his orders were peremptory, he took a languishing leave of the weeping Lydia and hastened to where his duty called him. She lamented his loss for about two days but, on the third, chance threw her into the company of a Mr N\_\_\_\_\_, a gentleman well known among the medical tribe for his extraordinary improvements to the science of chemistry. She was particularly noticed by this disciple of Galen, and she returned him glance for glance. An *éclaircissement*<sup>2</sup> instantly took place, and the lady frankly acknowledged that she was a temporary widow, and that her husband had been ordered abroad on the king's duty, without having left a substitute to perform her duty.

The hint was too plain to be misunderstood; an intimacy commence immediately, and Mr N\_\_\_\_\_ supplied the place of Maj. S\_\_\_\_\_n.

On the major's return, he found his lady had turned deserter, that she had quitted her post and gone over to the enemy. The matter became investigated before a civil court-martial in Doctors Commons; when strong evidence of the lady's incontinency, one of the witnesses called Sarah B\_\_\_\_\_ deposed that Christopher W\_\_\_\_\_, servant of Mr N\_\_\_\_\_, esquire, applied to her at her house in Green Row, Chelsea, respecting some apartments she had to let, for his master and mistress, whom he described to be persons of fortune. Desirous of knowing what sort of people they were before she made any agreement with them, she waited on Mr N\_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs S\_\_\_\_\_n at the Lowerback's hotel; and being satisfied with the appearance agreed to let them her apartments which they occupied for about 10 weeks. She further declared that during that time, they in all respects cohabited together as husband and wife, and behaved to each other with that sort of familiarity as if they had really been so; and though in the course of that time, she never saw them actually in bed together, yet she was certain that they slept together every night in the same bed. She added that she had frequently seen them retire together in the same bed-chamber and had seen one in bed while the other was undressing in such bed-chamber.

Mr N\_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs S\_\_\_\_\_n afterwards accompanied each other to France and cohabited together at the town called Moulins where they were visited by the said Sarah B\_\_\_\_\_ who

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<sup>2</sup> Éclaircissement = clarification (French).

continued with them several months and not only saw them in bed together there, but also saw the lady delivered of a male child.

Many more corroborating circumstances were mentioned upon this investigation of affairs, and no doubt remaining in the breast of the auditors, with respect to the lady's crime, she was brought in guilty and will probably be drummed out of the corps as a deserter.

A curious specimen of equipment was mentioned in this business which merits recognition. The footman, when hiring the lodging, assured Mrs Sarah B\_\_\_\_\_ that his master and mistress were married people. Her scruples and doubts were thus removed for a time, but when she found she had been imposed on, she reprimanded Tom for deceiving her. His reply or justification was curious, and in the following words: "I told no untruth. They are married people. The lady is married to Mr S\_\_\_\_\_n an officer in the army, and my master is married to another lady.