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## **Hogarth moralized**

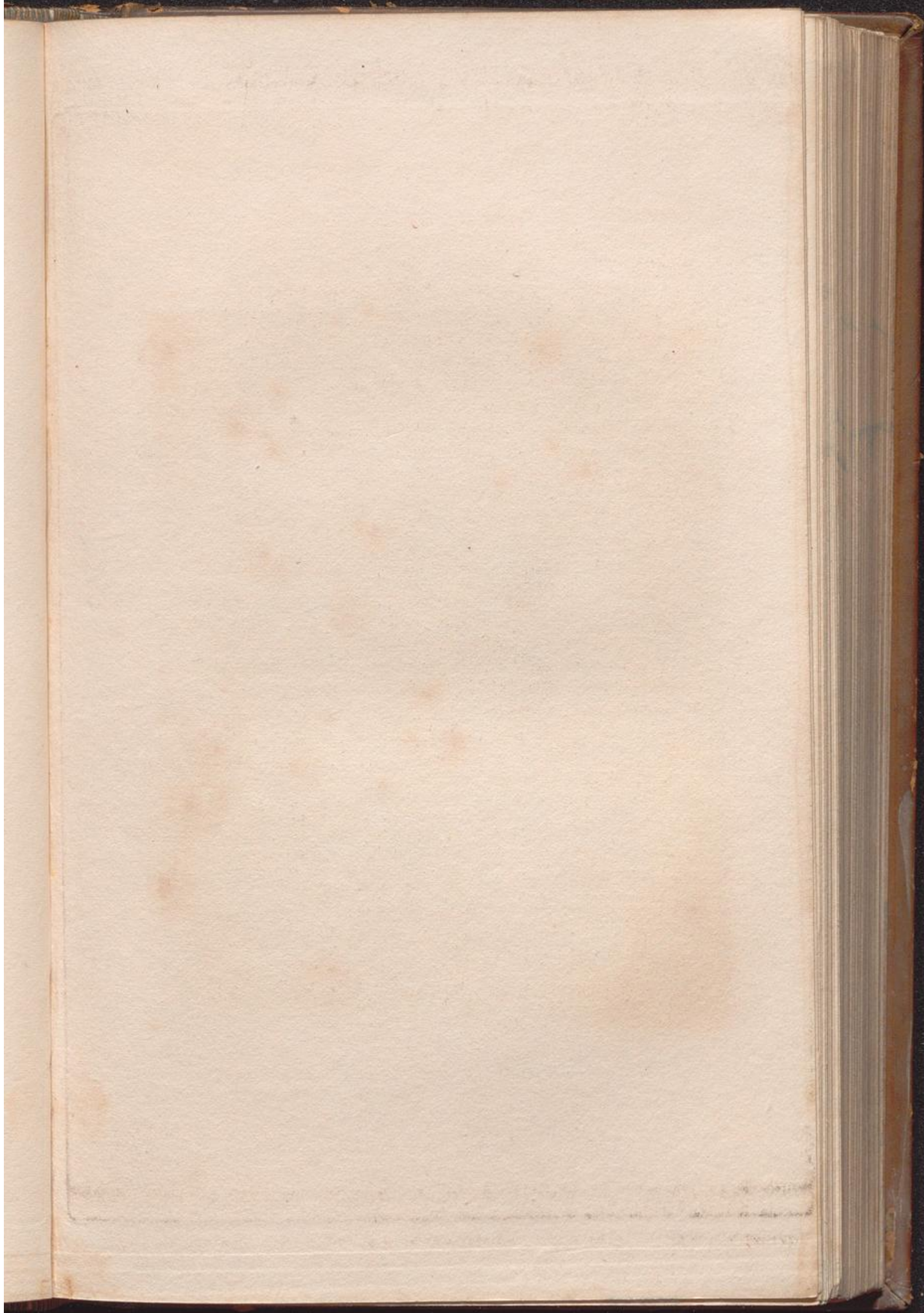
**Hogarth, William**

**London, 1831**

The Marriadge-A- La- Mode.

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W.H. Wain, sc.  
MARRIAGE A LA MODE, P.L.I.  
Engraved by John Taylor 50, Fleet Street, Jan. 1. 1831.

## THE MARRIAGE-A-LA-MODE.\*

## PLATE I.

ALTHOUGH there is no one step of greater consequence to us, or on which the happiness of man so much depends, as that of marriage; still so rash and presumptive are we, as to pay very little regard to it, otherwise than as it suits, or clashes with our interest; that imposer on our fate which leads us on to misery in the dark, smoothing over our misfortunes with a shew of felicity. On talking upon this subject, most men shall speak as with the tongue of a philosopher; they shall tell you that the joys of wedlock consist in having a discreet and affectionate wife; but when they are about to enter on the state, you shall hear them opening in a different language; nothing then shall satisfy but money: she that has most, is most amiable; and she that has none, is totally deserted. 'Tis this unhappy way of thinking that introduces into so many families a cold indifference between man and wife, which, when it has once taken root, seldom fails of growing into a settled and confirmed hatred, the general fore-runner of very dreadful con-

\* [For the originals of these six noble pictures, Hogarth could obtain but 115*l.* 10*s.* in his life-time, (the mode of sale was by a sort of raffle or auction;) yet they were in frames worth four guineas each! This took place in 1750; in 1797, vide Introduction, p. ix. Mr. Angerstein gave 1381*l.* for them, and they are now open to public inspection in the National Gallery, Pall Mall.]

sequences. In order then to create in us an abhorrence of such lucrative alliances, Mr. Hogarth has in the following scenes, pictured out in the most striking colours, the fatal end of what he calls a Marriage-a-la-mode; a well-adapted term, being too general and fashionable a thing among us, to savour of the least impropriety: and because this folly is more conspicuous among the great he has taken his subject from high life; and as an impartial person should, has drawn it with the pencil of veracious observation.

We are then to suppose, that an Alderman of the city of London, a man immensely rich, whose wealth was acquired by trade, in order to ennoble his family, (so ambitious are we in general, and so fond of titular honour) had been, some time, looking out for a matrimonial alliance with some man of fashion, who might be glad to accept such a proposal, with a view of recruiting a wasted fortune. We are also to imagine, that it was not long before he met with the wished for opportunity, there being many of the English nobility with encumbered estates, upon the watch to catch at an offer of this kind, in order to free them. View then the wealthy cit, all necessary preliminaries being before adjusted, at the house of a British Earl, signing and sealing the marriage settlement, and paying his daughter's stipulated fortune. See him, with all the appearance of a person of property, accustomed to the tale of money, casting his eyes on what his clerk, an old faithful servant, has just counted down. On the other hand, behold the peer, the father of the bridegroom, full of his titles and nobility, (which he has just traced on the tree of consanguinity, from William the Conqueror) in a position which indicates an egotism swelled with the greatest pride. Methinks I hear him say, "'tis I; my arms; my titles; my castle; my ancestors." Nay, so

fond is he of his rank, that every thing about him wears the mark of distinction; even his crutches, the mortifying monitors of his infirmities, are ornamented with coronets. He is represented as lain up with the gout, that disorder, in particular, being the usual consequence of irregular living, which men of quality too often give a loose to. Neither is an irregular debauched life the parent of one disorder only, but of a complication. This is intimated by the mark of the evil on the son's neck, covered with a patch, which we are to suppose inherent in his blood, carried down from father to son through many generations. Astonishing, that men should pursue their pleasures to the prejudice of their health, and that the pain they suffer should not deter them from such excesses as cause it! Behind, on a settee, are the bride and bridegroom, in positions of dislike, he taking snuff and looking in the glass; she playing with her ring, seeming to listen with indifference to the soft things that a young barrister is saying to her, whose attendance here was to draw up the marriage articles. The other counsellor, (a serjeant) is examining the plan of my Lord's new building, and viewing with admiration (that declares him full of empty significance and conceit, greatly characteristic of the law-swoln counsel) the beauty of the edifice, on which he is supposed to have spent the whole of his fortune, not even reserving sufficient to complete it. So rash and inconsiderate are monied men in general, as fondly to imagine there is no end to their wealth! The number of idle servants that are seen in the court yard without, serve also to denote the destructive pride that surrounds this man of quality: swelled with his exalted situation in life, his eyes are shut to his follies; and puffed up with grandeur, he has not leisure to

cast even a thought on consequences, but is totally blind to impending ruin.

Matters amicably adjusted, and preliminaries settled, we are to suppose the fatal knot tied, that knot on which depends our temporal happiness or misery. Now is this young couple cast from under the parental wing, launched forth into the world, and left wholly to themselves; possessed of such an annual income as sets them far above the reach of want; placing them in the midst of every earthly blessing. Happy might they now have been could they e'en have thought so, nay doubly happy if they loved; but where affection is wanting, felicity is banished; for heaven has so framed our natures for this intimate society, that without it even amid the affluence of fortune, and the flow of uninterrupted health, there will be an aching void in the solitary breast that can never know a plenitude of happiness. To this misfortune is owing the utter destruction of this unthinking pair, and all those melancholy consequences rising in the sequel of the story.

PLATE II.

That indifference which precedes a marriage of this sort, seldom fails to follow it. When we unite ourselves by contract, we would generally live separate by inclination. Tired of one another, nothing is more common than for the husband to grow sick of home, to stay out in an evening as late as possible, and for the wife to wear away the tedious hours by entertainments, cards, and other acts of dissipation.

This plate then before us represents a saloon in this

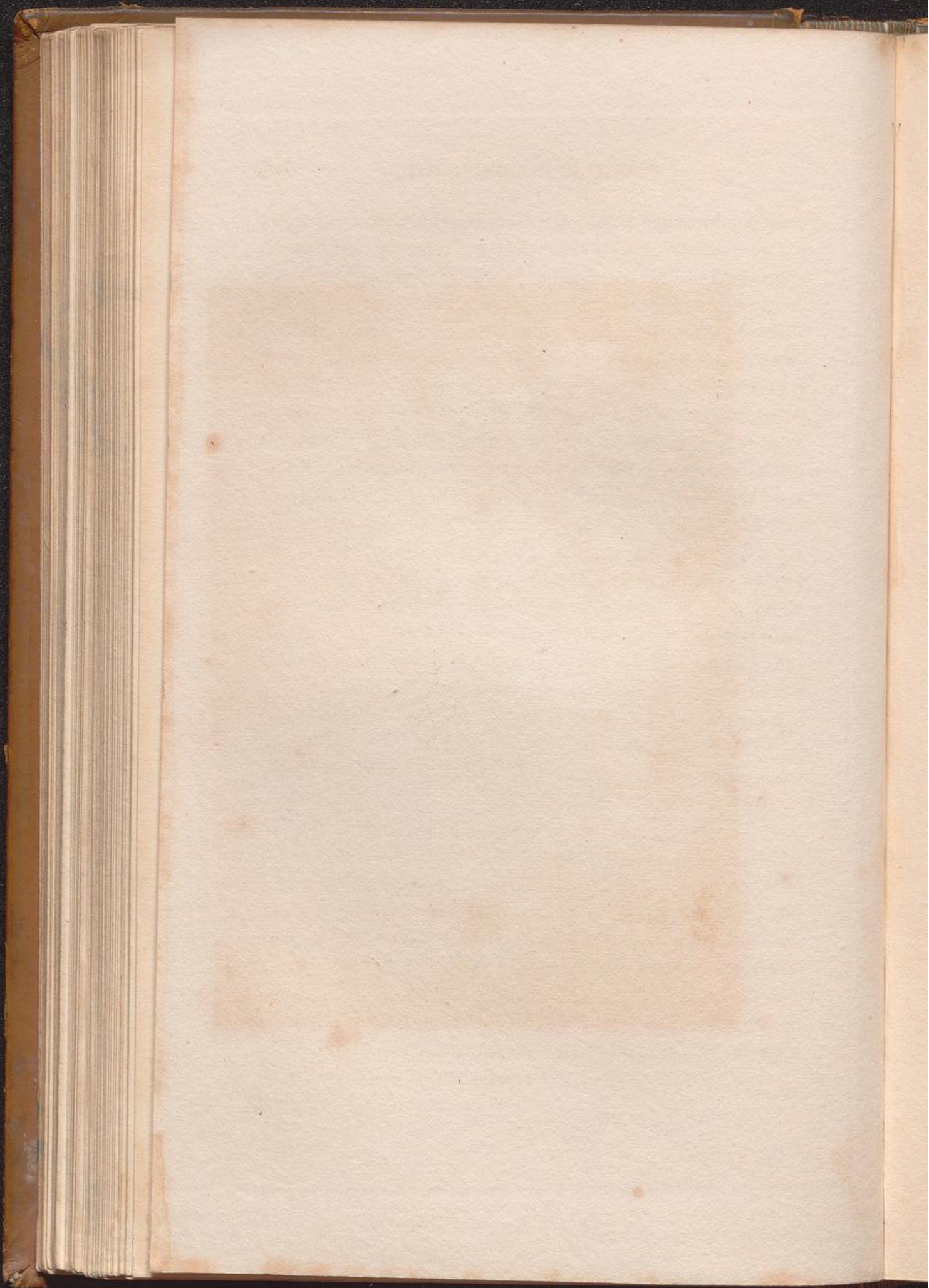


*M. H. Worthington, sc.*

MARRIAGE A LA MODE. — PL. 2.

*Published by John Major 52, Fleet Street, London, 1831.*



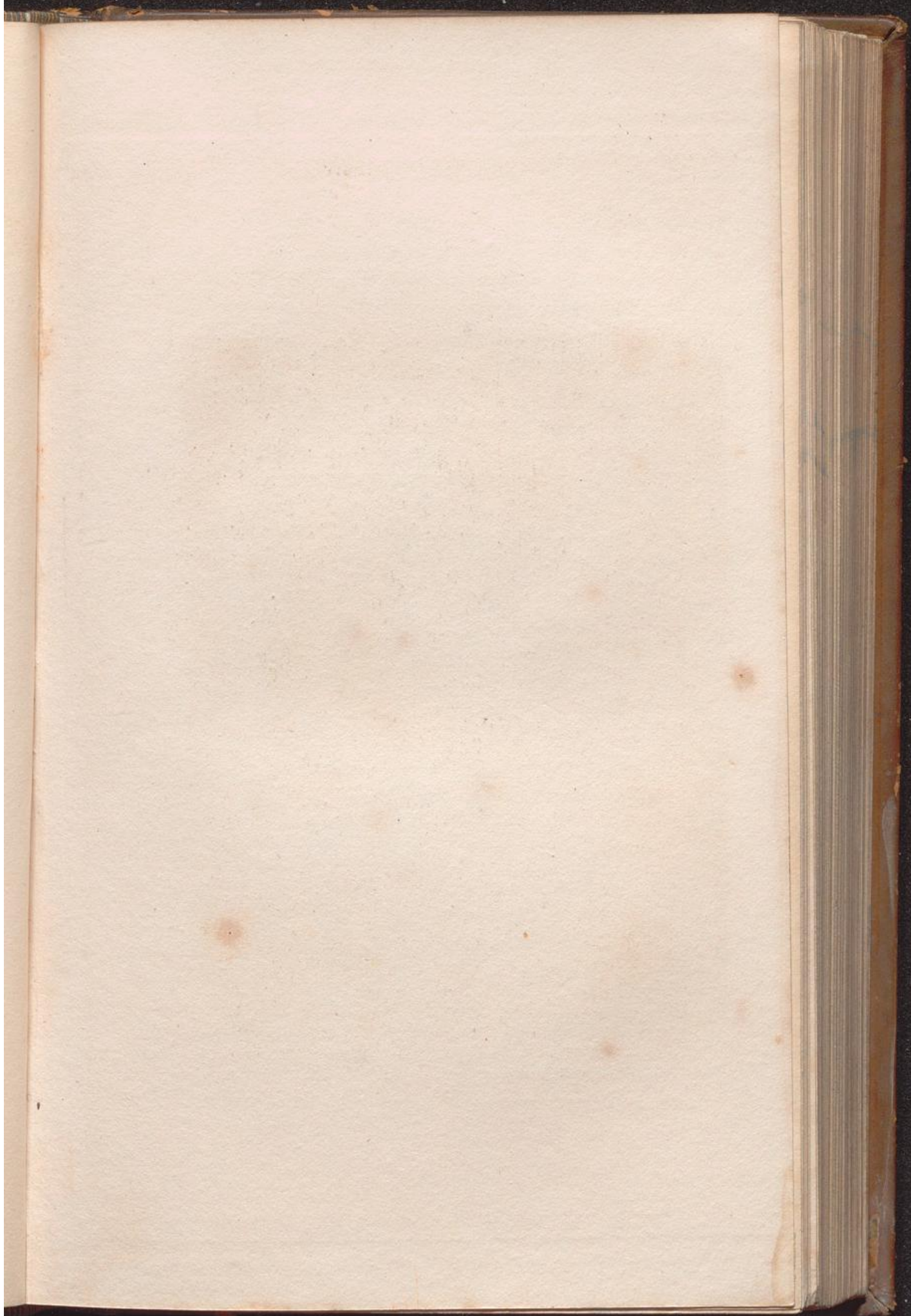


young nobleman's house, not long after the breaking up of a card assembly. The clock tells us, 'tis noon. We are to suppose then, by the candles being still burning, that the day had been shut out, and converted into night, a circumstance not a little characteristic of the irregularity and disorder that reigns within the house; and that after an hour or two's sleep, madam is just risen to breakfast; whose rising has occasioned that of the family in general. This is intimated by one of the servants in the back ground of this plate, who, we are to understand, though scarce awake, has hurried on his clothes, in order to set the house in some measure to rights. By the treatise of Hoyle upon the floor, we are taught the idle study of people of distinction, to whom books in general are a disgust, unless they tend to dissipation, or serve to instruct them in their favourite amusements. With respect to the attitudes of the two principal figures, the fineness of the thought, and the particular exactness of the expressions, they must be allowed to be extremely beautiful. They are at the same time well introduced as from the indifference that gives rise to them, springs the destruction of this unhappy family. On the one hand we are to suppose her actuated by soft desire, totally neglected by her husband; on the other by way of contrast, that he is just returned from the apartments of some woman fatigued and satiated. And as pleasures of this sort are seldom uninterrupted, we are told by the female cap in his pocket, and his broken sword, that he has been engaged in some riot or uproar. An old faithful steward who has a regard for the family, seems to have taken this opportunity, (not being able to find a better) to settle his accounts; but the great disorder of the family, and the indisposition of his master and mistress, render it

impossible. See him then returning in an action of concern, dreading the approaching ruin of them both. To shew us the great and general extravagance of nobility,\* Mr. Hogarth has humourously put into this man's hands a number of unpaid bills, and placed upon the file only one receipt; intimating the bad pay of people of quality, who will run themselves largely in debt, and refuse every timely payment, even to the ruin of their tradesmen. By the book of regeneration in his pocket, we are given to understand that he is tainted with enthusiasm; and though his heart is inclined to good, that he is an unhappy follower of those men whose reigning principle is hypocrisy, and who will publicly shudder for the misfortunes of those, whose downfall they secretly rejoice at. There is one other thing which I cannot pass over in silence, and that is an immodest painting in the further part of the room, with a curtain drawn before it; calculated to inflame a wanton imagination, though designedly concealed from public view, A manifest token of the depraved taste of its owner, and a completion of his vitiated character.

Led then from one act of ill-conduct to another, the hero

\* [The editor cannot help observing, that upon this head Dr. Trusler, in many places, carries his remarks much farther than his author warrants. Hogarth never intended these subjects as a general satire upon the upper classes, who are as rational in their amusements, considering their enlarged means, as the rest of mankind. To be as liberal in the expenditure of their incomes as they can possibly afford, is but patriotism without the ostentation of the name. All that Hogarth means to enforce, as Mr. Walpole expresses it—is, that “the different vices of the great and the vulgar, lead by various paths to the same unhappiness.” In Hogarth's own descriptions of these six subjects—referred to hereafter—there is no sort of insinuation as to the incompatibility of virtue and talent with rank and station.]





*W. H. Wood, sc.*

MARRIAGE A LA MODE. PL. 3.

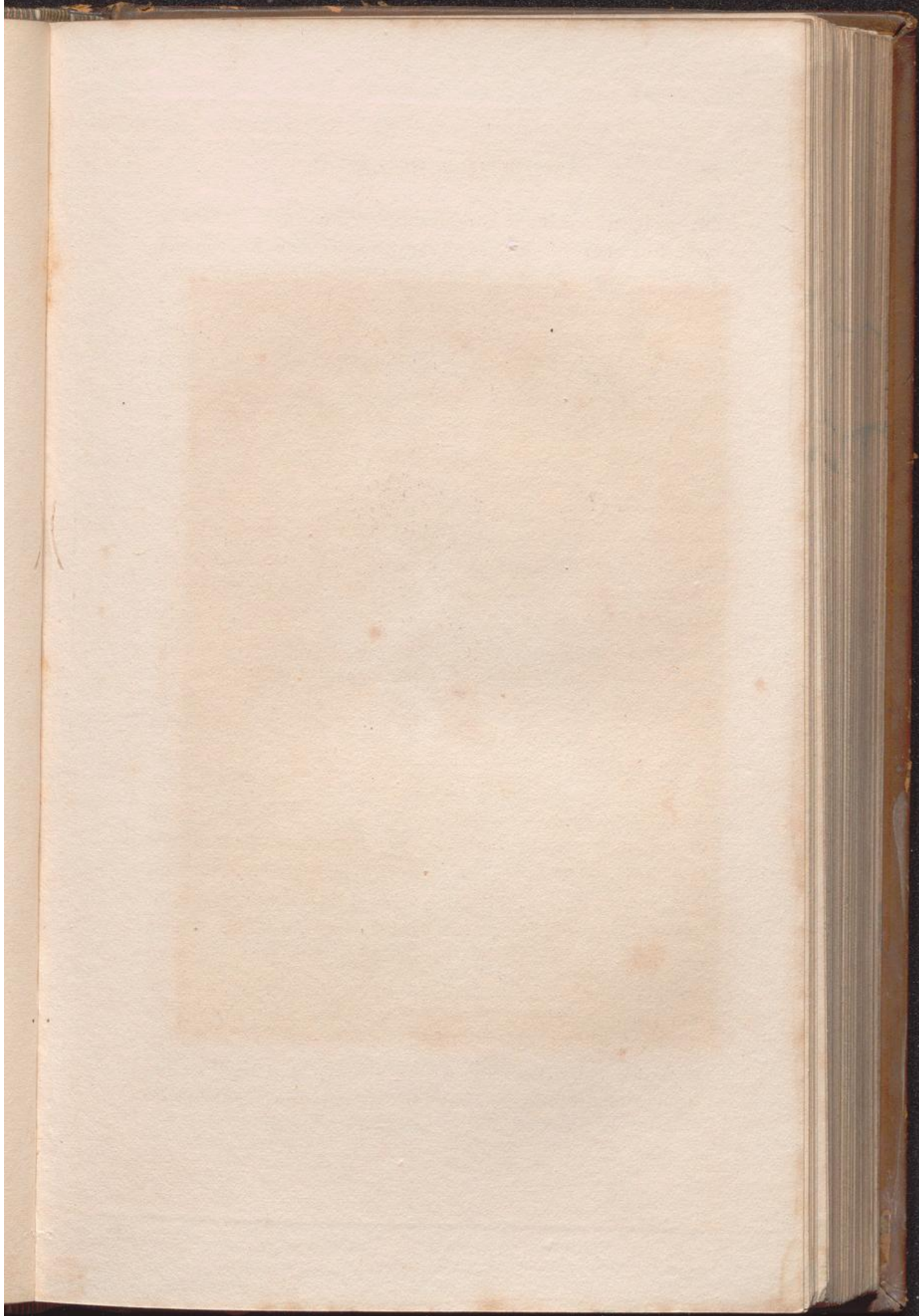
*Published by John Major, 5 O. Flute Street, March 31. 1832.*

of this piece meets his destruction in hunting after pleasure. Little does he imagine what misery awaits him, and what dreadful consequences will be the event of his proceedings; but determined to embrace the trifling happiness in view, covets, and runs into the company of abandoned women; rouses by that means the resentment of his wife, and with the greatest rashness seals his unhappy fate.

## PLATE III.

Disease is universally known to be the general attendant of debauchery. 'Tis on this account our author has introduced the hero of this piece at the house of an empiric, where he would have had no occasion to be, but in consequence of his lewd course of life. He is represented as having brought with him two females with whom he has been acquainted, that the doctor might determine to which of the two he might attribute his disorder, both of them being supposed to have been some time under cure. His being prejudiced in favour of the girl, we are to imagine, occasions a quarrel between him and the woman, which proceeds to the greatest extremities, even to that of fighting. The doctor, unconcerned at this dispute, and solicitous for little but himself, increases the noise by thundering to the mute-struck girl, "Vat?—you vont take your pe—els?" angry to think his medicines are so little regarded. The contrast between this girl and the woman with respect to the age, the timidity, the softness of the one; the rage, the fury, and the harshness of the other, is doubtless exceeding beautiful, and strongly characteristic of the simplicity that dwells in those who are unaccustomed to vice, and the natural fero-

city inherent in such as are long habituated to it. Though both the quack, and his apartments are objects rather foreign to the purpose, yet Mr. Hogarth has taken this opportunity of ridiculing the folly of such men, as enter upon a profession they are wholly unacquainted with; and by representing this empiric as a Frenchman, censures the government of this kingdom for tolerating a foreigner to exercise here, what would not be permitted in his own country that of preying upon the constitution of the public. Although he was formerly a barber, he is now, if we may judge by the appearance of his house, not only a surgeon, but a naturalist, chemist, mechanician, physician and apothecary; and to complete the character, he is supposed to have invented, through a great opinion of his own abilities, two machines, extremely complicate, for the most simple operations: one to set a dislocated limb, the other—to uncork a bottle. On the first of the two lies a folio treatise on the nature of these instruments, in French, whose title-page is, “An Explanation of two grand machines, one for re-setting the collar-bone, the other for drawing a cork; invented by Monsieur De la-Pillule. Inspected and approved by the Royal Academy at Paris.” An admirable rub on the ignorance of the French, and on the superficial knowledge of mechanic heads in general, who fondly imagine they have performed wonders, if they find themselves able to bring about even ordinary things by very extraordinary means. In the glass case are three figures, viz. a skeleton of a man that had been executed, intimated by the gallows above, a man in muscles, and a plaster head, on which hangs the doctor’s wig. By the disposition of these figures, which is that of the bones, supposed to be cautioning the flesh not to be advised by that head of self-consequence beside him; lest, in a little time, he







W. H. Worthington, sc.

MARRIAGE A LA MODE. PL. 4.

Published by John Major 50, Fleet Street March 31. 1831.

should be reduced to bones only, like himself; we are taught the folly of applying to quacks for a cure, when we find ourselves in any respect disordered; they being of little service, otherwise than that of removing a life-sick patient from a tormenting and troublesome world.

The old nobleman is now supposed to be dead, and the young Lord in the entire possession of his estate. In consequence of this, he launches out into every piece of folly and extravagance, has his levees, his routs, &c. and becomes totally a dupe to the foibles of his wife.

## PLATE IV.

See then in this fourth plate a group of figures, greatly amusing by the variety of characters they represent. Let us begin with the principal, that of madam at her toilette, under the hands of her valet-de-chambre, sitting to have her hair dressed. Such being the folly of people of rank, that as they take their modes from France, they have no opinion of any other than French dressers. By the china figures on the floor, which her black boy has brought home, she is supposed to be just returned from an auction, or sale of goods, at which places women of quality are generally taken in. 'Tis pride only, and a determination of rivalling their acquaintance in expence, that causes them to buy, or they would not purchase, as they often do at an exorbitant price, a villanous jar or a wretched pagod, which they have not the least occasion for, and which have neither beauty or value to recommend them. Let any one cast an eye on the various lots, and observe the precious acquisition our heroine has made, which by the catalogue on the floor, seems to have been once the property of Sir Timothy Baby-house,

and I am persuaded he must think the same. Among these is a porcelaine figure of Actæon, to whose horns the boy, with a leer upon his lady, is archly pointing, as emblematical of the ridiculous appearance of his master. It has ever been foolishly considered among the first rank of people, as a mark of grandeur, to have frequently at their houses one of those melodious animals, which are fetched from Italy at a great expence: such a one\* is here singing, and is particularly well drawn for one of those unfortunate wretches that too often fall a victim to the musical madness of the Italians. His diamond buckles, rings, solitaire and earrings, tell us the many valuable presents the ladies have made him, who are generally wrapt up in any thing they think uncommon. As a proof of this, see Lady Charlotte dying away at the ravishing sounds of this melodious singer, and the mellow notes of the warbling flute. Not so the country gentleman on her left,† he having no relish for

\* Farrinelli, a celebrated Italian singer. [Walpole and others consider this to be CARESTINI.]

† [It has been gravely insisted upon that this is not a gentleman asleep, nor a gentleman at all; but a bailiff in possession! (Vide letter to Mr. Nichols. Anecdotes, 4to. vol. iii. p. 87.) Fortunately, however for the settlement of this point, Mr. Ireland presents us, at the end of his second volume, with the explanations of the whole six pictures, which Hogarth gave to Mr. Lane, at the time of his becoming the purchaser of them. The descriptions in question, not only serve to confirm the general accuracy of Dr. Trusler, in matters of fact, but at the same time, give us the artist's own word for it, that he here expressly intended to contrast the devotee of country sports with a whole knot of affected admirers of the fashionable world, and with this enraptured lady in particular.

The following are his words:—"The woman there seems charmed almost to fainting, but the rest of the company do not seem so sensible of it. The country gentleman fatigued at a stag or a fox chase is fallen asleep."

these exalted pleasures, and supposed to be fatigued with riding, is fallen fast asleep. Next him sits one who, by the fan upon his wrist, we are told is more a woman than a man, a disciple of Anacreon's, a very heretic in love. This man pretends to be moved at what he hears, and puts us in mind of those effeminate creatures, who affect a delicacy they are perfect strangers to, and draw contempt on themselves in that very instant in which they would wish to be most admired. On the left of him sits another unaccountable with his hair in buckle; one of those personages that pass their whole lives in endeavouring to please, without success: a very *petit maitre* who constantly degrades the man to support the coxcomb. On the opposite side of the chamber is that young barrister, otherwise engaged, (whom we saw in the first plate talking to the bride) lying on a sofa; he seems, by his picture hanging in this room, to have ingratiated himself into the favour of the family, and by his situation here, to have profited by the indifference of the husband; for however strange it may appear, experience shews us, that in matters of intrigue, the husband is no less a dupe to the artful designs of his wife, let the indifference that subsists between them be as great as it may. He is

Now, in justice to our author, how ought this modest outline to be filled up—for there is not a finer conceived piece of satire in all his works? Even the closed eyes of the singer denote a drowsy kind of ecstasy, and the black footman is leering at him in obvious ridicule of the affected raptures produced in the die-away lady—while of the two remaining characters, one adapts a “a foolish face of praise” to compatibility with a comfortable doze, and the other is faintly endeavouring to think of something else!—This is Hogarth's delineation of a supposed musical treat! The enraptured lady and the sleeping gentleman, are since known to be portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Fox Lane, afterwards Lord and Lady Bingley.]

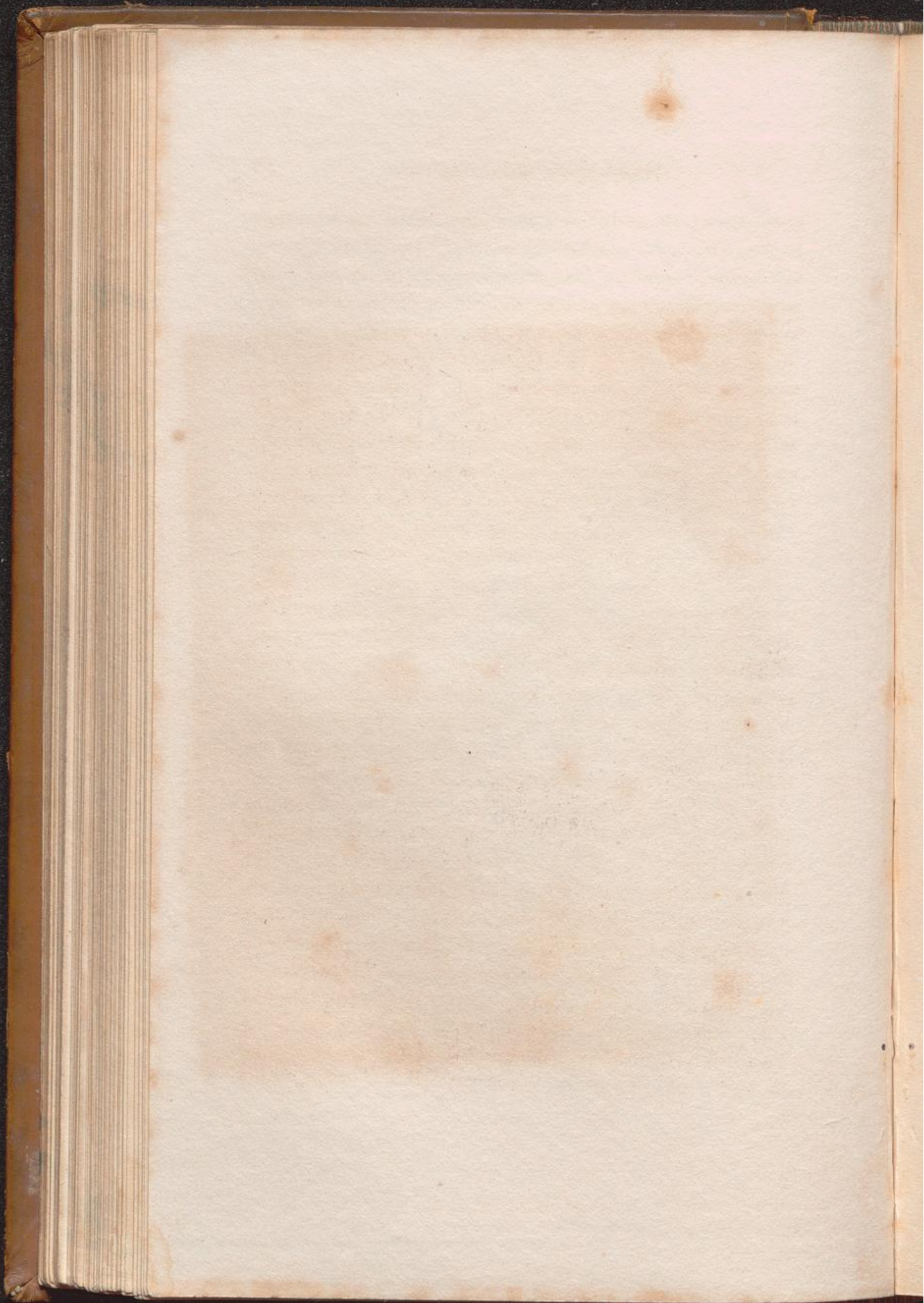
represented as offering his mistress a ticket for a masquerade, which she on her part does not hesitate to accept. The figures, to which he is pointing in the screen, those of a friar and a nun in secret converse, intimate the purposes of his heart, tell her in express terms, that if she is as willing as he, they may then have an opportunity of enjoying each other under the serviceable mask of innocence, unseen by the inquisitive eye of censure. All that I shall further remark in this plate, is a few complimentary message cards lying scattered on the floor; the contents of which are as follow, "Lady Squander's company is desired at lady Townley's drum next Monday." "Lady Squander's company is desired at lady Heatham's drum-major next Sunday." Sunday, in particular! amazing wickedness of the age, that the greatest riot should be fixed on the most sacred day!—"Lady Squander's company is desired at Miss Hairbrain's rout." Among which is one from a foreigner, visible from its orthography. "Count Basset begs to no how lade Squander sleapt last nite." From these few cards, it is very evident in what an idle manner people of fashion trifle away their time, and in what acts of dissipation they waste those precious hours that ought to be spent in matters of greater moment. Little do they imagine they shall, one day or other, answer for this ill-conduct, or they would not, surely, mill-horse-like, pursue their incessant round, and take such pains to pay their visits to any lord, but the Lord of the whole earth.

## PLATE V.

The fatal consequence of going to the masquerade is here shewn to perfection. The ticket was accepted to favour an



W.E. Wood, del.  
MARRIAGE A LA MODE. — PL. 5.  
*Published by John Major, 50, Fleet Street, London, 1831.*



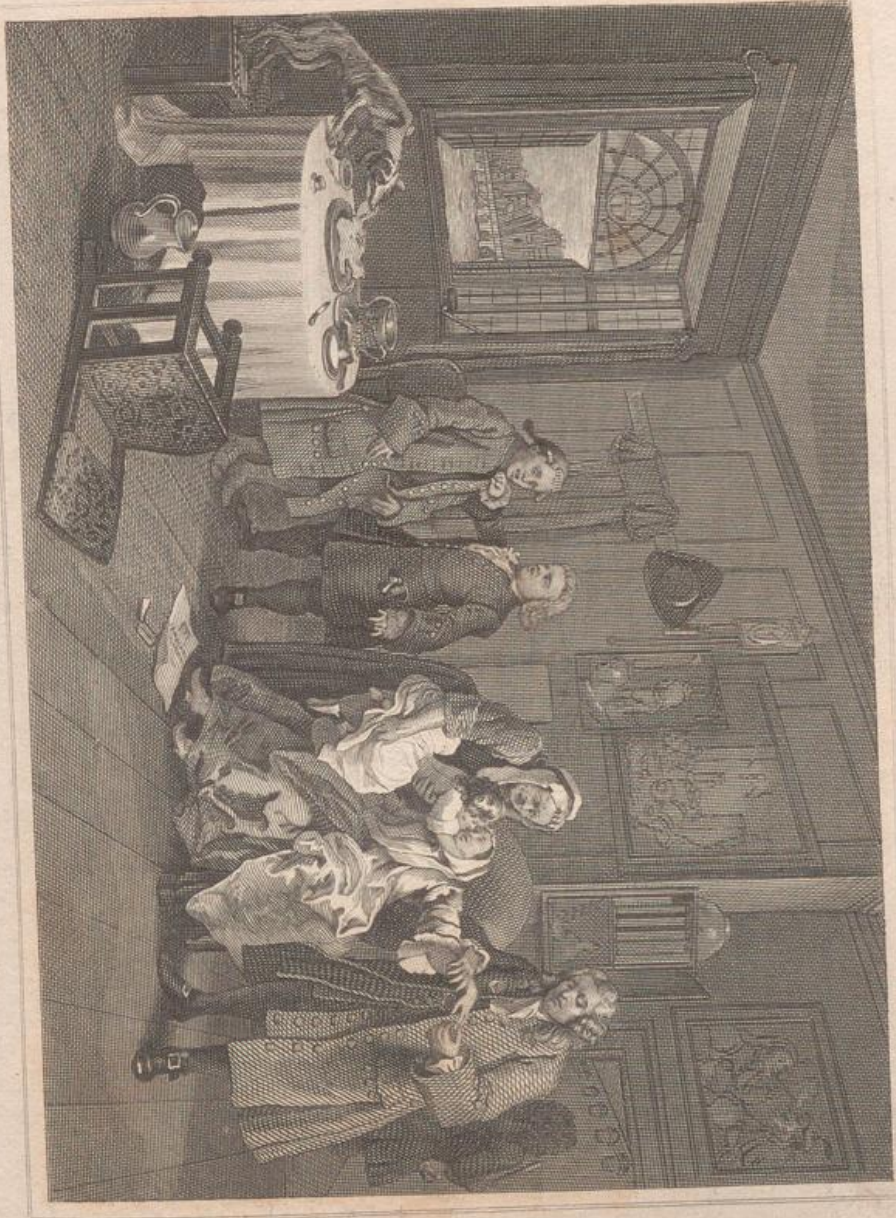
assignation ; the assignation took place, and the catastrophe is dire. Happy is our heroine to find an opportunity of enjoying the company of her spark ; happy was the barrister to take an advantage of the supposed weakness of her husband ; but behold the dreadful end of such illicit and unwarrantable proceedings !—They are supposed to have retired from the ball to some bagnio, in order to give a loose to their enjoyment. But what are we to imagine brought the husband here ?—Suspicion, and eagerness to know the truth. Her indiscreet behaviour had long given birth to his jealousy, and her going to this place of amusement without him, confirmed it. Determined to see the event of her misconduct, he secretly follows her from his house to the masquerade, from the masquerade to the bagnio ; rashly gives them an opportunity of undressing, that he might have the satisfaction of discovering them in bed. Had he shewn himself at their entrance into the house, it might have answered his purpose equally, and in all probability this bloody scene would have been prevented ; but instead of this, he goes after them to the chamber, and thirsting for revenge, unsheaths his sword, bursts open the door and attacks his rival, who was also prepared, in case of any interruption ; a thrust or two passes between them ; and the husband is wounded mortally. The noise this occasioned brings up the watch and a servant of the house, who seem thunderstruck at the ghastly spectacle : alarmed at this accident, the young counsellor thought proper to secure himself by an escape from the window in his shirt ; and his mistress, struck at the same time both by remorse and horror, and actuated in some measure by concern, falls on her knees to her dying husband, wringing her hands, with tears in her eyes ; and in blubbered accents confesses her guilt, imploring his



forgiveness. Now, though too late, begins to work that sorrow, which had it found way into her breast before, might have prevented this dreadful act, and perhaps have laid the basis of their future happiness ; but, on the contrary, she pursued her vicious inclinations, even to the death of her husband, and was content to seal her misery, so she gratified her wanton passion. Nor was his imprudence less than hers ; for his corrupt course of life roused her resentment ; his unfaithfulness to the marriage-bed being, as it were, the prelude to her inconstancy ; and in order to punish it, he meets his own death in seeking that of his rival's. Thus he fell an untimely sacrifice to his revenge, and a victim to the wrath of Heaven.

PLATE VI.

Though the young barrister fled from the window, it was of little or no availment, much like the fluttering of a bird ensnared in a net, that tries, even to the last, to escape the hands of the fowler ; he reaches the ground, 'tis true, but is presently taken by the watch, and the next day committed to prison, there to bewail his past imprudencies, and settle his accounts with his Creator. Madam is conducted to her house, and left to repent her hasty steps at leisure. On the report of this melancholy story, the tradesmen of her lord, (who had long foreborn carrying matters to extremities, through the hopes that they should be, one time, paid) rush on her to seize the remaining effects. She, therefore, being ill disposed to settle any sort of account, we are to imagine makes a friend of her father, throws her affairs into his hands, leaves her home and returns to his house ; supposed to be somewhere near London bridge, we having a view of



W. H. Worthington, del.

MARRIAGE A LA MODE. — PL. 6.

Published by John Major, 50, Fleet Street, Singapore.



it from the window in its original state when covered with houses. Let us pass over the many sad hours she is presumed to wear away in hateful meditation, and hasten to the scene before us ; a scene of aggravated distress and horror. Left to the dreaded leisure of her thoughts, she becomes conscious of having been the destruction of her husband, her lover, (for by the dying speech before her we are told he has been tried and executed) her reputation, and her happiness ; and foolishly thinks she has no other refuge from the terrors of her mind than to destroy herself. Unhappy situation, to have less reason and resolution when we stand most in need of them ! Little does she reflect upon the consequences of so presumptive an act, but hopes only to ease the anguish of her mind, by depriving herself of the power of thinking. In this disordered state, she artfully sends a servant for a dose of laudanum, swallows it with the greatest eagerness, and by that means puts an end to her miserable being. Thus, instead of appeasing the vengeance of heaven by a hearty contrition ; through a mistaken view of extenuating her crime by the death of herself, she doubly enhances her guilt ; and with the design of quieting the terrors of a tormented conscience, she rashly casts herself suddenly at the bar of judgment, there in the utmost agonies of fear and despair, to wait the dreadful sentence of an avenging judge. See her, then, in the last moments of her life seized with death, as she and her father were sitting down to dinner. A physician and apothecary are immediately sent for ; but all assistance is vain, it being now too late. The first is returning in all the pride of physical consequence, and the latter severely reprimanding the servant for fetching the deadly potion. The starched tight-dressed figure of the one, and the trembling relaxed state of the

other, added to the appearance of his coat, which seems to have been an old one of his master's, afford an agreeable contrast, and cannot fail drawing a smile, even in this scene of distress, which is not a little heightened by the old family servant in tears, bringing the poor little infant, the diseased and rickety offspring of debauched parents, to take its last farewell of its expiring mother. The great niggardliness that prevails in this house is visible from the ancient furniture of the room, the beggarly dinner served up upon the table, the emaciated figure of the fleshless dog; and the covetous disposition of its master, (who seems more attentive to the least acquisition, than the most tragical event that can happen) by his drawing the ring from his daughter's finger. By way of completion, it may not be unnecessary to take notice of the pictures in this plate, which are on subjects far different from what we have seen in the foregoing; and are expressive of the want of taste and elegance in such persons as pass their whole life in the accumulation of wealth.\* They are also introduced here as a contrast to those we saw in the possession of the Earl. The magnificence of the one, and the meanness of the other, are equally as worth notice as the strange subjects they represent. However, in general, 'tis neither analogy, taste, or decency, that is consulted in the choice of pictures, but the broker of whom we buy them, who on his part recommends those

\* ["The very furniture of his rooms"—says Mr. Walpole, "describe the characters to whom they belong; a lesson that might be of use to comic authors. It was reserved to Hogarth to write a scene of furniture. The Rake's levee-room, the Nobleman's dining-room, the apartments of the husband and wife in Marriage-a-la-mode, the Alderman's parlour, the Poet's bed chamber, and many others, are the history of the manners of the age."]

by which he gets the most, without paying much regard either to the painter or the painting. A strong proof of the ignorance of nobility :—tell them, such or such a painting, whether it be so or not, is an original, and you secure the sale of it, let the price be what it will, as 'tis oftener the rarity of a thing that attracts the buyers, than its peculiar ornament, its intrinsic value, or a competent knowledge of its merit. 'Tis just the same with respect to books ; a person who prides himself in being curious, shall give more money for a worm-eaten edition of Elzevir, which he cannot understand, than for the most valuable set of books in the English language, which shall both improve his mind and ornament his study ;—for my part, when I hear of such a man, I cannot help thinking of a particular person of the last age, that bought a vast quantity of clothes, not because they had any thing peculiar to recommend them, or that he wanted them for wear, but only because they were made by such a particular tailor.

Having now laid before the reader such incidental remarks as occurred through the course of this history, one would naturally imagine there should be no occasion to dwell longer on the subject, or to tire his ears with a repetition of that, of which he has had an ocular demonstration ; but such is the perverseness of mankind, that what they are told they will scarcely give credit to ; and what they even see, they will find means to elude the force of. To such 'tis in vain to apply ; for arguments will still be but arguments ; they may persuade, but cannot compel ; demonstration itself not being able to confute a resolved will ; all then I shall further say on this subject is, that I would fain persuade myself, that those who are not totally deaf to instruction, will profit by the tragic story, and by a timely prevention, avoid in their own families what has shocked them in

this. Let me hope, then, ye relentless parents, who pay no regard to the happiness of your offspring, and who would sacrifice a child to the lust of riches, I say, let me hope, at least, that a fear of shame and disgrace will have some sort of influence, and that what natural affection cannot bring to bear, will be effected by the dread of calamitous events. Force not a son or a daughter to a step they may have occasion to rue; but study their true and lasting happiness, which in matrimony consists not in abundance of wealth, but in union of mind and conformity of temper; advise them as you please; but cease from compulsion; and learn when you exert your authority not to lose sight of your tenderness; and while you support the man, not to drop the father.

On the other hand, ye sons and daughters, whom marriage has launched into life, consider well, ere it be too late, the destructive consequences of opposite inclinations. That silly pride of keeping up the prerogative either of a husband or a wife, has been the cause of many an undoing; and the happiness of that couple, that might have lived in the greatest harmony and affection, has been often upset through the prevalence of petulance and peevishness. It is your express duty to study the disposition of each other, to look over the common frailties of each particular sex, and to avoid all extravagance, irregularity, and other failings that may occasion disgust. This, if you do with care and exactness, marriage will become a blessing, and your home a paradise.

[In conception, character, drawing, penciling, and colouring, it will not be easy, perhaps not possible, to find six pictures painted by any artist, in any age or country, in which such variety of superlative merit is united. J. I.]