

philosopher!" "Abstain, and enjoy!" Having said these words, the sage arose, leaving Omar sitting.

[To be Continued.]

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BIOGRAPHY.

MADAME, CHEVALIER, D'EON.

THIS extraordinary woman lived for more than twenty years in a public capacity, in the disguise, and under the character of a man. She was Secretary to the French embassy at London, of the count de Guerchy, and was instrumental in promoting the peace in 1763. Her "Letter to the Count de Guerchy," and "*Lettres, Memoirs and Negotiations*," were published in quarto in 1764; and, about the same time, her "*Examen des Lettres*," in quarto, and "*Memoirs des Finances*," in two volumes duodecimo. She also wrote "*Les Loisirs en Angleterre*," in fourteen volumes octavo, and the History of *Eudoxia Faderowna*, First Wife of Peter the Great. Her sex at length became a matter of public suspicion, and even a subject of speculation for gamesters: it was authentically ascertained in a trial before Lord Mansfield, upon the occasion of one of these speculations. Upon this, Madame D'Eon quitted England, and travelled to France and Russia, but has since returned and resided here. A few years ago she made herself conspicuous by fencing in public in the metropolis; but perhaps attracted attention rather from the novelty of the exhibition, than from her skill in the art.

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WILLIAM COWPER, ESQ.

OF the inner temple. This gentleman, so well known to the lovers of poetry of the present day, was in the early part of his life an intimate friend of Lord Thurlow, and was distinguished for gaiety and conviviality of disposition.

He has since taken a turn to Methodism, and been overwhelmed with religious melancholy. His poems, now collected in two small octavo volumes,

have been received with extraordinary applause, and honoured with the most flattering testimonies of approbation, from the first poets and critics of the age. They boast the glorious tendency to enlarge the soul to every liberal sentiment, and to improve the heart. In 1792, Mr. Cowper published a translation of "The Power of Grace Illustrated, in Six Letters, from a Minister of the Reformed Church, to the Rev. John Newton, Rector of St. Mary, Woolnoth, London:" which ranks among those productions of enthusiasm, which are more adapted to confound and mislead weak minds, than to render any important service to the cause of religion.

Mr. Cowper is also well known as the translator of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssy* into blank verse. His translation appeared in the year 1791, in two large quarto volumes, and, though it has not experienced a very indifferent demand, its success on the whole has certainly been disproportionate to the extent, and difficulty of the undertaking. Mr. Pope, like the author he has translated, wrote under a conviction, that to produce entertainment was the first object of poetry, and that in this end he must necessarily fail, unless he consulted the genius, both of the language and the times: that he has carried this principle of accommodation a little farther than was expedient, most of his readers are disposed to allow. Mr. Cowper, on the contrary, exhibits an attempt, to render in our language the real spirit of the original, and to present a faithful transcript of its simplicity. His translation has certainly succeeded in departing, much less than former endeavours, from the spirit of its model: to this ambition however it has sacrificed what is of the first importance to a writer, the power of attracting readers: and its general character is so coarse and rugged, as not to be re-deemed by those features of true poetry, by which it is here and there adorned.