

“ Do you really, in your conscience,” said an Englishman to a Scotchman, “ imagine that the Forth is a finer river than the Thames ? ” — “ The Thames ! ” exclaimed the North Briton ; “ why, my dear Sir, the Thames at London is a mere gutter in comparison of the Frith of Forth at Edinburgh. ” — “ I suppose, then,” said the Englishman, “ that you do not approve of the view of Windsor castle ? ” — “ I ask your pardon,” replied the other, “ I approve it very much—it is an exceeding pretty kind of a prospect: the country appears from it as agreeable to the sight as any plain flat country, crowded with trees and intersected by inclosures, can well do; but I own I am of opinion, that mere fertile fields, woods, rivers and meadows can never of themselves perfectly satisfy the eye. ” — “ You imagine, no doubt,” said the Englishman, “ that a few heath-covered mountains and rocks embellish a country very much ? ” — “ I am precisely of that opinion,” said the Scot ; “ and you will as soon convince me that a

woman may be completely beautiful with fine eyes, good teeth, and a fair complexion, though she should not have a nose on her face, as that a landscape or country can be completely beautiful without a mountain."—"What do you think," said the Englishman, "of the palace of St. James's?"—"It is," exclaimed the Scot, "a scandal to the nation; it is both a shame and a sin, that so great a monarch as the King of Scotland, England, and Ireland, with his royal family, should live in a shabby old cloister, hardly good enough for monks. The palace of Holyrood-house, indeed, is a residence fit for a king."—"And the gardens—pray what sort of gardens have you belonging to that palace?" said the Englishman; "I have been told you do not excel in those."—"But we excel in gardeners," replied the other, "which are as much preferable as the creator is preferable to the created."—"I am surprised, however," rejoined the South Briton, "that in a no country like yours, where there are so many creators, so very few fruit gardens are created."—"Why, Sir, it is not to be expected," said the Scotchman, "that any one country will excel in every thing. Some enjoy a climate more favourable for peaches, and vines, and nectarines; but by G——, Sir, country on earth produces better men and women than Scotland."—"I dare say, none does," replied the other: "so as France excels in wine, England in wool and oxen, Arabia in horses, and other countries in other animals, you imagine Scotland excels all others in the human species."—"What I said, Sir, was, that the human species in no country excelled those in Scotland."—"You will then permit me to observe," said the Englishman, "that men

being its staple commodity, it must be owned that Scotland carries on a brisk trade of *exportation*; you will find Scotchmen in all countries of the world.”—

“ So much the better for all the countries of the world,” said the Scotchman; “ for every body knows that the Scotch cultivate and improve the arts and sciences wherever they go.—But there are various reasons,” continued he, “ for so many of my countrymen sojourning in London: that city is now in some measure the capital of Scotland as well as of England. Upon the whole, the advantages which England derives from the union are manifest.”—“ I shall be obliged to you,” said the Englishman, “ if you will enumerate a few of them.”—“ Has she not,” resumed the Scot, “ has she not greatly increased in wealth since that time? Has she not acquired a million and half of subjects? Has she not acquired security? There is no door open now, Sir, by which the French can enter into your country: they dare as soon be d—— as attempt to invade Scotland. Without a perfect union with Scotland, England could not enjoy the principal benefit she derives from her insular situation.”—“ Not till Scotland should be subdued,” said the Englishman.—“ Subdued!” repeated the astonished Scot; “ let me tell you, Sir, that it is a very strange hypothesis; if you are conversant in history you will find, that after the decline of the Roman empire, the course of conquest was from the *north to the south*.”—“ You mean,” said the South Briton, “ that Scotland would have conquered England.”—“ Sir,” replied the other, “ I think the English as brave a nation as ever existed, and therefore I will not say that the Scotch are braver; but I am sure, that rather than submit, they

would try to subdue the English, and you will admit that the trial would be no advantage to either country.”—“ Although I am fully convinced,” said the Englishman. “ how the experiment would end, I should be sorry to see it made.”—“ Yet, Sir, there are people of your country, as I am told, who endeavour to exasperate the minds of the inhabitants of one part of Great Britain against the natives of the other, and to create dissensions between two countries whose mutual safety depends on their good agreement; two countries whom nature herself, by separating them from the rest of the world, and encircling them with her azure bond of union, seems to have intended for one.”—“ I do assure you, my good Sir,” said the English gentleman, “ I am not of the number of those who wish to raise such dissension. I love the Scotch; I always thought them a sensible and gallant people.”—“ You are a man of honour and discernment,” said the Caledonian, seizing him eagerly by the hand; “ and I protest, without prejudice or partiality, that I never knew a man of that character who was not of your way of thinking.”

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