## Literature.

### MY NATIVE VALE.

'Twas evening; and fancy had borne me away
T'ward the haunts of my youth, where I oft lov'd to stray;
Now my own native cot in the Valley appears,
And I think of those joys that are fled with ten years.

'Tis the same lovely spot! 'tis the same lovely view!
But were are the Oaks that so gracefully grew?
Alas, weeping Willows, your boughs seem to say,
"Our sisters, the Oaks, have long sunk to decay."

I now sought the church-yard, where hush'd in the tomb,
Lay the friend of my youth, a "rose nipp'd in full bloom;"
The dark shades of night on her peaceful grave fell,
And no music was there, save the sound of the knell.

I mused for a moment! then lovely, I said,
Is my own "Native Vale," and the place of the dead;
And welcome the hier that shall bear me away
To the mansion of death, the cold palace of clay.

### TOUR THROUGH SWITZERLAND, &c.

The following description of the inundation in the valley of Bagnes, in 1818, by which the greater part of the town of Martigni was swept away, is extracted from a tour through the Netherlands, Switzerland, &c. by Charles Tennant, Esq.

About six leagues from the town of Martigni, in the valley of Bagnes, which is closely confined between two high mountains, a branch of the river Dranse rushes through a deep and narrow chasm, for years previously to this accident, the ice of a neighbouring glacier, having reached the bottom of this defile, began to form across it a sort of bridge, which gradually raised itself high above the valley. During the spring of 1818, the natural arch, which left a passage for the Dranse, was entirely obstructed by the glacier, and the water of this rapid river, thus pent up in the valley, soon formed a lake, calculated at between ten and twelve miles in length, 100 to 700 feet in breadth, and on an average 200 feet in depth. That a body of water so immense could not long be supported by a barrier of ice was evident, and the inhabitants of the neighbouring country did all in their power for lessening the dreadful consequences expected. With great difficulty and danger a channel was formed for facilitating the escape of some portion of the water, and the level of this lake was thus reduced between forty and fifty feet. The course which the inundation must take was also evident, there being only one, namely, down the valley of Bagnes, through the valley of Martigni, into the Rhone, and thence into the lake of Geneva. All precautions were therefore taken by the inhabitants along this line of country, for ensuring their own escape in the moment of danger, and for rescuing such of their property as was moveable. Guards were stationed day and night upon the summits of the mountains around the impending danger, provided with muskets to enable them to communicate to others stationed on the heights along the line, the moment of the bursting forth of this tremendous body.

At last four hours' clock in the afternoon, on the 17th of June, 1818, these fatal signals echoed along the line of mountains. What must then have been the scene of horror and confusion may be left to the imagination. I will confine myself to the scene which was related to me. Presaging a darkened atmosphere and a frightful rushing of the wind through the valley of Martigni, warned the inhabitants to fly to the neighbouring heights, and in "*cinq quarts d'heure*" (as the the charge of the first signal, in the use my guide's own expression as to time,) the people of Martigni looked down upon the destruction of the greatest part of their property and town.

My guide, who appeared to be a sensible and observant man, pointed out to me in our route his situation at this fearful period. He informed me that he was conducting through this part of the country an English gentleman, and that they were then both of them pursuing their way along the left bank of the Dranse, at the extremity of the valley of Martigni. As my guide informed me, the first notice of approaching danger was given by his mule, the same on which he now rode. I will here give his own account as closely as translation into English will permit.

There, sir, is the spot where we received the first notice of the danger which was coming upon us. I was first delighted to see by this dear brute, who, suddenly setting up his large ears, and lifting high his head to snuff the danger, stretched out his tail, and set off, full gallop, as if the devil were behind him, to that place (pointing to it) which as you see, is the only accessible part of the mountain. There with all the fury of an animal struggling to escape from death, he scrambled with me on his back, high up that steep precipice, where, as if knowing himself to be in a place of security, he beat down his head, and turned his tail towards the danger. By this time I was well aware of what was coming, and confiding in the sagacity of my mule, that we were now out of the reach of harm, I dismounted, and stood to see the wave which is here before me.—O sir! I tremble whenever I think of what I there saw and felt. The whole valley appeared as if filled with one black cloud, and, with a noise such as they say expect to hear who live to witness the last day, I saw sweeping down the valley a black mass, in the form of a pyramid, the base of which reached from one side of the valley to the other; and under this moving pyramid the loftiest and strongest trees were like so many feathers. As this fearful object passed beneath me, the rushing of the air was so violent, that I could scarcely keep my footing or draw breath. In a few minutes, the black cloud with the moving pyramid had passed away, and nothing but the wreck of mountains, forests, and villages, was visible upon the deep water which now filled the valley.

The author, in describing the ascent of Mount St. Bernard, by a winding path, principally formed by Bonaparte for facilitating the passage of his troops and artillery over that mountain, previous to the battle of Marengo, relates the following anecdote respecting that extraordinary person:—

During our slow and laborious ascent, my guide amused me with several interesting particulars and simple anecdotes relative to that event. He informed me that he had been hired by Bonaparte himself, at Martigni, in the character of guide, and that he was now being considerably in advance up the valley, Bonaparte set out to join them, accompanied by this sole attendant. He also informed me, as an important fact, that Bonaparte gave the Prior of the Grand Saint Bernard, one of the mule upon which he rode on the occasion. I felt a sort of curiosity about all the particulars, however trivial, relative to this extraordinary character, which I had received from my guide; but I could learn very little worth relating, for it seems the great man afforded very little for this humble attendant to observe upon. The day was wet and dismal, and the First Consul, habited in a small grey outside coat, with his usual three corner'd hat, seldom have rolled silently along; most probably absorbed in meditation upon present plans and future glory. Occasionally, and in a few rapid words, he would demand some information about the country, and then, relapse again in sombre silence. Deep gloom marked his whole demeanour, and the swarthy complexion which he had received during his late expedition into Egypt, gave to his naturally stern countenance, an appearance of ferocity, as my guide described, fearful to look upon. The only observation, as far as I could learn, with which my guide was honoured by Bonaparte, was when he descended dripping wet, from his mule, at the village of St. Pierre, where, in a wretched little habitation, which my guide pointed out to me as we passed by, Bonaparte took up his lodgings for the night. There, doffing his three-cornered hat to shake off the rain, he held it forth, exclaiming in his usual hurried manner, "*Voici! ce que j'ai fait mr vos montagnes,—j'ai gate mon chapeau neuf—hah! j'en trouverai un autre de l'autre cote.*"

There is now exhibiting at Rome, a large picture painted by Mr. J. P. Davis, a British artist, whose works have often been at Somerset House. The subject of the present one is, "*The family of the Talbots receiving the Benediction of the Pope,*" and it contains sixteen figures of distinguished personages, the size of life; and amongst others, those of the late Pope, Cardinal Consalvi, and Canova; and it is curious, as being the last portraits for which they ever sat.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRIDAY.—On the Alien bill being read a third time, LORD GAGE moved a clause providing that no alien should be sent back to his own country against his will.—The clause was opposed by the EARL OF LIVERPOOL as unnecessary, his Lordship stating, in reply to a question put by the mover, that he would rather go to war than give up an alien, if required to do so by a foreign power; and it was rejected by 25 against 13. The bill then passed.

EARL LAUDERDALE moved the second reading of the Spital Fields Silk bill.—EARL WESTMORELAND wished first to see the effect of the law lately passed, and moved that the bill be rejected.—Their Lordships divided on the amendment—Contents, 8; Non-contents, 23.—The bill was therefore read a second time.

MONDAY.—The EARL OF LIVERPOOL moved for the appointment of a committee relative to Ireland, similar to that recently appointed by the other House. He reminded their Lordships, that when the insurrection act was under consideration last year, ministers had promised, in the case of its being thought necessary to renew that measure, to give every necessary information to Parliament on the subject of Ireland; it was with a view to the fulfilment of this promise that he now moved, that a committee be appointed to examine into the nature and extent of the disturbances in those counties of Ireland mentioned in the renewal of the insurrection act.—The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN said he felt a melancholy satisfaction at finding, that however desirous ministers had been to escape from enquiry relative to Ireland, an investigation was now forced from them by what had occurred in the other House. The measure of enquiry, as limited by the present motion, would be far from going to the root of the evil, and producing that full disclosure of its cause which could alone give satisfaction to the House and the country. He therefore desired their Lordships to consider, whether it was not their duty to investigate the causes of the evil fully, and not confine their enquiries to particular parts of the country. It was the duty of their Lordships to avail themselves of every accessible information respecting the causes of the evil—to leave nothing unexamined, nothing unexplored, that could throw light on the subject. He should, for this object, move the proposal as an amendment, to insert after the words "that a committee be appointed," the words "to inquire into the general condition of Ireland, and more particularly to examine into the extent and nature of the disturbances," &c.—The EARL OF LIVERPOOL denied that there had been any backwardness on the part of ministers to institute enquiry into the disturbances in Ireland. They had in several instances made enquiries, but they thought that the subject would not admit of an enquiry. He should insert after the words "that a committee be appointed," the words "to inquire into the general condition of Ireland, and more particularly to examine into the extent and nature of the disturbances," &c.—The EARL OF LIVERPOOL denied that there had been any backwardness on the part of ministers to institute enquiry into the disturbances in Ireland. They had in several instances made enquiries, but they thought that the subject would not admit of an enquiry. He should, if he moved the amendment, to