## REVIEW

*Of St. Leon: A Tale of the sixteenth Century. By William Godwin, In 4 vols. 12mo.*

*(Concluded from our last.)*

He was afterwards apprehended and imprisoned on suspicion of having murdered the stranger. He offered a bribe to a negro turnkey, that he might be enabled to escape: but the man rejected the offer. He then bribed the keeper of the prison, and was at length suffered to retire with the negro, on whom the keeper intended to throw the blame. He now journed to the environs of Pisa, where, by the indiscretion of his African attendant, who made mention of his alchemical operations, he was exposed to the brutal outrages of an Italian mob. His villa was destroyed, and the negro murdered. Retiring into Spain, he was rendered unhappy by the death of his wife, whom, on a sepulchral stone, he styled 'the preserver of her family in poverty and ruin, the victim of her disconsolate and repentant husband's unhallowed wealth.' In compliance with a hint from Marguerite, he resolved to separate himself from his three daughters, that he might not be to them 'a source of corroding misery and affliction.' Having settled them in France in a state of independence, he returned into Spain, where he was seized as a wizard, and confined in the prison of the inquisition. Here he remained twelve years; and a heavy, pestilential, soul-depressing monotony, then formed the history of his life. He was at length marked out as a victim of superstition, as an object of fiery torture; for his elixir, though a specific against age and disease, could not secure him from the risque of a violent death. Speaking of the horrors of an *auto de fe*, he exclaims,

'God of mercy and benevolence! is it possible that this scene should be regarded as thy triumph, and the execution destined to follow, as a sacrifice acceptable in thy sight? If these papers of mine are ever produced to light, may it not happen that they shall first be read by a distant posterity, who will refuse to believe that their fathers were ever mad enough to subject each other to so horrible a treatment, merely because they were unable to adopt each other's opinions? Oh, no! human affairs, like the waves of the ocean, are merely in a state of ebb and flow: "there is nothing new under the sun;" two centuries perhaps after Philip the Second shall be gathered to his ancestors [he died in 1598], men shall learn over again to persecute each other for conscience; other anabaptists or levellers shall furnish pretexts for new persecutions; other inquisitors shall arise in the most enlightened tracts of Europe: and professors from their chair, sheltering their intolerance under the great names of Aristotle and Cicero, shall instruct their scholars, that a heterodox doctrine is the worst of crimes, and that the philanthropy and purity of heart in which it is maintained, only render its defenders the more worthy to be extirpated.'

In a sudden confusion which arose among the crowd, he took an opportunity of escaping; and he afterwards, in the disguise of an Armenian, went to France to visit his daughters. He found that one of them had fallen a victim to love, in consequence of the death of a suitor, whose father had prevented him from espousing the young lady, on account of the supposed dishonor of such an union, as St. Leon was a fugitive, and as some mysterious circumstances attended the present maintenance of the daughters. To the survivors he did not make himself known, but pretended that he was the executor of the last will of their father, who died in the East. He remained near them, he says, 'long enough to see them consoled, and himself forgotten.'—Self-importance of man,' he feelingly adds, 'upon how slight a basis do thy gigantic erections repose!

Our adventurer at length resolved to exert himself on a grand scale. He made his appearance in Hungary, then the theatre of war, and endeavoured, by a liberal use of his wealth, to re-establish industry, and restore comfort to the inhabitants. Speaking of the effect of his philanthropic exertions, and of the applause which the relieved community bestowed upon him, he says,

'Here it may be thought I had ascended to that sphere which it was fit the possessor of the philosopher's stone should fill, and reap the rewards to which a man thus endowed ought to be forward to entitle himself. Nor will I affirm that I was insensible to the gratifications of my present situation. Though I sought to escape from the applause that pursued me, yet there is something in the nature of the human mind that makes it impossible for us to hear it without complaisance. It was not however a boisterous and obtrusive acclamation that satisfied me. A certain inwrought modesty of nature made me listen to noisy commendations with a sentiment of shame. They seemed to be more than any thing I had done could deserve; or they seemed to be in a tone from which the delicacy of a virtuous mind shrinks back displeased. They were so obstreperous as to take from me the power of hearing the sweeter verdict of my own conscience. No; it was the unbidden tear that glistened in the eye of my beneficiaries; the tongue that faltered beneath the essays of gratitude: the overwhelmed heart that had no power to express itself; the hand of the parent that was stretched out to his children, and humbly said, "These, these shall thank you!—It was these things that I felt within as the balsam of my life, and the ambrosia of heaven.'

He was not, however, happy in this situation. He felt himself destitute of the joys of confidential equality.

'Regaled with this animated praise, I was not content; I wanted a friend. I was alone amidst the innumerable multitudes of those I had blessed. I knew no cordiality; I could repose no confidence; I could find no equal. I was like a God, who dispenses his bounties profusely through twenty climates, but who at the same time sits separate, elevated and alone, in the highest heaven. The reader may, if he pleases, despise me for the confession; but I felt that I was not formed for the happiness of a God.'

Though he was at one time styled 'the saviour of Hungary,' he was, when he husbanded his resources, reviled as a monopolist, and loaded with obloquy. He now courted, by bribes, the protection of the pacha of Buda, and solicited the friendship of Bethlem Gabor, the bold leader of a gallant band, whom he represents as a determined misanthrope. By this extraordinary man he was treated with ingratitude, and closely imprisoned. Escaping from his subterranean place of confinement, he met with Charles his son, who was then an officer in the Austrian service. He was gratified with a favourable reception from the young warrior, and became his companion and friend. As his son was attached to a lady who was destitute of fortune, he formed the scheme of providing her with a dowry, which, he pretended, was the bequest of one of her relatives. But, by appearing to be too familiar with this lady, he gave great disgust to her lover; and, when Charles found that he was the person who had promoted the Turkish cause in Hungary, and that he was a dealer in the black art, a challenge ensued, which St. Leon professed to accept, but which he did not answer. He hastily retired from the scene; and Charles was united to the object of his choice.

Thus ends the remarkable tale of St. Leon. We relinquish the perusal of the work with sensations of melancholy, on reflecting that a person who is represented as master of the philosopher's stone and the *elixir vitae*, should render himself more unhappy, amidst the use of those splendid advantages, than he would have been without them. Such a view of the subject, however, may not be useless, as it may serve to repress the idle desire of those visionary blessings.

We are pleased with the character of Marguerite, who is described as an amiable and prudent matron, and a woman of sense and judgment. An interesting picture is also given of her family; and the domestic scenes are well sketched. The acceleration of her death by grief for the loss of her husband's confidence, certainly heightens the effect of the tale; and the separation and estrangement of the son from the father, are subservient to a similar purpose: but the story, we think, might have been rendered equally interesting without such a poignant aggravation of the distress of St. Leon. The character of Bethlem Gabor is drawn with a bold pencil; but we are sorry to observe a violation of history and chronology in the account of his death, and of various circumstances connected with his life. Even in a novel, attention ought to be paid to these points, when historical characters are introduced. The reflections interspersed are frequently just and sometimes new: the style, though not always correct, is spirited; and the composition is, in general, worthy of praise.

## CITY OF WASHINGTON.

*Commissioners Office, 5th March*, 1801.

BY virtue of an act of Assembly of the state of Maryland, entitled "a further supplement to the act concerning the Territory of Columbia and City of Washington" the commissioners will expose to sale on Tuesday the 12th day of May next, at Mr. Rhodes's Tavern, in the said city the following lots, to wit, Lot No. 2 in square No 47, lots no 4 5 15 16 20 and 21 in sq no 184, lots no 5 6 15 16 20 in sq no 198, lots no 3 4 14 15 in sq no 218, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 in sq no 249, lot, no 10 in sq no 286, lots no 3 5 6 7 9 10 12 13 14 in sq no 317, lot no 10 in sq no 319, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 in sq no 343, lots no 2 3 4 5 6 in sq no 344, lots no 10 11 12 in sq no 345, lots no 1 2 3 4 15 16 17 18 19 20 in sq 374, lots no 1 4 5 8 9 12 in sq no 403, lots no 3 4 5 6 7 in sq no 404, lots no 2 3 4 6 7 9 in sq no 405, lots no 2 3 6 7 10 11 in sq no 427, lots no 2 3 4 5 6 in sq no 428, lots no 1 2 3 4 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 in sq no 454, lots no 5 6 7 17 18 19 in sq no 455, lots no 7 8 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 in sq no 534, lots no 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 in sq no 535, lot no 20 in sq no 585, lot no 15 in sq no 587, lot no 2 in sq no 643, lot no 2 in sq south of sq no 825, lots no 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 52 26 in sq no 826, lot no 2 in sq no 997, lots no 3 and 4 in sq south of 1019, lots no 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 in sq no 1020, lot no 2 in sq no 1021, lot no 1 in sq no 1022, lots no 1 2 3 11 12 13 14 in sq no 1023, lots no 5 and 6 in sq no 1024, lots no 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 and 11 in sq no 1045, lots no 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 in sq no 1046, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 in sq no 1047, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 24 in sq no 1048, lots no 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 in sq no 164, lot no 9 in sq no 792, lots no 11 12 14 15 16 in sq no 799, lots no 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 in sq no 847, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 in sq no 849, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 in sq on 877, lots no 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 in sq no 878, lots no 25 26 27 28 31 32 in sq no 1048, lots no 1 and 3 in sq no 1065 lots no 1 5 6 in sq north east of sq no 1065 lot no 1 in sq no 1066, lots no 1 and 3 in sq no 11, lots no 2 3 7 8 9 10 12 13 in sq no 158, lots no 1 3 4 5 6 7 in sq no 161, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 1718 in sq no 247, lots no 1 2 3 4 10 11in sq no 452, lots no 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 in sq no 453, lot no 1 in sq south of sq no 463, lots no 3 4 5 6 in sq no 492, lots no 5 9 and 10 in sq no 493, lots no 4 5 6 in square no 494 lots no 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 28 in square no 517, lots no 2 4 6 8 in sq no 518, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 in sq no 529, lots no 20 and 21 in sq no 533, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 in square no 537, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 in sq no 538, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 in sq no 565, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 in sq no 567, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 in sq no 568, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 in sq no 569, lots no 2 4 6 in sq no 570, lot no 2 in sq no 572, lots no 2 and 3 in sq no 577, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 in sq no 581, lots no 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 in sq no 584, lots no 5 6 7 8 9 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 in sq no 640, lots no 2 3 4 5 15 16 17 18 20 21 22 in sq no 642, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 in sq east of sq no 642, lots no 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 in sq south of sq no 643, lots no 2 3 4 6 in sq no 644, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 in sq 645, lots no 1 2 and 17 in sq no 1000, lots no 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 24 25 26 34 35 36 in sq no 1043, lots no 2 3 4 14 15 16 17 18 in sq no 1066, lots no 10 11 13 14 in sq no 1067, lots no 1 2 3 4 11 12 13 in sq no 1078, lots no 1 and 2 in sq south of sq no 1091, lots no 1 2 9 10 11 12 in sq no 1092, lots no 1 2 3 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 in sq no 1105, lots no 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 in sq no 1116, lot no 9 in sq no 1117, lots no 5 6 7 8 in sq no 1123, lots no 5 6 7 8 in sq no 113 , lot no 3 in sq no 1140 and lot no 4 in sq no 1149.

The terms of sale are sixty, ninety and one hundred and twenty days for all sums under 1000 dollars, and nine months credit for all sums amounting to one thousand dollars or upwards. It is expected purchases may be made to greater advantage at the ensuing sale than heretofore; because, at former sales a competition took place among persons who held liens on the property sold.

The commissioners have also at their disposal upwards of 4000 lots which have never been sold.

The public sale to commence at Ten o'clock, in the forenoon, and to continue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in each week, till all are sold. The purchasers will be required to give notes, endorsed to the satisfaction of the commissioners. and negotiable at any of the banks in Baltimore, George Town or Alexandria. Should any purchaser fail, at the expiration of the week in which such sale is made to pass his note with an approved endorser or endorsers, the sale will be declared void, and the lot or lots resold without further notice—and such purchaser shall be excluded as a bidder during the sale.

Wm. THORNTON, }
ALEXR. WHITE. } *Commissioners.*


## FOR SALE, OR RENT.

TWO Brick dwelling houses, situated on the Pennsylvania-avenue near the President's house; each containing two handsome parlours and passage on the first floor, four lodging rooms, including garret, all private, kitchen and cellar; the whole will be completely finished in a few days: the yard's front palisadoed and set with trees; the walks to the street paved or graveled, which will render the same as comfortable a situation as any in this City for a private family, and will be sold for less than any gentleman can have the same built for A family of negroes, will be taken in part payment, or Lots will be exchanged for Slaves. For particulars enquire on the Premises of

OWEN ROBERTS.

March 11, 1801. tf

## RAPINE, CONRAD AND Co.

*BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS,*

*Corner of South B Street & New-Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol*

HAVE just received, in addition to their former assortment, a choice collection of Books in every department of Literature; amongst which are,

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March 19, 1801. tf

## CONVEYANCER'S OFFICE.

THOMAS HERTY has opened an office a few yards from the CAPITOL, on the New Jersey Avenue, where he will attend daily till 3 o'clock during the sitting of Congress, and in the afternoon, at his office opposite the LITTLE HOTEL—Conveyances of land, wills, mortgages, leases, assignments, copartnership deeds and dissolutions, marriage settlements and separations eters of licence and composition, bills of sale of vessels, slaves, and other chattels, bonds of conveyance, and other bonds, powers of attorney awards, manumissions, partitions, exchanges, petitions, annuities, post obits, seamen's wills and powers, and all other instruments in the above line, are drawn according to the legal import of the same respectively, with the utmost punctuality, accuracy, secrecy, and dispatch, and on moderate terms.

Titles investigated, and opinions given where necessary.

N. B. Herty's Abridgment of the laws of Maryland, approved and sanctioned by the Attorney General and Legislature of Maryland, may be had at at the above office, price Six Dollars neatly bound and lettered; also Herty's Digest of the Laws of the United States, price Three Dollars, neatly bound and lettered

December, 1800 twtf

## To LETT.

THE HOUSE opposite the GREAT HOTEL, now occupied by *Kid, Elliot & Co.*—For terms apply at said House.

March 23, 1801. tw6w

## Nail Manufactory,

ALL kinds of Cut Nails for Sale, by Wholesale and Retail at the Factory on F Street, and at the Hardware Store of the Subscriber, where persons building and all others wishing to purchase may be supplied with any quantity at the most reasonable rates.

JOHN JACK t

Washington Feb. 4, 1801.