

IT WILL DO FOR THE PRESENT.

**T**HIS common saying does as much mischief in society as *rum* or a *pestilence*. If I hear a man, whether a farmer, a mechanic, or any other person, often repeat that saying, and appear to act from the opinion, that *it will do for the present*, I rely on it he is a sloven, a drone, or something worse. I never knew such a man thrive.

A young man, setting out in life, is in haste to be married. He wants a house to live in, but is not fully able to build one. Yet his pride requires a large showy house. At last, between poverty and pride, he determines to build a large house, but not to finish it till he is *more able*. He sets up a large three story house, with four rooms in a story—he covers it, and paints it *red*.—This is a showy house. His pride exults to see passengers stare at his elegant house—but though *pride* governs the *outside*, *poverty* reigns *within*. He can finish but two rooms, half finish one or two more—and lay a loose floor above to spread his *corn* upon—this elegant mansion house then is a granary—a corn house—the man and a litter of children below—and rats and mice above: but the man says *it will do for the present*.—True, but the man has but twenty or thirty acres of land, or an indifferent trade—his family grows faster than his income. He is not able to finish his house—the covering soon decays, and admits water; the house falls to pieces—the man is forced, *poor*, into the wilderness, or he and his children loiter about, dependent on their neighbours for subsistence by day labour.

I know one of these *do for the present* farmers, who never effectually repairs his fences: but when a breach is made, he fills it with a bush, that a sheep may remove—if a rail be broke, and another be not at hand, he takes the next billet of wood, inserts one end in the post, and ties up the other with elm or hickory bark—he says, *this will do for the present*. His cattle learn to be unruly. To remedy the evil, fetters, shackles, clogs, yokes, and what he calls *pokes* are invented; and his cattle and horses are doomed to hobble about their pasture, with an hundred weight of wooden or iron machines about their feet and necks. The man himself, in two years, spends time enough in patching up his fences and making fetters, to make a good and effectual fence round his whole farm, which would want very little repairing in twenty years.

In family affairs these *do for the present* folks double their necessary labour. They labour hard to put things out of order—and then it requires nearly the same work to put them into order again. A man uses an axe, a hoe, a spade, and throws it down where he uses it—instead of putting it in its proper place under cover. Exposed to the weather, tools do not last more than half so long as when kept housed. But this is not all—a sloven leaves the tool where he last used it, or throws it down any where at random. In a few days he wants it again—he has for-

gotten where he left it—he goes to look for it—he spends perhaps half an hour in search of it, or walks a distance to get it. This time is lost, for it breaks in upon some other business. The loss of this small portion of time appears trifling; but slovens and sluts incur such losses every day; and the loss of these scraps of time determine a man's fortune. Let us make a little calculation—A farmer, whose family expends 100 l. a year, if he can clear ten pounds a year is a thriving man. In order to get his 110 l. suppose he labours ten hours a day. In this case, if he lose an *hour* every day in repairing the carelessness of the day before, (and every sloven and every slut loses more time than this every day, for want of care and order) he loses a *tenth* part of his time, a *tenth* part of his income—this is *eleven pounds*. Such a man cannot thrive—he must grow poorer, for want of *care*, of *order*, and of *method*.

So it is with a woman. A neat woman, who does business thoroughly, keeps things in *order* with about *half the labour* that a slut employs, who keeps things for ever *out of order*. If a pail or kettle be used, it is directly made clean again, fit for other uses, and put in its place. When it is wanted, it is ready. But a slut uses an article, and leaves it *anywhere*, dirty, unfit for use another time. By and by, it is wanted, and cannot be found—“Moll, where did you leave the kettle?” “I han't had the kettle; Nab had it last.” “Nab, had you the kettle?” “Yes, but it is dirty.” So the kettle is found, but it is half an hour's work to fit it for the purpose required. In the meantime, the necessary business may lie by—Yet this woman says, when she does any thing, *it will do for the present*.

I have only to add, that I went to church on a late cold Sunday, when a neighbouring Clergyman officiated. He had spoken to his *fifteenth*, when the clock struck *one*. Every man was shivering with cold, and shuffling his feet—the parson took the hint, and broke off with, “*this will do for the present*.”

PARIS, APRIL 22.

On Friday last his Most Christian Majesty went to the National Assembly, and proposed a Declaration of War against the King of Hungary and Bohemia; which was accordingly decreed by the Assembly, and the decree was sanctioned by his Most Christian Majesty the same evening.

LONDON, MAY 4.

All the advices by the mails agree, that the greatest activity in arming is used at all the foreign Courts in Europe, and that troops are marching from all quarters towards the Rhine on the frontiers of Flanders and France.

We think it not very difficult to foretell what will be the event of the impending war between the French nation and the King

of Hungary. A combination of the powers of Europe, who are any ways interested in the business, will effectually crush the new constitution, and restore things (perhaps) to their original state; and all this in the course of a very few month. It is probable, however, that much blood may be shed in effecting it.

The President of the United States of America has nominated Thomas Pinkney, Esq. late Governor of South Carolina, to be Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Great Britain.

The punishment of death has been inflicted on forty missionaries of the new faith (the French Revolution) at Madrid. They suffered, we learn, severally, that the lesson might be as awful as prolongation could make it. That government best knows, whether the constitution of a Spaniard's mind is to be thus subdued.

A messenger has been dispatched to Lord Gower at Paris, with instructions for his Lordship to wait immediately on the French minister for foreign affairs, and acquaint him with the news of the engagement with the *Resolue* frigate in the East Indies. He is charged to declare that nothing hostile was ever intended to the French nation, that Commodore Cornwallis had knowledge of some stores being about to be conveyed to Tippoo, and that it was owing to this cause he thought proper to search the merchant ships. The conduct of the French Captain was certainly too precipitate and unjustifiable.

The Royal Resolution has now finally passed in Denmark, that from the commencement of 1804 the Slave Trade shall be entirely abolished in the Danish possessions in the East Indies. This measure appears at once to unite wisdom and humanity; it abolishes a traffic founded in injustice and supported by cruelty; but in allowing the space of ten years to intervene, observes the necessary moderation and precaution, and prevents those evil consequences which result from an outrageous zeal, and precipitant conduct on such an occasion.

The affair between the *Phoenix* and the French frigate *Resolue*, in the East Indies, seems not likely to bring on any serious consequences. In the debate on it in the National Assembly, the conduct of the English Captain was rather approved; and hints dropped, as though the object of the *Resolue* was, according to the old system in the French Court, to support Tippoo Saib's cause.

IRISH PARLIAMENT, APRIL 30.

On Wednesday the 18th inst. the Lord Lieutenant went in state to the House of Peers, and the Commons being come, his Excellency gave the Royal Assent to thirty public bills, and one private one, after which his Excellency closed the Session with the following Speech:

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“The dispatch you have given to the National Business enables me to close the