

XVII.

JOHN CLARKE, M.D.

“*Man-midwifery, Man-midwifery's the thing !*”

OLD PROLOGUE.

Beneath this stone, shut up in the dark,  
Lies a learned man-midwife, y'clep'd Doctor Clarke.  
On earth while he lived, by attending men's wives,  
He increas'd population some thousands of lives :  
Thus a gain to the nation was gain to himself ;  
And enlarg'd population, enlargement of pelf.  
So he toil'd late and early, from morning till night,  
The squalling of children his greatest delight.  
Then worn out with *labours*, he died skin and bone,  
And his ladies he left all to *Mansfield* and *Stone*.

Dr. John Clarke, a very eminent practitioner and teacher of midwifery, left a large fortune and an extensive business, in which he was succeeded by his brother Charles *Mansfield* Clarke, a clever, pleasant fellow, whose patients would believe the moon was made of green cheese if he told them so. He is very ably assisted, in his various professional pursuits, by his nephew Mr. Stone, son of the late respected physician to the Charter House. The influence of the Practitioner in Midwifery is very great : they may be said to rule the nation very much in the way that the head master of Westminster School, Dr. Busby, said he did. “ I rule the boys,” said he ; “ the boys rule the mothers, the mothers the fathers.” It is very natural that

the person by whose means a woman is relieved from the pangs of parturition should have considerable influence over her mind ; and it is equally natural, that she should esteem him best qualified to save her husband and children, whom she believes so often to have saved herself.

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### XVIII.

#### A YOUNG DOCTOR.

*" Full many a flower is born to blush unseen."*

If you're disposed to weep for Doctors dead,  
 About this Doctor trouble not your head ;  
 Reserve your grief for one of riper years,  
 For he that never sinned, wants not your tears.

The person here alluded to fell a victim to that dread scourge of genius, and opprobrium of the medical art, pulmonary consumption. Possessing a highly cultivated mind, engaging manners, and an ample fund of professional knowledge, his modesty led him to seek only competence, in a provincial town ; but his humble hopes were never realized ; and his death seemed like a retaliation on the world, for its neglect of pre-eminent talents and worth. If it be true, that it is not always he who has seen the most, but he who is best prepared to profit by what he observes, whom we ought to consider as best qualified to practice, then was this most accomplished physician worthy of a better fate.