



OLD ROBERT.

A gentleman had a servant of the name of Robert Pasfield, better known by the name of Old Robert, who was a father in his family to the rest of the servants. He was utterly unlearned, being unable either to write or to read, yet of so strong a memory, as to become a kind of index to the

family to call to mind whatever had been lost in the hearing of the word.

This he did by means of a girdle of his own invention, upon which all the books and chapters of the Bible were divided into spaces: the chapters were marked by a long point or thong, and the verses by knots. By the help of this instrument he attained to an admirable faculty of repeating what he had been hearing, to the astonishment of many and the edifying of all.

He had an excellent gift in prayer, and great fluency in religious conversation. He was therefore, in high esteem in the family till the day of his death, when he was near fourscore years of age. His master attended him in some of his last moments.



MARY.

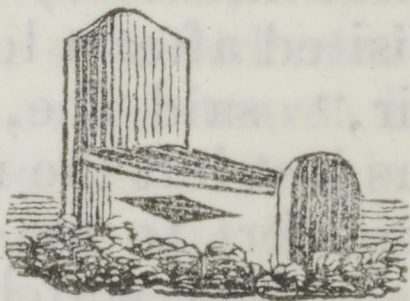
A very interesting story is related by a gentleman, who some years ago visited the north of Ireland, of the influence which the religion of a servant maid had upon a whole family in that country.

The poor girl was much ridiculed for her religion by the young

ladies, but did not render evil for evil. On the contrary, she would allow them to laugh at her, and then mildly reason with them.— She made it her study to be attentive and useful to them; took opportunities to speak to them about religion; and would offer to read the sacred scriptures to them when they went to bed.— They commonly fell asleep, and that in a little time, under the sound; but she was not discouraged.

Having exemplified christianity in her life, the Lord sent a fever to call her home to himself. The young ladies were not permitted to see her during her illness; but they heard of her behaviour, which did not lessen the impression which her previous conduct had made upon them.

Soon after, the two elder began to make a profession of real religion: the little leaven spread; and now all the nine young ladies appear truly pious. Nor is religion, in this highly-favoured family, confined to them; other means were employed by God in producing this great change: but one of the two, who first became serious, informed the gentleman who related this account, that she chiefly ascribed it to the life and death of the servant maid.





LYDIA.

Lydia is the servant of a small family, whose mistress, says a person, I visited after a long illness. “Sir,” said she, “the girl who has just left the room is a greater comfort to me than I can express. She watches me with the affection of a daughter, and the care of a nurse. When

my complaints make me peevish, she contrives something to soothe me. I often observe her taking pains to discover what would add to my comfort, and often am presented with the thing I wish for, before I can express it in words. I live without suspicion, for I perceive her to be conscientious even to scrupulosity: my chief complaint is, that she takes so much care of me, that I cannot make her take sufficient care of herself."

"My servant," continued she, "is a Christian, and in my late distress, afforded me her prayers as well as her tears. Her parents were too poor to give her any education; but she has taught herself to read, and frequently reads the scripture to me. Now and then, while she is reading,

her heart is too full to be quite silent on the passage; and then she drops an expression or two, accompanied with such simplicity and meaning, as bring to my mind those words, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. In short, I esteem her one of the most valuable gifts I ever received from an indulgent Providence, and never could have supposed that so much of my comfort depended on the faithfulness and care of a poor servant."

