

served the unity of his plot better. The great scene of action is in the Netherlands, where our attention is long detained, and our feelings deeply engaged by a protracted and pleasing solicitude for the infant exertions of liberty. From this noble theme, however, we are frequently led, and made to contemplate other important events, in the management of which the historian has shewn so much address, that we always follow him without reluctance. They are all so happily introduced as never to embarrass the great outlines of

## THE EFFECTS OF IMAGINATION.

For the Editor of the Bee.

IN midsummer 1768, as a gentleman, by no ways remarkable for firmness of mind, was sauntering with two or three of his friends in the Thuilleries, he was suddenly drawn aside by a stranger. "I know futurity," said the latter, with a peremptory tone of voice, "your countenance forbodes much happiness; and

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170 *the effects of imagination.* Feb. 1, one day you will thank me for this hint." As we easily believe what flatters our wishes, the poor gentleman imagined that there must be something true in such a bold declaration, and urged a more particular explication. The swindler, after much fanical mumbling and grimace, inspects the hands, examines each trait of the countenance, and, at last, announces, with emphasis, a life of envied prosperity. This credulous dupe returned him a thousand thanks; and putting into his hands a six livre piece, resumed his little company. But they had not advanced a few steps when the impostor, piqued at such a paltry sum, called back the gentleman. "Alas!" said he, "I dare not omit one circumstance, however disagreeable you may reckon it. By knowing before-hand that it must take place, perhaps you may be enabled to provide against it. The prosperity to which you are destined is indeed great, and will be uninterrupted, when once you shall have triumphed over three successive convulsion fits. The third will be so terrible that it will make you tremble for your existence. Yet, if fortunately you should master it, felicity is your own." Here the pretended sorcerer broke off his conversation, and disappeared in an instant, leaving his too easy hearer a prey to melancholy and disquietude. The latter once more rejoined his friends, and stated his adventure in the style of one seriously alarmed. When they perceived he was in earnest, they used every mean in their power to undeceive him, and to convince him that the whole must have been the trick of a fool, or a knave. But it was too late. The impression had already stamped his imagination in a manner not to be

1792. *the effects of imagination.* 171 effaced. In solitude, his consternation redoubled; and he was actually seized, first with one, and then with another paroxysm. The third attack soon followed, and with such alarming symptoms as to embarrass his attending physicians. Recourse was therefore immediately had to *Monsr. Petit*, a gentleman, who, to much professional skill, added the more general knowledge of philosophy. He was likewise distinguished by singular talents for mimicry, and burlesque imitation. Accordingly, he was no sooner informed of the circumstances of the case, than he assumed the dress and manners of a fortuneteller. Even the long beard, and the longer wand were not forgotten. In this costume he entered the patient's bed-chamber, and at once imposed upon him, and confounded him by a volley of learned words. He then allowed that another sorcerer had predicted the disease; but insisted, at the same time, that he was a raw prophet, a mere novice in the art of necromancy, who could not foresee many circumstances that are obvious to a proficient.—He next proceeded, with great solemnity, to examine his hand, repeated the predictions of the sharper, added some of his own, and concluded by assuring him in a tone of authority and confidence, that the attack would not prove fatal. From that moment the disorder took a favourable turn; and the cure was, in the end, completed by the help of some simple medicines, and by Dr. Petit's curious gesticulations, and his sallies of wit and good humour.

Some starch members of the faculty openly repro-  
bated this degrader, as they styled him, of the pro-

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fection, but men of sense and humanity applauded him.

Leaving you, Mr. Editor, to dispose of this little story (which is a true one,) as you shall best judge proper, and wishing much success in your laudable undertaking, I am, most sincerely, your humble servt.

NARRATOR.

### ON CHANCES IN THE LOTTERY.

*For the Editor of the Bee.*

THE following result of calculations on the comparative chance in purchasing a *whole ticket*, and purchasing a ticket in *shares of different tickets* in a lottery, is at your service, for the use of your readers; if you think it worthy of insertion.

In the present Irish State Lottery, consisting of 40,000 tickets, there are, among others, one prize of 20,000l. one prize of 10,000l. and two prizes of 5000l. each. Therefore, with respect to these capital prizes,

One whole ticket may gain	-	-	£. 20,000
Two half tickets cannot gain more than	-	-	15,000
Four quarter tickets cannot gain more than	-	-	10,000

In the above respects, the *whole ticket* is decidedly preferable.

That one ticket gains	-	£. 20,000 is as 1 to 39,999
That two half tickets gain	-	10,000 is as 2 to 39,999
That four quarter tickets gain	-	5,000 is as 4 to 39,999

In this view, the chance of *all* is equal to one another, or in proportion to the respective value of the prizes; but

That one ticket gains	£. 20,000 is, as above, 1 to 39,999
That two half tickets gain	15,000 is only as 1 to 799,980,000!
That four quarter tickets gain	10,000 is

as 1 to - 106,650,667,399,990,000 !!!

which shews a chance against the last case, almost beyond the powers of comprehension to conceive, but which is demonstrable from the principles of *combination of quantities*, on which the above calculation is founded.

From the above calculation, it may also be found, that there is just 20,000 times a better chance of receiving 20,000l. by one whole ticket, than of receiving but even 15,000l. by two half tickets.

As to receiving 10,000l. by four quarter tickets, it cannot bear a comparison with the chance which a whole ticket has of gaining double that sum.

Were the amount of a whole ticket to be purchased in 16ths of 16 different tickets, the utmost possible amount of the prizes that could thence result would be only 3500l. but against even this there are *many hundred millions* of chances to one.

I hope it will not be construed, that the object of this essay is to dissuade adventurers from trying their fortune in the lotteries; my object is merely to prove, that dividing the proportion of a ticket which one means to adventure on, into small shares, is by no means the way to get a great prize. If the object is merely to have a chance of being reimbursed the money so laid out, the dividing the ticket into small shares has a *kind of chance* of obtaining that end, but if an adventurer wishes to receive a great prize, as all adventurers flatter themselves that they will, by all means, keep close to one ticket to whatever extent is meant to be risked from a *whole ticket* down to an *eight share*.

CALCULATOR.