

employed the principal part of his time in instructing his two children in every branch of science, and with pleasure observed the progress they made in their studies, and the justice of their observations on the various authors, whose works he had submitted to their perusal. Several years had passed away, and the two brothers had nearly attained the age of maturity, when the hand of death deprived them of their father: sincere was their grief on this occasion, for they had always loved him with the fondest affection. On his death-bed he committed them to the care of his friend Monsieur Dupont, then an inhabitant of Dijon, the capital of the province, who received the weeping orphans with tenderness, sympathized with their sorrows, and soothed their afflictions, by his kind attention. It may not be amiss here to observe, that Monsieur Boileau was a descendant of a noble house, and that if he had survived his brother the Count de Vauban, he would have inherited his title, therefore Louis his eldest son, became the heir apparent of his uncle: between the Count and his brother a difference had long subsisted, and which was not terminated by the death of the latter, but the enmity was continued to his innocent nephews; though as his brother had left a very considerable fortune, and his own was too small to support his extravagance, he pretended to entertain a great affection for them, that he might have an opportunity of executing his villainous designs. Monsieur Dupont, whom his friend Boileau, appointed guardian of his children, was a gentleman who had too great an acquaintance with the world and its arts, to suffer himself to be deceived by a specious appearance, he therefore minutely noticed the Count's conduct, and acted with caution in any thing with which he was concerned. Shortly after the young Boileau's were numbered amongst the family, Dupont removed to his country seat: it was a large house, and it appeared as if it had stood for centuries, by the ruinous condition of many parts of it. It had been bequeathed to him by a distant relation in its present state; but admiring the grandeur of its situation, and the beautiful scenery which surrounded it, he had resolved to spare no expense in making it suitable to receive his family, during the summer months. He had therefore repaired the north wing of the building, and determined to refit the whole in the ensuing year. This spot they made their retreat, and were frequently visited by the Count de Vauban, who would often spend whole weeks with them.

## *Adventures in a Castle.*

### *An Original Story.*

PREVIOUS to the revolution which has convulsed Europe, and before peace and order were banished from the bosom of France, lived Monsieur Boileau. His chateau was situated on the border of a small stream which glided through a romantic valley in the province of Burgundy. He had formerly resided in the capital, and had ever borne an unblemished character; but having the misfortune of being bereft of the partner of his felicity, he purchased this small spot, to which he retired, accompanied by his two sons, Louis and Henry, neither of them of an age capable of feeling the severity of their loss: Louis the eldest being but thirteen, and his brother two years younger. Monsieur Boileau here

But this seeming friendship for his nephews did not lull the watchfulness of Mr. Dupont, and frequently while tracing the various avenues to the southern wing of the house, he would perceive himself carefully followed, by the scrutinizing eye of the faithful guardian. Although he was sensible that he was the object of the suspicion of Monsieur Dupont, yet it did not deter him from contriving further plans to deprive his nephews of their estate. One night Henry, the youngest, complained of a slight indisposition, and retired unusually early to bed ; at breakfast hour the next morning he had not appeared, which his guardian attributed to his not having rested well the preceding night, owing to his trifling illness, but when the dinner-bell rung, and he had not been seen, he became seriously alarmed for his safety, and instantly, attended by Louis, entered his chamber, when, to their astonishment, he was not to be found. To conjecture where he was, or by what unaccountable manner he had disappeared, was almost impossible, but all the supposition that could be entertained by Mr. Dupont was, that it had been effected by foul means, and the suspicion of the deed rested on the Count, who had departed early on the morning. Thus did they remain, when the idea presented itself to the mind of Mr. Dupont that probably some of the servants had been prevailed upon by the Count to poison their food, and that though himself and Louis had escaped, yet Henry might have fallen a victim to the plot, and had been removed in the night.

*(To be continued.)*