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in Westminster Abbey.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, GENT.

Printed by JOHN NICHOLS and SON, at CICERO'S HEAD, 25, Parliament Street, Westminster;
where all Letters to the Editor are requested to be sent, POST-PAID.

General Piffier, for which ten thousand pounds has been refused. *Apropos* of models, you will by this time have received a beautiful, and most ingeniously constructed model of Mont Blanc, and the whole of its neighbouring mountains; together with *Chamoury, La mer de Glace, Semplon and its vicinity.* It is the work of a Florentine Artist, and I shall expect you to admire it exceedingly. With the aid of the description which I have drawn up, and which accompanies it, you will be enabled to make yourself as much acquainted with every nook of that vicinity as though you had yourself travelled over every part of it with the eagerness and avidity of a *Saussure.* I have met with several models of the town and lake of Lucerne, which, although formed of different materials from the one I sent you, are nevertheless extremely beautiful and ingenious. But the prices of them are extravagant, so that I cannot afford to purchase one, much as I desire it. I have, however, sent you some drawings and prints, from which you will be enabled to form some idea of the country. The stupid inhabitants of *Lucerne* are without a public library; or, indeed, any place of resort for literary men. The Lake of Lucerne is more wildly picturesque than any of the Swiss Lakes, and is to that of *Geneva,* what the Ullswater of Cumberland is to the Winandermere. Mount Pilate towers in splendid liveliness above the world of waters. It is one of the highest mountains in Switzerland, if measured from its base, which lies embedded several thousand feet below the surface of the lake; and according to General P. it rises 6000 feet above the waters. The snow upon its summit is almost eternal. *Mount Rigi* it would have been presumption for us to have attempted, and particularly after being admonished and advised not to do so, as the ascent is most perilous. Now some persons would term our forbearance *cowardice*; be it so: for my own part I think I am no coward, but I see these sort of hazardous enterprises in a different light from most of my young friends. Were it probable, or likely, that any material good could have resulted, either to ourselves or the world, by our having scaled this almost inaccessible mountain, I grant that the refusal to do so

might justly have been pronounced weak and timorous. But as the fact stood, that from our ignorance of the geography of the country we could have been but little the wiser for the experiment, and could have been of trifling service to others, it was quite proper to refrain. But many traveling proud personages will, I am aware, frequently endanger their necks, with infinite composure, for the mere pleasure of being enabled to boast of having achieved *this or that.* Such exploits, and performed from such motives, are hardly sufficient to entitle a man to be termed *courageous*; though they may secure for him the gaping stare of astonishment, which is the customary reward of *fool-hardiness.*

On the banks of the Lake of Lucerne, about six English miles from the town of Lucerne, is the rock of *Aschen-berg,* on a part of which, called *Zell Platte,* the Swiss patriot killed the tyrant *Gessler.* It is nearly 6000 feet above the level of the lake, which is here 700 feet in depth.

Mr. URBAN,

Dec. 10.

THE account of the success of the Congreve rockets, used in the Whale fishery, mentioned in your Magazine for October last, p. 367, induces me to remind you that the idea of firing at Whales is not a new discovery. On referring to the Annual Register for 1772, Chronicle, page 68, you will find the account of an experiment tried in Greenland Dock, 24th January, for killing Whales by firing at them a dart or harpoon, out of a swivel gun, fixed to a boat; and at p. 83, March 11, the Society of Arts gave 20 guineas to the inventor; and six swivel guns and twenty-four harpoons, on the new construction, were ordered to be sent out with the Masters of the *Leviathan* and *Rising Sun,* Greenlanders, for each vessel.

W. R.

* * The Poem on Cumnor Hall, p. 453, is printed in vol. IV. of Evans's Collection; also in Mrs. Newbery's "Beauties of Antient Poetry," in both which works it appears in modern spelling. It is generally supposed to have been written by William Julius Mickle, the translator of the "*Lusiad.*" This, however, will probably prove not to be the case, if our Correspondent can produce the old volume of which he speaks.—EDIT.

REVIEW