

## THE UNKNOWN FOREIGNER.

About two months since, a female presented herself at the door of a cottage at Almondsbury, near Bristol; the door being open, and a couch in view, she made signs of a wish to repose herself. She appeared in a very debilitated and distressed condition, as if exhausted by much fatigue. The cottagers, not comprehending her language, reported

her case to Mrs. Worrall, who resides about a mile from Almondsbury, and that Lady kindly visited, and gave orders for the most humane attention to be paid to her. Her language was equally unknown to Mrs. W.; but her appearance and graceful manners so interested that lady, that she took her under her own roof, where she has since experienced the most unremitting kindness. Her head is small; her eyes and hair are black; her eye-brows finely arched; the forehead low; nose rather short; complexion very triflingly sallow, rather more corresponding to a brunette, with a pleasing colour on the cheeks; a sweet smile; her mouth rather large; her teeth beautifully white and regular; her lips a little prominent and full, under lip rather projecting; her chin small and round; no earrings, but marks of having worn them; her hands unaccustomed to labour; in height five feet two inches. Her dress consisted of a black stuff gown with a muslin frill round the neck; a black cotton shawl on the head, and one red and black round the shoulders; leather shoes, and black worsted stockings. She appears to be about twenty-five years of age; her manners are exceedingly graceful; her countenance surprisingly fascinating. Such is the general effect on all who behold her, that, if before suspected as an impostor, the sight of her removes all doubt. Her mode of diet seems to be Hindoostanic, as she lives principally on vegetables, and is very partial to curry; she will occasionally take fish, but no other animal food: water is her beverage; and she expresses great disgust at the appearance of wine, spirits, or of any intoxicating liquors; whatever she eats, she prepares herself.— She is extremely neat in her attire, very cautious in her conduct with respect to gentlemen, never allows them to take hold of her hand, and even if their cloaths should casually come into contact with her's, she retires from them: when she takes leave of a gentleman, it is by the application of the right hand to the right side of the forehead, and, in like manner, in taking leave of a lady, it is with the left hand. She appears to be devout, and on a certain day of the week is anxious to go to the top of the house, and there to pay adoration to the sun from the rising to the setting. She casually saw a dagger; and, as if anxious to inform her kind patroness of all the customs of her country, which she calls *Javasa*, she placed the dagger to her right side. She fences with great dexterity, holding the sword in her right hand, and the dagger in her left. She is very fond of bathing, and swims and dives with considerable activity. She carries about her a cord, on which some knots are made, like the Chinese *abacus*, which afterwards gave rise to the sliding beads, the *suon-puon*. She writes with great facility from left to right, as we are accustomed. She has

my friend left to right, as we are accustomed. She has made Mrs. Worrall understand that in her country neither pens nor paper are used; but what is supposed to be a camel hair pencil and a species of papyrus. Soon after her residence at Mrs. Worrall's house, she was attacked with a typhus fever, and was placed under the care of Mr. Mortimore, an eminent Surgeon of Bristol. Upon her recovery, pleased as she must have been at this kind and constant attention to her, she wrote him a letter of thanks, calling him, as a doctor, *Justee*, and herself *Caraboo*. All the assistance to be derived from a Polyglott Bible, Fry's Pantographia, or Dr. Hager's Elementary Characters of the Chinese, do not enable us to ascertain either the nature of her language, or the country to which she belongs: one or two characters bear some resemblance to the Chinese, particularly the Chinese, *cha*, a reed: there are more characters which have some similitude to the Chinese. Different publications have been shewn to her in Greek, Malay, Chinese, Shanscrit, Arabic, and Persic; but with all she appears entirely unacquainted. Her letter has been shewn to every person in Bath and Bristol versed in oriental literature, but without success: a copy was sent to the

India House, and submitted by the Chairman of that Company to the examination of Mr. Raffles, one of the best oriental scholars, yet he could not decypher it: the original letter was sent to Oxford, and the members of that University denied its being the character of any language: it has been by some conjectured as being an imperfect Javanese; others have supposed it the style of the Malay of Sumatra. From my own observation, although entirely unacquainted with any single character of her writing, I have deemed her more resembling a *Circassian*; her countenance, her complexion, and her manners, favour such a supposition; and probably her appearance here may be connected with the Corsairs who have been hovering about our coast. She has, by signs, intimated that she was on board a ship, and so ill treated, that when she came within sight of land, she jumped overboard and swam ashore. She also in the same manner expressed that she was ill on board, her hair cut off, and an operation on the back performed; I examined the part; it had been scarified, but not according to the English mode of cupping, or to any European manner with which I am acquainted: the incisions are extremely regular, and apparently made with the caustic, a mode of cupping adopted in the East. The Supreme Being she styles *Alla-Tallah*. All who have seen her are highly interested about her. A fac-simile of her letter is placed in the Kingston Pump-room for examination. I beg leave to observe that I have seen her write, and she writes with grace and facility.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have been informed of the following circumstances:—*Caraboo* quitted Mrs. Worrall's house for one whole day, to procure a few clothes, which she signified to Mrs. W. that she had buried, to conceal them from the *Meckratoos* (rogues); the distance must have been considerable, as her feet were blistered; and the violent illness which followed was owing to the fatigue. Mrs. Worrall, whose opportunities of observation have necessarily been superior to those of any other person, is persuaded that her father is Chinese, and that her mother, who is dead, was Malay; that her father's name is *Jesse Mandue*, and that he is a man of considerable consequence in his own country; *Caraboo* describes a gold chain he wears about his neck.

Bath, June 1.

C. H. WILKINSON.