

## LETTER XLIII.

*To Mrs. G - - - .*

Haverfordwest, Sept. 22d.

**I**F you delight in the marvellous, I shall now present you with a tale that is truly so ; and yet, from the simple and circumstantial manner in which it was told by the person who believed he saw what is here related, one would almost be tempted to think there was something more than imagination in it. However, I will make no comment upon the matter, but give it you, exactly as I copied it from a paper lent me by a young lady, who was educated under the celebrated Mrs. Moore, and who has acquired a taste for productions of the pen, and likewise for whatever may be deemed curious. Mr. M - - - - enquired of the gentleman who took down the relation from the man's own mouth, a physician of the first respectability, what credit might be given to it. He said

the man was of that integrity of character, and of such simplicity also, that it seemed difficult to believe he should be either able or willing to fabricate this wonderful tale. Farther the doctor was silent, and so am I.

Henry Reynolds, of Pennyhold, in the parish of Castlemartin, in the county of Pembroke, a simple farmer, and esteemed by all who knew him to be a truth-telling man, declared the following most extraordinary story to be an absolute fact, and if willing, in order to satisfy such as will not take his bare word for it, to swear to the truth of the same. He says, he went one morning to the cliffs, that bound his own lands, and from a bay near Linney-stack. From the eastern end of the same, he saw, as he thought, a person bathing very near the western end, but appearing, from almost the middle up, above water. He, knowing the water to be deep in that place, was much surprised at it, and went along the cliffs, quite to the western end, to see what it was. As he got towards it, it appeared to him like a person sitting in a tub. At last he got within ten or twelve yards of it, and found it then to be a creature much resembling

resembling a youth of fifteen or eighteen years of age, with a very white skin, fitting in an erect posture, having, from somewhat about the middle, its body quite above the water ; and directly under the water there was a large brown substance, on which it seemed to float. The wind being perfectly calm, and the water quite clear, he could see distinctly, when the creature moved, that this substance was part of it. From the bottom there went down a tail much resembling that of a large conger eel. Its tail in deep water was straight downwards, but in shallow water it would turn it on one side. The tail was continually moving in a circular manner. The form of its body and arms was entirely human, but its arms and hands seemed rather short and thick in proportion to its body. The form of the head, and all the features of the face, were human also ; but the nose rose high between its eyes, was pretty long, and seemed to terminate very sharp. Its head was white like its body, without hair ; but from its forehead there arose a brownish substance of three or four fingers breadth, which turned up over its head, and went

down over its back, and reached quite into the water. This substance did not at all resemble hair, but was thin, flat, and compact, not much unlike a ribbon. It did not adhere to the back parts of its head, or neck, or back ; for the creature lifted it up from its neck, and washed under it. It washed frequently under its arms, and about its body. It swam about the bay, and particularly round a little rock, which Reynolds was within ten or twelve yards of. He staid about an hour looking at it. It was so near him, that he could perceive its motion through the water was very rapid ; and that, when it turned, it put one hand into the water, and moved itself around very quickly. It never dipped under the water all the time he was looking at it. It looked attentively at him, and the cliffs, and seemed to take great notice of the birds flying over its head. Its looks were wild and fierce ; but it made no noise, nor did it grin, or any way distort its face. When he left it, it was above an hundred yards from him ; and when he returned with some others to look at it, it was gone. This account was taken down by Doctor George P - - - at Pricker-

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ton, from the man's own mouth, in presence of many people, about the latter end of December 1782.

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LETTER XLIV.

*To Mrs. G - - - .*

Carmarthen, Sept. 24th, 1791

We have now bid a final adieu to our friends at Haverfordwest, which I assure you, cost us no small degree of pain ; though we soothe ourselves with looking forward to visiting them again at some future period. We find great consolation in being still with friends, and not yet obliged to quit this delightful country. Our journey hither was extremely pleasant, and I had the satisfaction of reviewing those beautiful scenes, which charmed me so much, when I first travelled the road. We drove many miles in sight of a prodigious long ridge of mountains, where Percilli reared her lofty top above the others, and saluted us  
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Excerpt from : Morgan, Mrs. Mary, *A Tour to Milford Haven in the year 1791*, published in 1795.