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MISCELLANIES:

PROSE AND VERSE.

BY

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VOL. VI.

THE MEMOIRS OF BARRY LYNDON, ESQ.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1856.

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THE
MEMOIRS OF BARRY LYNDON, ESQ.

CHAPTER I.

My Pedigree and Family. — Undergo the Influence of the Tender Passion.

SINCE the days of Adam, there has been hardly a mischief done in this world but a woman has been at the bottom of it. Ever since ours was a family (and that must be very *near* Adam's time, — so old, noble, and illustrious are the Barrys, as every body knows), women have played a mighty part with the destinies of our race.

I presume that there is no gentleman in Europe that has not heard of the house of Barry of Barryogue, of the kingdom of Ireland, than which a more famous name is not to be found in Gwillim or D'Hozier; and though as a man of the world I have learned to despise heartily the claims of some *pretenders* to high birth who have no more genealogy than the lackey who cleans my boots, and though I laugh to utter scorn the boasting of many of my countrymen, who are all for descending from kings of Ireland, and talk of a domain no bigger than would feed a pig as if it were a principality; yet truth compels me to assert that my family was the noblest of the island, and, perhaps, of the universal world; while their possessions, now insignificant, and torn from us by war,