

TEXT.

The 'humble friend.' No. 78. But the 'humble friend' is one whose possessions fall short of [what would furnish the means of] enjoyment;—he is subtle, acquainted with some portion of the arts, ingenious in dress and address, eloquent, pleasing, much esteemed in company.

COMMENTARY.

a. What a 'dependant [or servant—see § 77—] is, is perfectly well known [—and therefore any account of him need not be given].

TEXT.

The 'buffoon.' No. 79. Let the 'buffoon' be one with a [whimsical] name such as "Flower-spring," a causer of laughter by his actions, his person, and his speeches, &c., delighting in squabbles,—acquainted with his own business.

COMMENTARY.

a. "His own business"—i. e. eating, &c.

b. He next mentions the assistants [of the hero] in taking thought about affairs [of state].

TEXT.

The assistants in affairs of state. No. 80. Let the 'minister' be [the assistant of the hero] in the taking thought about affairs [of state].

COMMENTARY.

a. "Affairs [of state]"—i. e.—politics, diplomacy,* &c.

b. But as for what is set down by some one, as a definition, when the topic is the describing of 'assistants'—viz., "The minister and [the king] himself, both of them, and also a friend,—[these are the agents] in taking thought about affairs of state;"—this [I say] ought to have been reserved for a definition [in some work on Politics] where the topic was the definition of a king's means of taking thought about his state affairs [—he being, in such case, supposed to take some share in the cares of state himself—else it is not to him that a work on Politics addresses itself—], but not when the matter in question was the description of 'assistants'—[meaning thereby persons so named and considered only in so far as they do for the hero what he is thereby released from the necessity of doing for himself unless he chooses.

* See the commentary on verse 89th of the 2d Canto of Mágha's poem the *Sis'upála-baddha*.