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John Crystal

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TABLE OF

CONTENTS.

PREFACE — Page 13
Instructions for writing Letters with Elegance and Propriety — 15
An entire New English Grammar; or, The English Language made perfectly easy to every Capacity — — 17
LETTER
I. *From a young Man to his Mother. On Virtue in Youth displayed* — 23
II. *The Mother's Answer. Virtue struggling under Affliction* — 24
III. *The Son's Reply. An Instance of Filial Duty* 25
IV. *From a young Woman to her Father. Virtue in humble Life* — ibid.
V. *The Father's Answer. Prudential Advice to young Women* — — 26
VI. *From a poor Widow to her Son on board a Ship of War. Patience under Affliction* 27
VII. *The Son's Answer. Particular Providence displayed* — — 28

LETTER
VIII. *The Sailor's Letter enclosed to his Sweetheart. On innocent Love* — Page 29
IX. *The Sweetheart's Reply to the Sailor. Mirth in Courtship* — — 30
X. *From a young Gentleman at Westminster-School to his Father. Youthful Imprudence* 32
XI. *The Father's Answer. Seasonable Advice* ibid.
XII. *From a Tradesman in London to his Son, a Merchant's Clerk, in Bristol. Parental Affection* — — 34
XIII. *The young Gentleman's Answer. Penitence in Youth* — — 35
XIV. *The Father's Reply. Advice concerning sudden Reformation* — — 37
XV. *Mr. Smith's Letter to Mr. Howard. Former Friendship remembered* — ibid.
XVI. *Mr. Howard's Answer. A strong Instance of Friendship* — — 38
XVII. *From a Clergyman in the Country to a young Gentleman bound Apprentice to a Grocer in London. Containing proper Instructions for his Conduct in Life* — — 39
XVIII. *The young Gentleman's Answer. Prudential Knowledge in Youth* — 40
XIX. *The Clergyman's Reply. Important Advice to Youth* — — 42
XX. *From a Tradesman in London to a Correspondent in the Country. An earnest Demand of Payment* — — 43
XXI. *The Answer. Reasons assigned for delaying Payment* — — 44
XXII. *From a Tradesman in the Country to a Merchant in London, desiring a Composition with his Creditors, and a Request for Advice how to act with a Son* — — 45

LETTER

LETTER
XXIII. *The Merchant's Answer. A striking Instance of Humanity* — Page 46
XXIV. *From a young Gentleman to a Clergyman. A Request how to improve a neglected Education* — — 47
XXV. *The Clergyman's Answer. Prudential Advice concerning Reading* — 48
XXVI. *From the Same to the Same. The Subject continued* — — 50
XXVII. *From a young Tradesman in London to an aged Person in the Country retired from Business. An imprudent Request* — 51
XXVIII. *The Answer. Prudent Advice* 52
XXIX. *From a young Tradesman, newly set up in business, to a Lady's Maid in the Country. A virtuous Proposal of Marriage* 54
XXX. *The young Woman's Answer. A pious Resolution* — — 55
XXXI. *From the young Tradesman in Reply. A modest Compliance* — ibid.
XXXII. *From the young Woman's Father. Containing prudent Advice to his Daughter* 56
XXXIII. *The young Woman's Reply to her Father. Filial Complicitrice with paternal Requests* 57
XXXIV. *From Miss Barton to Mr. Atkins. A striking Pattern for young Women* 58
XXXV. *From a Sailor, just arrived at Portsmouth from the East-Indies, to his Sweetheart at Wapping. Honesty and Bluntness* 59
XXXVI. *From a young Gentleman at the University to a Clergyman in the Country. An earnest Request made in a proper Manner* ibid.
XXXVII. *The Clergyman's Answer. On Toleration* 60
XXXVIII. *From the Same to the Same. The Subject continued* — 62

LETTER
XXXIX. *In Continuation. The same Subject further considered* — Page 63
XL. *From a Lieutenant in the Army to a young Lady. A Solicitation for an Elopement* 65
XLI. *The young Lady's Answer. Serious Advice to Military Officers* — 66
XLII. *From a young Woman in the Country to her Father in London. A Female's Request* 67
XLIII. *The Father's Answer. A Compliance with his Daughter's Request* — ibid.
XLIV. *From a young Gentleman to a Clergyman, on the Study of History. A Help to Conversation* 69
XLV. *The Answer. On History* — 70
XLVI. *From the Same in Continuation. On Biography, Voyages, and Travels, &c.* 71
XLVII. *From a poor working Man, imprisoned for Debt, to his Creditor. Poverty applying for Relief* — — 73
XLVIII. *The Answer. Misunderstandings cleared up* — 74
XLIX. *From a young Man, a Carpenter, desirous of setting up in Business, to the Person with whom he served his Apprenticeship. A prudent Request* — 75
L. *The Answer. Important Advice* 76
LI. *From a young Merchant to the Daughter of a Counsellor at Law. An honourable Love-Letter* — 77
LII. *The young Lady's Answer. An admirable Reply* — 79
LIII. *The Counsellor's Letter to the young Merchant. Cautions to those in Trade* 80
LIV. *The Merchant's Answer. A seasonable Reply to a mistaken Censure* — 81

LETTER

LETTER
LV. *The Merchant's Letter to the young Lady. On the Slave Trade* — 82
LVI. *The young Lady's Answer. On Preparation for Death* — 83
LVII. *From a Lady to a Clergyman, on her Husband and Son being killed in Battle. On the Effects of War* — 85
LVIII. *The Clergyman's Answer. On Christian Resignation* — 86
LIX. *From the Same to the Same. The Subject continued* — 87
LX. *From a Clergyman to a young Nobleman. On Debauchery* — 89
LXI. *From the Same to the Same. Clerical Duty exerted in a good Cause* — 90
LXII. *The young Nobleman's Answer. A Libertine's Confession of his Folly* — 91
LXIII. *The Clergyman's Answer. A virtuous Man's Comfort for doing his Duty* 93
LXIV. *From a Merchant retired from Business to a Clergyman. On Religion in Retirement* 95
LXV. *The Clergyman's Answer. On the Use of Retirement* --- 96
LXVI. *From a Lady in the Country to her Niece in London. On Female Imprudence* 97
LXVII. *The young Lady's Answer. An Apology for Female Imprudence* -- 98
LXVIII. *From a young Man, who had run away from his Apprenticeship, to his Father, desiring him to intercede with his Master. The Excuse of a run-away Apprentice* 99
LXIX. *The Father's Letter to his Son's Master. A Solicitation for Pardon* --- 100
LXX. *The Master's Answer to the Father's Letter. A pious Resolution* --- 101
LXXI. *The Father's Letter to his Son. A tender Invitation to return to his Duty* 102

LETTER

LXXII. *From a young Woman, who had married without the Consent of her Parents, to her Father. An earnest Request for a Reconciliation* — — Page 104

LXXIII. *The Father's Answer. A tender prudential Consent* — — 105

LXXIV. *From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents in the Country. A virtuous Request* — — 106

LXXV. *The Father's Answer. A tender Compliance* — — 107

LXXVI. *From a young Man to his Sweetheart. Contentment in an humble Station* — 108

LXXVII. *The Answer. Humble Sensibility in a State of Courtship* — 110

LXXVIII. *From a young Gentleman entering into Holy Orders, to an aged Clergyman. On the Clerical Duty* — — 111

LXXIX. *The Answer. On the Utility of Civil Establishments in Religion* — 112

LXXX. *From the Same to the Same. On the Pastoral Care* — — 114

LXXXI. *From a young Tradesman in distressed Circumstances to another of Age and Experience. An earnest Request for Advice* — 116

LXXXII. *The Answer. Advice to Tradesmen* 117

LXXXIII. *From a Country Tradesman to a Tradesman in London. A Solicitation for a mercantile Correspondence* — 118

LXXXIV. *The Answer. Good Advice to a young Tradesman* — — 119

LXXXV. *From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Brother in the Country. A Sister's Advice on his Marriage* — 120

LXXXVI. *The Sister's Answer. Family Friendship commenced* — — 121

LETTER

LETTER
LXXXVII. *From a young Woman in London to her Friend in the Country. Youthful Friendship displayed* — — Page 122
LXXXVIII. *The Answer. A striking Instance of Resignation in Youth* — — 123
LXXXIX. *From an aged Lady to a Clergyman. On the Abuse of Religion* — — 125
XC. *The Answer. On the Nature of Wills* 126
XCI. *From a young Woman, Teacher at a Boarding School, to her Father. A tender Request* 127
XCII. *The Father's Answer. A Compassionate Compliance* — — 128
XCIII. *From a young Gentleman in London to a Clergyman in the Country. On the fatal Effects of Dissipation* — — ibid.
XCIV. *The Clergyman's Answer. Serious Advice to Youth* — — 130
XCV. *From a young Gentleman to a Lady, desiring her to make an Elopement with him to Scotland. An imprudent Request* — 131
XCVI. *The young Lady's Answer. The Honour of Female Prudence* — — ibid.
XCVII. *The young Gentleman's Answer. A Confession of youthful Folly* — — 133
XCVIII. *The young Lady's Answer. Virtue and Prudence exerted in Love* — 134
XCIX. *From a young Gentleman of Fortune, to an amiable young Woman, whose Parents had left her destitute. Genuine Love displayed* . 135
C. *The young Woman's Answer. Cautions respecting Courtship* — — 136
CI. *The young Gentleman's Reply. A striking Proof of Disinterestedness* — 137
CII. *From the young Woman to the Mother of the young Gentleman. Virtue and Piety displayed* — — ibid.

LETTER
CIII. *The Answer. An Acknowledgement of Divine Providence* — — Page 138
CIV. *The young Woman's Reply. On Allegory* 139
CV. *From Miss Benson to Mr. Lyttleton. Serious Reflections on Marriage* — — 140
CVI. *From a poor Man to one of the Governors of Christ's Hospital. The Extent of parental Duty* 141
CVII. *The Answer. True Benevolence displayed* 142
CVIII. *From a decayed Tradesman to a Director of the East-India Company. An earnest Request in Distress* 143
CIX. *The Answer. A compassionate Compliance* 144
CX. *From a young Man, listed for a Soldier, to his Master. Drunkenness displayed* — — 145
CXI. *The Answer. Piety and Virtue joined to Prudence* 146
CXII. *From a Merchant in London to one of the Boys belonging to Christ's Hospital. Good Advice to Youth in the Navy* — — — 147
CXIII. *From a Sailor on board one of the King's Ships to his Wife. On the State of impressed Seamen* 148
CXIV. *The Answer. Conjugal Duty displayed* 149
CXV. *From a young Woman gone to Service in London to her Lover in the Country. Friendship in Love* 150
CXVI. *The Answer. On the different Situations in Life* 151
CXVII. *From a young Gentleman in London to his Guardian in the Country. On Duelling* — ibid.
CXVIII. *The Answer. The same Subject continued* 152
CXIX. *From the Same to the Same. The Subject considered* — — 153
CXX. *From a young Gentleman to a Friend. On Memory* — — — 155
CXXI. *The Answer. On the Use of Verse on Religious Subjects* — — — 156
CXXII. *From a young Man, a Soldier in the Militia. On the present State of the Militia* — 157
CXXIII. *The Answer. The right Use of a Military Life* 158
CXXIV. *From a young Woman who had been seduced. On Seduction* — — — 159
CXXV. *The Answer. The good Effects of parental Affection* — — 160

LETTER

LETTER
CXXVI. *The young Woman's Answer. A pathetic Request* —— —— Page 161
CXXVII. *From a Father of a young Family to a Gentleman of considerable Rank. On a Subject of the utmost Importance* —— —— ibid.
CXXVIII. *The Answer. On the Settlement of Accounts* —— —— 162
CXXIX. *From a young Man in Prison for Debt, desiring to be reconciled to an aged Aunt, whom he had offended. A Prison Scene* —— —— 163
CXXX. *The Answer. Faithful Advice* — 165
CXXXI. *From a Farmer in the Country to his Landlord in London. Rural Simplicity* —— — 166
CXXXII. *The Answer. Old English Hospitality displayed* —— —— 167
CXXXIII. *From a young Tradesman in London to his Uncle in the Country. In hopes of a Reconciliation with an offended Friend* —— 168
CXXXIV. *The Answer. Piety and Prudence united* 169
CXXXV. *From the Same in Continuation. Rational and Christian Advice* —— 170
CXXXVI. *From a young Man, settled as a Clerk to a Banker in London, to his Father in the Country. On the Regularity of Accounts* —— 171
CXXXVII. *The Father's Answer. Important Advice* 172
CXXXVIII. *From a young Widow in the Country to her Brother in London. A serious Request* 173
CXXXIX. *The Brother's Answer. A friendly Reply* 174
CXL. *From a young Gentlewoman on the Death of her Husband. On Death* —— 175
CXLI. *The Answer. Pious Advice* —— 176
CXLII. *From a young Gentleman on the Death of his Sweetheart, to the Clergyman who attended her. A pathetic Letter* —— —— 177
CXLIII. *The Answer. Serious Advice for the Regulation of the Passions* —— — 178
CXLIV. *From a Widow Lady to a worthy aged Gentleman. A serious Request* —— — 179
CXLV. *The Answer. An affectionate Compliance* 180

LETTER

LETTER
CXLVI. *From the Same to the Same. On Eternity* 181
Forms of Cards and Notes of Compliments 183
General Rules for addressing all Characters in Life, either in Writing or Discourse — — 185
The universal Petitioner, consisting of great Variety of Petitions on every Occurrence in human Life ibid.
Useful Forms in Law, viz. Agreement for a Lease of a House — — 198
For a Covenant Servant — — 200
A Deed of Gift — — 201
A Will — — — 202
A Codicil, or Schedule to a Will — — 203
A Letter of Attorney — — 204
A Warrant of Attorney — — 205
A general Power to receive Debts — ibid.
To receive Wages and all other Debts — 206
To receive Money due on a Bond in Part of Discharge of a Debt — — 207
From two to one, to receive the Interest of certain South-Sea Annuities — — 208
To discharge a Parish of a Bastard Child . ibid.
A Lease of a House in London. — 209
An Indenture for an Apprentice — 213
A Bond — — 214
A Note of Hand — — 215
A Bill of Exchange — — 340
Memorandum — — ibid.

INTRODUCTORY

INTRODUCTORY

PREFACE.

THE practice of Letter-writing must have taken its rise when letters were first known; but that period cannot be exactly ascertained. When Abraham sent his servant to bring Rebecca as a wife for Isaac, he sent presents to the intended spouse; but, alas! jewels cannot convey the language of the heart. Letter-writing has been used by the most polite nations, and certainly nothing can tend more towards the improvement of the rational faculties; nothing can more alleviate the cares of life: our friends, our relations, may be separated from us to the utmost extremity of the universe, and yet a few lines may convey our sentiments to them. By this very useful art, we may lay open all the secrets of our hearts on a single slip of paper, and converse with those whom we are separated from. Letters from friends or relations, are, in general, either too long or too short; they frequently abound with redundancies, or particulars entirely unnecessary; or they want something to fill up the subject; they sometimes contain nothing besides the news of the day, or the private affairs of a family, without any reference to moral obligations or rational entertainment. Every letter should convey some instructive precepts; and while we make use of pleasantry, we should never forget duty.

Many works have been published on the subject of Letter-writing, but most of them consist of compilations from the writings of authors of great fame, who knew but little of the occurrences of human life: it is one thing to know private life; it is

another to know the world: but when both are joined together, the Letter-writer muſt expect ſome applauſe. To remedy theſe defects, *this work* was undertaken; and the author has received ſuch aſſiſtance, from ſome of the greateſt perſonages in the kingdom, that he cannot doubt of its being agreeable to every perſon who wiſhes to promote the intereſt of the riſing generation.

All the *Letters* in the following pages are *originals*, not one of them having been copied from any author whatever; and were the writers of ſome of them made public, the work would be purchaſed with the utmoſt avidity.

The *Grammar* prefixed, is ſo plain, that even a child who can read may underſtand it; and the Legal Forms, which are more numerous and more important than in any former publication, will be of the utmoſt ſervice, particularly to thoſe who reſide in the country, and have not an opportunity of applying to an attorney.

The *Petitions* are drawn up in ſuch a plain eaſy manner, that nothing more is required than to tranſcribe them.

The *Cards*, or *Notes* of *Compliments*, will be a great help to facilitate buſineſs in ſuch caſes as may not require a Letter; and the *general inſtructions* for carrying on *epiſtolary correſpondence*, together with other particulars of importance, cannot fail of becoming valuable.

Such is the nature and plan of this work; and as it was undertaken for the benefit of the riſing generation (though it will be found of the utmoſt utility to the public in general) ſo there can be no doubt but it will be received as a moſt uſeful preſent.

GEORGE BROWN.

NEW

NEW INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

WRITING LETTERS;

By which, and the following MODELS,

Any Person may be his own Letter Writer,

And become Master of the

EPISTOLARY STILE.

THE great art of Letter-writing consists in an accurate knowledge of the subject, and the circumstances of the person to whom we address ourselves. The man of study will never be destitute of matter, and all mankind are considered as thoughtful, intelligent beings.

In all letters let truth be the principal object in view; let no falsehood be inserted, and then there can be no inconsistency. If the letter is to contain an accusation of the conduct of a young person, let it be written in tenderness; for if otherwise, it will never be attended with any beneficial consequences. If on business in the mercantile world, let every thing be so clear, as not to admit of a doubt when

you come to settle accounts. This will prevent many anxieties which often take place in families, and secure a part of the property which is often squandered away in suits at law. In love and courtship, unless sincerity take place, no happiness can be expected: let a love-letter contain the language of the heart, and let that heart contain nothing but what is innocent. In real friendship the heart will direct the pen, and sentiments unthought of before will flow copiously. A good heart will regulate the conduct; it will afford matter of epistolary correspondence; every thing will flow with elegance: and while the writer improves his own rational faculties, he will, by attending to these rules, instruct and entertain his correspondents. The rules laid down are so easy, that any person attending to them will never write with impropriety; and all that can be added is, the Grammar must be attended to, and likewise the perusal of the letters in this work.

A NEW

A

NEW, COMPLETE, and FAMILIAR

GRAMMAR

OF THE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE,

Adapted to the meaneſt Capacities:

CONTAINING

All that is neceſſary to be known, in order to READ, WRITE, and SPEAK, with a becoming Propriety.

GRAMMAR is the art of one human creature ſpeaking to another, ſo as to be underſtood.

Letters, ſyllables, words, and ſentences, include every thing in grammar. Letters form ſyllables, ſyllables words, and words ſentences.

There are twenty-ſix letters in the Engliſh language, *viz.* A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z; a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, ſ, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Twenty of theſe are conſonants, and ſix are vowels.

Two or more conſonants cannot form a ſyllable, without the aſſiſtance of a vowel: thus we cannot ſay *brght*, but if we add *i*, then it is *bright*.

The first thing to be learned in grammar, is the knowledge of letters; which are to be formed into syllables, and syllables into words.

Words are signs by which we convey our thoughts to each other.

The English language consists of nine parts of speech, or rather nine different sorts of words, *viz.*

I. The Article; II. The Noun; III. The Pronoun; IV. The Adjective; V. The Verb; VI. The Adverb; VII. The Preposition; VIII. The Conjunction; IX. The Interjection.

The following example will serve to point out the use of these words:

1 2 7 2 5 1 2 5 7
The Habit of Thinking is a Privilege bestowed on
4 2 7 1 4 2 3 8 9
human Beings, by the great God himself; but, alas!
6 6 5 3 5 3
how often do we abuse it!

The Article is prefixed to words in the following manner, *The* Lord, *the* King, *the* good Man.

A Substantive is used to express the name of any thing that can be understood by the senses: thus we say, a *Horse*, a *Stone*, a *House*, &c.

A Noun Substantive may stand by itself, but an Adjective cannot, unless joined to a Substantive: thus, we cannot say *a good*, but we may say *a good Man*. Thus again, we may say *O God!* which forms the Noun Substantive joined with the Interjection: but let us say *O God! thou art good*; then the Substantive and Adjective are joined.

Pronouns are words used instead of Nouns: thus we say *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, instead of making use of the name of the person alluded to. Pronouns must always be joined to active or passive Verbs: thus, we may say, *I love*, *I read*, *I hear*, *I teach*; and *I am loved*, *I have been taught*, &c. In the use of Pronouns in writing, we must desire the reader to attend to the following rule, *viz.* they may either be applied to Substantives or Adjectives: thus, we may say, *I* am a *Man*, *he* has a *horse*, *I* have a *Wife*; but in Adjectives, we say, *I* am a *virtuous* Man, *he* has a *fine* Horse, *I* have a *beautiful* Wife.

Adjectives

Adjectives are the qualities of a thing; such as, a *hard* Stone, a *good* Man, a *pious* King.

A Verb is a word conveying the ideas of *being*, *doing*, or *suffering*: thus, I say, *I love*, *I work*, *I suffer*.

Verbs are either active or passive.

Active Verbs imply all that a human being can do of himself, without any supernatural assistance: such as, *I love Mary*; *I read a Book*.

Passive Verbs signify the force that any thing has upon our minds, so as to regulate our conduct; such as, *I am* loved; *I am* taught; *I am* hated; *I am* brought under *the power of all my enemies, and I am* obliged *to submit to their cruelty*.

In Verbs, or words, we are to consider the *Person*, the *Number*, the *Time*, and the *Mode*.

Thus with respect to the Person.

I *love*, thou *taught*, he *learns*.

In Numbers, *Thou* lovest, *he* hates.

In Times, I *hear*, I *read*.

The Mood is the manner in which passions or actions are represented, and it must allude to Time.

Time is present, past, or future.

The Indicative Mood consists of the following expressions.

1. I have,	We	Have.
2. Thou hast,	Ye	
3. He hath, *or* has,	They	

Time past.

1. I had,	We	Had.
2. Thou hadst,	Ye	
3. He had,	They	

Future Tense, or Time.

1. I shall, or will	We	Shall or
2. Thou shalt, or wilt	Ye	will
3. He shall, or will	They	have.
Have.		

Imperative Mood.

1. Let me have.	Let us have.
2. Have thou, or do thou have.	Do ye have.
3. Let him have.	Let them have.

Subjunctive Mood.
Present Tense, or Time.

1. I	Have.	We	Have.
2. Thou		Ye	
3. He		They	

PARTICIPLE.

A *Participle* is a part of Speech derived from a *Verb*, but sometimes it is used as a Noun Adjective. It is active and passive, *viz.* active, *loving*, *bearing*, *seeing*; passive, *loved*, *heared*, *taught*.

ADVERBS.

Adverbs are added to *Verbs* or *words*, and are generally used to point out some particular circumstances, relating either to an action or quality.

Thus we say *wisely*, *lovingly*; and when set before a *Verb*, we say *heretofore I taught*, *yesterday I loved*, *already I have sought you*, &c.

PREPOSITION.

The word *Preposition* is used to point out something going before the words to which they are applied.

Thus we say *by them*, *to them*, *from them*, *with them*, viz. *Tell me what you want*; that is, *ask of me*. *He sprung* from me. *Through*, *under*, *by*, *to*, *from*, may be applied to any Verb as Prepositions.

CONJUNCTION.

Conjunction is the joining of two or more sentences together, so as to form a complete period: thus we would say, *I walked out last week to see the gardens at Richmond, where I met* WITH *Mrs. Wilson, who is really an ornament to her sex:* or *you and I rode to Winchester together,* BUT *Mr. Wilson staid at home. I was at Shrewsbury on the seventh of last month,* BUT *do not remember seeing your friend Mr. Johnson. They were rebuked,* BECAUSE *they could not hold their peace. I have done all I could to serve you,* BUT *my endeavours have not been attended with the desired success.*

INTERJECTION.

Interjection implies a strong expression, arising from some affliction in life.

Thus

Thus we say, *Oh! Alas! Good God! Heavens preserve me! God help me! Alas! what have I been doing? Ah, wretched man that I am!*

In writing a sentence grammatically, the points and stops must be attended to, otherwise the whole will be little better than nonsense.

In the English grammar the following points are commonly used in a sentence:

A Comma,	Marked thus	,
A Semicolon,		;
A Colon,		:
A Period,		.

EXAMPLES.

The books were brought to me, and nothing can equal the elegance of the binding; which I would have you mention to Mr. Wilson: it really does him credit.

I have sent the things you ordered, and they came safe; but they do not please me: I would have you take notice of these to Mr. Wilson.

In Grammar there are three other marks, which may be used occasionally, although they are not always necessary in the same sentence.

These points are;

Interrogation,	Marked thus	?
Admiration,		!
Parenthesis,		( )

EXAMPLE.

O how happy are those that love the Lord! for how can we doubt of his goodness? He loves his creatures, or rather, he desires to make them happy.

The great utility of writing grammatically ought much to be encouraged, for we often hear persons speak, and as often read their letters so improperly composed, that they raise a blush from a friend, and excite laughter from an enemy.

EXAMPLES.

I *were* going to London. It should be read, spoken, or written, I *was* going to London.

They

They *was* going to London. It ſhould be, they *were* going to London.

A COMPLETE SENTENCE.

I will love thee, O God! thou haſt been good unto me; but wilt thou remove my doubts? The goodneſs of the Divine Being, ſhould be conſidered with reverence; he is all mercy, but, except in ſome few caſes, we little attend to it.

The marks of Admiration and Interrogation may both be uſed as Periods at the end of ſentences, and every ſentence ſhould begin with a capital letter; but ſtill, an Interrogation (?) and Admiration (!) may be uſed in the middle of ſentences. A Colon (:) denotes ſomething wanting to complete the ſentence, and therefore it is ſeldom followed by a capital.

When any paſſage is quoted from another author, it muſt ſtand marked thus; "he ſhall not be afraid of evil tidings (ſays the Pſalmiſt); "his heart is fixed, truſting in the Lord."*

When any thing is mentioned of a ſtriking nature, particularly any thing ſatirical, it muſt ſtand in Italics; thus ſpeaking or writing we lay an emphaſis on the word; by writing of a wicked man, we ſay his *piety* is well known. This is the force of ſatire, by inverting the words, and making that appear as a virtue which is a vice.

Sometimes it may be neceſſary to put a word in CAPITALS. Thus we write; "He was too good to live SO long."

A PERFECT SENTENCE,

Containing every mark in Grammar.

"He who truſts in the Almighty (as the Pſalmiſt ſays) "ſhall never be moved:" but what then ſhall be the fate of the wicked? Alas! their condition will be deplorable; for had they not preferred VICE to VIRTUE, they might have enjoyed the divine favour. It has happened, however, otherwiſe; for they loved the *charms* of nominal pleaſure, in preference to ſuch as could give peace and happineſs to the mind.

THE

THE NEW AND COMPLETE

LETTER WRITER:

BEING ENTIRE

ORIGINAL LETTERS

ON

EVERY OCCURRENCE IN LIFE.

LETTER I.

From a young Man who had served two Years of his Apprenticeship, to his Mother, a poor Widow.

Dear and Honoured Mother,

THE distance at which Providence has placed me from you, has neither made me ungrateful nor undutiful. I often think of your wants, but 'till this day I have not had it in my power to give you any assistance. My master has treated me with so much tenderness, that I can never be too grateful to him. This morning he sent me with a bill to a gentleman, who generously gave me a guinea, and that I have sent to you to alleviate your present distress; and you will receive along with it, eight shillings which was given me for my Christmas-box. I had four shillings more given me, which I have laid out

for

for a Bible, that I may never forget my duty to my God as well as to my parent. Happy if I could do more to serve you; but trust in God, who I hope will never leave you, nor forsake you. For my own part, I have some comfort in trusting in God; but that trust is supported and encouraged by my duty. In the mean time, my prayers shall be for you; and if I can procure any more it shall be sent.

I am, your dutiful son,

London, June 12, 178 WILLIAM RAY.

LETTER II.

The Mother's Answer.

My dear Billy, *Kingston, June* 16, 178

UNDER all the afflictions of age and pressures of poverty, my mind is supported when I consider that you join the fear of God to your duty to me. I assure you, my dear, I was without a dinner when your present came; and with tears I must declare that nothing but necessity could have forced me to accept it. I would have returned it but ah! what can we do when hunger and cold pinch us. Had it pleased God to restore your father to health, I should not now have been a disconsolate widow; but the Divine Being is good in all his ways. I have been ill some time; but blessed be God I am resigned to his will, nor shall I ever complain; for we poor mortals ought to submit. Mr. Mayor has promised to get me a small matter from the parish; but whatever may happen to me, let me go out of the world with this consolation, that you are discharging your duty to God and mah. It is that alone will support you on a death-bed; nay, it will make the prospect of eternity pleasant to you. Go on, my dear, in an uniform course of virtue and piety; that will procure you the approbation of God, of a good conscience, and will support my drooping years.

I am, your affectionate mother,

SUSANNAH RAY.

LETTER

LETTER III.

The Son's Answer.

Honoured Mother,

EVER anxious for your welfare, I waited with impatience for your letter, and it is with pleasure I can inform you, that something will now be done to serve you. I was not at home when your letter arrived, and as I don't desire to conceal any secrets from my master, he opened and read it. Upon my return he shewed me it, telling me that I was much to blame for not having mentioned your afflicted case to him. I made the best apology I could, for you know we may be poor without making our poverty known to the world. My master has generously sent you two guineas, and you will receive some left off cloaths sent by my mistress. At the same time I have the pleasure to inform you, that my master will be at your town some time next month; and, being well acquainted with Mr. Mayor, will endeavour to prevail upon him to forward whatever may be of service to you. I have just received a suit of new clothes, in consequence of my sending you the trifle. Thus Providence often heaps favours upon us, even while our merits do not entitle us to them. My mind is easy when I hear of any thing that can promote your interest, and sweeten the cares of old age. It is but a little time when I shall be old myself; and then may those consolations which yield you so much comfort, give me consolation. I am permitted to visit you at next Easter; but before that time I hope you will be provided for.

I am, your dutiful son,

WILLIAM RAY.

LETTER IV.

From a young Woman just gone out to Service, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Arrived at this place about six o'clock on Saturday evening, and met with such a reception from Mrs. Oakley, as must ever make a lasting impression on my mind: it shall be my study to please her as far as lays in my power. The coach set us down a mile distant from the house; but

Mrs. Oakely had been waiting some time in her chaise with her two daughters; and such was the condescension of that good lady, that she took me into her carriage and made one of her daughters walk home on foot. The place where I am now settled is delightful, and I have little more to do besides dressing my young ladies in the morning, and reading to them in the afternoon; but I fill up my vacant hours in making up plain work for the family, by which I save my lady a considerable sum which she would be obliged to pay was she to put it out. I hate idleness, and am determined to be usefully employed. Our family consists of the lady, her two daughters, one footman, a housemaid, a cook-maid, and myself. The curate of the parish dives in the village, and he reads prayers to us every evening. Mrs. Oakley gives away all the broken meat to the industrious poor, she pays for the education of their children, and she visits the sick from house to house. She is really a good woman, and I shall study to profit by her example. Give my duty to my dear mother, my love to my sister, and be assured,

I am your ever dutiful daughter.

MARY ELLIS.

LETTER V.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

WITH pleasure did I receive yours, and embrace this first opportunity of sending you an answer. I am glad to hear you met with such a favourable reception from Mrs. Oakley, and it is no more than what I expected from that good lady. The account you give me of your situation, affords me comfort; but it is comfort mixt with fear. You have different passions to struggle with, in consequence of the mixture of persons, and the diversities of characters. Good as your lady is, you will be obliged to study her temper and suit your conduct towards it as far as is consistent with your duty to God. Perhaps you will find more trouble with your young ladies than you have yet thought of; but that trouble will sit light and easy upon you, if

you

you preserve your temper; for by submitting in some trifling things to their humours, you will for ever engage their esteem: nay, they will esteem you better for it ever after. It will be still more difficult, perhaps, for you to conduct yourself towards the two woman servants; your station, although that of a servant, being somewhat higher than theirs, they will envy your situation, and, if they can find an opportunity, seek to injure you in the esteem of your lady: but, my dear, nothing is more easy than to avoid this. Take no authority upon you but what is just and reasonable; be meek, be humble, affable, easy, and agreeable. Soften your lady's orders; but when you cannot, then tell them the reason in plainness and sincerity. Make charitable allowances for trifling faults, but never at the expence of truth; and, by gentle persuasion, endeavour to persuade them to be dutiful to their lady, if they would expect honour in time, and happiness in eternity. You will naturally have occasion to be in company with strangers, and when that happens, let me beg your will neither seal up your lips, nor engross the conversation to yourself. But above all, let me beg you will never forget your duty to your God, the Author of your being and salvation. It is said of wisdom, "that her ways are ways of pleasant-"ness, and all her paths are peace;" and the Psalmist says, "Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing "shall offend them." Consider, that in all places wherever you are, the eye of God is upon you, and nothing can conceal you from his sight. This will guard you against all temptations that may fall in your way. May God Almighty direct you through life to eternity, is the sincere prayer of,

Your affectionate father,

GEORGE ELLIS.

LETTER VI.

From a poor Widow in Bristol, to her Son on board one of the Ships of War.

Dear Child,

JACK Thompson, who arrived here a few days ago, called upon me, and told me that you are stationed off

Port-Royal in Jamaica. I have, therefore, taken this opportunity of sending you this by the mail; but, God knows, it was with much difficulty I could spare as much as would pay the postage. It is with sorrow I must inform you that your father died three months ago, so that I am left a disconsolate widow. He was ill about a month, but sensible to the last; and just before he died prayed fervently for you, that your life might be preserved to be of service to me, and that you might never curse and swear, as too many seamen do. "O!" said he, "that my son would "consider the many dangers he is continually exposed to, "and seek God as the only Being that can protect him; "then would he be cheerful in the midst of the greatest "storms, knowing that nothing wrong can come from "the hands of a good and gracious God." He said little more, and left this world for a better. To procure myself a small subsistence, I have took a room on a ground floor, to keep a little school for children, and to do a little plain work. Indeed, I could get my living by plain work, but it is difficult to procure it; and as for working I am not able to stand it. However, I make myself easy, trusting that God will never leave me destitute of a subsistence, while I use the means in my power. I am still indebted for some part of your father's funeral expences; but I hope the undertaker will not trouble me 'till you come home. Perhaps you may have nothing to spare, for I know your wages are but small; but whatever may happen, remember your father's dying words, and then you may be sure of the divine blessing. I hope you will write to me the first opportunity, and let me know when you think you will be in England.

I am, your affectionate mother,
ELIZABETH WILSON.

LETTER VII.

The Son's Answer.

Dear and Honoured Mother,

ABOUT three weeks ago I received your letter, with the melancholy news of my father's death; and

as if the Divine Being determined at all times to mix mercies with afflictions, I am this day entitled to forty-six pounds prize money, and you will receive enclosed my will and power to take it up, and use what part of it you are in want of 'till my return, which I hope will be in about x months, or sooner. Send the enclosed as directed, and as the packet will probably sail soon after you receive this, let me beg you will return the answer; but you need not write to me yourself 'till you hear further, for as we are to put into Cork you will hear from me there. Our ship's crew are very sickly, but blessed be God I have hitherto had my health; and as I have done more work than came to my share, the admiral has promised to advance me.

And now, my dear mother, will you believe me, that I shall never, through the divine assistance, forget my father's dying words; they shall be engraven on my heart, and the whole of my conduct shall be regulated by his instructions. We have no chaplain on board, for he lives at his ease in England; but I read some part of the Bible and the Whole Duty of Man every Sunday. May God support your aged life, and be assured that while I have any thing you shall never want.

I am, dear mother;
Your dutiful son,
JOHN WILSON.

LETTER VIII.

The Sailor's Letter inclosed to his Sweetheart.

Dear Nancy,

I Have embraced this opportunity of sending you a letter enclosed in one to my mother, and if you will enquire for John Capstan, at Deptford, on board his majesty's ship the Union, you will receive a small present; but if you cannot go so far, you may direct a penny-post letter, and the parcel will be sent you. You will see my mother when she comes to town, and she will tell you further. Let me beg you will put yourself into mourning for my dear father,

lately deceased, for you know I cannot go into mourning at sea.

And now, my dear, let me ask you, whether you are still constant? I can assure you, I am, and always shall be. I am soon to be advanced; and as we shall be in England in about six months, I hope you will then give me your hand, that we may be happy. We have had good success, and I shall have enough for us both. I intend to devote my life to the sea, but still you know I shall have some time to spend with you. Probably you may live to see me a captain, and then my Nancy will be a captain's lady. Is not that grand, Nancy? Yes, my dear, and I hope you will see it. Let me beg you will make me up some shirts, and a gown for my mother, with such other things as she shall want. I hope you will not be angry when I tell you, that I still read my Bible, nor do I ever curse or swear. I am not however, too particular; for I love innocent pleasure as much as ever. Let me beg to have a letter from you, which you may send by the packet, directed to me at Port-Royal.

I am, dear Nancy,
Your real lover,
JOHN WILSON.

LETTER IX.

The young Woman's Answer to the Sailor.

Well, Jack,

MAY every success attend captain Wilson; who, if he succeeds according to his hopes, must soon be an admiral. However, Jack, remember that if you build castles in the air, I shall not be able to climb up to them; you must purchase me wings, and teach me to fly. To be plain with you, I cannot blame you, nor any young man, for endeavouring to mend their circumstances; but, I am afraid you promise yourself too much. Perhaps you are vain in your own conceit; and, like many others in the world, you feed your mind with delusive hopes. "Strange!" you will say, "are not all women vain? and here is one

"who presumes to caution me against vanity." Well, Jack, (for you are not yet a captain) I am perhaps as weak and vain as the rest of my sex, and you know it is more easy to give advice than to take it. My advice, however, is sincere, and perhaps you will find it so. I once promised myself many things; but now I have learned the duty of resignation, and I was led to it by circumstances I little thought of. You know my mother died two years ago, and my father committed to my care the sole management of his family, which made my station respectable, and my life agreeable.

Such was my situation for some time; but my hopes were soon blasted, and my peace of mind disturbed. My father got into company with the widow of a publican, where he usually spent the evenings; and, after a courtship of one week, he married her and brought her home in triumph. Madam had been only a few days in the house when she quarrelled with me; and because I made use of some expressions not very agreeable to her, my father turned me out of doors. Providence found me shelter in the house of a poor widow, who has procured me a service in a genteel family at Hackney, where I am now happily settled.

Thus you see that we should never promise ourselves too much, lest we receive nothing in the end.—With respect to constancy, be not afraid; for none shall receive my hand, 'till your infidelity prompts me to it. Your good mother called upon me, and next day brought me the present from Deptford, which will at this time be of considerable service. I saw her safe into the stage for Bristol; but she is very infirm. I am glad to hear you have not forgot your God and your Bible, which are my only support. May heavens preserve you, and bring you safe home to England, is the sincere prayer of

Your friend,

ANNE BURCHET.

LETTER

LETTER X.

From a young Gentleman at Westminster-School to his Father in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

IT is now above six months since I have heard from you, which has made me extremely uneasy, especially as I told you that I wanted to remove from my lodgings. There are three of us lay in one bed, so that we are either sweated or starved to death; for I think I shall soon die, if I am not removed. Master Howard, of our class, has fine lodgings at the house of one Mr. Jones, where he is treated with great tenderness, and I could wish to be along with him.

I have now got into Homer, and I have turned several parts of that celebrated poet's works into Latin verse. I am fond of Homer; for I think he gives the best description of things I ever read. The consultation of the Gods fills me with admiration, and I can find no instance of courage equal to that of Achilles. The feelings of Priam for the calamities brought upon the people by the conduct of his son Paris, melts me into sympathy; and sometimes I am apt to forget that Helen was beautiful. Upon the whole, Sir, I think the classic authors superior to all others, and it shall be my study to make myself complete master of them: only let me beg you will suffer me to remove to new lodgings.

I am, Sir, your dutiful son,

GEORGE COOPER.

LETTER XI.

The Father's Answer.

Dear George,

YOUR letter to me arrived about two weeks ago, but your mother and myself were then on a visit to your uncle Danby in Lincolnshire, where we spent the greatest part of the summer. I shall now give you an explicit answer to your letter, and I am sorry to tell you, that I do it with reluctance. The complaint you make concerning

your

your lodgings, does not deserve notice; and with respect to your request, I shall not comply with it. Do you imagine that a school-boy should be indulged with those pleasures which are only fit for persons advanced in years, and who know what use to make of them? No, George: I will never be a tyrant, I will never treat you with cruelty; but I must keep the same guard over your passions as I have done over your morals. I spent some time in procuring you the lodgings where you now are, and I know you have been always treated with humanity; but youth are fond of changes, they love new faces and new apartments, without considering that they will meet with the same difficulties in the second as in the first, of which I have seen a great many instances. You tell me much of the progress you have made in learning, and I hope it is true; but I am sorry to find you extolling pagan virtues without taking notice of what we find recorded in Sacred Scriptures. In learning Latin and Greek, you should endeavour to make yourself acquainted with the languages without following the poet to his groves, grottos, and enchanted castles. Make yourself acquainted with their words, but, for God's sake, forget their sentiments. What is the valour of Achilles when compared with the conduct of the apostle Paul, when that Christian hero was taking leave of his friends at Ephesus, with a courage not to be paralleled in any age or nation; he said, "And now I go bound in the spirit to Jeru-" salem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there; " only this, that the Holy Ghost witnesseth, that in every " city bonds and afflictions abide me." And again, " When I have been at Jerusalem, I must also visit Rome." But did the great apostle of the Gentiles do all this from motives of pride? Did he expect any temporary emoluments? No: he, like his Divine Master, knew not where to lay his head; he knew that he should be treated with the utmost contempt by his countrymen the Jews; and if sent to Rome, he should suffer an ignominious death. But how cheerfully does he obey the divine command!

You mention old king Priam weeping over the vices of his children, and you tell me you are affected. But what is that when compared with the conduct of our Divine

Lord

Lord when he beheld Jerusalem, and wept over that once celebrated city? He was the sum and substance of all the ancient prophecies; but when he made his appearance, he was rejected and despised by those whom he came to save. He looked forward to their approaching misery, and, as a Divine Being clothed in flesh, he shed tears of compassion.

And now, George, what can you find in your Pagan authors equal to this? Priam shed tears as a man, Christ as the Being who was to pay a ransom for the sins of the world. I am by no means an enemy to the progress you make in useful learning; but let me beg you will converse with the Heathens without becoming one yourself. Let every day be spent in acquiring useful learning; but let one part of that day be set apart for the study of the Sacred Scriptures: in that inexhaustible fund you will acquire more learning, than in all the books in the world. In these sacred books God speaks to men; he speaks to their passions, their hearts and their reason; whereas, in human compositions, one sinful creature speaks to another. I shall be in town next week, and in the mean time, am,

Your affectionate father,

JOHN COOPER.

LETTER XII.

From a Tradesman in London to his Son, a Merchant's Clerk in Bristol.

Dear Charles,

WITH a melancholy heart and a trembling hand do I sit down to write to you. Alas! my dear child, I once thought you would have been the last to whom I should have had occasion to write on such a subject; but I am your father, and if you are not altogether hardened, let me beg you will sympathize with me, and comply with my request. Yesterday I received a letter from your master, in which I am informed, that you have neglected your business, and given yourself up to idleness and dissipation; nay, that you have joined yourself to a company of strolling players, who, undoubtedly, if you adhere to them, will bring you to destruction. Ah! Charles, was it

for

for this that I gave you a liberal education? Did I deny myself many of the comforts of life, that you should enjoy them? Did I watch over your infant years with the most incessant care, and live to hear of your becoming a disgrace to your family, a dishonour to human nature, and a scandal to religion? Ah! Charles, who first taught you to address the Supreme Being in the way of duty? Was it an enemy or a friend? No: it was your father. And are my grey hairs to be brought down with sorrow to the grave? Is your aged mother to see you a vagabond? Are all your friends to be disgraced, and an indelible stain of dishonour brought upon your relations? Have you forgot every thing that I taught you? And are you now lost to every sense of duty? O! heavens forbid. My infirmities will not permit me to call on you; but if you have any regard for your indulgent parents, if you would wish for honour in this life, and happiness hereafter, you will immediately return to your duty, and discharge every obligation you are under to your master. Be not dazzled with the gaiety of this world; for young as you are, old age and infirmities will approach, unless you are cut off by the way. Do you never think of eternity, where all human existence must terminate? Do you never consider that you are an accountable being, whom God will examine when the secrets of all hearts are disclosed? Let me beg to hear from you, and heaven grant that this letter may make some impression on your heart. This, dear Charles, is the sincere prayer of,

Your affectionate father,

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XIII.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

Dear and ever Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter at a time when I was spending my evening with some of my graceless companions. Alas, Sir! that I should ever have made choice of those as friends, who are incapable of friendship. When I received your letter, I returned home to my chamber, and read it with

with deliberation; and during the whole of the night, my mind was agitated with the moſt violent paſſions. I ſtruggled between inclination and duty: inclination to renew my former vitious practices; duty to you, my dear honoured father, and to my God. In the morning my Bible, too long neglected, preſented itſelf to me; and in it I read that God will have mercy on the vileſt ſinner. With ſhame do I now look back on my former conduct in life, and with pleaſure will I embrace the practice of virtue. I have communicated my reſolutions to Mr. Bale my maſter, who, notwithſtanding the many provocations I have given him, received me with tears of joy, and embraced me with open arms of affection. Believe me, honoured Sir, when I tell you that I am ſincere; and for the future, I will never frequent the company of thoſe who led me aſtray, nor on Sunday will I ever abſent myſelf from a place of divine worſhip.

Let not my dear mother be troubled, but aſſure her, that ſhe will find me a new man as ſoon as ſhe comes here on a viſit. I have ſent ſome little preſents to my ſiſters, which I hope they will accept of, and let them join with you, in being once more reconciled to an offending brother. I hope none of you will be offended, when I tell you that I have placed my affections on Miſs Howard, the only daughter of an eminent merchant in this city: and if I am ſo happy to procure her parents conſent, I ſhall ſucceed to the buſineſs carried on by her father, for he intends to retire. She is an amiable young lady, and I wiſh you would write to her father in my behalf. I am informed you have had ſome dealings with him formerly; ſo that you will be under no difficulty in opening the affair. I hope to hear from you ſoon, and am,

Your ſincere penitent ſon,

CHARLES SMITH.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

The Father's Answer.

Dear Charles,

I AM more alarmed in reading your letter, containing an account of your resolution of amendment, than I was when I read that from your mother, wherein that good man described your character and conduct without reserve. I never loved sudden changes; and I know so much of human nature, that I cannot believe your repentance to be sincere. A sudden change from vice to virtue, is seldom attended with beneficial consequences. Repentance is progressive, and it requires time to bring it to a state of perfection. It is common, in Roman Catholic countries, for debauchees to become devotees, and the bawdy-house is changed for a cloyster. It is much the same in Protestant countries; where the debauchee changes his outward conduct all of a sudden, and instead of the bawdy-house, frequents the church. I shall never find fault with external religion, but I look upon repentance as a total change of the whole man; but this is commonly the work of time. Evil company must be parted with gradually, and the sooner we withdraw the better. Happy shall I be to hear of your reformation; and as for your proposed scheme of marriage, you will find that I have written my sentiments on the subject to Mr. Howard. Every encouragement shall be granted you in my power; and may God direct you in the paths of virtue. This is my desire through the day, and prayer in the night.

I am, dear Charles, your affectionate father,

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XV.

Mr. Smith's Letter to Mr. Howard.

My dear Friend,

IT is so long since we have had any connection in the way of trade, that I should have forgot your name, had it not been for a letter which I have lately received from my son, who is clerk to Mr. Bale in your city. Perhaps

you are no ſtranger to my ſon's character, which, I am afraid, has been for ſome time that of a libertine. Indeed he has ſent me a pompous account of his reformation; but I am too much of an infidel to believe it. He tells me he has contracted an acquaintance with your daughter, whom he repreſents as a virtuous young lady, and I doubt not but ſhe is ſo; at leaſt, more ſo than himſelf. Friendſhip between young perſons generally proceeds, firſt, to courtſhip, and laſtly, to marriage; and happy when the marriage ſtate is entered into upon principles of virtue. This, however, is not always the caſe; and that is my reaſon for writing to you.

An union between my ſon and your daughter, would be to me a happy event; but ſtill I would have the whole conducted on honourable principles: I mean, that if a match is concluded, it ſhould be with your conſent and mine. If you chuſe to conſent that your daughter ſhould be married to my ſon, and ſhe is willing, I will give him ſufficiency to ſet him up as a merchant; but I will neither preſs you, nor deſire you, to force the young lady's inclinations. Let natural right take place: let us do as we would be done by. Let me beg you will be ſo obliging as to ſend me an anſwer, and then I will wait on you at Briſtol.

I am, Sir, your ſincere friend,

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XVI.

Mr. Howard's Anſwer.

Dear Friend,

YOUR letter was the more agreeable, becauſe it has renewed a former acquaintance; and to be plain with you, I am no ſtranger to the conduct of your ſon. His conduct for ſome time, was not conſiſtent with the character of a gentleman; but I can aſſure you, ſo far as I am able to form a rational conjecture, he will be an ornament to ſociety. He has left his graceleſs companions, and ſpends his evenings either at home in his cloſet with his books, or in my houſe along with my daughter. He has, for ſome time paid his addreſſes to her; and, if you are willing,

willing, he shall have my consent. I would, however, have them to converse together for some time; and as they will be always under my care, so you may be assured that nothing improper can take place.

It has been my intention, for some time to retire from business; and I should think myself extremely happy, to see my daughter married into such a respectable family as yours. You will have little occasion to trouble yourself concerning money to set up your son in business; for I have enough for that purpose, besides what will support me in a state of retirement. My wife, as well as myself, is anxious to see you, and we have prepared lodgings for your reception. There is another thing I would mention, and that is, that you would draw a veil over every part of your son's conduct that has given offence. If I have no objection to the marriage, surely you cannot; your son cannot be more valuable, nor can you wish to promote his interest more, than I do that of my daughter. Let us settle the affair amicably, and let us never forget that we are mortal. I hope that all things will turn out well in the end; and therefore let us endeavour to promote the interests of the rising generation, without injuring our peace of mind.

I am your sincere friend,
WILLIAM HOWARD.

LETTER XVII.

From a Clergyman in the Country, to a young Gentleman bound Apprentice to a Grocer in London.

Dear William,

IT pleased God to remove your mother, by death, a few days after your birth, so that you had not the inestimable benefit of her maternal instructions. That loss was, in some measure made up by your father's paternal tenderness; but he likewise was taken away from you before he had completed his pious design, namely, that of seeing you properly qualified to go out into the world. On his death-bed he sent for me and committed to my care the remaining part of your education. How far I have discharged my

my duty, you know; and I can appeal to the Divine Being that I have left nothing undone that, in my humble opinion, could promote your interest. This, however, was no more than my duty; but my duty is not yet wholly performed.

It is not enough that I have instructed you in the principles of useful learning, I must still endeavour to see a fabrick arising from the foundation already laid. You know, that when you left this place, I was confined to my bed with a severe fit of illness, so that I could not give you any verbal instructions; but, blessed be God, I am now somewhat better, and shall endeavour to make up by writing, what I could not deliver in words.

The business you have made choice of is honourable and profitable; but, at the same time it is laborious: so that if ever you acquire what is called an independency, you must endeavour to make yourself acquainted with the most minute parts. It is the study of little things that leads us to the knowledge of great ones; and those who are industrious in youth, have the greatest reason to expect success in their more advanced years. I have many things to write to you, but must first beg leave to know something of the family in which you are settled, and as soon as I receive your answer, you may expect another letter from me.

I am, your ever sincere friend,

RICHARD MOORE.

LETTER XVIII.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

Reverend and Honoured Sir,

WHEN I left the place of my nativity, I felt a violent struggle in my mind between inclination and duty. I could have wished to spend my advanced years in that place where I first obtained your acquaintance; but when I reflected that it was my duty to follow some useful business in this world, I gave up my own inclination, and with cheerfulness submitted to what I considered to be the design of an all-wise Providence. It is true, I was obliged to take my leave of you when you was extremely ill; but

a thou-

a thousand thanks to my ever honoured tutor, that, with the recovery of health, his tender regard for my best interest is renewed, or rather continued.

And now, in obedience to your commands, I will give you what information I can respecting the family where I am settled. My master is a little turned of fifty, and his wife is about six years younger: they have two sons at school, and one daughter living at the house of a relation in the country, where she receives a private education. We have three shopmen, two porters, an errand boy, two servant maids, and myself. My master, like a plain honest citizen, keeps no country-house, no carriage, nor any servant in livery; he attends constantly on business, bills are never returned unpaid, and he balances the account of debtor and creditor once every week. My mistress is neither gay nor mean; she seems to enjoy pleasure, without being a slave to it at the expence of virtue and piety. I never go into her apartment, but I find her engaged either in reading, working with her needle, or conversing with women of good sense. Our shopmen are gay young sparks, and two of them generally spend the evenings very late at a public house in the neighbourhood; the other retires to the kitchen, and reads a diverting book to the maids.

My master and mistress are regular in their attendance on divine worship every Sunday, and when they return from church, a chapter of the Bible is read in the parlour; and when the Bible is closed, my master makes some remarks on what has been read. With respect to provisions, we have plenty; but nothing extravagant; we have such wholesome victuals as the season produceth; but we are not pampered with French cookery; nor, like those who turn day into night, and night into day, do we dine at seven in the evening: we breakfast at nine, dine at two, and sup again at nine. We retire to our apartments at ten, except the two shopmen whom I have already mentioned, who do not come home 'till late; but my master, I suppose, has his reasons for keeping them. Indeed, a few mornings ago, he repeated to them in the shop, two lines which I have somewhere read, viz.

"Early to bed, and early to rise,
"Is the way to be healthy and wealthy and wise."

And now, my ever honoured tutor, will you, in compliance with your promise, continue your correspondence: I have much need of your advice, and to me your instructions shall ever be sacred. Blessed be God you are recovered, and may your valuable life be long preserved for the benefit of the world.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

LETTER XIX.

The Clergyman's Answer.

Dear William,

THE description you have sent me of your family gives me much pleasure, and it is much more to my satisfaction than I expected. You know I have often told you, that wherever you settle in this world, whatever your temporal circumstances may be, you will meet with something to counterbalance the greatest advantages. Thus, while the amiable character of your master and mistress presents you with a fair example to copy after, you find temptations thrown in your way by the conduct of the two shopmen. But remember, that wherever you are, you cannot conceal your most secret actions from the eyes of an all-wise God; his knowledge and his power will drag your crimes from the darkest obscurity; and although you may obtain pardon of God, yet take my word for it you will find repentance bitter. Let me therefore, beg you will attend to the following rules, which, through the divine blessing, may prevent you from falling into such snares as young men are too much subject to.

Endeavour to rise from bed in the morning one hour, at least, before you are wanted in the shop, and let that hour be spent in reading a chapter in the Bible, and in praying for the divine assistance through the day; for the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, must be always kept in mind, if we would enjoy that tranquillity to which many are strangers. Let all your business through the day be conducted

with

with integrity, whether in your master's presence or absence. Be always cheerful; and take great care that nothing discompose your mind so as to put you into a passion. Take every opportunity at meals to make some rational remarks on the goodness of God, who opens his hand liberally and satisfies all the wants of his creatures. When you hear any person mock at religion, desire him to make a trial of the practice of its duty, but never pretend to superior sanctity. Keep good principles, and good practices will flow from them. A stedfast faith begets a constant hope; and the more faith, the more humility. Behave submissively towards your superiors; friendly towards your equals; condescendingly to your inferiors, and lovingly to all. Before you retire to rest, examine how you have acted through the day; sincerely confess your sins, and then you may be assured of pardon. Never frequent public houses in the evening; for a practice of that nature wears off the force of religious duties, and men often become profligates or infidels, before they have so much as considered that they had deviated from the path of duty.

I have sent you a few books; for I would advise you rather to read a little and treasure it up in your memory, than peruse many authors, without being able to remember any thing. May the Divine Being direct you in every thing, and bring you to honour and happiness. Let me beg to hear from you when you have an opportunity; but you must never, to please your friends, deprive your master of that service which is his right.

I am yours sincerely,

RICHARD MOORE.

LETTER XX.

From a Tradesman in London, to a Correspondent in the Country.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of six months since I sent your account, and you have never yet remitted me any money. Is this, Sir, consistent with the nature of trade; or how do you think to carry on business, unless you make good your payments? Trade, Sir, is of a tender nature; it must be carried

ried on with induſtry, prudence, and integrity. There is, indeed, one thing in your conduct, which I think can never be excuſed: I have written to you above ſix different times, and although you have ſent me ſeveral anſwers, yet you never ſo much as aſſigned a reaſon, to my ſatisfaction, for withholding from me that property which you knew was my right. An honeſt man will keep fair accounts with his creditors, and when he finds he is not able to make good his payments, will cheerfully give up his all, without being forced to it by a commiſſion of bankruptcy. He who keeps regular accounts will ſoon diſcover whether he can ſupport his family and pay his debts; and if he finds that the profits of his trade will not anſwer theſe ends, he will immediately look out for another employment. Do you imagine that I am able to make good my payments, if I am to be treated by the reſt of my correſpondents as I have been by you? No, Sir, I could not; but thank God, I have balanced debtor and creditor in ſuch a manner, that I know what I have and what I owe. I enjoy, at leaſt, this comfort, that I am not indebted beyond what I am able to pay; but that is no reaſon why you ſhould deprive me of any part of that property which was acquired by honeſt induſtry. I muſt, therefore, tell you, that unleſs you make me a remittance very ſoon, I ſhall be obliged to take ſuch ſteps as will be no ways agreeable to you. Let me beg you will not put me to that trouble, for I am ſorry to do what the world may call an ill-natured action.

I am yours,

THOMAS FIGG.

LETTER XXI.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

IT gives me much concern that you ſhould have conceived a bad opinion of me, eſpecially as I never intended to deceive you, nor injure you in any part of your property. I have been unfortunate, and I will now lay open the whole affair to you. Mr. Jarvis, my brother-in law, begged of me to accept ſome bills for him, which I inadvertently did, without

without knowing or considering the nature of his circumstances, which I find were desperate; for he has lately failed, and I have had the money to pay. This, however, has not ruined me altogether; nor are my accounts so much confused as you seem to imagine. Several considerable debts have been paid me lately, and I have remitted you a bill for sixty pounds, payable at sight. I have all the reason in the world to hope, that the remainder will be paid in less than three months; and, in the mean time, I doubt not but you will send me the articles contained in the enclosed order. I assure you, Sir, I shall endeavour to profit by your advice; and, for the future, watch more regularly over my affairs.

I am, &c.

GEORGE WATKINS.

LETTER XXII.

From a Tradesman in the Country to a Merchant in London, desiring a Composition with his Creditors.

SIR,

WHEN I first entered into business I had great reason to expect success; but we often form vain hopes, and promise ourselves more than we have reason to expect. The first thing that affected my credit was the extravagant conduct of an unhappy son. I took him from school into my shop, and during the space of three years he never neglected business, nor did he give me or my customers any offence. I then thought myself happy; but, alas! the whole peace of my family was soon destroyed. Trusting in my son's integrity, I sent him to collect what debts were owing to me in the country; but no sooner had he received the money, than he joined himself to a company of strolling players, and squandered the whole away. It was some months before I learned any thing concerning him; but at last I met him by accident, starving for the necessaries of life, polluted in his morals, clothed in rags, and divested of all sense of honest shame.

What could I do? To discard him totally might have driven him to more dangerous courses than those he had

left,

left, and perhaps brought him to an untimely end. He had injured me; it was impossible for him to make restitution; his character was lost; and therefore I proposed to send him to the East-Indies. With much difficulty I procured for him the place of a writer, and he sailed from England two months ago. Since that time I have been mostly employed in settling my books, and with concern I must tell you, that I must either call a meeting of my creditors, and give them up what I have, or they must give me some short time to bring myself about, so as to pay them. Distressed as I am, I am willing to become a day-labourer rather than injure my creditors; and as you have hitherto been my friend, let me beg your advice how to proceed in this extremity. I wait your answer with impatience, and am,

Yours, with respect,
THOMAS JOHNSON.

LETTER XXIII.

The Merchant's Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Perused your letter with tears, and I can the more easily feel for your misfortunes, because I have a son whose conduct has been little better than yours. When I first entered into business, I made it my fixed resolution never to distress an honest man while I considered him as unfortunate, but not criminal. By dispensing with the severity of the law on particular occasions, we often save something for the future; and I have often found, that a single act of lenity has preserved an honest man from ruin, and secured the property of his creditors.—Acting consistent with those principles, I called a meeing of your creditors, and they, with myself, are all unanimous in consenting to give you credit three years longer. We are willing to send you what goods you want, and to take only small remittances, 'till such time as you can extricate yourself out of your misfortunes, which I hope will soon take place. I have written to several persons in the country in your favour, and you will find the number of your customers enlarged.

Take

Take courage, my dear friend, and nothing shall be wanting on my part to serve you. I would have you come to London for a few days, where you will meet with a welcome reception, and then you may give orders for such goods as you think will be most wanted.

I am yours, &c.

FRANCIS SMITH.

LETTER XXIV.

From a young Gentleman, whose Education had been neglected in his youth, to a Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

THE small estate left me by my uncle has had a different effect on my mind, from what commonly happens in similar cases; for instead of devoting my time to fashionable follies, I am not ashamed to acknowledge (nay, I do it with pleasure) that I have taken lodgings in a private family in Islington, dividing my time between reading, company, and walking. I have begun the history of England, but I am much at a loss to know what other subjects are proper; for you know, that my education was much neglected. Sometimes, indeed, I read divinity; but I know not what books to peruse. I am not fond of controversy, and yet I love to be informed concerning the truth. Here, Sir, my mind is bewildered; and no sooner have I perused one book, than the next I take in my hand makes me disbelieve every sentiment I embraced before. I often beg of God that he would give me assistance, in directing me to choose that which is good, and refuse evil; but this by no means prevents me from making use of human means, as second causes.

Under these circumstances, I have presumed to seek advice from you, reverend Sir, whose extensive knowledge and copious reading can only be equalled by your exalted piety. I know that the duties of your station require much of your time, and perhaps you do more than you are legally obliged to: but what signifies all we do in this world, so as we are engaged as rational creatures, and as pious Christians; I could wish to improve myself in

knowledge without confining myſelf as a monk to a cloiſter, and to taſte the ſweets of converſation while my rational faculties are making progreſs in ſcience. I ſhall not at preſent intrude any further on your time, but muſt beg to hear from you as ſoon as poſſibly you can. In the mean time, give my reſpects to your amiable family, and tell them, that I intend ſpending a week or two with them during the ſummer. I have ſent by the coach the neweſt pattern of ruffles for your daughter, Miſs Polly, and hope ſhe will accept of it, as a ſmall tribute of gratitude due to you. The other trifles, which you will find encloſed, are not worth the mentioning; and be aſſured, that wherever I am,

I am ſincerely yours,

R. B.

LETTER XXV.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

My dear Sir,

I Received your letter, and would have anſwered it ſooner, but there were ſo many perſons ſick in my pariſh, that I could not diſpenſe with attending them. It has been often ſaid, that the life of a clergyman is little better than a ſtate of idleneſs; but thoſe who do their duty, will not find it ſo. However, I ſhall not inſiſt on that ſubject at preſent; and let thoſe who abuſe the clergy, take care that they do not injure religion.—And now, Sir, with reſpect to the contents of your letter: I muſt confeſs, indeed, that there is ſomething in it too general, and yet I will endeavour to be particular in my anſwer.

I am no ſtranger to that neglect which your parents ſhewed in your education: but now, by the death of your uncle, you have the means put in your power to make a proper improvement. I am, however, much againſt your reading polemical controverſy; for, from what you have told me, I am able to tell you, that a Romiſh prieſt would be under no great difficulty to make you a convert. There is no grudge like a religious one; and, in religious con-

controversies, I am sorry to say, that truth is seldom sought after, and as seldom found. Indeed it cannot be otherwise; for the greatest part of our religious controversies are spent in abuse, scurrility, and falsehood. I would therefore have you to avoid the perusal of books on controversy as much as possible, 'till such time as your mind is so well settled in the principles of holy religion, that there can be no great fear of your being distracted. With respect to a general course of reading, it requires some consideration; but, as I have often thought of the subject, so I shall not be under much difficulty in giving you such an answer as, I hope, will prove satisfactory.

To spend some part of your time in reading the history of England, is certainly commendable; but I would by no means have you confine yourself wholly to it. The constant use of one sort of reading will, in the end, become as nauseous as living continually on one sort of victuals. We ought to read on different subjects; but that must be done with care, otherwise the mind will be led into confusion; and the person who is seeking after knowledge, will find himself like one intoxicated with liquor.

There is something extremely profitable in dividing our time properly. Thus the man of business should read little; the man of reading should have little connection with business. Your circumstances in life, by an act of Divine Providence, sets you above the necessity of attending a mercantile employment, for which you was designed; and your inclinations having led you to reading and study, I shall rejoice to give you all the assistance in my power.

When I was about your age, I spent the day in the following manner. Having addressed myself to the Divine Being, I read at least two chapters in the sacred Scriptures, with some practical commentaries upon them. Breakfast being over, I spent the forenoon in perusing history, which enlarged my mind, and made me acquainted with the ways of this lower world. Leaving my study, I walked about two hours into the fields, and then returned to dinner, where I enjoyed the company of my friends, who with me partook of our Maker's bounty. The cheerful glass was circulated, innocence reigned in every heart, and useful

knowledge was diffused: but I must reserve the remainder 'till my next. In the mean time,

I am, Sir, sincerely yours,

B. S.

LETTER XXVI.

From the Same to the Same.

My dear Sir,

I Told you in my last, how I spent my time during the former part of the day, and now I must tell you how I concluded it.

After dinner I returned to my closet, and read some of the best authors on natural law, and compared what those authors said with the municipal laws of my country. Towards evening, the mind being fatigued, I perused one or other of the most agreeable poets; after which, when the weather would permit, I walked into the fields. At supper our conversation turned upon serious subjects, and the whole was closed by recommending ourselves to the protection of the Divine Being. But although I have mentioned these things to you, yet you must only consider them as leading principles: because a variety of reading is often necessary, for which no rules can be laid down. There is not a man in the world who can comprehend every branch of human science; his knowledge is too much circumscribed, and his passions too much engaged in the pursuit of secular affairs, to attend to every thing he reads.

The human mind fluctuates so much between doubtful and experimental knowledge, that it is surprising we know any thing. Our memories are frail; our understandings contracted. This the ancients well knew; but happily the moderns are in some measure, released by the assistance of grammars and lexicons. Lexicons, or, as they are commonly called, Dictionaries, contain an universal system of learning; but then they are only to be consulted in the ordinary course of reading. To be continually reading, without a memorial assistance, must be extremely disagreeable; and therefore it becomes necessary for us to have some systems drawn up,

up, in order to conduct us through the labyrinth. Where such systems are conducted with judgment and learning, by men of understanding, then they become useful to the community at large. There are many terms of art but little understood, and therefore we are often under the necessity of having recourse to Dictionaries for an explanation.

But there are some other parts of learning which I would have you, by all means, to attend to; I mean, the history of the Romans, and that of the church of Christ. The first will present you with a view of some of the most stupendous truths that ever took place on the theatre of this lower world. Here you will be presented with the account of an obscure band of robbers, first trampling upon every moral obligation, and then rising to such a state of grandeur, as to boast, that the sun rose and set in their dominions. You will find the basest vices considered as virtues by the Romans, and even Providence itself making use of those vices to establish an everlasting kingdom,—an everlasting church.

In the second, you will find a most beautiful commentary on those words in the Pentateuch, *The bush burneth, and is not consumed.* The distinguishing lustre of Divine Providence will display itself to your view, under every occurrence, in the history of the Christian church. You will read, you will admire, you will improve. Wishing sincerely that God may preserve you in a way of duty, I shall only add, that I am,

Dear Sir, your ever affectionate friend,

B. S.

LETTER XXVII.

From a young Tradesman in London, to an aged Person in the Country, retired from Business.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of two years since I entered into business in the Strand, but I have not met with the success I expected. Disappointments have discouraged me much; but willing to promote my interest, I have engaged

in another branch of business, I mean the building-trade, which requires no attendance, the whole being conducted by other persons, so that I can still attend my shop. But I am often much put to it for money, and that is the reason why I trouble you with this. A fair prospect presents itself, if I could go through with my present undertakings; and I am no stranger to your goodness of heart. I have several houses almost finished, and, 'till they are completed, I would mortgage them to you for two thousand pounds. That sum would enable me to acquire a considerable fortune, and you would be in no danger of losing. I would allow you five *per cent.* with a considerable premium; and some of my friends would willingly enter into a joint bond with me for the payment, which shall be made good as soon as I have disposed of the houses. I can assure you, Sir, that great fortunes have been made by the buildings carried on near London; and I hope that my present application will not give offence, for nothing of that sort was intended.

About a month ago my wife was delivered of a boy, whom I have named after you, and next summer she intends visiting you along with her son. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience: and, in the mean time, I am, with all manner of respect,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS HOLMES.

LETTER XXVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Received your letter, and am extremely sorry for the contents, which I look upon as the visions of a madman. Pray, Sir, what do you mean? what do you propose to yourself, by leaving the business to which you was brought up, and to enter into one with which you are utterly unacquainted? Vain, indeed, are your hopes; and, in the end, you will find yourself disappointed. I had once some hopes you would have conducted yourself as a young man of industry, but your present proposal put me in mind of the

the old proverb, *All covet; all lose.* To grasp immoderately at riches, is generally a prelude to poverty; and I have often found the man who was anxious to acquire a fortune in a few years, spend twenty years in a prison, and die forsaken, despised, and miserable. I was above forty years in trade, and when I retired from business I found myself not worth half so much as was reported. It was enough that I had as much as would support me in my old age, and to leave the remainder to my poor relations. Trade, my dear Sir, is a plant that must be reared with tenderness, and nothing less than patience can bring it to a state of maturity. Our time in this life is short, and if we acquire riches in an honest manner, be assured they will not be great. For my own part, I consider you as an object of compassion, nor would I be in your case for the world. How distracted must your mind be, while fluctuating in the condition you have represented to me. You have been building castles in the air, and unless you desist from your present pursuits, you will either become a beggar, or, perhaps (shocking to mention) commit a crime that will involve your family in misery, and stigmatize your name with infamy.

You ask me to lend you money upon a mortgage of your houses. Let me beg, Sir, you will take a walk to the Fleet, or the King's-Bench prisons, and there you will find as many builders as there are windows in your houses. No, Sir; I am neither a tyrant nor a knight-errant. I am willing to assist you with money in conducting your own business; but I have nothing to do with your romantic scheme. I consider the men with whom you are engaged as desperate adventurers, who probably will bring ruin upon you without injuring themselves; because they have neither money nor characters to lose. Do you love your wife? would you desire to discharge your duty to your family? Break off your present connections, and you will find me a faithful friend. All I have written is with a view to promote your interest, and let me beg you will pay some regard to my advice. You will, in the end, find what I have said to be true. I shall ever be ready to serve you as long as I live; but may God Almighty give

you better instruction than I can. I shall be in London in a few weeks, and then I shall have an opportunity of enquiring into your affairs.

I am, Sir, your sincere friend,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

LETTER XXIX.

From a young Tradesman, newly set up in Business, to a Ladies Maid in the Country.

Dear Miss Betsy,

BEFORE you left London, you promised that you would never give your hand to another 'till you first acquainted me with your intention: I must still continue to solicit the hand of that dear angel, who is in possession of my heart. My father has given me fifteen hundred pounds to set up in business, and, as I am well settled, I only want your love, and yourself to make me happy. Remember, I do not accuse you with the breach of any promise, because you never yet gave me your consent; but your amiable disposition gave me reason to hope you would not be cruel. Your ever honoured and worthy parents have always treated me with the utmost respect, although I never presumed to beg of them to intercede with you in my favour. My affections were freely placed on you, being drawn by the force of your merits, your piety and virtue. I know you have a soul superior to any thing mean; but I hope, if you have the least regard for the sincerity of my intentions, you will accept of a few trifles which I have sent by the coach.

My mother has been long in a bad state of health; but both she and my father desired to be remembered to you, and are glad to hear your family are coming to town; and I can assure you, if permitted, they will wait on your lady to procure you one week's absence. I am all impatience to see you; but, in the mean time, hope you will honour me with a letter.

I am, my dear angel,

Your sincere lover,

JOSEPH ATKINS.

LETTER

LETTER XXX.

The young Woman's Answer.

SIR,

A Violent cold, and a multiplicity of business, prevented me from answering your letter sooner; but now having obtained an hour's leisure, I shall devote it to that purpose. You know, that when we first became acquainted, we were both too young to think of any such thing as marriage; and although a friendship took place, yet I knew my station in life to be much inferior to yours, and this determined me to be upon my guard. Unequal matches are seldom happy ones, and disgust often takes place where affluence and poverty are connected in marriage.

With respect to worldly poverty, my parents are poor, but they are rich in good works to me: a sort of treasure they take much pleasure in, but it will neither go to the Bank or the Exchange. I shall always respect you for the professions you have made, and I doubt not of your sincerity, but still I have many objections. I am afraid, the want of fortune on my part may deprive me of that happiness which I should wish to enjoy in the marriage state. The great uncertainty and many dangers attending trade, appear to be dreadful. Supposing, that either by misfortunes, by losses, or by extravagance, you should become a bankrupt, then I must be reduced to a state of poverty, just at a time when I was in hopes of living comfortably. Let me therefore beg you will look out for some other person more proper than myself, and may every blessing attend one whom I wish well.

ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER XXXI.

From the young Tradesman in Reply.

Dear Miss Betsy,

IF I respected you before, you have now completed the conquest by your prudential letter, which contains so many wise remarks, that I hope I shall never suffer them to depart from my memory. But why, my dear, all your fears? Is not my love of your person, without looking

 so-

for a fortune, proof of my ſincerity and of your merit? But why do I talk of fortune? The beauties of your mind are greater than all my poor paltry trifle; and whatever reſpect I am bound to have for my parents, yet, I freely acknowledge, that good works are preferable to all their riches. And why, my dear, ſo many fears, ſuch anxiety concerning poverty? Becauſe a few, and indeed too many tradeſmen, bring miſery upon themſelves by their extravagance, and neglect of buſineſs? Why, I ſay, muſt a body of uſeful men be condemned? Upon mature reflection you will think otherwiſe. Let us but attend to our duty, and leave the reſt to Divine Providence. The fatal misfortune attending tradeſmen, is their ſeeking to be rich too ſoon: and while they graſp at ſhadows, they looſe the ſubſtance. For my own part, I am determined not to ſeek riches, but to be content with an honeſt ſubſiſtence as the fruits of my induſtry: if I get any more, you will be always conſulted in what manner to lay it out. Acting in this manner, you have no reaſon to be afraid; for whatever ſtate we are in here below, there is no certainty of real happineſs. Let me therefore beg you will make me eaſy, by complying with my requeſt when you come to town.

I am your ſincere lover,

JOSEPH ATKINS.

LETTER XXXII.

From the young Woman's Father to his Daughter.

Dear Child,

EVER ſince you went into the country, Mr. Atkins has been frequent in his viſits to us, and the more I converſe with him, the greater reaſon I have to eſteem him as a worthy deſerving young tradeſman. You have often told me, you would never marry without my conſent; in that you may do as you pleaſe, for I ſhall never lay reſtrictions upon you; I am ready to adviſe, but muſt not direct. You are now arrived at years of maturity, and it is natural you ſhould enter into the marriage ſtate, eſpecially if an agreeable offer preſents itſelf; and where, my dear, can you meet with a more agreeable perſon than Mr. Atkins? His family is reſpectable, he is induſtrious, and, in my opinion,

pinion, bids fair to be prosperous. Not that I would ever promise too much on any thing human; but, putting all the circumstances together, I think you cannot do better than give him your hand and heart. You know I love you, and I am certain he is worthy of you. I shall, however, leave that to yourself, nor should I have troubled you with this, had I not believed it for your advantage. Your mother is greatly recovered from her late illness, and longs earnestly to see you, which we hope will be about the beginning of next month. In the mean time I would have you to write to Mr. Atkins, for he calls here every evening.

I am your ever affectionate father,

WILLIAM BARTON.

LETTER XXXIII.

The young Woman's Answer to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Was on a visit with my lady when yours arrived, so that I had not an opportunity of answering it 'till this evening. Blessed be God that my dearest mother is better, let me beg she will take care of herself in this cold season, for a relapse is more to be feared than the beginning of any disorder whatever. With respect to Mr. Atkins, I am no stranger to his many valuable qualities; but still I think he proposes marriage rather too soon, for he has not been above six months in business. Indeed, when I think of his proposal, my mind is often filled with a number of perplexities, and I struggle between love, fear, interest, and duty. You seem to approve of his suit, and as I know you would not do so, but with a view of promoting my interest, so I dare not disobey you. But you must still let my conduct in this, and in every respect, be regulated by your commands, which to me are very sacred. We intend being in town on next Saturday se'nnight; but I have written this evening to Mr. Atkins, and as my letter to him contains nothing secret; you may desire him to let you peruse it. 'I have sent some trifles to my dear mother, and present her with my duty.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your ever dutiful daughter,

ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

From Miss Barton to Mr. Atkins.

SIR,

I Received yours, with another from my father, and am glad to hear that you often visit my poor parents. Indeed, that is one of the greatest comforts I enjoy; for I believe they have lived to survive many pretended friends. And now, Sir, I must freely tell you, that your person was never disagreeable to me, nor have I any just reason to find fault with your conduct. I received your generous present, and must acknowledge it was far superior to any thing I could have expected. Your proposal is honourable, and your professions have all the marks of sincerity. I never had any objection to the marriage state, further than that of being afraid of rushing into it too precipitately. Hasty marriage is speedy vengeance; but I hope that will never be the case either with you or my self. What you have said concerning trade, is undoubtedly true, and so is what you mention relating to happiness. Be assured, Sir, that I do not look for uninterrupted happiness in this world; if I did, I should have no higher views; but still this world must not be neglected while we are in it. Industry enables us to live honestly, to support our families, aud to relieve the wants of the poor. The extravagant person, instead of having any thing to give, wastes the substance of others; the virtuous industrious man, has an open hand and a generous heart. I have only to add, that I shall not for the future start any new objections; but, trusting to the Providence of a good and gracious God to direct me, freely consent to be yours. But remember never to expect more from me, than from any other woman. I am sensible of many weaknesses; my temper may not be at all times the same; but it is the glory of your sex to sympathize with us. I shall mention your proposal to my lady, for I cannot leave her 'till she is provided with another in my room. If you are at my father's on Monday se'ennight, you will have some reason to expect me there; and, in the mean time,

I am sincerely yours,
ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

From a Sailor, just arrived at Portsmouth from the East-Indies, to his Sweetheart at Wapping.

Dear Bett,

THIS will inform you, that we are safe arrived at Portsmouth, after a tedious passage of six months: but the best of all is, we have taken a prize, and I shall have four hundred pounds to receive, besides my wages. Ah! Bett, what a lady you will be! I intend to take a public-house in Wapping, and you will be the landlady. Much money may be picked up: and, when we have got enough, we will retire from business, and live in the country. Jack Capstan, whom you once loved, had his head knocked off, during the engagement; and Tom Forecastle, another of your sweethearts, was washed overboard. Let them go, and happy for me they are gone, because I shall now enjoy my dear Bett. I have a large assortment of china, a fine silk gown, and twenty yaads of muslin, which I will lay in your lap. Oh! how I long to see Wapping; and, I can assure you, that I will never be unfaithful. Not one of the girls in Wapping shall lead my affections off from my Bett; neither a high head, nor a flounced petticoat, shall ever tempt me. Let me beg you will meet me at the sign of the Ship, at Gravesend; where I will take you on board, and bring you safe to Deptford. I shall be only a few days on board; and, as for the Custom-house officers, we shall fill them with liquor, and then we can get our property on shore. Do, Betty, love me, and I will make you a good husband.

I am, your honest tar,

THOMAS TARPAWLING.

LETTER XXXVI.

From a young Gentleman at the University, to a Clergyman in the Country.

Reverend Sir,

THE care you took of my education, when I was under your tuition, must ever be acknowledged with gratitude;

gratitude; and, I can assure you, that the direction you gave me from time to time, since I removed to the university, have been of great service to me, I am indebted to you; but, like a losing gamester, I must continue venturing, 'till I have staked my last guinea, and perhaps at last become insolvent: however, if this should be the case, then I must take the benefit of the next act for the relief of poor debtors.—The truth is, I was last night in company with some gentlemen, and the subject turned on the nature of toleration, so far as religious sentiments were entitled to that privilege. For my own part, I had not considered the subject; the freedom we enjoy in this kingdom seemed to render it unnecessary, and I thought that every man should be permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. To this it was objected, by some persons present, that there were opinions which ought not to be tolerated, because they disturbed the peace of society. Instances were brought from the Old Testament in support of the doctrine, and the arguments seemed to be unanswerable, unless I could reject the whole of divine revelation.—To all the favours you have already conferred on me, let me beg you will add this one more; namely, to point out the nature of toleration; how far it is consistent with civil society; whether Christians, agreeable to the nature of their profession, can ever become intolerent; what has been the state of toleration under the Old and New Testament dispensation; and how far intolerance is inconsistent with the rights of private judgment. Your worth is great, your learning is universal, and your benevolence is so extensive, that I cannot doubt of receiving an answer.

I am, reverend Sir, yours sincerely,

THOMAS MALPAS.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My dear Sir,

CHRISTIANITY knows nothing of toleration; for it is contrary to its spirit to claim worldly power, and

toleration

toleration cannot be granted where power is wanting. The Jews never tolerated the practice of any religion differing from their own; but this was owing to two causes. First, they were a peculiar people, different in their manners, customs, and religious ceremonies, from all the rest of the world. They were made acquainted with the knowledge of the true God, while the heathen nations around them were sunk into the grossest idolatry. Secondly, the Jews were not permitted to suffer strangers to reside among them, unless they complied with their established form of religion; and even to this day the Jews retain the same intolerant spirit, and probably would put it in practice, were they not restrained by the civil power of those nations through which they are scattered abroad in the world.

The heathen Romans, when they conquered a great part of the world, made no alteration in the established forms of religion, but suffered the people, whom they had subdued, to retain their ancient rites and ceremonies.

From what we read in the New Testament, it does not appear that ever the Romans established a place of worship, according to the forms of heathen idolatry, among the Jews, and yet they did so in all the heathen nations. The reason is obvious; the Romans, and those whom they, from motives of pride, called barbarians, were equally idolators, nor did they much regard what idols they worshipped; but the Jews worshipped the one true God, and the Romans were such profound politicians, that they preferred the enjoyment of the taxes, to that of overturning the established religion.

But here it will be objected; why did the Romans persecute, even to death, many thousands of the primitive Christians? Upon a strict enquiry, it will perhaps be found, that none of the primitive Christians were persecuted merely on account of religion, but rather from motives of state policy.

Your humble servant,

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER XXXVIII.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

WHEN Christianity was first promulgated, the Jews, at that time spread through many parts of the Roman empire, were in hopes that a most glorious person was to make his appearance in the world, who, by his power, was to subdue all their enemies; but finding that the humility of Christ did not answer their expectations, they became most bitter enemies to all those who embraced his doctrine. The Christians, while they obeyed the Roman Emperors in all things of a temporal nature, acknowledged Christ to be their King. The purity of their doctrines, the simplicity of their manners, and their extensive charity, alarmed the heathen priests, who had, for many years, deceived mankind; and all the Jews were exasperated against them, because they acknowledged the authenticity of the law of Moses, but refused to comply with the levitical ceremonies, which they considered as abolished by the death of Christ.

The heathen priests represented the Christians as a dangerous set of people, whose design was to overturn the established religion; and the Jews accused them as a body of people guilty of high treason, in acknowledging Christ to be their King. Under these circumstances the Christians were falsely accused and often cruelly persecuted, but perhaps with less severity than what is contained in the accounts transmitted to us.

Mankind are fond of novelty, and therefore there is great reason to believe that when Christianity first made its appearance, many pretended to embrace it who were ignorant of its principles, and unacquainted with God's design in sending a Saviour into the world. It will not admit of a doubt, that such unprincipled converts, mistaking the nature and tendency of the Christian religion, would be guilty of some gross excesses; such as affronting the Pagans in their solemn acts of worship, and perhaps speaking disrespectfully of the emperors. These things, however, have been, in a great measure, concealed from us; for it must be acknowledged,

acknowledged, that the primitive ecclesiastical writers have destroyed the works of the Heathens, preserving only such passages as seemed most suitable to their purpose; a way of proceeding as scandalous, as any thing ever practised by the Papists. This part of the conduct of those, vulgarly called the primitive fathers, leads me to doubt the truth of many things they have written. Do I glory in having answered my antagonist? Let me first deliver his arguments to the publice. To act otherwise, is similar to that of traducing the character of a man, who is not present to vindicate his own conduct. It is acting the part of a backbiter, to establish our own importance at the expence of truth. He that is engaged in a good cause, need not be ashamed of his adversary.

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER XXXIX.

In Continuation.

Dear Sir;

BUT let us now enquire how the Christians acted when they enjoyed the protections of the civil power. Did they act consistent with the genius of that religion which they professed? No: The man of sin was beginning to make his appearance. Constantine would have acted the part of a generous prince, had he only granted a toleration to the Christians; but from motives of policy, he made their religion the established one of the empire, and proscribed all those who adhered to the ancient rites and ceremonies. The Christian bishops, having acquired power, made a bad use of it indeed: they ridiculed the heathen superstition; they treated the Jews as though they were mere Heathens; and, with respect to their own brethren who differed from them in religious sentiments, they persecuted them with the most unrelenting cruelty.

From that time, 'till many ages after, persecution became an article of the Popish creed, but never that of a real Christian: no; a real Christian cannot persecute; but it was the practice of designing priests, who, in order to aggrandize themselves and enrich their families, endeavoured

to murder one half of the human species, while they kept the other half in a state of ignorance.

The state of the world, during many centuries, contributed greatly towards establishing clerical power. Toleration was not granted, and in any of the nations where Popery was publicly professed, those who opposed the most idle, insignificant, ridiculous ceremonies, were immediately put to death. It is true, that no statute for burning Protestants ever took place in England 'till 1405; in the reign of Henry IV. But, notwithstanding there being no law for that purpose before that time, yet the priests supplied the deficiency.

In 1157, during the reign of Henry II. some Germans came over to England, who professed a belief in sentiments contrary to those embraced by the generality of the people. These persons, about thirty in number, were summoned before a convocation of Popish priests at Oxford, where they were publicly excommunicated, and every person having been prohibited from giving them the least assistance, they all perished for want in the fields.

When we look back to the times of the reformation, we naturally expect to hear that those, who had been persecuted for their religious opinions, would never have become persecutors themselves: but, as the great and good Dr. Secker says, "The old leaven of persecution was not soon "forgot, 'till the spirit of genuine Christianity banished "it out of the nation, and enlarged the minds of men with "useful knowledge."

Let us, therefore, bless the Almighty that we live under a government, where every man is permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience, so as he gives no offence to the peace of his neighbours. Our holy religion, like its Divine Author, is all purity, benevolence, and mercy; and as primitive Christianity was propagated in the world, by the purity of the lives of its professors, their integrity and innocent manners, so let us follow their example, and convince the infidel world, that we are the true disciples of Jesus Christ.

I am, dear Sir, your sincere friend,

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER

LETTER XL.

From a Lieutenant in the Army to a young Lady, the Sole Heiress of a Nobleman.

Dear Lady Barbara,

THE precipitate manner in which our regiment was hurried away from Northampton, prevented me from opening to you the dictates of an honest heart; but the pen must supply the deficiency of words. That I have been long enamoured of your many amiable accomplishments, there can be no reason to doubt; and although your elevated rank in life, prevented me from making a declaration of my passion, yet my sentiments were still the same; there could be no change in my love; my affections were unalterably fixed; and your person, your mental accomplishments, all conspiring together, formed the beloved object. I know that your noble father will never consent to our union; but madam, let me beg you will only consider, that although I am not a nobleman's son, yet my father is descended from an honourable family; and I myself, as a gentleman and a soldier, have the honour to carry the King's-commission.

I have this, however, to say, that a noble generous mind cannot be confined down to forms; natural rights are the same in all ages and nations; nor can the laws of any country set those rights aside. It was never my intention to make you unhappy, by marrying in an imprudent manner; but I cannot help thinking that my paternal estate, joined to my commission, will be sufficient for both of us. Not that I would desire my dear Lady Barbara to accompany me to the field of battle: God forbid! all that I desire is, that you will let me remain in possession of your heart; I say remain in possession, for, from the whole of your conduct, and your amiable behaviour, I cannot help thinking, there was a time when I was not disagreeable. I will cheerfully submit to all the fatigues of a campaign, upon condition you will give me your promise to be mine; and I shall expect your answer directed to me at Southampton.

I am, dear Madam,

Your most devoted humble servant,

EDWARD GOULD.

LETTER XLI.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Received your letter, and must freely acknowledge, that it has been attended with shocking circumstances to me.—To say that I have not some regard for you, would be to tell a most horrid falsehood; to say that I prefer you to all others, would be inconsistent with female modesty. To disobey my parents, shocks me much; and yet, where I have given my heart I must bestow my hand. To marry at the opening of a campaign, might make me for ever a miserable widow; and yet I love, and I would be both dutiful and honourable; dutiful to my parents, and honourable to the man who has placed his affections upon me. But you are going to engage in battle, against the enemies of your country: well, Sir; and what will support you under all the fatigues of a campaign? Will fashionable follies answer such valuable purposes? No, Sir, they will not.

The corruption of humanity, the vices of men, the unbounded desire of acquiring power, and the insatiable thirst for vain honours, have made war, in some manner, necessary; and yet, the man of humanity will conduct himself with tenderness. Does the injured rights of your country require your assistance? remember it is your duty to comply. Are you to be preferred to a high command in the army? remember that you must command men as good as yourself. God abhors cruelty, and severe will be the account you must make, if you treat those brave men with cruelty, who are venturing their lives in defence of their country. You may rise to a high command in the army; but remember that virtue will raise you much higher. You have all my good wishes; and be assured, I never will give my hand to any one, 'till such time as I find you are not worthy of a place in my heart.

I am, &c.

BARBARA YELVERTON.

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

From a young Woman in the Country to her Father in London.

Honoured Sir,

I HAVE been now about twelve months in this place, and 'till now I concealed my real situation from you, in hopes it would one day be better; but quite the reverse has taken place. During the first month I was here, Mrs. Flavell treated me with tenderness; but she is fond of new faces, and, now that I begin to grow old in her service, she finds fault with every thing, although I never complain. You are my father, and it is my duty to tell you the truth: I am much better in health than formerly; and thanks to God and to you, I can get my living any where, so that I have no reason to stay here any longer unless you desire it, and your will shall always be a law to me. Not that I want to leave this place; but you will perhaps be surprised to hear, that in the compass of a few months I have almost promoted the education of two young ladies, who were little better than reprobates, when I first took them under my care. I think that the most proper method for my future plan of life, would be to keep a boarding-school; and you know I am, through your indulgence, in some measure qualified for it. I am not averse to depend on the will of others; but I hope you will coincide with me, that it is my duty to make my circumstances in this life as agreeable as possible; that, however, cannot be done while I remain here, and, therefore, I hope you will have no objection to my coming to London. In all things I will be directed by you, and I hope to have your answer.

I am, honoured father, your dutiful daughter,

ELIZABETH ARNOT.

LETTER XLIII.

The Father's Answer.

My Dear,

TO be precipitate in any thing, is the sure sign of a weak mind; to act with prudence will ever entitle

you to respect. Your reasons for leaving your place are to me satisfactory, but I could wish you would do it with honour; I mean, that you would give your lady proper notice, that she might procure another teacher for her children: for my own part, I am sorry to hear of these things; but I have been deceived and so have you. But what signifies this in the common affairs of this world: we are not to depend upon the capricious will of our fellow-creatures, but we must do our duty, and leave the event to Providence: your proposal for going into a school, is in all respects agreeable to me, and the more so, as I shall probably have it in my power to assist you. Before you leave your lady, I would have you spend a few hours with her, and, in the most dispassionate manner, mention to her your reasons for coming away; taking care to act in the most delicate manner, so as not to give any offence, but to be always welcome again.

With open arms of affection will you be received by your dear parents; but let me remind you, that wherever you go you will meet with affliction. You promised yourself happiness in the place where you now are: you have been disappointed, and perhaps you may be so again. The state of human nature in this world, is such, that no happiness can take place here below; I mean real happiness, for comparative happiness may be found. And now I think I may add, that though there is no real happiness in this world, yet, let our affliction be ever so great, we seldom lose hope; God seems to have implanted that in our nature, to support us under all trials, and to make us look forward to that everlasting country, where happiness will be complete. Upon the whole, my dear, do just as you please; and if you are to remove, let it be as soon as you can, and let me know, that I may make ready to receive you in a proper manner.

I am, your affectionate father,

WILLIAM ARNOT.

LETTER

LETTER XLIV.

From a young Gentleman to a Clergyman, on the Study of History.

Rev. Sir,

IT is now some years since you taught me the Greek and Roman classics, and you know that I was always more fond of the historians than the poets. I find however, that I am no historian; for I was a few evenings ago in company with some gentlemen whose friendship I would wish to cultivate; but such is their great and extensive knowledge, that something of a superior dread rests upon my mind when I see them make their appearance. They often mention the history of England as a subject as well known as the accidence in Grammar; and the Roman history is to them as familiar as a common newspaper; they know the laws and constitutions of the different nations in Europe, and with respect to the discoveries made by the moderns in different parts of the world, they can point out the causes, and form rational conjectures concerning the consequences. Why, my dear Sir, have not I learned these things? Am I too weak to comprehend them? Or what plan of reading shall I pursue, in order to make myself as accomplished as those amiable persons? I have, perhaps, too much time to spare; but still I can assure you, that no part of that time should be spent in idleness, if you would be so good as to point out for me a plan, by which I might conduct my studies in history in an useful, becoming manner. Learning, without real knowledge, appears to me rather as a curse than a blessing; and when I find how ignorant I am of many important facts, I blush; I am ashamed, and think I have never yet learned any thing. This, however, my dear Sir, is not your fault, but my own: perhaps, had I attended more to your instructions, I should have had no occasion to ask you for this advice; but, alas! youth and prudence are seldom found united; gaieties and follies go hand in hand together, and the best of knowledge is neglected, in order to gratify our animal desires. I must, therefore, beg you will still be my friend; that you will communicate your best instructions to me; that you will point out the line of

historical

hiſtorical reading, and I can aſſure you, I ſhall abide by your advice. This is an act of charity which I dare ſay you will not deny; and be aſſured that I am,

Dear Sir, ſincerely yours,

THOMAS YOUNG.

LETTER XLV.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am by no means ſurpriſed at what you mention concerning the company with whom you have lately contracted an acquaintance. While you was under my care, all I had to do was to inſtruct you in grammar learning; for, at that time, your tender years would not admit of my pointing out to you either the beauties or the utility of hiſtory. However, that I may be your friend to the laſt, remember that my care towards promoting your intereſt, ſhall extend to you in the way of my duty as long as I live in this world. I am extremely ſorry to find that your own good ſenſe could not have pointed out to you the proper methods by which hiſtory was to be read and underſtood. This, however, is generally the caſe with young men, who think themſelves wiſe before they have learned any thing beſides the jargon of a ſchool education. We are, indeed, moſt wretched mortals; but this is no reaſon why we ſhould always continue ſo. God is the God of order, and he would have us act as beings, whoſe continual dependence is upon him, and to whom we are accountable for every exertion of our rational faculties.

With reſpect to the order in which hiſtory ſhould be read, there are ſome few books in our language, and in French, but they are ſuch wretched performances that they ſerve rather to diſguſt, than inſtruct. The ſacred hiſtory you have gone over already in your Bible; but I think you ought likewiſe to read Joſephus; who, although guilty of many errors, yet throws conſiderable light on the bible hiſtory, and continues his narration down to the deſtruction of Jeruſalem by the Romans. When you have finiſhed

Joſephus,

Josephus, you must read the history of Great-Britain and Ireland; first in a large work, and afterwards in a short compendium, containing the leading facts, which (if you read with care) will bring to your mind every occurrence. Take great care never to neglect chronology; I mean the time when facts happened. I have often lamented the ignorance of many persons in that respect, who could relate every particular in the reign of a prince, and at the same time could not tell when he lived.

From the history of England, you must proceed to that of Rome, which will serve as an introduction to the history of all the states now existing in Europe: but do not leave the subject with the removal of the seat of empire from Rome to Constantinople; you must continue it down to the middle of the fourteenth century, when the Greek empire was subdued by the Turks: If you attend properly to what you will meet with in this latter part of the history, you will easily become acquainted with every thing following after it.

I am, Sir, your sincere friend,

EDWARD TALBOT.

LETTER XLVI.

From the Same, in Continuation.

Dear Sir,

AS a relaxation from general history, it will be necessary to read biography, or the lives of eminent persons, of which I have often lamented that we have not one proper collection; some being too small, and others too large: however, you must use the best methods you can; for in biography there is much that ought to be remembered, and sometimes as much should be forgotten. In reading the lives of eminent persons, take great care to avoid being led away by partial representations. Lives are most commonly written by friends, prepossessed in favour of the party; or they are written by those who have espoused his sentiments, or approved of his conduct. In such cases, truth is seldom found; but we must make allowances for human weaknesses.

There

There is another ſpecies of hiſtory which, if you attend to, will finiſh your plan of education, and make you what you repreſent your friends to be. What I allude to, is voyages and travels, the moſt entertaining ſubjects that could be thought of; but, I am ſorry to ſay, they are ſo numerous, and that many of the authors relate things which do not ſeem to be conſiſtent with truth. When I was young, I read moſt of the voyages and travels at that time in print, but many more are now added.

Theſe I would have you to read, as a relaxation from more ſevere ſtudies; but, above all, let me beg you will conſider the proper uſe of hiſtory. And firſt, it will make you acquainted with the ſtate of human nature in all ages and nations. You will ſee, as it were, empires and ſtates riſing out of obſcurity to grandeur; and you will ſee them ſinking ſo low, as not to leave any more behind, beſides an empty name. Secondly, you will become acquainted with the civil rights of mankind, and the principles upon which government is founded. You will learn what raiſed nations to grandeur, and what promoted their ruin. You will find that thoſe perſons, whom we are apt to conſider as heroes, were only illuſtrious robbers and murderers, who trampled on the rights of their fellow-creatures in order to acquire fame. Laſtly, hiſtory, in all its different branches, will preſent you with a moſt beautiful commentary on Divine Providence. You will diſcern the hand of God conducting the affairs of this lower world, and often making the paſſions of the worſt of men ſubſervient towards promoting the good of the whole. Nay, I may add, that an attentive peruſal of hiſtory will point out to you the neceſſity of a future ſtate of rewards and puniſhments; for as vice is often triumphant in this world, and piety and virtue trampled on, ſo God, as a juſt Being, will in the end render to every man according to his works. Such, my dear Sir, are the uſes to be made of hiſtory; and if you attend to the ſubject, in the manner I have laid it down, you will be eſteemed by your acquaintance, honoured by your friends, and reconciled to all that happens in the world.

I am, dear Sir, your ſincere friend,

EDWARD TALBOT.

LETTER XLVII.

From a poor working Man, imprisoned for Debt, to his Creditor.

SIR,

I SEND this by the hands of my wife, whose afflictions exceed that of a widow; for a widow cannot have any hope of assistance from the dead, whereas the wife of a poor prisoner must both wish and hope for her husband's deliverance. Read this, Sir, and think a little of my situation: confined here within the walls of a prison, for a debt of four pounds contracted for necessaries during a long and severe illness, and obliged to lie on the boards; nor am I able to work at my trade, which you know is of such a nature, that it cannot be carried on in prison. My poor wife has almost stripped herself naked, to procure me a little support; and having a child at her breast, she cannot go out to work. Ah, Sir! Can imprisoning a man's body pay debts? No: but it may render the debtor for ever incapable of paying what he owes to his creditors. Would you, Sir, had you been under the same afflicted circumstances as I was, have considered yourself as guilty, in running into debt for a few of the necessaries of life? But supposing I had been either imprudent or extravagant, how can you repeat the Lord's Prayer in sincerity, while, instead of forgiving a fellow-creature, you are starving a whole family? I believe you will acknowledge, that you must either obtain pardon of God, or be cast out of his presence for ever. And can you expect that forgiveness, while you treat a poor family with cruelty? You are, Sir, the father of a family, and how do you know but your own children may one day suffer what I do now? Nay, how do you know what afflictions may happen to yourself before you go out of this world? God is merciful, and he loves mercy in his creatures. Let me therefore beg you will pity my poor family, and grant me a letter of licence for one year, that I may have it in my power to pay you. Here I can pay nothing, but here I may starve; nay, I am starving already; and my poor wife, with my helpless

children, are almost perishing for bread: surely you must have formed some bad opinion of me, otherwise you would never have proceeded so far. Remember what both you and myself have read in our Bibles, and surely you have not forgot the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel. Shew some compassion to an afflicted father, a disconsolate mother, and three helpless infants: set open the prison doors where I am confined, that the hearts of the afflicted may sing with joy: treat my poor wife with tenderness, and let me beg you will send me a favourable answer.

I am, Sir, with respect,

Your humble servant,

JOHN PARKS.

LETTER XLVI.

The Answer.

SIR,

I HAVE just received yours, and perused the melancholy contents with more concern than I am able to express. It was represented to me, that you was an idle drunken fellow, who neglected your family, and spent more money in alehouses than would have supported your wife and children. That was a reason why I took out a writ against you; for although I would not be guilty of an ill-natured action to any of my fellow-creatures, yet I cannot believe those are worthy of the least pity, who have not bowels of compassion to their children. To convince you, therefore, that I am not the tyrant you have represented me, I have given your wife five shillings, and shall this evening set you at liberty. As for granting you a letter of licence, it is altogether unnecessary, for it would be attended with expence; and, I am certain, you could not pay the debt in one year. You may confide in me, that if you will act as an honest man to your family, and not frequent alehouses, you will find me a friend, ready at all times to serve you. I will give you more time than you can reasonably expect, and much more than you have deserved, if report be true. Call for what you want at the

bar in the prison, and I will be with you about seven o'clock this evening.

I am, Sir, &c.

CHARLES ROBERTS.

LETTER XLIX.

From a young Man, a Carpenter, desirous of setting up in Business, to the Person with whom he served his Apprenticeship.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR tenderness to me, while I lived with you, encourages me to trouble you with this. To mention your having taught me an useful mechanical employment, is saying little, when I reflect on your care for my morals, and your regard for my interest, during the whole seven years of my apprenticeship. Virtue, however, cannot go unrewarded; and, as I am not the only instance of your benevolence, so I am fully persuaded you enjoy more peace of mind, in consequence of having done good, than thousands of those who have acquired what the world calls a fortune, at the expence of a good conscience; being wounded in the sight of God, while they were hated by their fellow-creatures. But now I come to the main purport of this letter.

Mr. Beck, for whom I have worked upwards of three years, died a few weeks ago; and having left no children in his own branch of business, every thing is to be disposed of. I am acquainted with all his customers, and they have promised to employ me, if I can only make interest sufficient to purchase his implements of workmanship, and stock in trade. That, however, is not in my power; for although I have lived extremely frugal, yet I have not saved any more than sixty pounds, which is not one fifth of the sum demanded. Credit, indeed, has been offered me for two years, but I have two objections: first, I am afraid it will not be in my power to make good the payment in that time: and secondly, I am not much in love with the executors. The truth is, they are profligates; and those who spend their own money in extravagance,

will ſhew but little pity to me, if I am reduced to a ſtate of diſtreſs: I have therefore ventured to preſent my caſe to you. Your goodneſs of heart is great, your character is eſtabliſhed, and your fame has been long ſpread abroad among the virtuous and the pious. You know I have no ſecurity to give you, beſides that of the word and handwriting of an honeſt man; and, if you will give me your advice and aſſiſtance in this affair, it ſhall ever be acknowledged with gratitude,

By, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant,

GEORGE BOOTH.

P. S. As the whole is to be ſold by auction, I ſhould be glad of your anſwer.

LETTER L.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

THREE days ago I received your letter, and would have anſwered it ſooner, but I was laid up with a ſevere fit of the gout, which alone prevented me; for you well know, that it was always my practice to anſwer letters, whether I complied with the requeſts contained in them or not. And now, my dear Sir, give me leave to paſs over all the encomiums you have beſtowed upon me; for the time for flattery is over, and nothing leſs than honeſt ſincerity will now go down with me.

There is not a ſenſible man in the world, who will blame you for endeavouring to ſettle in buſineſs; and I commend you for not putting yourſelf under the power of ſtrangers, who might, in an unguarded hour, lead you into a ſnare, and procure your ruin in this world. Alas! Sir, what ſavages are human creatures to each other! If their neighbours proſper they give them aſſiſtance; if they are unfortunate, they are trampled upon. There is an obſervation on trade, by an author in the laſt century, which has been ſince reduced into the form of a proverb; and, when I ſtate it to you in proverbial language, you will find that it corroborates the truth of what I have ſaid,

If your neighbour is going up the hill, ſet your ſhoulder

" to

"to him; if he is going down the hill, put your foot "upon him." The maxim is something more than diabolical; but, without considering it any longer, I shall proceed to write you an answer.

From what I have heard from you, I find that it will require at least five or six hundred pounds, to enable you to succeed your late master. This I am willing to lay down for you; and I have written a letter to a friend of mine, who will take your bond for the money. But I must not conclude this letter, without giving you some advice; which I hope you will not consider as improper, especially as it comes from an old man. Your business will naturally lead you into company; but, my dear Sir, never let drunkenness mark your character; never be the drunkards song. I have known a man, who had no business in company, destroy himself by drinking; and I have known a man, who had business in company, and always went home sober. In company, pay your share of the reckoning, but never go home like a beast. Keep an exact account of debtor and creditor every week: and while you speak with good manners to those who are indebted to you, never to be ashamed to put them in mind of the necessity you are under, to discharge the duty incumbent upon you to your own creditors. You will have working men under you, but never pay them at an alehouse, for this shews them a bad example; it corrupts their morals, and makes them neglect the duty they owe to God and to themselves. Upon the whole, it is my sincere desire that God may give you success, and make you an ornament to your brethren in the trade.

I am, your real friend,

SAMUEL ROBINSON.

LETTER LI.

From a young Merchant, to the Daughter of a Counsellor at Law.

My dear Miss,

THE different opportunities I have had of being in your company, your many sallies of wit and humour,

joined to the moſt unaffected modeſty, have entirely won my heart, and I am become your more than humble ſlave. You know I have been but lately ſet up in buſineſs, but the profits ariſing from the returns have exceeded my higheſt expectations. I find the ſlave trade extremely beneficial; and I doubt not, but that in a few years I ſhall acquire a conſiderable fortune. But fortune is a ſmall conſideration with me, when I reflect on your many and valuable accompliſhments. It is undoubtedly incumbent upon me to look out for a partner for life, and who can I find equal to you? Perhaps you may think I have an eye to your fortune; but, if ſo, you are much miſtaken; I never heard what it was: and although your honoured father ſhould think proper to cut you off with a ſhilling, yet that will be nothing to me. It is your merit I covet, your love I ſolicit; but your fortune, let it be ever ſo great, is beneath my notice.

And now, my dear, what objection can you have to me? Surely you cannot diſlike me on account of my being engaged in a life of trade.—Trade and commerce ſupports the intereſt, and promotes the glory of the nation. By trade and commerce the induſtrious poor are honeſtly employed, and by thoſe they acquire a comfortable ſubſiſtence. Many of the noble families in England have had their riſe from the mercantile world; and the anceſtors of ſome of our Dukes, may glory as much in their being the deſcendants of Merchants, as others can of having ſprung from illuſtrious robbers and murderers.

Conſiſtent with the nature of my buſineſs, I cannot make you a ſettlement in money; but what is much greater, I will attend to the duties of my ſtation, and, if providence ſhould ſmile upon my endeavours, you will have no reaſon to complain.—I don't deſire that any thing ſhould be tranſacted in ſecret, and therefore ſhould be extremely glad if you would ſhew this letter to your good father, who knows the affairs of this world too well, for me to give him any information.

I am, dear Miſs,

Your ſincere admirer,

THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER

LETTER LII.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and have attended to the contents with the utmost care. I have had no reason hitherto to complain of your conduct; but I must freely tell you, that some of the arguments you have made use of, to set off your own importance, rather dissuade than encourage me to enter into the marriage state.—You are a merchant; how many thousands of merchants have been bankrupts? You are concerned in the slave trade; and, let me ask you, if that is consistent either with humanity, or the law of God? Are not blacks, my dear Sir, the workmanship of the same Divine Being, who formed you and myself? In buying them, all those of your profession are the worst of thieves; in selling them, you are most cruel murderers. By the first, you discover unbounded avarice; by the second, unrelenting cruelty. By the first, you trample upon the sacred rights of the whole human race; by the second, you seek to acquire riches, which, in the end, will be accursed. And shall I, Sir, give my hand to that man, who, in order to acquire a fortune, tramples upon the rights of humanity? Can I expect the divine blessing upon a subsistence in this life, which has been acquired by iniquitous means? No, Sir: let me love affluence, let me court grandeur; but let innocence and honest industry be the means to procure them. I must further tell you, that I am no friend to mercantile life; a commission of bankruptcy would make me a beggar, and you perhaps somewhat worse. Your disinterestedness concerning my fortune, has but little weight with me: it may consist in words, but I am a stranger to your real sentiments. I am glad you have permitted me to shew your letter to my ever honoured father, and you will soon receive an answer from him. In the mean time, whatever may be my private sentiments, I shall continue to correspond with you, 'till every point is cleared up; and be assured that I am

Your well-wisher,

ELIZABETH NAREE.

LETTER

LETTER LIII.

The Counsellor's Letter to the young Merchant.

Dear Sir,

MY daughter, who was never wanting in duty to me, has just now shewn me a letter from you, on the subject of marriage. I do assure you, Sir, that is a state, which, as it is necessary for the existence of society, so no reasonable person ought to have any objection to it. I have always found, that those who despise marriage are, in most respects, men of loose characters; not acting from principle, but following the instincts of unbridled lusts, gross passions, and unlawful desires: but it is not so with me, which leads me to consider the subject-matter of your letter, and I shall do it with as much candour as possible.

I think that, as a merchant, you set too little store by money; for that emblem of riches, is the only article you have to deal in. Your business as a merchant, is not better than that of a lawyer: we seek money, and when we get it, we keep it; but what the merchant lays out to-day, he expects it will bring him much more, and thus his stock is continually fluctuating. I am afraid, that if you despise money, you will never make any great figure as a merchant; for a mercantile life is a life of care: and if you look back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, you will find many respectable names in the order of knighthood, who, by their attention to mercantile affairs, were able in advanced life to retire from business, and purchase considerable estates. For my own part, I cannot have any objection to your union with my daughter, only that I am afraid, a levity of disposition will lead you off from business, and an idle merchant is like a drone in a bee-hive. I have heard an exceeding good character of you, and I doubt not but you are deserving of it; you will therefore be so obliging as to write to me, and I will consult with my daughter concerning the affair.

I am, Sir, &c.

S. NARES.

LETTER

LETTER LIV.

The Merchant's Answer.

Honoured Sir,

WITH pleasure I received yours, and have considered what you mention with as much care as I possibly could. I am extremely glad that, like many gentlemen, you do not despise the mercantile world. I have often read, that the French and Spaniards had a strong aversion to merchandise; but I know, from experience, that they have thought better since, and at present are as fond of the sweets arising from it, as either we or the Dutch. Indeed, for my own part, I can see no other danger arising from merchandise, besides what is the common effects of Divine Providence; I mean losses at sea, or, which is perhaps still worse, the wickedness of men. The first we should submit to with resignation, trusting that God will, in some other way, make up the loss: the last we must likewise submit to, because human nature is always the same; and, I am sorry to say, that there are too many men in the world, who are utterly unacquainted with honesty, and who have no principle to pay their debts.

But your grand objection is, my despising money. Let me beg you will excuse an expression, made use of by a young man in love: for you well know, that all lovers are blind. But the truth is, the expression alluded to, so far from being unguarded, was the effect of consideration. I think, I have a sufficient capital to carry on trade, and you know it is too much the fashion to court young ladies for their fortunes. It was, therefore, from a principle of honour, that I did not desire any money; well knowing that if my merit should, in time, entitle me to any, it would not be denied. Your daughter's merits are superior to riches, and her prudence will enable me to make a proper use of what little I have. I hope therefore, the objection is removed, and that you will not obstruct my happiness, if I can obtain your daughter's consent. You will receive a closed a letter for her, in which I have explained, at

large

large, every thing contained in her's; and, if she gives me leave, I will wait on her.

I am, honoured Sir,
Your most humble servant,
THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER LV.

The Merchant's Letter to the young Lady.

Dear Miss,

I Received yours, with one from your honoured father; and, as I have written to him, you will probably see my letter. In the mean time, I am called upon by you, to answer a question relating to a subject which I have, perhaps, too little understood. It was my lot to serve my clerkship to a merchant, who had great concerns in the slave trade, by which he acquired a fortune; and, as it was so commonly practised, I never seriously considered it. I am sorry to say, that long practice, even in bad things, becomes as it were a second nature, and habits are not easily shaken off. There are, however, circumstances in life, which do more towards the reformation of the human conduct, than the best instructions that can be given. Love opens a large extended field for improvement, especially where the beloved object is virtuous. You have taught me more concerning the natural rights of my fellow creatures, than ever I knew before; and to convince you that I am a tractable scholar, I have resolved to relinquish all connections with the slave trade, as soon as I can settle my accounts with my correspondents. Be assured that I am not hard-hearted, and much less would I rejoice to see my fellow-creatures in a state of slavery. It is a happiness, I am not confined to one species of merchandise; for I am acquainted with most branches, and consequently can adhere to that which is most beneficial to the community; looking for nothing more for myself, than the just reward of my honest industry; and this is what, I think, you will never find fault with.

And now, my dear, have I not given you the utmost satisfaction? And, the Divine Being is my witness, that

sin-

ſincerity has guided my pen. Let me add further, that in my addreſſes to you, I look to nothing of a romantic nature, but could wiſh to ſpend the marriage life with the ſame pleaſure as ſome do courtſhip. A circumſtance which ſome would rejoice in, has happened to me; and although advantageous, is melancholy. My brother James died about ſix months ago in the Eaſt-Indies, and has left a conſiderable fortune; but I ſhall not turn any part of it into trade, 'till I ſee how things go on with my preſent capital. I long to hear from you, but much more to call you my own. Nothing, but the duty of my profeſſion, ſhall ſeparate me from your company; and we may be happy, if we are only agreeable.

I am, dear Miſs,

Your affectionate lover,

THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER LVI.

The young Lady's Anſwer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and ſhall begin with the latter part of it, namely, the death of your brother. I am of opinion, Sir, that you have not conſidered that ſubject with ſo much ſerioufneſs as it deſerves; but ſtill I am unable to enter into the inmoſt receſſes of the human heart. Do I love my brother? Do I wiſh for a continuance of his life? And ſhall I rejoice in the enjoyment of his fortune? I will freely acknowledge, that under ſuch circumſtances, there are commonly a variety of paſſions warring againſt each other, and it too frequently happens that avarice gets the better of compaſſion, and we forget our moſt beloved relations as ſoon as we are put in poſſeſſion of their inheritance. Be not offended, Sir, when I tell you, that the time is not far diſtant when you and myſelf will, like your brother, be conſigned to the ſilent grave; "where the wicked ceaſe from troubling, and where the "weary are at reſt." The death of your brother ſhould teach you to ſet a proper value upon all temporal enjoyments; but not like a popiſh recluſe, to neglect the duties of your ſtation.

I have

I have often thought, that those who frequently medicate on death are best prepared for it, and its terrors lose their force; the viper's sting is plucked out, in consequence of familiarity. I have no doubt, but your brother died trusting for salvation in the merits of a Divine Redeemer, so that I shall not say any thing more on the subject: for if I did not consider you as well acquainted with the first principles of the Christian religion, I should not write to you as a friend. However, I consider you as acting consistent with the principles you profess, and, therefore, I shall open my mind to you without reserve.

The letter you sent to my father is, in all respects, satisfactory; and I take it for granted, that you acted upon honourable principles: for I am no stranger to the mercenary way in which matches are commonly made up. A man may despise an attachment to riches, and yet he may make a proper use of the benefits of Divine Providence. Your resolution concerning the slave trade gives me much pleasure, and happy shall I think myself if one word written by me should be the means of putting an end to a practice contrary to the laws of humanity, and such as will ever bring down a curse upon those concerned in it. I could wish for the divine blessing; but how can I expect it while I am rioting on the spoils of my fellow-creatures? This objection being removed, I look towards your proposal of marriage, and if you continue to act in the same manner you have hitherto done, I cannot reasonably object to an union with you. Indeed I am afraid I must take you for better or worse; but 'tis a comfort, I hope I have fortitude sufficient to meet the strongest temptations. My father agrees with what you have proposed, and could wish that you would adhere to your resolution of letting your brother's money remain in the funds, 'till such time as you can fully experience the nature of trade, and then you will know the value of money, with the uses to which it ought to be applied. We expect to see you here, and perhaps I shall then have no objections against giving my hand where my heart is already placed.

I am, dear Sir, sincerely yours,

ELIZABETH NARES.

LETTER

LETTER LVII.

From a Lady to a Clergyman, on her Husband and Son being killed in battle.

Rev. Sir,

YOUR discourses from the pulpit have often instructed me in the way of my duty; by your pious instructions, I have learned to reduce the principles of my religion to practice; and your example, as a living monitor continually before me, must never be eradicated from my mind. But, alas! I am now obliged to have recourse to the fountain head; with a heart overloaded with affliction, I apply to God and to you: and will my pious pastor bear with the infirmities of a weak, a distressed woman? Yes, he will; and he will become my consolatory guide.

The last post brought me an account of the battle of Minden, where my dear husband and beloved son were both killed, fighting for the rights of their injured country. Ah, what a stroke to me! I am left without a husband, and without a child; my widowhood must be spent in sorrow; nor can any earthly enjoyments give me comfort. Ah, my dear Sir! why should we suffer for the ambition of princes? Shall families be reduced to misery? Shall parents and children be destroyed, because kings will not remain contented with those poor spots of earth which Providence has assigned them? Has my good and gracious God ordered these things? Or do they happen in consequence of the unalterable degrees of fate? I declare, I am lost in amazement when I look at the mystery of Divine Providence; and as I can only judge of causes from their effects, I am sometimes induced to become an infidel. Is God unjust? May my heart never nourish such a thought! and yet I am, on many occasions, ready to be discontented. What means shall I use, my dear Sir, to reconcile myself to the various ways of Divine Providence? My heart is agitated; but I know you will sympathize with me. It is difficult to struggle between duty and natural affections, and God knows I am but a poor feeble creature. Let me beg you will give me your advice, for no mortal ever stood

more in need of it; and whatever you say will be like balm to bleeding wounds.

I am, reverend Sir,

Your afflicted friend,

M. S.

LETTER LVIII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

Dear Madam,

YOURS was delivered at my house while, consistent with the nature of my profession, I was attending to the grave the remains of a dear departed friend. Such, my dear madam, is the state of human nature in this world, that one melancholy circumstance often follows another. Every thing is deceitful to those who place their confidence in earthly happiness; but to those who can look beyond the grave, all the troubles of this life are no more than trifles. The account you have sent me of the death of your husband and son, is certainly of a calamitous nature; but there is nothing in it strange; nothing new; it is what we must certainly expect to meet with on the stage of this lower world. "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly "upwards;" but unfortunately for us poor mortals, we seldom think of affliction 'till, like a disagreeable visitor, it meets us at our doors, or perhaps penetrates into our most secret chambers, yea, into our hearts.

I am no stranger, madam, to your unaffected piety; but I am afraid, you have not considered what the wise man says, namely, "To be humble in the day of prosperity, "and in the day of adversity to consider."

You have enjoyed many pleasing days in company with your husband; you have brought up a son, who was an honour to his country; and, fighting in defence of that injured country, both husband and son are now consigned to the silent grave. And pray, madam, what is extraordinary in all this! Has it not happened in the world before you was born? And will it not take place when you are dead? You seem to find fault with the conduct of princes,

princes, for entering into what you esteem unnecessary wars; but let me put you in mind, that we in humble life, are not capable of penetrating into the cabinets of politicians; we act as subordinate beings, and the higher affairs of government shall give us no manner of uneasiness; because many things will frequently happen that we are not able to account for, and this should reconcile us to the events of Divine Providence. You say much concerning the warring passions in your mind, but you have not said any thing concerning your resignation to the divine will. I am afraid, madam, you have long dreamed of happiness, of the most uninterrupted pleasures, without considering that the Divine Being often affects us, in order to humble us. Do you, madam, imagine that you are to live for ever? And is the life of your husband more valuable than that of another person? Many brave men have laid down their lives, in defence of the rights of their country; families have been distressed in consequence; but Providence hath often smiled on the survivors, and the children have inherited the reward of their father's virtues. You must not arraign the conduct of Divine Providence, but rest assured in your own mind, that the Judge of all the earth will do right. But I am just called away, and therefore will write again to you as soon as possible.

I am, dear madam,

Your sincere well-wisher,

M. A.

LETTER LIX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Madam,

IN my last I took notice of the outlines of yours, and now I shall endeavour to enter into the spirit of it. According to the dictates of natural religion, every human being is obliged to submit to the dispensations of Providence. This is what reason teacheth, and what humanity should comply with. Shall God act as the Sovereign of the universe, and shall we not submit to what God has

appointed? Are we to chuſe what we would have for ourſelves? Then we are the governors of the world, and God is no more than an inſignificant being. I will freely acknowledge, that natural religion is, in many reſpects, extremely dark; but ſtill, when we make a proper uſe of reaſon, we cannot be much led aſtray. Truth is of a ſacred nature, and there is no great difficulty in acquiring the knowledge of its firſt principles. But, my dear madam, I have ſomething to mention to you of greater weight, than the religion of nature; I mean, divine revelation. Human reaſon is weak, but God has provided a remedy; when we were without help, Chriſt died for the ungodly. But he not only died, he roſe again; and, in conſequence of his reſurrection and aſcenſion, he confirmed poor ſinners in the belief of immortality; he comforted them againſt the terrors of the grave. If you have the leaſt regard for the Chriſtian religion: would you wiſh well to your own ſoul; would you deſire everlaſting happineſs: then madam reſign yourſelf to God. Beloved as the objects are which have been torn from you; yet, if you put your truſt in the Divine Being, there are ſtill greater bleſſings in ſtore for you. You will, in time, enjoy tranquillity of mind, and, in eternity, everlaſting happineſs.

How happy, madam, could I perſuade you to look forward to eternity. There you will enjoy your huſband's and your ſon's company; and there you will enjoy the divine favour.

Reſignation to the divine will is a ſure ſign of humility; and, if you truſt in him, the Lord God will be your everlaſting protector. Humble yourſelf under the mighty hand of God, and he will exalt you in due time. Be not diſpleaſed with God, but look upon him as your friend. Indeed the conſolations of Chriſtianity are far ſuperior to any thing I can mention; and, forgetting relations, that will ſupport you in your old age. May theſe ſentiments make a laſting impreſſion on your mind; and be aſſured that

I am, dear madam,

Your affectionate friend,

M. A.

LETTER

LETTER LX.

From a Clergyman to a young Nobleman.

My Lord,

WITH inexpressible grief have I heard, that you have given yourself up to all manner of debauchery; that you have ruined a young woman, who might have been still virtuous, had it not been for the temptations which you threw in her way. Is it possible that the youth, whose education I superintended with so much pleasure, should now become an abandoned profligate? But I know it is true, for I have received information from those who would not deceive me. Ah! my dear lord, have you forgotten all the instructions I gave you? Yes; and what is still worse, and attended with innumerable aggravations, you have despised the law of God, and trampled on the rights of humanity. Was it for this that I carried you in my arms? that I pointed out to you, in your infant years, the amazing beauties of creation: and taught you to love God as a friend, rather than to fear him as a sovereign?

Let me beg you to call upon me, and I will not say what anger inspires, what prejudice suggests; but the effusions of the sincerest love shall be poured out upon my once beloved pupil. You must not be afraid of me, for you will neither find me an angry pedagogue, nor an imperious tyrant. I am no stranger to youthful passions, and therefore the greater lenity should be shewn: but however decency, morality, and religion, should speak more powerfully than the senses. What is man, my dear lord, if he takes counsel only from his own corrupted heart? Alas! I find within myself, the same passions which have led you astray, and which would do the same with myself, were I not directed by conscience and the fear of God. Ah! what are poor mortals, without the divine assistance? Be not afraid to wait on me; my profession, as a minister of the Gospel, teaches me to do all the good that lays in my power; and, therefore, I will leave nothing undone to restore you to your friends, and to reinstate you with tenderness in the paths of virtue. Come, my dear pupil; and,

if you will not, I will find you out wherever you are. You may think, you may project, you may act as you please; but I am determined, through the grace of God, that you shall not be lost. "There is more joy in heaven over one "sinner that repenteth, than over ninety and nine just per-"sons who need no repentance."

I am, my dear lord,

Sincerely yours,

G. G.

LETTER LXI.

From the Same to the Same.

My dear Lord,

WITH horror have I spent the last night in my bed, when I considered, that instead of your calling upon me, you actually denied to be seen, when I came to your lodgings. Am I your enemy? Have I forgot the obligations I am under to your ever honoured father? Would you have me fall upon my aged knees, and beg you will return to your duty? I will do so, if you will suffer me. I know you have a noble, generous soul, and although, for some time, you have been contaminated by vice, yet I still hope for your reformation.

Do you imagine I can find fault with you? None but hypocritical devotees take pleasure in putting themselves into a passion. Praised be God! I have read the Gospel, which should be the rule of your conduct and of mine; and, in that divine book, I learned that Christ, with open arms of compassion, received the chief of sinners. How attentive then ought we to be, not to break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoaking flax? I doubt not, but you remember Eusebius, an author whom I often recommended to your perusal in your younger years, before you had polluted your mind with the grossest impurities. That celebrated author tells us, that John, the beloved disciple of Christ, in his advanced years, reclaimed a young man from the ways of iniquity, and then left him to the care of the bishop of Ephesus. Evangelical duty obliged the holy

apostle

apostle for some time to be absent; and, upon his return, he asked the bishop, what was become of the young man? The bishop answered, that he was lost; by which he meant, that he had given himself up to loose abandoned company; that he had forsaken his God, and was sunk into all manner of impurity. Bring me a horse, said the holy apostle; and, notwithstanding his great age, he went in search of the unhappy youth, and found him along with a band of robbers in the mountains. He brought the deluded youth back to a sense of his duty, and he became an eminent preacher of the Gospel: nay, what is more, he sealed his doctrine with his blood; he was adorned with the crown of martyrdom. And do I not seek you, my lord, when all your friends have abandoned you? Nay, I will persecute you, 'till I can once more reconcile you to the paths of virtue. It is now above twenty years since I first knew you, and therefore I ought to have some ascendency over you; yea, more than those graceless companions, who have done all that lay in their power to pollute your mind, to corrupt your morals, and to make you a disgrace to human society. At this moment, tears of compassion for you flow from my eyes, and from the noblest motives; namely, religion and friendship. Come, my dear lord, and dry them up: and then my grey hairs, like those of your noble father, will go down with peace to the grave.

I am, dear lord,

Your affectionate friend,

G. G.

LETTER LXII.

The young Nobleman's Answer.

Reverend Sir,

IT was about nine o'clock last night when I received your letter; and at that time I was just waiting to attend one of those unhappy creatures who had been seduced by me (if possible) as wicked as myself. I read your letter (do not say with scorn) perhaps to be remembered for ever, because it induced me to look back to the first. Is there such

ſuch a thing as Divine Providence, to conduct the affairs of this lower world? Yes, there muſt be, or my eyes would never have been directed to my Bible, while I was meditating on unlawful pleaſure. My Bible! ah, why do I mention that ſacred book? the title to eternal inheritance, but deſpiſed by a poor unworthy wretch as I am. Yes, Sir, in the agitation of mind I laboured under, a neglected Bible preſented itſelf to my view. That book you firſt taught me to read, and would to God I had never forgotten what its precepts contain. But I have ſinned, and what ſhall I ſay unto that God, "in whom I live, move, "and have my being!" Gracious heaven! What condition is my mind in at preſent! A guilty conſcience tears me in pieces; divine mercy preſents me with a gleam of hope; one moment I look upon my ſins as unpardonable, the next I remember that Chriſt died for the ungodly. Shall I lay violent hands on myſelf, like the Romans of old? Alas! I am not the author of my own being; nor has any man any right to take that away which is not in his power to reſtore. Self-murder! Ah! my God, may I never die a Roman death. But, alas! my paſſions; how ſhall I keep them under proper reſtraint? I abhor myſelf and repent in duſt and aſhes.

Tender, indeed, are the expreſſions made uſe of by my dear tutor; but how ſhall a poor, unfortunate, infatuated prodigal, reduce them to practice? Difficult as that talk may be, I will endeavour to comply with your injunctions. The grace of God will direct me: but I have trampled upon his grace. My dear Sir, is there ſuch a place as hell? Yes, there is, for I have hell in my boſom. Ah! where ſhall I fly from myſelf? Ruined innocence! afflicted parent! deſpairing youth, and ſinking old age, all conſpire againſt me, and call aloud for the divine vengeance! If ever you had the leaſt regard for me, let me beg you will call upon me once more: and, I can aſſure you, you will not be denied. Indeed you would never have been denied, but for guilt. Guilt creates ſin, and thus doth Satan reward his vaſſals. I will be implicitly obedient; I will, if poſſible, perform what you preſcribe. May God

direct

dict your pen, and may humanity take place in your mind.

I am, reverend Sir,
Your penitential and affectionate friend,
L.

LETTER LXIII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My Dear Lord,

REfreshing as a shower of rain descends upon the parched ground, during the sultry month of July; cheerful as it is for the merchant to find that his ship, reported to have been lost, has got safe into the harbour; and comforting for a parent to hear of his prodigal son, returning to his duty: such was your letter to me. Was I ever your enemy? Heaven forbid: but now your repentance, which I hope is sincere, will comfort my declining years, and make the winter of age resemble the beauties of summer.

You desire me to point out to you the line of duty, consistent with your present circumstances, as the effect of your former conduct. My advice! Yes; and my advice shall be given with the same sincerity as if I were to appear the next moment before the tribunal of that unerring being, who will do justice to all the children of men.

You have detached yourself from those companions who first seduced you from the paths of virtue; but you must pity, not hate them: nay, the moment you find that any of them become sensible of their folly, you must point out to them those pleasures which arise from sincere and genuine repentance. Spend two or three hours every day, in reading books on moral, divine, and entertaining subjects; for, unless you mix these together, you will be apt to acquire a melancholy habit; and religion, the most pleasant thing in the world, will create disgust, and your best efforts will be rendered ineffectual. Take an exact survey of your state, and pay off your debts as soon as possible; and this you ought to do, that you may have it in your power to be generous. When these debts are paid off, let

me beg you will then give ſomething to relieve the neceſſities of the poor; and, for God's ſake, never ſhut your hand, where you ſee an apparent object of diſtreſs. You have ſeduced a young woman; let me beg you will ſettle an annuity on her, to enable her to live above proſtitution. This is a duty you owe to God, to your conſcience, to the community at large, and to the injured woman. The blood of Chriſt cleanſeth from all impurities; but, that we may become worthy of that ineſtimable bleſſing, we muſt exert our utmoſt efforts, in making atonement for our former faults. Spend ſome hours every day, in cheerful company; but always take care that no expreſſion is made uſe of, by which religion is defamed, or the name of God wantonly traduced. When this happens, withdraw quietly, and ſay nothing. The repetition of blaſphemous or indecent expreſſions, wears off from the mind all regard for God and his law; and ſuch is the corrupted ſtate of human nature, that the poiſon is inſenſibly drunk in, and poor mortals are ruined, before they ſo much as know that their conduct leads them towards a dangerous precipice. Well might the Pſalmiſt ſay, "Lord what is man, that "thou art mindful of him!"

It is long ſince you turned your back upon divine ordinances; to publick worſhip you have been a ſtranger: will you take the advice of one, who firſt taught you there was a God, and that you had an immortal ſoul? Yes, I think you will, and it ſhall be in the words of the prophet; "Return "and ſeek the Lord, until he come and rain down righteouſneſs upon you." A regular attendance upon public worſhip, nouriſheth the fear of God in the ſoul; and the more we attend to it, the greater pleaſure do we take in religious duties. Be tender and compaſſionate to your tenants; always remembering, that let your ſtation in this world be ever ſo elevated, yet you are ſtill the ſervant of God: he exacts ſpecial obedience from you, and he will reward or puniſh you, according to your actions. Upon the whole, if you attend to what I have ſaid, you will find the truth of thoſe emphatical expreſſions, "Wiſdom's ways "are ways of pleaſantneſs, and all her paths are peace."

I am, my dear lord, with great ſincerity,

Your affectionate friend, G. G.

LETTER LXIV.

From a Merchant retired from Business to a Clergyman.

On RELIGION.

Rev. Sir,

IT is long since I wished to have it in my power to retire from business; but the entanglements of trade, joined to the earnest desire I always had to leave the world with a fair character, kept me confined to the compting-house, to Lloyd's, and to the Exchange, 'till the sixtieth year of my age. I have been now about six months in the country, and although I have constantly attended public worship, yet I am afraid my heart is often absent; I worship God in words, while, I doubt, my affections are not fixed upon him, as a Being of infinite benevolence, able to supply all my wants. I am sorry to say, that beautiful as the country appears, yet I have been so long accustomed to London, that I often wish to return. But what can I do in the place of which I took a formal leave? And, perhaps, you will say, that it is much more proper that I should be looking forward to eternity, and preparing myself for the enjoyment of everlasting happiness, in the presence of my God and my Redeemer.

Alas, Sir! how shocking it is to be confined many years to business! It leads us to God and eternity; and we enter, in old age, upon the practice of religious duties with reluctance and discontent. Why those jarring passions in the mind of a poor mortal? Is there no contentment in this life? Can nothing reconcile us to those circumstances in which Providence has placed us? Possibly there is; but I must trust to your directions, and, as I have always experienced your friendship, I hope you will assist me on the present occasion; and let me beg you will let me hear from you as soon as possible.

I am, reverend Sir,

Your sincere friend,

T. B.

LETTER LXV.

The Clergyman's Answer.

SIR,

RELIGION does not consist in wearing a black, a brown, a white, or a scarlet habit. The utmost recesses of a cloister cannot change the human passions. Merchandise, if conducted in a proper manner, can never lead the mind from the practice of virtue; nor can solitude alone make us happy, unless we retire with suitable dispositions. I am afraid you have spent your best days in the pursuit of trifles, and now you offer to God the remains of a decayed constitution, and a weakened mind. The meaning is this; you have spent youth and manhood to acquire money in the busy world, and when you could enjoy the pleasures of life no longer, you retired to the country to offer the shattered remains to God. Is this an acceptable sacrifice? No, my dear Sir; and let me tell you in sincerity, that I am not in the least surprised that you should find no happiness in the country. God is every where present, and he will dwell with the meek and lowly in heart. You must either bring your mind down to your present situation or you must embrace a situation suitable to your mind: the first may be a hard task; the second may be easily complied with, but as it will rather be considered as improper for you to return to a life of trade, I shall presume to give you what advice I can, and you may depend on it, that what I write shall be dictated by an honest heart, which wishes well to your interest.

Walk much into the fields, and reflect on the wisdom and goodness of that Divine Being, who gave life to inanimate matter; who clothes universal nature with unexampled grandeur; who sent his son to die for sinners; and who daily bears with our provocations. Look back to the mercantile world as a state in which you have wasted much time; examine your heart, whether you have ever done injury to your neighbours: and if so, make a full recompence. Spend one hour every day in reading books of devotion, and another in such as will enliven your mind.

mind. Do not confine yourself much to your closet, but rather court social friendship and agreeable company. Look forward to eternity, but still consider, that God looks upon it as highly criminal in any one to consider religion as of a disagreeable nature. Those who love God, will wish to be in his company as soon as possible, but they will wait with patience his appointed time. Be innocent; be virtuous; be pious; be cheerful, my dear friend, and you will be happy.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

C. D.

LETTER LXVI.

From a Lady in the Country to her Niece in London.

Dear Sophia,

I Received yours a few days ago, and should have been extremely happy had not what you solemnly asserted turned out to be a falsehood. Alas, my dear! you may imagine yourself capable of playing the hypocrite with me, but you cannot deceive God; nay, you cannot always deceive the world. If there is an omniscient eye on your conduct above, so you will find some here below: this is but too true, of which I will give you an instance.

Yesterday Mr. Bailey from London, whom you well know, called upon me, and informed me, that you keep company with Mr. Harris, whom you know to be a rake, and a man of no fortune, and one whose debauchery has brought shame upon his family and ruin upon himself. He has already promised marriage to several young ladies; he has deceived some, and ruined others: he is, in all respects, a villain; and therefore if you persist in keeping company with him, your character, soul, and body, will be ruined.

And did I watch with care over your infant years when your mother died, that you should give yourself up to a ruffian? Did I instruct you in the principles of virtue and religion, and do you now trample upon and despise every thing sacred? Have I secured you a fortune, and is that to be squandered away by a lawless ruffian? Ah, my dear

Sophia! bring not my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave. The money I saved for you was but a secondary object with me: it was to promote your happiness in time and eternity that I spent so many years in conducting your education. Have you no bowels of compassion for me? And if so, have you none for yourself? Will you give over all manner of intercourse with that dangerous person, and come and reside with me? Do not imagine that I want to make you unhappy; God forbid; for only place your affections upon a deserving object, and with pleasure will I give my consent to your union. I must insist on an answer to this, and happy shall I be to find that you have complied with my request.

I am your loving aunt,

S. P.

LETTER LXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Dear Aunt,

THE perusal of your letter has filled me with sorrow, shame and confusion. Two days have elapsed since I received it, and during the whole of that time, my mind has been agitated with the most violent passions: but still, Madam, I am not an hypocrite, although my conduct may have given just reasons for your being offended. I am sorry to tell you, that Mr. Harris insinuated himself into my company, before I was acquainted with his real character: prudence and youth are seldom united, and I began to place my affections on an object who had nothing to recommend him besides an exterior appearance. Some days before I received your letter, I was put in mind of my danger by a worthy gentleman, who often visits at my uncle's, and it was my determined resolution to break off with him as soon as possible; and although it is no easy matter to remove the affections from what they have been improperly placed on, yet I trust in the Divine Being I have done it.

And

And now, Madam, wifl your humanity draw a veil over youthful follies? If you do not fo, then I am ruined for ever; but I hope not. By you I was firft taught to addrefs my Maker: Your conduct made religion amiable to me, and will you now forfake me when I have complied with your requeft and returned to my duty? The difipations of public entertainments, and the blandifhments of drefs, have no charms for me, when I confider the fuperior pleafures arifing from practical duties. Let me therefore beg, Madam, that you will once more receive me into your affectionate arms, and your will fhall direct my conduct. I intend coming to you next week, but you muft not upbraid me, on account of my former conduct: I am forry for it, and what can I fay more. My heart is not fo corrupted as you thought it was: no, Madam; I have not forgot my God, my Redeemer, my Saviour. Stretch out to receive me your benevolent arms of compaffion, and then you will, by the cords of love, draw a young creature out of the pit of deftruction, and make her happy.

I am, dear aunt,
Your affectionate niece,
S. B.

LETTER LXVIII.

From a young Man who had run away from his Apprenticefhip to his Father, defiring him to intercede with his Mafter.

Honoured Sir,

I HAVE been juft reading the parable of the prodigal fon, and, from that affecting paffage in Sacred Scripture, I am encouraged, with fome hopes, that you will forgive my folly, and once more endeavour to reconcile me to my juftly offended mafter. As a parent, you cannot feel more for the irregularity of my conduct than I do myfelf. Without reafon, without provocation, I left the beft of mafters, who always treated me with tendernefs; and perhaps I have almoft broken my dear parents hearts: but

does God forgive sinners; and will not you and my master shew some compassion to an unhappy youth, who is willing to return to his duty? Although I deserted my master's service, yet I never injured him, by purloining any part of his property: it was an unguarded frolic that led me away, a sense of duty has brought me to repentance. Alas! I see nothing less than misery before me; I am almost starving, having been obliged to make away with my watch and some of my shirts: I hope, however, my character is not yet ruined; and if I am to be forgiven, then my life, through the divine assistance, shall be new; it shall be my constant study to do my duty, and by my assiduous attention to business, make complete satisfaction for my folly. Let me beg you will write to me, and let your message contain an acknowledgment of forgiveness.

I am, honoured Sir, still your son,

T. P.

LETTER LXIX.

The Father's Letter to his Son's Master.

My dear Friend,

YOU will see from the enclosed, written by a prodigal son, what I must feel on the present melancholy occasion; but you are a father, and I doubt not but you will rather bear with me, than exercise that coercive authority over an unhappy youth, which you have a right to do.

If you knew how I am filled with shame for my unhappy son's conduct, you would consider me as a real object of pity. What a shocking circumstance, to shake off from us the fear of God and neglect incumbent duties. To make some allowance for the passions of youth, who, in Scripture, are justly compared with the wild ass's colt, is consistent with humanity; but it is extremely difficult to act under such circumstances, so as to bring young men back to a sense of their duty, and at the same time support the dignity which is the exclusive right of every master. But God remembers we are dust; he knows our weakness, and where we are merciful he generally bestows his blessing.

This

This consideration, my dear friend, leads me to the main purport of this letter, and that is to beg forgivenesfs for an unhappy son: not that I desire to draw a veil over any part of his conduct, for I know that will not admit of an excuse, much less of a defence: facts speak for themselves, and my unhappy boy stands condemned by the evidence of his own conscience, and by his letter to me, which I have sent you; and will you, my dear friend, receive into your favour a young offender? Will you give him an opportunity of entering once more upon a line of duty? Will you yet train him up as an useful member of society? And will you have compassion upon an afflicted parent? To obtain so much is more than I dare expect, and yet I am encouraged to hope for it. To enforce the rigours of the law is sometimes just, but mercy is always godlike: it is his darling attribute, and it shines with the most distinguished lustre when one mortal extends it to another. May not I, therefore, hope, that a gentleman of your humanity will so far sympathize with me, as to receive into your favour a once foolish, but now a penitent youth, who has solemnly promised to make every reparation in his power; and thus you will shew yourself to be greater by this instance of your benevolence, than if you had acquired the fortune of a Nabob.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.

S. P.

LETTER LXX.

The Master's Answer to the Father's Letter.

My dear Friend,

A Severe fit of illness has confined me above three weeks to my bed, but notwithstanding all my bodily pains, I could not delay one moment in sending an answer to your affecting letter. Indeed, Sir, you have affected me too much; but I shall not consider parental tenderness as bordering upon weakness. Love, or Cupid, was painted as blind by the ancients: and the meaning pointed out was, that lovers cannot see fault in the beloved object. Well:

and if lovers, who are no otherwise related than by affection, cannot see faults, what must be said of those parents who, after giving their children a religious education, shall live to see them despising their highest honour, religion: rebelling against the God that made them, and trampling under foot the blood of their Redeemer. This is emphatically expressed by the evangelical prophet Isaiah. "Hear, "O heavens! and give ear, O earth! I have nourished "and brought up children, and they have rebelled against "me; the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's "crib; but Israel doth not know, my people do not con-"sider." Your son's conduct has affected me as much as it could any person except yourself: he is not, however, so criminal as you may be apt to imagine; and I hope I shall always be able to make a proper distinction between voluntary transgressions, and youthful indiscretions. With pleasure do I hear that he is sensible of his folly, and with open arms will I receive him into my favour. Nothing that has passed shall ever be mentioned; nay, I will be rather more indulgent to him than ever, that he may be allured to the practice of virtue; for love operates upon a tender mind, but fear was made for a slave. Inclose this letter to your son, and let him know, that I will meet him in a few days at our house, on condition that he will not ask me pardon, seeing I have already forgiven him. Indeed I have forgiven him with pleasure, as one of the best things I could do in this world; because it may be the means of promoting his happiness, both in time and in eternity.

I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere friend,

C. B.

LETTER LXXI.

The Father's Letter to his Son.

Dear Billy,

I HAVE lost no time in bringing about a reconciliation with you and your master; but happy for myself, that good

good man was as ready to forgive as you was to offend. What indulgence! what tenderness! and will not this make some impression on my dear unfortunate child? If the goodness of God leads men to repentance, shall not your master's kindness have a strong effect on you? Ah, my dear Billy! A new life is the only proof of a genuine repentance; for in vain do mortals pretend to be sorry for their sins, unless they forsake them. It is not an easy matter to form a just notion of the enormous guilt; and we are so much inclined to partiality, or rather to ourselves, that while we confess one folly, we conceal ten. Of this I have a striking instance in your letter, and which afflicts me much: you say, "that although you deserted your "master's service, yet you never robbed him." Alas, my dear Billy! what sort of a confession was this? Have you not wasted that time which was your master's property? Every hour of your time, except that portion which is appropriated to some particular purposes, is your master's: you have no right to dispose of one moment of it without his consent. Be not mistaken, Billy; for those who are most sensible of their guilt, are most entitled to forgiveness: but you are forgiven, as you will see by the enclosed; and if this has no effect on your mind, I am certain nothing will. But ah! how pleasant will you find a new life: pity your parents; but, above all, pity yourself. I will do every thing to make your life agreeable, only disengage yourself from wicked companions; remember that when the fear of God wears off from the mind, the destruction of the man is not far distant. You have every favour shewn you which you can desire, and therefore improve the blessing to a proper advantage. Come, my dear child, to your afflicted parents; come to your worthy, your benevolent master. I have sent you money, and if you don't think it sufficient, you shall have more when you return.

From your affectionate father,

S. P.

LETTER

LETTER LXXII.

From a young Woman, who had married without the Consent of her Parents, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

IT is, perhaps, my misfortune that I was born a woman, and subject to all the passions peculiar to my sex. There was a time when I imagined it could never happen that any part of my conduct would give offence to an indulgent parent, who has brought me up with so much tenderness. But, alas! I may justly say, that it is not in poor frail mortals to direct their steps; we often pretend to be fortified against the force of temptation, but, like the unthinking fish, no sooner is the tempting bait presented, than we swallow it and are ruined. Not that I have any reason to consider myself under such circumstances: for whatever might have been youthful indiscretions on the part of Mr. Osborne, he is quite different now; and I doubt not but he will be obedient to you in every thing lawful and just, and that he will be a tender husband to me.

You have often told me, that if I married with your consent, you would give me as much money as would enable my husband to set up in business: but I have not done so. Alas! Sir, it is the first time I was guilty of a breach of your commands; and I hope it will be the last. And will you not forgive one whom you have often called your beloved daughter? Am I to be discarded for ever, by my dear and honoured father? I hope it is not in your nature, and that you will once more receive me into your favour. Permit me, therefore, with my dear husband, to fall on our knees before you, to implore your forgiveness, and beg your blessing. You have bowels of compassion, let my present afflictions plead in my favour. You are my father, and we have a Father in heaven who forgives our sins as soon as we beg for mercy. Shall I not then receive the same favour from my earthly parent, which the Divine Being shews to repenting sinners? Yes, my father, I will

come

come to your doors with my husband; and, perhaps, in the mean time, you will give some encouragement.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your loving daughter,

A. B.

LETTER LXXIII.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

THERE are times when mankind are apt to be fired with resentment, and I believe this never appears in a more striking light than when children are disobedient to their parents. The care I employed, and the money I spent in giving you an education suitable to your station in life, gave me reason to hope that you would never marry without my consent; and little did I ever imagine you would give your hand to the man whom I knew to be a libertine: but all this is over, and I am tortured with anxiety. I will not, however, be so uncharitable as to suppose, that the man who has been once a libertine, should always remain so: no, I will always hope the best, especially where there is a profession of repentance. My bowels of compassion for you are the same as ever, and I am willing to receive both you and your husband into my favour, in hopes that every youthful indiscretion will be succeeded by a strict adherence to duty, and the practice of virtue and religion.

But still, prudence directs me to act in a manner which perhaps you may not approve; and if so, you will disconcert the whole of that plan which I have formed to promote your happiness. According to your letter, Mr. Osborne has forsaken his youthful follies; a circumstance which will ever give me pleasure; but I must insist on seeing some further proofs of it. A sudden reformation is seldom a lasting one, and the corruption of the human heart is unsearchable. He may have interested views, and as soon as he gets money into his hands, he may become the same libertine as before: I would, therefore, have him

to work one year at his trade, as a journeyman; and if his conduct during that time is consistent with the character of an honest man, then I will set him up in business, and it shall be in a reputable station.

In the mean time, if you approve of this, both he and yourself may call upon me; my forgiveness you have, and if my blessing is of any service to you, it shall be cheerfully bestowed. Be not afraid, my dear, for I am willing to do more for you than I have promised; and lest you should want money, I have sent you something enclosed, to assist you in your present necessities.

I am, your ever affectionate father,

C. F.

LETTER LXXIV.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents in the Country.

Ever honoured Parents,

I Shall ever acknowledge, with gratitude, the obligation I am under to the Divine Being, for bestowing upon me such pious and virtuous parents; but, I hope, my conduct will never induce you to repent of your tenderness. With gratitude I received your kind present, and you may be assured that I shall use it in the manner you have directed; but, in the mean time, I have something to mention, which I hope will not give offence.

Mr. Thomas Wood, a young man in our neighbourhood, who served his apprenticeship to a carpenter, and has lately set up for himself in business, has paid his addresses to me; and his character is that of a sober, industrious person, who bids fair to obtain an honest living in the world. His late master died a few months ago, and he has procured most of his customers; and his attention to business, shews him to be one of those who have no aspiring notions, beyond what is consistent with integrity.

My servitude in this family has been as easy as I could wish; but I think, with submission to you, that the offer made by Mr. Wood should not be despised, unless good

reasons

ge ons are shewn. The young man's behaviour to me has been modest, decent, and affable. He has given me some few presents, but they are such as are consistent with the most rigid oeconomy. We are frequently together on Sundays: and, so far as I can form any notion, an union with him would make me happy. I will not, however, be precipitate, but in all things be directed by you; and although my affections may be in some measure fixed, yet I hope I shall have fortitude sufficient to comply with your commands. — Your advanced years call for the utmost exertion of my powers, to assist you under the decays of nature: and I think, that if I was properly settled in the world, it would be in my power to promote such a desirable undertaking; and, I am certain, Mr. Wood would not have any objections. Upon the whole, I leave it to your consideration; and shall be directed by you, in whatever you order.

I am, my very honoured parents,
Your affectionate daughter,
M. I.

LETTER LXXV.

The Father's Answer.

Dear Child,

WE received your letter, and, you may be assured, it made a deep impression on our minds. It was always our intention to promote your interest; and it was with that view, in compliance with your request, we suffered you to settle in London. That you should place your affections on a young man, of the same age with yourself, is no ways surprising; it is natural, and, so far as is reasonable, ought to be complied with. The character you have given us of Mr. Wood is extremely agreeable, and we doubt not but it is true. We cannot, however, be deaf to any thing, in which your interest is in the least concerned, and therefore we could wish that you would act with caution. One step of an imprudent nature, may make you unhappy in this life; and from a variety of circumstances,

cumſtances, deprive you of eternal felicity. Mr. Wood may be as virtuous as you have repreſented him; but he is not my ſon, although you are my daughter. Providence ſmiles upon a prudent conduct; but thoſe who are precipitate in their choice, generally end their lives in miſery.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wiſdom; and, we doubt not, but that fear has been long ſince implanted on your mind, ſo as to bring forth the fruits of moral and religious obedience. It is not our intention to make you unhappy, but we would beg you would not truſt to your own knowledge; which, perhaps, may be often directed by ungovernable paſſions, but commit your whole caſe to that Power, whoſe providence ſuperintends the affairs of this lower world.—May every bleſſing attend our dear child, for offering to make ſome proviſion for us in our advanced years—It is an act of gratitude which, we hope, will never be reduced to practice. That God, who has preſerved us hitherto, will do ſo 'till our decayed bones are conſigned to the ſilent grave.

The God we worſhip now,
Will keep us till we die;
Will be our God, while here below,
And ours beyond the ſky.

Upon the whole, my dear, act in a proper manner, and then you may expect the divine bleſſing.

We are, dear child,
Your affectionate parents,
C. and D. L.

LETTER LXXVI.

From a young Man, a Blackſmith, to his Sweetheart.

Dear Betty,

I AM ſorry that you treated my ſincere propoſal with diſreſpect; but I have been informed, that you object to my trade. Alas! my dear, it is our duty to continue in that ſtation in which Providence has placed us; and if my

trade may happen to be despised by the vain and the thoughtless, I am certain it is more useful and honourable to my fellow-creatures, than many of the employments in life, which enable some of the worst of the human race to parade the streets in their carriages, and keep their country houses, at the expence of the honest and industrious. Consider, my dear, the order of Providence; and reflect, that an honest subsistence, acquired by industry, with a good conscience, is far superior to the wages of iniquity, or that of rioting on the spoils of our departed relations. Am I to labour hard, to support my wife and children? It is my duty; for this purpose I was sent into the world, and, whatever may happen to me, I am determined to discharge my duty as an honest man: nor am I afraid of poverty, for while I labour for a subsistence, I may naturally expect a blessing.

To be plain with you, I am so far from being ashamed of my employment, that I often bless the Almighty, that his providence directed me to it. My parents died while I was young: I found refuge in a workhouse, where I learned to read my bible; and since I was bound out apprentice, I have, at my leisure hours, acquired the knowledge of writing and accompts. It is now two years since I have worked as a journeyman; and in that time I have saved twenty pounds, besides furnishing a room. I have not yet money enough to set up in business; but my labour will be sufficient to support us both. You will never have occasion to look for me in a public house; if I am not at home, you will find me at work: this is an honest declaration; and, God knows, I say no more than what I intend to perform. And now, my dear, where are your objections? Is my face sullied by my labour? much better it would be so, than by guilt. God will bless honest industry, while a secret curse will lie hidden in the midst of ill gotten riches. Let me beg you will think more favourably of me; and, be assured, that if you will give me your hand and heart, you shall have mine in return: nay, you shall have my love, my industry, my integrity, and all that I can do for you in this world. Let me beg you will fa-

vour me with an answer; and, as I know your good nature, I hope you will not be cruel.

I am, dear Bett,

Your sincere lover,

JOHN FARRIER.

LETTER LXXVII.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,

YOU are really become a preacher; and, while I read your letter, I imagine myself in the church: but I will not jest with you; and although I have nothing to do with other persons notions, yet I love religion, and I hope I shall always fear God. I will freely acknowledge, that I was led to despise your honest employment, in consequence of some hints thrown out by some of my fellow servants, one of whom was married a few days ago to a footman, who has nothing to support her. I had not then considered what was for my interest, nor do I know that an union with you will promote so desirable an end. Your sentiments are fine, and your promises are fair; but, alas! how soon are we deceived? I am really serious, and would beg of you to consider what you are about. If I comply with your request and am miserable, you will be so also; for whether afflictions may be the effect of your misconduct, my extravagance, or the common lot of Providence, yet you must still feel for me, or you cannot feel at all. Under such difficult circumstances, how shall I act? May Divine Wisdom direct me. I have written to my poor mother concerning your proposal; but with her sincere prayers for my welfare, she has left me entirely to my own choice. Will you, Jack, act as in the sight of a God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived? Will you be what you profess in your letter? If so, my hand and heart are at your service, and I will be yours through the remainder of this life: but remember, I give up my liberty on these conditions; and, if I am deceived, I shall be no

worse

worſe than many who have gone before me. To convince you of my ſincerity, I have obtained leave to ſpend the afternoon with you on Monday next at my aunt's; for I never thought Sunday a proper time for courtſhip. Perſevere in the virtuous reſolutions you have formed; and, be aſſured, that nothing ſhall be wanting on my part to make your life as agreeable and happy as can be expected in this world.

I am, dear Jack,
Yours ſincerely,
E. B.

LETTER LXXVIII.

From a young Gentleman entering into Holy Orders, to an aged Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

IT was your pious diſcharge of your duty, that firſt made religion amiable to me; and it was by your advice I went to the univerſity. The time is near approaching when I muſt enter into holy orders; but, previous to that period, I would deſire to mention to you ſomething which appears to me to be of the utmoſt importance. I know your ability to give me information; I have long been acquainted with your benevolent diſpoſition; ſo that I ſhall make no apology for troubling one, who thinks every trouble a favour, where an opportunity preſents itſelf of doing good.

When I firſt entered on the ſtudy of divinity, I reſolved to peruſe the moſt reputed authors, who have lived ſince the ſecond century, eſpecially ſuch as have written on controverſial ſubjects; for although I ſhould never deſire to engage in controverſies, unleſs in the cauſe of virtue and piety, yet I have found that polemical writers, with all their heat of temper, often throw much light on diſputed paſſages in the ſacred Scriptures: and the firſt thing I would deſire to be informed concerning, is, how far are national churches, or civil eſtabliſhments of religion, conſiſtent with our holy religion? According to what I read

in the New Testament, our Saviour and his apostles lived in a poor despised state in this world. They sought no temporal emoluments; they were strangers to what the world calls riches and honours; they went about doing good; and their reward was, all the cruelties which malice could invent. At present, it is true, many of our clergy are poor and afflicted; but, at the same time, we all know, that many of them have ten times more than enough; that they are wallowing in luxury, while their worthy brethren of the same order are starving.

The second thing that troubles me much, is, how shall I be able to discharge the pastoral duty, without giving offence? Nay, how shall I conduct myself, so as to make religion appear amiable to the people committed to my care? I am jealous of myself; but as you have been in the ministry of the gospel fifty years, you are able to give me advice, and that shall regulate my conduct.

I am, reverend Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. B.

LETTER LXXIX.

The Answer.

On Civil Establishment of Religion.

Dear Sir,

DURING our Saviour's ministry on earth, he often told his disciples, that his kingdom was not of this world; and this was necessary, because they had very carnal notions of religion: nay, it is plain, that when he took leave of them, previous to his ascension, that they imagined he was to return in a few days, and restore the kingdom of Israel. They firmly believed, that the end and design of his coming was to subdue all nations; and that he was able to do so they could not doubt, after the many miracles they had been witnesses of: but no sooner had God enlightened their minds, than they viewed things in a different light, and preached the gospel in its spiritual purity.

During

During the apostolic age, many of the christian converts imagined, that Christ was soon to return from heaven, and judge all nations; and yet we do not find, that the apostles gave them any reasons to hope so: on the contrary, they were desired to wait with patience; and St. Paul told the Thessalonians, that the man of sin must first be revealed. Some of the primitive converts believed, that by the man of sin was meant one of the Roman emperors; and as most of those were wicked men, they often fixed upon one after another. Before the reign of the emperor Constantine the great, the Christians had their meetings in most cities and towns, and they daily increased in number; so that when Constantine ascended the throne, he found that, consistent with policy, it was his interest to abolish Paganism, and establish Christianity on its ruins.

It is certain, that before that period, Christianity was greatly corrupted; its teachers had forsaken the simplicity of their predecessors, who worked with their hands for a subsistence; the heathen priests had large salaries from the state; and although the christian teachers condemned the doctrine taught by those idolators, yet they had no objection against the emoluments: then it was that the christian teachers began to meddle with civil power, or, as we in this age call it, *politics*. They began to exercise a coercive authority over all those who refused to embrace Christianity, and even went so far as to excommunicate the civil governors, when they differed from them in opinion. The beast with seven heads and ten horns was now beginning to rise out of the errors that had taken place in the church, and this beast was nourished by those priests who pretended to be teachers of the Gospel. But still, as things are at present, there can be nothing more beneficial to human society, than civil establishments of religion; and I may venture to affirm, that had we none of those we should soon be little better than Barbarians. As to the inequality of livings among us, it is much to be lamented; perhaps Providence may, in time, point out some sort of redress; but at present we ought to be humble, and submit to our stations. In many respects, our church is the best constituted in the world; but like all others, it wants some reformation.

This, however, is not in your power or mine to bring about: and we may live content, without accepting of more livings than one, if that acceptance ſhould be contrary to the dictates of our conſciences. If the money appropriated for the ſupport of the Goſpel by our pious anceſtors, was equally diſtributed among the clergy, none would be too rich, nor any too poor; then would the clergy be enabled to reſide on their benefices; religion would flouriſh; nor would any enter on the ſacred office, but ſuch as had the glory of God, and the good of their fellow-creatures at heart. There would be no temptation for the gay and the thoughtleſs, to run their heads againſt pulpits, to pretend to take care of the ſouls of men, while they leave that duty to be performed by others, for leſs than a tenth part of the wages. But I am tired of the ſubject, and for the preſent ſhall conclude, with my prayers to God, that he will direct you and bleſs you.

I am, Sir, ſincerely yours,

B. A.

LETTER LXXX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

I COME now to your ſecond query, namely, how ſhall you diſcharge the paſtoral care? Your queſtion is indeed a ſerious one, and I wiſh I was able to give you a ſatisfactory anſwer; but if I fail in doing it, you muſt impute it to my want of knowledge in ſuch an important affair, which I need not be aſhamed to acknowledge; ſeeing the great apoſtle Paul exclaims, "who is ſufficient for "theſe things?" To be a paſtor, dear Sir, is to be the ſhepherd to watch over the ſouls of men; to point out to them their ſtate by nature; to convince them of the neceſſity of repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; to guard them againſt temptations; to build them up in the moſt holy faith, and to prepare them for eternal happineſs: and how great are all theſe things! But that Divine Being, who ſent us out to labour in the vineyard,

vineyard, is able to ſupport us; nay, he will do it if we ſeek his aſſiſtance.

And firſt let me beg you will ſet Chriſt before you as a pattern. For us men and for our ſalvation, he left his Father's glory, and ſubmitted to poverty, to death, and to the grave. For us he lived, toiled for our eaſe, and for our ſafety he bled. He went about doing good to miſerable offenders, and on the croſs he prayed for his enemies: this ſhould lead us to deny ourſelves many of the comforts of this life, that we may be able to relieve the wants of the poor, to dry up the tears of the widow, and do ſomething to provide for the orphan. Believe me, my dear Sir, our ſpiritual inſtructions will have little weight with thoſe who are in want, if we ſhut our bowels of compaſſion againſt them: they will never believe we are in earneſt, while we have a guinea concealed in our pocket. Be extremely careful in what manner you reprove your people for their vices; for unleſs reproof is mixed with tenderneſs, it will defeat its own intention, and the reproved perſon will conſider you his enemy, ſo that all your inſtructions will be loſt. Take great care what company you keep; for let your intentions be ever ſo innocent, you will have all eyes upon you, and the ſmalleſt deviation from this rule, will lay you open to much cenſure. Endeavour to make yourſelf perſonally acquainted with all your people, and keep a liſt of their names and ſtations in a book.

When you viſit thoſe who have families, put them in mind of the duty they are under to their children, in giving them a religious education: tell them that their ſervants muſt not be treated as if they were beaſts of burden, but as rational creatures, who have precious and immortal ſouls. Inculcate ſocial religion, but let all your exhortations be delivered in a cheerful manner; never quarrel concerning thoſe tythes which the law has given you a right to, and this will melt their hearts to do you juſtice. If you act in this manner, you will be conſidered as the father of your people, and the work of God will proſper in your hand.

I am, &c.

B. A.

LETTER

LETTER LXXXI.

From a young Tradesman in distressed Circumstances, to another of Age and Experience.

Dear Friend,

YOUR knowledge of the world, joined to your goodness of heart, and adorned by the most exalted piety, encourages me to seek your advice in a case of real difficulty. You know I have not been full five years in business, and although the beginning promised fair, yet, alas! I have been deceived. So does the sun shine upon us in the morning; we take our pleasure in the fields for a few hours, we are overtaken by a sudden storm, and the day concludes in thunder and lightening.

To speak in plain words, the many bankruptcies which have lately taken place in the commercial world, have brought me to the brink of temporal misery: two-thirds of my property have been fraudulently taken from me, and I see no prospect before me, besides a prison or the gazette: the former is dreadful, the latter is disgraceful. Under such unhappy circumstances, how shall I act? I have not been indolent or extravagant, but by an ill-timed and ill-placed confidence, I have been injured.

A good character is what I strove to preserve; a good conscience is what I still enjoy: but the world is often deaf to all our pretensions to integrity. No sooner are we fallen than we are trodden under foot, our misfortunes are considered as crimes; we are despised by some, hated by others, but pitied by few. Ah! Sir, when shall we learn to do as we would be done by? When shall we love our neighbours as ourselves? It is the great misfortune in trade, that every failure is considered as criminal, although the person accused is often innocent. I know you have abilities to give me advice, I know you have a tender compassionate heart, and your charity will shine with a distinguished lustre, if displayed on the present melancholy occasion; and by your advice, perhaps, my ruin may be prevented. I have sent this by my poor afflicted wife, and will not

you as soon as I receive your orders for that purpose. In the mean time,

I am your sincere,
Though afflicted friend,
THOMAS ELMSLEY.

LETTER LXXXII.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I WAS extremely ill when I received yours, but notwithstanding the violence of my disorder, I thought it my duty to send you an answer as soon as possible. The narrative of your misfortune is plain, simple, and artless, and so far as I am able to judge, I believe it to be true. I may add, that my own losses, occasioned by the many recent failures, have been great; but then you will answer, that I am more able to bear with them than yourself; it may be so, and therefore my advice, as well as my assistance, is at your service.

In all failures, the following methods are generally embraced; bankruptcy, composition, or flight: as for imprisonment, a man cannot be said to embrace it, unless he intends to injure his creditors, and forfeit his title to a share of the rights of common society. The bankrupt laws were contrived for the ease of the debtor, and the benefit of the creditor; but I am sorry to say, that the expence attending the commission often injures both: but that is not the worst, for such is the cruelty of men to their fellow-creatures, that the person who has once been a bankrupt, leads his character traduced wherever he goes, and as long as he lives.

To run away when a man is involved in distress, may be considered as consistent with self-preservation; but, alas! who can ever wipe off the blot? who can blot out the stain? To submit to imprisonment is a thousand times better; for a harsh creditor will sometimes relent, and give his captive debtor that liberty, which the letter of the law has denied him. Composition is much better than bankruptcy, because

cause it points out the honesty of the debtor, and saves the creditors much expence. I am sorry, however, to say, that it does not always serve to support the character of the injured, the unfortunate person. If he is once more enabled to procure a subsistence, it is expected he should pay the remainder of his debts, which may not be in his power, although he will embrace that happy opportunity as soon as he can. However, a composition is what I would by all means advise you to, and I shall do every thing in my power to get it conducted in a proper manner. I will give up at present my claim upon you, and possibly when every thing is settled, you may find your affairs less intricate than you imagine. Let me see you as soon as you can, and although I am aged and infirm, yet I will be your friend,

J. BARNARD,

LETTER LXXXIII.

From a Country Tradesman, desiring a Correspondence with another Tradesman in London.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of two years since my apprenticeship was expired, and during that time, I have been shopman to my master. It was my resolution to have continued shopman to him sometime longer, but I found several things very disagreeable, which I do not mention, because they are only family affairs, and no way connected with trade. But I had another reason for leaving his service, namely, an opportunity of setting up in business, by the death of Mr. Bevan, of this town, and with whom you was well acquainted. You know he has left no children, and his widow, having sufficient to support her, is going to retire from business. The offer she has made me of her shop, is fair and reasonable, and I shall settle with her as soon as my mother arrives to advance me what was left by my father. It is true, I know not yet how much it amounts to, but I have sufficient to purchase the stock in trade, the fixtures, furniture, &c. Having said thus much in general,

neral, I shall now proceed to open my particular business with you.

You have known me now about nine years, so that you cannot be a stranger to my character, especially as I transacted most of my master's business with whom you had connections many years; and I suppose you will continue your correspondence with him as long as he continues in trade.

I cannot at present send you a list of such goods as I shall want, but if you agree to serve me with what I want in your way in London, you may trust that my payments will be regular; for I have laid down a plan of regular œconomy, and I know that most of those who frequent the shop are very good customers. It will not be proper for me to come to London, 'till I have found an honest shopman, in whom I can confide during my absence, and then you may depend on seeing me. Wherever this letter will find you, I shall be glad of an answer, and then I will send you some orders if necessary. I hope to hear of the welfare of your family, that they are all in good health, and a comfort to you in your declining years.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

E. JOHNSON.

LETTER LXXXIV.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear you have so fair a prospect of entering into business. To stimulate you on to industry, you have an excellent example in the conduct of Mr. Bevan, whom you are to succeed. He had been many years in trade, but never failed in his payments; nor do I suppose he hath died worth much more than will support his family. He sought to live by his shop; he did much good, but never desired to acquire an opulent fortune; for he often said, that those who were most eager to procure riches, must either act dishonestly; or what was, and still is, generally the case, they soon become bankrupts. Trade requires patient industry; and a fair cha-

racter is a thousand times superior to an estate acquired by taking advantage on the unwary.

The correspondence you desire to settle with me, is chearfully complyed with, and you may depend on the articles you order being the best that can be procured; for I would wish success to every young beginner, who conducts himself with integrity, and acts upon honourable principles. Such were merchants and tradesmen in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. when large fortunes were acquired, when many of the nobility married the daughters of citizens, when manufactures were encouraged, and when bankruptcies seldom took place. I do not mention these things, as if I imagined you would ever neglect your business; but it is a constant maxim with me, never to write a single letter concerning secular affairs, without inserting in it something of a moral tendency. This is a duty we owe to our fellow-creatures, and it is a duty we owe to God, by making a proper use of the talents he has favoured us with. However, as it shall be my study to promote your interest, so far as it can be done in a way of trade, so I thought you would not be offended with what was well meant, for my sincere wish is to see every virtuous young man happy. You may send your orders as soon as you please, and they shall be punctually executed by my son; for my infirmities will, I believe, oblige me very soon to retire from business.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

S. VERE.

LETTER LXXXV.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Brother in the Country.

Dear Brother,

I AM glad to hear of your marriage, because I know that Betty was always a good girl; and, I dare say, will make you an excellent wife. My last place in London, was not so agreeable as I could have wished; but, you know, we must lay our accounts to meet with difficulties, and the

more

more we prepare for them, the more they become light and easy to us. I have now got into a good family, where there are three young ladies. They have a great regard for me, and have already made me some valuable presents, among which are three silk gowns: one of those, with some other things, I have sent to my sister; and tell her, I shall send her the newest pattern of cotton, for a gown, that I can find.

I hope you will remember, that the low circumstances in which we were left by our parents, should teach us to provide for old age, as far as lays in our power. No doubt but you will have children, and it will be a shocking consideration to think of leaving them, as we were, unprovided for. To be sure, a severe fever can, at any time, remove us from this world; but the consideration of that should never make us slothful, but be eager in doing our duty, always expecting the divine blessing. I could wish to have a letter from my sister; for as I approve of your choice, so I would wish to live with you and her in a state of friendship.

I am, dear brother,
Your affectionate sister,
SARAH LEE.

LETTER LXXXVI.

The Sister's Answer.

Dear Sister,

WE received yours, and I return you many thanks for your valuable present, which exceeds every thing I ever had or could expect. Your brother is industrious, and every one here says I have made a good choice. I am not afraid but we shall do well, as both our characters are good. I have saved five pounds in my last place, which, with thirty pounds saved by your brother, have enabled him to buy tools and materials for his business. We have also furnished a small house, consisting of a shop, two rooms, and a garret, with other conveniencies. We have a little garden behind the house, and in the garden

are fome fruit trees. Upon the whole, our fituation is agreeable, although it was with a trembling heart, that I entered into the marriage ftate. Your brother's tenderneſs to me has been ſuch, that I begin to bleſs the day I gave him my hand. When our labour for the day is over, we ſpend the evenings in agreeable converſation, and ſometimes we read part of a book. I wonder you do not think of marrying, as there can be no doubt but many offers have been made you; but I have ſuch an opinion of your good ſenſe, that I firmly believe you have had reaſon for objecting them. We long to hear from you as often as you can ſpare time to write; and that you may enjoy health and proſperity, is the ſincere prayer of,

Your affectionate ſiſter,

ELIZABETH LEE.

LETTER LXXXVII.

From a young Woman, Apprentice to a Milliner in London, to her Friend, a Teacher at a Boarding-School, in the Country.

Dear Miſs,

I Called at your father's laſt week, and he has given me a proper direction to you. I heard you had been ſome time ill: but, ſo far as I can learn, you have got the better of your diſorder, and I ſhall once more ſee you in London. You know, that when we were at ſchool together, I often wiſhed to have gone into the ſame employment as you have obtained, but my father would not permit me; and you know, that although he is a tender parent, yet he is not a judge of female education. Had it not been for the inſtructions I received from you, I ſhould certainly have been loſt; but thanks to God, and to your friendſhip.

You know, that the character of milliners, in the vulgar acceptation, do not ſtand high in the eſtimation of the public; but, I think, this muſt ariſe from ſome ſort of wrong prejudices. That many young women have been ſeduced from milliners ſhops, cannot be diſputed; but does

that

that prove, that no virtuous persons can be left behind? certainly it does not; otherwise it would naturally follow, that because there are many fraudulent practices committed by tradesmen, so the most virtuous are not to be trusted: for my own part, I hate such uncharitable thoughts; and, I think, the more we are surrounded by temptations, the more we should be upon our guard. To put ourselves in the way of harm, is certainly blameable, but that is what I have not done. It was my father's pleasure; and, as I know he wished me well, I could not dispute his commands. Upon the whole, I shall endeavour to do my duty, trusting in Almighty God, that he will preserve me from the power of temptation. Let me beg to hear from you, and be assured,

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere friend,

MARY BAILEY.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

The Answer.

Dear Miss,

I Received yours with that pleasure which always takes place where virtuous friendship exists. I am glad to hear that you called on my parents; but, alas! my dear, I am not the person I was when you saw me last. I was then healthy and full of spirits, with rosy cheeks, like a milk-maid; but, ah! my dear, mark the change! I am now afflicted with a most violent cough, which prevents me from rest day and night. I have a most emaciated body; my colour is quite gone; and to add to my affliction, I see no prospect of relief. You will be ready to ask me, from whence did all this affliction spring? That, however, is what I cannot answer. Sometimes I impute it to damp sheets, while you and myself were at school; but had that been the case, I would have concluded that you would have suffered the same, as we lay together in one bed. Again, I have sometimes imputed it to the negligent manner in which I changed my dress, after dancing

with the young ladies. But (till I may be mistaken) and as my father has often told me, we receive the seeds of death when we are born.

The moment we begin to live,
We all begin to die.

And now, my dear Miss Bailey, what do you think of my sentiments, under such a complication of disorders? May yours, my dear, be the same. I am all resignation. Notwithstanding the prospect of being agreeably married, and settled in the world; notwithstanding all the hopes generally formed by youth; yet I begin to look forward to a blessed immortality. I have so much ease in my mind, that death, which to some appears the king of terrors, to me is like an amiable accomplished bridegroom. And why should it be otherwise? We naturally wish to the possession of a temporal estate, and why then should not not we long for an eternal one? in the one we are subject to many disappointments, losses, and vexations; in the other, all is composure and serenity. Not that I know I am dying; but I know the Judge of all the earth will do right: to his will I submit, and rejoice in his favours.

I know, my dear, that your charms, accomplishments, graceful appearance and situation in life, will soon expose you to many snares; but seek God, and keep yourself as much as possible out of the way of temptation. Remember, that the more powerfully you oppose evil and resist temptation, the greater will your reward be in heaven. May the Almighty protect my dear friend, and keep her in the paths of piety and virtue, is the sincere prayer of,

Dear Miss,

Yours affectionately,

MARY ALLISON.

LETTER

LETTER LXXXIX.

From an aged Lady to a Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

YOU know I have always taken your advice, even in the moſt difficult caſes, and you never yet deceived me in any thing whatever. As the dew diſtills its refreſhing drops on the vegetable creation to impart life, ſo did your counſels, your admonitions, and your inſtructions operate upon my mind. I preſume you are no ſtranger to the contents of my brother's laſt will, in which he left his fortune to his daughter, on condition ſhe ſhould marry with my conſent. In caſe ſhe did not, her whole fortune was to be at my diſpoſal, and I was empowered to give it to whomſoever I pleaſed. Now, Sir, ſhe has entered into the marriage ſtate with a rake, who will ſoon ſquander away all that her father acquired by many years honeſt induſtry; and, therefore, I am determined to give the money to an hoſpital. I think it would be much better to ſupport the ſick and the lame, than to contribute towards the indulgence of diſſipated youth in the gratifying unlawful deſires, and the indulgence of irregular paſſions. You may object, perhaps, that this act of mine will reduce them to a ſtate of beggary; but, pray Sir, do not thoſe deſerve to ſuffer who have acted imprudently? Should they not have conſulted me before they ventured upon the brink of deſtruction, and plunged themſelves without the ſmalleſt hopes of ſucceſs, into a ſtate of ruin altogether irretrievable?

I would, however, be directed by you, but I dare ſay you will not do any thing contrary to my inclination. I think my propoſal is right; and thoſe who act inconſiſtent with prudence, ſhould feel the effects of their folly. Let me beg you will ſend me an anſwer, and be aſſured, that

I am ſincerely yours,

ELIZABETH BERTIE.

LETTER

LETTER XC.

The Answer.

Madam,

I Received yours, and however wise you may be in your own conceit, yet I think you have not considered things in a proper manner. It was always my opinion, that whatever a father died possessed of, was the unalienable property of his children; and, however human laws may give a sanction to the validity of dying wills, yet I cannot think that natural rights can be set aside: but supposing your brother should have, in conformity with the worst of all customs, claimed the power of depriving his daughter of her right by nature; yet I cannot see how you can be justified in carrying his will into execution. Has he acted inconsistent with the principles of humanity? And must you, under the stale pretence of complying with the will of the deceased, add one perjury to another? Has your brother projected a scheme to injure his child? And are you obliged to see it put in execution? No, Madam; this is beneath your character as a woman, and altogether inconsistent with the duty of a Christian. I acknowledge, that in many cases the will of the dead ought to be complied with, but never when inconsistent with reason and religion. God does not require that we should conform to the customs of this world, any further than is consistent with the dictates of a good conscience; and, be assured from me, that it is much more honourable on many occasions, to set aside the will of the dead than to comply with it. You mention giving the money left by your brother to an hospital: I am afraid that is one of the worst resolutions you ever yet formed in your mind. To give money to hospitals at the expence of families who have a right to it by nature, is *robbing Peter* to *pay Paul*. In other words, it is like the thief who stole goods from the parish under a pretence of relieving the poor. Upon the whole, Madam, whatever imprudent steps your niece may have taken, yet let me beg you will not only restore to her what was left by her father, but that you will do it in such a graceful manner,

manner, as to make a lasting impression of gratitude on her mind, that she may honour both you and religion.

I am, Madam, yours, &c.

THOMAS GREEN.

LETTER XCI.

From a young Woman, Teacher at a Boarding-School, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

IT was with pleasure that I accepted of this place, having always had a strong desire to cultivate the minds of young persons; and, I can assure you, that my governess has treated me with every mark of tenderness: but as there can be no happiness in this world without some mixture of grief, afflictions and disappointments, so I have found enough of those since I came to reside at this place. You know I am, but at the best, tender in my constitution, and there are no less than forty-six young ladies in the school. Besides myself, there is but one other teacher; who although well enough acquainted with some parts of female education, yet she knows not the grammar of the French language, so that all the drudgery of that is thrown upon me.—This is more than I am able to sustain; and although I am sorry to put you to any trouble, yet I must freely tell you, that unless I am removed from this school, I shall sink under my afflictions. You know I had once an offer from Mrs. Dawson; and if she is not provided with a teacher, I will accept of her place, and wait on her as soon as Mrs. Allen has procured one in my room.

Let me beg to hear from you, as soon as you have waited on Mrs. Dawson, and in the mean time, give my duty to my dear mother, and my love to my sister.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your ever dutiful daughter,

MARY BLAKE.

LETTER

LETTER XCII.

The Father's Answer.

Dear Child,

I Received yours, and, as I was indispoſed at the time, I got Mr. Fernor to enquire of Mrs. Dawſon, whether ſhe had procured a teacher, and I have the pleaſure to inform you ſhe has not; I may add further, that ſhe is ready to receive you with open arms of affection, and ſhe is now preparing a room for you. She has but few ſcholars, ſo that your life will be eaſy, and you know the ſituation is extremely agreeable. So far as I am able to judge, Mrs. Dawſon is a very agreeable woman; but whether or not I am deceived, your own experience will diſcover. You may reſt ſatisfied, that I ſhall never contradict you in your choice of places; for if you are happy, ſo am I. I have ſuch an opinion of your piety, virtue, and good ſenſe, that I think you would never deſire to leave a place, unleſs you had good reaſons for doing ſo; and as you have more to go through with Mrs. Allen than is conſiſtent with your ſtrength, ſo I would by all means adviſe you to come away as ſoon as poſſible. However, I would deſire you to part on good terms; and as for what money is due to you, let that be only a ſecondary conſideration. Take what you are offered, and, however ſmall, do not complain. We ſhall be ready to meet you at the inn, and be aſſured, that,

I am your ever affectionate father,

GEORGE BLAKE.

LETTER XCIII.

From a young Gentleman in London to a Clergyman in the Country.

Reverend Sir,

I Doubt not but you have heard of the unhappy fate of Mr. Young, ſon of your neighbour, and once your pupil. It is not above two years ſince he came from Jamaica, with

with a considerable sum of money, and sent for me to spend the evening with him at a coffee-house near the Royal-Exchange. Former friendship soon induced me to comply with his request; but, to my great surprise, I found him totally changed from what he was when he left England. Instead of a sober, virtuous young man, I found him one of the most impious, abandoned rakes I ever yet met with. He spoke with contempt of religion, and seemed to take a peculiar pleasure in blaspheming the name of God. I told him, that he must not for the future expect to see me, because *evil communications corrupt good manners*. He laughed at my simplicity, in believing the gospel relevation; and plainly told me, that religion was inconsistent with the character of a gentleman. However, I did see him again: but, alas! where? In Newgate, aud may I never forget the dreadful scene which presented itself to my view: a young gentleman, who had received a liberal education, the heir to a landed estate, confined to a dismal cell with fetters on his legs, and the book of God, too long despised, in his hand. Ah! thought I, let us despise religion ever so much while in a state of health, we are glad to seek its consolations when death approaches. This unfortunate young man had spent all his money in gaming and debauchery; after which, he committed a forgery on the Bank, and was apprehended at Dover, in attempting to make his escape abroad. He was brought to his trial, and, being found guilty, received sentence of death. He sent for me to visit him; which I did, as often I could spare time, 'till the evening before his execution, when his father and mother were taking leave of him. The scene was too shocking for me to be witness to, and therefore I retired, to lament the corruption of human nature. I was informed next day, that he died a sincere penitent; and, therefore, I hope you will administer all the consolation you can to his afflicted parents.

I am, reverend Sir,

Yours sincerely,

G. B.

LETTER

LETTER XCIV.

The Clergyman's Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Am no stranger to the melancholy affair which you communicated to me in your last; and I have complied with your request, in saying all I possibly could to alleviate the distresses of the afflicted parents. But I have something to say to you, which I hope will be attended to with seriousness. You have seen the unhappy, the shameful, the ignominious end of a young gentleman: who, along with yourself, was brought up in the paths of virtue, and heaven forbid it should ever be your case; but let him that standeth, take heed lest he fall. You have as ample a fortune as your late unhappy friend enjoyed; you are surrounded by the same temptations; and you are liable to fall into the same snares. This, Sir, should teach you to be continually upon your guard, not trusting in your own strength, but still exerciting the powers which God hath given you. *If sinners entice thee, consent thou not:* let no pretended friend persuade you to go to a public place, where you may be in danger of having your morals corrupted, and your soul ruined. Reflect often on what you saw, when you visited the cells of Newgate; consider the dreadful scene which presented itself to your view, when you saw the afflicted parents take leave of a condemned son; think of the shame which, in the opinion of the vulgar, he has brought upon his family; compare the pleasures arising from the practice of religious duties and a strict attendance to business, with the torturing, agonizing pains of a guilty conscience; and, above all, consider the dreadful account you must make on the judgment-day if you prostitute your talents, and trample upon every sacred obligation.

However, I doubt not but you will continue to persevere in what will promote your honour and happiness; which is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate friend,

T. F.

LETTER

LETTER XCV.

From a young Gentleman to a Lady, desiring her to make an Elopement with him to Scotland.

Dear Miss,

I TOLD you, when I was last in your company, that my father would never consent to my marriage with you, unless your fortune was equal to mine. In this he acts like old persons in general, whose passions being dead to every thing but avarice, they never pity young ones, who have placed their affections on each other. They are cruel to the last degree; but there is a way to frustrate all their schemes and make ourselves free, by an elopement to Scotland. There we can be married, and then my father will soon be reconciled to the match, for he cannot deprive me of my fortune. I have reason to believe that my person is not disagreeable to you, and that you will consent to an union of hearts, which alone can make me happy. If you will comply with my request, I will have a post-chaise ready for you to-morrow evening at the back of the garden wall, and we will set off together, without being discovered by any person whatever. I hope you will have no objection to what I have proposed; for, I can assure you, it is not possible for me to love any but you. As you will probably meet the bearer in the park, he will give you this, and you will find an opportunity of sending an answer.

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere lover,

S. T.

LETTER XCVI.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I HAD once the misfortune to read some wild romances; but I do not recollect that any thing related in them is of so extravagant a nature, as what I find contained in your letter. Indeed, I am at a loss in what light to consider it;

either

either it is the ravings of a madman, or written by the hand of one whose conduct to his parents can give him but little reason to expect happiness in this world. You mention your fortune being superior to mine; and if, by fortune, you mean riches, perhaps it may be so; for I can assure you that I never asked my father whether he could give me one single pound on the day of my marriage. Indeed, my father always gave me leave to place my affections on whatever object I thought proper, so as the person had a regard to the fear of God, and practised religious duties. He told me, that if I did so, I should enjoy such happiness as the world could not deprive me of, and much more than what is annexed to what is vulgarly called fortune. But what strikes me most is, your romantic scheme of going to Scotland to get married, by which you would probably make the remainder of my life miserable, and bring down your own father's grey hairs with sorrow to the grave. And do you think, Sir, that I would for your sake disturb the peace of your family, and make your parents miserable? No; I love the marriage state; nay, I honour it; but if ever I enter into it, it must be upon such principles as shall promote my happiness in this world, as far as is consistent with the state of human nature. I would have you to consider these things properly; and if you will not, then make an elopement as soon as you please, but I hope it shall never be with me. Consider, Sir, that the young woman whose imprudent conduct disturbs the peace of a family, is seldom forgiven; and although you tell me, that your father cannot deprive you of your fortune, yet be assured, that no part of my conduct shall ever be the means of making him unhappy. I sincerely wish that you may be preserved from ruin, and become an honour to your parents and yourself.

I am, Sir, your well-wisher,

M. C.

LETTER

LETTER XCVII.

The young Gentleman's answer.

Dear Miss,

I Received yours, and, if I was enamoured of you before, I am much more so now. Your merits have rivetted my affections to the beloved object, and your prudence has made me a slave. I am ashamed when I consider that I have not made a proper use of my knowledge; but was running on without thought to my destruction, 'till you awakened my attention, and cautioned me against the dreadful impending danger that hung over my head; where, my dear, did you learn such sentiments? or rather, why have I forgot what was taught me in my youth. Your resolving to accompany me to Scotland, will, I hope, in time, be attended with the most beneficial consequences, as will appear from what I am just going to mention. Finding that I could neither subdue my passion, nor prevail with you to comply with my unguarded request, I lleaved your letter to my father, who, so far from acting the part of a tyrant, declared he would even intercede with you in my behalf. But I hope you will not put him to that trouble, but will consent to be mine, and then I shall be happy. My mother is equally agreeable, a circumstance that would never have taken place, had you been so imprudent as to make an elopement with me from your parents. Let me, therefore, beg you will not any longer keep me in a state of anxiety; but setting all forms and ceremonies aside, consent to be mine, and you will be treated with the utmost tenderness by all my family; you will be united to relations as virtuous as your own, and I hope you will have no reason to repent.

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere lover,

S. T.

LETTER XCVIII.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear that you have made a proper use of the few simple hints I pointed out to you: it is not for my own sake that I mention this; for although it is natural for every young person to desire a happy settlement in life, yet I can assure you, so far as I am able to judge of my own heart, I can safely say, that I desire no more than the necessaries of this world: if Providence gives me more, then I must act as a faithful steward, and, with it, endeavour to supply the wants of my fellow-creatures. It gives me no small pleasure to hear that what I wrote has been the means of reconciling you to your parents; and from this you may learn, that when human actions are conducted with prudence, there is at least some prospect of success. As to what you have proposed to me concerning marriage, I freely tell you, that I cannot have any reasonable objections to it, especially as you was never disagreeable to me, and you have now obtained your parents consent. I leave the remainder to yourself, and, when your parents think proper to appoint a day, I will meet you at the church. And now, Sir, what would you have me to say more? Perhaps I have said too much, but that gives me but little uneasiness, while I know that my intentions are right, and that as long as I act consistent with the principles of religion and virtue, I may have reason to expect the divine blessing.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

M. C.

LETTER

LETTER XCIX.

From a young Gentleman of Fortune, to an amiable young Woman, whose Parents had left her destitute.

Dear Madam,

THE many agreeable hours I have spent in your company at Lady Ashurst's can never be forgotten; but that is no more than what many besides myself well know, and can be witness to. But whatever impressions your charms may have made on others, my affections are fixed in such a manner, that nothing can alter them. Your merit, had you nothing else to recommend you, has made me a slave; and it is you only that can make me miserable or happy. But when beauty, learning, virtue, and piety, are all united in one object, how can the whole force be resisted? Such, my dear Miss, is your real character, and now you may judge of my present situation. How often have I pitied the wretched notions of those who, having ample fortunes, pay no regard to merit, but estimate the happiness of the marriage state in proportion to the thousands the bride is possessed of. It is different with me, my fortune is my own, and I shall consider myself as more happy in the enjoyment of you, as a partner for life, than if ten thousand pounds were added to my fortune. I think that the man who has sufficient to support him according to his rank in life should not wish for more; but I have sufficient, and yet I wish for more, that is, my dear, I wish for yourself: an union with you, will be considered as the greatest blessing I can enjoy in this life, and as soon as you will permit me, I will wait on you.

I am, dear Madam,

Your sincere lover,

GEORGE LYTTLETON.

LETTER C.

The young Woman's Answer.

SIR,

I WAS on a visit when your letter arrived at this place, or I would have answered it sooner; but now, as I am disengaged for a few hours, I shall deliver my sentiments in such a manner, that you will have no reason to accuse me of ingratitude. Had I nothing but grandeur in view, I must have considered your proposal as the highest honour that could have been conferred upon me; nay, I still treat it with proper respect, although duty to God, to your family, and to myself, obliges me to state my objections without reserve. What you say concerning the difference between truth and the common customs of the world, is in my opinion true, but who can deviate from the fashion without acting with impropriety. Supposing me to be the accomplished person I am represented in your letter, yet I have great reason to fear, that none of these accomplishments will make any great figure in the eyes of a censorious world; nor does it appear from your letter, that you have ever mentioned it to your mother. If you really loved me, would you wish me to be mistress of your family, and and at the same time despised by all your relations? Would you not be sorry to hear every person with whom you are acquainted, tell you, that you had married a poor beggarly girl with no fortune? And would not even your servants refuse to be obedient to me, who at present am in little better than a state of servitude? Consider these things, Sir, and then I believe you will neither desire to injure me, nor dishonour yourself.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

SOPHIA BRNSON.

LETTER

LETTER CI.

The young Gentleman's Reply.

Dear Madam,

ALTHOUGH I can, by no means, approve of the objections you have ſtarted in your anſwer to my propoſals, yet I acknowledge myſelf to have been extremely negligent in not mentioning that I had obtained my mother's conſent, who deſires to ſee me happily united with you; ſo in that reſpect you may make yourſelf quite eaſy: and my good mother has deſired you to write to her, as ſhe is not able to call on you. As to what the world may ſay, with reſpect to diſparity of circumſtances, I think it is below your notice; and as for your being in a ſtate of ſervitude, if it be ſo, it is the order of Divine Providence, and who ſhall find fault with it? If God thought proper to remove your parents in your infancy, forget not that he has ever ſince extended his benevolence to you. You have not been left deſtitute of friends; but this is not to be wondered at, it would be rather ſurpriſing if it was otherwiſe. Who could not admire a human form, adorned with every female excellence? It would be one of the greateſt marks of ſtupidity I ever knew. But I muſt ſtill have ſome hopes that you will comply with my requeſt, and that you will write to my mother, who deſires to hear from you. I have ſent you ſome trifles, which I hope you will accept of; but I want to give you a heart.

I am, dear Madam,

Your ſincere lover,

GEORGE LYTTLETON.

LETTER CII.

From the young Woman to the Mother of the young Gentleman.

Honoured Madam,

I AM ſorry to hear that you are ſo infirm, as not to be able to come abroad as uſual; but as I know you are prepared either to live or die, ſo I think you may make

yourself happy; for while we act consistent with our duty, and put our trust in the Divine Being, we are sure of acceptance before him, and of a share of his favour throughout eternity. So far as I can learn, you are no stranger to the proposal your son has made to me: and, if you have seen my answer, you will be able to judge of my objections. That Mr. Lyttleton has merit there can be no doubt: but why should a poor orphan dishonour his family? I am destitute, and exposed to all the hardships of this life, I became an object of Providence, and hitherto God has been with me. I have no right to expect any gentleman for a husband, without injuring my peace of mind, and making me miserable for ever. From you, Madam, I have received my pious instructions; and, I think, I cannot make you a more proper return, than to desire you will dissuade Mr. Lyttleton from thinking any more of me, for I am not worthy of his notice. An humble station should satisfy a poor person, and those who aspire at grandeur, are often plunged into ruin. That God may support you under your present afflictions, is the sincere prayer of,

Honoured Madam,

Your most obedient servant,

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CIII.

The Answer.

Dear Miss,

I HAVE not had a pen in my hands these six months, but with cheerfulness I answer yours, although my eyes are weakened so much, that I can scarce see how to write. I have for several years attended to your behaviour, while I visited your lady; and your unaffected piety, joined to an amiable form and a cheerful disposition, made a deep impression on my mind. Before my son proposed marriage to you, I often wished that Divine Providence would direct him to place his affections on so worthy an object as you are. Alas! my dear, you little think what value I set on riches: with respect to these things, I was once as poor

as

as yourself; but fortune ſmiled upon me, and made my life as eaſy and agreeable as I could have wiſhed, and much more ſo than I had reaſon to expect. I had not the benefit of your education, which I look upon as far ſuperior to what the world calls a fortune, eſpecially when I find it adorned with the moſt exalted conduct. And now, my dear, I plead in behalf of my ſon: will you conſent to call me mother? If you do ſo, I ſhall leave this tranſitory world with ſome degree of pleaſure; being convinced, that your good ſenſe and circumſpect behaviour will, at all times, prevent my ſon from running into extravagancies, and that you will be his comfort through life.

I am, dear Miſs, yours ſincerely,

ELZABETH LYTTLETON.

LETTER CIV.

The young Woman's Reply.

Honoured Madam,

I Received yours, and ſincerely thank you for the contents; only that I lament to hear, that you are in ſuch a bad ſtate of health. Alas! how often have I thought of the ſentiment of an ingenious poet:

——— "Every beating pulſe we draw
"Leaves but the number leſs."

But does the ſoul, dear Madam, periſh with the body? No; life and immortality have been brought to light by the goſpel, and death is no more than a paſſage out of one ſtation into another. Life is at beſt but a pilgrimage, or a journey through this world; and death is the paſſage to open to us an eternal ſtate of exiſtence. On this pleaſing ſubject, I have read many of the eaſtern tales, but none of them gave me much pleaſure. Allegory is indeed of great antiquity; but where the immortality of the ſoul is not ſupported by rational arguments, it becomes flat to me, and I look to divine revelation. It is certain, that not only the prophets of old, but even our Saviour himſelf made uſe of

allegory

allegory or parables, to convey knowledge to the minds of his hearers; but this is a subject I will not insist on; only that every thing of an allegorical nature, should be read with care and attention.

Having said thus much, it is proper that I should say something concerning the objections I made to Mr. Lyttleton's proposal's: but then, what can I say? The united wishes of a mother and a son, are more than I am able to contend with; let me therefore desire you would do just as you please. I am no stranger to many of your son's virtues; and to have the least, nay, the most distant relation to you, shall ever be esteemed my highest honour. I have written to Mr. Lyttleton, and, I hope every thing will be conducted under the direction of Divine Providence. May God preserve your valuable life; and happy shall I think myself, if ever I live to call you a mother.

I am, honoured Madam,

Yours in duty, &c.

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CV.

From Miss Benson to Mr. Lyttleton.

SIR,

I HAVE read in a book, which I hope I shall never despise, that to those to whom much is given, from them much will be required. This I will apply to you, in the most striking manner I am able to express. A letter from your mother now lays before me; and such has been her care of your education, that the neglect of duty on your part, will, at the termination of human existence, rise up in judgment against you.

Let me judge, as a woman, concerning your proposals; and, upon that footing, I must declare them to be advantageous. Let me consider myself as a young woman who should know something of prudence, and then I think it is my duty to be upon my guard. Let me look upon myself as a Christian; and, under that character, I would not choose to have my peace of mind disturbed, but to act as

an accountable being. However, to be plain with you, if I give you my hand, you muſt alſo have my heart; and ſhall I give my heart to a man, who, perhaps, may afterwards deſpiſe me? Gracious heaven forbid! But I muſt ſubmit. Will you take a forlorn orphan into your arms, and make her miſtreſs of your fortune? Yes, you will anſwer; but is ſhe to be eſteemed and reſpected? To convince you of my ſincerity, I declare that I am willing to comply with your requeſt, but conſider that I am no more than an helpleſs woman; and, if you do not treat me as a wife, I can only look up to that Being who has ſupported me hitherto. I ſhall ſtill hope the beſt; and as I have ſubmitted to be yours, ſo I hope you will be mine, and make up to me all thoſe deficiencies occaſioned by the loſs of my parents, before I knew what it was to repeat the words, FATHER and MOTHER.

I am, Sir, yours ſincerely,

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CVI.

From a poor Man to one of the Governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital.

Honourable Sir,

ALthough I have lived many years in your neighbourhood, and often worked for your family, yet I never preſumed to trouble you 'till now. My wife died about three weeks ago, and has left me with ſeven children. I am determined, that thoſe pledges of our conjugal felicity ſhall never have a ſtep-mother; but, alas! it is almoſt impoſſible for me to bring them up in a proper manner. I was adviſed to get my ſecond ſon into the Blue-coat-Hoſpital; but, alas! I know of no gentleman to apply to but you. In the liſt of thoſe who have a right to preſent, I ſee your name inſerted: but, perhaps, you are already engaged; and if ſo, then all my hopes muſt for this time vaniſh. Perhaps it may be otherwiſe; perhaps you may conſider my family, as not unworthy your notice; and you may, in compaſſion to an afflicted parent, "lift the burden from the ſoul oppreſſed!" I could wiſh to bring up my children in the

the fear of God, and in useful knowledge; and I can assure you, that for that purpose I work hard from morning to evening. If you will assist me in this difficult affair, with respect to my poor boy, you will remove part of the burden I now labour under. You will lay me under a lasting obligation, and it shall ever be acknowledged with gratitude.

I am, honoured Sir, with great respect,
Your most humble servant,
THOMAS BRASSINGTON.

LETTER CVII.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Was extremely ill with a fit of the Gout when I received your letter, so that I could not answer it sooner; but now having obtained a short respite, I shall, with pleasure, give you all the satisfaction that lays in my power. I have often taken notice of your industry, in providing for your family; and although I will not say that ever I contributed towards your subsistence, yet I am certain some gentlemen have; so that you may rest satisfied, you have not been forgotten.

It gives me great pleasure, that your letter came to me before I had disposed of my right and presentation, and your son shall have it. This, however, is but trifling, for I would be glad to do something for the rest of your family. Your eldest daughter is now fit to go to service; and, if you will permit her to come into my family, she shall be treated in the most tender manner. I have something in view for the younger children; and let me beg you will attend to your duty, as the father of a family, and as an honest man. Virtue is its own reward, and piety hath the promise. When exhausted with labour, in the evening, call your children together, and read to them at least two chapters in the bible, and teach them to address their Maker in prayer. Take care never to contract debts, but live consistent with the nature of your circumstances. Have you little? Be

content

account with it. Are you prosperous in life? Reflect that you must give account to God, in what manner you have disposed of his benefits. Upon the whole, be assured, that as long as you act consistent with the principles of virtue, so long you will find me your friend; and may prudence direct you in every thing that can serve towards promoting your interest.

Yours,

EDWARD TRUMAN.

LETTER CVIII.

From a decayed Tradesman to a Director of the East-India Company.

Honoured Sir,

IT is in the deepest humility, that I address this to you; for although we were brought up together at the same school, yet Providence has made such a vast difference in our temporal circumstances, that I should not be surprised, if you had forgotten there were ever such a person as myself. But notwithstanding all that difference, yet I feel myself endued with courage sufficient to solicit your assistance, in an hour of distress. Your family were distinguished for that benevolence, which is the highest ornament of human nature, and I have no reason to believe that you are worse than they. A bright example generally impresses its marks upon the descendants, virtue grows up from the original root, the tinsel of affluence is thrown aside, and the poor are encouraged to approach within the veil.

When I first set up in business, I had some hopes of success; and, during the first ten years I kept a shop, I paid my bills regularly, nor was any order returned without being duly honoured. But, alas! a dreadful reverse of fortune took place. My brother, who was of an unsettled disposition, proposed going to the East-Indies; and, as he had no friend but me to trust to, I advanced him more money than was consistent with the nature of my circumstances to grant. The consequence was, he died at the Cape, and every thing was lost. Finding myself reduced

to

to the utmoſt ſtate of diſtreſs, I called a meeting of my creditors, and gave them up my all. At preſent I am ſtarving; and all I would deſire, is to be admitted to be a common porter in the Eaſt-India houſe. This would procure bread for my wife and myſelf; but, unleſs you would be ſo good as to aſſiſt me, I muſt loſe it for ever.

As an afflicted perſon, as a man whoſe misfortunes have not been occaſioned by any thing that can reflect dishonour on himſelf, let him be permitted to come before you as an humble ſupplicant; my life has been innocent and inoffenſive; I have done my duty to my family; and, if I have been unfortunate, it is in conſequence of what I conceived to be a good-natured action. Let me beg you will ſend me an anſwer, which will greatly oblige,

Honoured Sir, your moſt obedient,

But diſtreſſed ſervant,

GEORGE PRITCHARD.

LETTER CIX.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours, and am much concerned to hear you are reduced to ſuch diſtreſſed circumſtances. I am ſorry that a multiplicity of buſineſs prevented me from calling on you; for I can aſſure you, whatever you think to the contrary, I have never yet forgotten either you or your family.

With reſpect to your requeſt, of being admitted a common porter in the Eaſt-India houſe, I am afraid you have not attended to the nature of that buſineſs. It is not enough to call it laborious, it is ſomething more: and I am certain, that if you have nothing elſe to truſt to, it will never ſupport you and your wife. Upon a common average, it does not exceed nine ſhillings per week; and what is that when all ſorts of proviſions are ſold at the moſt exorbitant prices? But not to keep you in ſuſpenſe, I have ſomething in view for you, which joined with a compliance of your requeſt, will, I think, ſupport you through old age.

I have procured you the place of porter in one of the tea warehouses, and I employed a friend to take a chandler's shop for you, where your wife may conduct the business; and what part of the house you do not want yourselves, you may let out in lodgings.

With respect to what you imagine to have been lost by your brother's death, you may make yourself quite easy; as I shall procure for you, all that was due to him. And now, my dear Sir, what can I say more? Call upon me as soon as you can; and, be assured, you shall never be in want of a friend while I live.

Your humble servant,
JOHN HARRISON.

LETTER CX.

From a young Man, who, in a State of Drunkenness, inlisted to be a Soldier, to his Master, a Tradesman in London.

Honoured Sir,

HAD I attended to your instructions which you tenderly gave me from time to time, you would not have been troubled with this letter; but repentance comes when, perhaps, it is too late. On Saturtaday last, I unfortunately got into company with some drunken fellows, who kept me up all night, and in the morning we were all laid hold of by a recruiting party, who had contrived to put money into our pockets while we were so stupid with intoxication, that we neither knew where we were nor what we were doing. What a poor thoughtless wretch have I been! I have despised the best advice that could be given; my conduct will be the death of my poor mother, and I am now the most miserable creature in the universe. I am ashamed to send you this, and yet perhaps you will pity me. I find you are acquainted with Captain West, who commands the recruiting party; and, if you would but speak to him in my favour, so as to procure my discharge, I will never for the future keep such company; I will attend to my business, and be directed by your instructions. When I think of what I have done, I abhor myself, and

am ashamed to look any of my friends in the face. I am not yet attested, but the captain threatens to send me to the Savoy, which terrifies me much, because I may immediately be sent abroad. Pardon, dear Sir, this first fault I have committed, and I shall for ever be your faithful servant; and by my future conduct convince you, that your compassion on an unworthy object, has not been bestowed in vain. Let me beg to hear from you, for I am afraid every moment of their taking me before a justice, and then it will be difficult to procure my enlargement.

I am, honoured Sir,

With sincerity, yours, &c.

GEORGE HAWKINS.

LETTER CXI.

The Answer.

George,

WHAT I have long expected has now happened, and while I detest your unhappy conduct, I still pity you. Like the prodigal son in the gospel, you was desirous of filling your belly with the husks which the swine fed on; and having divested yourself of the fear of God, you joined yourself to a company of wretches who glory in their shame. All the instructions I gave you, have been like water spilt on the ground, and I look upon your ruin as completed. Supposing I was to interfere in your favour, what reason have I to expect you will ever change your conduct? No, George, I am afraid you are too much attached to your graceless companions, ever to return to your duty. As young men proceed gradually from virtue to vice, so evil habits are not easily shaken off. You may make professions under your oppress calamitous circumstances, and disregard them as soon as you are set at liberty. I have often told you, that if ever you gave yourself up to company in alehouses, you would sink into the grossest vices; you would neglect your business, and live to be despised by all those who wished to promote your interest.

But, George, that you may have nothing to plead in

your

your defence, if ever you ſhould plunge yourſelf in the ſame unhappy condition again, I have procured your diſcharge, and I will ſtill employ you, on condition that you ſpend the evenings at home; for it is my fixed reſolution, that no drunkard ſhall reſide in my houſe. I know that I am accountable for my conduct to my ſervants, and you muſt acknowledge, you never yet ſaw any thing in my behaviour from whence you could take an evil example. I have paid the money for you to the captain, and if you behave as I would have you, I will never demand one ſhilling from you.

I am your ſincere friend,

JOHN BELLAMY.

LETTER CXII.

From a Merchant in London, to one of the Boys belonging to Chriſt's Hoſpital, on his going into the Naval Service.

Dear Charles,

WHEN you was left an orphan, I got you admitted into Chriſt's Hoſpital, where you have received an education to qualify you for the ſea. It gives me great pleaſure to find that you have not ſpent your time in idleneſs, and therefore I have procured you a good place on board one of his majeſty's ſhips of war. I may add, that I have recommended you to the captain; for whenever I begin a good work, I always endeavour to ſee it completed. But ſtill, I have not yet done: I muſt continue my inſtructions, as long as you receive them with docility and cordiality; while your mind is untainted by vice, I ſhall retain ſome hopes of promoting your intereſt.

You are now got into a ſmall wooden world; but, ſmall as it is, you will find in it all the paſſions, and all the vices that are to be found in the kingdom at large. The conſideration of theſe things, induces me put you in mind of the neceſſity you are under to be upon your guard. Let not any of thoſe on board frighten you from your duty: be not aſhamed of religion; for thoſe who honour God, he will honour; and thoſe that deſpiſe him, ſhall be lightly

eſteemed. You will frequently hear blaſphemous oaths repeated; but, inſtead of being contaminated by the pernicious infection, conſider, that if you ſeek aſſiſtance from God, you will have great reaſon to expect his gracious protection, in keeping you from being led away by the ſtream of pernicious temptation.—Are you not daily ſurrounded by innumerable dangers? The enemy and the ſea both war againſt you; and, as death preſents itſelf to you on every ſide, ſurely you ought to be prepared for it; for as death leaves you, judgment will find you. I was ſome time at ſea in my youth, and I have reaſon to bleſs God, that no temptation could ever force me to blaſpheme his name. The pleaſure I enjoyed was inexpreſſible, and although often mocked by my graceleſs companions, yet they reſpected me at laſt. I have ſent you a few good books, which I hope you will peruſe at your leiſure hours; and may God Almighty direct you, and keep you in his fear, that you may enjoy his favour.

I am your ſecond parent,

THOMAS HANBURY.

LETTER CXIII.

From a Sailor on board one of the King's Ships to his Wife.

On board the TERRIBLE, *in Plymouth-Sound.*

My dear Molly,

WE have been here ſome time waiting for the admiral, whom we expect every day; and in the mean time, we are taking in freſh water and proviſions. Although I happened to be impreſſed, yet, whatever many perſons may think, I can aſſure you, that if a ſeaman will do his duty, he need not be afraid of any thing. We have plenty of victuals, and good wholeſome beer; and although, when at ſea, our proviſions are ſalted, yet as ſoon as we arrive at a port, all ſorts of freſh proviſions are brought us. I have ſixteen pounds to receive, which will be paid you on applying to Mr. Brown, our agent at the Navy-office; and

and you may expect to hear again from me, as soon as an opportunity offers. Our captain, who has behaved like a man of courage and honour, has written to a merchant in London, to get dear little Tommy into the Blue-coat-Hospital, where he will receive a good education. As for the two young ones, you will do for them as well as you can, and I will send you money as often as I can. I shall not spend any thing, but for the most necessary articles, and we are in great hopes of picking up a few of our enemy's ships.

Let me beg the children may be kept at a day-school, till they can read their Bible, and shift for themselves: this is all we can do for them: and when we come to a death-bed, we shall have the pleasure to reflect, that our time in this life has not been spent in vain.

I am your affectionate husband,

JOHN MIZZEN.

LETTER CXIV.

The Answer.

Dear Husband,

I Received yours, and blessed be God you are well. The children shed tears over their father's letter, and prayed that Providence would once more restore you to them. I was paid sixteen pounds by Mr. Brown; and such was his generosity, that he gave me back the fees. Tommy is to be admitted into the Blue-coat-Hospital at Easter: and as for the young ones, I shall take all the care of them you can desire or wish. Betty is already in the testament; and Polly has just begun her spelling-book: they are good children, and they go to church every Sunday. I have bought them new stuff gowns, and such other things as they were in want of; for you know I must make the best use of the money. I have three days washing every week, at the house of a gentleman in the neighbourhood; and he has promised to get Betty into the charity-school. Thus you see every thing is as well as could have been expected, nay, blessed be God it is no worse. I hope the Almighty

will preſerve my dear from all thoſe dangers which he is continually expoſed to; and reſtore him at laſt to the arms of an affectionate wife, and three amiable children. Such is the prayer of one who muſt love you for ever.

ELIZABETH MIZZLE.

LETTER CXV.

From a young Woman gone to Service in London to her Lover in the Country.

Dear Billy,

I WOULD have written to you before, but our people have had ſo many viſitors, that I could not ſpare time; but now having an opportunity, I ſhall, in compliance with my promiſe, begin to keep up that friendſhip by writing, which was begun while we were in the country. The people I am ſettled with have treated me with civility; nor can I ſay that they exact more from me, than I am able to perform. But ſtill I am not altogether pleaſed with my ſituation: you know it was my conſtant practice to get up in the morning by ſix o'clock, and retire to reſt by ten in the evening; then I was fit for all the duties of my ſtation: but, alas! what a change has taken place? Here we breakfaſt at noon, dine at ſeven in the afternoon; then our gentry go out to ſpend the evening, and ſeldom return till three in the morning.

This is what I little expected; and I am afraid, that if I continue much longer in this place, my health will be injured, for I have already caught cold, and I have not an opportunity of taking any thing for it. I wiſh you would conſult with my mother what is beſt for me to do; for although I am rather unwilling to leave my place, yet I know ſhe would not deſire me to continue in it, upon the ſuppoſition that I ſhould receive any injury. Let me hear from you as ſoon as poſſible, and be aſſured, that

I am ſincerely yours,

MARY BALLARD.

LETTER

LETTER CXVI.

The Answer.

Dear Polly,

I Received yours, and the account you give me of your situation, affects me more than I am able to express; but it is what I expected, for when I was in London, I found my own circumstances exactly similar to what you have represented. You know I said every thing to dissuade you from going to London, but you was fixed in your resolution, so that I did not chuse to contradict you. It is certainly the duty of every young person to see as much of the world as possible; but sudden changes are seldom attended with beneficial consequences. I waited on your mother, and she is desirous you would return as soon as you can; and my father is going to set me up in a farm, so that I cannot see what reason you can have to withhold your hand from me any longer. I will meet you on the road, and I doubt not but we shall be extremely happy, for it is my design to make you so.

I am, Dear Polly,
Your sincere lover,
WILLIAM BEECH.

LETTER CXVII.

From a young Gentleman in London to his Guardian in the Country.

On DUELLING.

Honoured Sir,

WHEN I left your family to reside in the Temple, I promised that I would consult you in all cases of a difficult nature; for as your good advices were never yet withheld from those who wanted them, so I doubt not but you will be ready on every occasion to assist me. I was a few evenings ago in company with some young gentlemen, and a dispute arose concerning the merits of an actress, in which

I took no part; but one of the gentlemen challenged the other, and next morning they fought a duel in Hyde Park. The consequences were not fatal; but the next time I saw them, I endeavoured to dissuade them from such a practice, as inconsistent with moral duty, and totally opposite to the Christian religion. But how great was my surprise, when I found them treating all I said with ridicule, and even contempt: they told me, that I had not the spirit of a gentleman, whose duty it is to resent every injury even at the expence of his own life. Strange thought I: am I not commanded to forgive injuries; and as my life was not given by myself, so I can have no right to sport with it, at the expence of injuring my conscience and offending my God. However, they still insist, that if I refuse to fight a duel when another injures my honour, or traduces the character of the person whom I respect, then I shall be considered as a coward, and driven as a poltroon out of every polite circle. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as you receive this, for I am led into a state of doubting, to which I was a stranger 'till now.

I am, honoured Sir,
Yours dutifully,
C. B.

LETTER CXVIII.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

ALTHOUGH I was much engaged in business when your letter arrived, yet I would not delay one moment in sending you an answer. Little did I imagine that ever you could have any doubts in your mind, concerning the horrid practice of duelling; but I am sorry to find from your own account, that by the keeping bad company you are in the highway to ruin. To believe the obligation of a moral or religious duty, and at the same time to trifle with it as a matter of speculation, serves only to point out that there is no wickedness but men will practise, if by perversion of reason they can stifle the agonizing

pains

pains of a guilty conſcience. Whenever I hear of a perſon beginning to doubt of the truth of moral obligation, I give him up as loſt. The change indeed is not ſudden, but gradual; and ruin is generally the conſequence. The young man who has received a virtuous education, and contracts an acquaintance with rakes, whoſe time is ſpent in extolling plays, and ridiculing religion; their converſation wears gradually off from his mind every virtuous ſentiment; and the crimes he would have ſhuddered at before, while he continued in a regular courſe of duty, appear to him as no worſe than trifling follies. He mocks at religion with his profane companions; he conſiders himſelf as ſet at liberty from every tyrannical reſtraint; he rejoices that religion is no more than a fable, while, at the ſame time, he is forging chains to confine himſelf down to everlaſting miſery. Be aſſured, my dear Sir, I have ſeen inſtances of theſe things; and unleſs you detach yourſelf from your graceleſs companions, you will become a diſhonour to your family; you will bring infamy upon yourſelf in time, and promote your everlaſting ruin in eternity. I ſhall conſider the remainder of your letter in my next, and in the mean time,

I am, dear Sir,
Your ſincere well-wiſher,
GEORGE PARVAL.

LETTER CXIX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

I Come now to the ſecond part of your letter, namely, that which relates to duelling, or, in other words, *general murder.* Don't be ſurpriſed at the expreſſion, for whatever you may think to the contrary, I am very well convinced that it deſerves no better name. Every Chriſtian is commanded to forgive injuries, and to love his enemies; to do as he would be done by; and to conſider it as more noble to ſubdue the firſt emotions of anger, than to give vent to ungovernable paſſions, to expoſe his own ſoul and body

to

to danger, or deprive his friend of his life. Does a ruffian challenge you to fight? tell him that you muſt not fight, unleſs called to it in the way of duty. Conſider whether it is not more honourable to ſubmit to trifling affronts, than to plunge a ſword into the heart of your neighbour. You mention *honour*, and *honour* is the hobby-horſe of every one who is unacquainted with it. It is like a proſtitute pretending to have modeſty, or a thief to have honeſty. True honour, Sir, conſiſts in doing our duty in private life, and then extending the influence of our example to the community at large. It is the duty of a man of honour to forgive an injury; it is the character of a profligate to reſent it. Am I to hazard my eternal ſalvation, becauſe I am called a fool or a blockhead? No, Sir: our Saviour was called by the moſt opprobious names, while he was going about doing good, and mocked when he laid down his life for a guilty world. How different the character of the duelliſt! I have often wiſhed that we had a law amongſt us, obliging every perſon who ſends a challenge to another, to pay a fine of five hundred pounds, or be committed to the houſe of correction for one year; nay, I would have the duelliſt, who kills his friend, hanged up in chains on the ſpot where the murder was committed, and all his perſonal eſtate confiſcated for the benefit of the poor. Let me beg, Sir, that I may hear no more from you on this ſubject: keep no more company with ſuch wretches as you have deſcribed: attend to what I taught you in your tender years, and then you will have reaſon to bleſs me for this advice.

I am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate guardian,

GEORGE PARVAL.

LETTER

LETTER CXX.

From a young Gentleman to a Friend.

On MEMORY.

Dear Sir,

I Have often wondered how you can remember every thing you read; for no sooner do I peruse a work than I forget it. You have often told me, there is such a thing as an artificial memory; but as I did not rightly comprehend your meaning, I took no further notice of what you said, which probably has induced you to look upon me as one who paid no regard to your instructions. I hope, however, you will think more favourably of me, and continue that friendship which we contracted some years ago. Indeed it grieves me much to think that I have read authors, whom I often hear quoted in company, but can seldom repeat a single passage in them. I tell my companions that I have read such and such a book, but when they descend to particulars, I am lost in ignorance and darkness. What, my dear friend, is this owing to? Or why should I read to forget? Let be beg you will give me your opinion on this subject, for I cannot bear the thoughts of going through the world as an animal being, without memory, reflection, or judgement. I am afraid I have not made a judicious choice of books, but have read whatever presented itself to me without order or method. Whatever you dictate shall be sacredly adhered to by me; and happy shall I consider myself, if I can but enjoy those pleasues which many do, in consequence of their remembering the beautiful passages in those authors they have read.

I am, dear Sir yours respectfully,

A. B.

LETTER

LETTER CXXI.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours, and am not much surprised at the complaint you have made with respect to the want of memory, especially as you have not adhered to any fixed plan of reading. Reading every book just as it comes to hand, is like a person swallowing down twenty different sorts of victuals in a day. The one creates a foulness in the stomach, which generally ends in a consumption: the other discomposes the rational faculties, and makes learning itself (one of the greatest ornaments of human life) a nuisance, instead of a real advantage. In perusing books of history, you must take memorandums of the most striking incidents: and these you must arrange in such a manner, as to be able to refer to them on every occasion. In poetry consider the subject matter the author has in view; and having read a passage two or three times over with care and attention, you will remember it at your leisure hours, and be enabled to repeat it in conversation. I am sorry we have not in our language so much as the plan of a common-place-book, to assist the memory; for such as have been published under that title do not deserve the name. During the fourth century of Christianity, it was common to repeat the acts of our Saviour and his apostles in verse, which made a lasting impression on the minds of the hearers; and this seems to have been the practice in latter times, for we are told in the life of *Grotius*, that he composed the principles of the Christian religion in verse, and had them sung in the streets of the most capital cities in Holland. I have often wished that until such time as we can procure the plan of a common-place-book, this practice was to be a little more attended to; for a man will remember many things written in agreeable verse, which in prose would be forgotten. Language is the same, whether in prose or in verse; and translators may make use of either, so as they do no injury to the original. I shall at all times be ready to give you what instructions

lay

ſa- in my power: but you muſt excuſe me when I tell you, that unleſs you think while you read, your reading will be but of little ſervice.'

I am, dear Sir, yours ſincerely,

H. BOWEN.

LETTER CXXII.

From a young Man, a Soldier in the Militia, to his Father in Yorkſhire.

Honoured Sir,

I Had not an opportunity of ſeeing you ſince I was drawn into the militia; for the regiment marched within a few days after. We are now encamped, and I can aſſure you that whatever little difficulties we may have to ſtruggle with, yet when I conſider every thing, I have no reaſon to complain. Had I refuſed to engage in defence of the injured rights of my country, I might have remained in Yorkſhire as an idle drone; but now I have ſome comfort, in conſidering that I am engaged in the way of my duty. We have prayers and a ſermon every Sunday in the camp. and our colonel has ordered a Bible to be given to each of us. Nothing but regularity takes place; and as for curſing and ſwearing, which you always cautioned me againſt, we know nothing of it. Why then, Sir, ſhould I complain? The great and good colonel Gardener, who had a paternal eſtate of his own, cheerfully laid down his life for the rights of his country; and although I am only a private ſoldier, yet if I do my duty, may I not expect that my reward will in proportion be equal to his? Upon the whole, I think that theſe three years ſervitude may be attended with the moſt beneficial conſequences, if I improve them in a proper manner. Give my duty to my mother and love to my ſiſters, and beg they will continue to remember me.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful ſon,

JOHN MILES.

LETTER CXXIII.

The Father's Answer.

Dear Jacky,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear that you are so well reconciled to the hardships of a life, the most honest and honourable that you could have embraced. I have often wondered, why people should find fault with a military life. The life of a Christian is compared to that of a soldier; for the apostle Paul tells us, that he *had fought the good fight of faith.* Many of the most eminent persons among the primitive Christians were soldiers, and some of them cheerfully laid down their lives for the truth, as it is revealed to us in the Sacred Scriptures. The father of the great St. Austin was a soldier; Constantine the great was a Roman general, before he embraced the Christian religion; and Jovian, the emperor, did not consider it as a dishonour to look up to the Divine Being for success, before he engaged in any military exploits. Religion, my dear boy, is the grand ornament of human life, and where can you make it appear with a more beautiful, a more distinguishing lustre, than in faithfully discharging the duties of a military life? There is one thing, however, I must caution you against; namely, a connection with those in the camp whom you will find given up, as it were, to all sorts of wickedness. My dear lad, never forget that you are an accountable being, and therefore the more profanity you hear in company, you ought to be the more on your guard. Glorious indeed must the character of those persons appear in the sight of Heaven, who by putting their trust in the providence of God, and seeking his assistance, have been able to resist the force and temptation. May every blessing attend my dear son, and when he has served his country according to the appointed time by law, may he be restored to his indulgent parents, is the sincere wish of a father who loves him.

GEORGE MILES.

LETTER CXXIV.

From a young Woman, who had been seduced, to her aged Father in the Country.

Ever honoured Father,

BUT, alas! why do I make use of such a sacred name! I have trampled upon all your commands, and have forsaken both you and my God. I have brought my mother's grey hairs with sorrow to the grave; and although there can be no doubt but she is in a state of happiness, yet how can I forgive myself for the trouble I gave her, when, consistent with my duty, I should have been her comfort. Ah! Sir, why was I born? Was it to dishonour you, or to ruin my own precious and immortal soul? Yes, Sir, and I am afraid both soul and body are ruined. But is there no mercy with my God? Can I expect no forgiveness from a once indulgent parent? In an unguarded moment I complied with the desires of a villain, and consistent with the whole of his character, no sooner had he in all respects completed my ruin, than he triumphed over my weakness. But will my dear father shut up the bowels of his compassion against a guilty, though a penitent daughter? did not you once love me, while in a state of the purest innocence? And will you not be my friend in a state of distress? Remember, Sir, that I am still your child let my offence be ever so great. Take me once more into the arms of your parental affection, and the whole of my life shall be one continued act of obedience. I have none but you to apply to, and let me beg your answer may not drive me to despair.

I am, ever honoured Sir,

Your afflicted daughter,

MARY WILSON.

LETTER CXXV.

The Father's Answer.

Dear Child,

IS there joy, my dear, in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine persons who need no repentance? Has God sent the son of his love to die for mortals? Has he set open the gates of salvation for sinners? And must I refuse extending my compassion to a beloved though an offending daughter? Gracious God forbid! may never such a sentiment take place in my mind. It was my principal study to bring you up in the fear of God; and although you have once yielded to the force of temptation, yet I know we are all frail creatures; and, therefore, as we expect mercy from the Divine Being, so we ought to do as we would be done by. Let not the consideration of any thing that has happened, induce you to consider me as your enemy; no, my dear, I am your real friend. I am your father, and I have arms of compassion extended to receive you. Let me therefore beg you will come to me, no faults shall be remembered: and in consequence of your mother's death, you shall be mistress of my house, for I will never give you a step-mother. Do not, my dear, mention despair, for in such cases, I am afraid there is but little hope of pardon. Come to my indulgent arms, and I shall never think of your having been guilty of a fault. I have been guilty of errors; I must look up to the Divine Being for pardon, and why then should I not pardon you? Yes, my dear, I do it with a cheerful heart: and let me beg to see you as soon as you receive this, because every thing is prepared for your reception, and you will find your life agreeable.

I am, dear child, your affectionate father,

JOHN WILSON.

LETTER

LETTER CXXVI.

The young Woman's Answer to her Father.

Ever honoured Sir.

YOU have often told me in the days of my innocence, that those who intend to act uprightly, have reason to expect the divine favour; and altho' I may be justly considered as unworthy of it, yet a circumstance has taken place, which I hope will be for my advantage, and give some comfort to my aged parent. Mr. Serle, the curate of our parish, was a few evenings ago in company with Mr. Brown, by whose vile insinuating arts I was first seduced; and the worthy clergyman represented his guilt to him in such lively colours, that next morning he brought a licence, and we were married. I have great reason to hope that Mr. Brown will make a good husband, for he is now convinced of his folly, and only waits for your blessing. He is in a good way of business, and therefore I think myself extremely happy. We shall wait upon you in a few days, so that I must beg you will not upbraid him with any thing that is past: as a reparation has been made for the injury done me, let all be forgotton, that I may still have an opportunity of living in the world in a creditable manner. Receive us, my dear father, with open arms of affection; and then you will have the pleasing reflection in your mind, that you have, by one act of generosity, rescued an unhappy couple from destruction.

I am, ever honoured Sir,

Your affectionate daughter,

MARY BROWN.

LETTER CXXVII.

From a Father of a young Family to a Gentleman of considerable Rank.

Honoured Sir,

ABOUT ten years ago, when I married, you acted to me the part of a real friend, and by setting me up in

business,

business, enabled me to provide for my family; but, alas! a variety of circumstances have since that time, and indeed very lately, taken place, that without your advice, and the assistance of worthy generous persons, I shall become a most miserable object, and my children be left unprovided for. The truth is, my wife died about two months ago, and the affliction I have been under on that melancholy occasion has preyed so much on my spirits, that I did not attend properly to business, 'till forced to it by necessity, and then I found my affairs very much embarrassed. My wife did not keep a proper account of what articles she sold on credit, so that it is not in my power to recover many things due to me; and you know my small place in the Custom-House prevented me from giving a constant attendance to my shop. I see nothing less than misery before me; I am too poor to become a bankrupt, even if I had an inclination to be so; but all the horrors of a prison present themselves to my view. What can I do, Sir, in a prison? There I shall be buried from the world; there I cannot work, and while I am there my poor children will starve. I dare not solicit you, for any pecuniary gratification, having received much of that already; but still, in Christian charity, I may beg you would advise me how to act. I have sent enclosed the state of my affairs; and, upon the severest scrutiny, it will be found that I have not made use of a single falsehood. I would call upon you, but cannot without your permission, which I hope, from your well known good nature, you will not refuse to grant.

I am, honoured Sir,
Respectfully, although afflicted,
Sincerely your's,
RICHARD PRICE.

LETTER CXXVIII.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Received your letter, and the contents have affected me much. I was in hopes that you and your wife had conducted things in such a prudent manner that a sufficient provision

vision would have been made for your family. It was in order to promote so desirable an end that I procured you a place in the Custom-House; but now I find that all my endeavours to serve you have been of no manner of use. Remember I do not accuse you of criminality; for when I give advice I am always tender, lest the advice itself should defeat its own intention, and make the man unhappy whom I thought it my duty to serve. The enclosed state of your affairs is melancholy indeed; for I find you have neither a capital to carry on business, nor sufficiency to pay your debts, and your place in the Custom-House will not support you under such circumstances. You ask for my advice, and that shall be readily granted; I only wish it could be attended with beneficial consequences, so as to preserve you from ruin and promote the interest of your family. The accounts you have sent me of your wife's neglect in keeping proper accounts, should have been attended to long since; for surely you must have had occasion to make up payments before, and had you attended in a proper manner to your books, you would have found where the mistakes lay, before it was too late to rectify them. I would have you to summons a meeting of your creditors, and as I am one I shall attend. Give up, without reserve, all you have to them, and I shall endeavour to procure you time for the payment of the remainder. Whatever is spent at the meeting I will pay for, and I will repurchase all you have, in order to set you up again in business. My conduct in such an important affair will influence the rest of the creditors, and then I doubt not of seeing you as well settled in business as ever.

I am, Sir, yours,

A. B.

LETTER CXXIX.

From a young Man imprisoned for Debt, desiring to be reconciled to an aged Aunt, whom he had offended.

Honoured Madam,

LOOK with compassion to the subscription of this letter, written from a dismal prison by a wicked

young

young man, on whose education you spent both time and pains, although he has not treated you with that gratitude which was his duty. The truth is, dear aunt, my eyes are now opened, and with shame I see my folly, my misery, my ruin. To whom, while I am starving with cold and hunger, can I apply but to you. Is there no mercy for a penitent prodigal? I am willing, nay, desirous to return to the paths of virtue; but am I to receive no favour? be honoured with no sort of protection? nor treated with common humanity? I read yesterday the parable of the prodigal son, who in consequence of his contrition, his sense of his former follies and his resolution of amendment, was received with open arms of reconciliation by his father. And why, my dear aunt, will not you pity me? I am as much ashamed when I reflect on my former conduct in life, as you can be to hear my actions repeated: but when God offers pardon to repenting sinners, why should we withhold our charitable assistance from each other? Consider me, although sensible of my folly, yet in the high road to destruction. From the morning to the evening, and even during the whole of the night, I hear nothing besides cursing, swearing, blasphemy, and obscenity. While I think of my duty as a sincere penitent, I am tempted, in order to avoid the imputation of singularity, to approve of what is said by those who have not the fear of God before their eyes. Extend your benevolence, dear aunt, in order to extricate me from this wretched state of confinement, which cannot be called better than *hell upon earth*. The remainder of my life shall convince you of my sincerity, and the blessing of him who was ready to perish will be your everlasting portion.

I am, honoured Madam,

Your unhappy nephew,

GEORGE WALLIS

LETTER

LETTER CXXX.

The Answer.

Unhappy George,

I Received your letter, and read it with that attention which the serious nature of the subject pointed out to me; and although you seem to imagine that I am unaffected with your present miserable situation; although you think me devoid of bowels of compassion, yet in both you are mistaken; for I know how to forgive the follies, the vices of youth; to receive with the utmost cheerfulness the returning prodigal, and to point out the sincere penitent a line of subsequent duty. Your being arrested and thrown into prison, is what I expected long before the melancholy event took place. That your misery is great I cannot doubt, I wish I was as well convinced of the sincerity of your repentance. Professions of virtuous resolutions made during a state of confinement are seldom sincere, and as seldom do they take place in the conduct of the person who has been set at liberty. Afflictions may have brought you to a sense of your past follies, but under that affliction has any amendment of life taken place? Affliction may have induced you to despise the conduct of your abandoned companions; but, if set at liberty, would not you chuse to herd with them again? You declare that it is horrid, to be a constant ear witness to the blasphemous expressions made use of in prison; but, if at liberty, would not you join yourself to wretches, who, divested of the fear of God, make use of the same expressions? I am afraid you would: however, as I would not be censorious, but give all the encouragement in my power to the person who declares himself ashamed of his former conduct, so I have sent an order for the payment of your debts; and you will receive as much as will equip you in a proper manner, to see me: but let me beg you will leave your oaths and blasphemy in the prison, and when you come out of sight of London, forget every place where your manners were

con-

contaminated, and where you was first seduced from your duty to God, to your country, your friends, and yourself.

I am your affectionate aunt,

ARABELLA WALTON.

LETTER CXXXI.

From a Farmer in the Country to his Landlord in London.

Honoured Sir,

FOR a gentleman of your rank to comply with a single request made by a poor man, whose family have received many benefits from you, is a great favour indeed, if complied with; and if neglected, it shall be submitted to with becoming resignation. The first thing I have to mention is, that the crop this year has been exceedingly barren, so that it will not be in my power to pay the rent before Christmas. In that respect, I doubt not but you will sympathize with me, and write to your steward to grant me time: but I have another thing to mention; my son Jack, whom you have often treated with tenderness, has some thoughts of going to the East Indies, and I should be under many obligations, if you could procure him a proper place; he knows but little of the nature of the service, but your knowledge and your benevolence are capable to direct him. I would have sent him to London for your advice, but as it will be some time before the East-India Ships sail, so I shall have time to receive your answer. I must add further, that there are but two years remaining of my lease, and your steward has intimated to persons in the neighbourhood, that the rent is to be raised. I hope this is not true, for your ever honoured father told me, that while I acted as an honest man, my rent should never be raised, nor should I be turned out of the possession of that farm which my father enjoyed, and where I first drew my breath. I doubt not, Sir, but you will consider what I have said in a proper manner, and whatever you prescribe shall be obeyed by me.

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours in all humility,

THOMAS HODGES.

LETTER CXXXII.

The Answer.

Farmer Hodges,

YOU have presented me with no less than three requests, and I shall comply with them as far as lays in my power; I mean the second, for with respect to the first and the last, I can do as I please. Now, Sir, in regard to the season; I am no stranger to it, and so far am I from exacting your rent at the appointed time, that I will give you six months longer to pay it than you have desired. Your second request, with respect to your son, may be attended with some difficulty, and yet I doubt not but I shall accomplish it. I would have him to go out in the station of a writer; and, if the climate should agree with his constitution, he will bid fair to procure a considerable fortune. Heavens grant it may not be the wages of iniquity! A curse attends ill-gotten riches, and the avaricious man often reads his guilt in his punishment. When you send your son to London, I shall give him proper instructions, and I doubt not of procuring him a very good place. Lastly, you seem to think that my steward will advance your rent on the renewal of your lease: be not uneasy on that account; my steward is my servant, and he cannot do any thing to injure you without my consent, which be assured shall never be granted. I respect what you mention concerning my dear father; but consider that I am an accountable being as well as he. My father has left me a pious example; but instead of confining myself to it in a slavish manner, I hope to aspire beyond it. Let parents teach their children; but let children endeavour to become both wiser and better than their parents. Upon the whole, I am your sincere friend: and as a proof of that honest friendship, I have sent some small presents to your children.

Yours,

CHARLES TURNER.

LETTER

LETTER CXXXIII.

From a young Tradesman in London to his Uncle in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

ALTHOUGH I brought your displeasure upon me, for marrying before the expiration of my apprenticeship, yet as my wife is one of the most virtuous, prudent young women that ever lived, so I doubt not but you will forgive me. Ever since I set up in business, although much pinched for want of a little money to carry it on, yet I have not contracted one shilling of debt besides what I can pay: and if my capital was a little more enlarged, I should be able to undertake several considerable jobs, which I would endeavour to conduct with prudence, and I doubt not but I should be well paid. You often generously promised, that if ever I married to your satisfaction, you would give me something to assist me: and surely, Sir, if I have displeased you, the event has justified my choice; and perhaps my circumstances are much better, and my life more happy, than if I had married a wife with ten thousand pounds. I have lost no time; I keep no company but where my business requires it; my wife is not one of those who will take part in the fashionable follies of this world; and then may I not expect a blessing on our endeavours? I must not beg any thing from you; but let me hope, that I may yet have the happiness to be reconciled to your favour. To pardon the guilty (if I have been so) is the darling attribute of the Deity; and I doubt not but you, who have practised a course of religious duties, will yet countenance a young man, whom you once treated with tenderness.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your affectionate nephew,

S. M.

LETTER

LETTER CXXXIV.

The Answer.

Dear Sammy,

IT is true, that when you married so young I was much offended, for this just reason, that I imagined you had completed your own ruin, which was the more surprizing to me, because you had been always virtuous before. It is however, with peculiar pleasure, I hear that you have been successful; and to convince you of my tenderness, I have desired Mr. Hogg, to advance you as much money as you can reasonably desire, to enable you to carry on business. Consider, that if God in his providence has blessed you with a virtuous partner for life, you will have much to answer for, if you do not attend to your duty. When Appelles, the famous painter, drew the figure of an artist, he always represented him with tools in his hands; thereby insinuating in a striking manner, that the man who has been brought up to business, should never be idle. A tradesman should be industrious, but he should not place his confidence in his industry. "I will do every thing that is "right;" says a great man, "but I will look to heaven "for a blessing." In vain, my dear Sammy, do we rise soon or sit up late, unless God bestows his blessing, and commands his life-giving favour. Riches procured without a dependance on Divine Providence, have a secret curse lodged within them: they may give a man the enjoyment for some time of the affluence of life, but they will never convey peace of conscience, or make him happy in eternity. Be industrious in your business; be tender to your wife; and be indulgent to your children: but still remember, that riches will never make you happy, unless the divine favour is stamped upon them. You will meet with losses, but they are the unavoidable lot of every man in trade; and as you know I am no stranger to business, so I think this advice coming from one of some experience, should not be despised: but as I am obliged to be absent a few days from

my family, I shall send you what I further intended in my next.

I am, dear Sammy,
Your affectionate uncle,
S. M.

LETTER CXXXV.

From the Same, in Continuation.

Dear Sammy,

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Hogg, who informs me, that he has paid the money I ordered, and taken your bond, which I shall suffer to remain in full force, 'till I see in what manner you conduct yourself, and if your conduct is to my satisfaction, the bond shall be cancelled; and perhaps when I am no more in this world, you will find that I never neglected your interest. But this leads me to what I had further to say on a subject which I think is important. There is nothing more common among tradesmen in London, than to keep their country houses, and make parties of pleasure in their coaches and four on Sundays. This was not always the fashion, for I can remember the time, when merchants and tradesmen went to church twice every Sunday, and spent the evenings at home with their families.

Can any thing be more rational than that of setting apart some of our time for the worship of the Supreme Being? Is he not the God of creation and providence; and has he not a right to our services? We cannot add to his perfections, but we can shew ourselves to be his humble followers, by complying with every commanded duty. I would therefore advise you, when the business of the day is over, to spend some time with your family in cheerful conversation, and never to frequent public houses, unless you are obliged to do it in the way of business. On every Saturday evening settle your books, that you may know how much you are indebted, and what you have to answer the demands of your creditors. On Sunday morning call your family together, and put them in mind of the obligations they are

under

under to attend divine worship; go together to the church, and let your own example teach your servants to behave in a decent, reverend manner: and further, never let your example lead them to the fields, to spend the afternoon in extravagance and dissipation; but still give them leave to follow their own inclinations, for I am fully convinced, your example will work more powerfully upon them, than either exhortations or instructions. Visit your neighbours in a friendly manner, and even invite them to your own house; but in this be cautious, for too much company is the ruin of business. By acting consistent with these prudential rules, you may expect as much success as is consistent with the order of Divine Providence, and further you have no reason to hope.

I am, dear Sammy,

Your affectionate uncle,

S. M.

LETTER CXXXVI.

From a young Man, settled as a Clerk to a Banker in London, to his Father in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

THANKS be to God and to you, that I am now agreeably settled: it was my wish always to be so, and now it has taken place. I have sixty pounds a year allowed me, and I board at the house of your old friend Mr. Watson, who treats me with every sort of indulgence. He would be glad to see you in London, but I often tell him that I have no hopes of your coming, because of your having been so long afflicted with the Gout. My business is indeed laborious, and much is intrusted to my care, in consequence of the security I procured by your letter of recommendation; but I take pleasure in doing my duty, which I hope will not displease you. I shall, I hope, attend to the instructions you have given me from time to time; and although my dear father's bones should be consigned to the silent grave, yet I have no doubt of meeting with him in heaven. I keep no company in the evenings,

but retire to my lodgings, and spend the time either in conversation or reading. This course of life is become so pleasing to me, that I know not what I could exchange for it. I am rather sorry that before I left the country, I did not make myself better acquainted with accounts, but that I shall endeavour to do at my leisure hours.

I am, honoured Sir, your dutiful Son,

JOHN MASON.

LETTER CXXXVII.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Jackey,

WITH pleasure I received yours, and if I have not answered it by the first return of the post, you must impute it to the real cause; namely, my being obliged to be absent about the sale of some cattle, which might have been transacted by our man John, had not a dispute arisen from his ignorance of what he was about. The plan you have laid for the regulation of your conduct, is perfectly consistent with what I pointed out to you, while you was under my care: and while you adhere to it, I shall have no doubt but you will make a most distinguishing figure in this world. You are now intrusted with your master's property, nay, with the property of those who have trusted their property with him. Consider the honour arising from the consciousness of integrity, and shudder at the thoughts of injustice. Human laws may inflict a small punishment for the breach of trust, but how can you think of answering to the Divine Being, if you have robbed your master of his property? it is nothing to me, to tell me that your bondsmen will make good the loss, while your character is ruined and your eternal welfare at stake. But still I hope better things of my dear son: he has received a virtuous, a pious education, and why should I imagine he will ever act otherwise? Remember, my dear boy, that if you do your duty without trusting in your own merits, God will be your friend in time; and, although you have no right to claim it, he will reward you in eternity. Above all

things,

things, let me beg you will keep from bad company. Milton compares chastity to the sweet perfumes of a flower-garden, and lewdness to the noxious steams arising from corrupted bodies in sepulchres. Attend to virtue and religion, and you will be an object of the divine care in time, and of his favour when time shall be no more.

I am, your affectionate father,

W. MASON.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

From a young Widow in the Country to her Brother in London.

Dear Brother,

WHILE my husband was alive I had a friend to consult, but now that he is taken from me, whom shall I go to but you? You have often told me that in all cases of distress your advice should not be wanting, and certainly I stand much in need of it at present. You know that my husband left me in very embarrassed circumstances; and now that I have got things settled, and paid every one his own, I find myself with much less than is able to support me. I can neither beg nor work, and what then shall I do? Mr. Smith, whom you are well acquainted with, and who lost his wife about two years ago, has made proposals of marriage to me; but I cannot give him an answer 'till I hear from you. You are the only friend I have in this world, and whom else can I consult? So far as I can learn, Mr. Smith has a fair character, and he is in reputable circumstances: he can have no self-interest in view, while he solicits my hand; for he knows I have nothing to give, nor any thing to lose, unless it be that peace of mind which has constantly supported me under all my afflictions. Under these circumstances, dear brother, give me your advice what to do; and, I do assure you, it shall regulate my conduct.

Your loving sister,

MARY ALCKIN.

LETTER CXXXIX.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Sister,

EVERY time I receive a letter from you, I peruse it with as much cheerfulness as an alderman of London does the news-papers, when he reads that the stocks have risen ten *per cent.* for the day. You know I have been long acquainted with Mr. Smith, and I am convinced he is such a one as will never be a dishonour to you, if you consent to give him your hand. The multiplicity of business which I had to go through with, prevented me from waiting on you, but still I never forgot you: you are my sister, and I will love you while I am in this world. I think the proposal made to you ought to be accepted of; least a better should never offer, for I believe few men will be found more worthy of your notice than Mr. Smith: he is a man who has always attended to business; he has a tender and compassionate heart, and who more proper to be a husband to my sister? I would have you by all means to comply with his request, because I think it will be for your interest: nor would I have you to keep him long in suspence, for he may alter his sentiments, in consequence of some other objects presenting themselves to his view. As you have already been married, so you know something of that state, and I doubt not but Mr. Smith and you will be happy in the enjoyment of each other. I will wait upon my dear sister, and give her away in marriage, because she is to be the wife of my friend. May every blessing attend you; and may God Almighty, in his infinite wisdom, direct you to that which will in the end promote your interest, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate brother,

GEORGE EMPSON.

LETTER

LETTER CXL.

From a Gentlewoman on the Death of ~~their~~ her Husband.

Reverend Sir,

I HAVE been often advised by you, during my younger years, to prepare myself for affliction, for sooner or later it would take place. Marriage made me happy, in my own opinion; and if happiness could be found in this world, I believe I enjoyed as much of it as most of those with whom I am acquainted. My husband treated me with tenderness; I became the mother of an amiable progeny; my children had (and still have) virtuous inclinations: but my God has taken my husband from me! How tender was his love! how delightful his conversation! how engaging his friendship! Perhaps I have done something to incur the divine displeasure, and God has singled me out as an object of his anger. All my faculties are discomposed; for I once thought that my happiness was to remain for ever uninterrupted. What vain creatures we are, never to take advice 'till it is too late! Had I prepared myself to meet with afflictions, I should not have been afflicted when that melancholy event, the death of my husband, took place. I am now a real object of your pity, and I know, that, like your Divine Master, the wretched never solicited your assistance in vain. My son George is bound apprentice to a Linen-draper in London, but the other children are still at school. My husband has left you some books and a ring, which you will receive as soon as you arrive at this place, which I hope will be next week. In the mean time let me beg to hear from you; for every word of consolation will help towards supporting me under my present affliction, and perhaps make a state of widowhood easy.

I am, reverend Sir,

Your unhappy friend,

ANNE HALE.

LETTER

LETTER CXLI.

The Answer.

Dear Madam,

HAD I not been convinced of the propriety of that advice you allude to, I would never have given it. I sincerely pity you, but not perhaps on such principles as you may expect; and remember that while I find fault it shall be with tenderness, as the only means of producing the desired effect. And now, Madam, as you placed your confidence in things of a perishing nature, you must not be surprised at finding yourself mistaken. You loved your husband; it was your duty: but how could you, consistent with your knowledge in other respects, imagine he was to live for ever? Let me beg you will consider things in a proper light, and not find fault with that Divine Being, who is all love to poor sinful creatures, and only separates them for a time, that they may be for ever happy in eternity. Your husband lived in the fear of God, and died in the firm persuasion of a blessed immortality. He is waiting for you in a state of everlasting happiness; and the time is but short 'till you shall meet him, unless, by your acting in an imprudent manner, you should deprive yourself of the Divine favour. You seem to think that you have done something to offend the Almighty: alas! have you not done many things to offend him? Can you recollect one single action in the course of your life hitherto, that has not been tinctured with sin? Self-knowledge leads to humility, and to resignation. It teaches us to consider ourselves as what we really are, poor miserable creatures; while the belief of Christianity insures to us the hope of a blessed immortality. Supposing God had taken yourself instead of your husband, would not you have been sorry to leave behind you the pledges of a matrimonial contract, of conjugal fidelity? Supposing God had been pleased to remove you both at the same time, how calamitous would have been the case? how distressed the situation of your children? Left to the partial care of interested relations, their education might have been neglected; they might

have

have been treated with cruelty, exposed to many hardships, and at last become pests of human society: but quite the reverse has taken place; your husband was well prepared for a future state, and God took him only a little before you. You must, however, reflect, that your duty to your children is now double what it was before. You was lately a mother; but now you come in the place of both father and mother. Spend much of your time in reading the sacred Scriptures, and learn to acquire their true and genuine spirit. Make use of a practical commentary; but never meddle with religious disputes. I shall, if able, call on you next week; and in the mean time,

Am, dear Madam,

Your sincere friend,

SAMUEL LEIGHTON.

LETTER CXLII.

From a young Gentleman on the Death of his Sweetheart to the Clergyman who attended her.

Reverend Sir,

IT is with a trembling hand and an affected heart, that I write to you on the present melancholy occasion. Miss Bates is no more: she died in my arms about three hours after you left us yesterday, and she has left me a miserable being indeed. I had promised myself every thing in her love and friendship, but now I am left disconsolate, and my mind is so much agitated, that I am like one deprived of reason.

I need not mention to you, who was long acquainted with her, the numerous qualifications she was possessed of, beyond the generality of her sex. Her learning was extensive, in French, musick, and all sorts of needle-work; she was a pattern of virtue to all the young persons with whom she was acquainted; and such was her piety and love of religion, that many clergymen thought it an honour to spend some hours in her company. Under many and great afflictions, she was cheerful 'till she left this world; all which being joined to one of the finest figures that ever was seen,

ſeen, muſt have rendered her an object of love to every young man with whom ſhe was acquainted. But all was exceeded by her humility.

Long had ſhe fill'd each youth with love,
Each maiden with deſpair;
And tho' by all, a beauty own'd,
Yet knew not ſhe was fair.

My parents are drowned in tears, on account of my reſolution of going abroad; and what can I do? Shall I give my hand to one inferior to her? And is it poſſible ever to find her equal? No, Sir, I will retire from the place of my nativity, and ſhut myſelf up from the ſociety of men. My life is now become a burthen to me, and where ſhall I find reſt, God only knows. Let me beg to hear from you, and in the mean time,

I am, reverend Sir,
Yours ſincerely,
GEORGE FLETCHER.

LETTER CXLIII.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

I AM no ſtranger, as you well know, to the virtues of the young woman whom you mention. I have ſpent many agreeable hours in her company, and I have often bleſſed the divine goodneſs that ever I became acquainted with her; but it is long ſince I conſidered her as in a dying condition. This, however, ſhould give you much comfort in many reſpects: you placed your affections on a worthy object, which was much to your honour; and ſhe treated you according to your merits. She was all tenderneſs, and yet it does not appear to me, that you have profited by the example which ſhe ſet before you: if ſo, would you repine at the diſpenſations of Providence, and by leaving your native country make your worthy parents miſerable? Supposing

posing you had been married to Miss Bates, God might have taken her from you, and then perhaps you would have been more miserable than you are at present. Let me persuade you, if possible, to attend to your duty in the station in which Providence has placed you, and then you will be a comfort to your parents in their old age, and perhaps you may meet with a partner for life, as accomplished as Miss Bates; but if not, still resign yourself to the will of heaven.

I am, Sir, your sincere friend,

JOHN POWEL.

LETTER CXLIV.

From a Widow Lady to a worthy aged Gentleman.

Dear Sir,

THE care you took of my morals in my tender years, will ever be remembered with gratitude; and I impute to your tenderness, all that happiness I enjoyed in the marriage state. Your advice and your example displayed virtue as an amiable object, and shewed religion in her native colours. With respect to the loss of my husband, it is what I long expected, and I often prayed for that resignation which I now enjoy; but still I am much at a loss how to spend my time. I sometimes long for eternity, and yet I am afraid of death. To consider my body as consigned to be food for worms, is shocking, and yet it must be. Death! how dreadful the thought; and yet it must take place. But what is death when compared to eternity, that unknown world, where we know not in what manner we shall be employed? Shall we once more know our departed friends? I have often wished that God had made these things plainer to us; but here let me be silent, and acknowledge that the Judge of all the earth will do right. I should, however, be glad to hear from you as often as you can spare a few minutes; for I am so infirm, that I cannot call on you.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

ARABELLA ACTON.

LETTER

LETTER CXLV.

The Answer.

Madam,

I Received yours, and shall, with the greatest cheerfulness, comply with your request. You seem to be much afraid of death and eternity, and yet it does not appear to me that you have formed a proper notion of either.

Death is no more than a temporary separation of the soul from the body, to be again joined together at the general resurrection, when Christ shall come to judge the world in righteousness. I will admit, that the passage to death and the grave, is often gloomy and dark. Our acquaintance with the world fixes, as it were, our affections on temporal objects, and we are unwilling to part with them. The pains of a death-bed are often so great, that our minds are discomposed, and we are even unable to consider what should be the grand object in view. And let me ask you, Madam, what the consideration of these things should suggest to us? I answer a proper behaviour while in this world, that we may at all times be prepared to meet the king of terrors (as death is commonly called) not as an enemy, but as a friend, who is to deliver us from mortal concerns, and make us happy for ever.

We are all under the sentance of death as the criminal who is confined in the cells of Newgate. As the children of Israel were not to take possession of the land of Canaan 'till they had crossed the river Jordan; so we are not to enter into heaven 'till we pass through death. The body, it is true, will lay some time in the grave, from whence it will be raised in the most glorious manner, to join the immortal soul; but of this in my next.

I am, Madam,

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD GOODMAN.

LETTER

LETTER CXLVI.

From the Same to the Same.

Madam,

THE next subject in your letter is eternity, and an awful subject it is. To enter into an unknown world, to dwell in the regions of spirits, is sufficient to fill our minds with solemn reverence! But happy for us poor mortals, divine revelation comes to our assistance, and indeed under the most necessary circumstances. The Heathens had confused notions concerning a future state, nor was it very clearly revealed to the Jews, who believed that all the faithful after death were carried by angels into Abraham's bosom. Christ, by his death, resurrection, and ascension, has brought immortality to light; and in the New Testament we have pointed out to us the enjoyment of an eternal inheritance in the heavens, where we shall, to use the words of the apostle, "know even as we "are known." By which I understand, that we shall know our departed relations, in the same manner as we were known by them here below. In eternity we shall have no days nor nights, no change of seasons; all will be one uninterrupted state of happiness. We shall then forget our former afflictions; and, to use the beautiful language of Scripture, "God will wipe away all tears "from our eyes." And is not this, Madam, a state to be piously wished for? Would you chuse to remain under all the miseries of a tumultuous world, while the gospel presents to you an uninterrupted state of happiness? You are now, like every human being in the world, in some measure under the dominion of sin; but in heaven or eternity, you will be beyond the power of sin. You will see that benign Saviour, whom you worshipped in this world; the smiles of his favour will encircle you around, and you will look down upon sublunary things as unworthy of your notice. You will then know more than the wisest

man that ever yet lived in the world; for *Jehovah* will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. What a pleasing thought! what a delightful subject is eternity, to a mind properly qualified for it! It contains all that can satisfy a rational and immortal soul. There our ideas will be enlarged; there our mental faculties will be fixed on the noblest objects; and there we shall ever be with our God. Let these sentiments, Madam, sink deep into your mind; and consider, that although you are in a state of widowhood, yet you have an everlasting friend in that Being, who will never leave you, and doubt not but you will consider what I have said as the advice of a friend.

I am, Madam, yours sincerely,

EDWARD GOODMAN.

FORMS

FORMS OF CARDS AND NOTES OF COMPLIMENTS.

IN the forms of cards or notes of compliments, the difference is merely circumſtantial, reſpecting the characters of the parties; and they ſhould be plain, eaſy, and ſhort, but comprehenſive.

MISS DALE preſents her compliments to Miſs White, and would be glad of her company this evening at Sadler's-Wells.

Tueſday 5 o'clock.

MISS WHITE's compliments to Miſs Dale, and will meet her this evening, according to her invitation.

Tueſday 6 o'clock.

MRS. FERMOR's compliments to Miſs Davis, and hopes ſhe is better of her cold.

Monday 9 o'clock.

MISS DAVIS's reſpectful compliments to Mrs. Fermor, and has the pleaſure to inform her that ſhe is quite recovered.

Monday 11 o'clock

MISS JOHNSON's compliments to Miss Howard, and would be glad of her company this evening at a private concert.

Saturday 2 o'clock.

MISS HOWARD's compliments to Miss Johnson, and will wait on her this evening with pleasure.

Saturday 4 o'clock.

LORD WILDFIRE's compliments wait on Miss Vaughan, would be glad to meet her this evening at the opera.

Thursday 10 o'clock.

MISS VAUGHAN's compliments to Lord Wildfire, but cannot do herself the honour to meet him this this evening, being previously engaged.

Thursday 12 o'clock.

N. B. All other complimental cards and notes may be written in the same manner, taking care always to remember the stations of the persons to whom they are addressed, and to vary the circumstances as occasion may require.

THE UNIVERSAL PETITIONER.

PETITIONS ſhould contain a ſtate of the petitioner's caſe in the moſt modeſt terms, and then the requeſt muſt be made in humility. All petitions to the King ſhould be ſigned by ſome nobleman or gentleman at court, and if a privy-counſellor the better. In petitions to all other perſons, they ſhould be ſigned by ſome perſon acquainted with thoſe to whom they are addreſſed. The addreſſes of theſe petitions ſhould be plain, ſhort, and expreſſive, according to the rank of the perſons, viz.

To his Moſt Sacred Majeſty.

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty; *May it pleaſe your Majeſty.*

To his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; *May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs.*

All the other branches of the Royal Family muſt be addreſſed by the title of Royal Highneſs.

The nobility are addreſſed in the following manner:

To his Grace the Duke of R. *May it pleaſe your Grace.*

To the moſt Noble the Marquis of B. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable the Earl of M. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viſcount W. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable Lord L. *My Lord.*

All the Ladies of Noblemen are addreſſed according to the titles of their huſbands.

The ſon of a Duke; *Lord J. C.*

The son of a Marquis; *Lord John C.* But the Marquis must be so in his own Right.

The eldest son of an Earl takes his father's second title; the younger ones are called, *The Honourable John C.*

The son of a Viscount takes his fathers second title; and the younger ones are stiled, *Honourable.*

All the sons of Barons are stiled *Honourable.*

The daughters of Dukes, Marquisses, in their own right, are called, *Lady Mary B. &c.*

The daughters of Barons are called, *The Honourable Miss B. &c.*

The title of *Right Honourable* is given to all Privy-Counsellors, although they may happen to be Commoners; and the same title is given to the Lord-Mayors of London, York, and Dublin, and to the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow; to the Lord President of all the judges of the Court of Session in Scotland, and to the Lord Advocate.

Archbishops are called, *Most Reverend*; and Bishops *Right Reverend.*

The rest of the Clergy, *The Reverend.*

Generals and Colonels in the Army, and Admirals at Sea, *Honourable*; unless they are Noblemen, and then according to their rank.

All Ambassadors, and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, *Excellency.*

Justices of the Peace, *Worship.*

Chancellors of Universities, *Worshipful.*

In all other instances, such as Knight, Baronet, and Esquire, the different addresses are well known.

☞ These addresses may also be observed in superscriptions of letters, &c. making the circumstantial variations.

From the Widow of an Officer, to obtain the Pension.

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. H.

Sheweth,

THAT the husband of your Majesty's petitioner had the misfortune to be mortally wounded in battle, of which wounds he died, leaving your Majesty's petitioner a disconsolate widow, with four young children. With respect humility, your petitioner presumes to approach the throne, to obtain the pension generally bestowed on the widows of military officers, that she may be enabled to bring up her children useful members of society.

And your Majesty's petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. H.

Recommended by

From a Man condemned to work on the River Thames, to the King.

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your Majesty's petitioner had the misfortune to get into bad company, and by the evil example and advice of my wicked companions, committed felony, for which I was justly condemned by the laws of my country, to work on the River Thames. Here I have been confined near two years, and during the whole of that time I have not so much as given offence. I am sincerely penitent for the crimes I have committed, and if

if your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend your royal mercy,

Your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a Naval Officer, to be admitted a Clerk in the Office at Chatham.

To the Right Honourable, the first Lord Commissioner of Admiralty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner has served on board one of his Majesty's ships upwards of six years, and continued in the faithful discharge of his duty, 'till he was wounded in an engagement at sea. As the half pay is not sufficient to support a wife and three children, with an aged mother, and there being at present a vacancy in the office at Chatham, he has presumed to solicit your lordship's assistance to get him admitted into it.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a young Man, to be admitted into the Excise.

To the Right Honourable, the first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner, by the death of his parents, is left destitute of every friend, only that he has had the ~~benefit of~~ a liberal education. He has been advised by a ~~worthy friend~~, to apply to your lordship for a small place in the Excise, in the London department, or

any

[illegible]

any where else where your lordship shall think proper. Your lordship's petitioner will give security for the trust reposed in him.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions for places in the Customs, Stamp-Office, Post Office, &c. may be all written in the same manner.

From a young Man, to be admitted a Clerk of the Bank.

To the Governor and Directors of the Bank of England.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's father had the honour to be many years conversant in the mercantile world, but by losses at sea, he died insolvent, leaving your petitioner little better than destitute of the necessaries of life. Under these unhappy circumstances, he has presumed to trouble you with this petition, soliciting your assistance and interest to get him admitted as one of your junior clerks: I am willing to give whatever security is required, and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions to the East-India, South-Sea-House, &c. may be written in the same style.

From a decayed Tradesman to the Governors of Christ's Hospital.

To the Worshipful, the Governors of Christ's-Hospital,

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has carried on trade as a shoemaker in the city of London upwards of twenty years; but having a numerous family of children all unprovided for, he has presumed to apply in behalf of a promising son, to be admitted into your most excellent charity; and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions for the governors of other foundations of a similar nature, may be written after the same precedent.

From a reduced Tradesman, to be admitted a Letter-Carrier in the Post-Office.

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster General.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up to a trade which has so much decayed of late, that it will not support him, and besides he is almost lame in one of his hands. Reduced to the utmost state of distress, he has presumed to present this to your lordship, humbly begging to be admitted as one of the letter carriers; and if so happy as to succeed,

Your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From

From an honest Working-Man, to be admitted an East-India Porter.

To the Chairmen and Directors of the Honourable United East-India Company.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived honestly as a porter, but his master dying lately, he is now out of all manner of employment, and his wife with three young children are almost starving. Under these circumstances of distress, he has presumed to address himself to you, to be admitted as a labourer in one of your warehouses, which joined to his wife's industry, who takes in washing, would be the means of procuring them an honest subsistency.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a decayed Citizen to be admitted an Under-Marshal's Man.

To the Worshipful Sir Thomas Bale, Knight and Alderman of London.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is a freeman of the city of London, where he carried on business many years, but by sicknesses in his family, he is reduced to the lowest state of distress. One of the places of Deputy Marshal-Men being vacant, he has presumed to intercede with your worship for your vote; and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From

From a poor Man, to get his Daughter admitted into the Asylum.

To the Right Honourable the Countess of B------.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your ladyship's petitioner has been long unable to follow his business, occasioned by a fall he received from a scaffold while he was repairing a house; and during that time, he has had little more to support himself, and six young children, beside what his poor wife earned by taking in washing. It was intimated to me, that you have a presentation to the Asylum; and if you could get my youngest girl admitted on that charitable foundation, it might be the means of bringing her up a useful member of society.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a Soldier lately discharged, to be admitted a Chelsea Pensioner.

To the Honourable Major General.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served sixteen years in your regiment, and about four years ago was discharged with a fair character. Since that time your petitioner has worked as a labourer; but a wound which he received at the battle of B------, has broke out afresh, and he is now rendered unable to procure a subsistence. He is now in a manner starving, and all he has to beg is, that your honour would

would get him admitted either as an in or out penſioner of Chelſea-Hoſpital.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a Sailor lately diſcharged, to be admitted into Greenwich-Hoſpital.

To the Right Honourable Vice-Admiral B------.

The humble petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner ſerved eighteen years on board the Royal Navy, in ſeveral different ſhips of war; but having been wounded by a fall from the deck into the hold, he was diſcharged as incapable of ſervice. To obtain a ſubſiſtency, he has for ſome years ſold oranges in the ſtreets; but finding all ſorts of infirmities coming upon him, he has preſumed to apply to your honour to be admitted to Greenwich-Hoſpital, where he may ſpend the remainder of his days in peace.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a poor Man who had been impressed, praying for a Discharge.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of S------, first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner not being able to procure employment in the country, came to London with a wife and two young children, and next day was impressed on board the Revenge tender, where he is now confined. Your petitioner never was at sea, and he labours under a nervous disorder, which renders him incapable of serving his Majesty, and therefore he has presumed to apply to your lordship in humility for his discharge.

And, as in duty bound, he shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a decayed Citizen of London, to be admitted one of the Bridge Masters.

To the worthy Livery of London.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived from his infancy in your city, and has served all the offices of the ward to which he belongs; but by many losses in trade and long sickness in his family, he is reduced so low as to be really destitute of bread, without a friend to assist him in is advanced years. There being a vacancy for the place of one of your Bridge-Masters, he has presumed to apply to you for your votes and interest; and, if so happy as to succeed, will make it his study to discharge his duty with the greatest integrity.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From

From a Sailor, to be admitted on the Chest of Chatham.

To the Honourable the Commissioners of the Navy.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served as a seaman upwards of twelve years, but was discharged from the hospital as incurable of the Rheumatism, which made him incapable of going any more to sea, or indeed of following any employment. Destitute of every comfort of life, and having been a faithful servant to his Majesty, all he begs is to be admitted an out-pensioner on the chest of Chatham.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a poor Widow, soliciting for a Pension from the Parish.

To the Master, Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Parish of --------.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's husband was an honest industrious man, and lived many years in credit in the parish, where he served every office, and paid scot and lot; but dying in distressed circumstances, owing to his business having fallen off some years ago, she is left utterly destitute. In this unhappy situation she has presumed to address herself to you; and as she has a little work to do, when able to go through with it, so she submits to you, whether the allowance of two shillings per week would not be better than going into the workhouse. Your

petitioner humbly hopes that her case will be taken into consideration.

And she, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From an unfortunate young Prostitute, to be admitted into the Magdalen.

To the Right Honourable the President and Governors of the Magdalen-Hospital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be seduced by a young gentleman, and having lost her character, so that no person would give her either assistance or employment, she added one sin to another, and became a common prostitute. Almost consumed by a loathsome disorder, and sensible of her folly, she desires to return to the paths of virtue, but has no way of getting cured unless you would take her under your protection; and, if you admit her into your hospital,

She will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

A. B.

Recommended by

From a person afflicted with the Rheumatism, to be admitted into an Hospital.

To the President and Governors of the Middlesex-Hospital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is a journeyman carpenter, and has always behaved as an honest industrious man, but of late has been so much afflicted with the Rheumatism, that he is rendered incapable of getting his bread. Unfortunately

tunately he applied to ſome of the advertiſing doctors, who have made him much worſe than he was before. Senſible of his folly in acting ſo inconſiſtent with reaſon, he has preſumed to apply to you, to be admitted into your hoſpital; and if he is ſo happy as to deſerve your notice,

He will, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a young Man afflicted with the Venereal Diſeaſe, to the President and Governors of the Miſericordia-Hoſpital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner having one evening got intoxicated, along with ſome graceleſs companions, went to bed with a common proſtitute, who communicated to him the Venereal Diſeaſe; and, to obtain a cure, he had recourſe to ſome of thoſe perſons called *Quacks*, who have almoſt ruined him. Under theſe unhappy circumſtances, he has preſumed to beg to be admitted into your hoſpital, where he hopes to obtain a perfect cure; and if ſo happy as to ſucceed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by.

From a Widow to the Juſtice at the Quarter-Seſſions, to procure a Licence to keep a Public-Houſe.

To the Worſhipful the Juſtices of the County of Middleſex.

The humble Petition of A. B. *Widow.*

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's huſband lived in credit, and carried on buſineſs for ſome years with good ſucceſs; but having unfortunately engaged in the building ſcheme, he ruined himſelf and died inſolvent, leaving your petitioner a helpleſs widow with four young children all unprovided for. It has been intimated to me, that I might keep a public-houſe, if I could but obtain a licence, which is

in your worships power to grant; and I have such an opinion of your benevolence, that I do not think you would do any thing to prevent a poor widow from procuring a subsistence. Let me beg you will take the premises into consideration,

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

USEFUL FORMS IN LAW,

Executed by the most eminent Attorneys, and by which our Readers may save those exorbitant Charges usually made for such necessary Instruments. Care, however must be taken, that the Paper upon which the following Precedents are copied, is stampedagreeable to the Acts of Parliament relative thereto.

Agreement for a Lease of an House.

ARTICLES of AGREEMEMT, indented, made, and agreed upon, the 1st day of September, in the year of our Lord 177 Between *John Lawson* of the one part, and *Stephen Poxwel* of the other part, as follows, *viz.*

THE said *J. L.* in consideration of the rent, covenants, and agreements, in the lease hereafter mentioned, to be reserved and contained on the tenant's part to be paid and performed, doth hereby for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said *S. P.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, in manner following (that is to say) that he the said *J. L.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall, and will, on or before Midsummer-day next ensuing, by a good and sufficient indenture of lease, grant, demise, and let, unto the said *S. P.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, ALL that messuage, or tenement, and yard behind the same, and other the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying, and being in———, in the parish of———, now or late in the possession of the said *J. L.* TO HOLD the same from Midsummer-day aforesaid,

foresaid, for the term of —— or ——years, from thence next ensuing, at the option of the said parties, on his or their giving to, or leaving for each other at least —— months notice before the end of the said ——years, AT and under the yearly rent, or sum of ——pounds, payable quarterly; the first payment whereof is to begin and to be made at or upon Michaelmas-day next ensuing; AND that the said *J. L.* his executors, or assigns, shall, and will, on or before Midsummer-day aforesaid, at his and their own proper costs and charges, repair, or cause the aforesaid premises, with their appurtenances, to be put into good and sufficient tenantable repair and condition.

Item, THE said *S. P.* in consideration thereof, doth hereby for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said *J. L.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, that he the said *S. P.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, shall, and will, upon the said premises being put into such repair as aforesaid, at or by the time aforesaid, take, and accept of and from the said *J. L.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, the aforesaid indenture of lease, grant, and demise of the said premises, for the term, and at the rent payable in manner aforesaid, and also execute a counterpart thereof unto the said *J. L.* his executors, administrators, or assigns.

AND for the true performance of all and every the covenants and agreements aforesaid, each and either of the said parties hereto doth bind and oblige himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, unto him, his heirs, executors, and administrators, in the penal sum of —— pounds, of lawful money of Great-Britian. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the presence of us,

J. B.
T. W.

J. L.
S. P.

For

For a covenant Servant, to a Buckle-Maker, for four Years.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT, indented, made, and agreed upon, the 4th day of September, in the year of our Lord 177 Between *Richard Dawson* of, &c. of the one part, and *Edward Wild*, of, &c. for and on the behalf of *Charles Wild*, an infant, son of the said *Edward Wild*, of the other part, &c.

FIRST, the said R. D. doth for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby covenant and agree to and with the said *E. W.* and *C. W.* to take into his service the said *C. W.* and him to teach and instruct in the trade or business of a Buckle-Maker, which he now useth, for the term of four years, to be computed from the date hereof, during all which time he shall or will find, provide, or cause to be found or provided for the said *C. W.* sufficient meat, drink, washing, clothes, and lodging, fitting and necessary for him. And also pay or cause to be paid unto him, at or after the rate of——a week, weekly, for and during the first three years of the said term, and——a week, weekly, for and during the last year of the said term, if he shall so long live, continue with and do him the said *R. D.* true, just, and faithful service in his trade or business aforesaid.

Item. The said *E. W.* and *C. W.* for themselves, severally, and each of their several executors, and administrators, do, and each of them *doth* hereby for himself, and herself, covenant and agree, to and with the said *R. D.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, that the said *C. W.* shall, during the said term of four years, work, and do the said *R. D.* true, just, and faithful service in his trade or business aforesaid, on his being found or provided with the several necessaries, and paid the several weekly payments in manner herein before particularly mentioned.

AND for the true performance of the several covenants, and agreements aforesaid, each and either of the said parties hereto doth hereby severally bind and oblige himself, herself, and themselves, his, her, and their heirs, executors, and administrators, respectively, in the penal sum of——

pounds,

pounds, of lawful money of Great-Britain, firmly by these presents. In witness, &c.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

A DEED OF GIFT.

TO all people to whom these presents shall come, I, William Thompson, do send greeting. Know ye, that I the said William Thompson, of the parish of St. Mary, Islington, in the county of Middlesex, Gardener, for and in consideration of the love, goodwill and affection which I have and do bear towards my loving sister Susanna Wilson, of the same parish and county, widow, have given and granted, and by these presents do freely give and grant unto the said Susanna Wilson, her heirs, executors, or administrators, all and singular my goods and chattels, now being in my present house, known by the name of the Black Lion; of which these presents I have delivered here, to the said Susanna Wilson, an inventory signed with my own hand, and bearing date, to have and to hold all the said goods and chattels in the said premises or dwelling-house, to her the said Susanna Wilson, her heirs, executors, or administrators, from henceforth, as her and their proper goods and chattels absolutely without any manner of condition. In witness whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this——day of September, one thousand seven hundred and————

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

N. B. *Provided the particulars are severally mentioned, this instrument may include the giving away of house, land, corn, or cattle, if not entailed.*

A WILL.

In the Name of God, Amen. The ——— day of September, one thousand seven hundred and ———

I, George Parker, of the city of London, Watch-maker, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God: therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in decent christian burial, at the discretion of my executors; nothing doubting, but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again, by the almighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, demise, and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

First, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my dearly beloved wife, the sum of three hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be raised and levied out of my estate, together with all my houshold goods, debts, and moveable effects.

Also, I give to my well-beloved daughter Mary Parker, the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be raised and levied out of my estate, and paid to her by my executor, hereafter named, on the day of her marriage, or when she becomes twenty-one years old. And also that my executors shall pay her fifty pounds, lawful money of England, on the first day of every year, until she claims the above five hundred pounds, according to the intent and meaning of this will.

Also, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved son Thomas Parker, whom I likewise constitute, make, and ordain my sole executor of this my last will and testament, all and singular my lands, messuages, and tenements, by him freely to be possessed and enjoyed. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disannul, all and every other

former

former teſtaments, wills, legacies, bequeſts, and executors, by me in any ways before-named, willed, and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this, and no other, to be my laſt will and teſtament. In witneſs whereof I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal the day and year above written.

GEORGE PARKER.

Signed, ſealed, publiſhed, pronounced, and declared, by the ſaid George Parker, *as his laſt will and teſtament, in the preſence of us the ſubſcribers.*

William Johnſon.
Samuel Adams.
Thomas Wilſon.

N. B. *There are a variety of circumſtances, by which perſons may be induced to add ſomething in addition to their wills; and when that takes place, the following Codicil, or Schedule, muſt be joined by a ſeal at the bottom, and it will remain in equal force as part of the will.*

A Codicil, or Schedule to a Will.

BE it known to all men by theſe preſents, That I, George Parker, of the city of London, Watch-maker, have made and declared by my laſt will and teſtament in writing, bearing date the ——— day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ——— I, the ſaid George Parker, by this preſent *Codicil*, do ratify and confirm my ſaid laſt will and teſtament, and do give and bequeath unto my loving godſon George Elliſon, the ſum of forty pounds, of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to him, the ſaid George Elliſon, by my executor, out of my eſtate: and my will and meaning is, that this *Codicil*, or *Schedule*, be adjudged to be a part and parcel of my laſt will and teſtament; and that all things therein mentioned and contained, be faithfully and truly performed, and as fully and amply in every reſpect, as if the ſame were ſo declared and ſet down in my ſaid laſt will and teſtament. Witneſs my hand this —— day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ——

GEORGE PARKER.

A Letter of Attorney, to receive Houſhold Goods.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I, *F. G.* of ——, in the county of Middleſex, Gent. for divers good cauſes and conſiderations me hereunto moving, have made, ordained, conſtituted, and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, ordain, conſtitute, and appoint *F. P.* of——, in the ſaid county, Plaiſterer, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my proper uſe and behoof, to aſk, demand, take, and receive, of and from *W. H.* of ——in the ſaid county of Middleſex, Gent. the ſeveral goods and chattels herein after particularly mentioned; that is to ſay, two large pier looking glaſſes, with gilt frames, a large Turkey carpet, a feather-bed and bolſter, two marble ſlabs and brackets, one large mahogany table, *&c.* And upon receipt of the ſaid goods and chattels, or any of them for me, and in my name, to give and execute to the ſaid *W. H.* proper acquittances or diſcharges for the ſame: and in caſe the ſaid *W. H.* on demand to be made by my ſaid attorney as aforeſaid, ſhall and do refuſe to deliver to my ſaid attorney the ſaid goods and chattels, or any part thereof, I do, in ſuch caſe, hereby authoriſe and impower my ſaid attorney, in my name, and for my uſe, to commence and proſecute one or more action, or actions at law, in trover, and converſion, or otherwiſe, againſt the ſaid *W. H.* as to my ſaid attorney ſhall ſeem meet, or he may be adviſed, for the recovery of the ſaid goods and chattels; giving, and by theſe preſents granting, to my ſaid attorney, my full power and authority, in, about, or concerning the premiſes, and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in or about the premiſes, I do hereby warrant, ratify, and confirm to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever. In witneſs, *&c.*

Sealed, &c.

A

A Warrant of Attorney, to receive and pay debts.

KNOW all men by these presents, That I, H. H. of ——, in the county of Middlesex, Gent. now one of the factors in the service of the honourable East-India company at Bengal, have made, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint *J. A.* of————London, Gent. my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my use, to ask, demand, and receive, of and from all and every person or persons whatsoever, all and singular debt and debts, sum and sums of money, which now are, or shall hereafter, grow due to me; and upon receipt thereof, or of any part thereof, for me, and in my name, to make, give, and execute, proper receipts and discharges for the same; and on non-payment thereof, or of any part thereof, one or more action or actions, suit or suits at law or in equity for me, and in my name, to commence and prosecute: and also to pay any sum or sums of money pursuant to my order, direction, and request, and generally to do, perform, and execute all and whatsoever shall be necessary or requisite in or about the premises, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as I myself might or could do, if personally present; and all and whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done, by virtue of these presents, I do hereby promise and agree to ratify, allow, and confirm. In witness, *&c.*

Sealed, &c.

A general Power to receive Debts.

KNOW all men, by these presents, that I, *W. W.* of *&c.* Gent. have made, ordained, authorised; constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, authorise, constitute, and appoint *T. T.* of, *&c.* Grocer, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my

name, and to my use (*if the money or other thing to be received, is for the use of the person in whose favour the letter of attorney is given in discharge of a debt*, &c. *then say*, " but for the use of him the said *T. T.*") to ask, demand, sue for, recover, and receive of *G. G.* &c. (*the persons names of whom the money is to be received, if more than one*) all such sum and sums of money, debts and demands whatsoever, which now are due and owing unto me the said *W. W.* by and from the said *G. G.* &c. and in default of payment thereof, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means, in my name or otherwise for the recovery thereof, by attachment, arrest, &c. or otherwise, and to compound and agree for the same; and on receipt thereof, or any part thereof, acquittances, or other good and sufficient discharges for the same for me, and in my name, to make, seal, and deliver: and further, to do all lawful acts and things whatsoever concerning the premises, as fully in every respect as I myself might or could do if personally present, and an artorney or attorneys under him, for the purposes aforesaid to make, aud at his pleasure to revoke, hereby ratifying, allowing, and confirming, all and whatsoever my said attorney shall in my name lawfully do, or cause to be done in and about the premises, by virtue of these presents. In witness whereof, &c.

Sealed, &c.

To receive Wages and all other Debts, from a Seaman to his Wife.

KNOW all men, by these presents, that I, *C. C.* of, &c. Mariner, have made, ordained, authorised, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, authorise, constitute, and appoint, my loving wife *J. C.* my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, but to and for my use, to ask, demand, sue for, recover, and receive, of and from all and every person and persons whatsoever, as well all such sum and sums of money as now are, or which shall, or may at any time

hereafter become due and owing to me, for wages from any ship or ships, to whom I now do or may hereafter belong: and also all other sum or sums of money now due, or which hereafter may become or grow due to me, by any ways or means whatsoever; and on non-payment, to have and to use all lawful means, in my name, for the recovery thereof, by attachment, arrest, or otherwise. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of September 177

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

To receive Money due on a Bond in Part of Discharge of a Debt, due from the Grantor to a Grantee.

KNOW all men, by these presents, That I, *K. K.* of, *&c.* Esq; have made, ordained, authorised, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, authorise, constitute, and appoint *P. P.* of, *&c.* Taylor, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, but for the use of him the said *P. P.* (in part of discharge of a debt due from me to him) to ask, demand, sue for, recover, and receive of *A. A.* of, *&c.* Esq; the sum of————pounds due unto me, in and by one bond or obli ation, bearing date the————day of————, in the penalty of————pounds, for payment of the said sum of money; and on non-paym ent thereof, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means for the recovery thereof, and of every part thereof, in my name, or otherwise, by attachment, arrest, or otherwise. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of September 177

Signed, sealed, &c.

From two to one, to receive the Interest of certain South-Sea Annuities.

KNOW all men, by these presents, That we *A. B.* of the parish of———, in the county of———, Mercer, and *B. C.* of the parish of———, in the same county, Grocer, do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint, *C. D.* of the said parish of———, Taylor, our true and lawful attorney for us, and in our names, from time to time, to ask, demand, and receive all dividends, interest, and produce, now due, or hereafter to grow due or payable to us, for and upon———pounds South-Sea annuity stock, lately transferred to us, and standing in our names in the books of the South-Sea company: and also for us, and in our names, to give receipts and discharges for all such dividends, interest, and produce, of the aforesaid ——— pounds annuity stock, on payment thereof, as the same shall from time to time be received by him the said *C. D.* hereby ratifying and confirming whatsoever our said attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done, in or about the premises, by virtue of these presents. In witness, &c.

Sealed, &c.

To discharge a Parish of a Bastard Child, given to the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor.

WHEREAS *M. F.* of &c. in the county of *D.* Spinster, before one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the said county of *D.* hath sworn that she is great with child, and that the above named *R. R.* is the father of such child or children she now goes with: Now the condition of this obligation is such, That if the above bound *R. R.* and the said *E. F.* and *G. H.* or either or any of them, their or either, or any of their heirs, executors, or administrators, do and shall from time to time, and at all times hereafter, fully and clearly acquit, exonerate, and discharge, or otherwise well and sufficiently save and keep harmless,

harmless, and indemnify as well the above named *W. D.* and *J. S.* church-wardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of *L.* aforesaid, and their successors for the time being, and every of them: as also all the inhabitants and parishioners of the said parish of *L.* which now are, or hereafter shall be, for the time being, church-wardens and overseers of the said parish, and every for them, of and from all, and all manner of expences, damages, costs and charges whatsoever, which shall or may, in any manner, at any time hereafter arise, happen, come, grow, or be imposed upon them, or either or any of them, for or by reason or means of the said *M. F.*'s being now great with child, as aforesaid, or for or by reason or means of the birth, maintenance, education, and bringing up of such child or children, that the said *M. F.* now goes with, and shall be delivered of, and of and from all actions, suits, troubles, charges, damages, and demands whatsoever, touching and concerning the same: then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

Lease of an House in London for seven Years, with the usual Covenants.

THIS Indenture made, *&c.* between *A. B.* of, *&c.* of the one part, and *C. D.* of, *&c.* of the other part; witnesseth, That for and in consideration of the yearly rent, covenants, and agreements, herein after contained on the part and behalf of the said *C. D.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, to be paid, done, and performed. He the said *A. B.* hath demised, set, and to farm let, and by these presents doth demise, set, and to farm let, unto the said *C. D.* All (here insert the premises demised, with a particular description thereof) situate, standing, and being in——street, in the parish of——, in the county of——, and adjoining on the south part thereof to the premises lately in the tenure or occupation of *H. A.* together with all cellars, sollars, chambers, rooms, yards, gardens, lights, easements, ways, passages, waters, water-courses, profits, commodities, and appurtenances

whatsoever, to the said messuage or tenement, and premises belonging, or in any-wise appertaining. To have and to hold the said messuage or tenement, and premises, herein before mentioned, or intended to be hereby demised, with their and every of their appurtenances, unto the said *C. D.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, from the feast day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, now next ensuing the date of these presents, for and during, and unto the full end and term of seven years from thence next ensuing, and fully to be complete and ended. Yielding and paying therefore yearly, and every year during the said term of seven years, unto the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, the yearly rent or sum of———pounds, of lawful money of Great-Britain, at the four most usual feast days, or times of payment of rent in the year; that is to say, the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, the birth of our Lord Christ, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, by even and equal portions: the first payment thereof to begin and be made on the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel now next ensuing. And the said *C. D.* for himself, his executors, administrators and assigns, doth covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, by these presents in manner and form following; that is to say, That he the said *C. D.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, or some or one of them, shall and will yearly and every year during the said term of seven years, hereby demised, well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, the said yearly rent or sum of——pounds, hereby reserved in the manner and proportions, and on the days and times above limited and appointed for payment thereof, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents. And also shall and will, at his, their, or some or one of their own proper costs and charges from time to time, and at all times hereafter during the said term hereby granted, when, where, and as often as need or occasion shall be or require, well and sufficiently repair, support, uphold, sustain, maintain, pave, purge, empty, cleanse, scour, glaze, amend,

mend, and keep the said messuage or tenement, and premises hereby demised, and every part thereof, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, in, by, and with all manner of needful and necessary reparations, supportations, glazings, pavings, purgings, scourings, cleansings, emptyings, and amendments whatsoever; and the said messuage or tenements with the appurtenances hereby demised, so well and sufficiently upheld, sustained, maintained, repaired, paved, purged, emptied, cleansed, scoured, glazed, amended, and kept at the end, or other sooner determination of this lease, which shall first happen, shall and will peaceably and quietly leave, surrender, and yield up, unto the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, together with all such fixtures and things as are mentioned or set forth in the schedule or inventory thereof here under written, in as good plight and condition as the same now are (reasonable use and wearing thereof, and all inevitable accidents by fire which may happen to burn down and consume the premises or any part thereof, in the mean time only excepted). And further, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, with workmen and others, or without, twice or oftener in every year during the time hereby granted, at all convenient times in the day time, to enter and come into and upon the said demised premises, and every or any part thereof, there to view, search, and see, whether the same be well and sufficiently supported, upheld, sustained, maintained, repaired, purged, emptied, cleansed, scoured, glazed, and amended, as the same ought to be, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents; and of all the defects, defaults, decays, lacks, and wants of reparations, and amendments, which upon every or any such view or views shall be found, to give or leave notice or warning in writing at the said demised premises, or some part thereof, unto or for the said *C. D.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, within the time or space of three months from thence next following, within which said time or space of three months after every such notice or warning shall be given or left as aforesaid;

the

the ſaid *C. D.* for himſelf, his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, doth covenant, promiſe, and agree, to and with the ſaid *A. B.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, by theſe preſents from time to time during this demiſe, well and ſufficiently to repair and amend the ſame accordingly. Provided always, that if it ſhall happen that the ſaid yearly rent of———pounds, or any part thereof, ſhall be behind or unpaid for the ſpace of 28 days, next over or after any of the feaſt days, or times of payment on which the ſame ought to be paid as aforeſaid, being lawfully demanded; or if the ſaid *C. D.* his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, and each and every of them, do not in and by all things well and truly obſerve, perform, fulfil, and keep, all and ſingular the covenants, grants, articles, and agreements, in theſe preſents contained, which on his and their parts and behalfs are or ought to be obſerved, performed, fulfilled, and kept, according to the true intent and meaning of theſe preſents, that then, and from thenceforth, in any ſuch caſe, and at all times then after, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid *A. B.* his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, into the ſaid meſſuage or tenement and premiſes hereby demiſed, or into any part thereof in the name of the whole, wholly to re-enter, and the ſame to have again, repoſſeſs, and enjoy, as in his and their firſt and former eſtate; and the ſaid *C. D.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, and all others the occupiers of the ſaid premiſes, thereout and from thenceforth utterly to expel, put out, and amove, this indenture or any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wiſe notwithſtanding. And laſtly, the ſaid *A. B.* for himſelf, his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, doth covenant, promiſe and agree, to and with the ſaid *C. D.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, by theſe preſents, that he the ſaid *C. D.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, paying the ſaid yearly rent herein before reſerved at the place, and on the ſeveral feaſt days and times before limited, and appointed for payment thereof, and obſerving, performing, paying, fulfilling, and keeping, all and ſingular the payments, covenants, grants, articles, proviſoes, conditions,

and

and agreements, in these presents contained, which on his, and their parts and behalfs, are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled, and kept, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, shall and lawfully may, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess, and enjoy, the said demised premises, with their and every of their appurtenances, during the said term of——years hereby granted, without the lawful let, suit, trouble, molestation, denial, or eviction, of or by the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, or any of them, or of, or by any other person or persons whatsoever, lawfully having, or claiming to have, any right, title, or interest, in or to the said demised premises with the appurtenances, or in, or to any part or parcel thereof, by, from, or under the said *A. B.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, or any of them, or by, or through his, their, or any of their means, consent, or procurement. In witness, &c.

INDENTURE FOR AN APPRENTICE.

THIS indenture witnesseth, That *T. H.* son of *R. H.* of —— in the county of ——, hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord put himself apprentice to *A. B.* citizen and —— of ——, to learn his art, trade, or mystery, after the manner of an apprentice, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, for and during the full term of seven years next ensuing; during all which time he the said apprentice his said master shall faithfully serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands every where gladly obey. He shall do no damage to his said master, nor see it to be done by others, without letting or giving notice thereof to his said master. He shall not waste his said master's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to others. He shall not commit fornication, nor contract matrimony within the said term. At cards, dice, or any unlawful game, he shall not play, whereby his said master may be damaged. With his own goods, or goods of others, during the term, without license of

of his said master, he shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not absent himself day nor night from his said master's service, without his leave; nor haunt alehouses, taverns, or play-houses: but in all things behave himself as a faithful apprentice ought to do, during the said term. And the said master shall use the utmost of his endeavours to teach, or cause to be taught, and instructed, the said apprentice in the trade and mystery he now professeth, occupieth, or followeth; and procure and provide for him the said apprentice sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing, and lodging, fitting for an apprentice, during the said term. And for the true performance of all and every the said covenants and agreements, either of the said parties bind themselves unto the other by these presents. In witness whereof they have interchangeably put their hands and seals, this ——— day of ——— in the ——— year, &c.

Witness, T. H.
A. B.

*** *If an apprentice be enrolled and indented, he cannot sue out his indenture, except upon proof of unmerciful usage, want of victuals, and other necessaries, or his master's being negligent of teaching him his trade. But if there are no enrollment and indenting, an indenture may be sued out without shewing cause.*

A BOND.

KNOW all men by these presents, That I, John Harrison, of the parish of St. Luke, in the county of Middlesex, Gentleman, am held and firmly bound to Thomas Morgan, of the said county of Middlesex, Esq. in the penal sum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, to be paid to the said Thomas Morgan, Esq. or to his certain attorney, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the true payment whereof I bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly

firmly by these presents, sealed with my seal. Dated this first day of September, in the seventeenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ———. The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above bounden John Harrison, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the above named Thomas Morgan, his executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of two hundred pounds, of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, on the first day of September next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest; then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

Signed, sealed, and delivered;
in the presence of us, being
first duly stamped.

A PROMISSORY NOTE OF HAND.

London, September 1, 177

SIX months after date I promise to pay to Mr. David Wilson, or order, the sum of seventy-six pounds five shillings and four-pence, for value received.

THOMAS EASTON.

£76 5 4

N. B. Mr. Wilson, before this note can be negotiated, must indorse it, as it is only payable to *order*, not to *bearer*.

An INLAND BILL OF EXCHANGE.

SIR. Sheffield, September 3, 177

THREE months after date (sight, or at sight) please to pay to Mr. Churchill, or order, the sum of seventy-six pounds three shillings and six-pence (with or without advice) and place the same to the account of

Your humble servant,

£ 76 3 6 *Accepted. C. J.* *

DAVID BAKER.

To Mr. Charles Johnson, Merchant,
in Mincing-Lane, London.

N. B. *A Bill of Exchange cannot be negotiated before it is accepted by the party upon whom it was drawn; and, at the same time, it must be indorsed by the person in whose favour it is drawn, and also by all those who shall receive it afterwards.*

* *This is the common mode of acceptance.*

A MEMORANDUM,

Necessary to complete a sudden Agreement.

Mem.] WE *C. D.* and *H. L.* do hereby mutually agree to, *&c.* (*or abide by the aforesaid articles of agreement*) and in witness whereof we do hereunto set our hands, this third day of September, 177

C. D.

Witness *A. B.*

H. L.

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N. B. *Each party must have a duplicate of the above Memorandum, which should be the case, also respecting most other instruments in law.*

*** *Care must be taken to avoid dating any instrument on Sunday, otherwise the law will deem it illegal.*

FINIS.