

Manners & Customs H E
ACCOMPLISHED.

LETTER-WRITER:

OR THE

Young Gentlemen and Ladies'

POLITE GUIDE

TO AN

PISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE

IN

BUSINESS, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, and
MARRIAGE.

Woolhouse, To which is added,

Forms of Bonds, Mortgages, Letters of Li-
cence, Indentures, &c. &c.

LIKewise

Several PETITIONS, from Persons in low or
middling States of Life, to those in higher
Stations.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:

Printed by T. SAINT, for the BOOKSELLERS.

MDCCCLXXXVII.

John



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L E T T E R I.

Introductory LETTER.

A Letter from Bishop Atterbury to his Son Obadiah, at Christ-church College, in Oxford.

(Containing some useful Hints in regard to writing Letters.)

Dear Obby,

I thank you for your letter, because there are manifest signs in it of your endeavouring to excel yourself, and of consequence to please me. You have succeeded in both respects, and will always succeed, if you think it worth your while to consider what you write, and to whom, and let nothing, though of a trifling nature, pass through your pen negligently; get but the way of writing correctly and justly, time and use will teach you to write readily afterwards: not but that too much care may give a stiffness to your style, which ought in all letters, by all means, to be avoided. The turn of them should be always natural and easy, for they are an image of private and familiar conversation. I mention this with respect to the four or five first lines of yours, which have an air of poetry, and do therefore naturally resolve themselves into blank verses. I send you your letter again, that yourself may now make the same observation. But you took the hint of that thought from a poem, and it is no wonder, therefore, that you heightened the phrase a little when you were expressing it. The rest is as it should be; and particularly there is an air of duty and sincerity, which, if it comes from your heart, is the most acceptable present you can make me. With these

good qualities an incorrect letter would please me, and without them the finest thoughts and language will make no lasting impression on me. The Great Being says, you know—‘ My son, give me thy heart,’ implying, that without it all other gifts signify nothing. Let me conjure you, therefore, never to say any thing, either in a letter, or common conversation, that you do not think; but always to let your mind and words go together on the most trivial occasions. Shelter not the least degree of insincerity under the notion of a compliment, which, as far as it deserves to be practised by a man of probity, is only the most civil and obliging way of saying what you really mean; and whoever employs it otherwise, throws away truth for breeding: I need not tell you how little his character gets by such an exchange.

I say not this as if I suspected that in any part of your letter you intended to write what was proper, without any regard to what was true; for I am resolved to believe that you were in earnest from the beginning to the end of it, as much as I am, when I tell you that I am,

Your loving Father, &c.

LETTER II.

From a young gentleman at school to his father, expressing his duty and thankfulness.

Dear Papa,

ACCORDING to your commands, when you left me at school, I hereby obey them, and not only inform you that I am well, but also, that I am happy in being placed under the tuition of so good a master, who is the best natured man in the world; and, I am sure, were I inclinable to be an idle boy, his goodness to me would prompt me to be diligent at my study, that I might please him. Besides, I see a great difference made between those that are idle, and those that are diligent; idle boys being punished as they deserve, and diligent boys being encouraged. But you know, papa, that I always loved my book; for you have often told me, I must learn to be a good scholar, lest, when I am grown up, I should be ridiculed and laughed at for my ignorance.

ignorance. I am resolved, therefore, to be a scholar. Pray give my duty to my mama, and my love to my brothers and sisters.

I am, dear papa,
Your dutiful son, &c.

L E T T E R III.

From another young gentleman at school to his mother, on the same subject.

Honoured Madam,

I Am greatly obliged to you for all favours. All I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for your extraordinary goodness. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement, and your satisfaction, and to shew myself upon all occasions,

Your most obedient and ever dutiful son, &c.

L E T T E R IV.

From another young gentleman at school to his father or mother, apologizing for his idleness.

Honoured Sir, or Madam,

I Am informed, and it gives me great concern, that you have heard an ill report of me, which, I suppose, was raised by some of my school-fellows; who, by aggravating my faults, would endeavour to lessen their own. Indeed, I must own, I have been a little too remiss for this fortnight past in my school business, and am sensible I have lost, in some measure, my time and credit thereby; but by my future diligence, I hope to recover both, and to convince you that I pay a strict regard to all your commands, which I am bound to, as well in gratitude as duty; and hope I shall ever have leave, and with great truth, to subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful son, &c.

LETTER V.

From a young lady to her mama, apologizing for her neglect in not writing to her.

Honoured Madam,

THOUGH the agreeable news of your health and welfare, which was brought me last night by my uncle's man Richard, gives me inexpressible pleasure; yet I am very much concerned that my too long silence should have given you so much uneasiness as I understand it has. I can assure you, Madam, that my neglect in that particular was no way owing to any want of filial duty or respect, but to a hurry of business (if I may be allowed to call it so) occasioned by the honour of a visit from my Lady Betty Rivers, and her pretty niece Miss Emily, who are exceeding good company, and whom our family are proud of entertaining in the most elegant manner. I am not insensible, however, that neither this plea, nor any real business, of what importance soever, can justly acquit me for not writing oftner to a parent so tender and indulgent as yourself. But as the case now stands, I know no other way of making atonement, than by a sincere promise of a more strict observance of my duty for the future. If therefore, Madam, you will favour me so far as to forgive this first transgression of the kind, you may depend on my word, it shall never be repeated by, Honoured Madam,

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER VI.

From an uncle to a nephew, on his keeping bad company, bad hours, &c. in his apprenticeship.

Dear Nephew,

I Am very much concerned to hear, that you are of late fallen into bad company; that you keep bad hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, and break the rules of his family: that when he expostulates with you on this occasion, you return pert and bold answers; and, instead of promising or endeavouring to amend, repeat the offence; and have enter'd into

into clubs and societies of young fellows, who set at nought all good example, and make such persons who would do their duty, the subject of their ridicule, as persons of narrow minds, and who want the courage to do as they do.

Let me, on this occasion, expostulate with you, and set before you the evil of the way you are in.

In the first place: what can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you had bound yourself by contract to observe? Do you think it honest, to break through engagements into which you have so solemnly entered; and which are no less the rules of the corporation you are to be one day free of, than those of a private family?—Seven years, several of which are elapsed, are not so long a term, but that you may see it determined before you are over-fit to be trusted with your own conduct: twenty-one or twenty-two years of age, is full early for a young man to be his own master, whatever you may think; and you may surely stay till then, at least, to chuse your own hours, and your own company; and, I fear as you go on, if you do not mend your ways, your discretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember, you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of your contract; and must you abuse your master in a double sense; rob him of his time, especially if any of it be hours of business; rob him of his rest; break the peace of his family, and give a bad example to others? And all for what? Why to riot in the company of a set of persons, who contemn, as they teach you to do, all order and discipline; who, in all likelihood, will lead you into gaming, drinking, swearing, and even more dangerous vices, to the unloosing of your mind from your business, which must be your future support.

Consider, I exhort you, in time, to what these courses may lead you. Consider the affliction you will give to all your friends, by your continuance in them. Lay together the substance of the conversation that passes in a whole evening, with your trothly companions, after you are come from them, and reflect what solid truth, what useful lesson, worthy of being inculcated in your future life, that whole evening has afforded you; and consider, whether it is worth breaking through all rule and order for?—Whether

your present conduct is such as you would allow in a servant of your own? Whether you are so capable to pursue your business with that ardour and delight next morning, as if you had not drank, or kept bad hours over night? If not, whether your master has not a double loss and damage from your mis-spent evenings? Whether the taking of small liberties, as you may think them, leads you not on to greater? For, let me tell you, you will not find it in your power to stop when you will; and then, whether any restraint at all will not in time be irksome to you.

I have gone through the like servitude with pleasure and credit. I found myself my own master full soon for my discretion; what you think of yourself I know not; but I wish you may do as well for your own interest, and reputation too, as I have done for mine: and I'll assure you, I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to do as you do. I could have stod the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you chuse, for being too narrow-minded to break through all moral obligations to my master, in order to shew the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandon'd mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending, and if you were assured that you could stop when you come to be for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and good conscience, that you will not do so for your master? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in forbearing to do an injury, than in giving offence.

You are now at an age, when you should study to improve, not divert your faculties. You should now lay in a fund of knowledge, that in time, when ripened by experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you think you have nothing to learn, either as to your business, or as to the forming of your mind? Would it not be much better to chuse the silent, the sober conversation of books, than of such companions as never read or think? An author never commits any but his best thoughts to paper; but what can you expect from the laughing noisy company you keep, but frothy prate, indigested notions, and thoughts so unworthy of being remember'd, that it is the greatest kindness to forget them?

Let me intreat you then, my dear Kinsman, for your family's sake, for your own sake, before it be too late, to reflect as you ought upon the course you are entered into. By applying yourself to books, instead of such vain company, you will be qualified in time for the best of company, and to be respected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unnecessary expences, will employ all your leisure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and open and enlarge your notions of men and things, and, finally, set you above that wretched company which now you seem so much delighted with. And one thing let me recommend to you, that you keep a list of the young men standing within the compass of your knowledge, and for the next seven years observe what fate will attend them: see, if those who follow not the course you are so lately entered into, will not appear in a very different light from those who do; and for the industry and prosperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other, (if their vain ways do not blast them before, or as soon as they begin the world) you'll find abundant reason every day to justify the truth of the observations I have thrown together. As nothing but my affection for you could possibly influence me to these expostulations, I hope for a proper effect from them, if you would be thought well of by, or expect any favour from,

Your loving Uncle, &c.

Your master will, at my request, send me word of the success of my remonstrances.

L E T T E R VII.

An Uncle in Answer to a Nephew's complaining of hardships in his Apprenticeship.

Dear Nephew,

I AM sorry you should have any misunderstanding with your master: I have a good opinion of him, and am unwilling to entertain a bad one of you. It is so much a master's interest to use his apprentices well, that I am inclinable to think that when they are badly treated, it is oftner the effect of provocation than choice. Wherefore, before I give myself the trouble of interposing in your behalf, I desire you will strictly inquire

inquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration in your master's behaviour of which you so much complain. If after having diligently complied with this request, you assure me that you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my endeavours to reconcile you to your master, or procure you another. But if you find yourself blameable, it will be better for you to remove, by your own amendment, the occasion of your master's displeasure, than to have me, or any other friend, offer to plead your excuse, where you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be your case, all your friends together could promise your better behaviour indeed; but as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much more to your character to pass through your whole term without any interposition between you. Weigh what I have here said; and remember, that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behaviour.

I am

Your loving Kinsman, &c.

L E T T E R VIII.

From a young Man, who had eloped from his Apprenticeship, to his Father, desiring him to intercede with his Master, to take him again into his service.

Honoured Sir,

WITH shame, arising from a consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters: filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I know not of a more powerful advocate to intercede for me, than my honoured, tho' justly offended parent. It was the allurements of vicious company, that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was treated with the greatest tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make any reparation in my power, but know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former

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mer conduct. Let me beg of you, sir, to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my whole future life shall be one continued act of gratitude. I am, Sir, your affectionate, Though undutiful Son, &c.

LETTER IX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

If ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude, —a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you have deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes; but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am obliged to act as your friend, although I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy; I have written to your master, and just now received his answer; copies of which I have sent inclosed. Your master is willing again to receive you into his service, and I hope your behaviour will be correspondent to so much lenity.

I am your affectionate father, &c.

LETTER X.

The Father's Letter to the Master.

My worthy Friend,

I have often written to you with pleasure, but alas! I am constrained at present to address myself to you on a subject I little expected. I have just now received a letter from my son, by which I am informed, that he has left your service, through the instigation of evil company: his letter contains a penitential acknowledgment of his offence, together with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently with his duty for the future. He has begged of me to intercede with you in his behalf, and I know your humanity will excuse parental affection. If you will again receive

the

the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promises; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XI.

The Master's Answer.

Sir,

EVER since I first considered the state of human nature, or the difference between right and wrong, I have always preferred mercy to the austere rigour of justice. However seasonable your request may appear to yourself, yet to me it was really unnecessary. I am a father, sir, and can feel at least part of what you suffer. My resentment against the young man is less than my anxiety for his happiness, and were I sure of his adhering to an uninterrupted course of virtue, I should have more real pleasure than his acquiring me the revenue of a nabob.

In the mean time, that nothing may be wanting on my part to make both you and him as happy as possible, all faults are from this moment forgotten; my house is open for his reception; and if he will return he shall be treated with the same indulgence, as if he had never committed any fault whatever.

I am, Sir, your affectionate Friend, &c.

LETTER XII.

From a young Gentleman in his Apprenticeship to his Father, requesting Advice how to proceed in a critical Situation.

Dear Sir,

AM under greater uneasiness than I am able to express. My fellow apprentice, for whom I had great regard, and from whom I have received many civilities, has involved me in the deepest affliction. I am unwilling to tell you, and yet I must not conceal it, that he has forfeited the confidence reposed in him, by a breach of trust, to which he ungenerously gained

my

my consent, by a pretence I did not in the least suspect. What must I do? My master is defrauded; if I discover the injury, I am sure to ruin a young man I would fain think possessed of some merit; if I conceal the injustice, I must at present share the guilt, and hereafter be partaker in the punishment. I am in the greatest agony of mind, and beg your instant advice, as you value the peace of

Your dutiful, tho' unfortunate son, &c.

L E T T E R XIII.

From the Father in Answer.

My dear Boy,

YOUR letter, which I just now received, gives me great uneasiness; and as any delay in the discovery may be attended with consequences which will probably be dangerous to yourself, and disagreeable to all who belong to you; I charge you, if you value your own happiness, and my peace, to acquaint your master instantly with the injustice that has been done to him; which is the only means of vindicating your own innocence, and preventing your being looked upon as an accomplice in the fact, to which I wish you may not be found to have been too far consenting. As to the unhappy young man who has been guilty of so fatal an indiscretion, I wish, if the known clemency and good-nature of your master may pardon this offence, he may let his forgiveness teach him the ingratitude and inhumanity of injuring a man, who is not only the proper guardian of his youth, but whose goodness deserves the best behaviour, tho' he be generous enough to excuse the worst. Let not a minute pass after you receive this, before you reveal the matter to your master. For I am in hopes, that your application to me, and your following my advice, will greatly plead in your behalf. I will very speedily call on your master; and am, as far as an honest regard for you can make me,

Your affectionate father, &c.

LETTER XIV.

*From an Apprentice to his Master, begging pardon
for an Offence.*

Sir,

I Am so ashamed of myself for the last occasion I had given you to be angry with me, after my repeated promises of amendment, that I have not the courage to speak to you. I therefore take this method of begging you to forgive what is past; and let this letter testify against me, if ever I wilfully or knowingly offend against you for the future. You have children of your own. They may possibly offend; tho' I hope they never will as I have done. Yet, sir, would you not wish they might meet with pardon, if they should, rather than reprobation?—My making, or my ruin, I am sensible, lies in your breast. If you will not forgive me, sad will be the consequence to me, I doubt. If you do, you may save a soul, as well as a body, from misery; and I hope, sir, you will weigh this with your usual goodness and consideration. What is past, I cannot help; but for what is to come, I do promise, if God gives me health and power, that my actions shall testify for me, how much I am, good sir,

Your repentant and obliged servant, &c.

LETTER XV.

From the Master in Answer.

YOUR letter has affected me so much, that I am willing once more to pass over all you have done. Surely I may at last depend on these your solemn assurances, and, as I hope, deep contrition. If not, be it as you say, and let your letter testify against you for your ungrateful baseness; and for me, in my readiness (which, however, shall be the last time) to forgive one that has been always so ready to promise, and so backward to perform. If by your future conduct you shall deserve it, you may always depend on the sincere friendship of, &c.

LETTER XVI.

From an Apprentice to his Friends, in praise of his Master and Family.

Honoured Sir,

I know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business; and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner, that I have great delight in it, and hope I shall answer in time your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shewn to me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress's part as my master's, that every servant, as well as I, knows their duty and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity is observed in all they injoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful sweet tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children, after such examples, behave to us all like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish, when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does; and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress: And then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are; and as you, Sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me still happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours, and my good mother's prayers, for honoured Sir and Madam,

Your ever-dutiful son, &c.

LETTER XVII.

From a young Lady at boarding school to her Mama, requesting a favour.

Dear Mama,

THE many instances you have given me of your affection, leave me no room to believe that the favour I presume to ask will be displeasing: was I in the

least doubtful of it. I hope my dear mama has too good an opinion of my conduct, to imagine I w^{ld} ever advance any thing that might give her the least dissatisfaction.

The holidays are nigh at hand, when all of us young ladies are to pay our several personal respects and duties to our parents, except one, whose friends (her parents being dead) reside at too great a distance for her to expect their indulgence in sending for her; besides, were they to do so, the expence attending her journey would be placed to her account, and deducted out of the small fortune left her by her parents.

This young lady's affability, sense, and good-nature, have gained her the friendship and esteem of the whole school; each of us contending to render her retirement (as I may justly call it) from her native home and friends, as comfortable and agreeable as we possibly can.

How happy should I think myself above the rest of our young ladies, if you will give me leave to engage her to spend the holidays with me at home! And I doubt not but her address and behaviour will attract your esteem, among the rest of those she has already acquired.

Your compliance to this request, will greatly add to the happiness I already enjoy from the repeated indulgences and favours conferred on,

Dear mama,

Your most dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

From a Mother, in Town, to her Daughter, at a Boarding-school in the Country, recommending the Practice of Virtue.

Dear Child,

Although we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts, and it is my continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open: but I have been lately somewhat alarmed, because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as for-

formerly. What, my dear, is this owing to? Does virtue appear to you as unpleasant? Is your beneficent Creator a hard master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of a gay unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear, I am a mother, and a concern for your happiness is inseparably connected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and, what I have considered as a fault, may be only the effusions of youthful gaiety—I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad, yea happy, to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and, therefore, give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty, the performance of which alone can make you happy, both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is a dedication of the whole man to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth, which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct: Its consequences are equally as beneficial as its promises. " Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

Whilst the gay unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy should I be to hear, that my child was religious without hypocritical austerity, and even gay without innocence. Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day in perusing your Bible, and some of our best English writers; and don't imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented; no, it indulges you in every rational amusement, so far as it is consistent with morality;—it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

Let me beg you will consider attentively what I have written, and send me an answer as soon as you can.

I am your affectionate Mother, &c.

L E T T E R XIX.

The Answer.

Honoured Madam,

I Am so much affected by the perusal of your really parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer; but duty to the best of parents obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity so conspicuous

in my former letters is too true to be denied, nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, Madam, I freely confess it; but, with the greatest sincerity, I must, at the same time declare, that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed: I am fully sensible of my error, and, on all future occasions, shall endeavour to avoid giving the least offence. The advice you sent me in your valuable letter, wants no encomium, all that I desire is, to have them engraven on my heart. My dear madam, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties, in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me beg to hear from you often, and I hope that my whole future conduct will convince the best of parents, that I am what she wishes me to be.

I am,
Honoured madam, your dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XX.

*From a young Woman, just gone to Service in London,
to her Mother in the Country.*

Dear Mother,

IT is now a month that I have been at Mr Wilson's, and thank God, that I like my place so well. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbours. At my first coming there I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is the remembrance of your's and my father's kindness; but I begin to be more reconciled to my state, as I know you were not able to support me at home. I return you a thousand thanks for the kind advice you were so good as to give me at parting, and I shall endeavour to practise it as long as I live: let me hear from you as often as you have an opportunity: so with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever,

Your most dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XXL

The Mother's Answer.

My dear child,

I Am glad to hear you have got into so worthy a family. You know that we never should have parted with you, had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of any body but when you hear a bad story, try to soften it as much as you can; don't repeat it again but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you, from the good character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible, and the Whole Duty of Man. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Remember that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their kind love to you. Heaven bless you my dear child! And continue you to be a comfort to us all, and particularly to

Your affectionate Mother, &c.

LETTER XXII.

From an affectionate Parent to a Daughter in service, on bearing that her Master had made attempts upon her virtue.

My dearest Betsy,

WITH great grief of heart I have just received intimation, that, though your master has actually offered violence to your virtue, you nevertheless continue in his service. God grant that you may not have already yielded to his base delires; for when once a person has so far forgotten what belongs to himself, or his character, as to make such an attempt, the very continuance under the same roof with him,

is an encouragement to him to prosecute his designs. And if he carries it better, and more civil, at present, it is only the more certainly to undo you when he attacks you next. Consider, my dear child, your reputation is all you have to trust to. And if you have not already, which God forbid ! sacrificed your honour to him, leave it not to the hazard of another temptation; but come away directly (as you ought to have done of your own accord) at the command of

Your grieved and indulgent father, &c.

L E T T E R XXIII.

From the Daughter to the Father, in Answer.

Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter yesterday, and am sorry I stayed a moment in my master's house after his vile attempt; but he was so full of his promises of never offering the like again, that I hoped I might believe him; nor have I yet seen any thing to the contrary. However, I am so much convinced now, that I ought to have done as you say, that I have this day left the house; and hope to be with you almost as soon as you shall have received this letter.

I am

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

L E T T E R XXIV.

From a Merchant's Widow, to a Lady, a distant Relation, in behalf of her two Orphans.

Madam,

WHEN you look at the subscription of this letter, I doubt not of your being much surprised with its contents; but it is more on account of your amiable character, than that I have the honour of being your relation, that I have presumed to trouble you with this.

My late husband, whom you know was reputed to be in affluent circumstances, has been dead about six months: his whole accompts have been settled with his creditors, and because of many losses and bad debts,

debts, there is not above one hundred pounds left for myself: I have a son just turned of fourteen, whom I want to bind apprentice to a reputable trade, and a daughter near seventeen, whose education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial servant, although she would willingly be the companion of some young lady, where she might be treated with familiarity and tenderness. In circumstances so distressing, I have presumed to address myself to you: your long acquaintance with the world will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not but your unbounded generosity will induce you to comply with a request dictated by the severity of affliction.

LETTER XXV.

The Lady's Answer.

Madam,

I know not whether I am more affected with the modest representation of your affliction, or pleased that I have it in my power to assist you. You see, madam, that all human expectations are vain, and often attended with deception: when we think our circumstances are independent, there is generally some latent mischief hidden under the specious appearance; and this should teach us continually to look to that providence, who superintends the affairs of this lower world; and orders all for the good of his creatures. With respect to your two children, I have proposed the following scheme for their benefit:

Let the boy think of some trade, to which his inclinations lead him, and I will provide him with every necessary during his apprenticeship, and at the expiration of that term (if his behaviour is agreeable) advance something to set him up in business. As for the girl, let her be immediately sent to my house, where she shall be brought up along with my daughters, and every thing done in my power to serve her.

I expect that, from time to time, you will communicate to me an account of your circumstances, that I may be happy in alleviating every calamity.

I am, &c.

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LETTER XXVI.

From an aged Lady in the Country, to her Niece in London, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of a bad Character.

Dear Niece,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother when she was alive, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you rather by letter than by personal conversation, concerning what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms you take with M^r. Lovelace. You have been seen with him at both the Play-houses, in St James's Park, Ranelagh, and Vauxhall. Don't imagine, niece, that I write this from a principle of ill-nature, it is on purpose to save you from ruin; for, let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is extremely bad, and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner to two or three virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favourable an opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have no great fortune to expect, and he has an uncle from whom he expects a considerable estate, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage; but that is greatly to be questioned; for I have heard that he is deep in debt, as also that he is privately engaged to a rich old widow at Chellea. In short, my dear, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his railing and ridicule.

Let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company, as you would that of a madman; for, notwithstanding I still hope you are strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare: I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere Friend, and

Affectionate Aunt, &c.

LETTER XXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Honoured Madam,

I Received your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, I thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true I have been at those public places you mention along with Mr Lovelace, but was utterly ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of marriage, but I told him I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him that a regard for my reputation obliged me never to see him any more, nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend upon my adhering to that resolution. In the mean time, I return you a thousand thanks for your friendly advice. I am sensible every young woman ought to be careful of her reputation, and constantly avoid the company of libertines To convince you of my sincerity, I shall leave London in about six weeks, and will call to see you after I have been at my father's.

I am, honoured Madam,

Your affectionate Niece, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents, desiring their consent to marry.

Honoured Father and Mother,

I Have sent this to inform you, that one Mr Wood, a young man, a cabinet-maker, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage: I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore have sent this by William Jones, your neighbour, who called on me, and will inform you particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been set up in business about two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but don't chuse to give him my promise

smile until I have first heard from you: whatever answer you send shall be obeyed, by
Your affectionate Daughter, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

The Parent's Answer.

Dear Child,

We received your letter by Mr Jones, and the character he gives of the young Man is so agreeable, that we have no objection to your marrying him: begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state, before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each other, you must be either happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life in which the best of men's tempers may be much ruffled, on account of losses or disappointments; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping; and never affect to appear superior to your station. for although your circumstances may be easy, yet whilst in trade, you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbours may despise you for a while, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge, that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all, remember your duty to God, and then you may charitably look for a blessing on your honest endeavours. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of,

Your loving Father and Mother, &c.

LETTER XXX.

From a young Tradesman lately entered into Business, to his Father, asking his consent to marry.

Honoured Sir,

YOU know that it is now above a year since I entered into business for myself, and finding it daily increasing, I am obliged to look out for an agreeable part-

partner, I mean a wife: there is a very worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted. They are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, an amiable young woman, greatly esteemed by all who know her: I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained her parents consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent; but I hope that upon the strictest enquiry you will find her such a person, that you will not have any objection to a match so advantageous. I on every occasion endeavour to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct. Her parents are to pay me five hundred pounds on the day of marriage, if the event shall happen to take place, and as they have no more children, the whole of their property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer in the mean time is impatiently expected.

By your dutiful Son, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

The Father's Answer.

My Dear Son,

I Received your letter, and my reason for not sending sooner is, that it being an affair of great importance, I was willing to proceed therein with the utmost caution. I wrote to Mr Johnson, my Attorney, in New Inn, desiring him to enquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with; and I am glad to hear that his account does not differ from your own. I hope you don't think that I would desire to see you one moment unhappy. Your reasons for entering into the marriage state, are every way satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that the person on whom you have placed your affections is so deserving. When you have fixed the wedding-day I will come to London to be present at the ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend your business with the same diligence you have hitherto done, -and if you should live to an old age, you

you will then be able to retire from trade, with honour, both to yourself and family.

I am, dear Son,

Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

From a Brother to a Sister in the Country, upbraiding her for being negligent in writing.

My dear Sister,

I write to you to acquaint you how unkindly we all take it here, that you do not write oftener to us, in relation to your health, diversions, and employment in the country. You cannot be insensible how much you are beloved by us all; judge then if you do well to omit giving us the satisfaction absence affords to true friends, which is, often to hear from one another. My Mother is highly disengaged with you, and says you are a very idle girl; my aunt is of the same opinion; and I would fain, like a loving brother, excuse you if I could. Pray, for the future, take care to deserve a better character, and by writing soon, and often, put it in my power to say what a good sister I have: for you shall always find me

Your most affectionate Brother, &c.

Due respects of every one here to my aunt, and all friends in the country.

LETTER XXXIII.

From the Daughter to her Mother, in excuse for her neglect.

Honoured Madam,

I am ashamed I staid so long to be reminded of my duty by my brother's kind letter. I will offer no excuse for myself, for not writing oftener, though I have been strangely taken up by the kindness and favour of your good friends here, particularly my aunt Windus, for well do I know, that my duty to my honoured mother ought to take place of all other considerations. All I beg, therefore, is, that you will be so good as to forgive me, on promise of amendment, and to procure for

giveness

giveness also of my aunt Talbot, and all friends. Believe me, madam, when I say that no diversions here or elsewhere shall make me forget the duty I owe to so good a mother, and such kind relations; and that I shall ever be

Your grateful, dutiful Daughter, &c.

My aunt and cousins desire their kind love to you, and due respects to all friends. Brother John has great reputation with every one for his kind letter to me.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

From a Father to a Son, just beginning the World.

Dear Billy,

As you are now beginning life, as it were, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business, the frequent occasions you will have for advice from others will make you desirous of singling out, among your most intimate acquaintance, one or two whom you would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of these, your utmost care and caution will be necessary; for by a mistake here, you can scarcely conceive the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for you to make a judgment of those who are fit to be your advisers by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world. For he who has by his own conduct undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a land mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow.

Old age is generally slow and heavy youth headstrong and precipitate; but there are old men who are full of vivacity, and young men replete with discretion; which makes me rather point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom you should chuse to associate; though, after all, it is to me a never-failing good sign of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors chuse his company, and he delights in theirs.

Let your endeavours therefore be, at all adventures, to comfort yourself with men of sobriety, good

sense, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one, that says, *A man is known by the company he keeps.* If such men you can single out, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice; and be sure remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unrestrained in delivering your sentiments, when occasions offer, yet that you be much readier to hear than speak; for to this purpose it has been significantly observed, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therefore by observation, and a modell silence, such a store of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worse figure than they do; and endeavour to benefit yourself rather by other people's ills than your own. How must those young men expose themselves to the contempt and ridicule of their seniors, who, having seen little or nothing of the world, are continually shutting out by open mouths and closed ears all possibility of instruction, and making vain the principal end of conversation, which is improvement! A silent young man makes generally a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When therefore you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments; by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recall; when perhaps a silent genius in company has built out upon them with such observations as have struck consciousness and shame into the forward speaker, if he has not been quite insensible of inward reproach.

I have thrown together, as they occurred, a few thoughts, which may suffice for the present, to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I hope you will constantly, from time to time, communicate to me whatever you may think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you; for I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me. And of this you may be assured; for I am, and ever must be,

Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

*To a young Trader generally in a Hurry in Business,
advising Method as well as Diligence.*

Dear Nephew,

THE affection I have always borne you, as well for your own sake, as for your late father's and mother's, makes me give you the trouble of these lines, which I hope you will receive as kindly as I intend them.

I have lately called upon you several times, and have as often found you in an extraordinary hurry; which I well know cannot be sometimes avoided; but, methinks, need not be always the case, if your time were disposed in regular and proper proportions to your business. I have frequently had reason to believe, that more than half the hurry which appears among traders in general, is rather the effect of their indolence, than their industry, however willing they are to have it thought otherwise; and I will give you one instance, in confirmation of this opinion in a neighbour of mine.

This gentleman carried on for some years a profitable business; but indulging himself every evening in a tavern society, or club, which the promotion of business (as is usually the case) gave the first place for, he looked upon those engagements as the natural consequences of the approach of night; and d'ove on his business in the day with precipitation, that he might get thither with the earliest. He seldom kept very late hours, tho' he never came home from the night being gone, and his bottle empty'd, the morning was always wanted to dispel the fumes of the wine. Whoever, therefore, came to him before nine, was desired to call again; and when he arose, so many mates waited for him, as directly threw him into a flutter; so that from his rising till dinner time, he seemed in one continued ferment. A long dinner time he always allay'd himself, in order to recover the fatigues he had undergone; and all his table talk was, how heavy his business lay upon him! and what pains he took in it! The hearty meal and the time he indulged himself at table, begot an inappetency for any more business for

that short afternoon; so all that could be deferred was put off to the next morning; and long'd-for ev'ning approaching, he flies to his usual solace, empties his bottle by eleven, comes home, gets to bed, and is invisible 'till next morning at nine; and then rising, enters upon his usual hurry and confusion.

Thus did his life seem to those who saw him in his business, one constant scene of fatigue, tho' he scarce ever apply'd to it four regular hours in any one day. Whereas had he risen only at seven in the morning, he would have got all his business under by noon; and those two hours, from seven to nine, being before many people go abroad, he would have met with no interruption in his affairs; but might have improved his servants by his own example directed them in the business of the day, have inspected his books, written to his dealers, and put every thing in so regular a train for the rest of the day, that whatever had o cur'd afterwards, woud rather have served to divert than fatigue him.

And what to cut my story short, was the upshot of the matter? Why meeting with some disappointments and losses (as all traders must expect, and ought to provide for) and his customers not seeing him in his shop so much as they expect d, and, when there, always in a disobliging petulant hurry, and moreover, mistakes frequently happening through the flurry into which he put himself and every one about him by these means his business dwindled away insensibly, and not being able to go out of his usual course, which helped to impair both his capacity and ardour to his business, his creditors began to look about them, and he was compelled to enter into a state of his affairs; and then had the mortification to find a balance of 200l against him.

This w-s a shocking case to himself, but more to his family; for his wife had lived, and his children had been educated, in such a manner as induced them to hope their fortunes would be sufficient to place them in a state of independence.

In short, being obliged to quit a business he had managed with so little prudence, his friends got him upon a charitable foundation, whi. h afforded a bare subsistence for himself; his children were dispersed, some one way and some another, into low scenes of life;

life; and his wife went home to her friends, to be snubb'd and reflect'd on by her own family, for faults not her own.

This example will afford several good hints to a young tradesman, which are too obvious to need expatiating upon. And as I dare say your prudence will keep you from the like fault, you will never have reason to reproach yourself on this score. But yet, as I always found you in a hurry when I called upon you, I could not but give you this hint, for fear you should not rightly proportion your time to your business, and lest you should suspend to the next hour what you could and ought to do in the present, and so did not keep your business properly under. Method is every thing in business, next to diligence; and you will, by falling into a regular one, always be calm and unruffled, and have time to bellow in your shop with your customers, the female ones especially, who always love to make a great many words in their bargainings, and expect to be humour'd and persuaded: and how can any man find time for this, if he prefers the tavern to his shop, and his bed to his business? I know you will take in good part what I have written, because you are sensible how much I am

Your truly affectionate, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

From a Father to a Son, on his Negligence in his Affairs.

Dear Jemmy,

YOU cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Remissness is inexcusable in all men, but in none so much as in a man of business, the foul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality.

Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted; quit unprofitable company, and unreasonable recreations, and apply to your counting-house with diligence. It may not be yet too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expences; and then see which of the latter you can, and which

you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverish'd trader is put to for the remainder of his life; which, too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squander'd; the contemp' he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how, on the contrary, from being born to a creditable expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to the most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for ! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction, beyond the present hour, if in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he comes to reflect. Think seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your own mind, comfort to your family; and which will give at the same time, the highest satisfaction to

Your careful and loving Father, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Son's grateful Answer.

Honoured Sir,

I return you my sincere thanks for your seasonable reproof and advice. I have indeed too much indulged myself in an idle careless habit, and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. But indeed they wanted but their own, so I could only blame myself, who had brought their rough usage upon me. Your letter came so seasonably upon this, that I hope it will not want the desired effect; and as, I thank

I thank God, it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course with myself and my affairs, that I may avoid the ill consequences you so judiciously fore-warn me of, and give to my family and friends the pleasure they well deserve at my hands; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is owing to him by

His most dutiful Son, &c.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

From a young Gentleman, Clerk to a Merchant in Town, to his Father in the Country, soliciting Pocket-money.

Honoured Sir,

I Wrote to you by Mr Bale, the Linen-draper, but I not having received any answer, makes me very uneasy. Although I have been as good an œconomist as possible, yet I find the pocket-money you allowed me to take monthly from Mr Willis, the Grocer, is not sufficient to support my necessary expences, although it was so at first. London is such a place, that unless one maintains something of a character, they are sure to be treated with contempt, and point'd at as objects of ridicule. I assure you sir, that I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can desire, and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you, that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit it to your judgment what you think proper to order me. I did not chuse to mention my want of money to Mr Willis, and, for that reason, have not taken any thing more than what you ordered: I hope you will not be offended with what I have written; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my honoured parents.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your affectionate Son, &c.

LETTER XXXIX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

MY reason for not sending to you sooner was, that I had been on a journey to your uncle at Manchester, where I was detained longer than I expected; and, consequently, did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced that it is altogether reasonable: you are greatly mistaken if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small matter paid by Mr Willis; no, it was indeed inadvertency; but my constant residence in the country makes me little acquainted with the customs of London. I don't desire to confine you to any particular sum: you are now arrived at an age, when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to be well acquainted with the value of money, your profession likewise requires it; and it is well known, that prudence and sobriety in youth, naturally leads to regularity of conduct in more advanced years. Virtue insures respect, and, as I well know, that all manner of precepts are useless where the inclinations are vicious; I have left the affair, mentioned in your letter, entirely to your own discretion, and, as the inclosed order is unlimited, I doubt not but prudence will direct you how to proceed.

I am, dear Child,

Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER XL.

From a Daughter to her Father, pleading for her Sister, who had married without his consent.

Honoured Sir,

THE kind indulgence you have always shewn to your children, makes me presume to become an advocate for my sister, tho' not for her fault. She is very sensible of that, and sorry she has offended you; but has great hopes, that Mr Robinson will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for his past wildness, and engage your forgiveness: For all

all your children are sensible of your paternal kindness, and that you wish their good more for their sakes than your own.

This makes it the more wicked to offend so good a father: but dear sir, be pleased to consider, that it now cannot be helped, and that she may be made by your direction very miserable in her own choice: and as his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth, or otherwise it would not have been a very discreditable match, had it had your approbation. I could humbly hope, for my poor sister's sake, that you will be pleased rather to encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favour, than to make him despair of a reconciliation, and to perhaps cast her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not at all reprehensive of: for he is early very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. Yet is she dejected for her fault to you, and wishes, yet dreads, to have your leave to throw herself at your feet, to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy.

Pardon me, sir, my interposing in her favour, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister. She is your daughter; tho' she has not one so worthy as I wish, to become that character. Be pleased, sir, to forgive her, however; and also to give me, pleading for her, who am,

Your ever-dutiful Daughter, &c.

LETTER XLI.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Nancy,

YOU must believe that your sister's unadvised marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet I will assure you, that it arises more for my affection for her, than any other consideration. In her education I took all the pains and care my circumstances would admit, and often flattered myself with the hope, that the happy fruits of it would have appeared in her prudent conduct. What she has now done is not vicious, but indiscreet; for, you must remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that

the

the wild assertion, of a rake making a good husband, was the most dangerous opinion a young woman could imbibe.

I will not, however, in pity to her, point out the many ills I am afraid will attend her rashness, because it is done, and cannot be helped; but with she may be happier than ever I saw a woman who leaped so fatal a precipice.

Her husband has this morning been with me for her fortune; and it was with much temper I told him, that as all she could hope for was wholly at my disposal, I should distribute it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage; and that, as he was a stranger to me, I should chuse to know how he deserved it, before he had the power over what I intended to do for her. He bit his lip, and, with a hasty step, was my humble servant

Tell the rash girl, that I would not have her to be afflicted at this behaviour in me; for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other: if he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behaviour from this disappointment: but if he married only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession, rather than his.

Your interpolation in her behalf is very sisterly: and you see I have not the resentment she might expect. But would to God she had acted with your prudence! For her own sake I wish it. I am

Your loving Father, &c.

L E T T E R S
O N
B U S I N E S S.

LETTER XLII.

From a young Man in the Country to a Merchant in London, offering Correspondence.

Sir, Coventry, Jan. 1, 1787.

MY apprenticeship with Mr Wilton being expired, during which I had proofs of your integrity in all your dealings with my worthy master. My parents have given me two hundred pounds to begin the world, but you know that is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage; that I might be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would chuse to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr Wilton, and you may depend on my punctuality with regard to payments.

My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order as soon and cheap as possible. and am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLIII.

The Merchant's Answer.

Sir, London, Jan. 5, 1787.

YOURS I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a shop for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such, that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent you the goods by the Stafford waggon, in twelve parcels, marked X. I; and I doubt not

not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will always enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goodes which I can procure. I heartily wish you success in business, and doubt not but you well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it, and am,

Your obliged Servant, &c.

LETTER XLIV.

From a young Man whose Master had lately died.

Sir,

York, June 3, 1787.

I Doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as apprentice and journeyman above twelve years; and as my mistress does not chuse to carry on the business, I have taken the shop and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the inclosed order for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt. Please to send the inclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will oblige

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLV.

The Answer.

London, June 6, 1787.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my good friend your late master; but, at the same time, pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have double the advantage of a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customer, which by his dealings with me, appears to be very extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales, marked C P, by the Speedwell of Hull, John Thompson master, and you will find them as good and cheap as any that are to be had in London. I heartily thank

thank you for the offered correspondence, and shall, on all occasions, use you with honour. I wish you all manner of success, and am,

Your obliged Servant, &c.

LETTER XLVI.

To a Correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of money.

Sir,

Newcastle, Jan. 6, 1787.

Although the balance of the account between us has been of long standing in my favour, yet would I not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a considerable sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I shall then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLVII.

The Answer.

Sir,

Berwick, Jan. 9, 1787.

I have just received yours, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from London, and am greatly pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty pounds, for which I have sent inclosed an order on Mr Cash, the Banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XLVIII.

From a Merchant at Leghorn, to a Brother in London, desiring him to sell some Goods, and purchase others.

Sir,

According to the agreement settled between us when I left England, I have sent by the Charming Saily, Captain Johnson, twelve bales of raw silk, marked A. Z. desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage; they are warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for several different articles of British manufactures, to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port, as they are much wanted at present. Let them be as good and cheap as you can possibly procure.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c:

LETTER XLIX.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and the twelve bales marked A. Z. were delivered at the Custom house. I immediately advertised them for sale at Garraway's, in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent manufacturer in Spital fields, for nine hundred and forty pounds, which I have lodged in the Bank in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Dispatch, Captain Hervey, the different articles which you ordered. They are in twenty bales marked B. M. I am told they are the best that can be had in London, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

L E T T E R . L.

An urgent Demand of Payment.

Mr Thompson,

THE exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay peremptorily to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how, from time to time, you have broken them. Can I therefore depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? If you do not, what must I think of the man, who deals worse by me, than he does by others? If you think you can trespass more upon me, than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment to your prudence, or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be intitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so dependent a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me for these very goods I send you? And can I make a return to him without receiving it from you? What end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months credit for myself? Indeed, Sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others: and then what must be the consequence? In short, Sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder; as I am very loath to take any harsh measures, to procure justice to myself, my family, and creditors. For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful Friend and Servant, &c.

L E T T E R L.

The Answer.

Sir,

I acknowledge with gratitude the lenity you have at all times shewn, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often has given me much uneasiness. I

do assure you, Sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for seventy pounds and next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a very short time. I am determined, for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter a guide in my dealing with those people, whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order, until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble Servant.

LETTER LII.

From a young Person in Trade to a wholesale Dealer, who had suddenly made a Demand on him.

Sir,

YOUR demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article used to be only four months; as it has been always a custom to allow at least two months more, I did not think you would have sent for it till that time, and consequently trusted to a practice so long established in trade. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency which prevents me from complying with your request, nor shall I ask any more than is usual. If you will be pleased to let your servant call this day three weeks for the one half of the sum, it shall be ready, and the remainder in a fortnight after. In the mean time, I beg that you will not let any word slip concerning this, as very little will hurt a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have promised; and if you have any

any reason to demand the money sooner, be pleased to let me know, that, if I have it not, I may borrow it; for if I have lost my credit with you, I hope I have not done so with all the world.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LIII.

The Answer.

Sir;

HERE is no person in the world, who would more willingly shew every sort of indulgence to a young beginner than myself, and I am extremely sorry to press you on the present occasion; but I have reasons; and although it is not always either fair, or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question:—Whether you have any dealings with an Usurer near Moorfields, and what is his name? If you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you sooner than the time you mention; but as it may be done at once, I expect your answer by the bearer, whom you well know; for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant.

I assure you, Sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have of your integrity, that I refer the payment of my demand to a simple answer to this question; but I fear that cannot be done.

I am your Friend and Well-wisher, &c..

LETTER LIV.

Soliciting the Loan of Money from a Friend.

Dear Sir,

I believe that ever since you first knew me, you will be ready to acknowledge, that no person was ever more bashful in asking favours than myself. Indeed I have always considered it as more pleasing to an honest mind, to confer than receive a favour; but an unexpected affliction in my family obliges me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about forty pounds for

six months; but on this condition, that you can spare it without hurting yourself; for I would by no means chuse that my friend should suffer in his present circumstances in order to oblige me. Indeed, Sir, I was some days engaged amongst my acquaintances to raise the money, before I could prevail with myself to ask it from you; and that I have now done it, is from a principle far more noble than any lucrative motive; nor indeed would I have asked it at all, were I not morally certain of paying it at the time promised. I hope this will not give any offence, and, as I said before, if it is any way inconvenient, let me beg that you will refuse.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity, &c.

LETTER LV.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Could not hesitate one moment in answering your letter, and had I known that my worthy friend had been in want of the sum mentioned, I should never have put his unaffected modesty to the blush, by suffering him to ask it: no, sir, the offer should have come from myself. However, the sum is sent by the bearer; but let me beg, that if you consider me really as your friend, that you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without being confined to a particular time; and not only so, but that you will likewise command my assistance in every thing else wherein I can serve you. But least you should think me strictly formal, I have hereby given you leave to draw on me to the amount of two hundred pounds, or for any less sum, to be paid as is most suitable to your circumstances.

I am, Sir,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER LVI.

From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing delay of Payment.

Sir,

I Have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present

I am

I am extremely sorry to inform you, that from a variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand, and the favour shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by your

Obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LVII.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT was never my design to oppress you. I have had a long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made by me upon you for rent, until it suits you to pay it; for I am well convinced you will not keep it from me any longer.

I am yours sincerely, &c.

LETTER LVIII.

From a Country Farmer on the same Occasion.

Honoured Sir,

I Am extremely sorry that through a variety of unforeseen accidents, I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as this. The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. This has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not fit to be sold. I only beg your patience about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully with gratitude.

I am, Sir, your honest Tenant,
And humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LIX.

The Answer.

Mr. Clover,

I Hope that from the whole of my conduct, ever since you first became my tenant, that you cannot have reason to alledge any thing against me. I never treated you

you with rigour, as I always considered you as an industrious honest man. Make yourself perfectly easy concerning the payment of your rent, till I come to the country in summer, and if things are as you have represented them (and I doubt not but they are) you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence.

I am yours, &c.

L E T T E R LX.

From an insolvent Debtor, to his principal Creditor, requesting the acceptance of a Composition.

Sir,

WHEN I first entered upon business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this; but experience convinces me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expence of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, therefore, sir, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge that my affairs are very much perplexed. I have been these ten years past endeavouring to acquire something for myself, but in vain. The variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of honesty; and if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept of it, as it is not in my power to do any more, and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant, &c.

L E T.

LETTER LXI.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT is with the greatest concern that I have perused your affecting letter; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as a person of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay down a plan for your future support. In the mean time, I have sent a trifle to defray your expences, till the other affairs are settled, and am

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXII.

From a Tradesman to a wholesale Dealer, to delay Payment of a sum of Money.

Sir,

MY note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favour I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes, subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others not doubting but you will send me the money at the time proposed, which will greatly oblige

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXIV.

From a young Man who had an Opportunity to set up in Business, but destitute of Money, to a Gentleman of reputed Benevolence.

Honoured Sir,

WHEN you look at the subscription, you will remember my serving you with goods when I was apprentice to Mr Hopkins, Grocer, in the Strand. I have been a little above two years out of my time, which has been spent in Mr Hopkins' service, and the greatest part of my wages have been given to support an aged mother confined on a sick bed. Mr Hopkins died about ten days ago, and having no family, his executors, who are almost strangers to me, are going to let the shop. My worthy master has left me one hundred pounds in his will, but that is no way sufficient to purchase the stock in trade; nor will they give any longer credit than twelve months. Being well acquainted with the trade, as also the customers, and having such a fair prospect of settling in business, I have presumed to lay it before you. I have often heard of your willingness to serve those under difficulties,

ties, especially young people beginning the world. If you approve of this, and will advance so much on my bond payable in a limited time, it shall be as safe as if in the bands of your banker. I shall be as frugal and industrious as possible, and the whole of my time shall be employed in the closest attendance to the duties of my station, and shall acknowledge your kindness with gratitude as long as I live in this world. I hope this will not give any offence, and if you give me leave I will wait on you along with one of the executors, that you may hear their proposals. My character as to honesty and fidelity will bear the strictest enquiry, as is testified in my late master's will, and also by all with whom I have any dealings.

I am,

Honoured and worthy Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXV.

The Gentleman's Answer.

Sir,

I have just received yours, and although I am much indisposed with the govt, yet could not hesitate one moment in sending an answer. There is such an appearance of honesty, together with such an unaffected simplicity runs through the whole of your letter, that I am strongly inclined to comply with your request, and happy shall I think myself if your honest endeavours are attended with the desired success. You need not give yourself the trouble of calling on me, lest it should interfere with your businels. I will either call on you to-morrow, or send a friend to enquire into the particulars. In the mean time, it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that you have not been wanting in filial duty to an aged parent, and while you continue to act consistently with these principles, and regulate your conduct by the practice of virtue, you will have great reason to expect the divine blessing on whatever you undertake. Trade is of a very precarious nature, and if not attended to with assiduity and regularity, generally involves those engaged, in the greatest difficulty, if not ruin. Let me beg, therefore, that

when

when you become a master, you will avoid mixing in company with those who spend their time and substance in the fashionable follies of the present age. Such practices are inconsistent with the business of a tradesman: and I am afraid it is greatly owing to such that we see the Gazette so often filled with the names of bankrupts, who, if they had attended with assiduity to the duties of that station in which Providence had placed them, might have been a comfort to their families, and an honour to their different professions. But although I have no fears concerning your integrity, yet the best of men cannot be too often reminded of their duty.

I am, Sir, your sincere well-wisher, &c.

L E T T E R L X V I .

From the Servant of a wholesale Dealer to his Master in London, giving an Account of his Customers in the Country.

Sir,

Manchester, Feb. 6, 1787.

I Have visited the several towns between this and London, where any of your customers reside; and although they complain much of the decay of trade, yet their payments and orders have been as well as could reasonably be expected; and indeed I think trade is beginning to revive. I have the pleasure to inform you, that in the places where I have been, there is not any appearance of failing; and the people have been so well pleased with your goods and fair dealing, that I have obtained many new orders. I have likewise received a dividend of twelve shillings in the pound of the effects of Mr Cambrick, the Linen Draper, at Derby, who failed last year, and there is still something remaining, so that upon the whole, your loss will not be so great as was at first expected. I have finished your business in this town, and set off to-morrow for Liverpool, where I shall expect to hear from you if you have any thing particular to transact before I return, and am, Sir, with duty and respect,

Your obedient and faithful Servant, &c.

LETTER LXVII.

The Master's Answer.

Mr Trueman,

I Received yours, dated the 2d instant, at Manchester, and am extremely glad to hear of your success. Indeed it has, as you observed, been greater than I expected. I am much pleased with your honest fidelity in transacting my business with so much care and industry: and as you are now at Liverpool, I shall take this opportunity of intrusting you with an affair of importance. There is daily expected at that port, the ship Nightingale, Captain Roberts, laden with sugar and Indigo from Jamaica; and as I am informed the proprietors are desirous of disposing of the whole cargo by private contract, when you have examined the goods, I leave it to your own discretion to purchase the whole, as I think it must be an exceeding good bargain. If you have not money sufficient, give them an order on me for the remainder, payable at sight. I leave the whole to yourself, and shall expect to hear from you soon.

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXVIII.

*From a Merchant's Clerk, in London, to his Master,
in the Country.*

Sir,

OUR not hearing from you these three weeks has made us very uneasy, but till we hope you are well. The business has been carried on in the same manner in which you left it: but yesterday an order came from New York for goods, to the amount of five thousand pounds and upwards. You know the American credit, and therefore I would not do any thing till I heard from yourself. If you please to write by the next post, I shall abide by your directions, and every thing shall be conducted by your order. We would not wish you to return before your health be

re-established, although we long to see you every day.
All the family are well, and I am, Sir,
Your obedient faithful Servant, &c.

LETTER LXIX.

The Merchant's Answer.

Mr Thompson,

YOURS I received this day, and am pleased to hear that my business goes on so well. I always confided in your fidelity, and am glad to find that I have not been deceived. I am much better in my health than when I left London, although it is not yet perfectly re-established, but I hope it will be so in a short time. Concerning the American order I am extremely glad to hear of it, not only on my own account, but also of trade in general. Their credit to be sure is long, but I would rather trust our brethren in that part of the world two years, than those who are our natural enemies one month. You may give orders for the different goods wanting to be got ready as soon as possible, and before they are completed I hope to be in town. I am much pleased to hear that all my servants are concerned for my welfare, as it will, at all times, give me the greatest happiness to make their different situations as comfortable as is consistent with a state of servitude. I am

Your affectionate Master, &c.

LETTER LXX.

Recommending a Man Servant.

Sir,

THE bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity these three years, but having a desire to settle in London, he left my house about a week ago, and by a letter received from him this day, I find you are willing to employ him on my recommendation; and it is with the greatest pleasure that I comply with his request. His behaviour while with me was strictly honest, sober, and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you. I have sent this inclosed

in one to himself, and if you employ him I hope he will give satisfaction. I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXI.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Received your obliging letter in recommendation of the young man, and in consequence of that have taken him into my family. I doubt not, from what you say, of his giving satisfaction, and you may be assured of his being treated with humanity, and rewarded according to his merit. I am,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXII.

From a Country Shopkeeper to his Friend in London; desiring him to send him some Goods.

Sir,

THAT friendship which we contracted in our youth, is not yet I hope abated, although Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other. I have heard of your success in London, and it is with pleasure I can assure you, that I am comfortably settled here. But you know that our returns are slow and profits small, and therefore, however willing, I am not in circumstances sufficient to defray the expence of a journey to London, in order to purchase goods at the best hand; which has been attended with some loss, because they are considerably higher here. Recalling, therefore, on our former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase, from time to time, what goods I may happen to want from London, for which an order shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for a few articles, as you will see by the inclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and cheap as possible; and if there is any thing I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you

may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and dispatch. I am, Sir,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and am extremely glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. There is a pleasure in looking back to those youthful days we spent together in harmless amusements, and it gives me great pleasure to think that I have it in my power to be any way of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Wakefield waggon directed to you. They are as good and as cheap as any to be had in London, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. With respect to your kind proffer of service, I heartily thank you, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time, be sure to command me in every thing wherein I can serve you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXIV.

From a Country Shopkeeper to a Dealer in London, complaining of the badness of his Goods.

Sir,

WHEN I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixt resolution to act with integrity and honour, expecting the same in return. I must, indeed, confess, that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now the case is quite different. The two last parcels you sent me are so bad, that I dare not offer them to my customers. From what, Sir, does this proceed? have I ever been deficient in my payments? no, you dare not accuse me with any thing of that nature. However

ever, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence or shut up my shop. You may chuse which you please, and let me beg to have your answer by return of post, as I am in immediate want of these goods, and in danger of losing my customers by a delay. In so doing, you will oblige

Your well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXXV.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear that the goods sent you were so bad. I know I had some such in my warehouse, but was determined to sell them at a low rate, without ever thinking of their being sent to any of my customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. By some mistake my servants have inadvertently sent them, for which I am extremely sorry; but in order to make you amends, I have sent by this day's waggon those which I had originally intended for you, at my own expence. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

LETTER LXXVI.

From a Tradesman in distressed circumstances, desiring a Letter of Licence.

Sir,

IT is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you and during that time you well know that I always paid you regularly; but at present am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled: For that reason, Sir. I have sent to you, desiring a letter of licence for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my

affairs to their satisfaction; but if they will not comply with this I am utterly ruined. Your answer is impatiently expected by

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and am extremely sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I have called a meeting of your creditors, and I doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable, of which I shall give you notice. I am, Sir,

Your real Friend, &c.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To an intimate Friend to borrow Money.

PRAY favour me, Harry, with twenty guineas by the bearer, who is my servant. I have immediate occasion; but will repay it again whenever you please to make a demand. This letter will answer all the purposes of a note, from

Your obliged humble Servant, &c.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To a Friend, in apology for not granting his request to lend him a sum of Money.

Sir,

I AM very sorry that your request comes to me at a time when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot with any convenience comply with it. I hope, Sir, you will therefore excuse

Your most humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXX.

*An Answer, in compliance with his request to borrow
a Sum of Money.*

Sir,

YOU have highly obliged me in the request you make me. I most carefully comply with it, and inclose a note for the requested sum, payable at sight; and am not a little glad it is in my power to shew you how much I am

Your faithful Friend and Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXI.

To a Friend on the same occasion, limiting the re-payment to a certain time.

Sir,

THE intimation you give me, that the sum of twenty guineas will be of great use to you, and that you shall be able to repay it in four months, makes me resolve to put myself to some difficulty to oblige you. Accordingly, I inclose a bank note to that amount. But I must, in the name of friendship, beg of you to return it to me *unused*, if you cannot keep your word in the re-payment; for my accommodating you with this sum is rather, at present, a testimony of my *inclination*, than *ability* to serve you, for I am

Your affectionate Friend and Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXII.

To a Friend, on a breach of promise, in not returning Money lent in his exigence.

Sir,

WHEN you applied to me in your straits for assistance, and made such strong promises of returning in four months what I advanced; little did I think you would give me the irksome occasion, either of reminding you of your promise, or of acquainting you with the straits in which my friendship for you has involved myself. I have always endeavoured to manage

my

my affairs with so much prudence, as to keep within myself the power of answering demands upon me, without troubling my friends; and I told you I must expect you would keep your word exactly to the four months, or else I should be distressed as much as you were when you applied to me. Six months passed, and you took no manner of notice of the matter, when I was forced to remind you of it, having been put to it, as I told you I should. You took a fortnight longer, under still stronger promises of performance. And three weeks are now expired, and your second promises are still as much to be performed as your first. Is this kind, is this friendly, is it *grateful*, Sir, let me ask you? And ought I to be made so suffer in my credit, who was so ready to save yours? — When, too, mine had been in no danger, had I not put out of my own power what was then actually in it? I will only say, that if any consideracion remains with you for one so truly your friend, let me immediately be paid, and take from me the cruel necessity of reproaching you for ingratitude, and myself for folly. I am, Sir,

Your unkindly used, &c.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To a Friend, who had promised to lend a sum of money to answer a critical exigence, and put it off to the last

Dear Sir,

YOU were so kind as to tell me, a fortnight ago, that you would lend me one hundred pounds on my bond, to answer a demand that my credit would otherwise be a sufferer by; and you were pleased to say, you would have me look no further, and that I should certainly have it in time. I have looked no further, Sir; and the day of payment approaching, you cannot imagine how my mind has suffered by being not *absolutely* *sure* of having the money to answer the demand. I hope, Sir, nothing has happened to make you alter your mind; for, at this short notice, I shall not know to whom to apply to raise it. In the utmost

utmost perturbation of mind, for fear of the worst, my credit being wholly at stake, I beg your answer, which I hope will be to the satisfaction of, Sir,
 Your obliged humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXIV.

The Answer, apologizing for his remissness.

Dear Sir,

I Will attend you this afternoon with the money, which I had always great pleasure in the thought of supplying you with; and I am most heartily vexed with myself, for giving you the pain and uneasiness that must have attended a mind so punctual as yours, and in a case so critically circumstanced. But I hope you will forgive me, tho' I can hardly forgive myself I am, Sir, as well on this, as on any other occasion in my power,

Your sincere friend and servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXV.

To a gentleman, who, on the strength of a slight acquaintance, wants to borrow money.

Sir,

YOU did me the favour of inquiring for me two or three times while I was out of town; and among my letters I find one from you, desiring the loan of 50 guineas. You must certainly have mistaken *yourself* or *me* very much, to think we were enough known to each other for such a transaction. I was twice in your company; I was delighted with your conversation; you seemed as much pleased with mine: and if we both acted with honour, the obligation is mutual, and there can be no room to suppose me your debtor. I have no churlish nor avaricious heart, I will venture to say; but there must be bounds to every thing; and discretion is as necessary in conferring as in receiving a kindness. To a friend my helping hand ought to be lent, when his necessities require it; you cannot think our intimacy enough to commence that relation; and should I answer the demands of every new acquaintance, I should

should soon want power to oblige my *old friends*, and even to serve *myself*. Surely, Sir, a gentleman of your merit cannot be so little beloved, as to be forced to seek a new acquaintance, and to have no better friend than one of *yesterday*. I will not do you the injury to suppose, that you have not *many*, who have the *best* reasons, from long knowledge, to oblige you: and, by your application to *me*, I cannot think *bashfulness* should stand in your way to *them*. Be this as it may, it does not at all suit my convenience to comply with your request; and so I must beg you to excuse

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R S
O N
L O V E and M A R R I A G E.

LETTER LXXXVI.

On Marriage, in an Epistle from a Father to his Daughters.

Dear Daughters,

YOU may perhaps imagine, that the reserved behaviour which I recommend to you, and your appearing seldom at public places, must cut off all opportunities of your being acquainted with gentlemen. I am very far from intending this; I advise you to no reserve but what will render you more respected and beloved by our sex. I do not think public places suited to make people acquainted together. They can only be distinguished there by their looks and external behaviour. But it is in private companies alone where you can expect easy and agreeable conversation, which I shall never wish you to decline. If you do not allow gentlemen to become acquainted with you, you can never expect to marry with attachment on either side.—Love is very seldom produced at first sight; at least it must have, in that case, a very unjustifiable foundation. True love is founded on esteem in a correspondence of tastes and sentiments, and steals on the heart imperceptibly.

There is one advice I shall leave you, to which I beg your particular attention. Before your affections come to be in the least engaged to any man, examine your tempers, your tastes, and your hearts, very severely; and settle in your own minds what are the requisites to your happiness in a married state; and, as it is almost impossible that you should get every thing you wish, come to a steady determination what you are to consider as essential, and what may be sacrificed.

If you have hearts disposed by nature for love and friendship, and possess those feelings which enable you to enter into all the refinements and delicacies of these attachments, consider well, for Heaven's sake, and as you value your future happiness, before you give them any indulgence. If you have the misfortune (for a very great misfortune it commonly is to your sex) to have such a temper and such sentiments deeply rooted in you; if you have spirit and resolution to resist the solicitations of vanity, the persecution of friends (for you will have lost the only friend that would never persecute you), and can support the prospect of the many inconveniences attending the state of an old maid; then you may indulge yourselves in that kind of sentimental reading and conversation which is most correspondent to your feelings.

But, if you find, on a strict self-examination, that marriage is absolutely essential to your happiness, keep the secret inviolable in your own bosoms; but shun, as you would do the most fatal poison, all that species of reading and conversation which warms the imagination, which engages and softens the heart, and raises the taste above the level of common life. If you do otherwise, consider the terrible conflicts of passions this may afterwards raise in your breasts.

If this refinement once takes deep root in your minds, and you do not obey its dictates, but marry from vulgar and mercenary views, you may never be able to eradicate it entirely, and then it will imbitter all your married days. Instead of meeting with sense, delicacy, tenderness, a lover, a friend, an equal companion, in a husband, you may be tired with insipidity and dullness; shocked with indelicacy, or mortified by indifference. You will find none to compassionate or even understand your sufferings; for your husbands may not use you cruelly, and may give you as much money for your cloaths, personal expence, and domestic necessaries, as is suitable to their fortunes; the world would therefore look upon you as unreasonable women, that did not deserve to be happy, if you were not so.—To avoid these complicated evils, if you are determined at all events to marry, I would advise you to make all your reading and

and amusements of such a kind as do not affect the heart, nor the imagination, except in the way of wit or humour.

I have no view, by these advices, to lead your tastes; I only want to persuade you of the necessity of knowing your own minds, which, though seemingly very easy, is what your sex seldom attain on many important occasions in life, but particularly on this of which I am speaking. There is not a quality I more anxiously wish you to possess than that collected, decisive spirit which rests on itself, which enables you to see where your true happiness lies, and to pursue it with the most determined resolution. In matters of business, follow the advice of those who know them better than yourselves, and in whose integrity you can confide; but, in matters of taste, that depends on your own feelings: Consult no one friend whatever, but consult your own hearts.

If a gentleman makes his addresses to you, or gives you reason to believe he will do so, before you allow your affections to be engaged, endeavour, in the most prudent and secret manner, to procure from your friends every necessary piece of information concerning him; such as his character for sense, his morals, his temper, fortune, and family, whether it is distinguished for parts and worth, or folly, knavery, and loathsome hereditary distastes. When your friends inform you of these, they have fulfilled their duty. If they go further, they have not that deference for you which a becoming dignity on your part would effectually command. Whatever your views are in marrying, take every possible precaution to prevent their being disappointed. If fortune and the pleasures it brings are your aim, it is not sufficient that the settlements of a jointure and children's provisions be amply and properly secured; it is necessary that you should enjoy the fortune during your own life. The principal security you can have for this, will depend on your marrying a good natured generous man, who despises money, and who will let you live where you can best enjoy that pleasure, that pomp, and parade of life, for which you married him.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXXVII.

On the same Subject, in Continuation.

Dear Daughters,

FROM what I wrote in my last, you will easily see, that I could never pretend to advise whom you should marry; but I can with great confidence advise whom you should not marry.

Avoid a companion that may entail any hereditary disease on your posterity, particularly (that most dreadful of all human calamities) madness. It is the height of imprudence to run into such a danger, and, in my opinion, highly criminal.

Do not marry a fool; he is the most intractable of all animals; he is led by his passions and caprices, and is incapable of hearing the voice of reason. It may, probably too, hurt your vanity to have husbands for whom you have reason to blush and tremble, every time they open their lips in company. But the worst circumstance that attends a fool, is his constant jealousy of his wife's being thought to govern him. This renders it impossible to lead him, and he is continually doing absurd and disagreeable things, for no other reason but to shew he dares do them.

A rake is always a suspicious husband, because he has only known the most worthless of your sex. He likewise entails the worst diseases on his wife, and children, if he has the misfortune to have any.

If you have a sense of religion yourselves, do not think of husbands who have none. If they have tolerable understandings, they will be glad that you have religion, for their own sakes, and for the sake of their families; but it will sink you in their esteem. If they are weak men, they will be continually teasing and shocking you about your principles.—If you have children, you will suffer the most bitter distress, in seeing all your endeavours to form their minds to virtue and piety, all your endeavours to secure their present and eternal happiness, frustrated and turned into ridicule.

As I look on your choice of a husband to be of the greatest consequence to your happiness, I hope you will make it with the utmost circumspection. Do not give

give way to a sudden fury of passion, and dignify it with the name of love.—Genuine love is not founded in caprice; it is founded in nature—on honourable views, on virtue, on similarity of taste, and sympathy of souls. If you have these sentiments, you will never marry any one, when you are not in that situation, in point of fortune, which is necessary to the happiness of either of you, what that competency may be, can only be determined by your own tastes, it would be ungenerous in you to take advantage of a lover's attachment, to plunge him into distress; and, if he has any honour, no personal gratification will ever tempt him to enter into any connection, which will render you unhappy. If you have as much between you as to satisfy all your demands, it is sufficient. I shall conclude with endeavouring to remove a difficulty which must occur to any woman of reflection, on the subject of marriage. What is to become of all these refinements of delicacy, that dignity of manner which checked all familiarities, and suspended desire in respectful and awful admiration? In answer to this, I shall only observe, that, if motives of interest or vanity have had any share in your resolutions to marry, none of these chimerical notions will give you any pain; nay, they will very quickly appear as ridiculous in your own eyes, as they probably always did in the eyes of your husband. They have been sentiments which have floated in your imaginations, but have never reached your hearts. But, if these sentiments have been truly genuine, and if you have had the singular happy fate to attach those who understand them, you have no reason to be afraid.

Marriage, indeed, will not at once dispel the enchantment raised by external beauty; but the virtues and graces that first warmed the heart, that reserve and delicacy which always left the lover something farther to wish, and often made him doubtful of your sensibility or attachment, may and ought ever to remain. The tumult of passion will necessarily subside; but it will be succeeded by an endearment that affects the heart in a more equal, more sensible, and tender manner.—But I must check myself, and not indulge in descriptions that may mislead you, and which, too sensibly, awake the remembrance of my happier days, which, perhaps, it were better for me to forget for ever.

I have thus given you my opinion, on some of the most important articles of your future life, chiefly calculated for that period, when you are just entering the world. I have endeavoured to avoid some peculiarities of opinion, which, from their contradiction to the general practice of the world I might reasonably have suspected were not so well founded. But, in writing to you, I am afraid my heart has been too full and too warmly interested to allow me to keep this resolution. This may have produced some embarrassment, and some seeming contradiction. What I have written has been the amusement of some solitary hours, and has served to divert some melancholy reflections.—I am conscious I undertook a task to which I was very unequal; but I have discharged a part of my duty.—You will at least be pleased with it, as the last mark of your father's love and attention.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXVIII.

On Love and Friendship.

From a Father to his Daughters.

Dear Daughters,

THE luxury and dissipation which prevails in genteel life, as it corrupts the heart in many respects, so it renders it incapable of warm, sincere, and steady friendship. A happy choice of friends will be of the utmost consequence to you, as they may assist you by their advice and good offices. But the immediate gratification, which friendship affords to a warm, open, and ingenuous heart, is of itself a sufficient motive to court it. In the choice of your friends, have your principal regard to goodness of heart and fidelity. If they also possess taste and genius, that will still make them more agreeable and useful companions. You have particular reason to place confidence in those who have shewn affection for you in your early days, when you were incapable of making them any return. This is an obligation for which you cannot be too grateful. If you have the good

good fortune to meet with any who deserve the name of friends, unbosom yourself with the utmost confidence. It is one of the world's maxims, never to trust any person with a secret, the discovery of which could give you any pain; but it is the maxim of a little mind and a cold heart, unless where it is the effect of frequent disappointments and bad usage. An open temper, if restrained but by tolerable prudence, will make you, on the whole, much happier, than a reserved suspicious one, although you may sometimes suffer by it. Coldness and distrust are the two certain consequences of age and experience; but they are unpleasant feelings, and need not be anticipated before their time.

But, however open you may be in talking of your own affairs, never discover the secrets of one friend to another. These are sacred deposits, which do not belong to you, nor have you any right to make use of them.

There is another case in which I suspect it is proper to be secret, not so much from motives of prudence as delicacy; I mean in love matters. Though a woman has no reason to be ashamed of an attachment to a man of merit, yet nature, whose authority is superior to philosophy, has annexed a sense of shame to it. It is even long before a woman of delicacy dare avow to her own heart that she loves; and, when all the subterfuges of ingenuity to conceal it from herself fail, she feels violence done both to her pride and to her modesty. This, I should imagine, must always be the case where she is not sure of a return to her attachment. In such a situation to lay the heart open to any person whatever, does not appear to me consistent with the perfection of female delicacy. But, perhaps, I am in the wrong—At the same time I must tell you, that, in point of prudence, it concerns you to attend well to the consequences of such a discovery. These secrets, however important in your own estimation, may appear very trifling to your friend, who possibly will not enter into your feelings, but may rather consider them as a subject of pleasantry. For this reason, love-secrets are of all others the worst kept. But the consequences to you may be very serious, as no man of spirit and delicacy ever valued a heart much backed-

neyed in the ways of love. If, therefore, you must have a friend to pour out your heart to, be sure of her honour and secrecy. Let her not be a married woman, especially if she lives happily with her husband. There are certain unguarded moments, in which such a woman, though the best and worthiest of her sex, may let hints escape, which at other times, or to any other person than her husband, she would be incapable of; nor will a husband, in this case, feel himself under the same obligations of secrecy and honour, as if you had put your confidence originally in himself, especially on a subject which the world is apt to treat so lightly.

If all other circumstances are equal, there are obvious advantages in your making friends of your brothers and sisters — The ties of blood, and your being so much united in one common interest, form an additional bond of union to your friendship. If your brothers should have the good fortune to have hearts susceptible of friendship, to possess truth, honour, sense, and delicacy of sentiment, they are the fittest and most unexceptionable confidants. By placing confidence in them, you will receive every advantage which you could hope for from the friendship of men, without any of the inconveniences that attend such connections with our sex.

Beware of making confidants of your servants. Dignity, not properly understood, very readily degenerates into pride, which enters into no friendships, because it cannot bear an equal; and is so fond of flattery, as to grasp at it even from servants and dependants. The most intimate confidants, therefore, of proud people, are valets de-chambres and waiting women. Show the utmost humanity to your servants; make their situation as comfortable to them as possible: But, if you make them your confidants, you spoil them and debafe yourselves.

Never allow any person, under the pretended sanction of friendship, to be so familiar as to lose a proper respect for you. Never allow them to tease you on any subject that is disagreeable, or where you have once taken your resolution. Many will tell you that this reserve is inconsistent with the freedom which friendship allows; but a certain respect is as necessary in

friendship

friendship as in love: Without it, you may be liked as a child, but will never be loved as an equal. The temper and disposition of the heart, in your sex, make you enter more readily into friendships than men. Your natural propensity to it is so strong, that you often run into intimacies which you soon have sufficient cause to repent of; and this makes your friendships so very fluctuating.

Another great obstacle to the sincerity, as well as steadiness of your friendships, is the great clashing of your interests in the pursuits of love, ambition, or vanity. For these reasons it would appear, at first sight, more eligible for you to contract your friendships with the men. Among other obvious advantages of an easy intercourse between the two sexes, it occasions an emulation and exertion in each to excel and be agreeable: Hence their respective excellencies are mutually communicated and blended. As their interests in no degree interfere, there can be no foundation for jealousy or suspicion of rivalship. The friendship of a man for a woman is always blended with a tenderness, which he never feels for one of his own sex, even where love is in no degree concerned. Besides, we are conscious of a natural tie you have to our protection and good offices, and therefore we feel an additional obligation of honour to serve you, and to observe an inviolable secrecy, whenever you confide in us. But apply these observations with great caution. Thousands of women, of the best hearts and finest talents, have been ruined by men who approach them under the specious name of friendship. But, supposing a man to have the most undoubted honour, yet his friendship to a woman is so near a-kin to love, that, if th^e be very agreeable in her person, she will probably very f^{or} find a lover, where she only wished to meet a friend.—Let me here, however, warn you against that weakness so common among vain women, the imagination that every man who takes particular notice of you is a lover. Nothing can expose you more to ridicule, than the taking up a man on the suspicion of being your lover, who, perhaps, never once thought of you in that view, and giving yourselves those airs so common among silly women on such occasions.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXXIX.

From a young Gentleman to a Lady with whom he is in Love.

Madam,

I HAVE three times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter, but my heart as often failed. I know not in what light it may be considered, only if I can form any notion of my own heart, from the impression made on it by your many amiable accomplishments, my happiness in this world will, in a great measure, depend on your answer. I am not precipitate, Madam, nor would I desire your hand if your heart did not accompany it. My circumstances are independent, and my character hitherto unblemished, of which you shall have the most undoubted proof. You have already seen some of my relations at your aunt's in Bond-street. particularly my mother, with whom I now live. Your aunt will inform you concerning our family, and if it is to your satisfaction, I shall not only consider myself as extremely happy, but shall also make it the principal study of my future life to spend my days in the company of her whom I prefer to all others in the world. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am, Madam,

Your real Admirer, &c.

LETTER XC.

The Lady's Answer.

Sir,

I Received your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surprised. Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had not the most distant thought of your making proposals of such a nature. Those of your sex have often asserted that we are fond of flattery, and mightily pleased to be praised: I shall therefore suppose it true, and excuse you for those fulsome encomiums

miums bestowed upon me in your letter; but I am afraid, were I to comply with your proposals, you would soon be convinced, that the charms you mention, and seem to value so much, are merely exterior appearances, which, like the summer's flower, will very soon fade, and all those mighty professions of love, will end at last, either in indifference, or what is worse, disgust. You desire me to enquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You must excuse me when I tell you that I am obliged to decline making any such enquiry. However, as your behaviour, when in my company, was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent with common decorum. My worthy guardian, Mr Melvill, is now at his seat in Devonshire, and his conduct to me has been so much like that of a parent, that I don't chuse to take one step in an affair of such importance without both his consent and approbation. There is an appearance of sincerity runs through your letter; but there is one particular to which I have a very strong objection, which is this— You say that you live along with your mother, yet you don't say that you have either communicated your sentiments to her or your other relations. I must freely and honestly tell you, that as I would not disoblige my own relations, so neither would I, on any consideration, admit of any addresses contrary to the inclinations of yours. If you can clear up this to my satisfaction, I shall send you a more explicit answer, and am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant, &c.

L E T T E R XCI.

The Gentleman's Answer to the above.

Dear Madam,

I return you a thousand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I can clear up to your satisfaction that matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you, I communicated the affair to my two cousins; but had not courage sufficient to mention it to my mother; however, that is now over, and nothing she says would give her greater pleasure than

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to see me married to a young lady of your amiable character: nay, so far is she from having any objections, that she would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not persuaded her against it, as she has been these three days afflicted with a severe cold, and I was afraid, that if she had ventured abroad so soon, it might be attended with dangerous consequences. But to convince you of my sincerity, she has sent the inclosed written with her own hand, and of the contents, I solemnly assure you, I am totally ignorant, except that she told me, it was in approbation of my suit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I shall then be able to explain things more particularly.

I am, dear Madam,

Your real Lover, &c.

L E T T E R XCII.

From the young Gentleman's Mother to the young Lady.

Dear Miss,

If you find any thing in these lines improperly written, you will candidly excuse it, as coming from the hands of a parent, in behalf of an only, beloved, and dutiful son.

My dear Charles has told me that you have made such an impression on him, that he knows not how to be happy with any one else; and it gives me great happiness to find that he has placed his affections on so worthy an object. Indeed it has been my principal study to instruct him in the principles of our holy religion; well knowing that those who do not fear God, will never pay any regard to domestic duties. His dear father died when his son was only ten months old, and being deprived of the parent, all my consolation was that I had his image left in the son. I nursed him with all the tenderness possible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age I sent him to a boarding school, and afterwards to the University. Whilst he was prosecuting his studies, I was constantly employed in recommending him to the care of that God whose eyes behold all his creatures, and will reward and punish according to their merit. Ever since his return from Oxford,

ford, he has resided constantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connection, has been equal to my utmost wishes. At present, my dear Miss, I am in a very sickly condition, and although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuse the indulgent partiality of a mother, when I tell you, that it is my real opinion you can never place your affection on a more worthy young man than my son. He is endowed with more real worth than thousands of others whom I have known; and I have been told of instances of his benevolence, which he has industriously concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly consideration now upon my mind is to see him happily married, and then my whole attention shall be fixed on that place where I hope to enjoy eternal felicity. I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XCIII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Madam,

I WILL excuse the fondness of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours, I had heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your son, that I was no way surprized at what you say concerning him. I do assure you, Madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you, before even nobility itself, and I think it must be my own fault if ever I repent calling you mother. I was going to say that you had known but few pleasures in this life, to be deprived of your husband so soon, and the rest of your life spent under so many infirmities. But your letter convinceth me, that you have felt more real pleasure in the practice of virtue and resignation to the Divine Will, than ever can be had in any, nay, even the greatest temporal enjoyments. I have sent inclosed a few lines to your son, to which I refer you for a more explicit answer, and am,

Madam, your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XCIV.

The young Lady's Answer to her Lover.

Sir,

I Received yours, together with one inclosed from your mother, and congratulate you on the happiness you have had in being brought up under so pious, so indulgent a parent. I hope that her conduct will be a pattern for you to copy after, in the whole of your future life; it is that, and that only Sir, which can make you happy. With respect to myself, I freely acknowledge that I have not at present any reason to reject your offer, although I cannot give you a positive answer until I have first consulted with my guardian. Monday next I set out for his seat in Devonshire, from whence you may be sure of hearing from me as soon as possible, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XCV.

From the same.

Sir,

IN my last I told you that you should hear from me as soon as possible, and therefore I now sit down to fulfil my promise. I communicated your proposal to Mr Melville, and after he had written to his correspondent in London, told me as follows:

Miss, I have enquired concerning the young gentleman, and the information I have received is such, that I not only approve of your choice, but must also confess, that if I did not do every thing in my power to forward your union, I should be acting contrary to the request of your father when he lay on his death-bed. You may, said he, communicate this to your lover as soon as you please, and may every happiness attend you both in time and eternity.

And now, Sir, have I not told you enough? Some might think too much; but I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practise if standing in the presence of my maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable; I look for it, and shall.

shall be very unhappy if disappointed. But I will hope the best, and doubt not but the religious education bestowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate on the whole of your future conduct in life. You may, therefore, lay aside the tedious formality of courtship, and write to me as one with whom you intend to spend your time in this world.

Ever since my arrival here, my time has been spent in visiting, *solas*, the woods, the fields, the cottages, meditating on the unbounded goodness of the Almighty Creator. How infinite is his wisdom ! how unbounded his liberality ! Every thing in nature conspires to exalt his praise, and acknowledge with gratitude their dependence on him. But I will not tire you with such dull descriptions of real beauties. Present my sincere respects to your worthy mother; I hope she gets the better of her disorder, and be assured that I am

Your's and her's, with the greatest affection, &c.

LETTER XCVI.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

My dear Angel,

IS there any medium between pleasure and pain? Can mourning and mirth be reconciled? Will my dear charmer believe, that whilst I was reading her letter with the greatest pleasure, I was shedding tears for an affectionate parent. Thus Divine Providence sees proper to mix some gall with our portion in life. It is impossible for me to describe the variety of passions now struggling in my breast. Ten thousand blessings to my charmer on the one hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of impossibilities: one of which I am obliged to struggle with, the other, thanks to you, is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honoured mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort unless I could call you mine; but I am now obliged to submit to the one, whilst I have the pleasing prospect of being in possession of the other. Will my dear sympathize with me, or will she bear with human passions; and although all my hope of temporal happiness is centered

in you, yet I doubt not but you will excuse my shedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent, who I am now going to commit to the tomb. How beautiful are my charmer's descriptions of the material world! how elevated her sentiments concerning the divine beneficence! My dear creature, were it possible for me to describe the many virtues of that worthy woman who is now no more, you would draw a veil over the partiality of filial duty. Her last words were these: "My dear child, I am now going to pay that debt imposed on the whole human race, in consequence of our first parents disobedience. You know what instructions I have given you from time to time; and let me beg of you to adhere to them so far as they are consistent with the will of God revealed in his word. May you be happy in the possession of that young lady on whom you have placed your affections; but may both you and she remember, that real happiness is not to be found in this world; and you must consider your life in this world as merely a state of probation. To the Almighty God I recommend you." — She was going on when the thread of life was broken, and she ceased to be any more. Such was the last end of my dear mother; but let me shift the scene, and look to her on whom I have placed all my affections under God, and whom I hope will make a sufficient recompense for all my losses. My mother is to be buried this evening, and as soon as I can settle every thing with her executors, I will (as it were) fly to meet you. God grant that our happiness in this life may be conducive towards promoting our everlasting felicity hereafter. And I am, as before, yours while life remains, &c.

LETTER XCVII.

From the Lady after Marriage, to her Cousin un-married.

Dear Cousin,

I HAVE now changed my name, and instead of liberty, I must subscribe wife. What an awkward-expression say some? How pleasing say others? But let that be as it may, I have been married to my dear Charles three

three months, and I can freely acknowledge that I never knew happiness till now. To have a real friend to whom I can communicate my secrets, and who on all occasions is ready to sympathize with me, is what I never before experienced. All these benefits, my dear cousin, I have met with in my beloved husband. His principal care seems to be to do every thing possible to please me; and is there not something called duty incumbent on me? Perhaps you will laugh at the word *duty*, and say that it imports something like slavery; but nothing is more false; for even the life of a servant is as pleasant as any others, when he obeys from motives of love instead of fear. For my own part, my dear, I cannot say, that I am unwilling to be obedient, and yet I am not commanded to be so by my husband. You have often spoken contemptuously of the marriage state, and I believe your reasons were, that most of those whom you knew were unhappy: but that is an erroneous way of judging. It was designed by the Almighty that men and women should live together in a state of society, that they should become mutual helps to each other; and if they are blessed with children, to assist each other in giving them a virtuous education. Let me therefore beg that my dear cousin will no longer despise that state for which she was designed, and which is calculated to make her happy. But then, my dear, there are two sorts of men you must studiously avoid, I mean *misers* and *rakes*. The first will take every opportunity of abridging your necessary expences, and the second will leave you nothing for a subsistence. The first, by his penuriousness, will cause you to suffer from imaginary wants; the second, by his prodigality, will make you a real beggar. But your own good sense will point out the propriety of what I have mentioned. Let me beg that you will come and spend a few weeks with us; and if you have any taste for rural and domestic life, I doubt not but you will be pleased.

I am your affectionate Cousin, &c.

LETTER XCIII.

From a young Merchant in London, to a Widow Lady in the Country.

Madam,

EVER since I saw you at the Wells, when I was on a journey to Bristol, my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. And although it is possible this may be rejected, yet I can no longer conceal a passion which has preyed on my spirits these six weeks. I have been settled in business about three years, my success has been equal to my expectations, and is likewise increasing. My family is respectable, though not rich; and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference, where the affections are placed on so lovely an object. I can only say, Madam, that I prefer you to all the young ladies I have seen, and if business continues to increase, I shall be greatly in want of a person of your prudence, to manage my domestic affairs. Be assured, Madam, that whatever time I can spare from the necessary duties of my profession, shall be devoted to your company, and every endeavour used to make your life both agreeable and happy. As you have relations in London, they will give you every necessary information concerning my character and circumstances, although I have not the pleasure of being known to them. If you will favour me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed as a particular favour, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect, by your real admirer, &c.

King-street, London.

LETTER XCIX.

The Lady's Letter to her Brother, an Attorney in the Temple, concerning the above.

Dear Brother,

YOU know that in all affairs of importance I have constantly acted by your advice, as I am still determined to do; and therefore have sent you inclosed

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the copy of a letter which I received by the post, from a young gentleman in London, whom I have seen at the Wells. His behaviour there was polite without affectation, and an air of sincerity appeared in all he said. With respect to the subject he writes upon I will give you my own thoughts, and delay sending an answer until I have had your opinion.

I am at least a dozen of years older than him, and possibly love contracted where there is such difference in the ages of the parties, may terminate in want of respect on one side, and jealousy on the other. At present I am so pestered with rakes and coxcombs, that I would almost willingly give any hand to the first worthy person who offers. Indeed I have another reason for entering into the marriage state, and that is, I would chuse, as I advanced in years, to have a friend to whom I might at all times be able to open my mind with freedom, and who would treat me with that tenderness which my sex intitles me to. I have been a widow six years, and whatever others may say, I have found it attended with many inconveniences, and far from that pleasing life many are ready to imagine. But after all, I will be directed by you, as the only real friend to whom I can apply; if you think proper you may enquire, and when I hear from you, I will send him an answer.

I am your affectionate Sister, &c.,

L E T T E R C.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Sister,

I Am glad to hear of your prudence in not being over hasty in an affair of such great importance, and upon which your happiness or misery in this world will inevitably depend. Your reasons against remaining any longer in a state of widowhood are what I much approve of, and it will give me great pleasure to promote your interests and happiness as far as I am able. I have enquired concerning Mr Moreton, and every one gives him an excellent character. I have likewise conversed with him, and find he is a very sensible young man. As to your objection concerning disparity of age, I do not think it has any great weight; and upon the whole

I have but one reason against your union, and that is, that there is nothing more precarious than commerce, and the merchant who to-day has unlimited credit, may be to-morrow in the Gazette. I do not urge this in order to prevent your happiness; but only that whilst you are free, you may take such measures as to secure a sufficiency against the worst. I would by no means dissuade you from complying with his request, as he seems every way worthy of your choice, and I really think it may be for your mutual happiness. These (dear Sister) are my sentiments concerning this affair; but remember I leave it entirely to yourself, not doubting but you will proceed with the same prudence you have begun.

I am your affectionate Brother, &c.

P. S. I would advise you to write to the young Gentleman as soon as possible.

LETTER CI.

From the Lady to Mr Moreton.

Sir,

I Received your letter, and my reason for delaying the answer so long was, that I wanted first to consult my brother, whose answer I had by the post yesterday. I freely acknowledge that you are far from being disagreeable, and the advantage on your part with respect to accomplishments are, I think, superior to those on mine. But these are but small matters when compared with what is absolutely necessary to make the marriage state happy. I mean an union of minds. Neither of us have had many opportunities of conversing together, and at that time you had not mentioned any thing of this. I have no objection against marrying, were I assured of being no worse than at present; but there are such a variety of unforeseen accidents daily happening in the world, and all conspiring together to promote dissensions in families, that we never can be too careful how to fix our choice. I shall not, Sir, from what I have seen of your behaviour, and heard of your character, have any objection against your request; but I confess I am afraid you have been rather too precipitate in

in your choice, and although my person may have engaged your attention, yet I am afraid, all those charms you so much extol, are not sufficient to keep you loyal to the marriage vow. But I will hope the best, and believe you as virtuous as you are represented; nor give my hand to any other but you. In the mean time, I shall be glad to hear that you continue your visits to my brother, you will find him one of the most worthy persons you ever conversed with, and much esteemed for his knowledge in the law. I have now given you leave to write as often as you please, as I hope all your letters will be agreeable, and as for the time fixed for any thing else, I shall leave it entirely to be settled by yourself and my brother, and am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, &c.

LETTER CIX

From a young Gentleman, in expectation of an Estate from his penurious Uncle, to a young Lady of small Fortune, desiring her to elope with him to Scotland.

My dear Maria,

MY Uncle's laying his injunctions upon me not to see you more, has only served to add fuel to my passion. I cannot live without you, and if you persist in refusing to comply, I am miserable for ever. I pay no regard to his threatenings, when put in competition with the love I have for you. Don't be afraid of poverty; if he should continue inexorable, I have still education sufficient to procure a genteel employment in one of the public offices, where I may rise to preferment. Therefore, if ever you loved me, let me beg that you will not make me any longer unhappy. Let me entreat you by all that's dear, that you will comply with my request, and meet me at six on Sunday evening, at the back door of the garden, where a chaise and four will be ready. I will fly on the wings of love to meet my charmer, and be happy in her embraces for ever.

I am your dear Lover, &c.

LETTER CII.

The Lady's prudent Answer.

Sir,

THOUGH thoroughly conscious, in this act, I make a breach of those laws said to be laid down for Lovers, especially such of our sex as would rather be celebrated for a romantic turn of mind, than for what is far more preferable, a prudent decorum, yet, I cannot but be persuaded, there may occur such a crisis, as may make it consonant with the strictest rules of honour and justice; which at least ought to be put in the balance, if not outweigh whatever custom may have prescribed. That such a crisis now exists, your letter and former concurring testimonies make manifest. For I have too high an opinion of your integrity, to doubt their truth; and believe me, when I assure you most solemnly, I place their validity to that account, and not to a mistaken notion or consciousness of my own merit. No, Sir, 'tis from a too sensible conviction of your own injurious error of your passion, I have been induced to commit this violence to my sex—I had almost said to my sentiments, in conjuring you to desist, ere it be too late, in the pursuit of a passion, that cannot but bring with it a train of inevitable miseries, since it must be attended with the violation of your duty to that relation to whom you are bound to pay implicit obedience, by the laws of nature, gratitude, and heaven. I will not offend your delicacy, in urging those of interest and dependency, though each consideration ought to have its prevalence, against making a sacrifice of it to an impetuous passion for one, whose single defect is, that she dreads your indigence more than the regrets that of the

Unfortunate, &c

LETTER CIV.

From a young Officer in the army to a Gentleman's Daughter, with whom he is in love.

Dear Sophia,

Manchester, Feb. 8, 1787.

WHEN our regiment received orders to march from Salisbury, I was almost in a state of distraction.

To

To be forced to leave her who is already in possession of my heart, and separated to such a distance, had almost induced me to give up my commission; nor have I any resource left but that of the pen. After a long and tedious march we arrived here, where we are to remain till next summer. But alas! how insignificant are all the allurements of the place, and the gaiety of fellow officers, when compared with the pleasing moments spent in your company. How long, my dear, must I be unhappy! - will not your sympathizing nature pity my distracted mind? How lamenting the thought, that whilst I am writing this, some more fortunate lover may be making his addresses to my charmer, and even obtaining a place in her heart: but what am I saying? Whither does my delirium drive me? No, my angel, I know the generosity of your nature; I dare not suspect your sincerity, and will still believe you mine. The principal gentlemen in Manchester invited the officers of our regiment to a ball, and all but myself considered the entertainment as a very great honour, each danced with his partner as I was told. In order to avoid the company, without giving offence, I mounted guard for the day, and enjoyed myself, either thinking of you, or conversing with the soldiers.

According to my promise, I have sent the inclosed to your father, and I doubt not of his being surprized, unless you have mentioned it to him. I am impatient for his answer as well as yours. My uncle has promised to procure me preferment as soon as the parliament meets. Adieu, my charmer, let me hear from you immediately.

I am yours for ever, &c.

LETTER CV.

The Officer's Letter to the Lady's Father.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR generosity to me whilst our regiment lay at Salisbury, will ever lay me under the highest obligations; but at present I have something of a more important nature to communicate, upon which all my happiness or misery in this world depends, and your answer will either secure the one, or hasten the other.

The

The many amiable accomplishments of your beloved Sophia, stole insensibly on my heart, and I found myself passionately in love, before I was able to make a declaration of my sentiments, nor did I do it until the day we were ordered to march. I hope you will forgive my not mentioning it to you; I was really so much agitated, as scarce to be able to attend my duty. I doubt not but one of your sensibility knows what it is to be in love. Your daughter, I freely acknowledge, is adorned with so many virtues, that she is entitled to the best husband in England; and although I dare not hope to merit that appellation, yet I will make it my constant study to promote her happiness.

I have often told you that my parents died whilst I was young, and left me to the care of an uncle lately returned from the East-Indies, where he had acquired a considerable fortune. My inclinations led me to the army, and my uncle procured me a commission. Ever since he has treated me as his own son, and, being a bachelor, has made a will in my favour. He is now member of parliament for T———, and has given me leave to chuse a wife for myself, without any other qualification besides virtue. I have written to him concerning your daughter, and his answer is, that he shall consider me as extremely happy in being connected with so worthy a family as yours. I hope you will not have any objection against my being in the army. It was originally my own choice, and I doubt not of rising in time to the command of a regiment. There is a sort of reverential fear upon my mind, whilst I am writing to so worthy a person as the father of my beloved Sophia. Dear Sir, excuse my youth, and the violence of my passion. Let me beg your answer, and O! let it contain your approbation.

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours, with the greatest respect, &c.

LETTER CVI.

The young Lady's letter to her Lover.

Dear Billy,

NOT more welcome is the appearance of an ~~int~~ to a weary traveller, than your kind letters were to ~~me~~

me. But how is it possible that you should harbour the least suspicion of my fidelity? Does my Billy imagine that I would suffer the addresses of any fop or coxcomb after I was bound in the most solemn manner, I mean by promise, and be assured, I pay the same regard to my word as my oath. If there is ever an obstruction to our love, it must arise from yourself. My affections are too permanently fixed ever to be removed from the beloved object; and my happiness or misery will be in proportion to your conduct. The inclosed from my father, will, I hope, be agreeable, I have not seen it, and therefore can only judge of its contents by the conversation last night at supper. When your letter was delivered, my honoured father was extremely ill of a cold, so that I did not deliver it to him till next morning at breakfast. He retired to his closet to read it, and at dinner told me he would deliver me an answer in the evening. Accordingly after supper, and the servants being retired, the best of parents spake as follows: My dear child, from the principles of that education which you have received, I doubt not but you must be convinced that it is my duty to promote your interest as far as I am able, and how far my conduct as a father has been consistent with that rule, I appeal to yourself; your own conscience will witness, whether I have not at all times studied to promote your interest, and it is with pleasure that I now say, that your filial duty was equal to my highest wishes.—With respect to the subject of the letter you gave me this morning, I can only say, that I have no objection to your complying with the young gentleman's request, as I think it may be for your mutual happiness. Indeed I had some suspicion of it before he left this place; but being well convinced of his merit, I was almost assured no step of that nature would be taken without my consent. That consent you now have, and even my approbation. May you both be as happy as I wish, I desire no more. Here the good man stopped, tears hindered him from proceeding, and me from making a reply. A scene of tenderness ensued which you may feel, although I cannot express it. His own letter will convince you, and you may make what use of it you please.

I cannot conclude without mentioning your conduct at the Manchester ball. Was there none among so many beauties able to attract my Billy's notice ; and will he at all times prefer my company to that of the gay and beautiful ? I will hope so, and happy shall I be if not disappointed. In hopes of hearing from you soon, I shall subscribe myself

Yours for ever, &c.

LETTER CVII.

The Father's Answer to the young Gentleman.

My dear young Friend,

EVER since I first had the pleasure of your company, I considered you as a young gentleman of real merit, who would not be guilty of an ungenerous action ; and to that was owing not only the respect I always treated you with, but, also the common indulgence to converse freely with my daughter. I can freely excuse your not communicating your sentiments to me before you left this place. Your ardour was somewhat precipitate, and as you well observe, I know what it is to be in love. The account of your uncle and family I know to be true, for I met with that worthy person who is your benefactor, a few days ago, at the Red Lion, in this city, and he confirms the truth of all you have written. My dear Sir, if ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel on the present occasion : A willingness to give her to you, from a firm persuasion of your merit ; and anxiety for her preservation from a conviction in my own mind, that there is nothing permanent in this world. However, Sir, you have my free consent to marry my child, and may the Divine Providence be your guide in the whole of your progress through this life. My ill state of health serves as a monitor to inform me, that my time in this world will be but short : and there is nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see my dear Sophia happily settled, before I retire to the land of forgetfulness, *where the wicked cease from troubling; and where the weary are at rest.* How great, Sir, is the charge which I commit to your care ; the image of a beloved wife long since dead, and the hope

hope of my declining years. Her education has been consistent with her rank in life, and her conduct truly virtuous. I have not the least doubt of her conjugal duty, and your felicity in acting conformable to the character of a husband. Upon that supposition I leave her entirely to you; and as soon as you can obtain leave from the Colonel, I shall expect to see you at this place, to receive from my hands all that is dear to me in the world. Your uncle has likewise promised to be here, so that all things are according to your professed wishes.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely, &c.

LETTER CVIII.

From a young Man, just out of his Apprenticeship, to his Sweetheart, a Servant in the Neighbourhood.

Dear Sally,

I Have been long in love with you, but was afraid to tell you. When I go with you to Dobney's, or Sadler's Wells, I am almost like a fool, and altogether unfit for company. I think of you all day, and at night I dream of my dear Sally. I am well settled in work, and my wages are eighteen shillings a week. You and I can live on that, and I shall bring it home untouched every Saturday evening. I will not go to any ale-house, but as soon as my work is done, return home to my dearly beloved Sally. I hope, my dear, you will not be angry, for I am really in love. I cannot be happy unless you are mine. I was afraid to mention this to you, but if you will leave an answer at my lodgings, I will meet you next Sunday after dinner, at the Shepherd and Shepherds, when we will take a walk to Hornsey house to drink tea. How happy shall I be to hear from my charmer; but a thousand times more to think she will be mine.

I am, my Dear, your real Lover, &c.

LETTER CIX.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,

I Received your very kind letter, but I don't know what to say in answer. Although I would be glad to marry, yet you men are so deceitful that there is no such thing as trusting you. There is Tom Timber, the carpenter, and Jack Hammer, the smith, who have not been married above six months, come home every night drunk, and beat their wives. What a miserable life is that Jack, and how do I know but you might be as bad to me? How do I know but you, like them, may get drunk every night, and beat me black and blue before morning? I do assure you, Jack, if I thought that would be the case, I would scrub floors, and scour saucēpans as long as I live. But possibly you may not be so bad, for there is Will Cooper, the brazier, and Jack Trotter, the ass-man, are both very happy with their wives; they are both home-bringing husbands, and have every day a hot joint of meat, and a pot of beer. I know not yet what I shall do, but as I like a walk to Hornsey, I will meet you at the Shepherd and Shepherdess on Sunday after dinner, and then we will talk more of the matter.

I am, dear Jack,

Your most humble Servant, &c.

LETTER CX.

From a Gentleman.

Madam,

IT was a question among the Stoicks, whether the whole of human life afforded most pleasure or pain? For my own part, I have always wished to consider things in the fairest light, but I often find my resolutions weakened, and when I think to act the philosopher, I feel myself nothing but a man. When my late wife died

died, about two years ago, I proposed making the tour of England, that by mixing with strangers, my thoughts might be led from fruitless reflections on the loss I had sustained, a loss which none but myself knew. It is true it has been so far successful, that it has taught me two things; first, resignation to the will of heaven; and secondly, that I am still unhappy in the want of a female partner. The agreeable company at the house of your worthy brother, obliged me to spend more time at York than I at first intended, nor did I know until I had proceeded some miles, that I should be obliged once more to return. In short, Madam, I am a second time in love; and although you may be disposed to laugh, yet I assure you that I am in real earnest, your own dear self is the object. But perhaps you will ask, how happens all this? I answer, that I cannot tell how it happens. But I am really fond of domestic life, and am once more resolved to alter my condition. I cannot flatter, and I think both you and I have lived long enough to judge for ourselves. There was something pleased me much in the prudent manner you conducted the affairs of your brother's house; but as he is on the point of being married, that employment will cease when the other event takes place. I did not hear that you was engaged by promise to any other; and as you have heard something concerning my family, character, and circumstances, you are more able to judge whether my present proposal is for your interest or not. In case you have any objections to my having children, I can only say, that they will be easily answered. I have told you before, that I have only two young daughters, now at a boarding-school, and I have settled each of their marriage portions, and the remainder is entirely for myself; and without being any real prejudice to my children, is more than sufficient for us both. As to the common objection against being a step-mother, I think it may be easily answered when I tell you that my children will treat you with all manner of respect. I do not imagine you can esteem me the worse for loving my children; I have too good an opinion of you to think so; and as for the odious appellations usually thrown out against step-mothers, they can only be considered, by a lady of your sensibility, as the effect of prejudice, operating upon vulgar minds, occasioned

by the conduct of some inhuman wretches who are a disgrace to society, and who would have acted in the same manner had they been placed in any other station in life. Your own good sense will point out the propriety of what I say. From what I have written you will be able to judge whether or not the proposals I have now made are apparently for your real advantage. All that I desire is to live in amity and friendship, with the woman on whom I have placed my affections, as long as I am in the world. Every thing in my power shall be exerted to make you as happy as possible, as I think, if I am not mistaken, every part of your conduct will entitle you to it. I hope you will not defer sending me an answer, as I shall wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am, Madam,

Yours sincerely and affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXI.

The Answer.

Sir,

I have just received your letter, and for my own part I must say, that you have acted the Philosopher extremely well. I thought that love letters had not usually been extracted from Seneca or Epictetus; but why do I wonder, when even a lady now alive went through the drudgery of learning the Greek language, in order to acquire the honour of being the translator of the latter. However, she has got far enough, and I have not any intention of following her, but shall consider my lover's philosophical letter.

Whilst you remained at our house I must acknowledge that your company was agreeable; and your assiduity to please arose from a consciousness of your merit as a gentleman, although at that time neither my brother nor myself had the most distant thoughts of ever hearing such a proposal as your letter contains. It is our common practice to entertain strangers in the same manner we did you, which is consistent with Old English hospitality, and something like the conduct of the ancient Patriarchs.

The

The proposal which you have sent me is of too serious a nature to be treated lightly, it requires to be considered with the greatest attention; especially as a wrong step of that kind not only destroys all hopes of temporal happiness, but what is infinitely worse, often endangers that which is eternal. I doubt not but you have seen many fatal instances of this melancholy truth, viz. That those who were bound by the most solemn engagements to go hand in hand, through affluence and poverty, have often prevented the one, and hastened those afflictions inseparably connected with the other. The consideration of those things presents us with a glaring proof of the corruption of human nature in general, and particularly its most desirable state, pretended Conjugal Felicity. The causes from which unhappiness arises in families are various; and although I never was a wife, yet I have seen many fatal instances of their pernicious effects. You yourself seem to be aware of this in the objections stated in your letter; and although I have convincing proofs that your circumstances are consistent with your representation of them, yet the second objection is not so easily answered, nor indeed have you done it to my satisfaction. Your answers to the common objections made against step-mothers are altogether rational: they are what reason will at all times dictate, and prudence, on every occasion, require; but you will excuse me if I tell you sincerely, that even in the opinion of the thinking part of the world, the life of a step-mother is far more disagreeable than you endeavour to persuade me. All eyes are upon them, and even their virtues are often construed into faults. I acknowledge that it could never enter into the mind of a rational creature (I mean one who is really so) that a woman should tyrannize over two or three orphans, for no other reason save only that their mother was their father's former wife. This would prove her guilty of three of the most odious crimes, capable of being committed in the conjugal state. First, inhumanity to the deceased mother; secondly, cruelty to the surviving children; and lastly, a total disrespect for her husband: for what woman would esteem the man, or what regard could she think he would have for her children, if lie did not treat, or cause to be treated with tenderness, those who were born of a

woman equally dear to him as herself. But you know, Sir, that we live in the world, and few I believe would chuse to have their lives rendered unhappy, if they could possibly avoid it. Your character circumstances, and accomplishments might entitle you to a much better wife than me; but I confess the above reasons weigh strongly in my mind against such a connection, and unless they were answered more to my satisfaction than what you have already done, I should chuse still to remain as I am. In the mean time, I shall be glad at all times to hear from you, and am

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

L E T T E R CXII.

The Gentleman's Reply.

Madam,

I have always thought, that there are none more ready to condemn the conduct of others than those who are most guilty themselves, and of this your letter is a convincing proof. Do not be surprized, for I am really in earnest. You have accused me of acting the Philosopher, whilst you seem much better acquainted with those fages than myself. But pray, madam, is it any great fault to write a love-letter in a serious strain? Or, should every thing on that subject be only a jumble of incoherent nonsense? Should the lover divest himself of the man, and because he prefers a woman to the rest of her sex, must he act the part of a fool to obtain her? I dare venture to say you will answer in the negative. Your letter contains so many prudential reasons for refusing my offers, that I should be stupid indeed, if I did not consider them as the result of a well-informed judgment. All the objection I have against them is, that they appear too much grounded on popular censure. I believe you are well acquainted with the world, and you know that the best actions have been misrepresented, and the most amiable characters traduced. Nor has this been confined to any one single station in life, it has diffused itself through them all; and although its baneful influence has often rendered innocence miserable,

able, yet the prudent will despise it, with that contempt it so justly merits. Virtue is its own reward; and happiness

*—Deaf to folly's call,
Attends the music of the mind.*

Whilst a woman of your great good sense has the answers of a good conscience in approbation of your conduct, how insignificant must the envious censures of malice appear, when compared with real peace of mind. Indeed I think you have carried your objections against being a step-mother rather too far, and I think I shall not be guilty of blasphemy when I call your refinement of sentiment *False Delicacy*. However, as I said before, I am really in earnest; and if I have not formed an erroneous judgment, you are the only person I have yet conversed with, since I became a widower, with whom I think I can live happy. And will you, Madam, be so cruel as to remain obstinate in rejecting my suit. I do not think it is consistent with your good nature; and although I think it is beneath a generous mind to purchase a wife, yet I shall be willing to make you a settlement equal to your wishes, besides a sufficiency for your children, if we should be blessed with any. Your answer to this is impatiently expected by

Your real Admirer, &c.

LETTER CXIII.

From the Lady in Answer.

Sir,

I perused your letter, and begin to be afraid that I have tampered with you too long to conceal the real sentiments of my mind from one so justly intitled to know them as you are. My objections, I assure you, Sir, were not the effect of levity, but arose from the most mature deliberation; nor would I on any account impose on the man to whom I intended to give my hand, and consequently my heart. This would have been a crime attended with more aggravating circumstances than any which you have mentioned, and less intitled to an excuse. Hypocrisy is the same under what-

whatever character it appears, and the person who is guilty of it in the smallest matters, will be equally so in the greatest. Your answer to my objections are altogether satisfactory, and I am now convinced that I may be your wife and at the same time, at least a nominal mother to your children: I say nominal, for although I should on all occasions consider myself obliged to act with humanity to your children, as well as my own, yet I may still be named by the above appellation. However, as your person, company, and conversation were agreeable; and as your character stands unimpeached, I am almost inclined to try that life to which I have been hitherto a stranger. It is, I assure you, with diffidence, and if attended with any unfavourable circumstances, may possibly be more my fault than yours. We cannot foresee future events, and are therefore obliged to leave them to the direction of an unerring Providence. I shall therefore not detain you any longer, but only to inform you, that my brother was married yesterday to Miss Bright; may every happiness attend them both in time and in eternity. You will receive a letter enclosed from him, and you may be assured that I have not now any objections against being connected with you for life. The time fixed for that period depends entirely on your own choice and appointment, and I think you cannot reasonably desire more. All that I expect, nay, all that I desire, is only to be treated consistently with the professions you have already made. If so, I think I cannot fail of being as happy as is consistent with the state of affairs in this world, and I do not look for miracles. As you will doubtless be much hurried before you set out for London, one letter more will be sufficient until I see you; in the mean time (as the Jews say) may you

Rest content and happy.

L E T T E R CXIV.

The Brother's Letter.

Sir,

I know not of any gentleman, who ever yet honoured me with their company, for whom I have a greater regard than yourself, and the agreeable hours we have spent

spent

spent together cannot be equalled unless they are repeated. When I read your first letter to my sister, I considered your proposal of marriage as the highest honour that possibly could be conferred on our family; and yet, without partiality, I firmly believe that the woman to whom you have paid your addresses has merit equal to any in the world. She returned from the boarding school about ten years ago, during which time she has superintended the affairs of my family, and conducted them with such prudence, as is seldom met with in one of her years. Many offers have been made to her by fox-hunters in our neighbourhood, but their characters were so totally opposite to her sentiments, that she rejected them with the utmost disdain, although apparently beneficial. My sister, Sir, has much more refined notions than to pay any more regard to affluence, than what would procure her an independent subsistence, and a greater regard to her conscience than to sacrifice her peace of mind to enjoy the greatest earthly grandeur. To use her own words, she considers riches as laying her under an additional obligation to act for the good of her fellow-creatures, as a faithful steward of that Almighty Being, who has declared that he will exact a strict account from his creatures in what manner they have used those gifts, which his unbounded liberality has bestowed. Her leisure hours have been spent in reading, and when I have met her in the garden, or the fields, she had constantly in her hand either Milton, Thompson, or Young, but most frequently her BIBLE. It may possibly occur to your thoughts, that what I have said, in commendation of a beloved sister, arises from a fraternal affection; but I do assure you, Sir, that I could not help repeating her many accomplishments were you an utter stranger, and even a married man. A person destitute of virtue and sensibility might remain ignorant for ever of my sister's merits; but by one of your worth, I doubt not but they will be estimated according to their real value. Light and darkness cannot dwell together; nor can those of opposite tempers ever be happy: but where there is an intellectual, as well as a corporeal union, nothing in this life can interfere with their rational enjoyments. But I had almost forgot that I am writing to one who is

is well acquainted with these things; nor should I have enlarged so much had I not regarded your friendship and interest on the one hand, and my sister's happiness on the other. But not to detain you longer, my consent for a happy union, is not only at your service, but as I said before, I shall consider it as a very happy event: and I have not the least doubt of your ever repenting of your choice. I have heard that your secular affairs calls for your attendance in London; when those are settled I shall be glad to hear from you, and likewise of my sister and you being happily joined in marriage. In the mean time she is at my house, where you may freely correspond, and I am

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

L E T T E R C X V .

From the Gentleman after his arrival in London, to the Lady in the Country.

My Dear,

FOR so I must now call you: I arrived here last night, and embrace this first opportunity of writing. What a busy place is London! What a variety of strange faces, and continual hurry of business; the citizens acquiring fortunes by trade, whilst the nobility and gentry are squandering away those estates left them by their ancestors: but such has always been the conduct of mankind in trading nations. One sows, another reaps, whilst a third enjoys the fruits of their labour. For my own part, I am neither fond of gaiety nor solitude. In all things there is a medium which ought to be preferred to extremes. A sudden elevation to affluence or grandeur, and a sudden fall from either, are equally dangerous; the one too often plunges the person into all sorts of immorality, whilst the effects of the other is most commonly despair. I would chuse to spend three months every year in London, and the remainder in the country. This, in my opinion, is a more rational scheme than the present mode of continually hurrying from place to place, without ever relishing the pleasures of any. But I had almost forgot to whom I am writing. As soon as I have

have settled my affairs here, which will take up about three weeks, I intend going to Windsor to visit my daughter's at the boarding school; and from thence hasten to your brothers; when I hope that union will take place that must terminate only with our lives. I have employed my attorney to draw up articles of a jointure for you, and which I will bring along with me, to be signed in the presence of your friends. I hope your brother and his spouse are well. I received his excellent letter, and heartily thank him for the contents.

I am, my Dear,

Yours sincerely and affectionately, &c.

L E T T E R C X V I .

From a Lover to his Mistress lately recovered from Sickness.

My Dear,

THIS day's post has just brought me the joyful news of your happy recovery. The indispensable necessity I was under of attending my business at this place, hindered me from beholding on a sick bed all that is dear to me in the world; but I need not persuade you to believe this, as I hope you have had sufficient proofs of my fidelity; and what I have suffered on account of your illness, may be felt, but not expressed. When I took the letter in my hand, I trembled, and posibly should have been deprived of courage to open it, had not the seal been red. To one oppressed with fear, the smallest matter yields a glimpse of hope.—I opened the letter, and you may easily imagine what was my joy, when instead of reading an account of your death, it contained the delightful news of your recovery, written by your father. Ah! thought I, my charmer is still weak, or she would not have employed another hand. This led me to fear a relapse; but I hope that God, whose great mercy has preserved you hitherto, will perfect your recovery. You are constantly in my thoughts, and I pray for you every day. That I may once more be happy in seeing you, I have sent for my brother to manage my business during my absence. I expect him here in about ten days, when nothing but sickness shall prevent my coming.

coming. You will receive by the coach a small parcel, containing some of the newest patterns both of silk and laces, together with some other things. Such trifles are scarce worth mentioning; but I hope you will accept them as a testimony of my sincere love, to her whom in a few months I hope to call my own. Present my duty to your honoured parents, and believe me to be with the greatest sincerity

Your ever affectionate Lover, &c.

L E T T E R CXVII.

From a rich young Gentleman to a beautiful young Lady with no Fortune.

Miss Sophia,

IT is a general reflection against the manners of the present age, that marriage is only considered as one of those methods by which avarice may be satisfied, and poverty increased; that neither the character nor accomplishments of the woman are much regarded, her merit being estimated by the thousands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accusation is too true, and to that may be ascribed many of the unhappy matches we daily meet with; for how is it possible that those should ever have the same affection for each other who were forced to comply with terms to which they had the utmost aversion, as if they had been allowed to consult their own inclinations, and give their hands where they had engaged their hearts? For my own part, I have been always determined to consult my inclinations where there is the least appearance of happiness; and having an easy independency, am not anxious about increasing it, being well convinced, that in all states the middle one is best, I mean neither poverty nor riches; which leads me to the discovery of a passion which I have long endeavoured to conceal.

The opportunities which I have had of conversing with you at Lady B's, has at last convinced me, that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have those qualifications necessary to adorn her sex, although adverse fortune has denied her money. I am sure that all those virtues necessary

to make me happy in the marriage state, are centered in you, and whatever objection you may have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and, under the endearing character of husband, endeavour to supply your early loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possible, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am your affectionate Lover, &c.

LETTER CXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Sir,

I Received your letter yesterday, and gratitude for the generous proposal which you have made, obliges me to thank you heartily for the contents.

As I have no objection either to your person or character, you will give me leave to deal sincerely, and state those things which at present bear great weight with me, and perhaps must ever remain unanswered, and hinder me from entering into that state against which I have not the least aversion.

You well know (at least I imagine so) that the proposal you have made to me is a secret both to your relations and friends; and would you desire me to rush precipitately into the marriage state, where I have the greatest reason to fear that I should be looked upon with contempt, by those whom nature had connected me with? I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution? You know that I was left an orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of Lady B must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune; and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Suppose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine unless I had brought you something as an equivalent?

valent? Or, have I not great reason to fear that you yourself may consider me as under obligations, inconsistent with the character of a wife? I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and would consider myself highly honoured could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg, that you will endeavour to eradicate a passion, which, if nourished longer, may prove fatal to us both.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,
Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER CXIX.

The Gentleman's Reply.

My dear Sophia,

WAS it not cruel to start so many objections? or could you suppose me capable of so base an action, as to destroy your freedom and peace of mind. Or do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another? For God's sake do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues intitle you to much more than I am able to give; but all that I have shall be yours. With respect to my relations, I have none to consult besides my mother and my uncle, and their consent and even approbation is already obtained. You have often heard my mother declare, that she preferred my happiness with a woman of virtue to the possession of the greatest fortune, and though I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my sentiments to her before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg that you will lay aside all those unnecessary scruples which only serve to make one unhappy, who is already struggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love! It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none else can. I cannot enjoy one moment's rest till I have your answer, and then the happy day shall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy; but your tender nature cannot suffer you to be cruel. Be mine, my dear, and am yours for ever. My servant shall wait for the answer

answer to your ever sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centered in you.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R CXX.

The Lady's Answer.

Sir,

I find that when one of your sex forms a resolution, you are determined to go through let the event be what it will. Your answer to my first objection, I must confess, is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the others; but I find, that if I must comply, I shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and even the most cautious have been deceived. However, Sir, I have communicated the contents of your letters to her Ladyship, as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I must give myself up to you as a poor friendless orphan, and shall endeavour to act consistent with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion; and if you should so far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friends to complain to but that God who is *the Father of the fatherless*. But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any such fears. I have left the time to your own appointment, and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I am yours sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXI.

From a Lady to a Gentleman, complaining of indifference.

Sir,

HOWEVER light you may make of promises, yet I am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles, and am likewise induced to

believe, that the man who voluntarily breaks a promise, will not pay much regard to an oath: and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct? Did I give you my promise to be yours, and had you no other reason for soliciting than merely to gratify your vanity? A brutal gratification indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman whose greatest fault was that she loved you. I say loved you, for it was in consequence of that passion, I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct, Sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your own solemn professions? Is it consistent with the character of a gentleman, first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterwards brag that he had discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes? Do not equivocate, I have too convincing proofs of your insincerity; I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benson, and am informed that you have proposed marriage to her. Whatever you may think, Sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benson may be your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband, nor can ever the superstructure be lasting, which is built on such a foundation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience,

And am, &c.

LETTER CXXII.

The Gentleman's Answer.

My dear Angel,

FOR by that name I must still call you, has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity? My dear, I am not what you have represented; I am neither false nor perjured; I never proposed marriage to Miss Benson, I never designed it, and my sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, who you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to walk into the fields along with him and his sister? Surely prejudice itself cannot say so; but I am afraid you have been imposed on by some

some designing wretch, who had private views, and private ends to answer by such baseness. But whatever may have been the cause I am entirely innocent, and to convince you of my sincerity, beg that the day of marriage may be next week. My affections never so much as wandered from the dear object of my love; in you is centered all my hopes of felicity, with you only can I be happy. Keep me not in misery one moment longer, by entertaining groundless jealousies against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of your sex; and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me beg your answer by my servant, which will either make me happy or miserable. I have sent a small parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept as a convincing proof of my integrity; and am .

Yours for ever, &c.

L E T T E R CXXIII.

From a young Officer ordered to his regiment in Minorca, to a young Lady whom he courted.

My dear,

I Am scarce able to hold the pen. An order has just now arrived from the War-Office, by which I am obliged to set sail to-morrow for Minorca, without having the happiness of seeing my angel. What unhappiness to us, and devastation among the human race has the ambition of Princes, and the perfidiousness of ministers occasioned! Husbands obliged to leave their beloved wives and dear little children; every relation is broken, and we may well say with Addison,

"What havock has ambition made!" But what is this to my present purpose? Like all others, in a state of distraction, I am obliged to write nonsense, if anything can be so called where the name of my charmer is found. Did you know, my dear, what a struggle I have between love and duty, you would consider me as an object of compassion. I am bound by the most solemn oaths to be yours, and at the same time duty obliges me to draw my sword in defence of the just rights of my lawful prince and injured country; and whatever dangers may wait for me, I would meet

them with the greatest chearfulness, were I sure of possessing one place in your heart. But why do I say one? I must have all or none; I cannot bear the most distant thought that you would place your affections on another. No, my dear, were that to happen, I would act the part of General Campbell at the fatal battle of Fontenoy, by rushing on the sword of the enemy, to put an end to a weary existence. I should cheerfully lay down my life, which would be of small value, were I to be separated for ever from you. But why do I doubt? I know my charmer is as virtuous as she is beautiful, and that nothing but my own conduct can ever make her discard me, but—

Is not absence death to those who love? However, I have the pleasing reflection yet left, that whilst I am in a distant part of the world, attending my duty, I shall be remembered by her, whose prayers for my preservation will be acceptable to that God who loves virtue, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Nothing in this world can ever be so dear to me as you are. Believe all I say and I am happy. If I do anything that may appear wrong, inform me of it, and it shall be my first care to confess my fault and amend. I desire your advice in every thing; but alas! separation will render it difficult, though not impossible. Not having had time to settle with our agent, I have left an order with my mother for that purpose.—Let me beg you will honour her with a visit; she will esteem it as a respect shewn to me. I have often told you what an excellent woman she is, and I am fully persuaded you will find her so? yea more so than I have ever mentioned. We are to stop at Gibraltar, where I hope to have a letter from you. If it comes too late, the governor will forward it to Minorca. Once more, my dear, farewell, continue to be mine, and all the vicissitudes and dangers of war will appear as trifles; and when peace shall again bless the nations, I will fly on the wings of love to the arms of my dearest angel, and spend with her the remainder of my days.

I am your sincere lover, &c.

LETTER CXXIV.

The Lady's Answer.

Dear Charles,

IF your hand could scarcely hold the pen, I am afraid
 this will appear unintelligible, being wet with tears
 from beginning to end. When your letter arrived we
 were drinking tea, and my father reading the newspaper,
 wherein it was said that all the officers in the
 army were ordered to join their regiments. I was a
 good deal alarmed, but some hopes remained, till the
 fatal letter convinced me that my suspicions were but
 too well founded. Alas ! How vain are human expec-
 tations. In the morning we dream of happiness, and
 before evening are really miserable. I was promising
 to myself that one month would have joined our hands,
 and now we are separated perhaps for years ; if not for
 ever. For how do I know but the next post may
 bring me an account of your being killed in battle, and
 then farewell every thing in this world. My pleasing
 prospects will then vanish, and although unmarried,
 will remain a widow till death. And is it possible you
 can doubt one moment of my sincerity, or do you think
 that those affections can ever be placed on another
 which were first fixed on you, from a convincing proof
 of your accomplishments and merit ? No, my dear, my
 fidelity to you shall remain as unspotted as this paper,
 before it was blotted with ink and bedewed with tears.
 I know not how others love, but my engagements are
 for eternity. You desire me to put you in mind of your
 duty. I know not of any faults, nor am I disposed to
 look for them. I doubt not but the religious education
 you have received in your youth, will enable you to
 resist the strongest temptations ; and like that ever-
 lasting honour to the army, Colonel Gardner, although
 not afraid to fight, yet you will be afraid to sin. How-
 ever terrifying it may be to meet death in the field, yet
 it is far more awful to appear before a just God, whom
 we have offended by our iniquities. I have been read-
 ing *Montague's History of England*, and that elegant
 author says, that at the battle of Hastings, which over-
 threw the Saxon monarchy, the Normans, although
 under arms all night, were yet fervent in their devo-
 tions.

tions, whilst the English, who thought themselves secure of victory, were spending the time in riot and drunkenness. But alas! the next day exhibited a different scene. The Normans became conquerors, after killing many thousands of the enemy; and such are commonly the fatal effects of debauchery. There is not one body of people in the world accused of irreligion more than the military, and from the very nature of their employment, none are more obliged to practice every christian duty. They see thousands of their fellow creatures hurried into eternity, nor do they know but the next may be themselves. My dear Charles, never be ashamed of religion. A consciousness of your integrity will inspire you with a real courage in the day of battle; and if you should at last die in defence of the just rights of your country, the divine favour will be your comfort through eternity. In the mean time my prayers shall constantly be for your safety and preservation, and my earnest hopes fixed on your happy return.

I have obtained leave of my parents to reside with your mother during the summer, which will at least be some consolation to me in your absence. Let me hear from you as often as possible, bat never doubt of my fidelity. Consider me as already yours, and I am happy. Farewell, my dear, and that the wisdom of God may direct you, and his providence be your guard, is the sincere prayer of her who prefers you before all the world.

L E T T E R S
O N
F R I E N D S H I P, &c.

LETTER CXXV.

The following Letter on Friendship was written by a Gentleman lately deceased, and found amongst his papers.

My dear Friend,

IT was a strange notion of Paschal, that he would never admit any man to a share of his friendship. Had that great man been a Misanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow-creatures I should not have been much surprised; but as his love to mankind extended as far as either his knowledge or influence, it is necessary to consider his reasons, for a conduct apparently so strange. Paschal had such elevated notions of the deity on the one hand, and so low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought, if he placed his affections on any created being, it would be a sort of insult to the Creator, and a robbing him of that worship which was due to him alone. But whatever were the notions of that great man, yet there is such a thing as a real friendship, and there is also a necessity for it. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed. But those who are acquainted with human nature, well know that we are such a composition of flesh and spirit, that however we may wish to keep up an intercourse with the deity, yet our inclinations are such, that we are more desirous of being conversant with those of our own species, to whom at all times we can be able to unbosom ourselves.

Friendship is as old as the first formation of society, and there is scarce one ancient writer now extant, who has not said something in praise of it. Of this we have

have a fine example in the story of David and Jonathan, as recorded in the second book of Samuel. In the same sacred oracles we are told, that love is stronger than death; and even the great Redeemer of the world had a beloved disciple.

The pious and ingenious Dr Watts has finely described friendship in one of his poems, which I doubt not but you have read.

Friendship, thou charmer of the mind,
Thou sweet deluding ill;
The brightest moments mortals know,
And sharpest pains we feel.
Fate has divided all our shares
Of pleasure, and of pain;
In love the friendship and the cares
Are mix'd and join'd again.

The same ingenious author in another place says,

'Tis dangerous to let loose our love
Beneath the eternal fair.

But whatever the wisest or most learned may say, yet we know that man is a social being, and consequently has a capacity, and even a desire for friendship. Friendship is in its own nature so necessary, that I know not how a social being can exist without it. Are we by any providential occurrence raised from poverty to affluence, to whom can we communicate the delightful news but our friend? On the other hand, are we reduced from the highest pinnacle of grandeur to the most abject state of poverty, to whom can we look for consolation but God and our friend? Indeed there is not one state or condition in life where friendship is not necessary. What wretched mortals would men be were they not endowed with so noble a principle?

Friendship is of a very delicate nature, and either the happiness or misery of both parties may, in some sense, be said to depend on it. Friendship is somewhat like marriage, it is made for life; or as Cæsar said. The dye is cast. Mrs Rowe in one of her letters to the Countess of Hertford, says, "When I contract a friendship, it is for eternity?" Her notions

were

were always elevated, and the chief business of her life seems to have been the promoting the interest of her fellow-creatures. Friendship obliges the parties engaged to lay open their minds to each other, there must not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the Deity, nor an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the word friendship. Benevolence, mercy, pity, compassion, &c. are only parts of it.

From all this we may learn, that great care ought to be had in the choice of friends; and should they even unhappily betray the sacred trust reposed in them, yet we ought not to pursue them with unrelenting fury.

In the course of my experience, I remember two instances of the breach of friendship, which were attended with very different effects. Two gentlemen contracted a friendship for each other, which lasted some years; at last one of them unhappily revealed a secret to his wife, who told it to the wife of the other, in consequence of which an unhappy division took place in the family of the latter. The injured person upbraided his friend with infidelity, told him of the fatal effects occasioned by this imprudence; but (says he) although I cannot be your friend any longer, yet I will never be your enemy. My heart will pity you whilst my hand shall be open to relieve your necessities. Such a declaration was consistent with the prudence of a man, and the piety of a Christian; but that of the other was of a nature totally opposite, and (in my opinion) truly diabolical. A difference of a similar nature happened, attended with the like circumstances, but the injured person, instead of sympathizing with the weakness of his friend, pursued him with unrelenting cruelty, nor ever ceased until he had accomplished his ruin, and even triumphed over it. You may make what comments you please, I can only assure you that both are facts.—How different, my friend, has our conduct to each other been? During these thirty years, no breach has ever happened; and it seems as new this day as at the beginning. As this is probably the last letter ever you will see in my hand-writing, accept of my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have received from your faithful admonitions,

monitions, and your benevolent consolations; and when we meet in the regions of bliss, our happiness will then remain uninterrupted.

I am yours sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CXXVI.

To Cleanthes, on Friendship, Age, and Death.

Dear Cleanthes,

June. 15, 1787.

IT is no small alleviation of that anxiety which the loss of a friend produces, to reflect that the same virtues which procured him our esteem, will likewise entitle him to eternal happiness. This consolation I received upon closing the eyes of Aristus, the last and most melancholy office which friendship can perform.

At length, my Cleanthes, that friendship, which we once divided, is now confined to ourselves. We have seen those who advanced with us along the vale of life, sink into the grave, and have lived to be the only links of the chain of friendship which we helped to constitute at our entrance on the world. We have, together, in the hours of youth, looked back and despised the toys of infancy; in our manhood we have smiled at the pleasures of our youth, and are now come to that age in which we look back on all alike, and consider every prospect that terminates on this side the grave as beneath our notice or regard.

At this season of life, one of the most considerable pleasures which remains to human nature, is the recollection of the moments which are past. Now, whilst I write, my Cleanthes, I recal with satisfaction the time in which we were induced, by a parity of sentiments, to form the social connection, and the steady union in which we have passed from that hour to the present. The time approaches which must put a period to our friendship; none hope that Providence will extend their lives to an unusual length but those who fear to die; as for ourselves, we have reached that age which few are born to attain, and which, in the language of an admired writer, requires a great deal of Providence to produce. I flatter myself, that our days have been so spent, that we have no reason to tremble at the thought of our last, nor embitter the remain-

remaining part of our life with apprehensions for the inevitable hour to come.

We have lent the tear of pity to distress, and alleviated the misfortunes of our fellow-creatures; we have neither indulged our passions, nor neglected the praise we owe the author of our mercies. Why, therefore, should we tremble? We leave a world whose pleasures we are no longer capable of possessing; we have passed thro' its enjoyments, and have found them vain; we leave it for the happiest of states: And yet the tender tie of parents holds us; we must leave those whom nature obliges us to love: Yet let us remember that we leave them to the care of a Divine Providence, and be thankful that we were not called whilst their minds were yet unformed, or we had conducted them from the budding to the bloom of reason.

If at any time a kind of wish arises which would defer the hour that heaven has allotted for my last, 'tis when I am surrounded by my family, and observe the looks of tenderness which they gratefully bestow on me; yet sometimes their being present has the opposite effect, and I am apprehensive lest the moment should not arrive till I mourn the loss of a child.

I know not that any thing would give more considerable amusement than our reviewing together our past lives, and recollecting the dangers we have past from the storms of our passions, now when time has lulled them to rest. It would not be unentertaining, I imagine, to collect the various opinions and ideas we have had of the same object, and mark the progress of the human mind through the different stages of life. Cleantes, therefore, who enjoys the blessing of health in a more eminent degree than his friend, will hasten to see and give him the greatest satisfaction he can possibly know.

I write this from the grotto which Lucinda's fancy decorated, and where we have passed so many happy hours. Providence has taken care to wean us from the love of life by degrees. Scarce have we reached the ripened age of manhood before we have more friends in the grave than surviving, and from that moment, which is almost the first of serious reflection, we begin to perceive the vanity of human happiness. It was the will of heaven that I should mourn the loss

of my Lucinda, and feel the pang of separation, yet not till we had grown old in love, and sweetened the greatest part of our lives with connubial happiness. Since the retrospect part of our lives presents us with nothing which should terrify our imagination, let us pass the remaining days which heaven shall allot us in calm serenity, and in resignation to the divine will.

Whenever the destined hour shall come, my Cleanthes, may we sink contented from the world, and in the perfect assurance of eternal happiness.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXVII.

From a Gentleman whose Wife was lately dead, to a Clergyman in the Neighbourhood.

Rev. Sir,

YOU have often, both in public and private, enlarged on those comforts and consolations which Christianity affords to the afflicted; and if ever they were necessary to one under those circumstances, it must be to myself. About seven last night my wife died in child-bed, and I am left the disconsolate parent of five young children. Had you seen the excruciating tortures under which she expired, it would have reminded you of the emphasis of that curse pronounced upon our first parents for their rebellion against God. When she saw the King of terrors approach she was all resigned to the divine will, and left this lower world in the same manner, and with the same cheerful alacrity, as if she had been going to visit a friend, or attend the service of her Maker. Overwhelmed with grief I entered her chamber, when she exerted the small remains of strength, and spoke to me as follows.

My Dear,

I am now going the way of all flesh, but God, the everlasting God will be your comfort. When I first became yours, I looked for all the happiness consistent with the state of human nature in this vale of misery; and I must confess that my highest wishes have been gratified, and your tenderness has been even more than I could expect. You may have seen faults in my

conduct, but I do assure you (and this is not a time to dissemble) they were altogether involuntary. My principal study was to obtain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God have been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer. Here she fainted —looked wistfully at me, and shed a tear over her dear children, who were crying by her bed —She attempted to speak, but in vain. At last, fixing her eyes towards heaven, she repeated those beautiful words. “ Into thy hands I commit my soul, for thou hast redeemed me, O ! thou God of my salvation,” and then closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpeter. I was sunk for some time in the greatest distress, looking on the dear departed remains of my beloved spouse, and endeavouring to silence, by persuasion, the cries of her orphan children.—At last I recollect ed that I had still a friend left in you, to whom I might with a view of consolation, lay open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may hinder you from visiting me, and if so, let me beg that you will in the mean time favour me with a few lines. At present every sort of consolation will be acceptable, but whatever comes from you will be doubly so. I know not what to write; excuse incoherence and impropriety, from him whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.

LETTER CXXVIII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My dear Friend,

I sincerely commiserate your variegated calamity, and wish there was any thing in my power that could alleviate your distress. You well know that all affliction, of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God.—“ I create light and make darkness, I make war and peace, I the Lord do all these things.” This, Sir, should be your first consideration, and this should regulate the whole of your conduct.

It was this consideration which reconciled old Eli to the severest doom that perhaps was ever denounced. Though contrary to human nature, and much more so to natural affection, yet it is the Lord, let him do what shall seem good.

This reconciled Job to all his unparalleled sufferings, "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away," rapacious hands, and wasting elements were only instruments of his power, therefore I bless and adore his holy name.

This consolation fortified the man Christ Jesus on the approach of his inconceivable bitter agony. But it is my father's pleasure, and not the malice of my enemies, therefore not my will but his be done.

If your father (dear Sir) your heavenly father, who loves you with an everlasting love, has thought proper to mix some gall with your portion of life, sensible of the beneficent hand from which your visitation comes, may you bow your head in awful silence, and say with the afflicted Hezekiah of old, "Good is the word of the Lord concerning me."

Afflictions are often accompanied with many valuable benefits: as David said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, for before that I went astray."

Afflictions serve to wean us from the world. When every thing goes smoothly on, and nothing interrupts the present enjoyments, we are apt to forget the God that made us, and say with unparalleled assurance, Who is the Almighty that I should serve him?

Afflictions serve to lead us to value the blessings of Christianity, and to hold in the lowest estimation our own unworthiness. When sorrows harass our circumstances, and trouble oppresses our minds, we are glad we are earnest to find rest in Christ. The severe affliction under which I have so long laboured, hinders me from seeing you, although I shall take the first opportunity of doing so, when it pleases God to restore me again to health. In the mean time I have sent you a copy of Fleetwood's Life of Christ. A careful perusal of that valuable work will reconcile you to the various dispensations of Providence, especially when you consider the character of the Redeemer, who suffered so much for us. He bore our griefs

griefs and carried our sorrows. He was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief.

From these considerations (my dear friend) endeavour to reconcile yourself to this awful dispensation of Providence : I am sensible of your loss, but you know not what God may yet have in store for you. Perhaps he has only deprived you of one mercy, in order to bestow another. I doubt not, but the Almighty has thousands of mercies yet in store for you, both in time and eternity ; and that period is fast approaching when you yourself must put off this earthly tabernacle, and pay that debt to nature which your beloved spouse has already done. Let your care at present be, to attend to the education of your children. Your duty is now doubly increased, and all that was incumbent on your beloved spouse, is now transferred to yourself ; but the blessings of the Almighty will be bestowed in proportion to your cheerful obedience. It is a great comfort that your beloved spouse died in the faith and fear of the dear Redeemer, and it will be the greatest honour ever you can acquire, to instruct your children in those principles which made the prospect of death agreeable, and even welcome to their mother. So that when the great God shall appear to judge the world, you may be able to stand before him and say, Here I am, and the children which thou hast given me. Thus (Sir) I have said all that I can think of, on the present melancholy occasion. But how comfortable are those words of St Paul, " Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, shall work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

The things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal. There is nothing permanent or lasting in this world, and the tall oak is as easily cut down by the hands of omnipotence, as the plant is plucked up. I feel myself growing weak, and must therefore conclude. May that gracious God who has thought proper to afflict you, continue to support you under this and every other trial, till you arrive at last in the kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest, is the sincere prayer of

Your most affectionate Friend, &c.

LETTER CXXIX.

To a Lady, condoling with her on the Death of her Husband,

Dear Madam,

I sincerely sympathize in your affliction, and I don't wonder that the death of a person so dear to you should damp all your spirits. To be forced to take a final leave of that form we love; to bid a long adieu to the spirit with whom we daily conversed, with pleasing intercourse, is very hard: the sensible heart-strings must feel the dreadful rent, the distressed mind is torn with anguish. But oh ! madam, why do you say for ever ! The separation is not surely for ever;—soon you will see him in a more lovely form;—soon the well-known mind, clothed with heavenly radiance, will congratulate your arrival on the blissful shore.—Why do you complain that he is a lifeless lump of clay; Mistake not; he is all bliss and active spirit. Those shining virtues, which, while you enumerate them, seem to add to your grief, and which you tell me will ever renew your sorrow, ought to be the pleasing source of joy. Though you lament his loss, lament not his exaltation, nor drive your tears from the very subject of his felicity; he is in the land of virtue, its native clime. How often do you repeat the words " Poor dear man," and dwell on sounds expressive only of pity ! Pity, madam, is not for angels; it is you alone who is the sufferer. O could you but be sensible of his happiness, extacy and transporting rapture would dry up your tears. Would you wish him back ? Would you have him, to please you, leave the seats of bliss, and exchange the regions of unfading felicity, for a world of sin, transient happiness, intermingled with pain and trouble ? No; this you cannot wish.

O my dear Madam ! recollect yourself, and, filled with a generous and refined devotion, repose your mind on God; and endeavour to lose the sense of your own private apparent loss in the delightful contemplation of his transcendent goodness. Repose yourself on his sovereign will, whose determinations are always safest, wisest, and best : Let every dewy tear

be wiped away, by the happiness of him you loved: love him still, but be disinterested in your affection; imitate, and rejoice in his virtues; and while you dwell with pleasure on his felicity, anticipate your own. With the most tender sympathy and commiseration, believe me to be, dear Madam,

Your most affectionate friend, &c.

LETTER CXXX.

The following Letter, written by Mr Gay, giving an account of two Lovers who were struck dead by the same flash of Lightning, is reckoned a master-piece in epistolary descriptive Writing.

Sir,

THE only news you can expect to have from me here, is news from Heaven; for I am quite out of the world, and there is scarce any thing can reach me, except the noise of thunder, which undoubtedly you have heard too. We have read in old authors of high towers levelled by it to the ground, while the humble vallies have escaped: The only thing that is proof against it is the laurel, which, however, I take to be no security to the brains of modern authors. But to let you see that the contrary to this often happens, I must acquaint you, that the highest and most extravagant heap of towers in the universe, which is in this neighbourhood, stands still undefaced, while a cock of barley in our next field has been consumed to ashes. Would to God that this heap of barley had been all which perished! But unhappily beneath this little shelter sat two much more constant lovers than ever were found in romance under the shade of a beech tree. John Hewit was a well set man, of about five and twenty: Sarah Dew might be rather called comely than beautiful, and was about the same age: They had passed through the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction; if she milked, 'twas his morning and evening care to bring the cows to her hand. It was but last fair that he bought her a present of green silk for her straw hat; and the posy on her silver ring was of his chusing. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood; for scandal never affirmed

sirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that he had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week that they were to wait to be happy. Perhaps in the intervals of their work they were now talking of their wedding-cloaths, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field flowers to her complexion, to choose her a knot for the wedding-day. While they were thus busied (it was on the last day of July, between two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black, and such a storm of lightning and thunder ensued, that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened, and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley; John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps the better to secure her from the storm. Immediately there was heard so loud a crack, as if Heaven had split asunder; every one was solicitous for the safety of his neighbour, and called to one another throughout the field. No answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay; they perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then spied this faithful pair. John, with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her, as if to skreen her from the lightning. They were both struck in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye-brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast; her lover was all over black, but not the least signs of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions, they were conveyed to the town, and the next day interred in Stanton-Harcourt Church-yard. My Lord Harcourt, at Mr Pope's and my request, has caused a stone to be placed over them, upon condition that we should furnish the epitaph, which is as follows:

*When eastern lovers feed the funeral fire,
On the same pile the faithful pair expire;
Here pitying Heaven that virtue mutual found,
And blasted both that it might neither wound.
Hearts so sincere th' Almighty saw well pleas'd,
Sent his own lightning, and the victims seiz'd.*

But my Lord is apprehensive the country people will not understand this; and Mr Pope says, he'll make one with something of scripture in it, and with as little poetry as Hopkins and Sternhold.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXI.

To a widow Lady, dissuading her from a second Marriage. Written by a Relation.

Dear Cousin,

I WAS accidentally in company, the other day, where you was mentioned with great respect; but it was said that you were about to marry again. I may be impertinent in what I have to say on this subject, because the observations may come too late: Yet I think that can hardly be the case, because this is the first time I have heard of your designing it, and then but casually. I know how ready the world is to interpret the slightest acquaintances into courships; and I think, had this been any thing more, I should have heard of it earlier, and with more certainty; nay, I will not believe but you would have written to me of it yourself.

As I will persuade myself from these reafons that you have not gone so far in this matter, if you have made any step in it, as to have made it too late to go back, I shall, with all that freedom which our acquaintance and affinity support me in using, give you my reafons why I think you do wrong. You are very happy at present, and those who do not know when they are well, commonly change for the worse. It is a maxim among the gamesters, that nobody ought to play, but those who have nothing to lose; and I think it ought to hold as good with those who marry after they are thirty. When there is a bloom of youth upon a face, a man may be tempted to do a great many things to purchase it; but when that is gone, I should be always afraid that the desire of wioning the bet might go farther than the love of play. If that is the matter, wretched is he who is caught, for the winner will be as ready in this case, as the losers in the other, to break the tables.

Bet

But to talk in plain words, and argue the matter like people of this world: I should imagine that any woman that had been married a dozen years, let it have been ever so happily, would have seen enough of the condition not to be in humour to enter upon it again when the best season of it was over. I talk very freely to you, cousin; but I love you, and you know it: You will therefore excuse me; nay, I believe you will thank me. I advise you against marriage, but I do not know whom you are going to marry. There is one test of affection, and there is but one, and if your lover's affairs will bear that, why I shall give up half of my objections. The man who has nothing, may deceive you when he says he loves you, whether you have nothing, or have a fortune? for in the one case he may just like you have enough for a month's living together, and, as it is all one to him where he lives, he may resolve upon bidding goodbye to you afterwards: In the other, he may, very reasonably be in love with your fortune, and may think no incumbrance of your person too much for the advantage: But if the lover have a fortune more than equal to your own, take it for granted he is in earnest, and give yourself no trouble but about his constancy. It would not be worth while to marry a man you was sure liked you to-day, but 'who, it was fifty to one, might change his mind to-morrow: and as to him, who it was impossible to know whether he liked you or no, you, who will be too wise to fall into absolute green-sickness love, would be distracted to venture upon.

Which of these, or whether either of these descriptions, belongs to your present admirer, I am entirely ignorant. You see I am a great enemy to marrying at all; but I have told you there is a sort of man that I think you may venture upon: She will have good luck, however, that finds him.

It would be easy to be grave upon this subject; but, dear cousin, it is not easy to be grave without being dull; and I have not a mind you should throw away my letter without reading it. You have probably a great many years to come, and you have a right to be happy in them. You have the means in your own hands, and in the name of wisdom keep them there. You have relations who will want your money, when
you

you can make no more use of it; and why should you rob them of it in favour of a stranger? Besides, I have that true affection for you, that I should be unhappy to see you in difficulties.

Consider all these things, for you have gratitude and generosity; and consider yourself, for you have prudence. You may be happy in yourself, and a blessing to others, these forty years; or you may be miserable and a burthen to your relations. This is the chance; and, I protest, believe the choice is now before you. Dear Cousin, farewell; I only repeat it to you, consider.

Yours most affectionately, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXII.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, on Happiness.

Dear Sir,

IT seems to be the fate of man to seek all his consolations in futurity. The time present is very seldom able to fill desire or imagination with immediate enjoyment, and we are therefore forced to supply the deficiencies by recollection or anticipation.

Every one so often experiences the fallaciousness of hope, and the inconveniences of teaching himself to expect what a thousand accidents may preclude, that, when time has abated the confidence with which youth rushes out to take possession of the world, we naturally endeavour, or wish, at least, to find entertainment in the review of life, and to repose upon real facts, and certain experience.

But so full is the world of calamity, that every source of pleasure is polluted, and tranquillity disturbed. When time has supplied us with events sufficient to employ our thoughts, it has mingled them with so many disasters and afflictions, that we shrink from the remembrance of them, dread their intrusion on our minds, and fly from them to company and diversion.

No man that has past the middle point of life, can sit down to feast upon the pleasures of youth, without finding the banquet imbibed by the cup of sorrow.

Many

Many days of harmless frolic, and many nights of honest festivity will recur; he may revive the memory of many lucky accidents, or pleasing extravagancies; or, if he has engaged in scenes of action, and been acquainted with affairs of difficulty and vicissitudes of fortune, may enjoy the nobler pleasure of looking back upon distress firmly supported, upon danger resolutely encountered, and upon oppression artfully defeated. Æneas very properly comforts his companions, when, after the horrors of a storm, they have landed on an unknown and desolate country, with the hope that their miseries will, at some distant period, be recounted with delight. There are, perhaps, few higher gratifications than that of reflection on evils surmounted, when they were not incurred by our own fault, and neither reproach us with cowardice or guilt.

But this kind of felicity is always abated by the reflection, that they with whom we should be most pleased to share it, are now in the grave. A few years make such havock amongst the human race, that we soon see ourselves deprived of those with whom we entered the world. The man of enterprise, when he has recounted his adventures, is forced, at the close of the narration, to pay a sigh to the memory of those who contributed to his success; and he that has spent his life among the gayer part of mankind, has quickly his remembrance stored with the remarks and repartees of wits, whose sprightliness and merriment are now lost in perpetual silence. The trader, whose industry has supplied the want of inheritance, when he sits down to enjoy his fortune, repines in solitary plenty, and laments the absence of those companions with whom he had planned out amusements for his latter years; and the scholar, whose merit, after a long series of efforts, raises him from obscurity, looks round in vain from his exalted state, for his old friends, to be witnesses of his long sought-for affluence, and to partake of his bounty.

Such is the imperfection of all human happiness, and every period of life is obliged to borrow its enjoyments from the time to come. In youth we have nothing past to entertain us; and in age we derive nothing from the retrospect but fruitless sorrow. The loss

Loss of our friends and companions impresses hourly upon us the necessity of our own departure. We find that all our schemes are quickly at an end, and that we must lie down in the grave with the forgotten multitude of former ages, and yield our places to others, who, like us, shall be driven a while by hope or fear about the surface of the earth, and then, like us, be lost in the shade of death.

Beyond this termination of our corporeal existence, we are therefore obliged to extend our hopes, and every man indulges his imagination with something which is not to happen till he has lost the power of perceiving it. Some amuse themselves with entails and settlements, provide for the increase and perpetuation of families and honours, and contrive to obviate the dissipation of fortunes, which it has been the whole business of their lives to accumulate. Others more refined and exalted, congratulate their own hearts upon the future exertion of their reputation, the lasting fame of their performances, the reverence of distant nations, and the gratitude of unprejudiced posterity.

It is not, therefore, from this world that any ray of comfort can proceed to cheer the gloom of the last hour. But futurity has still its prospects; there is yet happiness in reserve, sufficient to support us under every affliction. Hope is the chief blessing of man, and that hope only is rational, of which we are certain it cannot deceive.

I am, Sir, &c,

LETTER CXXXIII.

To a Friend, describing the Happiness of rural Life.

Sir,

Before my departure from London, I contracted the fondest attachment to that scene of noise and variety; but since I sat down in this sweet retirement, the overflowings of my heart in thankfulness and praise to my Creator have never ceased; my tongue has had no other theme but his wonders; nor have I rested for the wish of leading others to share the pleasures with me.

M

Herc,

Here, Sir, freed from every embarrassment of form, and every concern of business, I rise healthful, sit down at ease, and trace the strokes of nature's pencil, till the sense aches to comprehend them. The teasing calls of clients, the insufferable folly of unmeaning visitants are over; and, I hope, will never return. I am waked by the fierce rays breaking in at the eastern window to see the rising sun, the noblest object in the world: And after the gentle pleasures of the day, retire at night to my turf-y seat, recline against the leaning oak that points full west, and fix my eyes upon the parting luminary, now a few minutes high, view his even progress to the horizon, and see him cut the verge of that great circle; then follow him descending till less and less remains, and say, with an involuntary sigh, farewell, when the last spot of fire is sunk beneath the plain.

Then glows the scene which painters have copied faintly: the purple cloud, the golden edge, the flaming lustre, in the just point where the great globe of fire descended, and thence the change that, through innumerable tincts, colours the whole extent of that vast quarter; the different shades from the resemblance of a town on fire, to the light amber hue that loses its faint glare upon the distant mountain.

The seasons, as they change, will bring variety enough, and every period will be crowded with its peculiar pleasure: But, of all others, this, the youth of the just ripening year, carries delight in every object, and in every instance. To trace the first buds of the leafy spring, to see the hawthorn swell with its vernal treasures; the rough elm next burst into floods of verdure; the yellow oak then thrusts out its vast bud; and, last, the slow ash push its winged leaves to fill the scene of beauty!—These are the objects every hedge affords, and every field its humbler elegancies. To mark the opening of the lively daisy, to see the yellow crowfoot spread its gilded coat over whole acres of the higher grounds, or trace the blushing Ladysmock that fill its thick tufts the lower! To follow in the hedge the wild herbs as they spring, and mark their wonderful and various forms; the hyacinth bending its naked stalk with fragrance; the arum shrouded in his leafy tabernacle, and the young fruit in

in every opening flower ! How various in their several forms, and how amazing in the whole !

Full of these wonders and these charms, this lusty health and springed vigour in mild natures, how sweet the change to look into the quarters made by art, there to indulge that

Retired leisure,

That in trim gardens takes its pleasure !

And as one treads the smooth pavement of the gravel, or velvet carpet of the grass-walk, to watch the produce of luxuriant culture, day brings after day new transports ; flower opens after flower, and every morning discloses some new beauty, dearer to the possessor, because his own toil helped its colours.

How ravishing to tread the smooth alley, separating one painted border from another ! To trace the progress of the full anemones, or watch the colours of the painted tulip ! To follow in the former kinds, the violet, the crimson and the purple, whose colours singly recommend them to admiration ; and, when the eye has been feasted whole days with these, to see the peacock spread his double leaves, varying his ruby with emerald ; to admire the blushing lustre of the rose, or trace the changes of the ever new camelion ! — What amazing satisfaction !

Thence to another quarter glowing with the vivid tulips, to view with distinguishing and raptured eye, the mixed tincts separated by the strongest lines, no one intrenching on the other's boundaries ; to read them opening, and to see them fade, preserving till the same clear character ! To count the colours in the varied marquetrine ; to view the clouds that paint the wanton jasper, elegant without regularity, and glorious in confusion ; to mark the stains of the morillon, or see the sapphire of the sky mimicked in the round bottom of the painted persian ; the delight is not, nor can be known, but to the few, whose innocent leisure has employed some hours in the sweet study.

My paintings are from nature ; from what I see before me as I write to you. My own field, and my hedges, give the originals of my heart-felt descriptions ; and my little gardens, thanks to the friendly bands that have supplied, furnishes the beauties I have

celebrated : My heart joins the great chorus with sincerity, relating only what it feels.

Thus pass the hours of one who wishes every man to rival him in satisfaction. Believe me, there is something in these soft delights that surpasseth all the sensualists call pleasure. Quiet and health accompany every step; and the path is open to every virtue. Happy shall I account myself even in this labour of writing, which, indeed, has taken from me some hours of these amusements, if, among all who read, I may but make one convert : I shall, I am assured, have then done good to him and to the world. This is the life of innocence, and that the sole path to every act in virtue.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXXIV.

From Mr POPE to a Lady, on the separation of friends, and the satisfaction of integrity and virtue.

THE weather is too fine for any one that loves the country to leave it at this season ; when every smile of the sun, like the smile of a coy lady, is as dear as it is uncommon ; and I am so much in the taste of rural pleasures, I had rather see the sun than any thing he can shew me, except yourself. I despise every fine thing in town, not excepting your new gown, till I see you dressed in it, which, by the way, I don't like the better for the red ; the leaves, I think, are very pretty. I am growing fit, I hope, for a better world, of which the light of the sun is but a shadow : For I doubt not but God's works here are what comes nearest to his works there : and that a true relish of the beauties of nature is the most easy preparation and gentlest transition to an enjoyment of those of Heaven : As, on the contrary, a true town-life of hurry, confusion, noise, slander and dissention, is a sort of apprenticeship to Hell and its furies. I am endeavouring to put my mind into as quiet a situation as I can, to be ready to receive that stroke which I believe is coming upon me, and have fully resigned myself to yield to it. The separation of my soul and body, is what I could think of with less pain ; for I

am

am very sure he that made it will take care of it, and in whatever state he pleases it shall be, that state must be right: But I cannot think, without tears, of being separated from my friends, when their condition is so doubtful, that they may want even such assistance as mine. Sure it is more merciful to take from us after death all memory of what we loved or pursued here; for else what a torment would it be to a spirit, still to love those creatures it is quite divided from? Unless we suppose, that, in a more exalted life, all that we esteemed in this imperfect state will effect us no more than what we loved in our infancy concerns us now.

This is an odd way of writing to a lady, and I am sensible would throw me under a great deal of ridicule, were you to shew this letter among your acquaintance. But perhaps you may not yourself be quite a stranger to this way of thinking. I heartily wish your life may be so long and so happy, as never to let you think quite so far as I am now led to do; but to think a little towards it, is what will make you the happier and the easier at all times.

There are no pleasures or amusements that I don't wish you; and therefore 'tis no small grief to me, that I shall for the future be less able to partake with you in them. But let fortune do her worst, whatever she makes us lose, as long as she never makes us lose our honesty and our independence: I despise from my heart whoever parts with the first, and I pity from my soul whoever quits the latter.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXXV.

From an Uncle to his Nephew on the pernicious habit of drinking to excess.

Dear Nephew,
WHEN I consider your age, inexperience, and situation, and how often you will, unavoidably, be led into company, I think I cannot employ a vacant hour better than in laying before you a few thoughts on the detestable practice of drinking to excess; and I enter on this business the more cheerfully, because I

am confident you have hitherto been careful to follow my advice.

There is no vice carries a greater shame and odium in it than drunkenness. There is no spectacle we behold with greater aversion and contempt. It sinks a man infinitely below the beasts that perish.—The brutes are guilty of no excess—this is the prerogative of man. This shameful vice throws the mind into universal confusion and uproar—lays the understanding and reason in sad and deplorable ruins—effaces every thing that can be called the image of God—extinguishes reason and inflames the passions—dethrones the judgment and exalts our worst desires into its place. The world has not in it a more contemptible sight than a rational creature in this condition. A famous republic of old, used to make their slaves drunk, and expose them in that condition to their children, that, by seeing their ridiculous actions, hearing their ridiculous expressions, and beholding that deplorable alienation of reason which this vice occasions, they might be effectually deterred from it. They thought, says an useful writer, that, were they to apply wholly to the reason of their youths, it might prove to little purpose, as the force of the arguments which they now employed, might not be sufficiently apprehended, or the impression might soon be effaced: But when they made them frequently eye-witnesses of all the madness and absurdities, and at length of the perfect senselessness which the immoderate draught occasioned, the idea of the vile change would be so fixed in the minds of its beholders, as to render them utterly averse from its cause.

And may we not justly conclude it to be from hence, that the offsprings of the persons who are accustomed thus to disguise themselves, often prove remarkably sober. They avoid in their riper years their parent's crime, from that detestation of it which they contracted in their earlier. As to most other vices, their debasing circumstances are not fully known to us till we have attained a maturity of age; nor can be these, till they have been duly attended to: But in our very childhood, at our first beholding the effects of drunkenness, we are strucken with astonishment, that a rational being should be thus changed—
should

should be induced to make himself the object of scorn and contempt. And indeed we must hold the man in the utmost contempt, whom we hear and see in his progress to excess; at first, teasing you with his contentiousness and impertinence—mistaking your meaning and hardly knowing his own—then, faltering in his speech—unable to get through an entire sentence—his hands trembling—his eyes swimming—his legs too feeble to support him; 'till at length you only know the human creature by his shape.

I cannot but add, that, were a person of sense to have a just notion of all the silly things he says or does, of the wretched appearance he makes in a drunken fit, he could not want a more powerful argument against repeating the crime.

But, as none of us are inclined to think ill of ourselves, none of us will know how far our vices expose us: We allow them excuses which they meet not with from any but ourselves.

This is the case of all; it is particularly so with drunkards: Many of whom, from shame, would undoubtedly reform, could they be brought to conceive how much they do of what they ought to be ashamed.

Nor is it improbable that it is this very consideration, how much drunkenness contributes to make a man the contempt of his wife, his children, his servants, of all sober spectators, which hath proved the cause that it hath never been the reigning vice of any people possessed of refinement of manners. Nay, drunkenness has only prevailed among the savage and uncivilized, among those of ruder understandings and less delicacy of sentiment. Crimes, as there are in men, there must be in all nations; but the more civilized have perceived drunkenness to be such an offence against common decency, such a prostitution of one's self to the ridicule and scoffs of the meaner, that, in whatever else they might transgress, they would not do it in this particular; but have a vice of such a degrading nature to the wild and uncultivated—to the stupid and undistinguished part of mankind—to those who had no notion of propriety of character, and decency of conduct. How late this vice became the reproach of our countrymen, we find in Camden's annals. Under the year 1581 he has this observation: 'The English,

who

who hitherto had, of all the northern nations, shewn themselves the least addicted to immoderate drinking, and been commended for their sobriety, first learned, in these wars in the Netherlands, to swallow a large quantity of intoxicating liquor, and to destroy their own health, by drinking that of others'.

There is hardly any vice which entails more complicated miseries upon the unhappy wretch that is a slave to it than drunkenness. It gradually undermines the strength and vigour both of body and mind. We every day see the most deplorable effects of this most shameful vice in the ruined health, constitution, and fortune of vast numbers of our fellow-creatures. How many ingenious and industrious persons has this rendered useless and worthless! How many happy families doth this daily reduce to indigence and beggary! How many innocent sufferers doth it involve in its deplorable consequences! How many have I known who began life creditably and reputably, with a basis, on which, through industry and virtue, to rear the structure of an ample fortune, by contracting these fatal and cursed habits, have ruined themselves and their families for ever! For, of all vices, there is none so incurable as this, when it is once contracted. Other vices leave us with age: This fixes its root deeper, and acquires strength and firmness, with revolving years. It kindles an infernal spark which is absolutely extinguishable.

Besides, drunkenness is an inlet to all wickedness. For, when a man has no reason to direct him, he is prepared for any enormity. It gives every species of temptation power over us, by disqualifying us for consideration, and by extinguishing in us all regard to prudence and caution.

It stimulates us to follow the rashest advice of our companions, because not allowing us to reason upon it, and incapacitating us for self-government, it of course abandons us to the guidance of those with whom we are most pleased, of those who give into all our excesses.

It certainly lays us open to the greatest crimes; because, when we are thoroughly heated by the inebriating draught, we then are inamoured with what is daring,

daring and extravagant—we then aspire to bold and desperate undertakings, and that which is most licentious then carries with it the appearance of a great and glorious enterprise, adapted to a courageous and intrepid mind. Hence rapes, adulteries, murders, acts of the last inhumanity and barbarity, have been perpetrated—actions, for which, if the very thoughts of them could have entered their minds in their sober moments, they would justly have abhorred themselves. Alexander the Great, at the instigation of a drunken harlot, issued from his cups with torches, and burnt Persepolis, the metropolis of the Persian empire, one of the most stately and magnificent cities in the whole world.

The most fatal mischief, from which one branch of the medical profession derives its principal support, very frequently results from a state of intoxication. Young persons, when inflamed with wine, hesitate not to throw themselves, in this state of inebriety, into the arms of the very lowest class of prostitutes, with whom all great cities swarm in the midnight hours—creatures, covered with filth, itch, and rags, putrid with disease, and devoured with vermin, whom, in their sences and sober hours, they would have regarded with the utmost detestation and horror.

I am,

Your affectionate Uncle, &c.

LETTER CXXXVI.

On Affectation and Simplicity.

IF I was asked which of all the qualities that constitute an amiable character would singly go farthest in gaining my love and admiration, I should answer, without hesitation, simplicity. I cannot suppose myself peculiar in this preference: for I have observed the general attraction of this quality, which operates even on those who are themselves most deficient in it. How comes it then to pass, that an excessive desire of admiration always shews itself in affectation of some kind or other? That every one should, in proportion to the strength of this desire, act in a manner which most effectually defeats the accomplishment of it, is surely

surely a phænomenon in the moral world, not unworthy the enquiry of philosophers.

Affectation is so universally acknowledged to be disgusting, that it is among the faults which the most intimate friends cannot venture gravely to reprove in each other; for, to tell your friends that they are habitually affected, is to tell them that they are habitually disagreeable; which nobody can bear to hear. I beg leave, therefore, as a general friend, without offending any one; to whisper to all those whose hearts confess that vanity has inspired them with any sort of affectation, that it never does, nor ever can succeed as a means of pleasing.

I have a thousand times wished to tell Flirtilla, that the efforts she makes to be constantly in motion, and perpetually giggling, do not pass upon me for the vivacity of youth: I see they cost her a great deal of trouble, and it gives me an irritation of nerves to look at her; so that it would have been much for her ease and mine, could I have ventured to beg that she would always in my presence give way to her natural languor and dullness, which would be far more agreeable to me.

Gloriosa, whenever a remarkable instance of generosity or goodness is mentioned, takes infinite pains, with the most pompous eloquence, to convince me that the action seems poor to the greatness of her soul—that she should think half her fortune a trifling gift to a worthy friend—that she would rather suffer the most exquisite pain herself, than see a fellow-creature, tho' a stranger to her, endure it—and that it is a nobler effort in her to refrain from the most generous actions, than it would be in the greatest miser to perform them.—I long to let her know, that the only effect these declarations produce in my mind is a doubt, which I should otherwise never have entertained, whether she really possesses even the common portion of good-nature and benevolence.

Humanus, on the other hand, need not be so much ashamed of his tenderness and goodness of heart—which is the only agreeable part of his character, and which all his affected roughness and insensibility cannot hide. Be content, good Humanus; you never can attain the reputation to which you aspire, of a stern unfeeling

unfeeling heart; we all know you are good-natured and affectionate; and it is for the sake of these qualities alone that we endure all the disgusting airs of brutality you give yourself.

Poor young Saunter, having observed that the few men of fashion and fortune who admit him into their company are gamesters and debauchees, thinks nothing more is necessary to make him appear like a man of fashion and fortune than to be thought a gamester and debauchee. To this end he really practises some vices, and professes many more. He will entertain you for hours with boasting of ruinous bets which he never made, and riotous debauches of which he never was guilty. But nobody believes him: every body knows that the poor young man would be sober enough, if he thought it genteel: and, notwithstanding the great spirit with which he professes to despise his too indulgent father, and to wish him dead, there are strong suspicions that he is not absolutely without natural affection, and that he really does not behave ill to the good old man, except in the article of spending too much of his money. Let me persuade you, Saunter, to make an experiment, whether the world would not receive you as well with a few good qualities, as with all the bad ones you assume. If you find it does not succeed, you may more easily return to the ways of vice, than you could to those of virtue. Should you delay much longer, and should you ever have sense enough to perceive what a despicable animal vanity has made you.

The important airs and insolence of a rich mechanic just setting up for a gentleman, is not a more decisive mark of a low-lived man, than the over-strained humility of Superbia is of an immeasurable pride. Whilst she depreciates herself in every sentence, and affects to exalt her companions so far above her, that she will scarcely allow herself to converse with them, she makes them feel her proud condescension in a manner that is more offensive than the most openly assumed superiority. Her aim is, to place in the strongest point of view the advantages she has, or thinks she has over them, and then to be supposed superior in herself to all those advantages, and adorned with such humility as must heighten their respect and admiration. Poor woman!

woman ! she fails in both these aims. Her affected humility renders her contemptibly ridiculous ; and her real pride arms every body's self love against her, and disposes them to undervalue those circumstances on which they see she founds her consequence.

As liars often presume so far on the politeness of the company—which forbids the flat contradiction of a matter of fact—as to utter the most palpable falsehoods; so the persons I have described presume, on the same grounds, that every one they converse with is the dupe of their affectation. A little better opinion of the sagacity of others would save both the affected and the cunning a world of unnecessary trouble. Cunning does indeed sometimes succeed in deceiving the particular person to whom it is applied; but a man characteristically artful is almost always seen through by the generality of the world. Affected gestures, manner, or sentiments in conversation, are obvious to every understanding: every one joins in pronouncing them ridiculous.—One of the most affected women I ever knew said to me once, in a tone of the utmost langour, “ You know one had better be dead than be affected !”—Thus, all condemn what they expect to be admired for; and hope, against all reason and probability, to impose on the world by the same arts which they can themselves so easily discern in others, and so readily join to deride.

Whilst the vain man is painfully striving to outshine all the company, and to attract their admiration, by false wit, forced compliments, and studied graces, he must surely be mortified to observe how constantly Simplicius engages their attention, respect, and complacency, without having once thought of himself as a person of any consequence amongst them. Simplicius imparts his superior knowledge, when called upon, as easily and naturally as he would tell you what it is o'clock; and with the same readiness and good will informs the most ignorant, or confers with the most learned. He is as willing to receive information as to give it, and to join the company, as far as he is able, in the most trifling conversation into which they happen to fall, as in the most serious or sublime. If he disputes, it is with as much candour on the most important

portant and interesting, as on the most insignificant subjects ; and he is not less patient in hearing than in answering his antagonist. If you talk to him of himself, or his works, he accepts praise or acknowledges defects, with equal meekness, and it is impossible to suspect him of affectation in either. We are more obliged and gratified by the plain unexaggerated expressions of his regard, than by the compliments and attentions of the most accomplished pattern of high breeding ; because his benevolence and sincerity are so strongly marked in every look, word, and action, that we are convinced his civilities are offered for our sakes, not for his own ; and are the natural effects of real kindness, not the studied ornaments of behaviour. Every one is desirous to shew him kindness in return, which we know will be accepted just as it is meant. All are ready to pay him that deference which he does not desire, and to give him credit for more than he assumes, or even for more than he possesses. With a person ungraceful, and with manners unpolished by the world, his behaviour is always proper, easy, and respectable ; as free from constraint and servility in the highest company as from haughtiness and insolence in the lowest. His dignity arises from his humility ; and the sweetnes, gentleness, and frankness of his manners from the real goodness and rectitude of his heart, which lies open to inspection in all the fearlessness of truth, without any need of disguise or ornament.

Where this foundation of real virtue is wanting, every art of pleasing is but the thin superficial covering of deformity, which becomes the more disgusting by the pains taken to dress it in false colours. No wonder then that simplicity is so sure of attracting love and approbation, since it implies almost every other virtue. No wonder that the heart, where envy, pride, and vanity reside, will not venture to trust itself to the lips or eyes. "Dare to be what you are," is a good maxim ; but it will only be put in practice by those who are what they ought to be. Every one may, however, rest assured, that they are generally known for what they are, and that falsehood, like Cain, has a mark set upon it by Heaven. This mark may not be discerned on a superficial view, nor by the foolish, the young, and inexperienced ; but in a short course of years it will be discovered by so many eyes, that the world cannot

be kept ignorant of it, and it will then be punished by the scorn it deserves.

Whoever, therefore, desires to please, to be respected and beloved, let him first give his attention to the inward state of his mind. When all is right there, outward elegancies may be easily attained, or the want of them easily excused. But if nature and the heart have not a share in dictating his behaviour, his looks, and his sentiments, he may be a fop, a dancing-master, a courtier, or a spy; but he can never be an amiable man.

L E T T E R CXXXVII.

On the Government of the Temper. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

ONE very great point of importance to your future happiness, is what your parents have, doubtless, been continually attentive to from your infancy, as it is impossible to undertake it too early—I mean the due regulation of your temper. Though you are in a great measure indebted to their forming hands for whatever is good in it, you are sensible, no doubt, as every human creature is, of propensities to some infirmity of temper, which it must now be your own care to correct and subdue; otherwise the pains that have hitherto been taken with you may all become fruitless: and, when you are your own mistress, you may relapse into those faults, which were originally in your nature, and which will require to be diligently watched and kept under, through the whole course of your life.

If you consider, that the constant tenor of the gospel precepts is to promote love, peace, and good-will amongst men, you will not doubt that the cultivation of an amiable disposition is a great part of your religious duty; since nothing leads more directly to the breach of charity, and to the injury and molestation of our fellow-creatures, than the indulgence of an ill temper. Do not therefore think lightly of the offences you may commit, for want of a due command over it, or suppose yourself responsible for them to your fellow-creatures only; but, be assured, you must give

a strict

a strict account of them all to the Supreme Governor of the world, who has made this a great part of your appointed trial upon earth.

A woman, bred up in a religious manner, placed above the reach of want, and out of the way of sordid or scandalous vices, can have but few temptations to the flagrant breach of the divine laws. It particularly concerns her therefore to understand them in their full import, and to consider how far she trespasses against them, by such actions as appear trivial, when compared with murder, adultery, and theft, but which become of very great importance, by being frequently repeated, and occurring in the daily transactions of life.

The principal virtues or vices of a woman must be of a private and domestic kind. Within the circle of her own family and dependants lies her sphere of action—the scene of almost all those tasks and trials, which must determine her character, and her fate, here, and hereafter. Reflect, for a moment, how much the happiness of her husband, children, and servants, must depend on her temper, and you will see that the greatest good, or evil, which she ever may have in her power to do, may arise from her correcting or indulging its infirmities.

Though I wish the principle of duty towards God to be your ruling motive in the exercise of every virtue, yet, as human nature stands in need of all possible helps, let us not forget how essential it is to present happiness, and to the enjoyment of this life, to cultivate such a temper as is likewise indispensably requisite to the attainment of higher felicity in the life to come. The greatest outward blessings cannot afford enjoyment to a mind ruffled and uneasy within itself. A fit of ill humour will spoil the finest entertainment, and is as real a torment as the most painful disease. Another unavoidable consequence of ill temper is the dislike and aversion of all who are witnesses to it, and, perhaps, the deep and lasting resentment of those who suffer from its effects. We all, from social or self-love, earnestly desire the esteem and affection of our fellow-creatures; and indeed our condition makes them so necessary to us, that the wretch who has forfeited them, must feel desolate and undone, deprived of all the best enjoyments and comforts the world can afford, and given up to inward misery, unpitied and scorned. But this

never can be the fate of a good-natured person : whatever faults he may have, they will generally be treated with lenity ; he will find an advocate in every human heart ; his errors will be lamented rather than abhorred ; and his virtues will be viewed in the fairest point of light : His good humour, without the help of great talents or acquirements, will make his company preferable to that of the most brilliant genius, in whom this quality is wanting. In short, it is almost impossible that you can be sincerely beloved by any body, without this engaging property, whatever other excellencies you may possess ; but, with it, you will scarcely fail of finding some friends and favourers, even though you should be destitute of almost every other advantage.

Perhaps you will say, " all this is very true, but our tempers are not in our power—we are made with different dispositions, and, if mine is not amiable, it is rather my unhappiness than my fault." This, my dear, is commonly said by those who will not take the trouble to correct themselves. Yet, be assured, it is a delusion, and will not avail in our justification before him, " who knoweth whereof we are made," and of what we are capable. It is true, we are not all equally happy in our dispositions ; but human virtue consists in cherishing and cultivating every good inclination, and in checking and subduing every propensity to evil. If you had been born with a bad temper, it might have been made a good one, at least with regard to its outward effects, by education, reason, and principle : and, though you are so happy as to have a good one while young, do not suppose it will always continue so, if you neglect to maintain a proper command over it. Power, sickness, disappointments, or worldly cares, may corrupt and imbitter the finest disposition, if they are not counteracted by reason and religion.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

On the first Principles of Religion. By a Lady.

My dear Nicce,

THOUGH you are so happy as to have parents, who are both capable and desirous of giving you all proper instruction, yet I, who love you so tenderly, cannot help fondly wishing to contribute something, if possible, to your improvement and welfare: And, as I am so far separated from you, that it is only by pen and ink I can offer you my sentiments, I will hope that your attention may be engaged, by seeing on paper, from the hand of one of your warmest friends, truths of the highest importance, which, though you may not find new, can never be too deeply engraven on your mind.

You are now in your fifteenth year, and must soon act for yourself; therefore it is high time to store your mind with those principles, which must direct your conduct, and fix your character. If you desire to live in peace and honour, in favour with God and man, and to die in the glorious hope of rising from the grave to a life of endless happiness—if these things appear worthy your ambition, you must set out in earnest in the pursuit of them. Consider, that good and evil are now before you, that, if you do not heartily choose and love the one, you must undoubtedly be the wretched victim of the other. Your trial is now begun; you must either become one of the glorious children of God, who are to rejoice in his love for ever, or a child of destruction—miserable in this life, and punished with eternal death hereafter.

The first step must be to awaken your mind to a sense of the importance of the task before you. To this end, you must inform your understanding what you ought to believe, and to do.—You must correct and purify your heart; cherish and improve all its good affections; and continually mortify and subdue those that are evil.—You must form and govern your temper and manners according to the laws of benevolence and justice; and qualify yourself, by all means in your power, for an useful and agreeable member of society. When once you consider life and the duties of life in this manner,

you will listen eagerly to the voice of instruction and admonition, and seize every opportunity of improvement; every useful hint will be laid up in your heart, and your chief delight will be in those persons, and those books, from which you can learn true wisdom.

The only sure foundation of human virtue is religion, and the foundation and first principle of religion is the belief of the one only God, and a just sense of his attributes. This you will think you have learned long since, and possess in common with almost every human creature in this enlightened age and nation; but, believe me, it is less common than you imagine, to believe in the true God—that is, to form such a notion of the Deity as is agreeable to truth, consistent with those infinite perfections which all profess to ascribe to him. The kindest and best of Beings, who made all creatures in bountiful goodness, who condescends to style himself our father! and, who pitied us, as a father pitied his own children!—Let your devotion then be the language of filial love and gratitude; confide to this kindest of fathers every want, and every wish of your heart;—but submit them all to his will, and freely offer him the disposal of yourself, and of all your affairs. Thank him for his benefits, and even for his punishments—convinced that these also are benefits, and mercifully designed for your good. Implore his direction in all difficulties; his assistance in all trials; his comfort and support in sickness or affliction; his restraining grace in the time of prosperity and joy. Do not persist in desiring what his providence denies you; but be assured it is not good for you. Refuse not any thing he allots you, but embrace it as the best and properest for you. Forget not to dedicate yourself to his service every day; to implore his forgiveness of your faults, and his protection from evil every night: And this not merely in formal words, unaccompanied by any act of the mind, but “in spirit and in truth;” in grateful love and humble adoration. Nor let these stated periods of worship be your only communication with him; accustom yourself to think often of him, in all your waking hours;—to contemplate his wisdom and power, in the works of his hands —to acknowledge his goodness in every

every object of use or of pleasure—to delight in giving him praise in your inmost heart, in the midst of every innocent gratification—in the liveliest hour of social enjoyment. You cannot conceive, if you have not experienced, how much silent acts of gratitude and love will enhance every pleasure; nor what sweet serenity and cheerfulness such reflections will diffuse over your mind. On the other hand, when you are suffering pain or sorrow, when you are confined to an unpleasant situation, or engaged in a painful duty, how will it support and animate you, to refer yourself to your Almighty Father!—to be assured that he knows your state and your intentions; that no effort of virtue is lost in his sight, nor the least of your actions or sufferings disregarded or forgotten!—that his hand is ever over you, to ward off every real evil, which is not the effect of your own ill conduct, and to relieve every suffering that is not useful to your future well-being!

Do not, therefore, think it too soon to turn your mind to God; but offer him the first fruits of your understanding and affections: And be assured, that the more you increase in love to him, and delight in his laws, the more you will increase in happiness, in excellency, and honour:—That, in proportion as you improve in true piety, you will become dear and amiable to your fellow-creatures; contented and peaceful in yourself; and qualified to enjoy the best blessings of this life, as well as to inherit the glorious promise of immortality.

Thus far I have spoken of the first principles of all religion: namely, belief in God, worthy notions of his attributes, and suitable affections towards him—which will naturally excite a sincere desire of obedience. But, before you can obey his will, you must know what that will is; you must enquire in what manner he has declared it, and where you may find those laws, which must be the rule of your actions. Therefore, God has vouchsafed to grant a particular revelation of his will—If he has been so unspeakably gracious, as to send his Son into the world to reclaim mankind from error and wickedness—to die for our sins—and to teach us the way of eternal life—surely it becomes us to receive his precepts with the deepest reverence.

reverence; to love and prize them above all things; and to study them constantly, with an earnest desire to conform our thoughts, our words, and actions, to them.

As you advance in years and understanding, I hope you will be able to examine for yourself the evidences of the christian religion, and be convinced, on rational grounds, of its divine authority. It is your duty to believe that the holy scriptures are writings inspired by God, containing a true history of facts, in which we are deeply concerned—a true recital of the laws given by God to Moses, and of the precepts of our blessed Lord and Saviour, delivered from his own mouth to his disciples, and repeated and enlarged upon in the edifying epistles of his apostles—who were men chosen from amongst those, who had the advantage of conversing with our Lord, to bear witness of his miracles and resurrection—and who, after his ascension, were assisted and inspired by the Holy Ghost. This sacred volume must be the rule of your life. In it you will find all truths necessary to be believed; and plain and easy directions, for the practice of every duty: Your Bible then must be your chief study and delight. Our Saviour's precepts were spoken to the common people amongst the Jews; and were therefore given in a manner easy to be understood, and equally striking and instructive to the learned and unlearned: For the most ignorant may comprehend them, whilst the wisest must be charmed and awed, by the beautiful and majestic simplicity with which they are expressed. Of the same kind are the Ten Commandments, delivered by God to Moses; which, as they were designed for universal laws, are worded in the most concise and simple manner, yet with a Majesty which commands our utmost reverence. May you be enabled to make the best use of this most precious gift of God—this sacred treasury of knowledge! May you read the bible, not as a task; nor as the dull employment of that day only in which you are forbidden more lively entertainments—but, with a sincere and ardent desire of instruction; with that love and delight in God's word, which the holy Psalmist so pathetically felt and described, and which is the natural consequence of loving God and virtue!

Adieu,

Adieu, my beloved niece ! If the feelings of your heart, whilst you read my letters, correspond with those of mine, whilst I write them, I shall not be without the advantage of your partial affection, to give weight to my advice; for believe me, my own dear girl, my heart and eyes overflow with tenderness, while I tell you, with how warm and earnest prayers for your happiness here, and hereafter, I subscribe myself

Your faithful Friend,
And most affectionate Aunt, &c.

LETTER CXXXIX.

On Economy. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

Economy is so important a part of a woman's character, so necessary to her own happiness, and so essential to her performing properly the duties of a wife and of a mother, that it ought to have the precedence of all other accomplishments, and takes its rank next to the first duties of life. It is moreover an art, as well as a virtue—and many well meaning persons, from ignorance, or from inconsideration, are strangely deficient in it. I would, therefore, earnestly advise you to make use of every opportunity you can find, for the laying in some store of knowledge on this subject, before you are called upon to the practice; by observing what passes before you—by consulting prudent and experienced mistresses of families—and by entering in a book a memorandum of every new piece of intelligence you acquire: You may afterwards compare these with more mature observations, and you can make additions and corrections as you see occasion.

The first and greatest point is to lay out your general plan of living in a just proportion to your fortune and rank: If those two will not coincide, the last must certainly give way; for, if you have right principles, you cannot fail of being wretched under the sense of the injustice as well as danger of spending beyond your income, and your distress will be continually increased by the consciousness of having done wrong.

increasing. No mortifications, which you can suffer from retrenching in your appearance, can be comparable to this unhappiness. If you would enjoy the real comforts of affluence, you should lay your plan considerably within your income; not for the pleasure of amassing wealth—though, where there is a growing family, it is an absolute duty to lay by something every year—but to provide for contingencies, and to have the power of indulging your choice in the disposal of the overplus—either in innocent pleasures, or to increase your funds for charity and generosity, which are in fact the true funds of pleasure.

Perhaps it may be said, that the settling the general scheme of expences is seldom the wife's province, and that many men do not choose even to acquaint her with the real state of their affairs. Where this is the case, a woman can be answerable for no more than is entrusted to her. But I think it a very ill sign, for one or both of the parties, where there is such a want of openness, in what equally concerns them. As I trust you will deserve the confidence of your husband, so I hope you will be allowed free consultation with him on your mutual interests; and, I believe, there are few men, who would not hearken to reason on their own affairs, when they saw a wife ready and desirous to give up her share of vanities and indulgencies, and only earnest to promote the common good of the family.

Your own expences of clothes and pocket-money, should be settled and circumscribed, that you may be sure not to exceed the just proportion. I think it an admirable method to appropriate such a portion of your income, as you judge proper to bestow in charity, to be sacredly kept for that purpose and no longer considered as your own. By which means, you will avoid the temptation of giving less than you ought, through selfishness, or more than you ought, through good-nature or weakness. If your circumstances allow of it, you might set apart another fund for acts of liberality or friendship, which do not come under the head of charity. The having such funds ready at hand, makes it easy and pleasant to give; and, when acts of bounty are performed without effort, they are generally more kind and effectual.

Regularity of payments and accounts is essential to œconomy:—your house-keeping should be settled at least once a week, and all the bills paid. You must endeavour to acquire skill in purchasing: in order to this, you should begin now to attend to the prices of things, and take every proper opportunity of learning the real value of every thing, as well as the marks whereby you are to distinguish the good from the bad.

In your table, as in your dress, and in all other things. I wish you to aim at propriety and neatness, or, if your state demands it, elegance, rather than superfluous figure. To go beyond your sphere, either in dress, or in the appearance of your table, indicates a greater fault in your character than to be too much within it. It is impossible to enter into the minutiae of the table: Good sense and observation on the best models must form your taste, and a due regard to what you can afford must restrain it.

L E T T E R CXL.

On the Regulation of the Heart and Affections. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

THE attachments of the heart, on which almost all the happiness or misery of life depends, are most interesting objects of our consideration. I shall give my dear niece the observations which experience has enabled me to draw from real life, and not from what others have said or written, however great their authority.

The first attachment of young hearts is friendship—the noblest and happiest of affections, when real and built on a solid foundation. Do not you, my dear, be too ready to profess a friendship with any of your young companions. Love them, and be always ready to serve and oblige them, and to promote all their innocent gratifications: but be very careful how you enter into confidence with girls of your own age; rather choose some person of riper years and judgment, whose good nature and worthy principles may assure you of her readiness to do you service, and of her candour and condescension towards you. She will

be

be able to advise and to improve you—and, your desire of this assistance will recommend you to her taste, as much as superior abilities will recommend her to you. Such a connection will afford you more pleasure, as well as more profit, than you can expect from a girl like yourself, equally unprovided with knowledge, prudence, or any of those qualifications, which are necessary to make society delightful. Whenever you find yourself in real want of advice, or seek the relief of unburdening your heart, such a friend will be able to judge of the feelings you describe, or of the circumstances you are in—perhaps from her own experience—or at least from the knowledge she will have gained of human nature, she will be able to point out your dangers, and to guide you into the right path—or, if she finds herself incapable, she will have the prudence to direct you to some abler adviser. She will have more materials for entertaining conversation, and her liveliness will shew itself more agreeably than in one of your own age.

I hope, my dear, you in your turn will be this useful and engaging friend to your younger companions, particularly to your sisters and brothers, who ought ever—unless they should prove unworthy—to be your nearest and dearest friends, whose interest and welfare you are bound to desire as much as your own. A real friend will venture to displease you, rather than indulge your faulty inclinations, or increase your natural frailties; she will endeavour to make you acquainted with yourself, and will put you upon guarding the weak parts of your character.

Friendship, in the highest sense of the word, can only subsist between persons of strict integrity, and true generosity. Before you fancy yourself possessed of such a treasure, you should examine the value of your own heart, and see how well it is qualified for so sacred a connection: And then, a harder task remains—to find out whether the object of your affection is also endued with the same virtuous disposition. If you should give any weight to my observations, it may not be quite useless to mention to you some of the essential requisites in a friend; and to exhort you never to choose one in whom they are wanting.

The first of these is a deep and sincere regard for religion. If your friend draws her principles from the same source with yourself, if the gospel precepts are the rule of her life, as well as of yours, you will always know what to expect from her, and have one common standard of right and wrong to refer to, by which to regulate all material points of conduct. The woman who thinks lightly of sacred things, or who is ever heard to speak of them with levity or indifference, cannot reasonably be expected to pay a more serious regard to the laws of friendship, or to be uniformly punctual in the performance of any of the duties of society: Take no such person to your bosom, however recommended by good humour, wit, or any other qualification; nor let gaiety or thoughtlessness be deemed an excuse for offending in this important point: A person, habituated to the love and reverence of religion and virtue, no more wants the guard of serious consideration to restrain her from speaking disrespectfully of them than to prevent her speaking ill of her dearest friend. Watch for these symptoms of innocence and goodness, and admit no one to your entire affection, who would ever persuade you to make light of any sort of offence, or who can treat with levity or contempt any person or thing that bears a relation to religion.

A due regard to reputation is the next indispensable qualification.—The young person who is careless of blame, and indifferent to the wise and prudent part of the world, is not only a most dangerous companion, but gives a certain proof of the want of rectitude in her own mind. Discretion is the guardian of all the virtues; and, when she forsakes them, they cannot longer resist the attacks of an enemy. There is a profligacy of spirit in defying the rules of decorum, and despising censure, which seldom ends otherwise than in extreme corruption and utter ruin. Modesty and prudence are qualities that early display themselves, and are easily discerned: Where these do not appear, you should avoid not only friendship, but every step towards intimacy, lest your own character should suffer with that of your companion; but, where they shine forth in any eminent degree, you may safely cultivate an acquaintance, in the reasonable hope of finding the

solid fruits of virtue beneath such sweet and promising blossoms.

A good temper is the next qualification, the value of which, in a friend, you will want no arguments to prove, when you are truly convinced of the necessity of it in yourself. But; as this is a quality in which you may be deceived, without a long and intimate acquaintance, you must not be hasty in forming connections, before you have had sufficient opportunity for making observations on this head. A young person, when pleased and enlivened by the presence of her youthful companions, seldom shews ill-temper; which must be extreme indeed, if it is not at least controllable in such situations. But you must watch her behaviour to her own family, and the degree of estimation she stands in with them. Observe her manner to servants and inferiors—to children—and even to animals. See in what manner she bears disappointments, contradiction, and restraint; and what degree of vexation she expresses on any accident of loss or trouble. If in such little trials she shews a meek, resigned, and cheerful temper, she will probably preserve it on greater occasions; but if she is impatient and discontented under these, how will she support the far greater evils which may await her in her progress through life?—If you should have an opportunity of seeing her in sickness, observe whether her complaints are of a mild and gentle kind—forced from her by pain, and restrained as much as possible—or whether they are expressions of a turbulent, rebellious mind, that hardly submits to the divine hand. See whether she is tractable, considerate, kind, and grateful to those about her; or whether she takes the opportunity, which their compassion gives her, to tyrannize over, and torment them.

I am your affectionate Aunt, &c.

LETTER CXLI.

From a young Merchant to an aged Gentleman, formerly of the same Profession, but now retired from Business.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR generosity in sending me instructions during my apprenticeship, will ever remain a lasting proof of that innate goodness for which you have been long justly celebrated, and likewise encourages me to trouble you for advice how to conduct myself; so as to support my credit in the world, now, when I am entered upon business. Your long and extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs gives a sanction to every thing you say, and your goodness of heart encourages the unexperienced to address themselves to you with chearfulness. I have been now about two years in business; and although my success has been equal to my expectations, yet there are, daily, such a variety of failures in this city, that I am every day thinking my own name may be that week in the Gazette. I should not be much surprized; were none to become bankrupts save those of abandoned characters, as I do not see how any thing less can be expected. You know, Sir, that assiduity and regularity are qualifications indispensably necessary to the merchant; it must therefore appear morally impossible for the man to prosper in trade, whose time is spent in dissipation and idleness, if not (which too often happens) in debauchery. When I hear of such persons failing in their payments, I am no ways surprized; but when great numbers of those apparently in affluent circumstances, and the fairest characters, daily fail, I am justly alarmed, and my fears continue to increase in proportion to their numbers.

I would not chuse to judge rashly, much less uncharitably, of any man; although I must confess I am very much shocked when I hear, that a commission of bankruptcy is awarded against one supposed to be worth thousands, and not sufficient left to pay five shillings in the pound, I am filled with horror on account of my own situation, and led to believe, that there is a latent curse attending mercantile affairs, which the greatest prudence

dence can neither foresee nor prevent. I am sensible that the person to whom I am writing, knows the above to be true. Your long acquaintance with the fluctuating state of merchandize procures respect, and gives a sanction to every thing you say. But as far as I am able to learn, those failings in the mercantile world are more frequent now than when you was engaged in trade. I am not ambitious of acquiring riches, my whole desire is, to obtain a peaceable possession of the comforts of life, to do justice to every one with whom I have any dealings, and to live and die an honest man. Such, Sir, is the plan I have laid down for my future conduct in life; but alas! it will require the assistance of all my friends to enable me to execute it with a becoming propriety. Let me therefore beg your advice on an affair of so much importance, and whatever you dictate shall be the invariable rule of my conduct, whilst the thanks of a grateful heart shall be continually returned for so benevolent an action:

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER CXLI.

The Answer.

Sir,

IF I can form any judgment of the integrity of your actions, and the purity of your intentions from the contents of the letter now before me, I should not hesitate one moment in declaring, that it is almost impossible your name will ever appear in the Gazette under the disagreeable circumstances you have mentioned: for how is it possible to suppose that the man who keeps a regular account of his proceedings, his loss and gain, should not know whether his circumstances are affluent or distressed? And whatever you may think of those merchants who have often failed, although reputed affluent, yet if you had attended to their examination before the commissioners, I believe you would have great reason to alter your opinion. I speak concerning bankruptcies in general; for there are some unforeseen accidents, which even the greatest prudence cannot pre-

prevent. But these are extraordinary cases, and seldom happen. If you examine minutely into the nature of those causes which generally occasion bankruptcies, you will find them arising from something with which you are still unacquainted. I shall endeavour to point out a few, and submit to your own judgment, whether I am mistaken or not. The first is generally a careless attention to business, the not keeping regular accounts, and a more earnest desire after public entertainments, than assiduity to business on the change. Mercantile affairs require a clear and solid judgment, and it is morally impossible for that man to prosper in trade, whose mind is continually engaged in the pursuit of things foreign to, and wholly unconnected with that station in which Providence has placed him. It is a contradiction in terms. Assiduity always procures respect, and generally insures success. Another cause of the many failures in the mercantile world, is that those in trade live above their circumstances. This vice is at present so predominant among the citizens, and its consequences so fatal, that one would almost imagine the people were labouring under some penal infatuation. Formerly the citizens of London were distinguished in a peculiar manner for their gravity; the change and the custom-house were the only places they frequented; when they went from home. But now the face of affairs is changed, and those places where their predecessors acquired fortunes, are considered as too low and vulgar for them to be seen at. Nay, so far have they carried their extravagance, that all distinctions are in a manner confounded, and the wife of a tradesman is hardly known from the lady of a Peer. Dissipation, extravagance, and even debauchery have taken place of activity, prudence, and frugality; that instead of acquiring independent fortunes; and retiring from business with credit and honour in their advanced years we first see their names in the Gazette, and the remainder of their lives is either spent in prison, or they are left to struggle through the world without credit, under the odious appellation of a bankrupt. The last cause I would mention, is naturally the effect of the others, I mean a desperate attempt to repair a broken fortune, by engaging too deeply at gaming in the alleys. This practice has been attended with such pernicious consequences, that the

children unborn will become real sufferers through the madness of their infatuated parents. When those who have wasted their substance in riotous living, are wakened by a feeling sense of their approaching shame and misery, they generally muster up all they can procure, and at one stroke venture it all in the alleys, where, if one is successful, most commonly twenty are ruined. What I have now told you, is the result of long experience, and I doubt not but you will find too glaring proofs of it. It now remains, that I should in compliance with your request, point out some rules to be observed, in order to carry on business, both with credit, honour, and profit. But I know of no method more proper, than to act diametrically opposite to the conduct of those already mentioned.

Learn to be wise by others harm,
And you shall do full well.

Never leave that undone till to-morrow that can be performed to day.

Never trust that to either a friend or a servant which can be done by yourself.

Keep an account of every day's expence, and once, at least, every week compare your debt with your credit.

Be not over anxious in acquiring riches. Trade is solid but slow, and experience has long since convinced me, that those who are over hasty in acquiring riches, most commonly fail in their attempts, and soon find themselves real beggars: But above all, remember, that, "in vain do we rise soon or sit up late, unless our labours are crowned with divine blessings." I leave these things to your consideration, and am,

With great sincerity,
Your well-wisher, &c.

LETTER CXLII.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, concerning Prejudice.

Sir,

I was lately in company with several gentlemen, and as the conversation turned upon a variety of subjects, I was much surprised to find every one prejudiced to his own favourite opinion, without being able to assign a reason why they could so hastily take upon themselves to dogmatise with so much assurance.

Among the various errors, into which human nature is liable to fall, there are some which people of a true understanding are perfectly sensible of in themselves, yet either wanting a strength of resolution to break through what by long custom has become habitual, or being of too indolent a temper to endeavour to make an alteration, still persist to act in contradiction to the dictates of even their own reason and judgment. What we call prejudice, or prepossession, is certainly that which stands foremost in the rank of servility. It is the great ringleader of almost all the mistakes we are guilty of, whether in the sentiments of our hearts, or the conduct of our actions. As milk is the first nourishment of the body, so prejudice is the first thing given to the mind to feed upon.—No sooner does the thinking faculty begin to shew itself, than prejudice mingles with it, and spoils its operations; whatever we are either taught, or happen of ourselves to like or dislike, we, for the most part, continue to applaud or condemn to our life's end. So difficult it is to eradicate, in age, those sentiments imbited in our youth.

It is this fatal propensity which binds, as it were, our reason in chains, and will not suffer it to look abroad, or exert any of its powers; hence are our conceptions bounded;—our notions meanly narrow;—our ideas, for the most part, unjust; and our judgment shamefully led astray. The brightest rays of truth in vain shine upon our minds, when prejudice has shut our eyes against it. We are even rendered by it wholly incapable of examining any thing, and take all upon trust that it presents us with. This not only makes us liable to be guilty of injustice, ill-nature, and ill-manners.

manners to others, but also insensible of what is owing to ourselves; we run with all our might from a real and substantial good, and court an empty name, a mere nothing. We mistake infamy for renown, and ruin for advantage; in short, wherever a strong prejudice prevails, all is sure to go amiss.

What I would be understood to mean, by the word prejudice, is not that liking, or disliking, which naturally arises on the sight of any new object presented to us. As, for example, we may happen to fall into the company of two persons equally deserving, and equally strangers to us, and with neither of whom we either have, or expect to have, the least concern; yet shall we have, in spite of us, and without being able to give any reason for it, greater good wishes for the one than the other. But this is occasioned by that sympathy which nature has implanted in all created beings.

This, therefore, is what we call fancy, and very much different from prejudice, which indeed enters chiefly through the ears. When our notions of persons or things, which we of ourselves know nothing of, are guided, and our approbation, or disapprobation of them excited merely by what we are told, and which afterwards we refuse to be convinced is false, then it is that we may be said to be governed by that settled prepossession so dangerous to the world, and to our characters, interest, and happiness; for the other is light, volatile, and of little consequence.

To avoid being led away by a such a dangerous error, we should take nothing upon trust, but all upon trial. Whether in the study of the arts, or in our enquiries concerning religion, politics, or any thing else, we should sit down with a determined resolution to hear, impartially, both sides, and to be directed by that which our reason most approves. Had not some great persons divested themselves of prejudices, we had never been favoured with all those valuable improvements in experimental philosophy made of late years in different parts of Europe. After all it is no easy matter to divest ourselves of acquired prejudices; and it is a melancholy reflection, that part of our years

are spent in acquiring such fatal notions, that there is scarce time left to eradicate them.

So from the time we first begin to know,
We live and learn, but not the wiser grow;
But he who truth from falsehood wou'd discern,
Must first disrobe the mind and all unlearn;
To dispossess the child the mortal lives,
And death approaches e'er the man arrives;
Thus truth lies hid, and e'er we can explore
The glittering gem, our fleeting life is o'er. *Prior.*

I am, Sir,

Your sincere friend, &c.

LETTER CXLIV.

*From a Gentleman lately entered upon Housekeeping,
to a friend.*

Sir,

If we reflect on the nature of the human species, we shall be convinced that all mankind were originally designed by the Great Creator for social creatures; for can we imagine that man, above all other animals, is born the most indigent, helpless, and abject? Our mutual dependence on each other is, therefore, one of the first things we should know, and be convinced of; and, consequently, we ought to assist and relieve one another, and promote the happiness of every individual as far as is consistent with truth, and the dictates of right reason. Can we suppose, that the Supreme Being bestowed upon us the wonderful faculty of expressing and communicating to others our ideas by sounds, for no purpose? Is it reasonable to think that man ought to live in solitude, and expect happiness only from himself? In other parts of the creation, the wisdom of providence has done nothing in vain. The use of words was not given us to converse with brutes, for they neither understand nor return them. It is therefore evident, they were designed for the mutual intercourse of the human species; besides, the same passions are common to all men; love and hatred, hope and fear, pleasure and pain, are the same in every individual

dividual who acts conformable to his nature. This likeness in our desires must necessarily attract us, and create in us such an esteem for each other, that nothing but unnatural dispositions, or the greatest corruption, can dissolve. Let us suppose a man banished into the remotest wilderness, without the commerce, the company, or the friendship of his fellow-beings; how dismal must his condition be! He may, perhaps, find means to continue his existence by taking such animals as the desert affords, and by gathering such fruits and vegetables, as the earth spontaneously yields; but his life must be a continual scene of horror and despair; no friend to converse with; no mortal to defend him from the ravenous jaws of the savage inhabitants of the forest; no physician to administer the salutary productions of nature, when pain and sickness make their approach. In short, he would be so far from arriving at happiness, that he would scarce desire to support his existence, and even court the king of terrors, to terminate at once his sorrows with his life.

Since choice, as well as necessity and conveniency, should induce all men to unite and form societies, it is the indispensable duty of every individual to become a useful member, and contribute all in his power to promote the happiness of the whole. In order to this, before we embark in any action, we should reflect on the consequences which must naturally flow from it, by imagining it to have been already done by another; and we shall immediately be able to judge of the modes of pleasure or pain it will be to others, from the manner of its affecting ourselves. To a reasonable being nothing brings pain but vice, or pleasure but virtue. This precaution must tend to promote benevolence, friendship, and honesty among mankind; whereas the not observing it subjects us to the tyranny of our passions, to gratify which, men frequently become faithless, cruel, dishonest, and traitorous. We are convinced that men must live in societies, and, in order to live happy, it is evident, they must be virtuous, since nothing else in our power can mutually secure us; human beings are so circumstanced, that they should love, assist, and protect each other. The great end of our being is happiness; it cannot be supposed, that the Omnipotent Author of Nature intended any being should

inevi-

inevitably be miserable. Human happiness is always proportional to the perception we have of ideas or things: that is, the same object may give a higher degree of happiness to one person than to another; but no degree of human happiness can subsist without society: men, therefore, enter into societies for the mutual happiness of each other, and that every individual should enjoy the advantages resulting from such an union, by regulating all human actions by some standard of law. In childhood the laws of action naturally flow from the modes of pleasure and pain, which sensible objects impress on their tender organs. Those of men fundamentally arise from the former, but with this difference, that the reasoning faculty, now grown strong by experience, determines these things to be good or evil, in the same manner, in which we before affirmed this, or that, to be pleasure or pain. Hence it is evident, that the spring of action is the same both in the mind and in the body; for that which is evil to the mind, is, by the same rule, painful to the body; and that which is truly pleasing to the body, is also good to the mind. It is therefore evident, that the ideas of good and evil are naturally evident to the mind, by the assistance of reason. The very laws of property may be examined by these first principles of pleasure and pain. While we are infants, we are subject to the law of our senses; when we are men, to that of our reason. And, therefore, unless we abandon reason, the very characteristic of our nature, we must regulate our actions by her precepts.

Though man has a freedom of will, he is not, on that account, lawless, and at liberty to commit what outrages or violence his vicious appetites suggest. The will, as well as the appetites, are the servants of reason, and should be governed by her, as she is by her own laws; we may, therefore, rationally conclude, that men should live in perpetual obedience to some law; and, as the law of reason is the most suitable to human nature, it is, consequently, the most eligible. The immutable will of the Supreme Being is a kind of law which he has imposed upon himself: those immense orbs, which regularly move through the system of the universe, have motion and gravitation, attraction

tion and repulsion, assigned for their laws: and man has reason. And it is reasonable to think that the same œconomy runs through all the beings in nature.

From what has been said, it evidently appears, that societies are not only the source of happiness, but also absolutely necessary; and that they cannot subsist without some law. Nor should man, notwithstanding the loud demands of his passions, think himself enslaved for living under the dominion of reason, since the Great Creator himself regulates his conduct by a law, which, from the unchangeableness of his nature, has subsisted from, and will continue to, all eternity. Why then should not we strictly conform ourselves to the principles of reason? If pleasure be desirable, as most surely it is, we can only hope to obtain it by following her dictates. Those pleasures we enjoy, contrary to her precepts, always leave a sting behind them, infinitely superior to the joys we find in their possession. We should, therefore, always let reason direct our actions, and remember the golden rule of doing to others what we ourselves, in their circumstances, should desire from another. This is alone sufficient to conduct a man innocently and safely, through the journey of life, till death draws the veil, which separates this world from the world of spirits.

I am, Sir,

Yours affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXLV.

From a Lady to her Friend, whose Lover had basely left her and married another.

My dear Friend,

OUR expectation of happiness is generally so ill placed, that it is no wonder we meet with perpetual disappointments. When our choice arises from passion, we have a very blind guide that will inevitably lead us to destruction; for though love appears then gentlest, yet our affections are so much the right of our Almighty Creator, that as often as we fix them immoderately upon any of the fading objects here below, we are certainly guilty of sacrilege to the divine Good-

Goodness, which fault is commonly punished by the very thing we doat on. This, I doubt not, has been your case, and not yours alone; for, soon or late, few escape that mischief, especially amongt our weaker sex, whose tender nature leaves them most exposed to ruin; and though they see others shipwrecked before their eyes, will yet venture out to sea on the same bottom, insensible of danger, till they perish, and often fall unpitied.

Men have a thousand advantages over us, but in the affair of courtship they add cunning to all their other accomplishments, and are as zealous to deceive, as if their lives would be made happy by the cheat. However, they will find it a sad mistake at last, if perjury is to be accounted for, although your false traitor, like many others, may look on that time as at a great distance. But I suppose he thinks himself excused as being more knave than fool, which title indeed is so highly due to him, that I believe none will do him such manifest wrong as to dispute it; and I am sure, the blacker he appears, the greater reason you have to bless that Providence, which permitted him to break the contract; for without doubt, he that proved so ill a lover to the best of mistresses, would have made an intolerable husband to the best of wives; and ill usage would have cost you more than his infidelity. I am sensible a heart so generous and constant as yours, cannot easily efface the deep impression he has made in it; that must be the work of time, with God's assistance, which I hope will never fail you. I do assure you, I am deeply touched with every thing that concerns you, nor is it without great regret, that I submit to my unhappy circumstances detaining me from being the companion of your melancholy hours, which I should endeavour with all my power to divert.

You say it is a daily aggravation to your trouble, to think you suffered yourself to be so easily imposed on; but that, as I told you before, is our common fate, although all impostors are not equally inducious to be wicked; and you ought not to condemn your own judgment, for want of sagacity to discover a cheat, as it would be to arraign the conduct of almost all the human race.

Pardon me, dear madam, for troubling you so far. Indeed I might have told you at first what I must men-

sion now, and what you know already, that he only can give us comfort whom we seldom regard but when we are driven to it by necessity. Solomon, who had tried all the alluring charms of love and beauty, whose quality and riches gave him an opportunity to gratify every inclination, without any bounds to his wishes, could call them all, "Vanity and vexation of spirit." It is no wonder, then, if every one of us discover the same truth to our own cost. Let us, therefore, resolve as much as we can to submit our wills to the will of our heavenly Father, who sees all our actions, and has so decreed, that our way to everlasting happiness should be through the wilderness of affliction.

I am, dear Madam,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER CXLVI.

On Sickness, from a Lady to her Friend lately recovered from a dangerous Illness.

Madam,

AFTER so long and so strict a friendship as has been inviolably preserved betwixt us, I hope it is not necessary for me to assure you how eagerly I wished to spend the summer at your house; but wherever I am my heart is entirely yours, that heart which, by a thousand obligations, is tied for ever to you. I know your husband and mother's tenderness would render my care almost unnecessary, and indeed my present desire to see you since your recovery, is to know the state of your health from my own observation, rather than from the reports of others, lest they should flatter me, in pity to my trembling expectations.

Whilst we continue in this world, we are subject to a variety of afflictions, and when God sees fit to lay us under severer afflictions either of body or mind, we are obliged to submit with a becoming resignation; but alas! in cases of that nature we are but miserable comforters to each other. Riches and honours, as tempting as they appear to the greatest votaries when well, yet in sickness, if they are accompanied with their usual train of visitors, instead of doing us good

by

by gratifying our ambition, they help to foment the disorder without ever producing a cure. As crowned heads are no more exempt from the sword of the destroying angel, than the pooreſt beggars, how little ought we to value grandeur, which can give us no assistance in our extremities. A down bed is not a better insurer of sleep in such a case, than a heap of straw; and a king that groans under the agonies of an incurable disease, is ſoon made ſensible that it takes its comiſſion from a higher power than his own.

Sickness multiplies all our grievances, and the weakness of the body has ſuch an effect upon the mind, that it sinks under these troubles that would not move it at another time; but our judgment decaying with us, we ſhall too ſoon find its place occupied by wild chimeras of our own fancy, and ſtarrele every moment at giants of our own invention; every hafy word affrights, and every whisper gives us an alarm; nay, ſometimes we are ſo unjust as to charge our beſt friends with want of love and respect, when they have toiled about us, to a degree that we cannot mention without blushing at our own ingratitude; and when the wan' of ability to help ourſelves, forces us to become burthenſome to others, instead of excusing the trouble, we are too apt to increase their uneaſineſſ by continual fretting. This is the common method which the ſick uſe to afflict and confule their brains. Mourning over our miſery is indeed ſo very natural, that of ourſelves we cannot forbear it, though we know it leads us to doubt of the goodness of that God, whose mercies are daily new unto us.

A disturbed conſcience is certainly the worl' circumſtance that can beſal a ſick person, and I heartily beg of God to keep you and all others from falling into it; that we may never have the leaſt diſtruct of our ſalva‐tion through Jesus Christ, nor preſume groundleſſly upon his merits, without lamenting and forſaking our fins. But your life hitherto has been ſo ſtrictly pious, that I do not in the leaſt apprehend you want a ſummons from me to look up to him who is the author and finisher of your faith, and to call on him in all your diſtresses. But it is with the greatest pleasure I hear of your unfeigned devotion, even in the midſt of your fevere afflictions, and that you have retained your uſual ſerenity of mind under all your grievous tortures,

without repining at the will of your heavenly father, who has so ordered that the road to Canaan should be through the wilderness.

All this sedate frame of yours being considered, it may seem impertinent in me to trouble you, but I have been intensibly led into it from the remembrance of unhappy events to which I was lately witness; I mean some who, instead of submitting patiently to the hand of God, were so totally lost to all sense of duty as to call the Almighty unjust. I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you, and am

Your sincere Friend, &c.

L E T T E R C X L V I I .

From a Gentleman to his Friend in distressed Circumstances, who had endeavoured to conceal his Poverty.

Dear Sir,

I AM extreme'y concerned to find you have so ill an opinion of me, as to hide your misfortunes, and let me hear of them from another hand. I know not how to interpret your conduct, as it makes me fear you never esteemed my friendship, if you could imagine that any alteration in your circumstances should ever be able to change my love. I had a different opinion of our mutual obligations to each other, and should have thought it an injury to your generous nature had I concealed any thing concerning myself from you, though it might have lessened me in your esteem. I hoped till now you had put the same confidence in me, who had nothing to recommend me to your favour, but plain sincerity of soul, and whose sole design was, to promote the happiness of my friend.

I dare not quarrel with you now lest you should consider me as taking the advantage of you in your present distress, and induce you to break off a correspondence as dear to me as ever; and this leads me to say something of real friendship in general. Real friendship is not confined to any station in life; it is common in the meanest cottage, and has even sometimes been found in the palace. Simplicity of manners, and integrity in all our actions, naturally leads us

us to expect sincerity in the conduct of those with whom we are any way connected. The imperfections incident to human nature are so numerous, that we are solicitous of finding some person to whom we can unbosom our minds, and lay open the inmost recesses of our hearts. A real friend, in order to preserve the character he has assumed, will, in the first place, endeavour to discharge every duty incumbent upon him to all his fellow-creatures. But still there is something wanting, and although we may be philanthropists in general, yet we like to place our affections on one particular object.

Why, my friend, have any suspicion of my sincerity? Why did you conceal your distress from me? Friendship is of too sacred a nature to be trifled with, and the man who does not act consistent with his professions, prostitutes that amiable appellation. No mental reservation can be used in friendship, for wherever that happens there is some doubt of sincerity, which, for the most part, ends either in a total indifference, or which is infinitely worse, an absolute hatred. I am sorry to say that there are few people who either know or value the blessings of friendship: if they did, they would not upon every frivolous occasion find fault with the conduct of their fellow creatures.

At present, my dear friend, let my purse (however empty) be at your service, but let it never be more open than my heart. Conceal nothing from me, and all I have is yours. We were once friends, let us only remain so. Let me hear an account from you of your present circumstances, and my last shilling shall be spent in your service. Let the sincerity of my friendship be estimated only according to my actions, and if it shall appear that I have acted inconsistent with the sacred name of friendship, let me ever be blotted out of your memory.

I am, Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER CXLVIII.

The following most charming and affectionate Letter, universally admired, was written by Mr Pope, to the Bishop of Rochester, about a month before his banishment.

ONCE more I write to you, as I promised, and this once I fear will be the last; the curtain will soon be drawn between my friend and me, and nothing left but to wish you a long good night; may you enjoy a state of repose in this life, not unlike that sleep of the soul which some have believed is to succeed it, where we lie utterly forgetful of that world from which we are gone, and ripening for that to which we are to go. If you retain any memory of the past, let it only imagine to you what has pleased you best; sometimes present a dream of an absent friend, or bring you back an agreeable conversation. But upon the whole, I hope you will think less of the time past than of the future; as the former has been less kind to you than the latter infallibly will be. Do not envy the world in your studies; they will tend to the benefit of men, against whom you can have no complaint, I mean of all posterity: And perhaps at your time of life, nothing else is worth your care. What is every year of a wise man's life, but a censure or critic on the past? Those whose date is the shortest, live long enough to laugh at one half of it: The boy despises the infant, the man the boy, the philosopher both, and the christian all. You may now begin to think your manhood was too much a puerility; and you will never suffer your age to be but a second infancy. The toys and baubles of your childhood, are hardly now more below you, than those toys of our riper and our declining years, the drums and rattles of ambition, and the dirt and bubbles of avarice. At this time, when you are cut off from a little society, and made a citizen of the world at large, you should bend your talents not to serve a party, or a few, but all mankind. Your genius should mount above that mist, in which its participation and neighbourhood with earth hath long involved it: To shine abroad and to Heaven, ought to be the business and the glory of your present situation. Remember it was at such a time that the greatest lights

of antiquity dazzled and blazed the most; in their retreat, in their exile, or in their death: But why do I talk of dazzling or blazing? it was then that they did good, that they gave light, and that they became guiders to mankind.

Those aims alone are worthy of spirits truly great, and such I therefore hope will be yours. Resentment indeed may remain, and perhaps cannot be quite extinguished in the noblest minds; but revenge will never harbour there: Higher principles than those of the first and better principles than those of the latter, will infallibly influence men whose thoughts and whose hearts are enlarged, and cause them to prefer the whole to any part of mankind, especially to so small a part as one's single self.

Believe me, my Lord, I look upon you as a spirit entered into another life, as one just upon the edge of immortality, where the passions and affections must be much more exalted, and where you ought to despise all little views, and all mean retrospects. Nothing is worth your looking back; and therefore look forward, and make (as you can) the world look after you: But take care, that it be not with pity, but with esteem and admiration.

I am, with the greatest sincerity, and passion for our fame as well as happiness.

Yours, &c.

C O M M O N F O R M S

A N D

P E T I T I O N S.

A Letter of License.

TO all whom these presents shall come. We whose hands and seals are hereunder set, creditors of George Wilson, of the parish of Saint Luke, Old-street, in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, send greeting. Whereas the said George Wilson, on the day of the date hereof, is indebted to us the said creditors in several sums of money, and not having wherewithal to satisfy us at present, we and every one of us are willing to grant unto him the said George Wilson time for the payment of the same. Now know ye that we the said creditors, and every one of us for his own proper debt, part and portion, severally have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said George Wilson free licence, liberty and leave, as in us severally lies, sure and safe conduct to come, go, and resort about his business and affairs at his free will and pleasure from the day of the date hereof, unto the full end and term of six months next ensuing, without any lett, suit, trouble, arrest, attachment, or other disturbance whatsoever, to be offered or done unto him the said George Wilson, his wares, goods, money, or merchandizes whatsoever, by us or any of us, the executors, administrators, partners or assigns of us, or any of us, by our or any of our means or procurement. And we the said creditors, severally and respectively, each for himself and herself, his and her executors and administrators, severally and apart, and not jointly, covenant, grant, and agree to and with the said George Wilson, that if any trouble, vexation, wrong, damage or hindrance shall be done unto him the said George Wilson, either in his body, goods or chattels, within the said term of six months from the date of these presents, by us, or any of us,

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contrary to the tenor and effect of this our licence, that then be the said George Wilson, his executors and administrators, shall be, by virtue of these presents, acquitted and discharged against him, or any of us, by whom and by whose means he shall, contrary to the true meaning of these presents, be arrested, troubled, imprisoned, attached, grieved, or damnified, of all manner of actions, suits, quarrels, debts, duties and demands, either in law or in equity whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of these presents. In witness whereof we the said creditors have hereunto set our hands and seals the twenty-sixth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and —

Sealed and delivered, being first duly }
Stamp, in the presence of us }

A Letter of Attorney.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I Charles Johnson, of Yarmouth, in the county of Norfolk, weaver, (for divers considerations and good causes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, constitute and appoint, my trusty friend David Williams, of Norwich, in the county aforesaid, gentleman, my true and lawful attorney, for me, in my name, and to my use, to ask, demand, recover, or receive, of and from A. B. of Thetford, in the said county, the sum of sixty pounds; giving, and by these presents granting to my said attorney, my sole and full power and authority, to take, pursue, and follow such legal courses, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining of the same, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and upon the receipt of the same, acquittances and other sufficient discharges, for me, and in my name, to make, sign, seal, and deliver; as also, one more attorney or attorneys under him to substitute or appoint, and again at his pleasure to revoke; and further to do, perform, and finish for me, and in my name, all and singular thing and things which shall or may be necessary, and entirely, as I the said Charles Johnson, in my own person, ought or could do in and about

about the same: ratifying, allowing, and confirming, whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, in and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents: In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the first day of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George III. by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and ——

CHARLES JOHNSON.

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

A Letter of Attorney by a Seaman; or a Will and Power.

K NOW all men by these presents, that I John Forecastle, mariner, now belonging to his Majesty's ship the Terrible, for divers good causes and considerations me thereunto moving, have, and by these presents do make my trusty friend (or beloved wife) Thomas Trusty, citizen and baker of London, my true and lawful Attorney, for me, and in my name, and for my use, to ask, demand, and receive, of and from the right honourable the treasurer, or paymaster of his Majesty's navy, and commissioners of prize-money, and whom else it may concern, as well all such wages, and pay, bounty money, prize-money, and all other sum and sums of money whatsoever, as now are, and which hereafter shall and may be due or payable unto me; also all such pensions, salaries, smart-money, or all other money or things whatsoever, which now are, or at any time hereafter shall or may be due unto me, for my service, or otherwise, in any one of his Majesty's ship or ships of war, frigates or vessels: Giving and hereby granting, unto my said Attorney, full and whole power, to take, pursue, and follow, such legal ways and courses, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining and discharging upon the said sum or sums of money, or any of them, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and I do hereby ratify, allow, and confirm, all and whatever my said Attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to

to be done, in and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this second day of November, one thousand seven hundred and

JOHN FORECASTLE.

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

A B O N D.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I William Thompson, in the parish of St Giles, in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to George Wilson, of the said county of Middlesex, Esq; in the penal sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said George Wilson, 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 by these presents, sealed with my seal. Dated this second day of December, in the 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 William Thompson, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the above-named George Wilson, 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 stampt. }

A common Mortgage of an Estate.

THIS Indenture made between A. B. of, &c. of the one part, and C. D. &c. of the other part, witnesseth, that the said A. B. for and in consideration

of

of the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, to him in hand paid by the said C. D. the receipt whereof the said A. B. doth hereby confess and acknowledge; he the said A. B. hath granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents doth grant, &c. unto the said C. D. all that messuage or tenement, &c. and all those lands, &c. situate, &c. and also the reversion and reverions, remainder and remainders, rents and services of all and singular the said premises above mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances; to have and to hold the said messuage or tenement, lands and premises above-mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, for and during the term of five hundred years, next and immediately ensuing and following, and fully to be complete and ended: yielding and paying therefore yearly, during the said term, one pepper-corn, in and upon the feast of St Michael the Archangel, if demanded. Provided always, and upon condition, that if the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns, the full sum of one hundred and five pounds of lawful British money in and upon the day, &c. without any deduction or abatement for taxes, assessments, or any other impositions whatsoever, either ordinary or extraordinary; that then and from thenceforth these presents, and every thing herein contained, shall cease, determine, and be void; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding: and the said A. B. for himself, his heirs, and assigns, doth covenant and grant to and with the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns, that he the said A. B. his heirs or assigns, shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, or assigns, the said full sum of one hundred and five pounds, in and upon the said day, &c. which will be in the said year, &c. without any deduction as aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents; and also, that he the said C. D. his

executors, administrators, and assigns, shall and may at all times, after default shall be made in performance of the proviso or condition herein-contained, peaceably and quietly enter into, have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy all and singular the said messuage or tenement, lands and premises above-mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, for and during the residue and remainder of the said term of five hundred years hereby granted, which shall be then to come and unexpired, without the let, trouble, hindrance, molestation, interruption, and denial of him the said A. B. his heirs and assigns, and of all and every other person or persons, whatsoever: and further, that he the said A. B. and his heirs, and all and every other person or persons, and his and their heirs, any thing having or claiming in the said messuage or tenement and premises above mentioned, or any part thereof, shall and will at any time or times, after default shall be made in performance of the proviso or condition herein-contained, make, do, and execute, or cause or procure to be made, done, and executed, all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable grants, acts, and assurances in the law whatsoever, for the further, better, and more perfect granting and assuring of all and singular the said premises above-mentioned, with the appurtenances, unto the said C. D. to hold to him the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns, for and during all the rest and residue of the said term of five hundred years above-granted, which shall be then to come and unexpired, as by the said C. D. his executors, administrators, or assigns, or his or their counsel learned in the law shall be reasonably devised, or advised and required. And lastly, it is covenanted, granted, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the said parties of these presents, and the true meaning hereof also is, and it is hereby so declared, that until default shall be made in performance of the proviso or condition, herein-contained, he, the said A. B. his heirs and assigns, shall and may hold and enjoy all and singular the said premises above mentioned, and receive and take the rents, issues, and profits thereof, to his and their own proper use and benefit; any thing herein-contained to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding: In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this third day of June,

Q

in

In the _____ year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George III. by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and _____. A. B.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, }
 (being first duly stamped) }
 in the presence of us. }

A Deed of Gift.

To all people to whom these presents shall come, I George Howard do send greeting. Know ye, that I the said George Howard, of the parish of St Leonard, Shoreditch, in the county of Middlesex, gardener, for and in consideration of the love, good-will, and affection which I have and do bear towards my loving sister, Mary Page, of the same parish and county, widow, have given and granted, and by these presents do freely give and grant unto the said Mary Page, her heirs, executors, or administrators, all and singular my goods and chattels, now being in my present house, known by the name of the White Swan; of which these presents I have delivered her, the said Mary Page, 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 Mary Page, 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 tenth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and _____. ——————.

GEORGE HOWARD.

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

Note. This precedent may be extended to the giving away of cattle, corn, house, or land, if not entailed, &c. but the particulars must be named.

A General Release.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I George Austin, of London, in the county of Middlesex, grocer, have remised, released, and for ever quit claim to Richard Austin, of Brentford, in the county aforesaid, mercer, his heirs, executors, administrators, of all and all manner of action and actions, suits, bills, bonds, writings, debts, dues, duties, accompts, sum and sums of money, leases, mortgages, judgments by confession or otherwise obtained, executions, extents, quarrels, controversies, trespasses, damages, and demands whatsoever, which, by law or equity, or otherwise forever. I, the said George Austin, against the said Richard Austin ever had, and which I, my heirs, executors, administrators, shall or may claim, challenge or demand, for or by reason, means or colour of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of these presents: In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and ——————

GEORGE AUSTIN.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, }
 (being first legally stamped) }
 in the presence of us, }

* * * All the foregoing precedents must be written upon stamped paper, otherwise they will be of no effect..

A Bill of Sale of Goods.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I, A. B. of for, and in consideration of the sum of to me in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, by C. D. of the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said C. D. all the goods, household-stuff, and implements of household, and all other goods whatsoever, mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, now remaining and being in to have and to hold all and singular the goods, household stuff, and implements of household, and every of them,

them, by these presents bargained and sold unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns for ever. And I the said A. B. for myself, my executors, and administrators, all and singular of the said goods, unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns, against me the said A. B. my executors, administrators, and assigns, and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and for ever defend by these presents ; of which goods I, the said A. B. have put the said C. D. in full possession, by delivering him one silver tankard, &c. at the sealing hereof : In witness whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this twentieth day of June, in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and _____.

A. B.

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

An Indenture for an Apprentice.

THIS indenture witnesseth, that Thomas Bulkely, son of Richard Bulkely, late of Guildford, in the county of Surry, hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord put himself apprentice to Charles Jones, citizen and Linen draper of London, 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 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 licence 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

haunt alehouses, taverns, or play-houfes: 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 followerth; 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 tenth day of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George III. by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and ——————

THOMAS BULKELY,
CHARLES JONES.

WILLIAM ROBERTS, } Witnesses.
JOHN FRITH, }

Note. If an apprentice be enrolled, he cannot sue out his indenture, but upon proof of unmerciful usage, want of victuals, and other necessaries, or his master's being incapable of teaching him his trade, or not causing it so to be done at his own proper charge by others. And the same holds good in relation to a mistress. But there being no inrollment, an indenture may be sued out, without shewing cause, in any city or corporation, &c.

P E T I T I O N S.

*From a Man under Sentence of Transportation
To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.*

The most humble Petition of A. B. now a Prisoner in Newgate.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner having a sickly wife and six young helpless children to support, on the small sum of ten shillings per week, whitch your petitioner

received as wages from a wholesale linen-draper, where he lived as a porter.—That your petitioner, being some small matter in debt for his lodgings, was threatened to be turned into the street unless he made good his payment.—That your petitioner not having any friend from whom he could borrow so much, unfortunately committed the crime for which he is now in prison, by stealing one piece of cloth, which he pledged for the sum wanted, intending to redeem it and carry it again to his master's warehouse. That as soon as your petitioner was charged with the theft, he immediately confessed, and when brought to the bar pleaded guilty to the indictment. That in every other instance your petitioner's life has been altogether unblameable, and his committing the above crime was to save his wife and children from being turned out into the streets. Truly sensible of this fault, and earnestly solicitous to labour for his helpless family, he has presumed, with the greatest reverence, to present his afflicted case to your Majesty, whose heart is adorned with every royal virtue, begging that your Majesty would interpose your royal mercy, and suffer your unfortunate petitioner to spend the remainder of his life in this his native country, to bring up his children useful members of society, and his whole life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

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

From the Widow of a Military Officer, soliciting for a Pension.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth;

THAT your petitioner is the widow of the deceased Major D. of the regiment of foot. That your petitioner's late husband served your Majesty faithfully and loyally above thirty years, and during that time having nothing to subsist on but his pay, and a large family to bring up, he died a few months ago, and left your petitioner utterly unprovided for,

and

and four infant daughters, exposed to all the hardships of an injurious world. That your petitioner has already applied to some of your Majesty's ministers, without ever obtaining an answer, and being destitute of every comfort, and every necessary of life, has ventured to present her petition at the foot of the throne. Her own life has been spent in discharging her domestic duties, and her husband's in venturing his life in defence of your Majesty's person and government. From your Majesty's great goodness, she has every thing to hope; and to you, as the common father of your people, she looks up with the greatest anxiety, that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to order a small annuity for her support, and to enable her to bestow on her children an education suitable to the rank of one of your Majesty's military servants.

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

For a Tide-waiter's Place in the Custom-house.

To the Right Honourable the First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up in a trade, which at present is so bad, that few hands are employed in it, and even those can scarce procure a subsistence.—That your petitioner has sought for every opportunity to obtain employment in vain, and at present is left in a very distressed condition.—That your petitioner being desirous to apply himself to some useful employment, and finding that some tide waiters are wanting at present on the river, has, with the greatest humility, presumed to beg of your Lordship to be employed as one. He is ready to produce proofs of his ability to discharge the duty of that station, and it so happy as to seem worthy of your Lordship's notice, he shall, on all occasions, observe the strictest fidelity, and make it ap-

pear

pear to the world that he has not been unworthy of your favour,

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

For a Place in the Excise.

To the Right Honourable the First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune not to be brought up to any other employment than that of a gentleman's servant, in which station he continued till last year, when he married, and was discharged from his place—That your petitioner being out of all manner of employment, and having learned the whole art and mystery of gauging, he has presumed to address himself to your Lordship for one of the present vacant places of a common exciseman, in any part of the kingdom where your Lordship shall think proper to order. His conduct has always been blameless, and his character will bear the strictest enquiry; and on all occasions he will make it his principal study to discharge every part of his duty with the utmost fidelity,

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

For a Place in the Stamp-office.

To the Right Honourable the First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has formerly lived in credit in the world, but through a variety of losses in trade, is reduced with his family to the lowest state of poverty, and destitute of the necessaries of life, and being desirous to discharge his duty as an husband and a father, he has presumed to address himself to your Lordship for one of the present vacant places of distributors in the stamp-office, and for which he can make it appear he is properly qualified, and will produce people of reputation

pulation to his character, and who (if required) will give security for his fidelity. Being fully convinced of your Lordship's readiness to relieve distressed merit, and your great humanity to every one in distress, is filled with the cheerful hopes, that his request will meet with a favourable reception, and your Lordship will reflect with pleasure, that your bounty has rescued him from misery, and enabled his family to enjoy those comforts of life to which they have long been strangers.

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

From a disabled Porter to the Post-master, to be admitted as a Letter-carrier.

To M. ——— Post master.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the business of a porter, and by extreme hard labour procured a subsistence for himself, together with a wife and four children. That your petitioner had the misfortune, one day, to fall under a load, by which two of his ribs were broken, and he was otherwise so much hurt as to be unable to carry loads for the future. That your petitioner was six months in the Infirmary, during which time his wife and family were in a starving condition, being obliged to pawn their cloaths for the common necessaries of life. That when your petitioner was discharged from the Infirmary, he considered it as a duty to look for some employment suitable to the weak state in which his misfortune had left him. That having heard that one of your messengers was dead, and being well acquainted with every part of the town, he thought himself properly qualified to act as a letter-carrier, and for that purpose has presumed to present this petition to you. That your petitioner's character will bear the strictest enquiry, and if so happy as to succeed, will give security (if demanded), and in all things act with the greatest fidelity.

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

From

From an aged Gentlewoman in distress, to a Gentleman, a distant Relation.

To J. S. Esq;

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has the honour to be nearly related to your family; your mother being my aunt. That your petitioner, whilst very young, was married to an eminent merchant in Bristol, with whom she lived happy many years. That your petitioner's husband was largely engaged in the trade to the coast of Guinea, and the West Indies. That during the late war he had shares in several ships trading to and from those ports, and in their last voyage he unfortunately forgot to insure them. That two of those ships were attacked and taken by a French privateer, which obliged your petitioner's husband to stop payment, and his creditors took out a commission of bankruptcy. That your petitioner's husband was so affected with his loss, that he soon after died with a broken heart, and left your petitioner destitute of every necessary of life. That your petitioner, confiding in your great humanity, hath presumed to address herself to you. The smallest matter either towards her immediate subsistence or future support, shall be received with the greatest thankfulness, and acknowledged with gratitude to the latest period of her life.

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

From a decayed Citizen to an opulent Alderman, who had been his Acquaintance in his Youth.

To the worshipful John Freeman, Esq; Alderman of ——.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served his apprenticeship in the city of London to an eminent grocer, and afterwards became shopman to another of the same profession. That your petitioner, having, by his industry,

try, saved some money, entered into business for himself. That having, at great expence, fitted up a shop, he sent large quantities of goods to country shop-keepers: that he was obliged to pay their notes to his creditors, and before they became due, many of those dealers became insolvent, and your petitioner was obliged to receive their notes, and make good the deficiencies. That your petitioner, after struggling to maintain his reputation as an honest man, was obliged to stop payment, and submit to the disagreeable necessity of becoming a bankrupt. That when your petitioner had obtained his certificate, he had not wherewithal to enter into trade, and a journeyman's wages was not sufficient to support his family. In circumstances so distressing, your petitioner bethought himself of making his case known to your Worship. He reflects with pleasure on the many pleasant hours he has spent in your company when in the same class at Merchant-taylors school, and if you will be pleased to interpose so far in his favour as to procure him credit, to open shop as a grocer, once more, in the place where he was originally bred to that business, and if he is so happy as to succeed, his whole conduct in future life shall be one continued act of uniform virtue.

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

From a poor Woman whose Husband was lately dead, soliciting for a weekly Pension from the Parish.

To the Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of B.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's late husband was a laborious, and industrious honest man: that he was both by birth and servitude one of your parishioners. That whilst he enjoyed his health, it was his constant practice to do every thing in his power for the support of his family: that he was lately seized with a violent fever, which, after two weeks illness, terminated in his death. That your petitioner was left entirely destitute with three helpless children: that your petitioner is willing

willing to do every thing in her power towards their support by her own labour, but that being insufficient, she has presumed to present a state of her case to you, humbly praying that a small matter may be allowed her weekly, which, with the profits arising from her labour, will enable her to bring up her children useful members of society.

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

From a working Man to the Trustees of a Charity-school in the behalf of a Boy.

To the Trustees of B.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a shoemaker: that he has followed that employment in your parish these ten years, and behaved himself soberly and honestly: that your petitioner has a large family of children, and his principal desire is to see them brought up as useful members of society: that the small sum he receives as wages for his work, is not sufficient for so beneficial a purpose; and knowing that your school is established for instructing the children of the industrious poor, he humbly prays that his son, a boy of six years of age, may be admitted, in order to qualify him for some useful employment.

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

On the end of this Board

I N I S.