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By THOMAS CHAPMAN,
Author of the Communicant's Companion.

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LETTERS

LETTERS

OF

RECOMMENDATION.

SIR,

I Have perused your Compleat Art of Letter Writing; or the Lover's best Instructor, and find it to be what you intended it, an intelligible useful thing. I heartily wish you success with it. I have not had time to procure you many Recommendations, but have shewn it to Dr. Thompson, and he speaks very well of it. If my name will give you any countenance to it, you are welcome to make use of it.

I am,

Cheapside, Sir, yours, &c.
May 26, 1783. B. CLARK.

SIR,

I Have carefully looked over your Compleat Art of Letter Writing; or Lover's best Instructor, and like it so well, that I shall for the future make use of no other; for without flattery, I think it the best extant.

I am, Sir,

Aldersgate-street, Your very humble servant,
June 25th, 1783. N. HUNT.

Some

Some Gentlemen at a Public Meeting, at Margate. gives it the following Character.

THE execution of this Compleat Art of Letter Writing; or the Lover's best Instructor, is adequate to the ample professions in its title page; which is not always the case with respect to many performances. It is but justice to Mr. Chapman to add, that this Book seems really better adapted than any other production of the kind.

SIR,

I Have carefully perused your Compleat Art of Letter Writing; or the Lover's best Instructor, and find it to be what you intended it, entirely useful, which I heartily wish you success with. I have shewn it to several of my friends, and they approve of it very much; therefore I shall esteem it a favour if you'll send me half a dozen of them by James's Bath Waggon, to make presents, and in so doing you'll greatly oblige

Your humble servant,

Bath,
Aug. 17th, 1783. R. JACKSON.

To the RECOMMENDERS.

Gentlemen,

I Return you hearty thanks for the favour of your names to this Compleat Art of Letter Writing; or the Lover's best Instructor, let me crave your further assistance in noting such real errors as you may occasionally meet with, and you will still further oblige,

Gentlemen,

Your very humble servant,

London,
Sep. 27th, 1783. J. CHAPMAN.

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

THE great utility of Epiſtolary Writing, is ſo well known, that the neceſſity of being acquainted with an art replete with ſuch advantages, is needleſs to inſiſt upon. Thoſe who are accompliſhed in it, are too happy in their knowledge to need farther information concerning its excellence. And ſuch as are unqualified to convey their ſentiments to a friend, without the aſſiſtance of a third perſon, feel their deficiency ſo ſeverely, that nothing need be ſaid to convince them, it is their intereſt to become acquainted with what is ſo neceſſary and agreeable.

Had letters been known at the beginning of the world, Epiſtolary Writing would have been as old as love and friendſhip; for as ſoon as they began to flouriſh, the verbal meſſenger was dropt, the language of the heart was committed to characters that faithfully preſerved it, ſecrecy was maintained, and ſocial inter courſe rendered more free and agreeable.

Some of the moſt ancient compoſitions were written in this manner, and the light of the goſpel was delivered by the holy Apoſtles in the Epiſtolary way.

The Romans are perfect masters of this art, as Cicero's Letters sufficiently evince; nor are the Moderns less sensible of its excellencies. Some of the finest French writers have built their fame upon Epistolary Correspondence; and the English are at present so convinced of the advantages attending this method of conveying the sentiments, that it seems to have triumphed over almost every other species of composition; the Historian has adopted it; we have the Greek, and Roman histories, as well as that of our own nation, admirably executed in letters. Almost every thing dictative, and preceptive, is delivered in this way; the Novelist finds it better adapted to his purpose, than any other mode of writing. No great Poet is without his familiar Epistle to his Friend; and the Traveller seemed lost, till he found the method of conveying his intelligence in Letter.

To conclude; Letters are the life of trade, the fuel of love, the pleasure of friendship, the food of the politician, and the entertainment of the curious.

To speak to those we love or esteem, is the greatest satisfaction we are capable of knowing, and the next is being able to converse with them by Letter.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS.

FOR

WRITING LETTERS.

IT was a just observation of the honest Quaker; that, "if a man think twice, before he speaks, "he'll speak twice the better for it." With great propriety the above may be applied to all sorts of writing, particularly the epistolary.

In letters from one relation to another, the different characters of the persons must first be considered: Thus a father in writing to a son will use a gentle authority; a son to a father will express a filial duty. And again, in friendship; the heart will dilate itself with an honest freedom; it will applaud with sincerity, and censure with modest reluctance.

In letters concerning trade, the subject matter will be constantly kept in view, and the greatest perspicuity and brevity observed by the different correspondents; and in like manner, these rules may be applied to all other subjects, and conditions in life, viz. a comprehensive idea of the subject, and an unaffected simplicity, though modesty in ex-

Nothing more need be added, only, that conſtant attendance to the above for a few months, will ſoon convince the learner, that his time has not been ſpent in vain.

Indeed an aſſiduous attention to the ſtudy of any art, even the moſt difficult, will enable the learner to ſurmount every difficulty, and writing letters to his correſpondents becomes equally eaſy as ſpeaking in company. A careful attendance to the plain and ſimple rules, will enable him to write in the language of the preſent times, and if he carefully avoids affectation, his thoughts will be clear, his ſentiments judicious, and his language plain, eaſy, ſenſible, elegant, and ſuited to the nature of the ſubject. As letters are the copies of converſation, juſt conſider what you would ſay to your friend if he was preſent, and write down the very words you would ſpeak, which will render your epiſtle unaffected, and intelligible.

THE

THE COMPLEAT ART OF LETER WRITING: OR, THE Lover's beſt Inſtructor.

LETTER I.

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 accounts have been ſettled with his creditors, and becauſe of many loſſes and bad 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 trede, and a daughter near ſeventeen, whoſe education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial ſervant, although

ſhe

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.

I am yours, &c. D. E.

LETTER II.

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 independant, there is generally ſome latent miſchief hidden under the ſpecious appearance; and this ſhould teach us occaſionally to look to the providence which ſuperintends the affairs of this lower world, and orders all for the good of its creatures. With reſpect t your two children, I have propoſed the following ſcheme for their benefit.

Let the boy think of ſome trade, to which his inclination 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 in my power done 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. R. H.

LETTER III.

From the young Gentleman to his Mother, during his Apprenticeſhip

Honoured Madam,

YOUR having retired to the country has hindered me from writing to you, ſo often as I could wiſh. Ever ſince

ſince I was bound to Mr. Anſon, he has treated me with every ſort of indulgence, and I have endeavoured to acquire the good will of all our cuſtomers. I know that you are ſo ſtraitened in your circumſtances, as not to be able to afford me pocket-money; but I have the pleaſure to tell you, that Mrs. Howard has taken care in that particular, and generouſly ſupplied me from time to time. In every part of my conduct I ſhall endeavour to act conſiſtently with the principles of virtue, and am, with the utmoſt reſpect and duty.

Your affectionate ſon, R. E.

LETTER IV.

From the young Gentlewoman to her Mother.

Honoured Mother,

IN my laſt I informed you that my worthy benefactreſs, Mrs. Howard, had been extremely ill; I have the pleaſure to aſſure you, that ſhe is now perfectly recovered. The happineſs of my preſent ſituation may be conceived, but it is not in my power to deſcribe it. After we get up in the morning, the family are called together, to return thanks to the Almighty for his preſerving them during the preceding night, and to implore his protection the remaining part of the day; afterwards we retire to breakfaſt. During the forenoon, we young ones walk into the garden, or the fields, whilſt the good lady is employed in diſpenſing medicines to her poor tenants. At one o'clock we dine, and afterwards retire to the ſummer-houſe, when each, in her turn, reads ſome part of the beſt Engliſh writers, whilſt the others are employed in needle-work. Indeed, madam, if there is really ſuch a thing as a terreſtial paradiſe in this world, it is here. I have received a letter from my brother, and am glad to hear he is ſettled in ſo good a family. I am, honoured Madam,

Your affectionate and dutiful daughter, A. E.

LETTER V.

From a Sailor at Plymouth to his Wife in London.

Dear Polly,

WE are juſt returned from a cruize againſt the Spaniards, where we have given them ſuch a drubbing, that I believe

believe the Dons will soon be glad to make peace with England. We have sunk two, and taken three of their ships, wherein is great treasure; but it will be some time before we receive our prize-money. However, I have six months wages due, and have sent you an order, by which you will receive it at the Pay-office in Broad-street. We sail again in a few days. Don't be uneasy for me, my dear, as I hope the war will soon be over, and I shall have the pleasure, once more, to see you in London, there to spend the remainder of my days.

I am your loving husband till death.

LETTER VI.

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 Clark, 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 until I have first heard from you; whatever answer you send shall be obeyed by

Your affectionate daughter

LETTER VII.

The Parent's Answer.

Dear Child,

WE received your letter by Mr. Clark, 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 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 carful 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 awhile, 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 chearfully 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,

LETTER VIII.

From a young Gentleman at a Boarding School in the Country, to his Brother, an Apprentice in London.

Dear Jackey,

LITTLE Master Billy Thompson is going to London to-morrow in the stage, and I have sent this by him to you. We are all well at school, and I have got as far as Ovid: I have likewise got through the rules of practice, of which I shall give you a better account when I come to town at the holidays. Dear brother, give my duty to my papa and mama, and tell them I long to see them; I pray for them and you every day, and I have read over the Compleat Duty of Man, which my Mama gave me. I spend an hour every day in reading Dr. Goldsmith's Roman History. Pray Jackey send me some books, for I am very fond of reading, and a pair of the newest pattern of buckles, and I shall do more for you when I leave school.

I am your loving brother.

LETTER IX.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Brother,

I Received your kind letter, and am glad to hear you are well, as also the progress you make in learning. I read your letter to your papa and mama, and they are much pleased with it. Bill Thompson dines at our house to-morrow, and he will bring you this. Your mama has sent you half a guinea, and as you are so fond of books, I have sent you Rollin's Belles Letters. Mr. Austin, our curate, says, that although all sorts of history is useful, yet he thinks you should begin with that of your own country; and he has sent you a present of Mr. Sydney's History of England, which is ornamented with a set of the most elegant copper-plates extant in this kingdom. I have sent you the buckles, and some other things which you will find sealed up in the parcel. We all beg that you will continue to persevere as you have begun, in an uniform course of virtue. It will intitle you to the favour of God, be a pleasure to your parents, and turn out to your advantage at the last.

I am, dear brother,
Yours affectionately,

LETTER X.

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 I 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 goodness, 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 advices you were so good to give me at parting,

and

and I shall endeavour to practice them 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,

LETTER XI.

The Mother's Answer.

My dear Child,

I AM glad to hear that you have got into so worthy a family. You know that we never should have parted from 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,

LETTER XII.

From a young Lady to her Father, acquainting him with the Addresses of a young Tradesman.

Honoured Sir,

MY duty obliges me to acquaint you, that a gentleman of this town, by name Wills, and by business a Linen

Draper, has made ſome overtures to my couſin Harcourt, in the way of courtſhip to me. My couſin has brought him once or twice into my company, which he could not well decline doing, becauſe he has dealings with him, and has a high opinion of him and his circumſtances. He has been ſet up three years, and has very good buſineſs, and lives in credit and faſhion. He is about twenty-ſeven years old, and a likely man enough: He ſeems not to want ſenſe or manners; and is come of a good family. He has broken his mind to me, and boaſts how well he can maintain me, but I aſſure you, Sir, I have given him no encouragement; and told him that I had no thoughts of changing my condition yet a while, and ſhould never think of it but in obedience to my parents; and I deſired him to talk no more on that ſubject to me. Yet he reſolves to perſevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and eſteem. I would not, Sir, by any means, omit to acquaint you with the beginnings of an affair that would be want of duty in me to conceal from you, and ſhew a guilt and diſobedience unworthy of the kind indulgence and affection you have always ſhewn to, Sir,

Your moſt dutiful daughter,

P. S. My humble duty to my honoured mother; to my brother and ſiſte; and reſpects to all friends. Couſin Harcourt and his wife and ſiſter, deſire their reſpects. I cannot ſpeak enough of their civility to me.

LETTER XIII.

Her Father's Anſwer on a Suppoſition that he approves not of the young Man's Addreſſes.

Dear Polly,

YOUR letter dated the 4th inſtant, I have received, wherein you acquaint me of the propoſals made to you, through your Couſin Harcourt's recommendation, by one Mr. Wills. I hope, as you aſſure me, that you have given no encouragement to him. For I by no means approve of him for your huſband. I have enquired of one of his Townſmen, who knows him and his circumſtances very well, and I am neither pleaſed with them, nor with his character; and wonder my couſin would ſo inconſiderately recommend him

him to you. Indeed I doubt not Mr. Harcourt's good intentions; but I insist upon it, that you think nothing of the matter, if you would oblige

Your indulgent Father,
T. CAREFUL.

Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins with me in the above advice. Your brother, sister, and all friends send their love and respects to you.

LETTER XIV.

A facetious young Lady to her Aunt, ridiculing her serious Lover.

Dear Aunt,

I AM extremely obliged to you for the kindness you intended me, in recommending Mr. Underhand to me for a husband; but I must be so free as to tell you, he is a man no way suitable to my inclination. I despise, 'tis true, the idle rants of romance; but am inclinable to think there may be an extreme on the other side of the question.

The first time the honest man came to see me, in the way you were pleased to put into his head, was on Sunday after sermon time. He began with telling me, what I found at my finger's ends, that it was very cold; and politely blowed upon his. I immediately perceived, that his passion for me could not keep him warm; and, in compliance to your recommendation, conducted him to the fire-side.

After he had pretty well rubbed heat into his hands, he stood up with his back to the fire, and with his hands behind him, held up his coat, that he might be warm all over; and, looking about him, asked, with the tranquility of a man a twelvemonth married, and just come off a journey, how all friends did in the country? I said, I hoped very well, but would be glad to warm my fingers. Cry mercy, Madam! And then he shuffled a little farther from the fire, and after two or three hems and a long pause——

I have heard, said he, a most excellent sermon just now, Dr. Thomas is a fine man truely: did you ever hear him, Madam? No, Sir, I generally go to my own parish church. That's right, Madam, to be sure: What was your subject to day?

day? The Pharisee and Publican, Sir. A very good one truly: Dr. Thomas would have made fine work upon that subject. His text to day was, Evil communication corrupts good manners. A good subject, Sir; I doubt not the Doctor made a fine discourse upon it. O, aye, Madam, he can't make a bad one upon any subject. I rung for the tea kettle: for thought I, we shall have all the heads of the sermon immediately.

At tea he gave me an account of the religious societies, unasked; and how many boys they had put out apprentices, and girls they had taught to knit, and sing psalms. To all which I gave a nod of approbation, and was just able to say (for I began to be horribly in the vapours) it was a very excellent charity. O, ay, Madam, said he again (for that's his word, I find) a very excellent one truly; it is snatching so many brands out of the fire. You are a contributer, Sir, I doubt not, O ay, Madam, to be sure; every good man would contribute to such a worthy charity, to be sure. No doubt, Sir, a blessing attends upon all who promote so worthy a design. O ay, Madam, no doubt, as you say: I am sure I have found it, blessed be God: and then he twang'd his nose and lifted up his eye,) as if in an ejaculation.

O, my good aunt, what a man is here for a husband? At last came the happy moment of his taking leave; for I would not ask him to stay to supper, and moreover, he talk'd of going to a lecture at St. Helen's. And then, (though I had an opportunity of saying little more than yes, and no, all the time; for he took the vapours he had put me into, for devotion or gravity, at least I believe so) he press'd my hand, look'd frightfully kind, and gave me to understand as a mark of his favour, that if, upon further conversation and enquiry into my character, he should happen to like me as well as he did from my behaviour and person; why truly, I need not fear in time of being blessed with him for my husband.

This, my good aunt, might be a mighty safe way of travelling towards the land of matrimony, as far as I know, but I cannot help wishing for a little more entertainment on our journey. I am willing to believe Mr. Slyboots, an honest man, but am, at the same time, afraid his religious turn of temper, however, in itself commendable, would better suit with a woman who centers all desert in a solemn appearance, than with, dear aunt,

Your greatly obliged kinswoman,

LET-

LETTER XV.

Her Aunt's Answer, rebuking her ludicrous turn of Mind.

Cousin DEBBY,

I AM very sorry you think Mr. Underhand so unsuitable a lover. He is a serious, sober, good man, and surely when seriousness and sobriety make a necessary part of the duty of a good husband, a good father, and a good master of a family; those characters should not be the subjects of ridicule, in persons of our sex especially, who would reap the greatest advantage from them. But he talks of the weather when he first sees you, it seems; and would you have him directly fall upon the subject of love, the moment he beheld you.

He visited you just after sermon, on Sunday. And was it so unsuitable for him to let you see that the duty of the day had made proper impressions upon him.

His turn for the promoting the religious societies, which you speak so slightly of, deserves more regard from every good person; for that same turn is a kind of security to a woman, that he who had a benevolent and religious heart could not make a man bad, or a bad husband. To put our poor boys to 'prentice, to teach girls to sing psalms, would be with very few a subject of ridicule; for he that was so willing to provide for the children of others, would take still greater care of his own.

He gave you to understand, that if he liked your character on enquiry, as well as your person and behaviour, he should think himself very happy in such a wife; for that, and I dare say, was more like his language, than what you put in his mouth; and, let me tell you, it would have been a much stranger speech, had so cautious and serious a man said, without a serious knowledge of your character, that at the first sight he was over head and ears in love with you.

I think allowing for the ridiculous turn your airy wit gives to this his first visit, that, by your own account, he acted like a prudent, a serious, and a worthy man, as he is, and like one that thought flashy compliments beneath him, in so serious an affair as this.

I think, cousin Debby, this is not only a mighty safe way, as you call it, of travelling towards the Land of Matrimony, but to the Land of happiness, with respect as well to the next world as this. And it is to be hoped, that the better enter-

tainment

tainment you ſo much wiſh for, on your journey, may not lead you too much out of your way, and divert your mind from the principal view which you ought to have to your journey's end.

In ſhort, I could rather have wiſh'd, that I could bring your mind nearer to this ſtandard, and that he ſhould bring down his to your level. And you'd have found more ſatisfaction in it than you imagine, could you have brought yourſelf a little more of that ſolemn appearance, which you treat ſo lightly, and which, I think, in him is much more than mere appearance.

Upon the whole coufin Debby, I am ſorry that a woman of virtue and morals, as you are, ſhould treat ſo ludicrouſly a ſerious and pious frame of mind, in an age, wherein good examples are ſo rare, and ſo much wanted; though at the ſame time I am far from offering to preſcribe to you in ſo arduous an affair as a huſband; and wiſh you and Mr. Slyboots too, ſince you are ſo differently diſpoſed, matched more ſuitable to each other's mindt that you are likely to be together.

For I am,

Your truly affectionate Aunt,

LETTER XVI.

From a young Gentleman in the Engliſh Factory at Liſbon, to his Siſter in London.

Dear Siſter,

I AM extremely obliged to you for the kind preſent by the laſt packet, and likewiſe to hear of your marriage with Mr. Gale. I am very well ſettled in the Factory, and the gentlemen treat me with the greateſt indulgence. We have been often told by our worthy father, that Popery is little better than Paganiſm, and I find it to be true every ſince I ſettled in this city, where ignorance, ſuperſtition, and even idolatry ſeem to reign in the moſt ſovereign manner; and that dreadful tribunal the Inquiſition, exerciſes ſuch an unlimitted authority over both the bodies and conſciences of every perſon, that none dare utter their ſentiments with freedom. We ſee little elſe in the ſtreets, beſides the proceſſions of prieſts and monks; nor any other public repreſentations, except the barbarous diverſion of bull-fights, and the horrid practice of

burning

burning those unhappy people called Hereticks, whose greatest faults is often no more than speaking a word disrespectfully of the priests, or being absent one day from Mass. Happy are you, dear sister, to live in a land of liberty; I long to see you again, but the necessity I am under of acquiring a perfect knowledge of my business, obliges me to dispense with many things, in their nature disagreeable.

I shall be glad to hear often from you, and that you may go on in a course of uninterrupted prosperity and happiness, is the constant prayer of

Your affectionate brother,

LETTER XVII.

The Sister's Answer.

Dear Brother,

I Have been laid in above two months of a son, and Mr. Gale has such respect for you, that the child is called by your name. I am glad to hear of the indulgence you receive from the gentlemen of the Factory, and I doubt not but you will continue to merit it. Good sense and good manners will always go hand-in-hand together, and never fail of procuring respect. The account you sent us of Popish superstition, is consistent with the notions I always had of it, and I sincerely bless God that I am in a country where the true religion is taught, and every sort of persecution abhorred. Your aunt Burton is lately dead, and has left you a considerable fortune, but I cannot at present mention the particulars, and indeed it is needless, as Mr. Gale will communicate them to you as soon as possible. In the mean time, dear brother, persevere in an uniform course of virtue, which alone can secure you present and future happiness. I have sent you a few presents, as also cloth for a suit of mourning for your late worthy aunt. Your time will soon be expired, when she shall be glad to see you our brother once more in London, which is the earnest prayer of

Your ever affectionate Sister,

LETTER XVIII.

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 master Cox, the linen-draper, but 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 m nthly from Mr. Williams, 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 pointed as objects of ridicule. I assure you, sir, that I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can ddsire, and the small matter which I ask as an add tion to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which, I am sure you have as much 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 being in want of money to Mr. Williams, and for that reason, have not taken any thing more than what you ordered. I hope you will not be offended at 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,

LETTER XIX.

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 Norwich, 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

you to the small matter paid by Mr. Williams; 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 kn w, that all manner of precepts are uſeleſs where the inclinations are vicious, I have left the affair mentioned in your letter, intirely 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,

LETTER XX.

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.

My worthy Friend,

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, though juſtly offended parent. I 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 every reparation in my power, but know not of any other, than by acting diametrically oppoſite to any former 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,

LETTER XXI.

The Father's Anſwer.

My dear Child,

IF ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you in 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 deſerted, all conſpire together to agitate my mind to different purpoſes; put 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,

LETTER XII.

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,

affection. If you will again receive 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,

LETTER XXIII.

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 severity 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 bo h you and him as happy as possible, all faults are from this momenr 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,

PART

PART II.

ON BUSINESS.

LETTER XXIV.

An urgent demand of Payment.

Mr.

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 by others, that is a very bad compliment to my 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 independant 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

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 by 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,

LETTER XXV.

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 days'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,

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

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 most 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 it.

I am, dear sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity,

LETTER XXVII.

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 elsewherein I can serve you. But least you 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,

LETTER XXVIII.

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 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,

LETTER XXIX.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT was never my design to oppress you. I have had 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

LETTER XXX.

From a Country Farmer on the same Occasion.

Honoured Sir,

AM extremely sorry that through a variety of unforeseen accidents I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as

 this

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 yet 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,

LETTER XXXI.

The Answer.

Mr. Hay,

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 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 the summer, and if things are as you represent them (and I doubt not but they are) you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence.

I am yours,

LETTER XXXII.

A Letter Congratulatory.

Good Sir,

I AM yet to learn the phrase and method how to write to so beneficial a friend as yourself, to whom I stand obliged more by desert than I can answer with requital, and more in affection than I am able to merit; a predicament it is into which I am easily and often (as it were) precipitated, and out of which to raise myself, fortune only hath disabled me, who with your gifts she had supplied my wants, and given me competent wealth to the freedom of my will, my honest heart should not be debtor to the hand of any, nor should my disability curb the scope of my affection; but seeing wishes are but vain, I pray you accept these my lines as a token of the renumeration of my thanks, and the acknowledgment of the love of your humble servant, J. B.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

Congratulatory Letter to a Friend, of some good fortune happened to him.

Sir,

IF you knew how excessively joyful I was at the news of your good fortune, you would make a doubt whether your own resentment might be equalled to mine or no; truly, sir, there could nothing be added to it, and besides it proceeds wholly from the friendship that long ago I vowed to your good nature which is not vulgar, since it has your desert, for the object I could say more if the excess of my gladness would give me the freedom, wherefore for the present I must suffice myself, that you remain assured, how the contentment that I take can be equalled by nothing but the passion which I have to your service, as being

Sir,

Your very humble servant, W. P.

LETTER XXXIV.

Another.

Sir,

THE news of your promotion into that charge, which you wished for so long, hath added such contentment and satisfaction to my thoughts, that I am able to express but one part of the joy which reigns in me, I trouble not myself to persuade you to it, by a long discourse; your own merit (supplying the defect of my eloquence) will give a far better testimony than my pen is able, which has in charge at this present only to put you in mind, that I am always according to my want,

Sir,

Your humble servant,

LETTER XXXV.

From a Merchant in London, to the Master of a College, recommending his Son to his Care as a Pupil.

Rev. Sir, *London, May* 28, 1788.

THE opinion I have long had of your abilities as a scholar, your behaviour as a gentleman, and piety as a

Christian, encourages me to solicit your kind assistance in an affair of very great importance.

My son James has finished his grammatical studies in Merchant Taylor's School, and is very desirous of being entered as a commoner in your university. The variety of business which I have on my hands, requires my constant residence in London; but being willing to discharge my duty as a father, I know not any gentleman in Cambridge, to whose fidelity I could so readily trust, as yourself; and, if you approve this, the youth shall be sent on the return of your answer. He shall be left entirely to your direction, and I doubt not but you will treat him with the same tenderness as if he was your own.

I am, Sir, D. A.

LETTER XXXVI.

The Doctor's Answer.

Sir

I Received your's by this days post; and am extremely pleased with your resolution of giving your son a liberal education. My long residence in this seat of learning, has furnished me with many opportunities of studying the different passions and capacities of youth. Our term begins next week, and if you please to send the young gentleman you may rest assured to his being constantly under my own direction, and the greatest care taken both of his studies and morals.

Cambridge, June 9, 1788. I am, Sir, A. B.

LETTER XXXVII.

From the young Gentleman to his Father.

Honoured Sir,

AFTER entreating you to make acceptable my duty to my mother, and love to my sisters, I embrace this opportunity of letting you know how happily I am settled in the family of the worthy Doctor. The good Gentleman, and his

his amiable lady, do every thing in their power to make my life agreeable during the intervals of my attendance on the public lectures. The Doctor has begun to teach me geometry, I hope soon to be able to make some progress in that useful science.

I have endeavoured to be as good an œconomist as possible, but at present am obliged to purchase several books; I know your tenderness and generosity, and doubt not of hearing from you soon.

I am, Sir, your affectionate and dutful son,

LETTER XXXVIII.

The Father's Answer.

Dear James,

I Received your letter; and am greatly pleased to hear of the progress you make in your studies, as well as your agreeable situation. I know the Doctor is a worthy man, and if your behaviour continues consistent with the duties of morality, you may be assured of his treating you with the same tenderness as if you were his own son.

I am your affectionate father,

LETTER XXXIX.

Sir,

I AM by so many obligations yours, that the only want of occasion to give testimony of it, breeds all my discontents. Esteeming myself unfortunate in nothing so much as that the passion which carries me to your service, proves as unprofitable as extreme. Which forceth me to have recourse to intreaty, beseeching you to honour me with your commands, that (other means failing) my obedience may oblige you to believe that I am,

Sir,

Your humble servant,

LET-

LETTER XL.

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 affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expence of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To your, 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,

LETTER XLI.

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,

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 one 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.

I am,

Your sincere well wisher,

LETTER XLII.

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 the 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,

LETTER XLIII.

The Answer.

Dear 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

your credit might have been greatly affected by fuch an unneceffary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingneis to reveal the ftate of your affairs, and fhall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpofe have returned the others, not doubting but you will fend me the money at the time promifed, wh ch will greatly oblige.

I am, Sir, your affectionate friend,

LETTER XLIV.

From a Merchant's Clerk in London, to his Mafter in the Country

Sir,

OUR not hearing from you thefe three weeks has made us very uneafy, but ftill we hope you are all well. The bufinefs has been carried on in the fame manner in which you left it; but yefterday an order came from New York for goods to the amount of five thoufand pounds and upwards. You know the American credit, and therefore I would not do any thing till I heard from yourfelf. If you pleafe to write by the next poft I fhall abide by your directions, and every thing fhall be conducted by your order. We would not wifh you to return before your health is fully re-eftablifhed, although we long to fee you every day. All the family are well, and I am,

Your obedient faithful fervant,

LETTER XLV.

The Anfwer.

Mr. Watfon,

YOURS I received this day, and am pleafed to hear that my bufinefs fucceeds fo 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 perfectly re-eftablifhed, but I hope it will be fo in a fhort time. Concerning the American order I am extremely glad to hear of it, not only on my own account,

count, but alſo of trade in general. Their credit to be ſure is long, but I would rather truſt to 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 compleated 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,

LETTER XLVI.

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. Cannon, grocer, in the Strand. I have been a little above two years out of my time, which was ſpent in Mr. Cannon's ſervice, and the greateſt part of my wages have been given to ſupport an aged mother confined to a ſick bed. Mr. Cannon 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, 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 in the hands of your banker. I ſhall be as frugal and induſtrious as poſſible, and the whole of my time ſhall be employed in the greateſt 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,

LETTER XLVII.

The Gentleman's Anſwer.

Sir,

I Have juſt received your's, and although I am much indiſpoſed with the gout, yet could not heſitate one moment in ſending an anſwer. There is ſuch an appearance of honeſty, together with ſuch an unaffected ſimplicity runs thro' 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 buſineſs. 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 the filial duty to an aged parent, and while you continue to act conſiſtently with the principles, and regulate your conduct by the practice of virtue, you will have great reaſon to expect the divine bleſſing of 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 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 that it is generally owing to ſuch as 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

concerning your integrity, yet the beſt of men cannot be too often reminded of their duty.

I am, Sir, your ſincere well-wiſher,

LETTER XLVIII.

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

Sir,

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 ten ſhillings in the pound of the effects of Mr. Silk, the Linen Draper, at Brighton, 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 Mancheſter, 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,

LETTER XLIX.

The Maſter's Anſwer.

Mr. Goodman,

I Received yours, dated the 5th inſtant at Liverpool, 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 Mancheſter, I ſhall take this opportunity of intruſting you with an

affair of importance. There is daily expected at Briſtol, the ſhip Nancy, Captain Brown, 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 L.

From a Country Shop-keeper, 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 a conſiderable expence. Relying therefore on your 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 as 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,

LET-

LETTER LI.

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 of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Bath 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.

PART

PART III.

On Love, Courtship, and Marriage.

LETTER LII.

To a Lady, desiring her Love.

Madam,

I AM bold, though a stranger, to make these lines a messenger at this present of my good meaning towards you; wherein I go not about my pretence of a most entire and hearty good will, which I profess to bear you, to make present surmise thereupon, that on so bare an assertion you should immediately credit me, I prize your worthiness at a far greater value, and weigh your good allowance so much, as I only desire by your favourable liking I may entreat to have access to you, not doubting but by being in your presence, I shall do sufficiently by apparent proof maintain the efficacy of that I now protest, and give you so good occasion to think well of me, as you shall have no reason to repent, that upon so honest and loving request you have condescended to my entreaty: whose health and prosperity tendering as mine own, I send you with my letter a token of that great affection I bear you, which I pray you most heartily to accept of and wear for me. And ever so to continue,

Yours if you please to accept of me.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOUR message is to me as strange as yourself, who are unto me a stranger, and what your good meaning unto me is. I know not, for giving of credit to your assertion as you seem not to challenge it, so was I never of myself so hasty to do it, having often times been taught, that of fairest speeches ensue the foulest actions; I cannot condemn your purpose, because I intend the best of your dealings, and howbeit I am in no point so restrained but that in all reasonable sort, access may be granted, so when you shall by further notice make appear that with modesty I may do it, I shall be willing so far as my years and present being may minister occasion in any thankful requital that may be, to yield myself unto you, till which time I return your token again, and my hearty thanks unto you by the bearer.

Your friend as far as one unacquainted may be,

LETTER LIV.

To a beautiful Lady whom he had long been in Love with.

Fairest of Ladies.

HOW impossible is it to keep heat from fire, it being the very nature of the element, I refer to your best judgment, and how near a spirit of that nature is the love of the heart kindled by the eye of beauty, I leave to your kindness to consider; since then such is the sort of true love, as cannot be so smothered in silence, but that it must break out in words and actions, either to gain comfort, or suffer death, pardon (fair beauty) the patient that in anguish feeleth ease, and deny not your help in the excellency of the cure; your beauty hath wounded me, your excellent features, your comely gesture, your sweet behaviour, have all concurred to make me unhappy unless your hand helps me, and though the hurt be more felt than seen, yet is it not deadly if you be kind, loath I am to be a beggar without desert, and yet love will stoop a high spirit, which by the bond of due honour hath sworn me your true servant, in which title, under heaven,

shall

ſhall be my heart's greateſt honour; and in the honour of whoſe favour ſhall be the height of my worldly happineſs, in hope whereof, praying to the higheſt power in the heavens to bleſs you with all felicity on earth, I reſt.

Yours devoted and not to be removed,

LETTER LV.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

HOW eaſy is it to quench a fire in its firſt kindling experience can deliver; in the firſt diverſity of heats, love being not the leaſt that is like to do much hurt, I wiſh you to take order with your wits, leaſt it bring your brain to an ill temper; kindneſs without care, may breed care without comfort. And therefore in placing your affections, be not too far from diſcretion, leſt the perſuaſion of ſelf-will be an abuſe of a better ſenſe. If I had ſkill in phyſic, I would preſcribe you help for your diſeaſe, but being a ſimple woman, you muſt have patience with my plainneſs, who not knowing how to do you good, and unwilling to wiſh you hurt, leaving you to a better Paradiſe than in the torment of an idle paſſion, I reſt in what I may.

Yours as kindly as I find cauſe,

LETTER LVI.

From a young Gentleman to a Lady he had ſeen in Public.

Madam,

PErhaps you will not be ſurpriſed to receive a letter from a perſon who is unknown to you, when you reflect how likely ſo charming a face may be to create impertinence; and I perſuade myſelf that when you remember where you ſat laſt night at the play-houſe, you will not need to be told this come from the perſon juſt before you.

In the firſt place, madam, I aſk pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing this letter; but after this I beg leave to tell,

that

that my thoughts are honourable and to inform you who I am, I shall not pretend to be any better. I keep a shop in Henrietta-Street, and though but two years in trade, I have tolerabl custom. I do not dobut but it will encrease, and I shall be able to do something for my family, If your inclinations are not engaged, I should be very proud of the honour of waiting on you; and in the mean time, if you please to desire any friend to ask my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not prejudice you against,

Madam, your most humble servant,

D. Lovesick.

LETTER LVII.

From a Relation of the Lady, in answer to the last.

Sir,

A Letter which you wrote to Miss Maria Cole, has come into my hands; she is a relation of mine, and is a very good girl; and I dare say you will not think the worse of her for consulting her friends in such an affair as that you wrote about, besides a woman could not well answer such a letter herself, unless it was with a full refusal, and that would have been wrong to have done until she knew something of the person that wrote it; and as wrong to have encourage him.

You seem very sincere and open in your designs; and as you gave permission to enquire about you amoung your neighbours, I being her nearest friend did that for her. I have heard a very good account of you, and from all that I see, you may be suitable to one another. She has some fortune; and I shall tell you farther, that she took notice of you at the play, and does not seem at all disinclined to think favourably of you.

I am with respect, Sir,

Your friend and servant,

LETTER LVIII.

From a Maid Servant in London, acquainting her Parents in the Country with a Proposal of Marriage.

Honoured Father and Mother,

SERVICE, you are sensible, is no inheritance, and tho' I have no distaste to the place I have now been in for these five years past; yet methinks I should be glad to settle in the world, and live free from dependance, in case that should be my happy lot. I have now addresses made to me by one Mr. Meanwell, a freeman of the city, in a reputable way of business He has lived in the neighbourhood many years, and has the general character of a very sober diligent man, and an excellent artist in his profession, which is that of an upholder, my master and mistress, by whom I flatter myself I am well beloved, and who wish me well, persuade me very strenuously to embrace the offer; neither am I myself any ways averse to such a sudden change of my condition. However, I have suspended my answer, till I can hear from you. If therefore you approve of his proposal or not (which I have sent you inclosed) let me hear from you in a post or two, and I will give you an answer without farther hesitation. Be assured, however, that notwithstanding he has but little to expect, either from me or any of my friends, as I have long since taken the freedom to tell him the truth; yet I will not absolutely conclude on any thing in his favour, till I have your joint approbation; for I am determined ever to subscribe myself,

Your dutiful daughter,

LETTER LIX.

The Parent's Answer.

Dear Jenny,

YOUR mother and I thank you for your dutiful application to us in a concern of so great moment. All we can do is, to beg of God to bless you and direct you in this your intended settlement. As we live at too great a distance to pay you a personal visit, we shall freely submit the conduct of the whole affair to your own prudence and discretion. You are

aretold enough to make choice for yourself, and 'tis evident, by your precautions, that you have taken it into your serious consideration. As you are so perfectly well satisfied with your lover's character; as your master and mistress seem to confirm it; and as you have a fair prospect of success by your joint endeavours; we hereby give you both our blessings, and free consents. All that we are sorry for is, that we can make your intended husband no suitable return. Let us know, however, when your marriage shall be actually consummated. and we will strain a little in your favour. We will contribute at least something towards house keeping. Pray present our love and respects to him, tho' unknown. All your relations here join in their good wishes for you well doing; and we think ourselves the sooner you are settled the better. We are,

Your truly loving father and mother,

J. and R. H.

LETTER LX.

From the same to her Parents, informing them of the Consummation of her Marriage.

Honoured Father and Mother,

THIS comes to inform you, that Mr. Meanwell and I am actually man and wife; but that, at his house and shop are not yet perfectly fitted up to his satisfaction, I shall continue for about three weeks or a month with my good master and mistress, till it will suit with his convenience to take me home. They are so well pleased with my settlement that they have made me a voluntary present of five guineas towards house-keeping; whet small matter of money I have saved in my service, Mr. Meanwell has given me for pin money as he calls it. I had no thoughts of concluding this match so soon as I have done, but when I produced your answer to the last, he would never let me rest till I added my own consent to yours. I hope I shall have no occasion to repent of my compliance with his passion for me, since his intentions I dare say, were strictly honourable. He presents his duty to you both, though unknown, and joins with me in desiring you to put yourselves to no manner of inconvenience, out of any natural love and affection for me; since he has assured me,

and has ordered me to tell you so, that he doubts not but to be able, through his own industry and the blessings of God on his endeavours, to maintain me very well, and permit me to make as good an appearance as any of his neighbours wives that have any good œconomy; he desires I should always go neat and decent, but not to affect, as too many young wives do, dressing in all the colours of the rainbow. In a word, I have a fair prospect of being happy, and shall make it my study to make him so; with your joint prayers for the continuance of our love, will be a means to make us more so. Without any farther ceremony, therefore, we shall subscribe ourselves,

Your most dutiful son and daughter,

J. and H. Meanwell.

LETTER LXI.

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 one 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. 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,

LET-

LETTER LXII.

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

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 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 here was polite without affectation, and an air of sincerity appeared in all he said. With respect to the subject he writes of, I will give you my own thoughts, and delay sending an answer until I have had your opinion.

I am at least a dozen 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 my hand to the first worthy person who offers. Indeed I have another reason for entering in the marriage state, and that is, I would chuse, as I advance 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 inconveniencies. But after all, I will be directed by you, as my 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,

LETTER LXIII.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Sister,

I AM glad to hear of your prudence in not being over hasty in an affair of so 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

are what I much approve of, and it will give me great pleasure to promote your interest and happiness as far as I am able. I have enquired concerning Mr. Martin, 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 precarous than commerce, and the merchant who to day has unlimited credit, may be to-morrow in the Gazettee. 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. These (dear sister) are my sentiments concerning this affair; but remember I leave it intirely to yourself, not doubting but you will proceed with the same prudence you have begun.

I am your affectionate brother,

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

LETTER LXIV.

From the Lady to Mr. Martin.

Sir,

I Received your letter, and the reason for delaying an answer was, that I wanted first to consult my brother, whose opinion 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 varieties of unforeseen accidents daily happening in the world, and all conspiring together to promote dissensions in families that we can never 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,

character, have any objection against your request; but I confess I am afraid you have been rather too precipitate 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 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 agrreable; and as for the time fixed for any thing else, I shall leave it to be settled by yourself and my brother, and am, dear sir,

Yours sincerely,

LETTER LXV.

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

Dear Nancy,

I Have been long in love with you, but was afraid to tell you. When I go with you to the Long Room at Stepney, or the Blue Anchor, Bunhill row, I am quite like a fool, and altogether unfit for company. I think of you all day, and at night I dream of my dear Nancy. I am well settled in work, and my wages are eighteen shilling every week. You and I can live on that, and I shal bring it home untouched on Saturday evening. I will not go to any alehouse, but as soon as my work is done, return home to my dearly beloved Nancy. 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 wil meet you my love next Sunday after dinner on Bedlam Walk, Moorfields, when we will go to my mother's and drink tea, and from thence take a walk to Merlin's Cave. How happy shall I be to hear from my charmer; but a thousand

ſand times more to think ſhe will be mine. I am, my dear,

Your real lover,

J. Slack.

LETTER LXVI.

Dear Jemmy.

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 deceiving, that there is no ſuch thing as truſting you. There is Tom Wood, the Carpenter, and Joe Cole, the Brazier, who have not been married above ſix months, and every night comes home drunk and beat their wives. What a miſerable life is that, Jemmy, and how do I know but you may 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, Jemmy, if I thought that would be the caſe, I would ſcrub floors, ſcour ſaucepans, and nurſe children as long as I live. But poſſibly you may not be ſo bad, for there is Jack Roper the Hot-preſſer, and Bill Cannou the Pen-cutter, who 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 I ſhall meet you at the place appointed, and then we will talk more of the matter.

I am, dear Jemmy,

Your ſincere well-wiſher,

A. Dodd.

LETTER LXVII.

A young Man's Letter to his enamoured Miſtreſs.

Faireſt of a Thouſand.

IF you were not abſolute, I would not be thus reſolute only to you whom I hold only worthy loving; your beauty tells mine eye, and your kindneſs perſuades my heart of your good-

neſs,

nefs, for, if you were proud, I ſhould diſdain you, and if you were not fair, I would not affect you, now if you know the one true in yourſelf, in not doing me right; modeſty and niceneſs are two, and delays are the hindrance of happineſs; to urge you patience with importunity I will not, and yet to give over my ſuit I cannot; and therefore knowing your judgment ſufficient to underſtand your own good, I hope to find your diſpoſition not inclined to hurt him, who remaineth,

Yours as you will,

And when you will,

LETTER LXVIII.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

HOW long I have loved you, was from the firſt inſtant that I beheld you; how much I do love you, I would I could tell you; how dearly I will love you, my beſt endeavours ſhall truly make known unto you; and if under heaven I may find ſuch happineſs on the earth, as to be regarded in your favour, I will think it idle that figures earthly felicity; for your excellence being almoſt without exception, let my love be without compariſon, and if truth may have belief, let my affection be without ſuſpicions; and as you have won my heart with your eyes, make it happy with your hands, ſo hoping that ſo ſweet an aſpect can have no ſourneſs in ſpirit, in the hope of your kind anſwer, I reſt,

Yours devoted to be commanded.

LETTER LXIX.

A Gentleman to a young Lady whom he courted to marry,

Honoured Madam,

SINCE laſt I had the happineſs to ſee your fair face, Cupid hath wounded my heart with thoſe arrows which he borrowed from your eyes; and unleſs you will be pleaſed to give relief to my miſeries and pain, which I thereby do undergo both night and day, alas! I ſhall be of all men moſt

miſerable:

miſerable: My humble ſuit, which now I beg, is this, That you would be pleaſed to make me for ever happy, by giving me admittance into your ſweet company, and meet my honeſt and lawful deſires with ſmiles upon your brow; I ſhall not court you out of complaiſance, but tell you, madam, honourably and plainly, that with your good liking, I intend to make you my wife; and if you accept of my ſerious propoſition, I ſhall for ever be bleſt; and you, madam, I hope, will never have cauſe to repent your choice. Thus expecting your kind reply, I for this time begging your pardon, do humbly take my leave, and remain,

Madam,

The humbleſt of your ſervants,

LETTER LXX.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

I Cannot but bleſs myſelf with admiration, that ſo wiſe a man as yourſelf ſhould talk ſo idly, to ſay, that my eyes have wounded your heart; I muſt needs tell you, I think you talk of impoſſibilities, and that want of reſt occaſions this diſtraction of mind: You pretend to be no complimental courtier, yet appear to be the greateſt that ever I met with, by this your letter you ſent me; I muſt confeſs, according to equality of fortunes you out-do me, and I am not of birth ſo highly aſcended; therefore you may preſume, that a few words from a perſon of ſo much worth as pourſelf, may win ſo ſilly a woman as I am; but flatter not yourſelf with that, for I will aſſure you I think as well of my virginity as the beſt of them all do, and ſhall be as loath to part with it, except it be upon a good conſideration; therefore if you are real, as you pretend, concerning marriage, your ſuit may be accepted; but if otherwiſe, you take your aim amiſs. This, till I know you better, I hope, may ſuffice, from her who is,

Your ſervant on honourable terms,

M. Crainer.

LET-

LETTER LXXI.

A desperate Lover to his quondam Mistress.

Madam,

IT shall be virtue in you (fairest) to receive my despairs though you return no comforts, and if in the reading you vouchsafe a sigh to my remembrance, it is a dirge that shall make me for ever sleep in quiet. Despair long since gave me judgment, and obedience only shall make my death patient: It is necessary I die for you, since fate denies me to live with you, for myself is such an interposition betwixt you and your glory, that my griefs would keep much of your sun eclipsed: I know my wants, and that there is nothing either in my life or fortune to deserve you, only an infinite desire, which but by death can ever be lessened, then since all things suit with my despairs, be all delays (with your love) ever far from me, and let the world only remember this in my epitaph, that it was not my folly, but your will; not my despair, but truth in obedience; but oh! this is that I should do, not speak; and the music is more unfit for your ear then your love for my heart! pardon my tell-tale sorrow, it rather speaks things fit to be done, then done, and will sooner crave the glory in wish then in action, and yet the poison of disdain is so violent, I know will awake me, and waste me it shall, for my comforts are already consumed; and in that consumption let all things but my memory turn to its first chaos; and so live as happy as I unfortunate.

Bath, November 5. Only in remembrance,

LETTER LXXII.

The Answer.

Sir,

HOW much I stand divided with the unreasonableness of your affection, my distracted writing may witness, wherein I can observe no order, because nothing in your desires holds good proportion, you bid me love and will not he when destiny denies it, and you seek that rule from me which is quite taken out of my knowledge: Dear sir, awaken

up your first wisdom, and tie your actions on providence, then shall you see I have less power to draw on mine then you to withdraw your affection. Will you make beauty such a slave, that it must obey every gaze, or the poor owner so unfortunate. But you will die, wo's me that folly should make you so impudent, to boast you dare do a sin so damnable. But, I know you will die as actors die in one scene, and revive in the next, to make it more glorious; thus to die I allow you, and to such I will give a smile for pity; to any other a charitable tear to think that any gentleman should become a traitor to nature. Lastly, let me win you by the love you boast of, never henceforth to solicit me, for as no relief can come from such vain labour, so nothing but great disdain will grow from my vexation; so hoping you will make that hope desperate, which is without all hope of virtue, I rest

Your chaste friend,

Bristol, Nov. 7.

LETTER LXXIII.

A Letter of true Kindness.

Madam,

IF dame Nature had been pleased to have made my bosom transparent, your eyes should see the secrets of my heart, which if it have any happiness in the world, it is in the hopes of your favour; but amazed with the admiration of your worth, I know not what to say of your worthfulness but only this, that finding the due of your desert exceeding my capacity in commendation, I will leave the excellency thereof to a more honourable invention, and think fortune enough favourable, if she prefer my service to your commandment: Presents I have none worth the sending, but the heart of my love at your employment, which being nothing more than what you will. I rest, one and the same,

Your sincere well-wisher,

LET-

LETTER LXXIV.

The Answer.

Sir,

IF your speeches be led by your thoughts, it is needless to desire a transparency in your bosom, for when as the heart and the tongue go together, then men's protestations are followed with real performance; words of admiration trouble discretion in construction, and eloquence in love hath not the best commendation, inventions are ready where fancy is studious: but where wit is virtuous, there is will gracious; your present most worthy of all acceptance, cannot be better requited than thankfully remembered, and if conceits meet in a mutual content, what comfort may follow, I leave to the heavens favour, and so I rest,

I am, honoured and worthy Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,

LETTER LXXV.

A Lady to her Lover, encouraging a farther Declaration.

Sir,

I AM far from being in love with the fashionable methods of courtship; sincerity with me is preferable to compliment; yet I see no reason why common decency should be discarded. There is something so odd in your stile, that till I know whether you are in jest or earnest, I shall be at a loss to answer you. Mean time, as there is abundant room for rising, rather than sinking, in your compliance, you may possibly have chosen wisely to begin at first at the lower end. If this be the case, I know not what your succeeding addresses may produce; but I tell you fairly, that your present makes no great impression, yet, perhaps as much as you intended, on

I am, Sir,
Your most humble servant,

LET-

LETTER LXXVI.

The Gentleman's Reply, more openly declaring his Passion.

Madam,

I Have now the hopes of not being more despised for my acknowledged affection, I declare to you with all the sincerity of a man of honour, that I have long had a most sincere passion for you; but I have seen gentlemen led such dances, when they have given up their affections to the lovely tyrants of their hearts, and could not help themselves, that I had no courage to begin an address in the usual forms even to you, of whose good sense and generosity I had nevertheless a great opinion. You have favoured me with a few lines, which I most humbly thank you for. And I do assure you, Madam, if you will be pleased to encourage my humble suit, you shall have so just an account of my circumstances and pretensions, as I hope will entitle me to your favour, in the honourable light in which I profess myself, dear Madam,

Your most obedient,

And faithful admirer,

P. S. Be so good as to favour me with one line more to encourage my personal attendance, if not disagreeable.

LETTER LXXVII.

The Lady's Answer to his Reply, putting the Matter to an Issue.

Sir,

SINCE we are both so well inclined to avoid unnecessary trouble, as well as unnecessary compliments, I think proper to acquaint you that Mr. Fish of Bath, has the management of all my affairs, and is a man of such probity and honour, that I do nothing in any matters without him. I have no dislike to your person; and if you approve of what Mr. Fish can acquaint you with, in relation to me, and I approve of his report in your favour, I shall be far from shewing any gentleman that I have either an insolent or a sordid spirit, especially to such as do me the honour of their good opinion. I am,

Sir, your humble servant,

LET-

LETTER LXXVIII.

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 has 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 independants, 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 Swallow-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 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 do prefer to all others in the world. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am,

Madam, your real admirer,

LETTER LXXIX.

The 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 surprized. Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had the most distant thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. 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. Masser, is now at his seat

in

in Rutlandſhire, 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 dont ſay that you have either communicated your ſentiments to her of your other 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,

LETTER LXXX.

The Geneleman's Anſwer.

Dear Madam,

I Return you a thouſand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greateſt pleaſure 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 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 had 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 whatever may be the contents, I ſolemnly aſſure you that 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,

LET-

LETTER LXXXI.

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 in any one else, and it gives me great happiness to find that he has placed his affection 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 but 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, he has resided constantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connections, hath 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 many 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,

Mary Jones.

LETTER LXXXII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Madam,

I Will excuse the fondness of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours, I heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your son; so that I was no ways 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 infirmaties. 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,

LETTER LXXXIII.

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 virtue alone, 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 Rutlandshire, from whence you may be sure of hearing from me as soon as possible,

And am,

Your sincere well-wisher,

LETTER LXXXIV.

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. Maſſer, who 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 practice if ſtanding in the preſence of my maker. To expect the ſame from you is reaſonable; I look for it, and 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. Preſent my ſincere reſpects to your worthy mother. I hope ſhe gets the better of her diſorder, and be aſſured that I am,

Yours ſincerely,

LETTER LXXXV.

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 thinks proper to mix 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 two 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 all the 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, which I am now going to commit to the tomb. 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,

LETTER LXXXVI.

From the Lady, after Marriage, to her Couſin, unmarried.

Dear Couſin,

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

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 subsistance. 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,

LETTER LXXXVII.

To a judicious Gentlewoman.

Madam,

THE forcible effect and conquest which your beauty hath wrought in my heart constrained me in your kindness to place the hope of my fortune; beseeching you so to equal your outward excellence with an inward perfection, that faith may not have the fear of favour, where humility shall guide the course of affection; I should esteem myself the most unhappy, if I should give your ears any distaste by my suit, but if it light within the line of your liking, it shall begin the garden of my paradise. I rest, never to rest till I ever rest,

Yours all or mine own nothing at all.

From Penzance.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

I AM sorry to think that a shadow of dust should have that force (in conceit) to rob reason of his contents; for beauty is but a shadow, which if your eye hath found in my face, let it go further, least it do wrong to my will in hurting your heart; my inside I hope is far from disgracing any good in my outside, and both altogether unhappy, if they have been any occasion of evil; but least I may seem discontent either at the matter or manner of your writing, I discharge you the burthen of that fear, by the kind acceptance of your affection, which though I cannot answer as I would yet in good reason I may, I will think and consider of, which if it fall out to your liking, be not unfaithful in your love, in hope whereof I rest,

Yours wholly, if at all,

LETTER LXXXIX.

To a Lady whom he fell in love with at a solemn Ball.

Madam,

WHEN I saw you (excellent lady) at the ball, looking upon your eyes methought heaven opened to discover greater glory, and angels tilting there took from my judgment all things else done out of that blessed compass; but my amazement lec me my death, and my death must be your triumph, for however the conflict appeared, your glances which were the wounding weapons, struck through my weak sight, and slew my heart, though armed in the strongest fort of my bosom; I am not so happy as to be a prisoner (for there were hope) but so unfortunate to die in despair, that to have the monument of my remembrance erected in the temple of your pity, is the utmost aim my bliss looks to, the cruelty of fair ones hath pronounced my judgment, and saith it is impossible to affect where they have not seen: Oh! see me in this sorrowful paper, (fairest of adored beauties) and let that sight move affection, pity that work of the highest, which is only to do miracles, so shall cruelty give himself the lie,

lie, prove you a goddeſs, and make me (the happieſt of men) a trumpet of your renown and glory; my love is like your goodneſs without parellel, my faith ſhall go beyond that love, and my ſervice crown both with an infinite mercy. This is my ſacrifice, which if you accept (excellenteſt of fair beauties) I live, otherwiſe my joy is, I periſh by ſo excellent a creature,

Prepared to ſuffer,

Del, July 28, 1783. W. W.

LETTER XC.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

HE that of a light blow with the eye, makes a deadly wound in his heart, is either too unworthy a ſaint, or too much ſuperſtitious in the ſigns and planets; for mine own part, my knowledge informs me I am free from any ſuch malignant influence; I confeſs a weak appetite unguarded with judgment, may often ſtumble and receive knocks, nay, ſometimes fall to utter ruin, and to give that weakneſs the government of my fortune, were to rob myſelf of all good mens pity. In my worſt miſchances the ills I cauſe not, reaſon cannot blame me if I cure not; ſince what is without me, nothing appertains unto me. But you will make my beauty guilty, poor nothing how pitifully art thou ſlandered, which being a meer chimera of imagination, haſt not any thing in thee, but the ſtrength and folly of a man's fancy! it is not a ſubſtance for then it might be felt, let looſe or reſtrained, it hath no certain ſhape, for then all men would like one figure, nor hath it any abiding, for then it would ever be found in its own manſion; it is not compounded of perfect colours, for then no man would doat on mixt deformities; nor doth it ſubſiſt with real virtues, for then no man would wed the vicious; to conclude, is is nothing hath hurt hurt you, and that nothing I ſent to cure your raſhneſs, ſhall not breed my repentance; your love is too infinite, your faith too worthy, and your ſervice too rich, a meaner proportion will guard ſafeſt a meaner fortune, and ſo wiſhing your ſacrifices to a greater deity.

I reſt, your beſt counſellor,

A. N.

LET-

LETTER XCI.

From a Gentlewoman to a Gentleman with whom she fell in love.

Sir,

IF ever I could wish myself unborn, (most worthy sir) or my well being taken from me, I call truth and my sometimes modesty to witness, it is now; not that I have found you, but that I am forced thus to seek you. Call to mind (fair and I hope virtuous sir) some horrid and violent women, taken with the love of their own father, as was Mirha; or incestuously pursuing their nearest brother, as was Biblis; so my affection will appear more modest, and my suit more pardonable; I dearly love you, and in so saying, methinks, the gods blush to hear me, who in the strictest laws of desire is most worthy to be loved, whose virtues might inflame a Nun, and excellentest qualities take the most retired; if I have (as I know too well I have) contrary to the nature and custom of Virgins, over-shot myself in my violent passions, pardon her that had rather die than make it known, yet chuseth rather to make it known, then not enjoy you so desired, and far more worthy to be desired. If you were acquainted with what afflictions I may suffe in my discovery, yet fearing all will not serve you will, I hope, rather incline to pity, then disdain; little will the death of a silly maiden avail the triumph o your beauty, and the overthrow of my credit less benefit your virtue. Raise me from the one by your love, and assure me of the other by your secrecy; whilst I will ever remain a most constant vo refs of all your perfections, blessing the parents that left behind them such an issue.

Nevertheless her own,

Dover, T. L.
Aug. 1, 1788.

LETTER XCII.

To his Sweetheart in the Country.

Fairest of Ladies,

THOUGH in London where I now am many single beauties are daily obvious to my sight, yet I beseech you not

not to charge my untainted lines with flattery, if in the juſtneſs of your own unparalelled pulchritude, prefer your unmatchable form before the rareſt of their compoſures. Their formoſities come as far ſhort of yours, as the ſplendour of the twinkling ſtars come ſhort of the all enlightening radience of the ſun beams, and they all are as far your inferiors in the ravithing gifts of nature, as the viliperided pebble is inferior to the worth of the m ſt high prized carbuncle. To which outward endowments, when I revolve in my mind (and no hour paſſeth without commemoration of your perfections) how ſweetly you have united all in ernal graces, then am I diſtracted with grief for my abſence, and though my unreſtrained mind be inſeperably with you, yet I curſe the diſtance of place which deprives me o all comfort, becauſe it diſjoins me from your preſence, which till I enjoy, all is baniſhed out of my breaſt, and I have given grief a free dominion in me, I cannot ſay I reſt, but I remain,

Madam, your moſt humble ſervant,

LETTER XCIII.

From a Gentleman to a Lady.

Madam,

I Could no longer conceal the reſolution which I have taken to ſerve you all my life, and bear the character of your love eternally, if my love and ſervice be agreeable to you. You may ſigni'y it to me when you pleaſe, that I may have the honour, and ſatisfaction to bear in public every where the quality.

Madam, your moſt humble,
And obedint ſervant,

LETTER XCIV.

Another.

Madam,

I Muſt of neceſſity, for my own quiet, declare the deſire which I have to love and ſerve you, if you judge me wor-

thy so of so great an honour. Your merit obliged me, and my inclination constrained me to it. I expect only to know your will that I may perfect my determination of professing publickly the style.

Madam,

Of your most obedient servant,

LETTER XCV.

Answer to the precedent Letters.

Sir,

I AM much obliged to you for the good will you witness in my behalf; but I have no other liberty left me, except to give you thanks, as I do very humbly, assuring you that I will conserve your remembrance for an acknowledgment in quality.

Sir, of your most humble servant,

LETTER XCVI.

From a young Gentleman to a beautiful young Lady.

Dear Charlotte,

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. The opportunities which I had of conversing with you at lady B——'s have 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 centured 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

peſt your anſwer as ſoon as poſſible, for I wait far it with the utmoſt impatience.

Madam,

Your moſt humble,

And moſt obedient ſervant,

LETTER XCVII.

The Anſwer.

Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter yeſterday, and gratitude for the generous propoſal wh ch you have made, obliges me to thank you hear i.y fo th contents.

As I have no other objections 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.

I acknowledge the great generoſity of your offer, and would conſider myſelf highly honoured cou'd I prevail with myſelf to prefer to peace of m nd 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,

LETTER XCVIII.

The Gentleman's Anſwer.

My Dear Charlotte,

WAS it not cruel to ſtart ſo many objections? Or could you ſuppoſe me capab e 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. 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 I am yours for ever. My servant shall wait for the answer to your ever sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centered in you.

Madam,
Your most humble,
And obedient servant,

LETTER XCIX.

The Lady's Answer.

Sir,

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 has been deceived. However, Sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter 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 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 happy but with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I am, Sir,
With the greatest respect,
Yours sincerely,

LETTER C.

To his Love upon a long and fruitful Affection,

Madam,

IT is the propriety of none but of a faint-hearted soldier for receiving a repulse or two, to retire from assault, and to give

give over his enterprize; when every one ought to use constant perseverance, that he may work the accomplishment of his desires. The long unsuccessfulness of my suit, hath not made me weary of your service, though since I first fell in love with you (O might the examples incite you no longer to retard your affection) the sun hath gone about the world, and given a new life to all things, which the tempestuous winter had left forlorn; the joyful merchant hath made a rich return, and the laborious husbandman hath crammed his barns with the plentuous crop of the ever fruitful earth. Every one hath his hope, only myself more unfortunate than all the rest, in the revolution of time have not had my success. I am you see peerless in misfortune, it rests in you with the sympathy of affection, to make me peerless in felicity, of which I will never despair, there being no heart that is more infinitely affected toward you then the heart of,

Your truest servant,

PART

PART IV.

ON

FRIENDSHIP, &c.

LETTER CI.

The following Letter on Friendship was written by a Gentleman.

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 so 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 my 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. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed.

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 a fine exam-

ple

ple 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 find,
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 wise or learned may say, yet we know that a 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.

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 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 unhappily betray the sacred trust reposed in them, yet we ought not to pursue them with unrelenting fury.

I am yours sincerely,

LET-

LETTER CII.

An Answer to a Letter for Courtesey and Favour received

Sir,

HOW much am I bound unto you for a multitude of favours, and especially for that you have made choice of me, as to write your kind and friendly letters in my behalf. I can no otherwise express then to continue your affectonate poor friend, and will for ever acknowledge it as of your great kindness beyond any merit of mine own; and as by duty I am bound, no day shall pass me that I will not pray to God for your health and prosperity, and the redoubling of your days; beseeching you to excuse me that in person I cannot do or perform what I desire, by reason at this time somewhat extraordinary does not permit me. I therefore most humbly take my leave you.

Your affectionate poor friend,

W. Gilbert.

LETTER CIII.

A merry Letter to his intimate Friend in London.

Heroical Spirit.

I Have received your epistle of alacrisy, and remain much indebted to your kind heart for vouchsafing us poor country swains so much of the labour of your pen to deceive slow footed Time withal. Thanks unto the Almighty, I have had my health indifferent well since coming down, only the seperation of my second self hath been a continual sickness unto me; to remedy which, I have hitherto found out no better way then to call for a cup of rubicular, to help to exhilerate and corroborate my fatigued spirits. We Ruriculars are very barren of any novelty, worthy the presenting to your curious understanding, but do presume out of the bundle of your affection, that you that live at the well head, will be pleased to vouchsafe as your poor friends a report by your letters, at least of such exchange news as passeth current amongst you, which we will take as a special favour from, and study how to enumerate. We are at this present putting foot into the stirrup,

ſtirrup, and riding ſome a great many miles to a maratime coaſt, where there will be provided for us all the rarities of fiſh the ſea can afford, where I will not be unmindful to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In the mean time recommending my love to my loving ſiſter your wife, with your worthy ſelf, and all your friends I wiſh you all true happineſs ſuitable to a brave diſpoſition, and will ever reſt,

Your aſſured loving brother,

C. Ward.

LETTER CIV.

A Letter to his ſilent Friend.

Sir,

YOU are happily innocent what pain I am in, and with what unreſt I ſpend my irkſome days, through your parſimoniouſneſs, and ſparing of a little ink and paper: It is not enough that I am deprived of your ſight, but I muſt be unſaluted by your letters, one of them alone doth too weightily oppreſs me with ſorrow, and overwhelm my heart with diſquietneſs. As place hath wrought a ſeparation between our bodies, will you permit alſo that a few days abſence ſhall bury each others remembrance in the Lethean waves of oblivion? Oh! be not ſo injurious to ſacred friendſhip, which is the greateſt joy allotted unto mortal men in all the univerſe: I have got the ſtart of you in writing, but I hope I ſhall not need to ſend you any more expoſtulatory letters for your ſlacknes in this kind. For the ſound ſtate of my body, I am well, yet I cannot be ſaid to be perfectly well, becauſe, as I am ſo ſolicitous for your welfare, and ſo ignorant of your health.

And am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

The Anſwer.

Sir,

LET the multitude of my buſineſs, and the want of bodily health, and debility plead my excuſe with you for

my remissness in writing. The drift of these present lines is to apologize for that I writ to you no sooner, and to enquire of your health and welfare. Compare not, nor do not think my love as little as my writing, for I protest unfeignedly, that if I may stead you in any kind; or if my means can procure any thing to make a clearer manifestation of my manifold love, you shall assuredly find whensoever any occasion shall offer itself to you, to make trial with great interest you have in me and my best affection, I cease, ever resting,

Yours to my power,

J. Fisher.

LETTER CVI.

A Letter of Thankfulness for Kindness shewed to his Son.

Sir,

THE favours you have already done me, are of such effect and merit, that I shall never be at quiet until I have made some requital of them. I am ashamed you should be thus continually troubled with a son of mine, whom I have charged to obey you in all things as myself, and I pray you to do as much as to have a careful hand over him, as if you were his father, or he your only child; I kindly and heartily thank you for the apparel you have made him lately, which is decent, comly and profitable, and the money you have paid for him, you may accommodate him with the rest if you thing proper, for my part I give you all power and authority over him, seeing you are pleased to take the trouble upon you. So wishing but to meet with some good occasion that may lie in my power, to acknowledge how much I am beholding unto you, I for this time commit you to the protection of the Almighty.

Your assured loving friend,

M. Cornell.

LET-

LETTER CVII.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Received your letter concerning your son, and, for any favour I can do you, either in this or any other, I shall be right willing, knowing how much from time to time I and mine are bounden unto you. And assure yourself it shall be no trouble unto me to use the best of my counsel and care over him; for his apparel, it will keep him warm, I know which is the principal thing I aim at, and I hope pleasing to him and his friends. The other money I shall deliver him as I shall see good, both for himself to use, and the credit of you, his father. Moreover, sir, he is to me very dutiful and loving, by which he shall loose nothing in my care of his welfare, and he very well spends his time at school, and to good purpose I hope, wherein I doubt not you shall have great comfort. He behaveth himself so well by his good demeanor to all, that he is generally beloved of all my neighbours. For my power and authority over him, I will employ myself only for his good, and your fatherly care committed to me. And so with a thousand commendations I commit you to God.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

G. Cato.

LETTER CVIII.

To his Friend fallen to Poverty.

Sir,

IF your wealth had been the foundation of my love, I should now cease to love, because you are no longer rich, but should I now so err, I should shew myself to have been unto you in your prosperity not a friend, but (like unto the rest, that have relinquished you in your poverty) a mere flatterer: we see how during the summer time the swallows flock to our houses, we may observe how mice will be sure to get into the barn, that is replenished with corn; and while the pot hath any honey, it is hard keeping the flies away; but rare is the friendship which fleets not in the probation time of adversity. Besides that poor comfort of adversity, pity; I

lend you the ſum of twenty pounds, which ſo long make uſe of, till time the mother of mutations, encreaſe your ſtore with a proportion able to make repayment to,

Your friend to his ability,

T. Lock.

LETTER CIX.

A Letter from one Kinſman to another in London.

Couſin,

I AM glad to hear of your preferment in London, and that as I hear by your father and mother, you are ſo well placed there, and with ſo good a maſter and miſtreſs. It is no little comfort to me to underſtand that you do ſo reſolutely, and with ſo good a mind, diſpoſe yourſelf to your buſineſs, which I gladly wiſh you would continue. You moſt now remember, that your friends with great care, charge and induſtry, have brought you up, and that their intent and meaning therein, was, that in expectation thereof, they ſhould have joy and comfort of you in your elder years; for which as you have now bequeathed yourſelf to this place of ſervice, ſo much you without any fear of hard uſage, bitterneſs of ſpeech, or other miſlike of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may be, being yet unacquainted with the cuſtoms and uſage of London, you do now think well of that which hereafter may turn to diſcontentment. But, good Couſin, ſo be it, you have no want of things needful and neceſſary, frame yourſelf to bear all thoſe croſs matters whatſoever, and give yourſelf wholly on God's name, to the benefit of your ſervice, you ſhall therein want no help, furtherance or encouragement on my part, and if you perform it well and honeſtly, you ſhall not want when time ſerveth for an hundred pounds or two, if in the mean ſpace, I may ſee your good care of your maſter's buſineſs, and pleaſe your miſtreſs, for therein you ſhall the better pleaſe your maſter. Your friends are all well; who rejoicing in that already they ſee you ſo well behaved, do daily pray to God to proſper and bleſs you; and thus with my hearty commendations, I bid you farewell,

Your loving Kinſman,

LET-

LETTER CX.

From one Friend to another.

Sir,

THE news of your promotion into that charge, which you wished for so long, hath added such contentment and satisfaction to my thoughts, that I am able to express but one part of the joy which reigns in me. I trouble not myself to persuade you to it, by a long discourse; your own merit (supplying the defect of my eloquence) will give a far better testimony than my pen is able, which has in charge at this present only to put you in mind, that I am always according to my wont,

I am, honoured and worthy sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
B. Thorn.

LETTER CXI.

From a Sick Friend.

Sir,

I Will not tell you how extremely sensible the sorrowful news of your sickness was to me; only I must put you in mind that your disease cannot chuse but be very contagious, having infected one hither. I could wish that I were near you, but my misfortune is such, that it ties me to certain affairs in this town, which by no means I am able to abandon. Yet all these obstacles shall not hinder me from acquitting myself of my duty, if you esteem me useful to render you any manner of service, of which I give you most faithful assurance to be all my life,

Your obedient and faithful servant,

LETTER CXII.

The Answer.

Sir,

AS soon as ever I was able to hold a pen, I served myself of the opportunity to render you thanks, for the consolation

lation which you gave me, in the delightful entertainment of your letter. Yet, I pray you, sir, deprive me not of this contentment, if you would not have me sick again. For I can assure you, 'tis a very great satisfaction to me, to see myself so honoured with the favour of your remembrance, in quality of,

And am,

Your sincere well-wisher,

W. Briscall.

LETTER CXIII.

A Recommendation to a Friend.

Sir,

RElying much upon your ancient friendship, I have made bold to recommend to you as a trusty and faithful servant, the bearer of this letter; he is a person whose parentage and education is well known to me, and therefore you may take it on my word, that he is honest and fitly qualified to undertake any of those many affairs that you have an opportunity to employ him in. Dear friend, I do desire you to entertain him as he deserves; and in so doing, you will not only profit yourself, but pleasure him who is

Your very humble servant,

W. Graham.

LETTER CXIV.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Have received your letter, and find by the contents, you have been careful in providing a person suitable to my occasions; as for the person, I take him as you recommended him, viz. honest and fitly qualified, and shall more especially for your sake, use him in such a manner, as he shall have no cause to think any thing but well and honourable of your recommendation, and my entertainment. And so, till a farther

a farther opportunity of expressing my gratitude, I rest in all friendship,

I am with respect, Sir,
Your friend and servant,
N. Hoare.

LETTER CXV.

To a Friend with a Present.

Sir,

I Send you this paper charged with my thanks and kind respects for the many favours I have received at your hands on sundry accounts; and more especially for the last, as being more fresh in my memory; I have likewise sent you a small acknowledgment, if it may prove worthy your acceptance, viz. a ————, together with an entire assurance of continued friendship; and so, till fortune shall furnish me with power to oblige you as I ought, and as I entirely wish I could, I content myself to remain,

Yours sincerely,
M. Harris.

LETTER CXVI.

The Answer.

Sir,

SHould I be wanting to return you my thanks for the present you sent me, I might be censured, not only to be unworthy of it, but likewise of your favour and good opinion which I most of all esteem; and therefore to avoid any such misfortune, I send this paper as the silent messenger of my unfeigned thanks and good wishes towards you, not doubting speedily to give a better demonstration of the esteem I have for you; however, hoping as a friend, you will be pleased, at present, to take this in good part, I rest till a better opportunity enables me more fully to express myself,

Your most obedient humble servant,
W. Cole.

LET-

LETTER CXVII.

A Letter of Comfort to a Friend in Adversity.

Sir,

WEAKNESS is not presenly discomfited when any calamity doth befall one; but I doubt not but you are strong enough to oppose your unfortunate sorrows, and to make such good use of them, that they shall rather confirm than discourage you in the way of virtue. I know you can look upon adversity with an eye of consideration, discerning therein the hand of providence: Look up then and see from whence all troubles do arise; there is a blessing annexed to them, if they be suffered with patience; your virtue that stands inward may now be made apparent to the world in bearing your sorrow, misery, or any worldly affliction, which refine good men to a greater perfection; I know you need not my counsel, being strong in yourself; yet pardon my love, my compassion, and my counsel, and accept them from,

Yours bound to serve you,

H. Hack.

LETTER CXVIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

LIKE as the rain doth fall from a wandering traveller when he comes dropping in, even so at the receipt of your kind and cordial letter, I felt my sorrows waste and vanish from me, being presently refreshed by your good counsel; and all my sorrow is in this my adversity, that I have nothing to requite your love withal, but the poor and slender payment of thanks. It is common with others, whom we reckon in the number of friends, to fall off when they see their friend is fallen into any calamity; but such are no more to be accounted of then the flattering shadow that walks before us in the sun-shine, whilst your love being built on the constant foundation of your goodness, cannot be shaken with the unfortunate chances of your friend: In all estates your love doth know no change; and this in the midst of my troubles shall

bring

bring me store of assured comfort, that I am blest with a friend so faithful unto him, who is,

Your friend in the same fidelity,

W. Macgowan.

LETTER CXIX.

A Letter full of Compliments.

Sir,

Being so infinitely obliged to you for those innumerable favours which you from time to time have been pleased to confer upon me; in common gratitude, can do no less but make an humble acknowledgment in token of my great thankfulness for those unmerited kindnesses; having no other way to retaliate them at present, but by telling you, that your unworthy servant will always be ready at your command, to obey and serve you to the very utmost of my poor power and ability; my daily prayers shall be, that you may be ever prosperous in this world, and that you may receive the due reward of your charitable acts and good hospitality, in the world to come; what else can I say or do, which may conduce to your happiness, and add to your contentment, I ever shall be ready to act and pray for: Thus desiring that at present you will accept of my well wishes, and this small token which I have sent you, which is a barrel of oysters, I heartily recommend you to the protection of the almighty, who is the only keeper and preserver of all men and all things, I take my leave, presuming to write myself.

Yours to serve you by night or day,

T. Meanwell.

LETTER XX.

The Somersetshire Man's Clownish Answer in their own Country Language.

Zir,

Rezeived a piece of paper from you, which I think volks call a letter, but when I pull'd it open, I am zure I could not tell wone letter in it, I gave it to wone of our neighbours;

that is to say, wone that dwells within two or three doors of our door, a little thick way; and he being a better scholard than my present zelf, made hard shift to pick out the words, but the Devi a bit of zense can I vind in it; You talk of obliging and vavours; in my con cience, Zir, you be not like me one jot, nor do I vavour you at all: You also talk of gratitude and merits; I'll zwear I do not know what to make of your Lingua; my neighbours tell me it is latin, and I wonder that you would write latin to me, you know I cannot stand under it. and in troth you shall be no zervant of mine, I will have no such zervants: As vor your writing, our volks put it into the fire: As vor those shells you zent, I know not how to call them, I e'en mended our door with them, and so I thank you vor 'em. When you come again, you shall be welcome to your old friend,

Dick Downright.

LETTER CXXI.

A Letter sent to a Friend, condoling his long continued Sickness.

Good Sir,

I AM very sorry, and much aggrieved to hear that you thus long have lain languishing on the bed of sickness; my heart participates of your dolorious miseries, feeling my way of sympathy the self-same torment which you undergo; but that, alas! I doubt won't give you ease, though 'tis a seeming comfort, (or rather I may say a satisfaction) to be pitied by our friends. Let me admonish you to take the advice of the best learned, and most eminent physician that you know of; and be not concerned for parting with your money; though sickness I know is very chargeable, you well know now by sad experience, that the perfect enjoyment of your health is far more pleasant and delightful than bags full heaped with gold and silver; therefore be not sparing of your coin, so far as it may be available, and conducing to the procuring of your welfare: And that you may recover your former strength shall be the prayers of,

Your most affectionate friend in sorrow,

D. Stevens.

LET-

LETTER CXXII.

The Answer.

Honoured Sir,

THE very sight of your most cordial letter did give some ease to my distressed miseries, for which you have the ind and hearty thanks of a sick and almost dying man: 'Tis ong since I considered that worldly wealth is but dross; neiher do I esteem it as any comfort, only to procure those ecessaries, which while we live on earth, we stand in need t: For well I know, that when my breath is departed from e, and my blood grown cold, and death has brought my ody to the grave; that then the wealth of Cræsus will not vail me any thing, nor stand me in any stead; my heart is ow fixed upon a better subject; which is, that after death y soul may find rest and comfort in another world, whether am now going, endeavouring to repent of all past sins, onsulting with my maker, concerning my happiness; for he the best and only physician that can give ease to these my re afflictions. This is a farewell to you I do send, who n,

Till death give ease,

Your friend in Torments,

J. Blue.

LETTER CXXIII.

From one young Man to another, to request a Kindness.

ir,

UPON the long familiarity that has passed between us, and your last protestations of sincerity in friendship, d by necessity, and the haste that my occasions require, ve made bold to let you know, that I stand in need of—— which if you can possibly furnish me, without any pre- e or hindrance to your own affairs, I shall take it as an ordinary kindness; and if it stand with your conveniency, send it by the bearer, or by some speedy hand; and in ing, you will very much oblige him who is,

Your most humble servant,

R. Lewes

LETTER CXXIV.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Was not a little glad, upon the perusal of your letter, that you would be so kind at last as to put it in my power to do you any manner of service, whereby I might more immediately signalize some marks of true friendship; nor indeed could you have required it at a more seasonable time. Wherefore not to give you any delay, I have sent by the bearer what you demanded, and shall always be proud to oblige you in this kind, as far as my abilities wilt extend; and so with my hearty good will towards you, and my good wishes for your prosperity, I remain,

Sir, your most obedient,
And humble servant.
N. Jones

LETTER CXXV.

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 consultations which Christianity affords to be afflicted; and if they were necessary to one under those circumstances, it must be to myself. Aboue seven last night my wife died in child-bed, and am left the disconsolent 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 of their rebellion against God. When she saw the king of terrors approach, she was all resignation 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

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 the vale of misery; here she fainted, looked wishfully 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 closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk for some time in the greatest distress. At last I recollected 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 know not what to write; excuse incoherence and impropriety, from him whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend,

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXVI.

The 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 afflictions, of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God. 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. 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. 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 weary are at rest, is the sincere prayer of,

Your most affectionate friend,

W. Tyler.

LET-

LETTER CXXVII.

A Gentleman requesting to borrow a Hundred Pounds.

Sir,

I AM bold in my great necessity, under assurance of your forwardness to do me good, to intreat your special aid furtherance in two things, the one thereof is to lend me of wonted favours one hundred pounds, the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kind and friendly care of my well doing. I am of opinion none other than yourself can fit the occasion better. And truly such is the force of imprisonment, as contrary to that you have wantedly known in me, my understanding is quite decayed, and sore worn with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distuned, it must needs follow, the memory must needs sound nothing but discord. In fine, Sir, it is in you to do me good, and to make me by this only action for ever beholden unto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelity, assure yourself if ever God gives me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be yoaked in courtesey. Good master Bennet, the matter hereof requireth some haste, whereto I must intreat you fail me not. Fare ye well, this 8th of September 1788.

Your imprisoned friend,
J Hughes

LETTER CXXVIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

NEEDLESS it were you should entreat me that wherein you have found me most willing, and such whom with small persuasion you may induce to a far greater purpose than what in your last letter is required, the messenger I have appointed to return again to my chamber tomorrow morning, at which time I will not fail to send you your desired sum; for the other, hard will it be for me to accomplish that wherein yourself seems so unperfect, or hat the dullest conceit forged from the most distempered of your imaginations, cannot but sound far better tunes then the ripest

of

of my inventions, any way are able to deliver. Nevertheleſs, ſuch as it is, or (by diſlike of your own) you will have to account of, that will I prepare to your view, and put forward to your good ſpeed, thinking it better by the delivery of a groſs device, to ſatisfy the demand of a friend, then by the concealing the ſimplicity thereof, to be cenſured incourteous. In conclusion, it is lawful for you to uſe me to the uttermoſt, and fitteſt to your confirmed league of amity, that in whatſoever you ſhould employ me; wherein I deſire you conceive no more then ſuch as I intend to become, and you ſhall aſſuredly find me,

Your faitful friend,

W. Bennet.

LETTER CXXIX.

A Letter to his Friend for a Breach of Promiſe.

MASTER MILLS, I have abſtained to come or ſend unto you, partly being wearied with importunity, for that I thought, now two months being paſſed, I might in this ſpace have found a time convenient wherein to have ended with you. Having taken this cauſe in hand, I would (as in good reaſon I thought it fit) you ſhould determine with me on ſome concluſions whereon to reſt aſſured. I might henceforth know where to truſt, and neither waſte labour in giving to ſo ſmall a purpoſe, nor hinder my buſineſs by the ſteady ſtay of your affairs, as already I have done. We have talked many times, and ſet down certain limits, but to order effects, as I know neither when to demand, nor you how to ſatisfy. So that depending upon ſhadows, I have loſt my time to ſmall benefit, and you have gone forward little purpoſe. I do pray you therefore, that ſuch meanes may aſſure us, as already between us hath been performed. Not delay me thus with trifles, as I think is far from a gentleman, ſo I ſuppoſe you did not intend it, conſidering how many ways thereby I am and ſhall be hindered. Therefore may be the certain means to ſatisfy us both, that you will (as on Friday laſt you promiſed to come and ſee the agreement between us performed, whereof I pray adverteſe

your

you full resolation by this bearer: And so I bid you heartily farewell,

Your ever assured friend,
D. Wilson.

Southampton,
May 6, 1783.

LETTER CXXX.

The Answer.

GOOD master D. Wilson, my breach of promise in not visiting you with deserved requital since my departure, may breed suspicion and doubt of unthankfulness, but I hope, and by hope presume, that of your own good disposition towards all our acquaintance, you will yield unto an approved trial before you condemn. For my part, if I should not owe unto you an honest mind and fidelity, I should much contrary to your great courtesey, and deservedly incur the shame of ingratitude. You know that having strayed as I have done, out of the limits of a controuled rule, and displeased so much thereby, as my case hath bewrayed unto you, those whom by nature and duty I ought to be awed unto, it is reason that by the more strict observance, I make amends for the residue. The day appointed, I will not fail to view the writings, and to make some conclusion to your best satisfaction. Wherein you shall perceive the honest mind of a gentleman. My father it seemeth, though not yet by me, hath otherwise understood how far I stand yoked (in all friendly league of amity) unto you, and thinketh himself for all his son's unthriftiness, somewhat therein to be tied unto you. But however deserts to be noted, or care by nature doth bind, assure yourself, whilst life leadeth along this earthly course, I am, and will be also yours most unfeignedly, and most entirely. To whom and to your bed-fellow I most heartily and often commend me.

Your much bound friend,
W. Mills.

LET-

LETTER CXXXI.

A Letter to an unthankful Friend.

Sir,

I Have ever been ſo loath to think ill of you that I ſcarce allow mine own witneſs againſt you, or thoſe ſtrong preſumptions that make me think you mean to keep no promiſes nor no friends; if you will needs have it ſo let our acquaintance now grow ſickly and die, privately, leſt I be blamed for truſting, and you for deceiving ſo great a truſt. For ſince our love is grown into ſo deſperate a lethargy, I will not wake it, for I had rather it ſhould paſs away in a trance, and the remembrance thereof never hereafter be mentioned. What your friendſhip was, I cannot tell, but I am aſſured to the view it was fit for greater courteſey then I required; what mine own was, judge when you have moſt need of a friend: Neither will I tell you what a ſea of misfortune your breach of promiſe hath led in upon me; but I'll bid you now an ever farewell, and with my letter conclude all rites of love betwixt you and me, and reſt,

No longer your friend,

T. Franklin.

LETTER CXXXII.

A Letter for admittance into Service.

Sir,

I Have ever been ſo addicted to follow you, that in mine own opinion I am an old retainer of yours; ſo I am within a degree of a houſhould ſervant, which is all the promotion that by the interceſſion of this letter I ſtrive to come to. But I ſee ſo many ſteps directed that way, that I perhaps may come too late, yet I hope your number is not full, though it be great, and I ſuppoſe all are not invited that go, but ſome intrude. I will take it for extreme bounty to be admitted within your gates; what I do is preſt by no neceſſity, but to ſave my longing, and to ſatisfy my deſires, which a far off have ever ſerved you. Once I thought to have moved this ſuit by friends, but that way I was afraid it might miſcarry; and I was not very willing it ſhould ſucceed, being loath to entangle myſelf in obligations to other men, when I was to paſs myſelf

over unto you, so I thought best to write, for to speak had been too bold. So in hope at least of a pardon, I rest at far as in me lies,

I am with respect, Sir,
Your very humble servant,
M. Marks.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To his Friend, a Mercer.

Sir,

DEAR Sir, many salutations, &c. As many occasions fall out, I still presume to trouble you, grounding my boldness upon the hope of your love and good will, I request you to send me as much black sattin as will make me a suit. I am your debtor already, besides in good will and love, a small sum, which for that it hath been long detained, you may conjecture it to be desperate, yet on my credit, it is as sure as any money in your purse: My intent being honest, but my store not such as at this present I can satisfy; next term I expect the plenty of my purse will be so profuse, that God permitting, without fail for these, and the old debt, you shall be fully discharged. Acknowledging myself beholden.

And am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
W. Plat.

LETTER CXXXIV.

From a Clergyman to a Gentleman who had formerly been his Pupil, but now at the University.

Sir,

WHILST you was under my care I made it my principal study to discharge the duties of my station, consistent with the character of a minister of the gospel; and now that you are removed to the fountain head of learning, I consider myself in some manner still under the same obligation. In a letter I have lately received from your tutor, I hear with great pleasure that you make great progress in your studies.

Although

Although providence has placed me at this diſtance, yet I have a ſtrong inclination to communicate my thoughts to you on a ſubject of the utmoſt importance; I mean the neceſſary obligation you are under of reducing knowledge to practice, and that unleſs the one correſponds with the other, learning inſtead of a bleſſing becomes a real curſe.

Knowledge, when ſeparated from right practice, is not only unprofitable, but even hurtful and pernicious. It only aggravates guilt, and makes us more vile and deteſtable. Inſtead of contributing to our happineſs, it becomes a nuiſance and a curſe, and will ſink us deeper into ruin. If a man of an improved underſtanding is mean, or falſe, or covetous, he is ſo much the more baſe and hateful. Thoſe who are above vulgar errors and prejudices, ought alſo to be above vulgar paſſions and vices, and if they are not, they are more contemptible than mechanics or beggars. In the mean time I am

Your ſincere well-wiſher,
R. Nicolls.

LETTER CXXXV.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

TEN thouſand thanks to my worthy tutor, and ſecond parent, for his kind inſtructions. You firſt taught me to form a prayer, and now you have inſtructed me how to reduce my knowledge to practice. Your letter came to me at a very ſeaſonable juncture; I had been converſing with ſum of my fellow ſtudents, concerning the utility of ſtudying hiſtory. One repreſented it as dull and inſipid; another as only ſuited for an idle perſon who was ſo mean as to deſpiſe the Beau Monde. For my own part, I am very diffident in deciding logmatically of an affair of any importance either real or pparent. But as I could not chuſe to ſpend my time in idleeſs, ſo neither would I neglect any opportunity of acquiring ne knowledge of ſuch ſciences as can neither enlarge the powrs of the human mind, or become uſeful in common life. know that we are liable to be ſwayed by a great number of rejudices, and being well convinced of the depravity of uman nature, I am glad to ſeek for inſtruction wherever I

can find it, but much more so from you. I shall therefore trouble you with the following queries, viz.

I. Is the study of history necessary, and if so, what are the benefits arising from it?

II. Whether it is most proper to begin with the Sacred, the Greek, or Roman histories, or those of our own country.

III. Is biography a part of history, or what are its concomitants?

As your knowledge can only be exceeded by your humanity, I doubt not but you will favour me with your answers to the above when it suits you, and I do assure you I shall abide by your directions. Let me also beg that you will be pleased to mention in your next, which are the most proper authors to be perused in the above studies. There are such a variety of writers, that the utmost extent of human life will not admit of time to peruse them. In such a wilderness, it is no wonder if I look for a guide. Your ipse dixit shall, on all occasions, be the rule of my conduct, and so far as I obtain your approbation, I shall consider myself in the way of duty.

I am, Sir,

Yours with gratitude,

D. Brown.

CARDS

CARDS

OF

COMPLIMENT.

CARDS of compliment ſhould be ſhort, eaſy, and conſiſtent with politeneſs. They muſt begin with the title and ſtile of the writer—and care muſt be taken immediately after to mention, in a reſpectful manner, the ſtile or title of thoſe to whom they are addreſſed; they muſt contain but one ſubject, and that ſhould be expreſſed with elegance and perſpicuity.

MISS MASSIE's reſpectful compliments to Miſs Barton, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to a diſh of tea.

Tueſday Morn.

MISS BARTON's compliments to Miſs Maſſie, is happy to accept her agreeable invitation.

Tueſday Noon.

MRS

MRS. CALE's compliments to Miſs Parminter, hopes ſhe got ſafe home, and is in health, after the fatigue of ſitting up ſo late.

Wedneſday Morn.

MISS PARMINTER's compliments to Mrs. Cale, got home perfectly ſafe, and is extremely well, returns reſpectful thanks for her obliging enquiries.

Wedneſday noon.

SIR MATTHEW GORDON's compliments to Lord Staples, ſhould eſteem it as a favour to be obliged with his company to take an airing to Richmond—the coach to be at the door at two.

12 *o'Clock Morn.*

LORD STAPLES's reſpectful compliments to Sir Matthew Gordon, will be happy to attend Sir Matthew punctually at the time.

12 *o'Clock noon.*

MISS FAULKNER's compliments, ſhould be glad of Mr. Lambert's company to pick a bit of dinner with her.

8 *o'Clock Morn.*

Mr. LAMBERT's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miſs Faulkner.

How

How to begin LETTERS, *with New* COMPLIMENTS.

Sir,

BEING ſenſible of all thoſe former favours wherewith you have obliged me, I could do no leſs but make an humble acknowledgment for thoſe unmerited kindneſſes which you have been pleaſed to confer upon me.

Sir,

Since the laſt time I ſaw you, abundance of worldly ſorrows have ſurrounded me; inſomuch that I have been uncapable of ſerving my friends, of whom I reckon you the chief.

Sir,

Whatever tongue can expreſs, or heart can wiſh, of the welfare of any real and beloved friend, I wiſh and deſire may always attend you; but ſetting aſide all ceremonies and compliments, theſe may give you to underſtand.

Sir,

I know your diſcretion to be ſo great, and your love ſo unfeigned, that you will not miſconſtrue any miſtake that I ſhall make in this letter; therefore I ſhall not be ſo curious as at other times I ought to be, when I write to thoſe that are more critical, &c.

Sir,

In conſidering you manifold obligations wherewith you have obliged me, it puts me in mind how much I am your debtor, and how unable I am at preſent to make you ſatisfaction: Thanks is too mean a preſent for ſo much worthineſs; yet

yet at present. Sir, may serve to let you know, that I am not ungrateful, &c.

Sir,

If I knew which way to gratify you for all those favours which yon have accumulated upon my undeserts, I would not all this while have remained your debtor.

Sir,

After a recommendation of my good wishes and my hearty prayers for your good health and preservation, these may certify you,

Honoured Madam,

Your Ladyship, I hope, need not question my faithfulness in serving you; but shall ever account it the greatest honour that can be conferred upon me, to be reckoned amongst the number of your servants, and all my comfort will be in being obedient to your commands, though at the present I must confess,

Madam,

If loving you be reckoned and accounted a crime, then I am certain I am the greatest criminal in the world; yet I am also sure, that the wretch who loves you not must, must be a devil.

Madam,

In the fresh remembrance of those pleasant charms I gained from your replendant eyes at our last meeting, I take bold courage to salute your ears with these presumptions words that I am your lover,

Sir,

Since our last meeting I very well can remember your unworthiness at that time; pray forbear to say you are my lover, for I utterly disown your suit: Your rudeness would have blunted the edge of my affection if ever I had any for you; but that is more than ever you knew, &c.

Madam,

The humble adorer of your excellent beauty hath sent these submissive lines to kiss your fair hands, which kindness if you smilingly

ſmilingly grant, the author of them will preſume e'er long to wait upon you, and with bended knees proſtrate himſelf before ſo much divinity, &c.

Sir,

Vain words will not advance you to your aim? for 'tis not flatteries that will avail or work your ends upon her that has paſt the age of twenty: Children may be deluded with fair ſpeech, but riper years do look for more ſubſtantial performances, therefore pray deſiſt.

Madam,

A world of joys and comfort flows from every word I ever heard you ſpeak; from every ſmiling look you ever caſt upon me; madam, look on, and ſpeak again, making your ſlave more happy than all others.

Sweet-heart.

I humbly thank you for your laſt kindneſs when I was at your houſe; and if ever I live to ſee you again, I hope I ſhall make you part of amends.

Kind Sir,

You need not have given yourſelf the trouble to have writ me thoſe thanks for the ſmall civilities which you received at our houſes. All I can ſay to you is, that you are welcome; and if you are pleaſed to think yourſelf ſo, pray let us have your company again,

Honeſt Will,

Faith, you know I love you, and that is better than all the compliments in the world: Downright honeſt dealing is moſt acceptable among friends, for flatteries are fit for nothing but to pleaſe women and children,

Sir,

With humble reverence I ſubmit myſelf to your diſcretion, not doubting but your goodneſs will order my concerns to the beſt advantage, being more capable of diſcerning what may ſtand for my future benefit, than any other perſon living; therefore I wholly condeſcend to what you ſhall determine in this matter,

Sir,

Your wisdom has confounded my second thoughts, therefore I refer myself to your better judgment; and I'll assure you on my part there shall no more disturbance arise that may any ways be prejudicial to our mutual society hereafter.

Sir,

You may command me upon all accounts to serve you, being always ready to communicate my assistance to a person so much deserving as yourself; therefore write but your will and pleasure, and it shall be done, &c.

Sir,

Wit in other men seems to be but a florid way of speaking, to set forth a bad action with the greater lustre; but in you it shews itself with so much gravity, that every word which flows from you appears to be an oracle, &c.

Madam,

Let me beseech you not to condole the loss of your blasted beauty, since that your better ornament does still remain inviolable, I mean your virtue, which is a precious jewel lodged in your mind, which time de-cyphering wrinkles cannot wrong, but it will abide to perpetuity, &c.

Sir,

I must confess, the gay and glorious blossom has its first time, which lasts not long, but withers and decays, and then we expect the more substantial fruit to follow. Youth and beauty may flourish for a while, but age calls out for action to adorn the mind and soul of every man and woman,

Sir,

When first I heard of those great disasters which have lately befallen you, I equally shared in your misfortunes; but since tis gone and past, let me desire you, instead of grief and mourning to except my consolation, &c.

Sir,

Every thing underneath the glorious sun, at one time or ther must undergo and feel the sense of sorrow: Some have a larger portion than the rest; and none can truly say they live in pui t but those that do enjoy a contented mind, &c.

Sir,

Sir,

Suppose that I was angry at your abuse, 'twas not only that you were injurious to me, but that I might thereby let you see your own folly, which being known, I hope you will amend, &c.

Madam,

Let me beg of you to be free, and not conceal the love you bear my friend any longer: For if love have not its natural course and vent, like to the flames of fire which by being suppressed breathe and smother undiscovered for a time; but when it once breaks forth, it burns more fierce, &c.

Madam,

You know your powerful charms have no resistance, then be not cruel which none dares contend; but when you find an opposition to your will, then use what severity shall best become your sex, &c.

Madam,

Nature has curiously framed your outward shape beyond the parallel of your fellow creatures; then do not strive to stain what she hath made by any immodest and unseemly action. You know how unkind you have been.

Madam,

You have honoured me so far, that it is beyond all expression; my obedience to your will shall be my present acknowledgment; and for the future I shall be sure to hearken to your command.

Sir,

You have tied me so strong in the bonds of true affection, that they are infringeable to envy itself, though I know I have several enemies abroad in this malicious world, that would be glad to cause a separation of our friendship, but it is beyond their power, I now must tell you, Sir, &c.

Sir,

Let me beg of you once more to make us happy with your good company at London, where you shall find you are welcome by your freedom, and we shall know your acceptance, by your continuance,

Sir,

Your letter I received, and am glad to hear of your welfare; as touching the bufinefs you have commanded me to effect, it fhall be done according to your content; therefore reft yourfelf fatisfied with my reality, &c.

Sir,

Few words among friends are beft: As for what you have heard keep it to yourfelf, for it is very dangerous to be a medler in thofe cafes. I have other bufinefs to acquaint you with, &c.

Sir,

My humble fervice I prefent to you and your bedfellow, wifhing you true joy, long life, and health in this world, and everlafting joys in the world to come. We are all well at prefent, I blefs God: I would fend, &c.

Sweet Sir,

I admire that I have never feen you all this while: I hope my looks did not fright you when you was laft at our houfe. If fome of your quality had but half the invitation I have given you, I fhould have feen them often in this time, but 'tis no matter, &c.

Ah! Madam,

Impute not my fo long abfence to any neglect of mine; for had I been at my own difpofing I would fcarcely have been ever from you; but ficknefs, &c.

Choice PHRASES *and* SENTENCES *to be used in the Middle of* LETTERS *upon all Occasions.*

WHAT else may be added to our success in proceedings of this nature, I leave to you wiser judgment to consider on.

After, Madam, I have said all I can say, I must leave it to your goodness to make a good and favourable construction upon my honest intentions.

I know, Sir, nothing can be more suitable to my present condition than your good advice, which I will certainly be guided by; knowing that whatever you admonish me to act, or do, must on necessity be for my present and future advantage.

You may remember, madam, that at our last meeting, you promised me that I should meet happiness, by meeting you next Monday morning where we met before.

Let not delays frustrate your design, for you know they often prove dangerous; therefore let me advise you to "Strike while the iron is hot."

Consult with your parents first, Sir, and get their goodwills, and you shall ever find me to be according to my promise.

Expect no flatteries from your public enemy; for your defects deserve no favour, but a just revenge shall certainly be your portion,

What

What I have faid is cordial, and you may believe it, and count me your friend in telling you the truth of this matter, whofe effects, without your care, will prove, I doubt, very dangerous.

Never doubt nor fear, but firft of all make trial: Experience is the beft miftrefs: I doubt not but that fhe will be kind, and that all things may fucceed according to your defire.

Thoufands you know have miftarried for want of making a quick purfuit in fuch concerns as yours are: You know that a place of good preferment is foon catched up.

Confult with reafon firft, and be not over rafh in your attempt, left you precipitate your whole defign.

Love me then as you have begun, in fpite of all their furious anger; you know my conftancy and dear affections will never alter, but remain for ever firm.

I doubt not but you are difpofed to melancholy; therefore let me advife you to leave that lonefome place, and betake yourfelf to the city, where you will find diverfity of fubjects that will expofe you to a harmlefs mirth, and innocent recreation.

Exclaim not, madam, againft your fole admirer, one that adores your very name like a facred deity; one that hath Atlas's ftrengh to bear and undergo the greateft burthens that affliction or torment can lay upon him for your fweet fake.

I grant your fuit, Sir, if your love be true; but firft you muft give me leave to make trial of your conftancy.

Confent not, daughter, to their falfe delufions; for now-a days not one gallant among ten is to be believed: Let your love be on what I fhall think reafon, then will you live a happy life hereafter.

Your father's good will you firft muft afk, before I fhall make myfelf furer to you; yet this I will tell you, if what

you

you demand me according to his good liking, I can ſatisfy you that I fancy you above any other man.

That ſong which you ſung ſo raviſhed all laſt night, that I ſhall not think myſelf happy till once again I hear it from your mouth.

Then bleſſed be that hour that firſt I made the motion, ſince, according to my deſire, you have granted my requeſt; for I am obliged in duty, madam, to make more than verbal acknowledgment.

Your buſineſs, Sir, I have carefully minded which ſucceeds according to your wiſh. The man you to'd me was your chiefeſt witneſs I met in town, and have ſecured him till the trial ſhall be; and according to his evidence, I queſtion not but that you in your ſuit will be victorious.

I had ſooner been with you ſir, had not my horſe tired by the way, inſomuch that I was forced to lie ſtill two whole days, becauſe he was not able to perform the journey.

Conclusions *and* Endings *of* LETTERS, *on all Occasions.*

THUS do I take my leave, and submit myself to your Lordship's pleasure, who, am

The humblest of your servants,

T. B.

I never thought myself more happy than when I was busy in prosecuting your worship's just commands, therefore let me beg of you to harbour no ill opinion of him who is

The greatest admirer of your worship's virtues,

Thus honoured Sir, I do commit myself to your just censure, knowing that you will be favourable to

Your distressed servant,

Much might be added, worthy Sir, upon this same business, but time will not give me leave any longer to insist thereon: I therefore at this time shall conclude, and only acknowledge that I am, and ever will be to my death,

Your faithful friend and most humble servant,

But left I should seem troublesome in being tedious in this my le ter,, I shall only add this to my former acknowldgment, that I am,

Your most ob iged and most faithful servant,

Consider well on what I have writ you word of, and mediate on it at your leisure; which is all from,

Your affectionate father,

Whatever you have writ to me shall so deeply be lodged in my breast, that nothing but death shall take it from thence, which, I hope will be a satisfaction to you from, Sir,

Your dutiful son,

Mr

My dearest soul blame me not for my suspicions and jealousy of thy inconstancy; but rather pardon it, for it proceeds from the abundance of love of him who is

The only admirer of thy beauty,

And if your suspicion, Sir, be grounded out of your own imagination, and all without cause, I shall not desire that you should adore me, but employ your time in learning to be wise and that is all from her, who is

Yours more than you deserve,

But to sum up all compliments in one line, I am Sir,

Yours till death, in death, and after death,

Now since your folly I have pretty well discovered, I think it is time to leave off, only telling you that I am

Your friend more than you are your own,

Therefore, Sir, let me desire you not to question my fidelity in this concern, but rely wholly upon

Your most faithful friend,

And, Joan, now I have only to tell the, that in good truth I love thee dearly, who am called by the name of

R. H.

And that I may end my letter just as you have done Robin, I must tell you, That I love you as well as you love me, which I had almost forgot; but I think such good words never come too late; This is all from her who is thine, and honestly known by my proper name, being my mother's name, who was born before me.

J. S.

STILES

AND

TITLES OF HONOUR;

With Directions for Addressing Persons of all Ranks, both in Writing and Discourse.

READER,

WHEN you write to any person, if you would have it well accepted, you must consider his or her title, degree, or alliance, and so frame your compliment, superscription, and subscription accordingly: And that you may know how to distingnish this case, as to titles of honour, or respect, take notice in your addresses this form is mostly in use, viz.

To the King's most excellent Majesty. Sire, or may it please your Royal Highness.

To his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales. Sir, or may it please your Royal Highness.

In the same manner to the rest of the Royal Family.

To the NOBILITY.

To his Grace the D. of R. My Lord Duke, or may it please your Grace, or, Your Grace.

To the Most Noble the Marquis of R. My Lord Marquis, your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of D. My Lord your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount C. My Lord, your Lordship.

The Ladies are addressed according to the rank of their husbands.

The sons of Dukes, Marquises, and the eldest Sons of Earls have, by Courtesey of England, the Title of Lord and Right Honourable; and the title of Lady is given to their Daughters.

The younger sons of Earls, the sons of Viscounts, and Barons. are stiled Esquires, and Honourable, and all their daughters Honourable.

The title of Honourable is likewise conferred on such persons as have the King's commission, and upon those gentlemen who enjoy places of Trust and Honour.

The title of Right Honourable is given to no Commoner, excepting those who are Members of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the three Lord Mayors of London, York, and Dublin, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, during their office.

To the PARLIAMENT.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled. My Lords, or, May it please your Lordships.

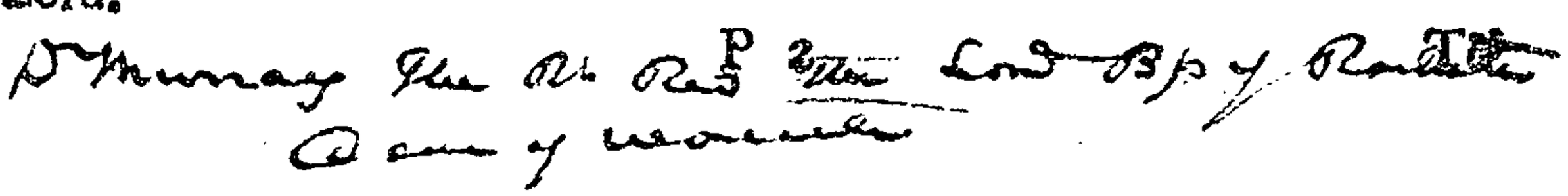
To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses in Parliament assembled. Gentlemen, or, may it please your Honours.

To the Right Hon. Sir F. N. Speaker of the House of Commons, who is generally one of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. Sir.

To the CLERGY.

To the Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. My Lord, or, Your Grace.

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Durham. My Lord.



To the Rev. the Dean of C. or Archdeacon, or Chancellor of D. or Prebendary, &c. Mr. Dean, Reverend Sir, &c.

All Rectors, Vicars, Curates, Lecturers, and Clergymen of other inferior denominations are ſtiled Reverend.

To the Officers of his MAJESTY's HOUSEHOLD.

They are for the moſt Part addreſſed according to their Rank and Quality, though ſometimes agreeable to the Nature of their Office, as, My Lord Steward, My Lord Chamberlain, Mr. Vice Chamberlain, &c. and in all Superſcriptions of Letters, which relate to Gentlemen's Employments, their Stile of Office ſhould never be omitted; and if they have more offices than one, you need mention only the higheſt.

To the SOLDIERS and NAVY.

In the Army all Noblemen are ſtiled according to their Rank, to which is added their Employ.

To the Hon. C. D. Eſq. Lieutenant-General, Major-General, Brigadier-General of his Majeſty's Forces. Sir, Your Honour.

To the Right Hon. the E. of P. Captain of his Majeſty's firſt Troop of Horſe Guards, Band of Gentlemen Penſioners, Band of Yeomen of the Guards, &c. My Lord, your Lordſhip.

All Colonels are ſtiled Honourable; all inferior Officers ſhould have the name of their Employment ſet firſt; as for example. To Major D. K. to Captain E. N. &c.

In the Navy all Admirals are ſtiled Honourable, and Noblemen according to Quality and Office. The other Officers as in the Army.

To the AMBASSADORS, SECRETARIES, and CONSULS.

All Ambaſſadors have the Title of Excellency added to their Quality, as have alſo Plenipotentiariea, foreign Governors, and the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Juſtices of Ireland.

To his Excellency Sir B. D. Baronet, his Britannic Majeſty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Ottoman Port. Sir, your Excellency.

To

To his Excellency D. B. Esq. Ambassador to his most Christian Majesty. Sir, or, your Excellency,

To his Excellency the Baron d'D. his Prussian Majesty's Resident at the Court of Great Britain. Sir, your Excellency.

To Seignior W. E. Secretary from the Republic of Venice. Sir.

To P. N. Esq. his Britannic Majesty's Consul at Smyrna. Sir.

To the JUDGES and LAWYERS.

All the Judges, if Privy-Counsellors, are stiled Right Honourable; as for Instance:

To the Right Honourable A. B. Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. My Lord, your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable P. D. Master of the Rolls. Sir, your Honour.

To the Right Honourable Sir B. D. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, or of the Common Pleas. My Lord, your Lordship,

To the Honourable B. G. Lord Chief Baron. Sir, or, May it please you, Sir.

To the Right Hon. A. E. Esq. one of the Justices, or to Judge T. Sir, or, May it please you, Sir.

To Sir D. E. his Majesty's Attorney, Solicitor, or Advocate General. Sir.

All others in the Law, according to the Offices, and Rank they bear, every Barrister having the Title of Esquire given him.

To the LIEUTENANCY and MAGISTRACY.

To the Right Honourable D. Earl of P. Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Durham. My Lord, your Lordship.

To the Right Hon. J. W. Esq. Lord Mayor of the City of London. My Lord, your Lordship.

All Gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace have the Title of Esquire and Worshipful, as have also all Sheriffs and Recorders.

To T. D. Esq. High Sheriff of the County of York. Sir, your Worship.

The

The Aldermen and Recorder of London are ſtiled Right Worſhipful; as are all Mayors of Corporations, except Lord Mayors,

To the Right Worſhipful T. N. Eſq. Alderman of Tower Ward, London. Sir, your Worſhip.

To the Right Worſhipful R. A. Recorder of the City of London. Sir, your Worſhip.

The Governors of Hoſpitals, Colleges, &c. which conſiſt of Magiſtrates, or have any ſuch among them, are ſtiled Right Worſhipful, or Worſhipful, as their Titles allow.

To the Governors of the CROWN.

To his Excellency G. Lord D. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. My Lord, your Excellency.

To the Right Hon. N. Earl of D. Governor of Dover Caſtle, &c. My Lord, your Lordſhip.

The ſecond Governors of Colonies appointed by the King, are called Lieutenant Governors.

To INCORPORATE BODIES.

To the Honourable Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to the Eaſt Indies. Your Honours.

To the Honourable the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Directors of the Bank of England.

THE

THE

UNIVERSAL PETITIONER,

WITH

Several useful Forms in LAW.

A BOND.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I Thomas Gordan, of the Parish of St. Bridget, in the city of London, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to Matthew Snaples, of the said parish and city of London, Esq. in the penal sum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said Matthew Snaples, 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 fifteenth day of September, 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 Thomas Gordan, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the before

before named Matthew Snaples, 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 May next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest; then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

Thomas Gordan.

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

James Wright,
Peter Windham.

When a Bond is given, double the sum of the value received is mentioned in the obligatory part, and the real sum meant to be secured is inserted in the condition.

A Letter of ATTORNEY.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I David Thomas of Colchester, in the County of Essex, Tanner, (for divers considerations and good causes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, my trusty friend William Davis, of Sudbury in the county aforesaid, gent. 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 Bocking, in the said county, the sum of one hundred 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, acquitances, 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 David Thomas, in my own person, ought or could do in and about the same; ratifying, allowing, and confirming, whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done,

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 ninth day of October, in the year of the reign of our ſovereign Lord George III, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and in the year of our Lord God, one thouſand ſeven hundred and—

David Light.

Signed, ſealed and delivered
in the preſence of us,

James Thatch,
Daniel Stevens.

A Seaman's WILL and POWER.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I Thomas Bowling, mariner, now belonging to his Majeſty's ſhip the Lion, for divers good cauſes and conſiderations me thereunto moving, have, and by theſe preſents do make my truſty friend (or beloved wife) Thomas Thorp citizen and joiner of London, my true and lawful attorney, for me, and in my name, and for my uſe, to aſk, demand, and receive, of and for the right honourable the treaſurer, or pay-maſter of his Majeſty's navy, and commiſſioners of prize-money, and whom elſe it may concern, as well as ſuch wages, and pay, bounty-money, prize money, and all other ſum and ſums of money whatſoever, as now are, or at any time 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 othe wiſe, 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 be done, and about the execution of the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents; in witneſs

whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and———

Thomas Bowling.

Signed, sealed and delivered,
in the presence of us,
Philip Bonyard,
James Duncannon.

Forms very necessary for Persons in Business.

NOTE of HAND.

Surry, June 24, 1788.

ON demand (or after date) I promise to pay to Mr. Wm. Norton, or order, the sum of pounds, shillings, and pence, for value received.

Thomas Tapscot.

N. B. Mr. Norton, to make this note negociable, must indorse his name on the back, and so must every person through whose hand it goes.

BILL of EXCHANGE.

SIR, London, July 5, 1788.

ONE month after date, (sight, or at sight) please to pay Mr. Peters, or order, the sum of pounds, shillings, and pence, and place the same to account of

Your humble servant,

James Blunt.

Mr.———, Merchant, Cheapside.

N. B. Before this Bill is rendered properly negociable, or can be demanded when due, it must be accepted by the merchant, and indorsed by the person in whose favour it is drawn, and also by all such as receive it afterwards, in case of failure on the accepter's side.

MEMO-

MEMORANDUM.

Which is necessary to bind a sudden bargain.

Mem. WE A. D. and K. P do hereby mutually agree to, &c. (or abide by the above-mentioned articles of agreement) and, in witness whereof, we do hereunto set our hands, this day of February, 1788.

A. D.
K. P.

Each of the parties engaged in this memorandum must have a duplicate of it

Our readers are requested to observe, that no instrument of writing whatever must be dated with the day of the month on which Sunday falls, because such errors are always deemed invalid by law.

From a Person under Sentence of Death for Murder.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Most respectfully sheweth,

THAT your Majesty's unfortunate petitioner was convicted at the last Old Bailey sessions, of the horrid crime of murder, and received sentence of death accordingly; yet he hopes from your Majesty's humanity, as there are several circumstances in his favour, to partake of that royal clemency, which delights in bringing blessings to the afflicted.

As it appeared upon his trial, that he did not act by the influence of premeditated malice, but a sudden gust of passion, he humbly hopes to obtain that indulgent consideration which he has no doubt but your Majesty's humane disposition will deem this unhappy case deserving of, that through your Majesty's benevolence, he may live to atone for his past crimes and follies, and become an example to others, and a grateful monument of your Majesty's royal clemency.

And your Majesty's humble petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

From a Perſon under Sentence of Death for a Robbery, or a Burglary.

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble Petition of N. I.

Moſt reſpectfully ſheweth,

THAT your Majeſty's moſt unhappy petitioner was convicted in ſeſſions for having committed (a robbery, or burglary) and received ſentence of death accordingly, but from the known benevolence of your Majeſty's diſpoſition, he humbly preſumes to throw himſelf at your feet, and hopes to experience that royal clemency which has ſo often been extended to dry the tears of diſtreſs.

He is truly ſenſible of the enormity of his crimes, a ſincere penitent for having committed them; and hopes through your Majeſty's humane conſideration, to make amends for his paſt tranſgreſſions by being a grateful ſubject, an uſeful member of ſociety, a comfort to his friends, and a credit to himſelf, in any part of your Majeſty's dominions, which in your royal wiſdom you may pleaſe to appoint.

Your Majeſty's petitioner hath ſix children, and a wife at preſent pregnant, he therefore humbly implores your Majeſty's compaſſion to be extended to a miſerable huſband, an unhappy father, and a penitent ſinner. And that concord may dwell in your Majeſty's councils, bleſſings await your family, and proſperity attend your reign.

Your Majeſty's humble petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

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

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble Petition of R. P.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is the widow of the deceaſed captain F——, of the regiment of foot.

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 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 even 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 ventering his life in defence of your Majesty's person and goverment. 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.

To the Right Honourable the first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, for a Place in the Stamp Office.

The humble Petition of N. D.

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 lowest state of poverty, and destitute of the necessaries of life, and being desirous to discharge his duty as a 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 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, he is filled with the chearful hopes, that his request will meet with a favourable

vourable 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.

To the ſame 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 D. E.

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 ſubſiſtance.—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 at preſent wanting 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 if ſo happy as to ſeem worthy of your lordſhip's notice, he ſhall on all occaſions obſerve the ſtricteſt fidelity, and make it appear to the world that he has not been unworthy of your favour.

And, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

To

To the same, for a Place in the Excise.

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

The humble Petition of W. 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 guaging, 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.

From a decayed Tradesman, to the President and Governors of Christ's Hospital, for the Admission of a Boy on that Foundation.

The humble Petition of R. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived many years in credit, but through long sickness, and many losses in trade, is unable to bestow upon his youngest son an education suitable to qualify him for an honest employment, by which he might become useful in society. That your petitioner is a freeman of the city of London, and while in prosperity served all the offices in his parish. That his other children are so far grown up, as to be already bound apprentices to different trades, without ever having any assistance either from public or private charities. That your petitioner would not have made this request, had he not been impelled by the greatest

greateſt neceſſity. That your petitioner has nothing more to ſubſiſt on, but what he earns by his daily labour, and which is ſcarce ſufficient to procure him the neceſſaries of life. In conſideration of which he humbly begs your honours will be pleaſed to take the premiſes into conſideration, and admit a friendleſs boy on your foundation.

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

From a young Man, late Uſher to an Academy, to be admitted a Clerk in the Bank.

To the Governors and Directors of the Bank of England.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Shewth,

THAT your petitioner was formerly uſher and accomptant in an eminent academy in Surry; but having lately married, was diſcharged from his office, as none but ſingle men are permitted to reſide in thoſe ſeminaries. That your petitioner being willing to do every thing in his power for a ſupport as an honeſt man, and being properly qualified to diſcharge all the duties incumbent on a clerk of the Bank, he has preſumed to take this method of applying to the honourable directors. His character will bear the ſtricteſt enquiry, and ſeveral gentlemen will give ſufficient ſecurity for any truſt repoſed in him. He has the greater reaſon to hope for ſucceſs, as he is not capable of following any other employment, ſaving only that of the pen, and if ſo happy as to obtain his requeſt, it ſhall be his conſtant ſtudy to diſcharge with fidelity, every duty of that ſtation.

And, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

From

From a disabled Porter, to the Postmaster-General, to be admitted as a Letter-Carrier.

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster-General.

The humble Petition of W. N.

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 down under a load, by which two of his ribs were broken, and otherwise so much hurt as to be unable to carry loads for the future. That your petitioner was six months in St. Thomas's hospital, 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 hospital, he considered it as his 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 your lordship. That your petitioner's character would 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, will ever pray.

From the Wife of a Sailor who had been impressed.

To the Right Hon. the Lords of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of E. D.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's husband has been absent from England these three years in the East Indies, and was upon his return impressed into his Majesty's service before he

had an opportunity of settling his affairs, or even seeing his family. That your petitioner is in very distressed circumstances, occasioned by her husband's absence, nor can she receive his wages unless he were present. May it therefore please your lordships, in consideration of your petitioners great distress, to grant an order for her husband's discharge, or at least to be absent a few weeks for him to settle his affairs.

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

From a poor Widow to the Lord Chancellor.

To the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor Great Britain.

The humble Petition of N. N.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner has been long involved in a chancery suit, and has spent all her subsistance without being able to obtain a decree; that your petitioner not having money to proceed further, humbly begs your lordship to suffer to sue in Forma Pauperis.

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

From a poor Citizen, to be admitted into Bancroft's Alms Houses.

To the worshipful the Trustees of Bancroft's Alms Houses.

The humble Petition of D. D

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is a native of London, where he served his apprenticeship, and afterwards carried on business for himself; but by a variety of losses is now reduced, in his old age, to solicit the relief of some public charity; that

that hearing there is at present a vacancy in your alms-houses, he humbly begs to be admitted as one of your pensioners, being well convinced your worship will find him a proper object of charity.

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

From a Vintner's Widow, to be admitted into the Company's Alms-houses.

The Humble Petition of H. P.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's late husband lived in great credit in Cheapside, and was free of your company many years; that he died in very low circumstances, and left your petitioner, in her old age, wholly unprovided for; that your petitioner is at present utterly destitute of all the necessaries of life, and therefore humbly begs to be admitted into your alms-houses.

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

From a poor Widow to the Dean of Westminster, for the weekly Allowance of Bread and Meat in the Abbey.

To the Reverend the Dean of Westminster.

The humble petition of C. D.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived soberly and honestly many years, and always attended divine service; that at present she is greatly distressed in her circumstances, although she labours very hard for her living; that there being now a vacancy in the number of poor widows who receive the weekly bounty, she humbly begs to be admitte[illegible] [illegible]e.

And as in duty bound, shall [illegible] [illegible]ray.

From a Widow to the Lord Almoner, for a ſhare of the King's Bounty.

To the Right Reverend the Lord High Almoner.

The humble Petition of N. W.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordſhip's petitioner is the widow of an eminent tradeſman, but by long ſickneſs and other afflictions reduced to the loweſt ſtate of poverty; that your petitioner has no relief from any pariſh, but has been ſometimes charitably aſſiſted by the benevolence of ſome tender hearted chriſtians. That at preſent ſhe is in very great diſtreſs, and therefore humbly prays your lordſhip for what ſhare of his majeſty's royal bounty you ſhall think proper.

And, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

For a Watchman's Place at the Bank.

To the Honourable the Chairman and Directors of the Bank of England.

The humble Petition of P. G.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a watch-gilder, but at preſent there is little or no employment for hands in that branch of buſineſs; that your petitioner has a wife and children, and at preſent nothing to ſupport them with; that a certificate of his honeſty and induſtry is ready to be produced, ſigned by three reputable houſekeepers, and if you will, in conſideration of his diſtreſs, appoint him one of your watchmen, he will diſcharge his duty with the utmoſt fidelity.

And, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

From

PETITIONS.

From the Master of a Trading Vessel to the Lords of the Admiralty, for a Protection of his Men.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of R. N.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is now ready loaded for a coasting voyage, but the press for seamen being so extremely violent, your petitioner cannot get men to work his ship, unless your lordships will be pleased to grant them your protection; that the interest and property of many families depend on the cargo I have now on board, and therefore humbly beg your lordships to grant me a protection for as many men as are necessary to work the ship.

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

From a Lieutenant on Half-pay, to be employed in the Service.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of W. D.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served as a lieutenant during all the last war, and ever since has remained on half pay; that he is very desirous of being employed in defence of the just rights of his country, and therefore humbly prays your lorships to send him on board one of the ships now fitting out.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From

From a poor Woman to the Churchwardens of D. for the Christmas Bounty of Coals.

To the Churchwardens of D.

The humble Petition of G. F.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was left a widow with two children, whom she has continued to support by her labour; that it has long been the practice of this parish to give coals, &c. to the industrious poor at this severe season, and as your petitioner has never troubled the parish for any thing before, she humbly prays that you will consider her as an object of charity.

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

From a decayed Tradesman, to have his Son admitted into Merchant Taylor's School.

To the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.

The humble Petition of W. E.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has long carried on trade in credit, and is free of your company, but having a numerous family, he is obliged to solicit the favour of the company to have his youngest son admitted as a scholar on your foundation, and if so happy as to succeed in this first request, he shall,

As in duty bound, ever pray.

From

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

To the Minister, Church-wardens, and Overseers of the Parish of D.

The humble Petition of M. D.

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 do 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 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 Behalf of a Boy.

To the Trustees of D.

The humble Petition of D. E.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a shoe-maker, 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

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.

From a poor Man in diſtreſſed Circumſtances, to a Gentleman who lived in the ſame Neighboured.

To E. K Eſq.

The humble Petition of C. R.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a cabinet-maker, and by conſtant application to buſineſs was able to ſupport himſelf, together with a wife and four children. That about ſix months ago your petitioner was ſeized with a ſevere illneſs, which has confined him to his bed ever ſince. That during that time he was obliged to pawn his cloaths, and every neceſſary, in order to procure a ſubſiſtence for himſelf and family. That being ſtill in a languiſhing condition, and deſtitute of every manner of ſubſiſtence, I have ventured, in great humility, to lay my diſtreſſed caſe before you The ſmalleſt matter for an immediate ſupport will be ever gratefully acknowledged.

From a poor Widow, to a Lady with whom ſhe had formerly lived as a ſervant.

To the Right Honourable the Counteſs of C.

The humble Petition of R. M.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was formerly one of your domeſtic ſervants in the character of a chambermaid; that ſhe was married from your ladyſhip's houſe to Samuel Porter, a victualler,

victualler, at the sign of the Red Hart in Shoe Lane; that your petitioner's husband lately died insolvent, and left your petitioner with five young children, helpless and unprovided for; that your petitioner being well convinced of your ladyship's great goodness, has presumed to approach you in this manner; earnestly praying that your ladyship will deign to look with compassion on a distressed widow, and take under your kind protection one or more of her helpless children, so as they may be brought up in the paths of virtue.

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

From the Widow of a Sailor, requesting that her daughter might be admitted into the Asylum.

To the Right Honourable the President and Vice Presidents of the Asylum for Orphans.

The humble Petition of E. W.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is the widow of W. late mariner on board his Majesty's ship the Monmouth, that your petitioner's husband was killed on board the said ship, fighting in defence of his majesty's person and government; that your petitioner had the misfortune to be left with an infant daughter, whom she has by her labour supported till this time; that your petitioner is earnestly desirous that her child might receive such an education as would qualify her for an useful member of society; and as it is not in the power of your petitioner to be at that expence, she humbly prays that her daughter, who is now seven years of age, may be a admitted as one of the orphans on your foundation.

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

From a discharged Soldier to be admitted into Chelsea Hospital.

To the Honourable Lieutenant-General C. Governor of Chelsea, &c.

The humble Petitions of D. C.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served tweaty-one years as a private centinel in the twelfth regiment of foot, and during the whole time behaved as became a good soldier; that he was in every engagement during the last war in America; and although he did not receive any wounds, yet when he returned to his native country, his health was so much impaired, that the commanding officer was obliged to discharge him from the regiment; that your petitioner not having been brought up to any trade, has no other way of procuring a subsistence, but by applying to your honour to be admitted either as an in or out pensioner on the royal foundation at Chelsea.

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

From a Sailor to be admitted on the Chest at Chatham.

To the Honourable the Commissioners of the Navy.

The humble Petition of E. K.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served ten years on board the Resolution, where he received a wound in his shoulder, which occasioned his being discharged; and when he returned to his native country he found himself unable to work for his living; that having faithfully, and at the hazard of his life served his king and country he humbly hopes that your honours will consider him as a fit object of being admitted as a pensioner on the seamen's chest at Chatham.

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

From

From a Girl of the Town, to be admitted into the Magdalen.

To the Right Honourable the President, and Governors of the Magdalen, for the Reception of penitent Prostitutes.

The humble Petition of S. D.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be seduced by a young man under promise of marriage, although he afterwards deserted her; that your petitioner being with child, was discharged from her service, and ashamed to return to her relations; that being admitted into one of the lying-in hospitals, she was deelivered of a dead child. That finding her character was ruined, she unhappily contracted an acquaintance with some women of the town, who led her into all manner of debauchery; that being truly sensible of her guilt, and willing to return to the paths of virtue, she has presumed to apply to your worships, humbly praying that she may be admitted on your foundation, and solemnly promises that her life shall be uniformly virtuous.

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

From a Soldier to his Colonel, to be discharged.

To the Honourable Colonel F.

The humble Petition of R. C.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has served ten years in the regiment commanded by your honour, and during the whole time have always behaved as became a good soldier; that having a wife and children in a distant part of the kingdom, and being very desirous of settling with them, most humbly prays that your honour will be pleased to discharge him from the service.

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

From a decayed Tradesman, to be admitted Beadle into a Company.

To the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

The humble Petition of B. A.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was bred to the business of a Fishmonger, and carried on trade for himself many years, but by losses, and many other misfortunes, he is, with an aged wife, almost destitute of subsistence; that the place of beadle to your company being now vacant, he humbly solicits your votes and interest to succeed to that employment, and by a conscientious regard to his duty, shall endeavour to merit the favour of his constituents.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a Person afflicted with the Dropsy, to be admitted into an Hospital.

To the President and Governors of St. George's Hospital.

The humble Petition of W. G.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has been long afflicted with the dropsy, and having spent all that he could procure in paying for medicines, is still in the same unhappy condition as before, nor does he conceive any hopes of recovery unless he is admitted as a patient in your hospital; that your petitioner is a real object of charity, and humbly begs to be taken under your care.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From

From a Person afflicted with the Venereal Disease, to be admitted into the Lock Hospital.

To the President and Governors of the Lock Hospital.

The humble Petition of D. E.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to labour under the effects of the venereal disease; that your petitioner, in order to conceal his shame, applied to several persons called quacks, who gave him from time to time large quantities of their medicines; but so far from removing my disorder, that I found myself worse than at first; that your petitioner having heard of your charitable foundation for the relief of the distressed, has presumed to beg that you will be pleased to admit him into your hospital until such time as he is perfectly recovered.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a Stranger in Distress to the Lord Mayor, for a pass to his legal Settlement.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was servant to a nobleman who lately made the tour of Europe; that your petitioner accompanied during the time of his travels, but unfortunately on his return he died at Paris; that under a variety of difficulties your petitioner arrived at Calais, where he obtained a passport in his majesty's packet to Dover; that your petitioner is a native of Aberdeen in Scotland, and is obliged to travel so far on foot; that he has not any thing wherewithal to defray his expences, and unless assisted by the generosity of the public, must even perish on the road; that your petitioner humbly prays, that your lordship will be pleased to sign an order for his subsistence in the different counties through which he is obliged to pass before he arrives at his legal settlement.

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

From

From a Prisoner for a small Debt, to a Gentleman celebrated for his Humanity.

To D. G. Esq.

The humble Petition of B. A.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has laboured many years to provide for a family of young children; that having been ome weeks out of employment, he was obliged to contract a small debt at a chandler's shop; that your petitioner intended to pay it as soon as he possibly could; but his inexorable creditor sent him a summons to the county court, and took out an execution against him, and he is now a prisoner in Newgate, and his children starving for want of bread; that your petitioner has often heard of your great goodness to your fellow-creatures in distress. The whole debt and costs for which I am confined does not exceed forty shillings; and if you will be pleased to interpose so far in my favour as to set me at liberty, and to restore me to my family, my future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From one to be admitted a Watchman.

To the Churchwardens of D.

The humble Petition of W. E.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived in good credit formerly, but is now out of all manner of employment; that he looks upon himself as able to discharge the duty of a watchman in this parish; and if so happy as to deserve your notice, shall on every occasion behave as an honest man.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From

From a Drayman who had been taken riding on his Dray, to the ſitting Alderman.

To the Worſhipful Sir R. L.

The humble Petition of G. L.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner lately came from the country, and was employed as a drayman; that being uſed to ride in the country, he did not know, nor was ever told that it was contrary to the law in London, and therefore was inadvertently guilty without any deſign of giving offence; that your petitioner is ſincerely ſorry for his fault, and promiſes never to offend in the like manner again, and therefore humbly prays that your worſhip will be pleaſed to forgive him, being his firſt fault.

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

From a Hackney Coachman who had been illegally ſummoned.

To the Hon. Commiſſioners for licenſing Hackney Coaches.

The humble Petition of S. D.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner was employed to carry a fare to Enfield, which is ten miles, and for which your petitioner demanded only ten ſhillings; but inſtead of being paid was groſly abuſed, and at laſt ſummoned before your honours; that your petitioner is always ready to oblige his maſter's cuſtomers, and therefore humbly prays, that your honours will be pleaſed to order the fare to be paid, as alſo a proper recompence for his loſs of time.

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

From

From a decayed Citizen to the Livery, for the Place of Bridge-Master.

To the Livery of the City of London.

The humble Petition of B. R.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served his apprenticeship in the city of London, and was entered free of the Salter's company. That he set up for himself and carried on business with credit and reputation for the space of near thirty years, that during that time he brought up a large family of children, and gave them an education suitable to their station in life; that during the course of his trade, he met with a great variety of losses, by the misfortunes of some and the iniquity of others; that finding he was not able to make good his payments any longer, he sold his whole stock in trade, and paid his creditors twenty shillings in the pound, chusing rather to suffer every hardship than involve another in distress. That your petitioner has served all parish and ward offices, and on all occasions behaved as a good citizen; that your petitioner has several times applied to the livery for some one of those places in their gift, but hath been hitherto disappointed; that one of the places of Bridge-master being now vacant, and your petitioner being every way qualified for that office, has presumed to solicit the votes and interest of his fellow-citizens. Security will be given for his fidelity, and he will on every occasion acknowledge your kindness with gratitude.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

I N I S.