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By DAVID FORDYCE, M. A.

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## P R E F A C E.

**A**S the principal part of social and commercial correspondence is carried on by means of letters; it is a kind of reproach to any person, in the present improved and enlightened age, not to have attained a proper knowledge of an art tending so essentially to our general reputation and emolument.

Many efforts have been made at works similar to this we now lay before the public; but they have not been adequate to the important object they had in view: we do not, however, mean to comment on their imperfections, but with great deference offer one of our own, as an improvement upon others.

By carefully avoiding prolixity, we consequently give a greater diversity of matter; nay, nearly double the quantity will be found comprised in this single volume, than almost in any other two volumes of the same size; and as the subjects are various, there will be found a necessary variety in the stile, or mode of delivering the sentiments; for as our imagination acts and conceives, so our stile expresses and explains. In general our stile ought to be plain, simple, easy, and unaffected.

Some persons make use of strained allusions, redundant descriptions, high-sounding words, &c. but use the expressions so improperly, that the reader can either affix no meaning at all to them, or he may affix any meaning he pleases.

## P R E F A C E.

Young writers too often use a stile very unconnected. To such persons this volume will be found infinitely useful, as it will teach them to make a proper choice of words, and to express them with purity and perspicuity, which are two very essential objects of a learner's attention.

A freedom and ease, both of thought and expression, will be found in the contents of this volume; in short, the reader will find every advantage he can wish, both in point of stile and subject; the first being carefully adapted to the respective occasions on which the letters are written, and the last as carefully appropriated to the various occurrences of life.

To facilitate practice by the aid of theory, we present the reader with an useful and compendious Grammar of the English Language; which, we think, is laying the basis of our work judiciously, as the rudiments of a language being once obtained, a smooth and regular process is made to the thorough attainment of it. We have also given directions for addressing persons of all ranks, either in writing or conversation; and to render our work as complete as possible, we have introduced forms for genteel complimentary cards, and the art of writing petitions to superiors; and also some useful forms in law, as Wills, Bonds, &c. &c. necessary to be known by all persons.

Such is the nature of our undertaking; and we submit it to that public candour which is never remiss in countenancing works of real merit.

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## A

CONCISE and FAMILIAR.

## ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

**G**RAMMAR is an Art which furnishes us with Rules to Speak, Read, and Write properly. It hath four grand Divisions, namely *Orthography*, *Analogy*, *Syntax*, and *Prosody*.

But as this Book is not intended for Infants, I presume every person possessed of it, must already know that letters make syllables, syllables make words, words make sentences, &c. Therefore I shall begin with

*Stops or Points, and Marks or Notes.*

As writing is the very image of Speech, there are several Points and Marks made use of in it, not only to mark the distance of time in pronouncing, but also to prevent any confusion or obscurity in reading, writing, and speaking, and to render the meaning intelligible.

There are six points or stops used in reading, and writing, viz. *Comma*, *Colon*, *Semicolon*, *Period*, or full *Stop*, Note of *Interrogation*, and Note of *Admiration*. And the space of time allowed for pausing at each is as follows: Stop at a Comma, while you can distinctly tell *one*; at a Semicolon while you can tell *two*; at a Colon *three*; at a Period or full Point *four*; and at the Note of Interrogation and Admiration, while you can tell *six*.

The *Comma*, marked thus (,) is the shortest pause; as, *O sing unto the Lord, for he is merciful, long-suffering, slow to wrath, abounding in Goodness and Truth.*

A *Semicolon*, marked thus (;) ought to be made in the sub-division of the members of a sentence; *As the shadow moves, and we do not perceive it; or as the tree grows, and we do not apprehend it; so Man, &c.*

A *Colon*, marked thus (:) is used when the sense is perfect, but the sentence not quite ended; as, *If the enemy*

*enemy advances, I command you to give battle : if not, march strait to the city.*

A *Period*, marked thus (.) is made when the sentence is completely ended ; as, *Learning makes life sweet, and produces pleasure, tranquillity, glory, and praise.*

An *Interrogation*, marked thus (?) is made when a question is asked ; as, *Will you grant me this favour ? will you lend me fifty pounds ?*

An *Exclamation, Admiration, or Wonder*, marked thus (!) is a direction for raising the tone of voice upon some vehement passion being expressed ; as, *O that villain ! O wretched man ! O that I had never been born !*

The marks or notes to be met with in reading are,

1. An *Apostrophe*, marked thus (') used to abbreviate or shorten a word.

2. *Caret* thus (^) placed where some word is left out in writing, and put over it. This is also called a Circumflex, when placed over some vowel of a word to denote a long-syllable ; as *Euphrates*.

3. An *Hyphen*, thus (-) used in joining the syllables of words, and compounded words together ; as *bed-chamber*.

4. An *Accent*, thus (') being placed over a vowel, denotes that the tone or stress of the voice in pronouncing is upon that syllable.

5. *Breve*, (^) is a crooked mark for a vowel, and denotes that it is sounded quick.

6. *Diarezis*, thus (..) is two points placed over two vowels, that would otherwise make a diphthong, and parts them into two syllables.

7. *Parentesis*, thus ( ) serves to illustrate a sentence, and may be left out, and yet the sense remain intire.

8. A *Paragraph*, thus (¶) placed at the beginning of a new discourse, and denotes what is contained in a sentence or period.

9. A *Quotation*, thus (‘) to signify the words so marked are transcribed from the writings of another in his own words : Or the expressions of another in his own words.

10. An *Index* (☞) shews somewhat very remarkable.

11. A *Section*, thus, (§) is the sub-division of a discourse, or chapter, into lesser parts or portions.

12. An *Alterism*, thus (\*), an *Obelisk* (+) and *Parallels* (||), with the letters of the alphabet, figures, &c. refer to the margin or bottom of the page.

*Of Capitals, or Great Letters.*

1. ALL proper names of persons, places, seas, rivers, ships, winds, months, &c. should be distinguished by beginning with capital letters.
2. Let the first word of every epistle, book, note, verse, bill, &c. begin with a capital.
3. If any saying, or passage, of an author, be quoted in his own words, it begins with a capital, though it be not immediately after a full stop.
4. Write not a capital in the middle of a word among small letters.
5. The pronoun *I*, and the letter *O*, must always be written in capitals.

*Of Analogy.*

**A**NALOGY treats of the different kinds of words and their etymology or derivation, their likeness, change, power, and comparison.

*Of the Parts of Speech.*

**E**VERY word being considered a part of our speech or discourse, we reckon four sorts of words of a different nature, which are termed parts of speech, and are called

<i>Names,</i>	<i>Affirmations,</i>
<i>Qualities,</i>	<i>Particles.</i>

Though there are many thousand words in our language, yet every word we make use of, either in speaking or writing, comes under one of the above heads, and is either the *name* of some person or thing, descriptive of some *quality*, *affirmative* of some action, or peculiar property, or a necessary *particle* to connect the other words together.

*Of Names.*

**N**AMES are expressive of whatever is an object of either of the five senses, or of the understanding. Thus a picture, a blow, an orange, music, a stink, are *names*; as we may see, feel, taste, hear, or smell them. Time, fortune, wisdom, are *names*, being objects of our understanding, and always presenting us with a distinct idea.

*Names* are either *singular* or *plural*, that is, they express *one* thing only, or *two* or more things. Thus a *dog* is singular, as

as it means only *one* animal of that name; but *dogs* is the plural number, being expressive of several. In many words the plural number is formed by adding the letter (*s*) to the singular, as in the above example, and the following, *cat, cats, horse, horses, door, doors, chair, chairs, &c.* But when the singular number ends in *ch, sh, ss, or x*, then it is requisite to add, *es*, to form the plural, viz. *church, church-es, brush, brushes, witness, witnesses, box, boxes, &c.* If the singular ends in *se, ze, ce, or ge*, pronounced soft, the addition of (*s*) to form the plural, changes a word of one syllable into two, viz. *horse, horses, breeze, breezes, face, faces, age, ages.* Words ending in (*f*) or (*ef*) in the singular change to (*ves*) in the plural; as *calf, calves, thief, thieves.* Some words make their plurals by adding *ren, or en* to the singular; as *child, children, ox, oxen, &c.* In some words the letters are changed in the middle; as *man, men, woman, women, &c.* Some are irregular; as *mouse, mice, penny, pence, &c.* Some have no singular; as *ashes, bellows, and many have no plural; as names of men, women, cities, mountains, &c..*

The English language hath only one case, named after the Latin, the Genitive Case. This case denotes property, or possession; as *Pope's works, for the works of Pope, the King's palace, for the palace of the King.*

*Gender* is the distinction of sexes. In English the genders are extremely easy, being formed exactly according to nature, and consequently are but two, viz. *masculine and feminine, or male and female.* Thus all things of the *he, or male kind, are of the masculine gender; as man, horse, lion, &c.* and all things of the *she, or female kind, are of the feminine gender; as, woman, mare, lioness.*

There are likewise two appendages of the English genders, viz. *neuter, and doubtful.*

All things which are inanimate, or without animal life, are of the *neuter gender, as a stock, stone, table, &c.*

All words which are not quite conclusive, or determinate in their meaning, are of the *doubtful gender, and require some other word to be added to them in order to explain their precise meaning.* Thus by the word *child,* we do not understand what sex it is of. This doubtful expression, therefore, requires the word *male, or female* to be added to it, to explain its meaning; as *male child, or female child.*

An *Article* is a small word, set before a *name*, to render its meaning more expressive and particular. There are only two *articles*, *a* and *the*; as *a man*, *the horse*. But when the name begins with a vowel, instead of *a*, we say *an*, which gives the word a more graceful sound; as *an owl*. *A* is always used before consonants, except the letter *b*, which frequently requires *an* to come before it; as *an hour*.

### Of Qualities.

**Q**UALITIES express the disposition, nature, colour, and peculiar properties of persons, and things, and come before names to explain them. Thus, *good*, *black*, *fair*, *wise*, are qualities; as *good children*, *black horses*, *fair women*, *wise men*.

*Qualities*, or as they were heretofore called *Adjectives*, are the only words in our language which admit of comparison, that is of an increase, or diminution in their signification, by a trifling alteration in their terminations.

There are three degrees of comparison, viz. the *Positive*, the *Comparative*, and the *Superlative*.

The *Positive degree* is the quality itself simply expressed; as *black*. The *Comparative degree* compares it with something else; as *blacker*. The *Superlative degree* places it beyond any thing of the same species or kind; as *blackest*.

The generality of *Qualities* are compared, by adding to the positive degree *er* for the comparative, and *est* for the superlative, as in the above example, or in *white*, *whiter*, and *whiteſt*. But there are some *qualities* or *adjectives*, which are irregular, and are therefore compared by various terminations, or by a change of the word itself, thus,

<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Good.</i>	<i>Much.</i>	<i>Bad.</i>
<i>Comparative,</i>	<i>Better.</i>	<i>More.</i>	<i>Worse.</i>
<i>Superlative.</i>	<i>Best.</i>	<i>Most.</i>	<i>Worst.</i>

It to be observed, that two *comparatives*, or two *superlatives* joined together are absurd; as *more wiser*, and *most wisest*, which should be *wiser*, or *more wise*, and *wisest*, or *most wise*.

### Of Affirmations.

**A**N *Affirmation* is a word which betokens *being*, *doing*, or *suffering*. It was heretofore called a *verb*, and expresses or affirms what is said of things; thus,

*Being*

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*Being*, denotes being in some posture, situation, or circumstance, or in some manner affected; as, *to sit, to lie, to stand, to own, &c.*

*Doing*, implies all manner of action; as, *to fight, to write.*

*Suffering*, denotes the impression that persons or things receive; as *to be beaten.*

*Affirmations* have two forms or voices, viz. *active* and *passive.*

The *active* expresses what is done by the person or agent; as *I love, I hate.*

The *passive*, which is formed by the assistance of the auxiliary or helping word *am*, expresses what is done to or suffered by the person or agent; as *I am hated, I am burned.*

There are three times, or tenses, all time being either *past, present, or to come.*

The *Present* is the time that now is. The *Preter*, or *past time*, is that which *has been*, and the *future* is that which *is yet to come.*

An active *Affirmation*, or *verb*, is one that can have after it a name, signifying the subject of the action, or impression, that the *verb* or *affirmation* is used to denote; as *to kill a dog, to fight a lion, &c..*

The *neuter affirmative* signifies the state or being, and sometimes the action of a person or thing, but admits of no name after it; as *William loves, Mary sings.*

### Of Particles.

**PARTICLES** are those words which join to, or connect the other parts of speech together. They are *Pronouns, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections.*

### Of Pronouns.

**A** *Pronoun* is used instead of a *Name, or noun*, to prevent a disagreeable repetition; as instead of naming myself continually in conversation, or writing, I say, *I, or me*; and in lieu of perpetually mentioning others, I say, *he, she, they, them, &c.* therefore *I, me, he, she, they, them, &c.* are *pronouns*, as they stand in the place of, and prevent a needless repetition of *names or nouns.*

All conversation is confined to three heads, as we either *speak of ourselves, to another, or of another.* Pronouns therefore consist of three persons, called the *first, second, and third person.*

In the *first person*, we speak of ourselves, as *I and me.*

The

The second person is used to address others, as *thou*, *you*, and *thee*.

The third person is expressive of others, as *he*, *she*, *it*, *this*, *that*, &c.

In speaking plurally in the first person, we say, *we* and *us*; in the second, *ye*, or *you*; in the third, *they*, *those*, *these*, and *them*.

Pronouns are of four kinds.

viz.	Personal. Demonstrative. Relative. Interrogative.
------	------------------------------------------------------------

The Personals are *I*, *thou*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *thee*, *him*, *her*.

The Demonstratives, are *this*, *that*, which in the plural make *these* and *those*.

The Relatives, are *he*, *they*, *who*, *whom*, being used without a question.

The Interrogatives, are *what*, *which*, *who*, *whom*, *whose*, and are used in asking questions.

### Of Adverbs.

**A**DVERBS shew the manner of *affirmations*, or *verbs*, as the *Boy reads well*, or the *Boy reads badly*, where *well* and *badly* are adverbs, as they shew the manner in which the *affirmation reads*, by explaining how it was done.

There are many kinds of adverbs, as of Time, as, *to day*, *to-morrow*, *yesterday*, &c. Place, as *here*, *there*, *above*, *below*, *where*, &c. Number, as *once*, *twice*, *thrice*, &c. Order, as *secondly*, *thirdly*, *last of all*, &c. Quantity, as *enough*, *sufficient*, &c.

Affirming, as *Yes*, &c.

Denying, as *no*, *not*, &c.

Doubting, as *perhaps*, &c.

Comparing, as, *so*, *more*, *less*, *very*, &c. Quality which usually end in *ly*, as *justly*, *truely*, *falsely*, &c. These commonly admit of comparison by means of the words *more* and *most*, as *prudently*, *more prudently*, *most prudently*.

### Prepositions.

**P**REPOSITIONS are those particles which either come before *names*, or form the previous part of them; as *Pre* in *pre-distinction*, or a distinction made before hand; *ad* in *advance*, *ab* in *abjure*, *ad* in *adorn*, *dis* in *disadvantage*, &c. *In*, *against*, *for*, *into*, *from*, &c.

*Of a Conjunction*

**A** *Conjunction* is a part of speech which joins *sentences* together, and shews the manner of their dependance upon each other.

There are various kinds of *Conjunctions*, viz.

1. *Copulatives*, as *and*, *also*, *both*, *neither*, *nor*.
2. *Disjunctives*, as *either*, *or*.
3. *Concessive*, as, *though*, or *tho'* *although*.
4. *Adversative*, as *but*, *yet*, *notwithstanding*,
5. *Casual*, as *that*, *because*.

*Of Interjections.*

**I**NTERJECTIONS express the emotions, or passions of the soul, as any sudden surprize, anger, fear, &c. Thus interjections are sometimes of *Joy*, as, *ha! ha! ha!* *be!* *bravo!* Of *Grief*; as, *alas!* *ah!* *woe's me!* Of *Wonder*; as, *bless me!* *O strange!* &c.

*Of Prosody.*

**P**ROSODY teaches us the manner of *accenting* and *pronouncing* words properly; to acquire the knowledge of which two things must be particularly attended to; viz. *quantity* and *accent*. Every syllable must be sounded according to its proper *quantity*, and every word of two or more syllables according to its proper *accent*.

*Quantity* is the different measure used in pronouncing syllables, and is therefore *long* or *short*, which to each other bear the proportion of *two* to *one*; that is, you ought to be twice as long in pronouncing a *long* syllable, as you are in pronouncing a *short* one.

The mark (^) over a syllable shews it is short, and the mark (-) denotes it to be long; thus, in the word *röb*, the vowel *o* is sounded short, but long in the word *röbe*.

*Accent* is that peculiar stress of voice, which it is necessary to lay on any particular syllable in a word, without regarding whether that syllable is *long* or *short*, with respect to *quantity*.

The *accent* may relate to words of two or more syllables, and in some words is placed on the first syllable, while in others it falls on the last; as in the word *al-der-man* the accent is upon the first syllable, but in the word *dis-ap-pear*, it is upon the last.

## Of Syntax; or the Composition or Construction of Sentences.

**S**YNTAX teaches us to join words together to form a sentence, or to join sentences together in order to form a discourse.

A sentence must contain at least one *affirmation*, and one *name*, of which something is affirmed; as, *God is just*; This is called a *simple sentence*: but if we say *God is just, but man is unjust*, it is a *compound sentence*, as it contains two simple sentences joined together by the conjunction *but*.

The chief thing in the construction of sentences is to find the agreement between the *name* and *affirmation*, or their relation to each other; which is to be done by asking *who is?* *what is?* *who does?* &c. Whatever word answers the question is the *name* or *nominative word*, which agrees with, or relates to, the *verb* or *affirmation*; as, *the boy reads*. *Who reads?* answer, *the boy*: therefore *boy* is the *name*, *noun*, or *nominative word*, agreeing with, and relating to, the *affirmation*, or *verb reads*.

An *affirmation*, or *verb*, must agree with its *nominative word* in *number* and *person*; as, *the man runs*. Here the nominative word *man* is the *third person singular*, because *man*, being only one, must be *singular*: and being neither the *person speaking*, nor *spoken to*, must be the *third person*, because he is the *person spoken of*: therefore the verb of affirmation *runs*, which agrees with this nominative verb, is the *third person singular*; thus,

Singular	I run	{ 1st 2d 3d } Person
	I thou runnest	
	He runs	

The *name of multitude* must be *singular*; as, *the crowd is great*, not *are great*, because it is but one crowd.

When two *singular names* are joined together by a conjunction, the *affirmation* must be *plural*: thus, *John and Tom are fighting*; not *John and Tom is fighting*.

When more *names* than one are connected in a sentence, the *verb* or *affirmation*, agrees in number with the nearest name; as, *nothing is wanting but guineas*.

INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR  
WRITING LETTERS.

**I**T was an excellent remark of a late celebrated author, that, *If a man think twice, before he speak, he'll speak twice 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 of life, *viz.* a comprehensive idea of the subject, and an unaffected simplicity, though modesty in expression. Nothing more need be added, only, that a 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 become equally easy as speaking in company. A careful attendance to the plain and simple rules laid down in the preceding Grammar, 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.

LETTERS

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## LETTERS on EDUCATION, &c.

### LETTER I.—*From a Gentleman to the Master of an Academy.*

SIR,

**A**S I hold the education of youth to be one of the most important concerns of parents and guardians, respecting not only the welfare of individuals, but society in general, I have spared no pains in my enquiries for a person capable of the various duties incumbent on the character of a preceptor. I cannot therefore but be happy to find, from the assurance of a friend whose son has been some time under your care, that you possess the qualifications necessary for your profession, and propose shortly to add my son to the number of your scholars. To dictate to a person of ability and discretion may seem presumptuous; but candour will admit a parent to recommend such treatment as to him appears most agreeable to the genius and disposition of a child. Of these, however, you will judge from experience, and proceed accordingly. I shall only add, that being as solicitous for my son's becoming a good citizen as a good scholar, your views I hope will be equally directed to those grand objects.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant, &c.

---

### LETTER II.—*The Master's Answer.*

SIR,

**I** WAS favoured with your's, and desire to express due acknowledgement of your candour and liberality. You have concisely pointed out the two main ends of education, which you recommend as the grand objects of my professional regard. As these can only be attained by the improvement of the mind in knowledge and virtue, to which instruction conveyed with care, and precept enforced by example, are indispensably necessary, I have always endeavoured to frame my conduct upon those principles. You may rest

B

assured,

26 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my part to pro-  
mote your good intentions in committing your son to my  
care and instruction. I am, Sir,

Your obliged and very humble servant:

---

LETTER III.—*From the young Gentleman at the Academy  
to his Father.*

Honoured Sir,

IN compliance with your desire, that I would let you hear from me as soon as I was settled in my new situation, I take this opportunity of acquainting you, that I am happy in a master and mistress, and indeed in my school-fellows in general. We have our hours set apart for learning and amusement, so that I am seldom tired. Our master is not very severe in punishing, except in bad cases. As your fatherly care has placed me in this situation, it shall be my constant endeavour so to improve as to promote your good intentions to your utmost wishes. Present my duty to mamma, and believe me to be, Honoured Sir,

Your dutiful son.

---

LETTER IV.—*From the Father to the Son.*

Dear Boy,

IT affords me great pleasure to find you are happy in your situation. According to my sincere desire, that you may become a good man as well as a good scholar, I hope you are frequently called upon to read some passages of the Bible, a book I have ever enjoined you to hold in preference, because it contains truths essential to your present and future welfare. You would do well also to read at leisure a paper or two of the Spectators I sent with you, in order to acquire a general knowledge of men and things, and a purity of style in speaking and writing. Indeed, I know not any English prose so easy, familiar, and yet so correct, as that I now recommend. Your master acts perfectly agreeable to my notion of education, in adopting punishments to the nature of crimes. In a word, my advice is, that you be obedient to your master, attentive to your learning, and observant of your duty, in every respect, both to God and man. I remain, with tenderest regard,

Your affectionate father.

LET.

LETTER V.—*From a Lady to her Daughter at boarding-school, reprobating her for neglect of writing.*

Dear Charlotte,

**N**O T hearing from you for some time, I am anxious to enquire concerning your welfare, which I believe you are persuaded is the principal object of my concern. If so, why are you negligent in a matter of such moment? Is your vacant time all taken up in attention to trifles? Cannot you spare a leisure moment to inform me of the state of your health, and your advancement in learning and female accomplishments? To promote these ends, I placed you under the care of a governess, and have therefore a parental right to know how far they are answered.

I remain,

Your affectionate parent, &c.

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LETTER VI.—*The young Lady's Answer.*

Dear Mamma,

**N**OTHING gives me so much pain as your displeasure. You will however permit me to intreat your pardon of my neglect, when I assure you it shall be my constant care in future to obey your commands in every instance. I have enjoyed a good state of health ever since I had the happiness of seeing you last, and though it does not become me to praise myself, hope you will have a pleasing account from my governess of my improvement in the several branches of education. Agreeable to my duty, it shall be my endeavour to shew, upon every occasion, with what profound respect I am,

Your dutiful and obedient daughter, &c.

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LETTER VII.—*From a Mother to her Daughter on female education.*

Dear Caroline,

**A**S the education of the female part of your family comes more immediately under your care in the relationship of a mother, I have taken upon me to offer some short hints upon that subject, which may probably be of use to you in future. You may remember, that in early life care was taken to instil into your mind notions consistent with your rank; to train you to housewifery, and to endow you with the principal qualifications for a good wife and a good mother. I have therefore to enjoin you, from an affectionate concern for the welfare of you and your's, to follow the steps of a parental guide, so far as they may

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appear worthy of imitation. Be not led by fashion into  
the paths of folly, avoid extremes, and teach your chil-  
dren to consider themselves as what they are, not as what  
they are not, nor ever can be. Be yourself an example of  
modesty, prudence, and industry, and then you may rea-  
sonably expect they will imitate so amiable a pattern.

I am,

Your's most affectionately.

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LETTER VIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Madam,

YOUR last favour I received as a fresh instance of  
your affectionate regard, shewn not only to me, but  
those whom by the ties of nature I am bound to hold most  
near and dear. From my small knowledge of the world, I  
can subscribe to the truth of your remarks, and intend to  
observe it as a lesson with respect to the education of the  
female part of our family in particular. Our eldest  
daughter is sent to a boarding-school, from whence, ac-  
cording to the determination of her father, and my hearty  
approbation, she is to be taken at the age of twelve years,  
in order to be instructed in those rules of domestic œco-  
nomy, which lead to the prudent management of a family.  
This is the plan we propose to pursue in the course of the  
education of our females, trusting it will effectually pro-  
mote their welfare, and the comfort of those to whom they  
are related. I remain, with the sincerest thanks for your  
counsel,

Your dutiful daughter.

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LETTER IX.—*From a Father advanced in years to his  
Son, censuring him for an undue fondness for one of his  
children in particular..*

Dear Son,

THOUGH I would not wish to be thought a busy med-  
dling old fellow, the affection I bear you compels me  
to give you a word of advice concerning one instance of  
your conduct, that will, if persisted in, most probably be  
attended with disagreeable, if not injurious consequences.  
The particular I allude to is the indulgence of your elder  
son William, whom I find you frequently mount on a po-  
ney to accompany you, when you make occasional excurs-  
ions. This practice in a tradesman is highly imprudent,  
though his prospect in life may be promising; because it  
gives a boy a turn for extravagant pleasure, and too often  
excites an aversion to the pursuit of learning; so that when

he

he reaches to years of maturity, he proves a blockhead, contemptible in himself, and useless to society. You will deliberate on this, and, if convinced of an error, I presume you will amend it. I remain, as ever,

Your affectionate father.

**LETTER X.—From a Tradesman to his Son at school, recommending such pursuits in learning, as may best qualify him for the man of business.**

Dear Tom,

**A**S you are now turned of thirteen, and must shortly fix on some commercial business to be put to in the course of another year, you will give me leave to remind you of the necessity of applying to such pursuits, as seem most probable to qualify you for the same. These, from experience, I have found to be a considerable progress in arithmetic, the writing a good hand, and being correct in spelling. You have, I must confess, made some advance in each of these pursuits; but as there is still room for amendment, as your time of continuance at school is short, and you may, by assiduous application, make greater improvement in the course of one year than you could in three years at your beginning, I recommend to you double diligence, by which you cannot fail to acquire those branches of learning, that will prove useful and ornamental in future life.

I am, Your affectionate father,                   THO. TRADELOVE.

**LETTER XI.—The Son's Answer.**

Honoured Sir,

**Y**OUR kind advice demands my thanks, and every attention to it within the compass of my power. I must do my master the justice to say, he has taken much pains to forward me in the branches of learning you particularly recommend; nor has he been wanting in pointing out to me their usefulness in that station of life for which you design me. I hope you will find, from the letter you are now reading, that I write an easy, legible hand, suited to correspondence, and that my spelling is not erroneous. Of my progress in arithmetic you will form a judgment, when you see my last book of merchants accompts. However, at all events, I shall not fail to keep your advice constantly in view, because I am persuaded it is both my duty and interest to follow it.

I remain, Your dutiful son,                   THOMAS TRADELOVE.

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LETTER XII.—*From a Father to his Son, soon after his  
having been bound apprentice.*

My Dear Boy,

YOU doubtless recollect the advice I gave you the latter part of the time of your being at school; indeed, from your compliance with it, I am persuaded it is impressed on your memory. Hence I am encouraged to offer a few hints to your observation, now you have entered upon a new scene of life. I put you to school to qualify you for business; I put you to business to qualify you for obtaining the means to render you happy in yourself, and respectable in society. To these great ends, the same diligence is necessary in attending to the concerns of the one as the other, without which you could not be a proficient in either, or reasonably expect they could answer my design. Consider, you have passed the state of childhood; throw aside toys, and devote your mind to the substantial pursuits of business. Be obedient to your master; attend to his advice and example; and aspire to excellence in your business; remembering, that ambition in laudable attainments is a virtue. I remain,

Your affectionate father.

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LETTER XIII.—*The Answer.*

Honoured Sir,

FROM the kind concern you intimate for my success in my present state of life, I find myself bound to be attentive to your advice. I know your good nature and candid disposition will make allowance for the inexperience and flightiness of youth, and induce you to overlook some little faults which may fall to its share. I take the liberty to mention this, as I have not yet the vanity to think myself free from them; while at the same time I assure you, that in the main point of business, I shall endeavour to be as serious and as solid as those of riper years, keeping constantly in mind the counsel of so excellent a parent, and so good a master.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful and much obliged son.

L E T

LETTER XIV.—*From a Guardian in the country to a Youth apprenticed to a tradesman in London.*

Dear Billy,

**A**S the care of a parent devolved on me at the death of your worthy father, by which you became an orphan, I trust I have hitherto performed the duties of one. You received your education under my immediate inspection, and I think in some degree it has been my happiness to promote it. You are now put to a trade in London, at a distance from me, and exposed to many temptations. I hope your morals continue good, and your principles uncorrupt; but as mankind in general are frail, and youth in particular liable to be seduced, I must caution you against an inclination to go out of your master's house at night, as it is often injurious to young people, and has in many instances been attended with fatal consequences. Shun idle company, and the society of those unthinking boys, who wish to be their own masters before they have discretion to guide their conduct, and glory in those things which are their disgrace, and ought to be their shame. Neglect not publick worship on Sundays, nor suffer reprobates to laugh you out of your duty to God and man. If you always remember that *to be good is to be happy*, and guide your actions by that unerring maxim, it will certainly lead you to present comfort and future bliss. I am,

Your's sincerely.

LETTER XV.—*The Youth's Answer.*

Dear Sir,

**Y**OUR kind attention follows me wherever I go. I may truly say, that since the death of my worthy parents, you have been to me indeed a father, and should deem myself highly ungrateful, if I neglected your advice in any instance. The counsel given me in your last, I receive most cordially, and shall as punctually observe it. I have hitherto been very recluse, and therefore have not had the opportunity of seeing much of this great world; but as you warn me of the vices which prevail in it, I shall be very cautious how I engage in it, and for the present let the duties you recommend employ my time.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's most respectfully.

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LETTER XVI.—*From an Officer to his Son at school, previous to his departure on foreign service.*

Dear Child,

I INTENDED to have called on you at school before I embarked on the expedition to which I am appointed; but find myself so straitened for time, that I must not indulge that pleasing satisfaction. The only means left is to supply my absence by my advice, which I hope will be fixed in your mind. I must, my dear Boy, enjoin you to attend to your learning, because on it depends your success in life. Now is the season for improvement; this the space for acquiring that which you can never lose, and laying up a treasure which cannot be exhausted. I have, however, made such a reserve, as will not only defray the expences attending your education and apprenticeship, but enable you to set forward in life in a respectable light. I beg you will pay a proper attention to the advice of Mr. Trusty, whom I have appointed by will my sole executor, and to whose care you are solemnly recommended, from my having a firm persuasion of his integrity. When I arrive at the place of my destination, I will write to you, and shall expect an immediate answer. Farewell, remember the advice of

An affectionate father.

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LETTER XVII.—*The Son's Answer.*

Honoured Sir,

I CANNOT but be greatly affected by the information of your sudden departure; and as the present time will not admit my saying so much as I could wish, shall only observe, that, next to my obedience and duty to you, I shall pay a due regard to the precepts of Mr. Trusty. I hope to hear from you as often as possible, assuring you that it will be the greatest happiness that can be felt by,

Your most dutiful son.

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LETTER XVIII.—*From a Father to his Son, desiring him to instil religious education in his children.*

Dear Son,

I THINK I may conscientiously affirm, that from the earliest period of your life to the present hour, I have entertained a most serious concern for the promotion of your temporal and eternal interests. I endeavoured to convince you of the great importance of religion, pointed out to you the excellence of the Bible, as comprising a perfect system

system of faith and morals, and recommended it to you as an infallible guide. Nor was I disappointed in my view : you soon imbibed just notions of your duty to your Creator, and the design of your creation ; and your conduct in life has, in a great measure, been conformable to the same. As you are now become a father, I sincerely recommend to you, in this particular instance, to follow my example, as the most probable means of securing the permanent felicity of your immediate descendants. Persevere in the practice of those duties to your children which I taught you ; leave the event to an All-wise Providence ; and then, whatever it may be, you will enjoy the consolation of an approving conscience. I remain, Your's most affectionately.

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**LETTER XIX.—*From a young Gentleman at school to his Parents, as a specimen of his improvement in writing.***

Honoured Parents,

PURSUANT to the custom of our school, I present you with this specimen of my writing, in which, on comparison with former letters, I hope you will observe I have made some improvement. You may rest assured that it shall be my constant endeavour to advance not only in this, but every other branch of education, to which you may judge it expedient for me to apply, as it is my earnest desire, upon all occasions, to testify with what profound reverence I am, Your most dutiful son.

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**LETTER XX.—*The Father's Answer.***

Dear Son,

WITH infinite satisfaction I received the late instance of your filial duty, which was as pleasing to your mother as myself. I much approve your master's plan for the regulation of his school, as it respects stated specimens of your writing, and thereby excites a laudable emulation in young minds, to excel in that useful and ornamental art ; nor can I withhold my approbation of the very visible improvement you have made in it. Go on to deserve, and you shall never want my favour and encouragement, since my grand aim is to qualify you in your earlier days for such pursuits in more advanced life, as may promote your own interest, and the good of society in general. I remain, Your most affectionate father.

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LETTER XXI.—*From a Youth at school to his Parents,*  
*in acknowledgment of favours received.*

Honoured Parents,

YOUR very kind letter came duly to hand, as did the necessaries you were pleased to send me by the stage-coach. For these and all other favours I can only express a most grateful acknowledgement, and promise, as the best return I can make, to pay the strictest attention to my learning, and follow the wholesome advice you have so often given me respecting my conduct in general. My master presents his compliments, and will write to you in a few days, when I hope you will have the satisfaction of hearing from him the progress I have made in the several studies to which I have applied myself under his care and direction. I subscribe myself, honoured parents,

Your most dutiful son.

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LETTER XXII.—*From a Youth to his Father, expressing concern at not having heard from him for some time.*

Honoured Sir,

AS a considerable time is elapsed since I had the pleasure of receiving your last kind letter, I cannot help entertaining a disagreeable apprehension, that I have incurred your displeasure, though I am persuaded it must have been from an involuntary cause. Sometimes I have imputed the omission of your stated favours in writing to indisposition, and therefore, being as anxious for the state of your health as the continuance of your approbation, permit me to express a most earnest desire of hearing from you, that I may dismiss those doubts and fears which at present perplex and render me unhappy. I remain, honoured Sir,

Your ever dutiful son.

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LETTER XXIII.—*From a Youth at an academy to his Father, requesting permission to learn some of the sciences.*

Much honoured Sir,

AS I have had the pleasure of receiving your approbation of specimens of my attainments in the acquisition of the several branches of English, French, writing, and accounts, I am encouraged to solicit the favour of your permission to enter upon some new studies. I am also induced to prefer this request, from a desire of being placed on a level with those of my school-fellows, who learn geography,

graphy, the use of the globes, and drawing: these branches are represented in the most approved treatises on education, not only as useful and ornamental, but absolutely necessary for persons designed to fill some public stations in life. If therefore you are pleased to grant my request, nothing shall be wanting on my part to render your designs in my education as accomplished as possible, since it will ever be my highest ambition to approve myself,

Honoured Sir,

Your most dutiful son.

LETTER XXIV.—*The Father's Answer.*

Dear Son,

THE purport of your last letter afforded me great satisfaction. From the learning you have already obtained, I am readily induced to comply with your request. Present my compliments to your master, and tell him, that in the prosecution of the studies proposed, I shall rely on his known prudence for your direction. To encourage your industry and diligence in those pursuits to which you seem so much inclined, I have remitted your master a note, in order to accommodate you with whatever may be deemed necessary for that purpose. I am, Your most loving father.

LETTER XXV.—*From a Youth at an academy to his Parents, requesting their permission to learn to dance.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

FROM the care and expence with which my education has hitherto been attended, I flatter myself nothing will be wanting on your part to render it complete. Hence I presume to remind you, that upon my uncle's mentioning at table, when I was last at home, how proper it was for young people to acquire the useful and ornamental accomplishments of the person as well as the mind, you promised that I should learn dancing, as requisite to complete the gentleman. There are very few in this academy who do not enter upon this polite art, when they have attained to the age of ten or twelve years. You will permit me therefore to request the same opportunity for improvement, especially when I assure you that to merit the continuance of your indulgence in this, as well as every other respect, shall be the constant endeavour of, honoured parents,

Your most dutiful son.

LETTER XXVI.—*The Answer from the Father.*

Dear Son,

I RECEIVED your's, requesting the fulfilment of my promise that you should learn dancing. To convince you therefore that I would by no means discourage you from the pursuit of any thing that might recommend you in future life, you have my permission to enter upon it immediately. I have only to warn you to be careful, that the pursuit of this accomplishment does not divert your attention from more important objects, and subscribe myself,

Your affectionate father.

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LETTER XXVII.—*From a Youth at an academy to his Sister at a boarding-school.*

Dear Sister,

I WAS extremely concerned to hear by the last letter with which I was favoured from our honoured father, that you have had an attack of the fever. Anxious therefore for the state of your health, I impatiently wait to know how you are at present, and whether I may promise myself the happiness of seeing you at home next Whitsuntide. Though our separation is wisely ordered by our parents for our benefit and advantage, occasional interviews must be very pleasing to a brother and sister, whose affection I trust has and will be mutual. Entreating to hear from you without delay, I subscribe myself Your loving brother.

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LETTER XXVIII.—*From a Youth at a boarding-school to his Parents, requesting their presence at a publick examination, before the vacation takes place.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

ACCORDING to the stated rules of our school, Thursday next is the day appointed for our public examination in the several branches of education upon which we have entered. As I should be very happy to see you both upon that occasion, I have presumed to send you the inclosed, and which must be produced in order to gain admittance. From my soliciting the honour of your presence, you will I apprehend be pretty confident I shall acquit myself in such a manner as not to put you to the blush, but on the contrary brighten your prospect of my future progress in every-valuable acquisition. I remain with profound reverence, honoured parents,

Your most dutiful son.

LETTERS relating to Trade, Commerce, Family Occurrences, and various other Subjects.

LETTER XXIX.—*From a Father to his Son, just set up in business.*

Dear George,

YOU must be sensible that my concern for your welfare has attended you through your progress in life. My first care was that of your education ; my next, that of your apprenticeship ; and now succeeds, in course, that of your commencing business. I have discharged the duties of a parent with respect to the two former, and am anxious for doing the same with respect to the latter. To this end, upon this important occasion, I must first repeat the admonition I have so frequently given you to industry and sobriety, and urge them as the chief qualifications of the man of business, without which no views of success can be reasonably entertained. I now recommend to your consideration the choice of proper persons for your connections in social and commercial life. Be it your constant endeavour to associate with men of sobriety, good sense, and virtue, remembering that the character of a man of business in particular, is greatly benefitted or injured by the company he keeps. You will, I hope, also attend to the œconomy of your domestic affairs, and in the regulation of your family expences, nor foolishly aspire to begin life as you should end it ; a vanity that has proved the ruin of thousands of young beginners. These hints I offer as proofs of my zeal for your welfare. You will, I trust, communicate to me, from time to time, every particular in which you may need my advice, resting assured that my great pleasure is the promotion of the happiness of my children. I am,

Your affectionate father,

LET-

28 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER XXX.—*From a Young Beginner in business to a  
Wholesale Dealer.*

SIR,

Reading, Dec. 5.

FROM the general character you have long maintained, and your approved integrity in all your dealings with my master, justice and prudence dictate the propriety of my application to you at my outset in life. Having fulfilled the articles of my apprenticeship, I hope to the entire satisfaction of the parties concerned, my worthy father has enabled me to begin business for myself, to which purpose I have taken a shop in this town, and now propose to you my correspondence, from the motives already assigned, not doubting but you will treat me on the same terms as you have done my master. I shall endeavour to be as punctual in my payments as possible, and have therefore only to request your pleasure by return of post, which will oblige

Your humble servant.

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LETTER XXXI.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

London, Dec. 7.

YOUR's of the 5th instant came duly to hand ; and, pursuant to request, I take the earliest opportunity of assuring you that I cordially accept of your connection in business, from the character you acquired and preserved in your apprenticeship. You may rely on just dealings from me, and, as I doubt not the sincerity of your endeavours to be as punctual in your returns, shall make a point of sending you the best articles of each assortment you may order on the most reasonable terms. With wishes for the continuance of your health, and prosperity in business, I am,

Your obliged servant.

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LETTER XXXII.—*From a Retail Dealer in the country to a capital house in town, stating injuries received from the badness of their commodities.*

Gentlemen,

Upton.

NECESSTY, from a desire of preserving that reputation I have acquired, obliges me to inform you, that though your commodities have till now been as good in quality as could possibly be procured, yet lately they have been generally indifferent, and frequently so bad, as to subject me to loss of character as well as property. The only reparation you can make is to send me immediately the contents

tents of my last order in prime goods, which may be admitted by my customers as some compensation for former disappointments, not to say injuries, as well as contribute to retrieve my character, on which my success totally depends. Your compliance will be the only means of continuing our correspondence, as in case of neglect I must have recourse to another quarter, being determined to vend no goods which are any way exceptionable. I am, Gentlemen,

Your's, &c. DANIEL DOWNRIGHT.

Mess. Surface and Co. London.

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### LETTER XXXIII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

WE are very sorry that the neglect or mistake of servants has given you just cause for complaint. Care shall be taken to examine minutely into the particulars, as well as to afford you all the redress in our power. To this end, we have sent you this day the contents of your last order, selected under the immediate inspection of one of the partners, and you will be convinced, it is presumed, from the bill of parcels, of our design to indemnify you for losses sustained from the causes you mention. As we are sensible of the value of your correspondence, we hope the means we have adopted will effectually secure it, and only wish to preserve it so long as we appear to merit it. We are, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servants,

SURFACE and Co.

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### LETTER XXXIV.—*Letter of reproof from a Wholesale Dealer to a Shop-keeper, who had been backward in his remittances.*

Mr. Slowman,

NOTHING can be more irksome to me than a necessity for writing on the disagreeable subject before me; but the state of my affairs, which I always settle at this season of the year, renders it indispensable for me not only to reprove you for former breaches of promise, but peremptorily to insist on an immediate adjustment of accounts. Frequent repetitions of your disappointments have wrought me to long forbearance; but such are my connections, I cannot longer admit them as apologies for the neglect of that on which my interest essentially depends. In a word, I expect a draught or order for a considerable sum by return, and must assure you, that though I am naturally averse to rigorous measures,

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measures, the duty I owe myself, family, and creditors, in  
in case of neglect, will compel me to have recourse to the  
law to obtain my right; but shall be happy in being pre-  
vented from the same by your compliance. I am, Sir,  
Your's, &c.

PETER PUNCTUAL.

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LETTER XXXV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

THE lenity you have shewn me calls for my warmest  
acknowledgment, as the neglect of the fulfilment of  
my promises gives me the utmost concern. However, I  
must take the liberty of assuring you again most solemnly,  
that my remissness has been wholly owing to the remissness  
of others in the payment of sums due to me; for though the  
major part of those with whom I have dealings seldom fail,  
the times of their payment are precarious and uncertain. I  
shall urge them from the weightiest motives, and at all  
events, to convince you of the integrity of my designs, send  
you by to-morrow's post a draught for sixty pounds. I  
hope in the course of a week or two to remit a much larger  
sum, and in about a month to adjust the whole account.  
Let me therefore intreat your further forbearance, as seve-  
rity would answer no other purpose than that of defeating  
my intentions of doing what would afford me the greatest  
happiness. I remain, Your obliged humble servant,

SIMON SORROWFUL.

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LETTER XXXVI.—*From one Tradesman to Another, re-  
questing the payment of a sum of money.*

SIR,

I SHOULD not have requested the balance of accounts  
between us at this time, were I not under immediate ne-  
cessity of answering a very unexpected, though considera-  
ble demand. At present I have only to assure you, that as  
my credit is at stake, if you cannot send me the whole ba-  
lance, what part of it you can raise will at this critical  
juncture be highly acceptable, and of material service to  
Your humble servant,

NICHOLAS NEEDY.

LET.

LETTER XXXVII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

I AM very happy in having it now in my power, by means of an unexpected remittance, of sending the whole balance of accounts between us : it amounts, I find, upon re-visal, to £ 132 10s. for which sum I send you inclosed an order, payable at sight. In future, I hope my remittances will be attended with that punctuality, as to prevent your writing again on the like subject to,

Your very humble servant, CHA. CANDOUR.

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LETTER XXXVIII.—*From a Young Man to a distant relation, requesting the loan of a sum of money to enable him to set up in business.*

Dear Sir,

THE many favours I have already received from your hands, encourages me to solicit one more, which, if I obtain, will probably be the foundation of my future welfare. I have then to acquaint you, that Mr. Steady, with whom I served as apprentice the usual term, and as journeyman two years, died yesterday. The wages I received were for the most part applied to the relief of a necessitous aged parent, therefore of course could not make any reserve. My master, however, as a most satisfactory testimony to me of his approbation of my conduct, has left me in his will 100l. But as I find this will not be sufficient to compleat the purchase, presume to apply to you for the loan of 130l. which will enable me to begin the world with a reasonable prospect of success. I will give you bond, or any other security you may require. I hope this solicitation will not give you offence ; and should you be so kind as to comply with my request, the obligation shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by, Sir, Your very humble servant,

SAMUEL STRIVEWELL.

LETTER XXXIX.—*The Answer.*

Cousin Samuel,

I HAVE entertained a good opinion of your principles, and am confirmed in the same from the plain manner of your address on the present occasion. Finding myself much inclined to contribute towards putting you in a capacity of doing for yourself, I will call on you in a day or two, when you may introduce me to your master's executors,

when

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when, if I find no just obstacle, shall comply with your re-  
quest. I am your well-wisher,

BENJAMIN BLUNT.

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LETTER XL.—*From a Country Tradesman to a Dealer  
in London, excusing remissness in payment.*

SIR,

I FIND from the state of my accounts, that the note I gave you becomes due in the course of a few days, and have therefore taken the liberty of requesting your indulgence for about a fortnight, before which time I cannot expect to receive any considerable sums. My general punctuality, I presume, will induce you to grant me this favour, which, as it is the first, so it will be, I hope, the last of the kind I shall have occasion to ask. As some degree of security, you will hold the two inclosed notes, indorsed by persons with whom you have been connected in business, on condition of return when mine is taken up. This being a matter that gives me much anxiety, I beg you would let me know your pleasure concerning it by return of post, and you will much oblige,

Your humble servant,

MATTHEW MEANWELL.

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LETTER XLI.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

THOUGH I am not averse to compliance with your request, I must take upon me to censure your neglect of acquainting me with the state of your affairs sooner. Indeed, had you deferred writing to me on the matter but two days longer, your note would have been paid away, and your credit might have been greatly affected by default. When you offered me the note, I desired you (as I do in general those of whose integrity I have a good opinion) to take your own time, at the same time enjoining you also to observe it strictly. I will not be harsh in my reprimand; but as you are a young man lately entered upon life, I could wish you to look upon it in a friendly light. Your notes I return enclosed, as a proof that I entertain no doubt of your honesty, and am,

Your's, &c.

FREDERICK FIG.

L E T.

**LETTER XLII.**—*From a tradesman to a Wholesale Dealer, who had made a demand on him for cash before the usual time for payment.*

S I R,

YOUR drawing upon me, and that for a considerable sum, at least two months before the usual time of credit, gives me much surprize, nor can I possibly answer your demand, as, having no apprehension of it, I made no preparation. You cannot censure me with neglect, or charge me with default in any instance during the whole course of our connection. Conscious of the truth of what I advance, I confess I am anxious to know the cause of a proceeding, which gives me uneasy suspicions, and affords in particular ground to suppose you doubt my integrity. Be explicit on this matter in your answer, and you will oblige,

Your's, &c.

FRANCIS FIREBRAND.

**LETTER XLIII.—*The Answer.***

S I R,

I MAKE no doubt of your surprize at the receipt of my last. In conformity to your desire that I would be explicit, I must plainly tell you, that I have very weighty reasons for urging my demand, though I admit it to be out of the common line of transacting business. In a word, I am given to understand, from respectable authority, that you dabble in the stock exchange, and in other matters of uncertainty, which is too frequently the destruction of tradesmen: hence I infer, from such injurious conduct, the expediency of securing my own property, and must insist on my demand being complied with. Yours, &c.

SIMON SAFEGUARD.

**LETTER XLIV.—*From an Embarrassed Tradesman to one of his Creditors, requesting his concurrence in a letter of licence.***

S I R,

I AM extremely concerned in being under a necessity of representing to you, that through a variety of crosses and disappointments, my affairs are in so embarrassed a state, as to put it wholly out of my power to satisfy the demands of my creditors, unless they grant me a letter of licence for eighteen months. You must acknowledge, that during the six years I have dealt with you, my payments have been regular: hence I am encouraged to hope you will

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will be induced to come into the proposal. In short, if  
this indulgence is refused me, I cannot retrieve my affairs,  
and my ruin will prevent my doing that justice, which, I  
trust, my general conduct has proved to be my sincere desire.  
Your pleasure is impatiently expected by, Sir,

Your most humble servant, LUKE LUCKLESS.

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LETTER XLV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

I MUST frankly acknowledge, that your general punctuality leaves no cause to doubt of your integrity; and am therefore disposed to comply with your request. If I can be of any service with respect to the compliance of others with whom I may have influence, I shall exert it with the greatest pleasure. That the issue may be a happy accommodation, attended with a series of future success, is the wish of

Your's sincerely,

HENRY HUMAN.

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LETTER XLVI.—*From a Tradesman to a Principal Creditor, requesting his acceptance of a composition.*

SIR,

I AM under the necessity of informing you, that I am in the number of the unfortunate involved in the common ruin, occasioned by some late capital failures. To you, as my principal creditor, I therefore, first address myself. My books shall be submitted to the inspection of such persons as may be appointed on the occasion. Permit me therefore to request you will be pleased to call a meeting of my creditors, represent my case, and my remaining effects shall be surrendered without reserve. When an estimate is taken, I hope they will accept of such composition as it will admit of, and not deprive me of that liberty which is essential to my future support. Your benevolent compliance will be a prevailing example with the rest of my creditors, and lay under infinite obligation, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

HARRY HAPLESS.

L E T.

LETTER XLVII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

THE purport of your last gives me much pain, as nothing can be more affecting to an honest tradesman than unavoidable losses sustained in business. Your proposal meets my hearty approbation, and I shall endeavour to carry it into execution : at the meeting of your creditors I shall exert myself in your behalf, being satisfied with your conduct, since our connection in business. I am, with sincerity, your friend,

CHRISTOPHER KINDLY.

LETTER XLVIII.—*Offering assistance to a friend in distress.*

SIR,

SYMPATHIZING with you for the loss you sustained through the failure of Mr. Squander, you will suffer me, as I take a part in your sorrows, to take a part in administering to your consolation. I trust you bear this incidental evil of life with becoming fortitude, to which nothing can more effectually conduce than conscious integrity. To compliment known merit is superfluous, I shall therefore wave all ceremony of that kind, and frankly authorize you to draw upon me to the amount of 200l. which you may use for such time as the state of your affairs shall require. I only add, that your acceptance of the service will afford me equal pleasure with the offer.

I remain your sincere friend, PETER PLAINLY.

LETTER XLIX.—*The Answer.*

My dear Friend,

THE additional instance of your liberality in the generous offer made in your last, exalts your character, if possible, in my opinion, binds me to you by every tie of respect and gratitude, and enjoins me to a most cordial acceptance of it. I am happy in the approbation of a man of sense and humanity, who wishes to alleviate my misfortunes, not merely by word, but his deed ; and therefore with as little ceremony as used on your part, shall draw upon you at a twelvemonth for the sum proposed. It will fully answer my present occasion, and I hope enable me to adopt some method for retrieving my affairs. I am, Sir, your much obliged humble servant,

GREGORY GRATEFUL.

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LETTER L.—*From a Merchant's Clerk in town to his  
Master in the country.*

SIR,

**A**S business, it is presumed, has detained you from home longer than was expected at your departure, my duty directs me to enquire concerning your health, and at the same time to acquaint you, that the utmost care and attention have been paid to the transaction of your commercial concerns in your absence. Your return, however, as soon as affairs will permit, is ardently wished, on some affairs which you only can adjust. You will permit me to assure you, that it is with the greatest pleasure I embrace this opportunity of testifying with what profound regard, I am, Sir, your most faithful servant,

CHARLES CLEARACCOUNT.

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LETTER LI.—*The Answer.*

Mr. Clearaccount,

**Y**OUR's came duly to hand, and met my approbation as a token of duty in you. With satisfaction I hear that the prosecution of my business is not interrupted by my absence, which has been protracted by unforeseen events, longer than I expected. Hope, however, so to arrange matters, as to be able to set off for town in a few days. I am, yours, &c.

ROBERT REGULAR.

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LETTER LII.—*From a Tradesman in the country to a Friend in London; requesting him to purchase some commodities for him.*

Dear Sir,

Derby, Dec. 23.

**A**S in this inland situation it is almost impossible to obtain genuine liquor, I shall esteem it a favour, if you would purchase for me a pipe of port wine, another of sherry, a puncheon of Jamaica rum, and a piece of Coniac brandy. I shall divide the contents amongst the circle of my acquaintance, who will be much obliged by being admitted to a share. You will be pleased to send them by our carrier, with an account of the charge, which shall be immediately defrayed, with true acknowledgment of the obligation by,

Your's most sincerely,

TIMOTHY TUNBELL.

LETTER LIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Friend,

*London, 26.*

A GREEABLE to your request I have purchased, with the advice of a friend, who is a competent judge of liquors, the several articles therein specified. They were sent to the Derby waggon, which set out yesterday morning, with a proper permit, and I hope will arrive safe, to your satisfaction, and that of your acquaintance concerned. I shall ever be happy in executing your commands, and presume I need make no ceremony in assuring you, that a hare, or any game, than can be consequently obtained, will be acceptable at this season. Observe, I prefer my request, not as a requital for services done, but that I may have an opportunity of acknowledging the obligation, as I would be known by my friends in general, to be as capable of conferring as of receiving a favour. I remain your friend, &c.

TITUS TURNABOUT.

LETTER LIV.—*From a Tenant to a Landlord, in excuse of delay in the payment of rent.*

SIR,

UNFORESEEN events constrain me to request your indulgence with respect to the payment of the half year's rent, due at Christmas last, till the ensuing quarter, at the expiration of which time, you may rest assured it being paid up in full, by

Your much obliged humble servant,

PAUL PROMISE-KEEP.

LETTER LV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,-

YOUR general punctuality calls for my indulgence, so that I have only to assure you of my ready compliance with your request, not entertaining a doubt of the fulfillment of your promise. I remain, Sir,

Yours, &amp;c.

MATTHEW MANY-ACRE.

LET.

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LETTER LVI.—*From a tenant in the country on the  
same occasion.*

Honoured Sir,

SO many misfortunes have come upon me together, that I must take the liberty of entreating your indulgence for one quarter longer. Last season turned out very bad, which added to loss of cattle, and the expences of a sick family, has greatly distressed me. I have at present a good prospect of the ensuing season, and ground to hope, both the hay and corn harvest will prove very favourable, which will enable me to answer your just demands, and by that means give the highest satisfaction

to, Sir,

Your much obliged and most obedient humble servant,

PHILIP PLOUGHSHARE.

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LETTER LVII.—*From a merchant at Hamburg to a  
correspondent in London.*

SIR,

PURSUANT to contract at the last interview we had, previous to my departure from England, I have shipped on board the Success, Captain Fairweather, 24 bales of linen, of various sorts, marked T. T. They have separately passed my own examination, so that I can warrant them all good of their kind. By the next ship that fails for our port, you will send me the several articles specified in the order inclosed. As from our long connexion, I am persuaded you have a due sense of the duties of commercial life, I cannot doubt of your attention to the quality of the goods, or your care in dispatching them. I am Sir, your most humble servant,

DAVID DILIGENT.

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LETTER LVIII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

YOUR advice of the goods shipped on board the Success, Captain Fairweather, came duly to hand, and I have the pleasure to inform you of their arrival, a short time after the packet. I shall ship on board the Speed-well, Captain Bluffman, the several articles specified in your order, and act, I hope, upon the principles you mention, from a due conviction of their importance in the

the mercantile line. The continuance of our correspondence will be highly acceptable to me, and I doubt not of its being productive of our mutual benefit.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

THOMAS TREATFAIR.

**LETTER LIX.—*From a young Man bred to the sea, requesting of a distant Relation the loan of a small sum of money, to enable him to proceed on a voyage.***

Dear Sir,

I SHOULD not presume to trouble you on the present occasion, did I not bear in remembrance the esteem you testified for my late father. His generous and unsuspicuous temper, you well know, laid him open to the designs of the crafty and overbearing, by which means he was reduced to indigent circumstances some time before his death. I am now shipped as second mate on board a large vessel bound to the island of Jamaica, out destitute of money to procure not only a venture, but necessaries for the voyage, which I must of course decline, if not assisted by some benevolent hand. This is the true state of my case, which I take the liberty to lay before you, as a plea for my entreating of you the favour to advance me, on the best security I can give, the sum of 30l. This assistance, in all probability, will be the occasion of my future welfare in life, and will be ever remembered and acknowledged with that gratitude, which will be always due from,

Your most humble servant,

HENRY HAZARD.

**LETTER LX.—*The Answer.***

Dear Harry,

Dec. 29.

THE manner of your address upon an occasion which much affects me, confirms the opinion I have long entertained of your modesty and candour, and while it brings to mind the remembrance of a worthy, though unfortunate relative, it disposes me not only to pity, but succour his hapless son. I receive that request with a sensible pleasure, which you preferred with a becoming diffidence, and rejoice in an opportunity of serving a worthy young man. Let me know your situation more particularly, point out any reasonable views that may present, and you

C.

then

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then shall find in me a friend, not merely in word. I expect  
you to dine with me on Thursday next, and am,  
Your's most sincerely,                           WALTER WORTHY.

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LETTER LXI.—*To a Friend, limiting the re-payment  
of a sum of money to a certain time.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your's, stating your present situation, and  
requesting of me the loan of 40l. to answer an im-  
mediate purpose, which you positively affirm it will be in  
your power to re-pay in three months. As I am dis-  
posed to oblige you, though it will be attended with some  
inconvenience, I have inclosed you a bank-note to the  
amount specified; but am under a necessity of conjuring  
you, by all the ties of friendship, to make a point, at all  
events, of keeping the time of re-payment most precisely,  
as a failure therein would be attended to me with very  
injurious consequences. To enforce this injunction, I  
must assure you, that what I now do to serve you but  
little suits the state of my finances, and is the sole effect  
of a friendly regard. I am, your's,

SAMUEL STRAIN-A-POINT.

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LETTER LXII.—*To a Friend, who had postponed ful-  
filling his promise of lending a sum of money on an exigence.*

Dear Friend,

AS I presumed the kind promise you made me twelve  
days ago, of lending me 50l. upon my bond, arose  
from a friendly motive of serving me, in a point no less  
essential than that of preserving my credit, I must assure  
you that I feel the disappointment more sensibly than I  
can express. Not doubting your word, I looked no far-  
ther, and am thereby involved in the utmost perplexity,  
as the day set for answering an indispensable demand ap-  
proaches, and I still remain in an uncertainty of posse-  
sing the means. I hope no prejudice on your part, nor  
misrepresentation on that of any other, has induced you  
to swerve from your purpose, as the time will not ad-  
mit of applying elsewhere, and my credit is wholly at  
stake. I shall wait on you the day after to-morrow, to  
know your pleasure, and am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

L E T.

LETTER LXIII.—*Apology to a person desirous of borrowing Money.*

SIR,

**I**N matters of moment it is my wish to be as brief, though explicit, as possible: suffer me, therefore, in replying to your request, to assure you, that the state of my finances is not adequate to answer the demands made upon me, and therefore, to wave excuse for non-compliance,

I am, your's, &amp;c.

LAURENCE LACONIC.

LETTER LXIV.—*To the same purport.*

SIR,

**I** Am sorry to inform you, that my case is so similar to your's, as to require the same kind office of some other, for which you apply to me. Remember the old adage—“A word to the wise.” Your's, &c.

BOB SHORT.

LETTER LXV.—*Recommending a Man Servant.*

SIR,

**I**N reply to your polite address, desiring a character of the bearer, who has been employed in my service during a series of six years, I can assure you, upon my honour, that his knowledge and diligence in the business he professes to undertake, entitle him to a recommendation worthy of your notice. To these qualifications are added, honesty and sobriety, which I presume, taken together, form the essentials of the character of a servant. I am, your's, &c.

LEWIS LOVEMERIT.

LETTER LXVI.—*Requesting the Character of a Housekeeper.*

MADAM,

**M**RS. KEYS, who lately lived with you in the capacity of a housekeeper, in consequence of intelligence of a vacancy in my family, has applied to me for employ in the same line. As you are doubtless as conscious as myself of the importance of the trust and qualifications necessary for the due discharge of it, her engagement in my service will depend on the character she has sustained in your's; for which I rely on your honour and veracity. Your answer by the bearer will greatly oblige,

Madam, your obedient servant,

DINAH DAINTY.

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LETTER LXVII.—*The Answer.*

MADAM,

MRS. KEYS, our late housekeeper, waited on me with yours, respecting her character; in reply to which I can take upon me to recommend her as a person fully competent to the several departments in her line; and possessing a share of good-nature, as well as being soberly and honestly inclined. I am, Madam,

Your humble servant,

CATHARINE CANDOUR.

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LETTER LXVIII.—*Enquiring the Character of a Cook-Maid.*

MADAM,

A Woman, who calls herself Dorothy Dripping, applying to me to be hired as cook, and informing me she last lived in your family, you will excuse the trouble I give you, in desiring the favour of a line respecting her character, according to the custom necessarily followed upon such occasions. I am, Madam, yours, &c.

DEBORAH DECENT.

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LETTER LXIX.—*The Answer.*

MADAM,

DISAGREEMENT amongst servants, than which nothing is more common or more disgusting to heads of families, rendered it expedient for me to part with Dorothy our cook. This I can assure you was the sole cause, as I must say she is very expert and cleanly in her business; nor did I ever find her addicted to any bad habits or customs. I am, Madam, yours, &c.

LOUISA LOVEPEACE,

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LETTER LXX.—*To a Friend on breach of promise, in the neglect of repaying a Sum lent.*

SIR,

YOU must recollect, that when you applied to me, requesting the loan of 40l. with positive declaration of repaying me in three months, I complied with your desire, and at the same time represented to you the very injurious consequences with which your failure would be attended to me. Six months are now elapsed, and have passed unnoticed by you. What can I infer from such treatment, but that

that I was deceived in my opinion of your principle? I thought you a man of probity, and as such strained a point to serve you, for the sole motive, as I observed, of a friendly regard. I can hardly refrain still from thinking you one of those I admitted into the number of my friends from a persuasion of your title to social regard; convince me that you are so, and obviate the disagreeable necessity of reproaching you with ingratitude, and myself with folly.

I am, your's, &c.

SAMUEL STRAINAPOINT.

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LETTER LXXI.—*From a Merchant in London to a young Man going to the West-Indies.*

Dear Tom,

YOUR's, dated from Liverpool, came duly to hand.

I have sent you what I thought necessary for the prosecution of your voyage to Barbadoes, with recommendations to my correspondents on the island. I make no doubt of your obtaining a situation in a capital counting-house, and as it is common for clerks in that country to trade a little for themselves, would offer a word of advice on that subject. Purchase only the natural productions of the island; you are well acquainted with them from being so long in my counting-house. What you buy consign to me, and I will dispose of them to the best advantage, and in return I will send you such goods as I shall deem most saleable, by which means you will always be turning your money. Let diligence and integrity be your guides, and then fear not of success. I am, your sincere friend,

ROBERT RUMBO.

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LETTER LXXII.—*The young Man's Answer after his Arrival at Barbadoes.*

Honoured Sir,

I hope my letter of acknowledgment of the receipt of your's at Liverpool, with your other favours, came duly to hand, and shall now take the liberty of communicating to you the particulars of my situation since my arrival on this island. I am settled with Mr. Candour, a merchant of probity and property, and upon terms adequate to my most sanguine wishes. The conversation here is engrossed by the subject of the slave-trade, which some time ago engaged the attention of the British parliament.

The grand plea of the advocates in its favour is indispensable necessity, whilst those on the opposite side contend that no necessity can justify inhumanity. My master strenuously asserts the common rights of mankind of every climate and complexion, as the creatures of the universally benevolent parent of nature, whose goodness is extended to all his works. I have ever been of his opinion, and cannot be an eye-witness of the cruelties exercised on my fellow-creatures without horror. But waving the melancholy theme, I take the liberty of informing you, that I shall shortly trouble you with the consignment of some commodities, the natural productions of the island, which I have purchased, according to your instructions, and desire you to use your discretion with respect to the disposal of them, and the choice of the articles in return. Present my respects to whom due; and believe me to be, honoured Sir,

Your most grateful servant,

QUINTIN QUILL.

**LETTER LXXIII.—*From a Gentleman to his Nephew, a young man going to the East-Indies.***

Dear Dick,

I Am happy to find that the Interest I have exerted in your favour has produced the desired effect, having through my interest with some of the directors of the East-India company, procured you an eligible situation abroad. There are some things, however, of which I must remind you respecting the regulation of your conduct. The advantage to be derived from your situation will greatly depend on yourself. Many circumstances will occur, of which you never thought. Your health must be one grand object of your care, in a climate not congenial with your constitution. To this nothing will so effectually conduce as sobriety, to preserve which you must reject the solicitations of young men of volatile passions, who would lead you to spend your time in idleness and dissipation. In a country where you will have frequent opportunity of taking advantage at the expence of honour, justice, and humanity, I must beg of you never to avail yourself of that circumstance. Bear constantly in your mind, that a penny acquired with honesty is of more intrinsic value than pounds, procured by fraud and barbarity. Peace of mind is superior to all the blandishments of this world, and an approving conscience

conscience is a continual feast. I have sent you every thing necessary for the voyage, and commending you to the care and protection of an all-wise providence, remain,

Your's most affectionately,

BENJAMIN BENEVOLENT.

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LETTER LXXIV.—*The Answer.*

Honoured Sir,

I Am at a loss in what manner to express my grateful sense of the favours you have heaped upon me. My education, on the demise of my father, became the first object of your care, and now you appear as solicitous for my advancement in life, as you were for my preparation for it. The last instance of your friendly, I may say paternal regard, calls for my warmest acknowledgment, and I should be guilty of the foulest of crimes, were I remiss in my attention to your salutary advice. I shall be attentive to your injunction with respect to availing myself of certain advantages, at the expence of those principles which alone constitute respectability of character, ever remembering, that it is much more noble to be a good than a great man. I return you my sincerest thanks for your favours in general, and shall be happy in proving with what profound respect I am, honoured Sir,

Your most devoted nephew,

GREGORY GRATEFUL.

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LETTER LXXV.—*From a young Man going to settle at Oporto to an Uncle, who had retired from business.*

Kind Sir,

FROM the experience I have had of your care and indulgence, since the death of my worthy parents, I am convinced it is both my duty and interest to open my mind to my best friend and benefactor. I shall therefore wave apology, and frankly acquaint you that I am disposed to try my fortune abroad, as an opportunity now offers for so doing. Mr. Pipe, the wine merchant, whom you well know, has declined business, and made it over to his son. The young gentleman, who is going to settle at Oporto, has offered to make me his principal clerk, and to allow me an extraordinary salary, besides considerable perquisites. The proposal to me appears advantageous; indeed it is my humble opinion, that by accepting it I

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shall have an opportunity of becoming more acquainted  
with the world, and of acquiring, in a reasonable time;  
as much as will enable me to set up business. I submit  
the matter, however, to your better judgement, by which  
I desire ever to be guided; and am, your dutiful nephew,

GEORGE LEDGER.

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LETTER LXXVI.—*The Answer.*

Dear Nephew,

YOUR dutiful attachment to me, and regular conduct  
in life, afford me the greatest pleasure. I have duly  
considered the matter you submit to my judgement; and  
am of opinion, that the proposal made by Mr. Pipe is very  
eligible. I have, however, something to communicate,  
which I think worthy of your attention.

You are now going to a strange country, where you will  
find opinions, modes, and customs, different from those  
which prevail in that of your nativity. I recommend you,  
therefore, to remember, that notwithstanding this differ-  
ence in trifling matters, human nature is the same in all  
ages, and in all nations. Upon this principle I offer you  
my advice: let your behaviour, not only to those with  
whom you are immediately connected, but to the natives  
in general, be obliging and complaisant. Be very careful  
to avoid any sarcasm or raillery on their religion. They  
are great bigots, and would not hesitate to resent what  
you might thick a jest at the expence of your life. Avoid  
gallantry as carefully, they are jealous to madness, which  
has impelled them frequently to acts of desperation.  
Lastly, be just in all your dealings with them, that your  
country may never be dishonoured by any part of your  
conduct. You will accept of the enclosed for the uses re-  
quired on the present occasion, and as attended with the  
best wishes of your affectionate uncle,

SAMUEL LEDGER.

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LETTER LXXVII.—*From a Rider, in the Country, to his  
Employer, in London.*

SIR,

*Lincoln.*

WHEN I wrote to you last from Boston, in this  
county, I transmitted you a minute account of  
debts collected, and orders received. I doubt not but you  
will judge from thence that matters go on favourably hi-  
therto.

thereto. Having waited on our three principal correspondents in this city, I am to inform you, that two of them have discharged their bills, and given fresh orders to a considerable amount; but the other still continues tardy. You will readily perceive that I mean Mr. Slowman, whose affairs I am given to understand are in a very embarrassed situation. Some people here are of opinion that a statute of bankruptcy will be taken out against him, whilst others talk of a compromise. I have been advised to arrest him in your name for the debt that is owing, but as this is a tender point, I dare not proceed in it, without your authority; nor does it become me to dictate to you, but to receive and act according to your instructions. I shall, therefore, not take any measure till I know your pleasure, with which I hope to be favoured by return of post; and, remain, Sir, your devoted servant,

HENRY HORSEMAN.

LETTER LXXVIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Harry,

*London.*

YOUR's from Lincoln came duly to hand, and gave me a mixture of pleasure and pain. Before you transmited me an account of the state of Mr. Slowman's affairs, I had information of the same from a neighbour, whose rider had just left Lincoln. I highly approve of your conduct with respect to him. If matters can be brought to a compromise, I will accede to such terms as may be proposed. Proceed with the like prudence and diligence you have hitherto done, and rest assured you shall not fail of reward, from your's, &c.

Moses MARKMERIT.

LETTER LXXIX.—*From a Tradesman in London, to a Correspondent in Liverpool.*

SIR,

*London.*

HAVING written to you thrice on business of importance, and without your taking the least notice, I must now decline all ceremony, and demand of you an explicit reason for such extraordinary conduct. You know the indispensable necessity of money for carrying on trade, which must be attended to with a sort of laborious permanency, or no good consequences can be reasonably expected. No man has a right to gratify his inclination at the expence of

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his neighbour. Your silence upon such material business,  
after so often writing to you, gives me no small uneasiness.  
I therefore beg to hear from you by return of post, otherwise I shall charge you with baseness, and want of generosity, and treat you accordingly. I am, your's, &c.

PAUL PLAINTRUTH.

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LETTER LXXX.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

*Liverpool.*

THOUGH your letter conveys expressions that cannot but appear to me harsh and disagreeable, I must, upon deliberate reflection, exempt you from censure. I flatter myself, however, with being able to assign such reasons for the neglect with which I am charged, as will give you entire satisfaction, and restore me to your good opinion. Know then, sir, that when your letters came (which they did in the course of three succeeding posts) I was on a journey to Manchester, and my shopman, daily expecting my return, thought it most expedient to submit them to my inspection, without undertaking to answer them, a business I ordered him always to leave to me, I am as sensible of the necessity of money for carrying on trade as you can be, and from that conviction happy in being able to send you the enclosed order, payable at sight.

The articles you sent me are unexceptionable in their quality, and the prices severally affixed must be admitted highly reasonable, considerations which certainly entitle you to attention and punctuality. I remain, your's,

FRANCIS FUSTIAN.

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LETTER LXXXI.—*From a Merchant at Lisbon, to his Correspondent in London.*

SIR,

YOU would have received your order most probably before now, had not the packet which brought your letter, by some accident been detained a considerable time at Corke, where it had been driven by contrary winds. However, as we expected to hear from you, most of the articles you want were packed before the order arrived, which of course will obviate delay. The wine I am confident will prove of excellent quality: but the lemons, I fear, will not give so much satisfaction. However, if complaints should be made by any of your customers, you may

may be assured that no better can be procured at this season of the year. Your remittance was very acceptable at the time it arrived, as I was disappointed in my expectation of receiving a considerable sum from Bristol. You are requested to forward the linen ordered in my last, because we have great demands for that article. As for the assortment in the ironmongery branch, it must be left to you, without specifying particulars. Some of the last articles received had been damaged, but that I am ready to suppose was unknown to you, otherwise you would by no means have sent them. I shall rely on your personal care and inspection respecting every article contained in my orders, as you must be convinced of the necessity of such caution.

I am, your's, &c.

GILES GRAPEJUICE.

LETTER LXXXII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

I Received the wines and fruit which arrived in the ship Goodwill, and find them correspond with your description; but am concerned that you should have cause to complain of any commodity I transmitted to you. To be plain with you, I trusted to my broker, who I find has deceived me, which I shall take care he shall not do a second time, as from henceforward all dealing between him and me shall cease. The different articles of hardware have been selected under my immediate superintendance, so that I doubt not of your finding them answer your expectation.

I remain, your's, &c.

VINCENT VARIOUS.

LETTER LXXXIII.—*From a Clerk at Bengal, to his Father in London.*

Honoured Sir,

CONSCIOUS of the duty I owe you, I cannot let an opportunity pass that affords me the means of expressing the sense I shall ever retain of it. I have the pleasure to inform you, by the ship Osterly, which is just ready to sail with the fleet for England, that since my arrival here, my success has exceeded my expectations. You will find, from what I have sent on board the Osterly, that I have not misapplied my time, though I can assure you I have used no illegal methods, ever remembering the maxim, that ill-gotten wealth is a curse instead of a blessing. I am

60 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
determined upon the whole, that your advice shall be the  
rule of my conduct. You are to me the best of fathers, I  
am therefore bound to abide by your directions. You will  
use your own discretion in the disposal of the goods I have  
sent; and next season I should be glad to have a return of  
shoes and hardware, as those articles commonly ensure  
success. I am with respectful compliments where due,

Honoured Sir, your most dutiful son,  
MICHAEL MUSLIN.

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LETTER LXXXIV.—*The Answer.*

Dear Son,

WITH infinite pleasure I received an additional tes-  
timony of your dutiful regard, in your letter by  
the Osterly, and rejoice to hear that your success has ex-  
ceeded your expectations. The goods came safe to hand,  
and I have endeavoured to dispose of them to the best ad-  
vantage. The articles which you think most commonly  
successful I have particularly attended to, and those, with  
others, I have sent by the Edgecote East-Indiaman, hoping  
you will receive them all safe. May prosperity attend all  
your laudable undertakings; may you never swerve from  
the rule of equity, but persevere in well doing, as the  
surest foundation of your real happiness, is the ardent wish of,

Your affectionate father,

M. MUSLIN.

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LETTER LXXXV.—*From a Wholesale Dealer in London,  
to a Correspondent at Birmingham.*

SIR,

YOUR order came duly to hand, and the articles spe-  
cified in it shall be sent by the Birmingham waggon  
the latter end of the week. It is with pleasure I inform  
you, that trade is not so bad in London as some have  
weakly imagined, and others industriously insinuated.  
There have been capital failures indeed of late, but I can-  
not apprehend they will much affect the general run of  
trade. The goods I have sent you are equal to any that  
can be procured in London, and I sincerely wish you  
success in all your undertakings.

Yours, &c.

TIMOTHY SWRECARD.

LET.

LETTER LXXXVI.—*The Answer.*

Dear Sir.

I Received your parcels by the waggon, and though I have not had time to examine them, doubt not but that they will be found fully to answer the description you have given. I am glad to hear that trade in London is not so much on the decline as some have reported. I have only to observe that we have lately had several good orders from correspondents of undoubted credit, and am,

Your's, &c.

FRANCIS FORGE.

LETTER LXXXVII.—*From a young Man who had failed in business to a Gentleman of fortune.*

Honoured Sir,

I Apply to you in my present situation, from the exalted character you bear, of being ever disposed to acts of humanity. It was my misfortune to enter upon a business, with the nature of which I was in a great measure unacquainted. After having been about two years in business, to avoid the miseries of a prison, I took shelter in London, where I have derived all my support from a brother, who is in but very indifferent circumstances. In this melancholy state I was informed that a relation of your's at Manchester wanted a clerk, in the room of one who is going abroad, and therefore embrace this early opportunity of writing to you, to solicit your recommendation. I have yet some friends who will give security for any trust reposed in me, and I hope that no part of my conduct will ever give offence. Though I have been unfortunate, I trust I shall never be dishonest. If you ever did a generous action (and I know of many) the grant of the favour now requested will add to the number, as well as lay me under the most lasting obligations. Waiting your pleasure, if you will deign to let me hear from you, I am, Sir, in the most respectful manner, Your's, &c.

HUGH HOPELESS.

LETTER LXXXVIII.—*The Answer.*

Friend Hopeless,

YOUR's I received, and am much concerned for your misfortunes, to alleviate which I have chearfully complied with your request, and my relation has consented to receive you. Go immediately to Manchester, as no time is to be lost; this is a necessary consideration, because you should

62 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
should have some knowledge of the business before the  
clerk goes away. I have done all in my power to serve you,  
and sent something enclosed to defray your expences.

I am, your well-wisher,

GEORGE GRACEFUL.

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LETTER LXXXIX.—*From a Tradesman desirous of  
retiring from business to his Friend in the country.*

Dear Friend,

I Have now been, as you well know, near thirty years in  
trade, nor have I spent the whole of that in vain.—  
God has been pleased to bless my honest endeavours, in-  
somuch, that I possess what I think a competence to retire  
from the noise and bustle of life. I have settled all my  
accounts to the general satisfaction of those with whom I  
was concerned. My wife and only son died about two  
years ago of an epidemical distemper, within a short space  
of time from each other, and it may be justly said, that I  
have been in a state of mourning ever since: I therefore  
beg that you would look out for a snug convenient spot,  
where I may end my days in solitude—and you will confer  
a lasting obligation on, yours sincerely,

ROBERT RICHENOUGH.

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LETTER XC.—*The Answer.*

My dear Friend,

I Rejoice that success has crowned your honest endea-  
vours, and that you have formed a resolution of end-  
ing your days in tranquillity, as I have done, and find no  
reason to repent. I have looked out for a proper place,  
where you will be well accommodated. The house is  
situated near the church, so that you will have frequent  
opportunities of attending divine worship. The prospect  
is agreeable, and there are many pleasing walks, calcu-  
lated to bring the mind into a solid frame of thinking.  
Every thing shall be ready for your reception, therefore  
let me beg to hear from you as soon as possible.

I am, yours sincerely,

OLIVER OLDFRIEND.

L E T-

LETTER XCII.—*To a Merchant in London, giving orders for the shipping of goods.*

SIR,

Plymouth, March 15.

I Received your's, acknowledging the receipt of my last with the enclosed draft on Mr. Peter Punctual, to the amount of your demand. You will be pleased to ship for me, on board the first vessel bound for this port, six hogsheads of Jamaica sugar, six puncheons of molasses, and six barrels of Malaga raisins. For quality and charge I rely upon your integrity and moderation; and remain,

Sir, your's, &c.

SAMUEL STRIVEWELL.

LETTER XCII.—*Answer to the foregoing, written under the bill of parcels.*

Mr. Strivewell,

PURSUANT to your's of the 15th instant, I have sent the articles therein ordered, as per bill of parcels above, which I hope you will receive safe, and to your satisfaction, by the ship Coaster, Simon Starboard, Master, for Plymouth. Assuring you that your commands shall, at all times, be punctually executed, I remain,

Your most humble servant,

MICHAEL MANYMEANS.

LETTER XCIII.—*From a Wholesale Dealer in London to a country shopkeeper, who had left him for another.*

Mr. Truepenny,

I Am concerned, that the correspondence maintained between us, for several years, has been discontinued, as I am not conscious of having been, in any one instance, the cause of it, and still retain a great esteem for you. You may rest assured, that none will be more ready to give you every opportunity of advantage than myself. Let me, therefore propose to renew our former dealings, and doubt not but whatever goods your commissions may direct in my way, shall be charged on the most reasonable terms.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

London.

DONALD DEALFAIR.

64 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CXIV.—*From a Shopkeeper in the Country to a  
Merchant in London, desiring to be informed of the  
current prices of several commodities.*

SIR,

YOU will permit me to request as a favour, that you will advise me, by return of post, of the current prices of the several goods undermentioned, for which if they should prove agreeable, and admit of a living profit, I may speedily transmit a considerable order from myself and correspondents. Waiting your immediate answer, I remain, respectfully, Sir,

Your's, &c.

VALENTINE VARIOUS.

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LETTER CXV.—*The Answer.*

Mr. Various,

PURSUANT to request in your last, this serves to inform you, that the commodities, concerning the prices of which you want information, are, in general, much cheaper than they were during the war. I would recommend this as a proper time for you and your friends to purchase, assuring you that you may rely on our best endeavours to promote our mutual advantage in trade.

I remain, your's, &c.

OLIVER OPULENT.

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LETTER XCVI.—*Accompanying a Bill of Exchange  
remitted to London.*

Messrs. Brine and Pickle,

PURSUANT to promise in my last, I here subjoin my draft for ninety-five pounds ten shillings on Sir Henry Hoardman and Co. in your favour. Please to advise the receipt of the same by return of post, and if any material variation has happened in any of the articles of trade between us, inform me of the particulars, for my future conduct. I remain, in the mean time, most respectfully,

Your humble servant,

NATHANIEL NEVERFAIL.

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LETTER XCVII.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

WE acknowledge the receipt of your last favour, with your draft enclosed on Sir Henry Hoardman and Co. value ninety-five pounds, ten shillings, for which we return you our hearty thanks. There is no material alterations

tion in the prices of goods, except in that of Spanish indigo, which is considerably reduced. When any thing further is wanted, you may depend on the punctual execution of your commands. We beg leave respectfully to subscribe ourselves, Sir, your most obliged,

And most humble servants,

BRINE and PICKLE.

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## LETTERS on LOVE, COURTSHIP, GALANTRY, MARRIAGE, &c.

**LETTER XCVIII.—***From a young Gentleman to his Father, pleading excuse for some indiscretions into which he had been hurried through the prevalence of the passion of love.*

Honoured Sir,

**A**S you have given me an education suitable to the fortune I hold in expectance, and treated me in every instance with a degree of affection, that calls for the warmest effusions of duty, I confess myself amenable to you for every part of my conduct in life. Your gentle reproof for some indiscretions of which I am conscious, I cannot but receive with due submission, and must now prefer my plea for one of a very peculiar nature. A few days after my arrival at my uncle's at Bath, I became enamoured of a lovely young creature, inferior f r to me in fortune, but surpassing all her sex that I have seen in mental and personal accomplishments. To engage her affection, I must own I incurred expences beyond the bounds of my allowance. This conduct, though culpable, I hope is pardonable, especially as it arises from the prevalence of love, a passion that has subdued the most renowned characters ancient and modern. However, when on my return home, I inform you of the parentage and connections of the young lady, you disapprove of my present inclination, I will endeavour to suppress it. In the mean time I beg the remittance of 100l. for which, as well as all other favours, I subscribe myself,

Your dutiful son, &c.

L E T.

66 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER XCIX.—*Disclosing the passion of love to a female  
in a plain concise manner.*

Dear Miss,

THE only apology I wish to make for acquainting you with the ardent passion I entertain for you is founded on the basis of sincerity, which as it is most justifiable in point of cause I hope will prove so in point of effect. Having thus introduced my plea, you cannot, I presume blame me for disclosing that which I long laboured in vain to conceal. The passion I allude to you may now easily perceive is *love*. I have beheld you unobserved with attention, till I was led insensibly to behold you with admiration, and read in your visage all that is amiable. As your countenance indicates sensibility, your mind, I am persuaded, is susceptible of impression, and thereby I am encouraged to prefer my addresses, and indulge at least a distant hope of success. But as time is required to prove the reality of any profession, and to fix preliminaries to transactions of the highest moment, I entreat the favour of paying you a visit on Tuesday evening next, which will afford the greatest pleasure to

Your devoted servant to command.

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LETTER C.—*From a young Man of respectable character to a lady, with whom he became enamoured at a place of public resort.*

MADAM,

YOU will, I hope, pardon the liberty used upon this occasion, when you are informed, with all due submission, that it is the irresistible effect of a passion I conceived for you, from having had an opportunity of minutely observing the charms of your person yesterday evening at Vauxhall. I have some reason to think that my glances did not pass unnoticed by you, nor could I perceive any token of disdain. Though at present I address you as a stranger, if you will honour me with an interview, I will satisfy you, as well as all who may be concerned, with respect to every particular of my situation in life, family connections, and commercial views, that may be deemed necessary to be known previous to an allowed intercourse. As my designs are thus apparently honourable, I flatter myself you will, unless pre-engaged, comply with my entreaty, and deign me the honour of an opportunity

portunity of paying you my personal respects. Waiting  
you pleasure, I am, madam,

Your devoted servant.

**LETTER CI.—*From the Lady's Aunt to the above.***

Dear Sir,

**A**S your open and candid manner of address bespeaks you in every respect a gentleman, it is a duty founded on the rules of politeness to pay attention to it. At the instance therefore of my neice, Miss Fanny Richly, who, from motives of prudence and modesty, declines an immediate answer herself, I take upon me to assure you, that your declared predilection in her favour has not met with an unsuitable regard. Her heart has hitherto been her own; it now seems to be in a state of fluctuation, but who may become its permanent possessor is yet unknown. From your generous offer of satisfaction respecting matters of the highest importance to the happiness of the conjugal state, it may reasonably be supposed your character, in point of genuine merit, will be enhanced by enquiry. But this must be referred to future occasion; at present, I will venture to conjecture at least, that a visit will not be very disagreeable, and I have a shrewd guess that it will eventually conduce to the union of the parties.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

**LETTER CII.—*To a young Lady, on the power of love over the concerns of courtship.***

Dear Madam,

**M**Y present situation brings to my recollection what I have read concerning the passion of love over its devotees, with respect to its depriving them at one and the same time of a capacity for expressing it in a graceful and becoming manner, as well as the power of maintaining a cautionary silence. From the awe with which I am affected by your presence, I stand in this predicament, as lost to the power of expression on the one hand, as to that of restraint on the other. Conscious as I am of being incapable of doing justice to the subject, I am yet impelled to the attempt. Waving, therefore, vain and empty form, to which ingenuous minds are averse, I have only to assure you, that as my ultimate view is happiness, mutual and permanent, I would wish to pursue it by no other means than such as are rational. I have selected you not merely as

as

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as a woman of personal, but intellectual merit, capable  
not only of pleasing the eye for a time, but of affording  
solid social bliss, when the pleasure of sense shall cease and  
be no more. Though my form of address is not agreeable  
to the prevailing fashion, I rely on its success, from a  
consciousness of your penetration and sagacity; and sub-  
scribe myself,

Your's most devotedly.

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LETTER CIII.—*From a Lover to a father, disclosing his passion for the daughter.*

SIR,

WHEN I write to a plain honest man, as you are  
according to general report, and am conscious of  
the sincerity of my intentions, I think all the forms of apo-  
logy needless. The matter I wish briefly to communicate  
is the real disinterested regard I have for your daughter,  
and from that consideration to request your permission to  
pay my addresses: this I do previous to any attempt to re-  
commend myself to the young lady's favour, because I  
think a father's approbation of the greatest importance  
in the affairs of courtship. I have been some time in bu-  
siness, and formed some connections in the trading world,  
to a part of which I am ready to refer you for my charac-  
ter as a commercial man, as well as to the circle of my ac-  
quaintance for that of a moral man. Waiting your plea-  
sure, I am, with the profoundest respect, Sir, Your's &c.

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LETTER CIV.—*The Father's Answer.*

SIR,

AS a plain man, I like plain dealing, and therefore  
approve entirely of your manner of proceeding re-  
specting your desire of paying addresses to my daughter. You  
have pointed out the particulars necessary for previous en-  
quiry. I shall, according to the incumbent duty of a pa-  
rent, make proper applications, and if the result proves  
agreeable to expectation, give my hearty consent. I would  
by no means object to her choice without a well-grounded  
assurance of its being repugnant to her interest, because I  
am convinced that happiness in the married state depends  
much on mutual affection. I shall proceed to enquiry, and  
hope shortly to have the pleasure of inviting you to my  
house, and thereby affording you an opportunity of pre-  
ferring your claim. If in process of time your dispositions  
shall appear similar, and your hearts united, I shall give

her

to you most cordially, and do all in my power to further your connubial bliss. You will hear from me in a few days.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CV.—*From the Lover to the Daughter, acquainting her that he had obtained her father's permission to prefer his addresses.*

Dear Miss,

HAVING for some time conceived for you a sincere and disinterested affection, I took the liberty, previous to personal application, to write to your father on the subject, and request his permission to prefer my addresses. I candidly submitted to him my character and connections, which upon enquiry he has found agreeable to his mind, and in consequence generously offered to concur with my endeavours to obtain the supreme object of my wishes. Thus far advanced in my hopes, I presume to entreat the very singular favour of an interview on Thursday next, in order to disclose my passion, and enter upon an intercourse, which it is my sincere desire may improve with time, and continue for life. You will be pleased to communicate to your father the purport of these lines, as introductory to an event that will afford the highest pleasure to, dear Miss,

Your most devoted servant, &c.

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LETTER CVI.—*The Daughter's Reply.*

SIR,

I Received your's, acquainting me with your application to my father, the result of his enquiry, and the purport of your request. Pursuing my father's plain example, I waive ceremonies usual upon these occasions, and freely confess I have no objection to your person, while I must take the liberty of assuring you, that with me the mind of the man who proposes an alliance for life, is the grand consideration. Of that time is necessary to fix a judgement. As I would by no means act in opposition to my father's generous concurrence, or your honourable intentions, I shall receive your visit with due respect, but endeavour to keep possession of my heart till I can resign it with proper views.

I am, Sir, your humble servant.

L E T.

LETTER CVII.—*From a young Lady to a Suitor imposed by her Father.*

SIR,

WHETHER you approve it or not, I must take the liberty of setting aside compliment, and coming to the point in a case that most nearly concerns my happiness. As you cannot but be apprised of the circumstance, I shall not hesitate to declare my astonishment at my father's positively insisting on my receiving your addresses, after I had so peremptorily rejected you as a partner for life. I cannot but disdain your meanness in having recourse to compulsion, and endeavouring to enslave my mind under a fallacious pretence of esteem for my person. To prevail with you if possible to desist from an attempt most pitiful in principle, and fruitless in effect, I profess myself engaged to a man who has sole possession of my affections, and with whom if I spend not my future days, I am determined to devote them to a single life.

I leave this disgusting subject to your cool and deliberate reflection, persuaded that if you retain the least spark of honour, the smallest degree of feeling, or even a dawn of reason, you will assert the man so far as to spurn from your thoughts an object so totally unworthy of your least regard. This will as much conduce to your own happiness as mine.

I am, your's, &amp;c.

LETTER CVIII.—*From a Father to a Daughter, reprobating her inclination to marry at too early a period.*

Dear Jenny,

THE purport of your last letter, expressing a desire of entering into the marriage state at the age of sixteen, affords me equal surprise and concern, as I entertained hopes you inherited the prudence and discretion, and was disposed to follow the example of your deceased mother. To aggravate your folly, you seem to intimate expectations of a fortune; but in that you will be wholly disappointed, unless you give up the indulgence of an idle thoughtless inclination, and submit yourself to the guidance of a parent, who wishes to secure your future as well as present happiness. I have many objections to your proposal, as your own age and inexperience, the circumstances of the man you have chosen for a husband, and the improbable view of your success in life. These, added to other causes

I shall

I shall not mention upon the occasion, are insurmountable obstacles to my compliance, and induce me to declare, if you will not consult me with respect to the disposal of your person, you shall never be vested with the disposal of my property. That you may take the advice offered is the desire of,

Your affectionate father.

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**LETTER CIX.—*From a young Lady to her Father, submitting a proposal of marriage to his opinion and advice.***

Honoured Sir,

THE concern you have ever manifested for my welfare, and the experience you have had in the common affairs of life, render it both my duty and interest to consult you upon all important occasions. Permit me then to acquaint you, that soon after you left town on your journey to the north, I was accosted by Mr. Sattin, jun. our neighbour, in the character of a suitor. He made high professions of esteem, and pressed me much to suffer his addresses. These I declined for the present; and dismissed him with a promise, that I would lay the case before you, and if it met your approbation, comply with his request. I am determined that in this, as well as all other concerns, your advice shall be the sole and absolute guide of my conduct.

I am, kind Sir,

Your dutiful daughter.

---

**LETTER CX.—*The Father's Answer.***

My dear child,

WITH singular satisfaction I received your late additional token of filial respect in the request of my advice on a point of equal importance to you and myself. I know the character of the father to your suitor to be respectable, and have reason to think his circumstances good. As to the son I can pronounce no opinion, as I have but little knowledge of him, and ever suspend my judgement till I have authentic proofs. To see you allied to a person of probity, as well as property, would add to the pleasure I derive from a consciousness of your merit; therefore to promote so valuable an end, I shall embrace every opportunity that may be occasionally presented.

I remain, your affectionate father.

FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CXI.—*From a Lady to her Suitor, charging  
him with infidelity.*

SIR,

HAD I not considered you as a man of honour, I should not have admitted your addresses, nor would your professions have had any weight. My regard for you arose from a persuasion of the rectitude of your principles, and I preferred the apparent accomplishments of your mind to those of your person. Sorry am I to have occasion to recede from my former opinion of you, and entertain doubts of your possessing those unjustifiable principles that with me outweigh all other considerations. Arraigned at the bar of conscience for the black crime of infidelity, you must plead guilty, and your ingratitude and perfidy in endeavouring to inveigle yourself into the good graces of Miss Frippery must stare you in the face, especially when you reflect on the solemn vows you plighted to me. I call upon you, therefore, as a man and a gentleman, either to obviate my suspicion upon good authority, or in failure totally to relinquish pretensions so dishonourably founded.

Your's, as you may deserve.

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LETTER CXII.—*From a Lover to a Lady who conceived  
herself treated with coolness.*

Dearest Caroline,

WHEN I reflect on the melancholy hue that clouded your charming visage, during the conversation that passed between us at my last visit, I feel an equal degree of pain and surprise, the one arising from a sympathy with you in every distress of mind, the other from a persuasion that you think me incapable of offending your delicacy. Let me entreat you to reassume that mildness of temper which adorns your lovely person, and rest assured, that so far from harbouring an idea of treating you with the least degree of neglect, it has been, and ever shall be, my study to engage your affection by the kindest offices and most winning deportment. If I uttered an unguarded expression I can most solemnly declare it was an error of the tongue, not of the mind, for that is so devoutly your's as to recoil at the most distant cause of wounding your peace. Believe the sincerity of my declaration, and re admit to favour one who lives but in your smiles.

Your's for ever.

L E T.

LETTER CXIII.—*From a Lover, requesting the exertion of a female relative's influence with the lady of his affections.*

Dear Madam,

**A**S from several hints you have dropped when I had last the pleasure of visiting at your house, I have reason to apprehend you entertain an opinion of my partial attachment to your niece, I take the liberty in this manner of making a declaration of the same, and requesting the exertion of your influence in recommending me to the lady's favour, You have some knowledge of my family and connections, which I flatter myself will be no obstacles to your compliance, but tend, on the contrary, to promote the accomplishment of what I most earnestly desire. I trust from your benignity of temper you will compassionate my case, and encouraging hopes by such representation of my passion and character to the lady as shall prepossess her in my favour, and prepare her mind for the reception of the most tender and sincere professions. The honour of a line under your hand, signifying your approbation, will render unspeakable pleasure and satisfaction to, dear Madam,

Your obliged humble servant.

LETTER CXIV.—*The Aunt's Answer.*

SIR,

**I**HAVE duly considered the purport of your letter, and I am so far prejudiced in your favour as to be disposed to become your advocate with my niece, because you express that modesty which I regard as a proof of good sense. Rest assured, that I shall embrace the very first opportunity of impressing the lady with such sentiments as appear to me most conducive to operate in your favour, bring about an intercourse, and effect an union.

I am, Sir, your friend and servant.

LETTER CXV.—*Advice from a Relation to a young Lady who admitted a suitor of dissolute character.*

Dear Cousin,

**T**HINK me not officiously impertinent in the liberty I take of admonishing you with respect to one instance of your conduct, which highly concerns your own honour, as well as that of your worthy family. It is rumoured throughout the circle of your acquaintance, that you are

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so captivated with the flippant airs and insinuating address  
of young Brilliant, as to admit him as a suitor in form.  
Nay the report is confirmed by his escorting you to public  
places, and other circumstances, which neither indicate  
his prudence or your discretion. The character of Bril-  
liant is notorious as a debauchee, and as he is known to  
have seduced two unguarded females to their ruin already,  
there is doubtless ground for apprehension at least, that the  
same fatal issue will attend his future intercourse with any  
female that may be won by his infamous arts.

Spurn then, my dear girl, the caresses of a man, void  
of honour, void of virtue, and void of humanity. You  
are not destitute of understanding, your mind has been  
improved by education, and you have had the benefit of  
good example; therefore you have only to reflect seriously  
on the tendency of your conduct to produce an imme-  
diate alteration. Pardon the liberty of your faithful friend,

And affectionate kinsman.

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LETTER CXVI.—*From a Daughter to her Father, in  
behalf of her Sister, who had incurred his displeasure by  
marriage.*

Honoured Sir,

AT the importunity of my sister, whose anxiety for  
A having incurred your displeasure in entering upon  
the married state without your consent exceeds all bounds,  
I humbly presume to become an advocate in her behalf.  
The breach of duty she confesses as the foundation of her  
plea for your pardon, while she begs with all deference to  
prefer the irreproachable character of Mr. Justman, her  
husband, as an extenuation of her offence. May I then be  
permitted to remind you, that as the bond cannot be dis-  
solved, your lenity will produce a better effect in the event  
than your rigour; which may vitiate the husband; whereas  
your lenity may soothe him into complacency, and tend to  
their mutual interest. The suppliant, your daughter, sensi-  
ble of your indulgence as ever, begs to be admitted to  
implore your forgiveness, and the restoration of your favour  
and her own peace of mind, forfeited, she acknowledges,  
by disobedience. Deign then, dear Sir, to behold her  
with a compassionate regard, banish prejudices, and crown  
the lustre of the united pair with your blessing. I will not  
obtrude farther on your patience than just to offer in excuse

for

for the liberty I have taken, the sympathy I owe a suffering sister, whose woes I cannot but feel as my own.

I am, honoured Sir, your most dutiful daughter.

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LETTER CXVII.—*From the Friend of a young Lady to a troublesome Suitor.*

SIR,

**A**S the friend of Miss Drury, whom you have some time harassed with officious impertinence and nonsensical jargon, I undertake to admonish you to desist, being authorised to assure you, that no notice will be taken of your assiduities, which are odious and contemptible in the highest degree. Nothing but consummate ignorance and effrontery could induce you to persevere in an application so fruitless and disgusting; nor could you have borne so many taunts had you the least sense of shame or honour. Take this hint, and thereby avoid a severe chastisement.

Your's unknown.

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LETTER CXVIII.—*From a young Tradesman, proposing marriage, to a Lady in the neighbourhood.*

Dear Sally,

**A**S the term of my apprenticeship is now expired, I think I may venture to disclose my mind, and inform you, that for a long time I have had a great regard for you, but did not think it prudent to disclose my mind till I became my own master. Since, therefore, I am entered into business, and doubt not but through industry I shall be able to obtain a decent livelihood, without further ceremony I shall come to the point, and desire to know whether you can approve of me as a partner for life. I have been plain with you, hope you will be so with me, and let me know by a line if it is agreeable to you to meet me on Sunday next, at my cousin's, where we will talk the matter over seriously. I beg, if nothing extraordinary prevents, you will not fail, as I have very particular reasons for urging the request. I am,

Your sincere Lover, &c.

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LETTER CXIX.—*The Answer.*

Dear John,

I Received your's, but must confess myself at a loss what answer to return. From the observation I have made on your person and behaviour since I lived in the neighbourhood, I cannot say I have any dislike to you ; marriage, however, is a serious matter, and should by no means be entered into hastily : besides I have known many of your sex prove very kind sweethearts, but very surly husbands. Though I do not mean any thing severe with regard to you, I must take the liberty of thinking on your proposal, before I can fix a resolution. If I can be spared on Sunday afternoon, I will meet you at your cousin's, and hear what you have to say further on the subject. Let what has passed between us remain a secret, if you wish to oblige,

Your humble servant.

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LETTER CXX.—*From a Gentleman to a young Widow.*

MADAM,

CONSCIOUS of the integrity of my views, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject of the highest importance, as it relates to an event in which the happiness of human life is most essentially concerned. From this observation you will easily perceive I mean the matrimonial state, of which, as you have already had experience, you are able to form a competent judgment. To be ingenuous with you, I declare that as you are the first of the sex that has inspired me with the gentle passion, so you are the only one that can make me truly happy. With respect to my character and connections, you will find upon enquiry they are such as will neither detract from your reputation nor interest. Other necessary qualifications must be referred to an interview, if I may appear worthy of being admitted to one. In a word, if I should meet with your approbation, the business of my life shall be to promote our mutual welfare. Your candid sentiments upon this matter will afford the greatest pleasure to

Your's, most sincerely.

LETTER CXXI.—*From a young Lady to her Father on the effects of compulsive marriage, where there is great disparity of years.*

Honoured Sir,

I hope you will do me the justice to acknowledge, that hitherto I have in no material instance transgressed the duty of filial obedience; but that, on the contrary, your will and pleasure have been the constant springs of my action. The same principle shall always direct my conduct, whatever may be the result. You seem extremely desirous that I should give my hand to Mr. Worthland. Duty forbids a peremptory refusal, nay further, it even dictates compliance. But you will permit me, with all deference, to put in a plea for your candid indulgence in a matter that concerns the happiness of my life, and though a woman to reason with you a little upon it. Mr. Worthland is known to be a gentleman of considerable property and respectable character. These are important considerations, and as such naturally of great weight with prudent parents in the disposal of their children. To you as one of that number I owe profound respect, acknowledge that these considerations have great weight, but that they alone can constitute happiness in the matrimonial life, my own feelings lead me to doubt. The gaiety of youth cannot, I should think, accord with the gravity of age; besides I humbly apprehend, that where there is mutual affection there must be mutual attraction. What then, my dear Sir, must be the effects of very disproportionate matches in point of years? must not the aversion between gaiety and gravity be reciprocal? where there is no attraction on the part of one object can there be any affection on the part of the other? and where there is no affection on the one part can there be mutual happiness? for these reasons I could wish to decline the addresses of Mr. Worthland, who might be made happy by an alliance with a lady of more advanced years and general experience than myself; while I wait the event of meeting with a person more suitable to my inclinations. Thus have I taken the liberty of giving my opinion in the matter; though in every instance I shall endeavour to prove myself,

Honoured Sir,

Your most dutiful daughter.

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LETTER CXXII.—*From a young Woman to her Parents, to  
obtain consent to marriage.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

YOUR last charge to me when I departed from you on my journey for London was by no means to make a hasty match, or enter into the marriage state at all till I had your advice and consent. I therefore think it my duty to let you know, that I have had an offer from Mr. Anvil, a smith, in our neighbourhood. The young man seems to have a great regard for me, and assures me, that though he has not much to say, his endeavour shall be to prove himself a good husband, if I can like him as a partner for life. I have enquired about him, and find from the accounts of different people he has dealings with, that he is an honest, industrious man. However, I told him I could give no answer till I had acquainted you with the matter, as was the duty of every child to parents. He was much pleased with my being obedient, and told me that he was very willing to wait your pleasure, hoping to get your leave and blessing; as does

Your dutiful daughter.

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LETTER CXXIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Jenny,

WE received your dutiful letter, which made us very happy, as a proof that you had not forgotten the charge we gave you when you took your last leave. We like the character you give of Mr. Anvil, and as he seems to be a plain honest man, without fine words and a heap of compliments, think him a very proper husband for a plain country girl, and therefore have no objection to the match. You must not expect either of us to come up to town, because we can neither spare the time nor expence; but if you will let us know when the wedding day is settled, we will send something to make the pot boil, as well as some trifles of goods to begin housekeeping. You will not look for great things, because you know they are not in our power. Pray give your master and mistress the usual warning; they have behaved well to you, and deserve well of you. We join in respects to them, and love to Mr. Anvil, and remain with our blessing,

Your loving Father and Mother.

L E T-

LETTER CXXIV.—*From the Daughter to her Parents upon the appointment of the wedding-day.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

YOUR kind letter gave me much pleasure and satisfaction, as it did likewise Mr. Anvil, who said he was happy in the hope of having such a good old couple for a father and mother-in-law. According to desire I take this opportunity to let you know that our wedding-day is fixed for Sunday five weeks, at Shoreditch church. Mr. Anvil wished it sooner, but when I told him you charged me not to leave my master and mistress without proper notice, he was quite satisfied to wait the usual time. Indeed they deserve more duty than I can show them, for hearing that the young man bears a good character, they have promised me not only a handsome present when they pay me my wages, but to recommend us in the way of trade to all their acquaintance. It is our joint desire that you would not hurt yourselves on our account; we are young and can bustle in the world, you are old and want comfort, and thank God we are willing to work. Mr. Anvil joins me in love and duty, and with me asks your blessing. I shall ever remain,

Your dutiful Daughter.

LETTER CXXV.—*From a young Gentleman in the military service to a Lady with whom he is enamoured.*

My dear Caroline,

HAD I not entered upon a profession that unavoidably subjects me to frequent removal, I should have been a much happier man, because I might then have enjoyed without interruption the society of the sole object of my affection. I feel my destiny with peculiar remorse on receiving orders to embark immediately for Gibraltar. That dreary romantic spot will add to the melancholy that banishment from your presence cannot fail to produce, nor will any company be able to divert me from thoughts that bring with them a mixture of pleasure and pain. Though I hope I possess martial ardour, and the genuine spirit of a soldier, when I reflect that a separation from you must necessarily attend the execution of my duty to my king and country, I am tempted to give up my commission. However I have this consolation, that during absence we have the privilege of writing, and that though at a dis-

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tance we can converse in the language of ideas. Sometimes I am perplexed with doubts of being supplanted in your esteem ; but when I recur to the proofs I have had of your constancy, I cannot entertain a disquieting apprehension of its discontinuance. Let me hear from you frequently, as the only means of alleviating my distress for the loss of your presence, and the best proof you can give of a permanent affection. I am, my dearest Caroline,

Your's for ever.

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LETTER CXXVI.—*From a Suitor to his Mother, on  
being unsuccessful in his address.*

Honoured Madam,

AT your recommendation I applied to Miss Courtney in the character of a suitor, supposing from the many agreeable qualifications ascribed to that young lady, I could not possibly fail of success. Judge then of my surprise and disgust at finding her behaviour not only reserved but in some instances haughty and arrogant, for so I must pronounce it, if any deference is due to my character, or any return due to the politeness I endeavoured to show upon the occasion. To make farther trial of her temper and disposition, I let four days of absence relapse before I received my visit, when I observed a great formality of deportment unaccompanied with the least degree of that ease and freedom which in my opinion ever attends good-breeding. At the next visit I determined to come to the main point ; but no sooner did I enter upon the subject of love than she interrupted me by introducing impertinent remarks, calling for servants on frivolous pretences, humming over a favourite air, directing her eye to the window, and other tokens of contempt and indifference. Still I urged the ardour of my passion, which she still treated with the same coolness and neglect, till, fired with indignation, I took a final leave, and departed with a resolution never to return. I submit the extraordinary conduct of the lady to your opinion, as a more competent judge than I can pretend to be, requesting at the same time that you would give me your advice with respect to my proceeding in future ; and remain,

Honoured Madam,

Your most dutiful son.

L E T -

LETTER CXXVII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Son,

I Still retain the same opinion of the merits of Miss Courtney as I did when I encouraged you to prefer your addresses. The behaviour she adopted on your first advances, seems to me a finesse to make trial of your temper, in which she had as much right to pursue her method as you had yours in the instance of your four days absence. Be not too much prepossessed in favour of yourself, though you may be entitled to respect from family connections and personal merit, nor imagine that a woman of sense is to be taken by surprise, or won by the ordinary formalities of courtship. She requires not merely the exterior graces of deportment, but the exterior graces of the mind, therefore the judgment of such a female must be convinced before her heart can be captivated. It is because Miss Courtney is a woman of this stamp that I wish for an union between her and my son, and recommend to you the continuance of your addresses, but let them be founded on sound argument and ingenuous design, then despair not of success. If you win her, you will secure an excellent wife, who will do you honour both in social and domestic life, by attending to the several duties which tend to your mutual interest and happiness. I am,

Your affectionate Mother.

LETTER CXXVIII.—*To a Lady from her Lover, congratulating her on recovery from a dangerous indisposition.*

Dear Louisa,

AS I was greatly alarmed at your late violent attack of the fever, I am not less transported at the joyful tidings of your happy recovery. Persuaded that you are fully convinced of the fidelity of my attachment, I submit the sincerity of my declaration to your own generous feelings, and doubt not of implicit belief when I assure you that unavoidable business alone detained me from visiting you these ten days, during which, though absent in person, you have been incessantly present in my thoughts. You will accept of my congratulation on the present occasion, till I have the satisfaction of an interview, which I hope will be in the course of a few days, being determined to set out for the country as soon as my brother returns from his circuit on the partnership account. I have sent by the

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coach some trifles that may be acceptable in your present  
situation ; and hope you will receive them with the same  
cordiality as I offer them. I think indeed the nature and  
length of our intercourse will require no ceremony, and  
therefore subscribe myself, with duty to your honoured  
parents, dear Louisa,

Your's most sincerely.

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LETTER CXXIX.—*To a Lady from a jealous Lover.*

MADAM,

BEFORE I am confirmed in any opinion I always seek  
for demonstration of its validity, which, when once  
obtained, I never resign on any pretence. You have ac-  
cused me of jealousy ; I plead guilty, and from a convic-  
tion of its being a passion founded on undeniable evidence,  
renounce you for ever. It is high time to give up the pro-  
fession of Suitor when branded with the epithets of idiot  
and dotard, so that I have fixed a resolution no longer to  
expose myself to such disgrace. Mr. Plausible, I find has  
gained your heart, upon which as it is his by right of conquest,  
I can have no reasonable claim ; and therefore wave even the  
shadow of a pretence. If you possessed the least degree of  
honour or honesty, you would have dealt ingenuously with  
me, nor suffered me to persist in a design you was deter-  
mined I should never accomplish. Thank heaven, though  
you warned me not in word, you have most effectually in  
deed, and you may rest assured I shall profit by an example  
so notoriously perfidious.

Once your's.

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LETTER CXXX.—*To a Lady without Fortune, from a  
Gentleman in affluent circumstances.*

My dear Miss Worthy,

IT has ever been a maxim with me, in all important  
concerns to prefer my own happiness to every other con-  
sideration. Hence I have formed a resolution, if the pro-  
posal should be agreeable, of taking you as a partner for  
life. It is my glory to vary from the prevailing mode of  
choosing a wife from recommendations that affect interest  
only ; because I estimate intrinsic merit as superior to all  
the gifts of fortune. I am the better enabled to gratify my  
inclination in this particular by the competent indepen-  
dence with which Providence has favoured me, so that I  
am

am determined that riches shall never preclude me from one of the principal objects of my existence. In you I discover a forcible proof of the prevailing influence of a woman possessed of every amiable quality, though deprived of the goods of fortune. As such I offer you my hand and heart, which if you think proper to accept, my solemn promise is given that nothing shall be wanting on my part to render our union productive of our mutual happiness. Deliberate on this matter, and let me know your determination as soon as convenient. I am,

Your's affectionately.

LETTER CXXXI.—*From a young Lady to an old Female Busy Body.*

Mrs. Handy,

I Cannot but reprove you for your officious meddling with my concerns without my consent. Your undertaking to put a letter into my hand was an instance of insufferable impertinence, and as such I send it you enclosed with the disdain it merits. I shall never stand in need of a go-between, as I am determined to form no connections which may in any degree affect my interest without the knowledge of my uncle, to whose care and protection I was committed on the demise of my worthy father. Besides I shall ever detest the pretences of the man who acts in a clandestine manner. Beware of a second attempt of this kind.

Adieu.

LETTER CXXXII.—*To a Lady from a Gentleman declining his Suit.*

MADAM,

I Have preferred my addresses so long a time, and with so little success, that finding them equally tiresome to you and myself, I am come to a resolution of declining them. This I should have done some months ago had I not been encouraged to persevere by the intimations of several of your particular friends. But in these I was deceived, as indeed I was in my own expectations. I could wish you had given me a peremptory denial on my first application, because it would have prevented much trouble on my part, and anxiety on your's. Here, however, the matter rests, I shall no longer intrude on your patience, you will no longer reject my professions. I am at liberty to

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renew my choice; you to select an object for your's. From  
the esteem in which I once held you, I cannot forbear ex-  
pressing a desire, that the happy man of your choice may  
be as warmly attached to your person and welfare as I have  
been. These I once considered as connected with my own;  
but now give up the delusive prospect. As this is my last,  
so I believe it will be my most acceptable epistle.

Adieu for ever.

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LETTER CXXXIII.—*From a Gentleman in chastisement of  
a Coquette.*

MADAM,

WHATEVER your opinion may be of my understand-  
ing, you shall find that I am capable of discerning  
fallacy, and resenting insolence. Of these you stand by  
me justly charged. I made you honourable proposals, you  
more than intimated an inclination to accept them, and at  
the same time meanly condescended to listen to the caresses  
of scops and witlings, who bring disgrace on their own sex  
and reproach on your's. Though I think myself as sus-  
ceptible of impression from female charms as most men,  
none are more averse to an ingenuous disposition that sul-  
lies the brightest qualities. If, you take the hint my design  
is answered, not only as a just retort, but as affording hope  
of effecting a reformation. If on the contrary, your vanity  
and conceit are inseparable barriers to admonition, you  
will in all probability live detested, and die miserable.  
I have dealt plainly with you, as equally indifferent to your  
smiles and frowns.

Once your's.

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LETTER CXXXIV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

I Should suppose from the contents of your laconic  
epistle that it is the last I am to expect, as closing all  
connexion between us, asserting a right to be as censorious  
as yourself, I must take upon me to pronounce your con-  
duct unwarranted and impudent. Surely I am entitled  
to the same right of judging and acting with yourself.  
Your addresses I never counted, your possession of my heart  
I never expressed. Perhaps I may be gratified with a train  
of admirers, or amused with sounding the depth of the  
beaked penetration of your sex. Be my whim what it may  
I will

I will maintain my privilege to indulge it without soliciting your permission, or that of any man. I cannot say that your understanding was ever much enhanced in my opinion, but that it is much degraded by your late behaviour I am free to declare. In future I beg you'll keep your hints and retorts to yourself, nor teize with your impertinence one who is as indifferent as you can be.

Never your's..

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**LETTER CXXXV.—*From a Father to his Daughter, dissuading her from encouraging the addresses of a Serjeant in the army.***

Dear Peggy,

WITH the greatest concern I received intimation from a friend in the neighbourhood, that you frequently give your company to Muster, the Serjeant, who last week came to your town to raise recruits. I cannot but feel the duty I owe you as a parent to stop you in so wild a career, and rescue you from the misery in which so indiscreet a connection must inevitably plunge you, if persisted in. The greatest part of these men are of the meanest extraction, and most abandoned morals, without the knowledge of any particular trade or business, and therefore in the highest sense incapable of supporting or conducting a family. Many unthinking girls have been lured by the glare of a red coat, to barter their honour, and, what is much dearer, their peace of mind, for a life of drudgery, servility, and poverty. Almost daily observation must point out to you the wretched situation of those unfortunate creatures who follow the fate of such vagrants. Let me then warn you by all the ties of duty, by the regard due to your own welfare and the credit of your family, to shun the snare laid to entrap you, by breaking off the connection immediately, as the indispensable means of avoiding incumbrances that cannot fail to involve you in misery and disgrace. I have taken the utmost pains to conceal your indiscretion from your uncle, on whom you know is your chief dependence. Take the advice of a father before it is too late; in a word, be obedient, and you may be happy.

Your's affectionately.

LET.

§6 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CXXXVI.—*From a young Lady congratulating a  
Friend on her marriage.*

Dear Madam,

ACTUATED by the mutual esteem that has subsisted between us from our childish days, I cannot but congratulate you most heartily on your matrimonial union with a man of so amiable a character as Mr. Worthy. As you gave me no intimation of the appointed time, I did not imagine the wished for event was so near, but that is a matter of no moment since it has taken place, and no doubt promises a happy issue. Indeed I should have been pleased to have been consulted with respect to articles of dress, and other ceremonies usual upon those occasions, because every little opportunity of showing my respect for you affords me satisfaction. It is however my sincere prayer that every blessing may attend you and the partner of your choice, and that your happiness may be mutual, uninterrupted, and permanent. A man of Mr. Worthy's disposition must contribute to the most desirable ends. Present him with my respectful congratulation on the present joyful occasion, with assurance that I wish him the completion of its utmost desires, which I am of opinion he cannot fail of effecting if he retains a due sense of the merits of his charming bride. May you both be successful in yourselves and your posterity.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CXXXVII.—*To a Lady by way of consolation  
and advice, on having met with a perfidious suitor.*

My dear Clara,

I Am persuaded that sympathy is the duty of a friend, and now feel its power in a most sensible manner, so that I cannot suppress the emotions it raises in my bosom. You will therefore pardon the liberty I take in offering you my advice, as well as endeavouring to console you in your present particular situation. You have permitted the addresses of a perfidious suitor, and met with the mortification of disappointment. He has returned evil for good, and repaid your kind offers with ingratitude. But this event, disagreeable as it may be, should not affect you above measure; nor transport you beyond the bounds of reason. The wisest of our sex have met with the same fate, and from this general cause, the forming of expectations from improper

improper objects, or improbable conclusions. Reflect but a moment seriously, and you will discover, that the very cause of your present disgrace will prove in the event a ground for rejoicing, as it will appear to have been the means of escaping the many ills to which you would have been liable, had you entered into the marriage state with a man of a worthless character; for a perfidious suitor must surely prove an intolerable husband, and want of affection in a husband is much worse than infidelity in a suitor. I know it is not easy for a mind susceptible of impression as yours, to banish the thought of an object that once afforded you delight. On contemplation, time alone can effect the arduous task with the aid of reason and reflection. Summon then those noble powers, be willing to be free and happy, and you are so. I am, now and ever,

Your's most sincerely.

### LETTER CXXXVIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Madam,

I Received the favour of your letter, which I look upon as an instance of peculiar regard and esteem. A time of trouble is the critical season for trying the sincerity of friendly professions, which you have given sufficient proofs of in the advice and consolation you so generously administered me.

As the only return I can make, you may rest assured that I shall endeavour to avail myself of the same, by reducing to practice what you recommend upon principles of sound reason. I feel the full force of your remark both with respect to the cause of my anxiety, and the means of its removal. Through the power of reflection, and placing my case in comparison with that of others, who, for want of resolution, have fallen victims to the perfidy of the sex, I begin to think myself happy in the escape, and to shake off the impression more and more every day, so that in a short time I hope to resume my former self, and act in every instance with my usual freedom. If ever I admit the addresses of another man, it shall be the result of the strictest enquiry into his moral character, and in future I am determined to be directed in the choice of a suitor not by elegance of person, but beauty of mind.

I am, dear madam,

Your sincere friend, &c.

L E T-

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LETTER CXXXIX.—*From a Friend to another who is in  
Love.*

Dear Sir,

I have taken frequent opportunities of declaring both the pleasure and profit I have derived from your friendly converse during an intimacy of several years.—An event has lately fallen out that has caused a suspension of an intercourse, to my very great regret and concern. In plain terms I hear that you are in love, and not only so, but that the object engrosses your whole time and attention. Pardon me if I represent to you the impropriety of such an absolute devotion to the fair one, and point out to you that it has a manifest tendency to counteract that which it is your design it should promote. You pass day after day with the lady; love is the only topic of your conversation; you cannot bear the sight of a visitor, nor any occurrence that diverts you from the prosecution of your favourite theme. What in the name of common-sense must be the consequence? a total indifference on her part in the course of a few weeks. She may for the present be under the same impulse of passion with yourself, but such a reiteration of vows and sighs, and sighs and vows, must exhaust her stock of affection, and render her cool and languid. Both sexes are endowed by nature with a certain attachment to each other; but there is such a thing as œconomy in love, and those are novices in the science who do not put it in practice. Occasional absence, however tedious it may appear, is a great promoter of the passion, for no cause can so effectually renew an old flame, or revive a languishing one. In order to render amorous discourse agreeable, it is necessary sometimes to wave the subject, and enter upon another matter. The truth is, sameness cannot fail to appal, be the theme in its own nature ever so pleasing; some little excursions are absolutely necessary, and then the subject may be resumed with additional *gout*. I ingenuously confess I have been induced to offer an opinion on the occasion, because it has deprived me of the society of a man I hold in the greatest esteem.

I am, yours sincerely,

L E T.

LETTER CXL.—*From a Friend to a Lover, assuring a cause why he should suppress his passion.*

My dear Friend,

**A**S I hold the test of amity to be sincerity I must ingenuously open my mind to you, and state some truths, however disagreeable they may appear at first view. From what I have observed of the conduct and behaviour of Miss Fanciful, whom you have long followed with the most officious assiduities, I am fully persuaded she entertains no amourous passion for you. That she possesses the recommendations of a respectable descent, an engaging person, and a good fortune, I admit; but what are these considerations when the affection is not mutual? Besides, why should you set your mind on objects which in all probability will never be your's? From several instances you must know that I am of a social disposition, and very happy in the company and good graces of the ladies. But I must be plain to tell you, I will never pay my addresses a second time where they have been repulsed, or court the favour of a woman whose heart is in the possession of another. In short, my good Sir, as I have great reason to think the object of your passion is engaged, I must pronounce it unreasonable and unmanly to cherish a flame for a person averse to all your professions; a person to whom you are apparently obnoxious. Take the advice of a friend, and suppress the flame you have cherished too long. Employ your time and faculties to better purpose than that of lavishing them on a fruitless pursuit. Return to the pleasures of society, and live as you have done, respected by the whole circle of your acquaintance, but by none more cordially than

Your most obedient servant.

LETTER CXLI.—*From a young Lady to an old Gentleman, desiring him to desist from his addresses.*

SIR,

**N**OTHING is more averse to my inclination than to be guilty of the least degree of rudeness, and particularly to treat old age with disrespect; but the duty I owe myself compels me to request you will no longer harass me with your addresses, lest you extort from me a language I would wish to avoid. If you propose to yourself any success from your application to my father to lay me

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me under an injunction to surrender to you my person ; you  
must give me leave to assure you, that it is neither in his  
power, nor in my own, to give you my heart, because it  
is the property of another. Let me advise you then to re-  
flect coolly on what must be the inevitable consequences of  
a match so inadequate in point of years. Dotage on  
your part, disgust on mine. Mutual wretchedness instead  
of happiness. Take this warning, and discontinue the pur-  
suit of an object, the attainment of which would only serve  
to torment you. I am, your's, &c.

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LETTER CXLI.—*From a Lady just recovered from the small-pox, to a former Lover.*

SIR,

WHEN you first did me the honour of your addresses,  
you complimented me on the perfections of my  
mind, as well as the beauties of my person, nay, you even  
gave a preference to the former. As the declaration of suitors  
must be allowed to be questionable, you may recollect that  
I expressed some doubts of the truth of your profession.  
An opportunity now offers of showing yourself to be a  
man of veracity, in taking me when my only recommen-  
dation, if I have any, arises from that consideration to  
which you gave the preference Your's, &c.

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LETTER CXLII.—*The Answer.*

MADAM,

I Admit the truth of your remarks, with respect to the  
declaration of suitors in general ; but as there are no  
general rules without exception, I hope to rank myself  
amongst the number of those men who in that instance do  
honour to our sex. Upon this principle I now offer you  
my hand, on condition of solemn promise, that you will  
retain the same affection for me as you discover in your  
late application, if I should sustain any personal defect  
from an incidental or natural cause. Your's, &c.

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LETTER CXLIV.—*From a young woman to a Lover, who had abandoned her from interested views.*

SIR,

THOUGH as soon as I attained to years capable o.  
reflection, I had cautions given me against the per-  
fidy of men, and had formed resolutions agreeable to the  
same, I find I have been ensnared by their base arts. You  
are

are the perfidious man, the vile deceiver; you pursued me so long with entreaties, sighs, and vows, that pity induced me to listen, and pity soon changed to love. I flattered myself that you would be true, though all the men in the world should prove false. But I was soon convinced of my foolish credulity, by discovering that you paid your addresses to Lucy Lovepenny, and abandoned me because her fortune exceeded mine. Lucy and I were school-fellows, and we were always on a friendly footing, therefore I have nothing to say in her disparagement. You, however, I must upbraid as a bad man, and as such renounce you for ever.

I cannot but pity Lucy, and tremble for her fate, as there is no doubt of your abandoning her as you have done me, if an object of more advantage should present. Let me desire you to speak of me with decency, and not make me the butt of your jests. One lesson you have taught me, which I will take care to recommend to my sex: it is this, never to give ear to a man, unless it is certain that his interest will be a security for his pretended affection.

Once your's, &c.

LETTER CXLV.—*To a Lady in the country, from her Lover in town:*

Dear Miss,

FROM experience I am convinced that no passion lays so effectual a restraint upon the human mind as that of love. Your person frequently presents itself to my imagination in the most pleasing form. I fancy that I am holding delightful converse with you in a sequestered bower, and sharing the pleasure of pledging a mutual affection.

I was desired, by your uncle, to chide you for neglect of writing, but as I cannot use harsh means, shall only assure you that your long silence has much affected me. Your father informed me that he received a letter from your brother a few days ago, and that you continued in good health, but I cannot rest satisfied, as it did not come under your own hand, with an invitation for me to come and pay you a visit. I hope you will not keep me long in suspense, and deign once more to render happy one who professes himself

Your sincere admirer.

L E T -

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LETTER CXLVI.—*From a young Officer on board a ship of  
war at Plymouth, to a Lady in London.*

Dear Sophia,

I Could not fail embracing the first opportunity after our arrival in this harbour of shewing my respect for the lovely object of my supreme desire. The promise I have already obtained I am persuaded you hold too sacred to be violated, from your having rejected better offers than I could make. You have doubtless heard of our success in the last cruize; that is general news, I shall therefore proceed to inform you of my own private concerns. Intimation has been given by the admiral that I am to be promoted to the rank of First-Lieutenant. This rise has been effected by a gentleman related to my mother; and it shall be my study to do honour to his recommendation.

I am sorry to find that your father still opposes our union; this is a critical point, and requires much caution and circumspection. Your opinion shall be my guide; if you deem it most prudent to remain silent, it shall be so; if on the other hand you think it proper to write, I will undertake the task. Ever since I had the honour of receiving tokens of your esteem, you have been uppermost in my thoughts, nor can any incident in life divert my attention from you.

I know the benignity of your disposition, and that you would not have encouraged my hopes if you had intended to disappoint them. I remain as ever,

Your's most devotedly.

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LETTER CXLVII.—*The Lady's Answer.*

SIR,

I Received your's, and am happy to find that you arrived safe at Plymouth, after a successful cruize, as well as that you seem to be in the line of promotion. You may rest assured of the continuance of my esteem as long as you appear to deserve it. I have the pleasure to inform you, that my mother a few days ago had some private conversation with my father, which I am inclined to think was in your favour, as the old gentleman mentioned your name several times afterwards in terms of respect. I did not, however on that account urge him to grant his consent, but without making reply, left the event to time. I think you

you may venture to write to him ; but would recommend you to be very plain and brief, and by all means to avoid ceremony and adulation, knowing that he utterly detests them. The only way you can reasonably hope to obtain his consent is to act like an honest man. The good opinion you continue to entertain of me demands my thanks, and I hope will encourage me still to endeavour to deserve it ; but by all means avoid the very appearance of flattery, as notwithstanding the love of it is imputed to our sex in general, it is peculiarly disgusting to

Your sincere Friend.

LETTER CXLVIII.—*From the Officer to the Father.*

Honoured Sir,

DURING the time I visited at your house, previous to my departure for Plymouth, I became enamoured of your daughter, and, as my intentions were honest, made declaration of them without reserve. My reception was answerable to my wishes ; but, on cool reflection, the propriety of obtaining your consent has appeared to me, from very forcible arguments, in the strongest light. Your daughter in point of situation in life is superior far to me, being an heiress, whereas I am but a younger son, though of a respectable family. I engaged in the naval service at my own particular desire, and have been advanced in it beyond my expectations. To my family, I presume, you can have no exception ; and as to my profession, if it is precarious, it is honourable. In the concern I now take the liberty of laying before you, I presume not to dictate, but shall be guided entirely by your instructions. Let me entreat the favour of a line, informing whether I may continue my addresses, on my arrival in town. I wait your answer with impatience, and am, honoured Sir,

With the profoundest respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

LETTER CXLI.—*The Father's Answer.*

Dear Sir,

I Am much prepossessed in your behalf, by the open and ingenuous disposition you discover in the letter I received from you concerning my daughter. My regard for any person ever has, and shall be founded upon merit of character. I observed an intimacy take place between you, during the time of your residence in our neighbourhood.

She

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She has been long and deservedly a favourite, and consequently the object of my particular care and attention, so that I presume it cannot but be agreeable to you to be informed, that her connection with you meets my approbation. From the knowledge I have of your family, I can pronounce it honourable; your profession is confessedly so throughout every age and country.

Your proposal is so disinterested, that it urges me most forcibly to compliance; as to disparity in point of fortune, it is a circumstance which will have no weight with me. Since the naval line has been your particular choice, I would by no means press you to relinquish it, especially as you seem to be in the road to preferment, and may become an ornament to your profession, and an honour to your country. But if now or hereafter, you should be disposed to quit a scene fraught with danger, noise, and bustle, for the enjoyment of domestic tranquil life, my house is at your command. If, on the contrary, you are determined to persevere in the pursuit in which you are engaged, my interest is equally so. I feel the infirmities, mental and bodily, coming upon me, that are the general attendants upon advanced years, so that I must confess I should wish to pass the remainder of life in the society of those who are nearest and dearest to me by the ties of nature, and the bonds of union. My daughter will write to you by my consent, and upon the same ground give you an invitation to our house. To ensure my favour you have only to endeavour to deserve it. Be a good man, and my all shall be yours.

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LETTER CL.—*From a Gentleman to a young Lady without fortune, whom he had known in early life.*

Dear Miss,

I Presume, when you look at the superscription, you will call to mind the intimacy that subsisted between us in our youthful days, when we enjoyed the sweets of innocence, unencumbered by the cares of more advanced life. Without further preamble, I inform you, that as a singular circumstance has taken place in my favour, I could no longer conceal it from one on whom I have for a considerable time placed my affections, though I was convinced of the impropriety of disclosing my passion, till I had it in my power to provide for you in a proper manner. Since every

every inconvenience is now removed, I come to the point, and make you a tender of my hand and heart. To give you all desirable satisfaction, with respect to the truth of what I advanced, I refer you to my uncle, who will inform you of the particulars of my situation. When you have made this necessary enquiry, I hope you will favour me with a line, and let me know how you are disposed with respect to my proposal. I wait your pleasure with impatience, and am in the mean time, Your's most sincerely,

E. D.

LETTER CLI.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

YOUR's I received, and feel myself bound, by the rule of good manners, to return an answer. I have consulted my father on your proposal, and made the necessary enquiry of your uncle, and as I find it consistent with the inclinations of them both, cannot object to it myself, as it appears to be fair, open, and generous. To deal candidly with you, I inform you, that as your person is agreeable, your character unimpeached, and your circumstances superior to what I have a right to expect; to which when I add the approbation of those whose judgement should regulate my conduct, I will freely give you my hand, if you think it worthy your acceptance.

I am, your's, &c.

LETTER CLII.—*From a Clergyman to a new-married Couple, on the reciprocal duties of the conjugal state.*

My dear Friends,

AS, amongst other offices of my function, it has fallen to my lot to unite you in the bands of marriage, according to the rites of our church, and I am likewise anxiously concerned for your future welfare and happiness, I have taken the liberty to offer a few hints respecting the nature and obligations of the state into which you have entered by mutual consent. The general design of the institution is explained in the sacred Scripture, a select part of which referring to the same, is, as you must lately have observed, appointed to be read in the church service, on the solemnization of the marriage rites. I have, therefore, only to remind you, that according to the purport of the institution, the obligations of the marriage state are reciprocal, or in plain terms, there are certain duties which

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the husband owes to the wife, and the wife to the husband; and the performance of these duties is essentially necessary to their mutual welfare and happiness. Read them over then with such deliberation as to fix them in your memory; look within your breasts, and see if you can discover a desire of conformity. If your motives for entering into the state be well founded, you will need very little, if any persuasion at all to fulfil the duties of it. You will love and cherish each other; participate in the joy or grief that results from prosperity or adversity, exercise mutual forbearance, and, in a word, live but for each other. The husband will attend to the more important concerns in life both at home and abroad; the wife will be occupied in the necessary business of domestic œconomy; love will produce a tenderness of regard on the one hand, and an obedience of conduct on the other; and an affection will thereby be cemented that can end but with your life. That this may be your happy case is the sincere wish of

Your most humble servant.

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LETTER.—CLIII.—*From a Lady to her Suitor, expressing concern at being absent when he first came to visit her.*

SIR,

IT gives me the greatest concern that absence deprived me of the pleasure of receiving your visit yesterday, as I deem it singularly unfortunate to lose the first testimony of your friendship, and cannot but think it must give you some uneasiness, if you entertain any degree of regard for me. I can only say upon the occasion, that I shall be extremely happy in an opportunity of pleading my excuse, nor can it be so soon as I desire. I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant.

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LETTER CLIV.—*From the same, on her going into the Country.*

SIR,

I take the liberty to acquaint you, that I set out to-morrow for the country, and to assure you at the same time that I quit the town with no regret but that of leaving you. The person to whom I am going will afford me no consolation, therefore all the satisfaction I can receive during my absence will be entirely owing to your fidelity. Think of me, or forget for ever what I promised you. Adieu.

LET.

LETTER CLV.—*To a Lady of exquisite beauty on the uselessness of exterior ornaments.*

MADAM,

PARDON the liberty I take in offering you a piece of advice, though persuaded the ladies in general are not disposed to receive any. Be that as it may; I am too great an admirer of your beauty, to neglect informing you, that it will sustain a great injury, if you assume superfluous ornaments upon an approaching public occasion. Let others of your sex have recourse to ornaments; there are artificial beauties which serve them instead of the natural, and we men are obliged to them for gratifying our eyes with something more agreeable than their own persons; but should you follow their example, we should not have the same obligations to you. Every ornament you assume hides a charm, as every ornament taken from you restores you some new grace, and you are never so lovely as when we behold in you nothing but yourself. Those who keep your jewels from you are better friends to your beauty than you imagine. Nature has been at all the expence, and as you would be ungrateful, so we should betray an ill taste, should we not be equally content with that profusion of gifts she has heaped upon you. I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Madam,

Your most devoted servant.

LETTER CLVI.—*From a Lover complimenting a Lady.*

MADAM,

YOUR presence is the summit of my wishes; the expectation of enjoying it affords me no small pleasure; this I tasted for six hours together in waiting for you at the assembly yesterday evening. However I shall not fail to be with you at the hour appointed; it is too much my concern not to fail. I am,

Madam,

Your's, &c.

LETTER CLVII.—*To a Lady on the real evidence of love.*

MADAM,

THOUGH the love I bear you is far above the common strain, I can find no other terms to express it than those to which you are every day accustomed. I must therefore entreat you to pay no regard to my words; but turn your attention to my behaviour, and if that convinces

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you

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you of a sincere and lasting passion, I hope you will at length condescend to do me justice, and believe that since I can love with so much ardour where I have no encouragement, nothing will exceed my passion when you are pleased to make gratitude the motive. I am, &c.

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LETTER CLVIII.—*The Lady's Answer.*

SIR,

IF any thing inclines me to disbelieve you when you speak of love, it is your speaking too well upon that subject. You write more like a man who would be thought in love, than one who is really so. But as I by no means wish to draw rash conclusions, I accept the offer you propose, and will leave your behaviour to determine what sentiments you entertain of me. I am, &c.

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LETTER CLIX.—*To a Lady after the Day of Marriage was fixed.*

MADAM,

IFind it impossible to attend to the duties of love and business at one and the same time. I am detected in every thing I say or do; in a word, I must lock myself up, or others will lock me up as a madman. Upon the Exchange I was asked what news from the Continent? I answered, she's exquisitely handsome. Another desired to know when I was last at Margate? I replied she intends to go with me. Allow me, therefore, to kiss your hand before the appointed day, that my mind may be in some degree of composure.

I am, ever your's, &c.

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LETTER CLX.—*To a Lady on the power of beauty.*

MADAM,

IRECOLLECT that some time ago I made you a foolish promise that I would only entertain for you that prudent kind of friendship which is attended with no disquiet; but as I find I have made a wrong estimate both of your power and my own, and that it is impossible for me to keep my word, I must beg leave to retract it. You will permit me to entreat your pardon if I have no power to perform the promise I made you; in every thing else you shall find me as good as my word. At the same time I must beg leave to assure you, that if I deceived you, you first deceived me; for notwithstanding you always appeared

peared to me as one of the most charming persons in the world, yet I never imagined you could have been thus formidable to a heart so little inclined to servitude as mine.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CLXI.—*To a Lady from a Lover determined to gain her affection.*

MADAM,

WHETHER you are pleased or not at the declaration, I must undertake to affirm, that one time or other you will certainly love me. Notwithstanding your indifference may be great, I have constancy enough to overcome it; nothing is difficult to one in pursuit of such charms as yours; I have no business that is half so dear to me. If you show me no favour at all, I will ply you with assiduities. If you oppose me with rivals, the despair of equaling my services, shall cause them to desert you. In short, I am determined to tire out your indifference, and thus, after much time, oppressed with love, tenderness, and respect, you will not know which way to turn, and at length be compelled to love me.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CLXII.—*From a Lady reprobating her Lover for groundless Jealousy.*

SIR,

YOU must permit me to declare my surprise that you should discover jealousy from a cause that I should imagine would have naturally produced a contrary effect. I gave you an account of my pretended admirer, and think my exactness in acquainting you with every trifle ought to convince you of my fidelity. You cannot charge me with any predilection in his favour. How unworthy then are your suspicions! Had you a just Idea of the ardour of my affection, and what I endure for your sake, I am persuaded you would wish for mine that I loved you less tenderly. Banish your groundless jealousy, and rest assured that I am only,

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CLXIII.—*From the Mate of an East-India  
Ship, to his Sweetheart in London.*

Cape of Good Hope, April 20.

My dear Betsy,

I have been now absent from England one year and nine months, during which time I have suffered more hardships than ever I expected to have met with in this World, nor could any thing have supported me but the thoughts of you, in consequence of the promise you made when I embarked at Gravesend. That promise, I hope, remains sacred, and will only terminate in your being mine. The Nottingham has just sailed, and we shall follow her as soon as we are able to repair some Damages our Ship has met with, and taken in fresh provisions. We intend to put in at Cork in Ireland, and if you will direct a letter for me to be left at the Golden Harp in that city, you may depend on its coming safely to hand. I have seen many things since I left England; but I shall only mention the following:

" When I was at Madras, I was one day ordered up a river to procure provisions, and to establish a trade with some of the inhabitants, who lived in the more interior parts of the country; we had twelve English sailors on board, with four Lascars, or East Indians; two of our sailors were young men, brothers, and they with the four Lascars went on shore in order to catch some Parrots, who in that part of the world fly about in the same manner as wild fowls do in England. They proceeded a little way up into a wood, when two fierce tygers came out of their lurking dens, and seized one of the brothers, whom they tore in pieces, while the other, with the Lascars, swam to the boat."

Such my dear, were the particulars of this tragical affair, and I suppose you will bless God that you live in England, where no such accidents can happen; but, my dear, there are tygers in England, even in a human shape, or why should there be so many cheats in that land of liberty? but there is another sort of cheats, I mean those who in the absence of such poor young fellows as myself, encourage young women to break the most solemn promises; but knowing your good sense, I rest assured of your candancy; and am, your sincere lover,

JAMES COLLINS.  
MISCEL.

## MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS

*On various, instructive, and important Subjects.*

### LETTER CLXIV.—*On the Subject of Friendship.*

Dear Sir,

THROUGH the prevalence of illiberal principles, and the tendency of examples in the conduct of mankind, numbers have been induced not only to doubt the reality of friendship, but to consider it as a mere fiction. This, however, thank Heaven! has not been our case. We enjoy a mutual satisfaction on reflecting, that the amity, or personal regard for each other, which commenced at an early period of life, has increased with advancing years, and is tending to maturity with revolving time. That principle of the human mind, known by the general appellation of friendship, is the very basis of society, and seems to have been coeval with its first formation. Congenial minds, or, in plain terms, persons of similar tempers and dispositions, who think and feel alike, enjoy a singular pleasure in the company of each other, as it affords them an opportunity of disclosing their inmost thoughts, and participating pleasure or pain, according to the ordinary course of events. With respect to the friendship subsisting between us, I must ingenuously declare, that you have taken the active, I the passive part. It has been your's to confer, mine to receive benefits; while your good offices have been performed in such a manner as to leave the motive and spring of action beyond a doubt. But as generous minds are not only averse to flattery, but even reluctant to the very tribute of praise, I shall leave you to enjoy the consolation of conscious virtue; and subscribe myself,

Your's most affectionately.

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LETTER CLXV.—*A Display of Friendship after Death.*

My dear Friend,

WHEN we had last the pleasure of an interview, you may remember that our conversation turned upon the epistolary correspondence which was maintained a considerable time between the late Pamela Piety, and one of her friends. Upon recollection, I cannot but express a desire that the productions of so ingenious and moral a pen as that of Pamela should be transmitted to posterity; indeed I am persuaded the rising generation would profit by so shining an example. The subject of her letters are well chosen; her style is elegant and unaffected, and her main design is evidently to inculcate principles of piety and virtue. Her general remarks on men and manners are correct, and her plan altogether so instructive and entertaining, as to justify publication upon every principle. It would be an instance of the highest ingratitude in her friends, as well as palpable insult to her memory, to suffer so exalted a character as that of the amiable Pamela, to be consigned to oblivion. Trifles may amuse for a moment; but they make no lasting impression, while the stamp of moral truth, as founded upon immutable principles, is indelible. I shall conclude with expressing my assurance of your prepossession in favour of the cause to be such as not to admit of a doubt of your compliance with my request.

Your's sincerely.

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LETTER CLXVI.—*The Answer.*

Dear Sir,

AS ceremony is inconsistent with the character we profess, I make no apology for opening my mind to you on the subject of your last letter. To be plain then, I must declare that I never entertained a design of withholding the letters of our deceased friend Pamela from the public view; I entirely agree with you as to the merit of her epistolary productions, and the benefits that must arise to society from their publication. These letters then, together with those of her friends, are at your service; and that you may issue them into the world in a proper manner, it may not be amiss to furnish you with the following memoirs of the deceased:

Though she was descended from poor parents, they gave her an education far above her sphere in life, which she improved

improved to the most laudable purposes. She had been employed as private tutoreſ in a family of rank, as well as assistant-teacher in an eminent boarding school. Both these offices ſhe filled in a moſt respectable manner, and conciliated the esteem of all with whom ſhe was concerned. As her grand aim was to be uſeful in life, ſhe pursued it without deviation, till death put an end to her generous exertions. You may improve upon these hints at pleasure, and introduce ſuch anecdotes as may appear to you pertinent and interesting. That the undertaking may ſubſerve its design is the ſincere wish of

Your humble Servant.

LETTER CLXVII.—*From a Father to his Son, advising him to be cautious in contracting a Friendship.*

Dear Tom,

FROM a persuasion of my superiority in knowledge and experience as the effect of seniority in years, you will, I presume, attend to my opinion and advice in every important particular that concerns your conduct in life, amongst others, I would recommend to you now you are entering upon the theatre of the world, the greatest caution in the choice of a friend, as a point that moſt eſſentially concerns your interest and welfare. In this choice the chief regard ſhould be had to moral character, as the only foundation for hope, and expectation of deriving benefit from the connection. I know the mask of friendſhip is too frequently assumed to perpetuate the moſt inſidious purpoſes, and its ſacred name uſurped to veil the darkeſt designs; conſiderations neceſſary to be obſerved in the formation of our friendſhips. The firſt is, that when ſuddenly contracted they are generally the effect of a depraved heart on the one ſide, and a weak head on the other: the laſt, that no friendſhip can be beneficial or permanent but that which has virtue for its baſis, and arises from mutual esteem, which muſt be the effect of long intercourse and obſervation. You will attend to these hints, as proceeding from

Your affectionate father.

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LETTER CLXVIII.—*To a Friend on the importance of  
secrecy in certain particular instances.*

Dear Sir,

THE obligations of friendship are numerous, but amongst them all, none I apprehend is more important than an inviolable observance of secrecy in some particular instances, especially when enjoined or mutually promised. This talent or quality of secrecy is of the highest importance in many of the concerns of human life, nor can intercourse, either friendly or commercial, be carried on without it. Notwithstanding its importance, it is rarely to be found, mankind in general being actuated by sinister views, or an insurmountable propensity to divulge whatever is communicated in confidence. To obviate the evils which attend this breach of friendship, it is necessary to be well acquainted with the temper and disposition of a man, before you enter into an amicable alliance with him, remembering, that the man who divulges his own secrets will divulge those of another.

I am, your's sincerely.

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LETTER CLXIX.—*To a young Man on disobedience to  
Parents.*

Dear Cousin,

AS you have received a religious education, and possess a considerable degree of natural understanding, I am persuaded you cannot be ignorant of the great importance of obedience to parents. You must know that both duty and gratitude enjoins submission to their will, and that filial piety is ranked amongst the cardinal virtues. It is with pain, therefore, that I feel myself under a necessity of censuring your conduct in an instance that reflects equal disgrace on your education and understanding. The instance I mean to point out to you is, an irreverent behaviour to your parents in thwarting their wills, though but in trivial matters, and occasionally acting repugnant to their inclinations, though in affairs of but little moment. Though I do not charge you with any atrocious conduct, I must reason with you on the impropriety of what I deem indecent retorts on any little peevish expressions that may drop from them through the infirmities of age. I have frequently observed you delinquent in filial duty, and must therefore admonish you to review your conduct with an impartial

impartial eye, and try to fix a resolution of amendment. Summon reason to your aid, attend to its dictates, and then you will discharge the duties of life both social and relative. Your father and mother have no knowledge of my writing to you on this subject. My sole motive is family regard, in which light if received it will be taken in good part, and most probably answer the design of

Your's affectionately.

LETTER CLXX.—*On the permanency of sincere Friendship.*

Dear Sir,

I Am happy that a late instance of disingenuous conduct, though I detest the cause, has afforded additional proof of the solid basis on which sincere friendship is founded. Envious and malicious spirits, ever liberal in characters, I was given to understand, had insidiously suggested, throughout the circle of our acquaintance, that I had forfeited your esteem. Unconscious of any demerit on my part, and conscious of rectitude of principle on your's, I was not in the least affected by the information; though I must confess it gave me singular satisfaction to find the malevolent report totally frustrated, from the assurance I received from you of the continuance of your good opinion. To deserve your favours long has been, and ever shall be, my study in the prosecution of all laudable means; persuaded you will never call that man your friend who is an enemy to society.

I remain, your's, &c.

LETTER CLXXI.—*To a young Gentleman on reserved behaviour in company.*

Dear Sir,

YOU will pardon the liberty I take when I assure you I was much hurt at observing the unguarded manner in which you delivered your opinion on a certain subject that came into conversation when I dined last at your uncle's, especially as I found you had not a competent knowledge of it. There can be no greater evidence of solid sense, than to discern when it is proper to speak, and when to be silent, because by so doing we avoid both the imputation of impertinence and ignorance, and preserve the respect of those with whom we associate. A turn for conversation, founded on useful and experimental know-

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ledge, is doubtless instructive and entertaining, yet a well  
governed reserve in general argues wisdom, and promotes  
peace, and it is more commendable to speak a little to the  
purpose than to talk much without effect. That you may  
acquit yourself upon every occasion with propriety is the  
sincere desire of

Your's most sincerely.

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LETTER CLXXII.—*To a Friend, communicating a particular circumstance, as a plea for the request of a particular favour.*

My dear Friend,

I Apprised you a few days ago of the death of my uncle, and informed you, at the same time, that his real estate must devolve to me. Having since discovered that there is a child, for whom I think myself bound, both in justice and humanity to provide, but being unwilling to disclose the matter at present to my father, I should deem it a singular instance of friendship, if you would afford him protection, till affairs can be brought about. The mother is gone off, and the boy must be removed from the house where they lodged. I request of you to keep the circumstance inviolably secret, and let me know your determination as speedily as possible. I pledge my honour to reimburse you for any expence you may be at, and to do all in my power upon every occasion to requite the favour. Pardon the liberty I take upon so urgent an occasion, and rest assured that I shall ever continue

Your sincere friend, &c.

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LETTER CLXIII.—*The Friend's Answer.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the commencement of our friendship to the present time, I never knew a circumstance that so strongly recommended you to my favour and confidence as that which you communicate in your last letter. You give proof of a due sense of the obligations of justice and humanity, and lay me under a necessity, from an approbation of the principles which influences your conduct, to comply with your request. I no sooner disclosed the affair to my wife, than she applauded your design, and declared her readiness to promote it. Send me word immediately where the boy is, and I will bring him from thence, take

AND ENTERTAINING LETTERS. 107  
ake him into my family, and treat him as my own till  
you shall find it proper to remove him. I remain  
Your constant Friend.

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LETTER CLXXIV.—*To a Friend on being remiss in correspondence.*

Dear Sir,

IT gives me no small degree of anxiety to find myself so frequently disappointed in my expectations of hearing from you. Formerly you was most punctual in your correspondence, but now I have written no less than six letters without receiving an answer to one of them. Besides, as a considerable time is elapsed since I wrote to you last, during which I have not even heard of you, doubts have arisen in my mind concerning the state of your health. I think from my general conduct and behaviour, you must be persuaded that I have a real concern for your welfare and interest, and as I am unconscious of having given any offence, could wish to be convinced that I stand in your opinion as I long have done; by your compliance with my earnest request that you would favour me with a line as soon as possible. I remain, as ever,

Your affectionate Friend.

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LETTER CLXXV.—*The Answer.*

My dear Friend,

I Plead guilty of the charge you bring against me for default in correspondence, and cannot but blush in being compelled, for the sake of veracity, to acknowledge the receipt of your six letters without the return of an answer. Your forgiveness I can only ask on the score of confessing past delinquency, and promising future punctuality in the discharge of the duties incumbent on me as your professed Friend. As you express so generous a concern for my welfare, I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have enjoyed an uninterrupted state of health since the time of our last interview. Pardon all omissions, and rest assured, that I hold your good opinion in the highest esteem; and shall ever remain,

Your obliged humble Servant.

108 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CLXXVI.—*To a Friend on the improvement of  
Time.*

Dear Sir,

THOUGH the importance of improving time, with respect to present and future welfare has been pointed out by the ablest writers, you will nevertheless permit me to drop a friendly hint on the subject. There is not a man in the world who does not express a desire to enjoy life; and yet how different are their ideas of the objects which constitute that enjoyment. If we attend to the dictates of reason, and the precepts of religion, we shall find that our time should be divided between our religious and our social duties, that is in acts of devotion to the supreme creator of the universe, and such acts or functions in life, as respect our own welfare, or that of our fellow-creatures. There is not a day, or even an hour, which does not bring with it its necessary employ, or affords not some opportunity of doing or getting good. There are men of a philosophical turn, who allot precise proportions of time to the different purposes of business, society, relaxation, and repose, and, in my humble opinion, such examples are highly worthy of imitation. We should exert our utmost abilities in the performance of whatever we undertake, and by all means avoid delay, or deferring that till to-morrow which should be done to-day. This is the opinion and advice of

Your sincere Friend, &c.

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LETTER CLXXVII.—*From a Lady to a Female Friend,  
whose beauty had been impaired by the ravages of the small-  
pox.*

My dear Sophia,

PERMIT me to congratulate you on your recovery from an epidemical disease, which though by its effects it has impaired your personal beauties, can never divest you of those graces which adorn your mind. Beauty, as wise men observe, is but skin deep, liable to hourly attacks, and must of necessity be impaired by time; whereas good sense and virtue not only retain their charms during life, but may truly be said to live beyond the grave. You cannot, I am persuaded, harbour a suspicion that I mean to taunt you upon this occasion; on the contrary, you must be fully convinced, that my design is to console

you

you upon principles rational, solid, and permanent. But I shall dwell no longer on remarks which your own knowledge cannot fail to suggest, than to subscribe myself,

Your's sincerely.

LETTER CLXXVIII.—*To a Friend on ceremonious Visits.*

Dear Sir,

I Beg pardon for my neglect of fulfilling my engagement with you yesterday, which I presume you will grant, when I assure you that the cause was owing to one of those impertinent intruders called formal visitors. Though I love society, and am never more happy than when engaged in instructing or entertaining conversation, I would rather be sequestered from the world, and pass my days in a recluse cell, or lonesome cot, than be harrassed with the vexations, nonsense, and ceremony, of these disgusting mortals. If they would confine their visits within the circle of such as were of a similar disposition with themselves, they would not interrupt the social intercourse of the rest of mankind; but they infest all quarters, and are the bane of almost every company. For my own part I consider myself as doing penance when I am compelled to give them a hearing. However, I will take care to prevent disappointment on any future invitation that may take place between us, and remain,

Your sincere Friend.

LETTER CLXXIX.—*On the Effects of a sudden Change of Fortune.*

Friend Tom,

I Am persuaded you will participate with me in the consolation that must arise from the sudden change that has taken place in the situation of my affairs consequent on an event merely fortuitous. Know then, that having embarked as an adventurer in the last lottery, fortune turned me up the second trump in the game of tickets, namely, a twenty thousand pounder. Though I endeavoured to summon all my reasoning power to my aid, I could hardly keep my mind upon the due poise, or remove the giddiness which such an extraordinary event caused in my brain; indeed I am of opinion, that I underwent a temporary delirium. However, I think I am now restored to my proper senses. I shall conclude with assuring you, that I am sincerely,

Your's to command.

L E T.

110 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CLXXX.—*Diffusive from Female Indelicacy.*

Dear Sally,

FROM the affection I entertained for your amiable mother while living, and the esteem in which I shall ever hold her memory, I cannot but be anxious for your improvement in every accomplishment of mind and person, that can render you happy in yourself, and respectable in the world. You cannot conceive my astonishment and disgust, when I lately beheld you disguised in a Riding-Coat, with half a dozen capes, the sleeves and waist full of buttons, the latter encircled with a belt; your hair turned up negligently behind; your head covered with a broad-brimed beaver, placed on the decline, the crown ornamented with an enormous gold band. To complete the metamorphosis, you seemed to have adopted a masculine manner of deportment; indeed I must be plain to tell you, that your air and mein in general appeared to me as the natural effect of the dress you assumed, or, in other words, that you had forgotten your sex. But let me turn from the disagreeable subject, and remind you, that however prevalent this unbecoming affectation may be through the exalted rank of those females who set the example; the real, attractive, permanent ornaments of the sex, are grace and elegance of figure displayed to advantage by dress modest and duly proportioned, and enhanced by a deportment delicate and reserved. If you wish to maintain the esteem of the sensible part of mankind, or recommend yourself to an individual of our sex of refined feelings, you will remember that without those ornaments you can make no impression to your real interest, or lay a well-grounded foundation for your happiness, present or future. Take these hints from

Your affectionate Uncle, &c.

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LETTER CLXXXI.—*On Rural Life from a Lady of a  
volatile turn in the country to her Friend in Town.*

Dear Charlotte!

MY situation in Mrs. Lonesome's family may well be called retirement, where there is no variety, very little prospect, no society, and scarce any thing to do. Mrs. Lonesome sometimes endeavours, indeed, to amuse me with a tedious harangue, on what she calls the pleasures of rural retirement; but upon me it produces a quite contrary

contrary effect; for instead of being amused, I am thrown into the vapours, and stand in need of the aid of hartshorn to revive me from a depression of spirits, brought on by attending to the melancholy subject. Sequestered groves, flowery lawns, and purling streams, may gratify inactive minds, wrapped up in contemplation, and constitute their perfection of happiness; but, considered in the abstract, they have no charms for me, because my supreme delight is centered in the enjoyment of society; the pleasure of variety, and that succession of events which necessarily occur in cities and courts, and affords subjects to employ thought, and fix attention. Much has been said in commendation of rural life, as highly conducive to the improvement of the mind; but for my part, I must ingenuously confess I have not penetration to discover why the faculties of reason and reflection may not be as effectually employed amidst the intercourse of the active world, as in a lifeless scene of solitude, barren of objects to relieve either the mind or the eye. As such is my situation, and such my opinion, you will act the part of a friend in sending me some news, as the only means of dispelling what our great bard calls loathed melancholy.

I remain, yours sincerely.

### LETTER CLXXXII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Lucy,

I feel for your dreary situation, and sincerely wish you a speedy deliverance; but as it is in consequence of your father's determination, you are in duty bound to submit. The standing topics of conversation in town have not, my dear Lucy, varied in the least. Politics and fashions are the constant subjects, and mankind still continue to quarrel about their honesty, of which as usual there is more show than reality. Impartial men think we have as many quacks in politics, law, physic, and divinity, as ever; and that public good is as little preferred to private interest. We have here events enough to alarm us, diversions enough to amuse us, and vices enough to appal us, not that I mean to insinuate mankind are more corrupt now than they were a century ago. All the news I could gather that particularly affects you is, that Captain Conquest is ordered to the East-Indies with the regiment he belongs to, a circumstance which, though it may give you concern on

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the one hand must afford you consolation on the other ;  
as it will be an inducement to your father to send for you  
from the country, and free you from the shackles in which  
you have been held a considerable time. I hope it will  
also tend to wean you from an attachment to a man, with  
whom a matrimonial connection did not appear to promise  
much happiness. You have my best wishes for your wel-  
fare ; and I remain,

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CLXXXIII.—*To Friend under Confinement for Debt.*

Dear Sir,

AS it has been my invariable opinion, that prisons  
were never intended for honest men, so I always  
sympathise with such characters, when they are consigned  
to those forlorn mansions, and suffer a punishment due only  
to unprincipled defaulters. I therefore feel most sensibly  
for the hardships you endure through the rigour of a re-  
morseless inexorable creditor. As your misfortunes are the  
known effects of losses sustained through unavoidable causes,  
I must therefore recommend to you to have recourse to the  
aids of conscious integrity, as your best support under those  
troubles to which you and mankind in general are liable in  
this precarious state of existence. But as I cannot think  
either good words or good advice alone sufficient to console  
in the hour of distress, I shall desire your acceptance of the  
enclosed note, as a testimony of my respect, with assur-  
ance that I should be happy in having it in my power to  
give more effectual proofs of it. My absence has been  
wholly owing to illness and indispensable business ; but as  
soon as I have a vacant hour, I will give you a friendly  
call ; and am,

Your's without ceremony, &c.

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LETTER CLXXXIV.—*The Answer.*

Dear Sir,

IReturn you my hearty thanks for the advice and assist-  
ance you have so liberally given in the time of need,  
and thereby confirmed the opinion I have long maintained  
of the sincerity of your professions of friendship. I have  
the consolation, in the midst of my troubles, that I can-  
not,

not, on the most impartial examination, impute them to want of industry or œconomy. I feel not so much for my own wants as for those of my unhappy family. But to trouble you too much with my present feelings would be tiresome, therefore the favour of a visit when convenient, will afford me a singular pleasure, as you are the only friend to whom I can open my mind with confidence, or from whom I can reasonably expect any real comfort. I am, with the highest sense of gratitude,

Your most obliged and very humble servant.

LETTER CLXXXV.—*On the Absurdity of too great a Partiality to Relations.*

Friend William,

THOUGH I have a good opinion of your disposition and principles upon the whole, I cannot pass unnoticed a foible to which you are very liable, though it subjects you to the highest degree of ridicule. The foible I mean to point out is, a blind, though hitherto inseparable attachment to your relations of every degree, that induces you to extol them on every occasion beyond all comparison, and therefore beyond all probability. The merit of your relations is your favourite subject in all companies, and you have often had a rap on the knuckles for interrupting discourse by an impertinent introduction of it. For instance, according to your exaggerated account, your wife is as beautiful as Venus, as chaste as Diana, and as wise as Pallas. Your son Simon is the most promising boy of his age, and your daughter Judith the nonpareil of her time. Your uncle Toby is the honestest man living, and your aunt Tabitha the best woman in the whole world. Now if you cannot prove these declarations (which I fear is wholly impracticable) you must pass for a fool and a liar, render yourself obnoxious to society, and be pointed at wherever you go by the finger of scorn. You have an undoubted right to indulge your own opinions, but none at all to impose them upon others. Mankind will look and judge for themselves, without consulting your mirror. Suppress this absurd propensity, and testify your good sense by your silence on subjects, which if commented on cannot fail to proclaim your folly.

I am, sincerely, your's,

L E T-

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LETTER CLXXXVI.—*On the bad Effects of a pre-  
vailing passion for Music.*

My dear Cousin,

THOUGH many of your friends have derived much entertainment from your extraordinary powers, both vocal and instrumental, which have in no small degree recommended you to their notice, they would not wish you to suffer musical pursuits to engross your whole time and attention, and thereby divert your mind from the attainment of other qualifications that are necessary to render you respectable in society. An inordinate passion for music frequently exposes its votaries to very exceptionable company, leads them to neglect of business, and brings on a declining state of health. It has a tendency to enervate the mind, impair the judgement, and disqualify us for the more manly and beneficial exercises. In all pursuits, as well as all opinions, philosophy, indeed common-sense, dictates the rule of moderation; since if we are guided by an inordinate predilection for one object, we must of course neglect others of equal, if not superior, importance. I have taken the liberty of communicating my sentiments to you upon this subject, from a motive of real regard; if you deliberate upon them, and they should appear founded on reason and experience, you will probably adopt them, and regulate your future conduct accordingly. I am,

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

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LETTER CLXXXVII—*In Praise of Benefits generously  
conferred.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the inequality of the dispensations of Providence with respect to the good things of this world, it seems as if infinite wisdom has ordained the rich and the poor to be subservient to each other in the various offices and functions of life. But the grand design of all appears to be that of affording the opulent the means of displaying the godlike virtue of universal benevolence. The manner in which a benefit is conferred doubtless constitutes a great part of its merit. Every individual that possesses an ample fortune, has the power of soothing the ills, and alleviating the misfortunes of fellow-creatures, but to exercise that power in a manner truly generous, belongs

belongs only to exalted minds. When charity is dispensed with an air of insult, the design is in a great measure defeated, but when it precedes application, or immediately follows it, then it acts consistently with its real dignity, and makes a due impression on the grateful heart. I have only to acknowledge the many testimonies I have received of your liberality, and subscribe myself, dear Sir,

Your obliged humble servant.

LETTER CLXXXVIII.—*To a Friend on temporal Happiness.*

My dear Friend,

**D**IVINES, and men of a serious turn of mind, in general, lay it down as a maxim, that in this world there can be no complete or perfect happiness, because if it were otherwise, there could be no rational proof of the doctrine of a future state. Temporal happiness then can only be in a degree; indeed it is too frequently the mere phantom of imagination. For instance: the man of pleasure, for a short time, fancies himself happy, while he is destroying his constitution, wasting his substance, and setting all laws divine and human at defiance. The avaricious man fancies himself happy in adding to his golden store. The tyrant thinks himself happy in lording it over his dependants, and in a word the major part of mankind place their happiness in the indulgence of their several passions and inclinations. But there is a temporal happiness, which though not complete, is by far more solid than that which arises from the considerations before-mentioned. This happiness is the result of due attention to the duties of religion. Virtue is in a degree its own reward in this life, according to the well-known maxim, that, “to be good is to be happy.” Upon the whole, we should deem it our duty to do every thing in our power, while in this world, towards promoting our own real interest, and that of our fellow creatures. For, as the Poet justly observes:

“ One moral action, or a mere good-natur’d deed,  
“ Does all desert in sciences exceed.”

I remain, dear Sir,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

SIR,

**I**N your letter you desire me to send you a definition of Pride, which I cannot do better than to refer you to the following lines of Pope :

“ Of all the causes which conspire to blind  
 “ Man’s erring judgment, and misguide the mind ;  
 “ What the weak head with strongest bias rules  
 “ Is pride, the never-failing vice of fools.  
 “ Whatever nature has in worth deny’d  
 “ She gives in large recruits of needful pride :  
 “ For as in bodies, so in souls we find,  
 “ What wants in blood and spirit’s fill’d with wind.  
 “ Pride, when wit fails, steps in to our defense,  
 “ And fills up all the mighty void of sense.  
 “ If once right reason drives that cloud away  
 “ Truth breaks upon us with resistless day.  
 “ Trust not yourself ; but, your defects to know,  
 “ Make use of ev’ry friend, and ev’ry foe.”

Or, as another Poet has it :

“ How poor a thing is pride ! when all, as slaves,  
 “ Differ but in their fetters, not their graves.

I am, your’s, &c.

LETTER CXC.—*From a well-disposed young Woman to a Lady, who had rendered her many services.*

Honoured Madam,

**I** Think it my duty to acquaint you that the letter you gave me to Lady Bountiful has been attended with the desired success ; insomuch that I am taken into her family as governess to her two daughters, and treated in the most endearing manner. The good old lady is considered as the mother of the poor, the friend of the distressed, and the comfort of all that are in affliction. At my leisure hours I am ordered to visit the poor, and give them books, with many common necessities. I have made several observations in the course of this practice. I have seen great negligence in domestic duties amongst the rich, and in the most humble cottages met with industry and decency struggling under all the difficulties arising from indigence ; but, happily for me, it is at present the greatest pleasure to be

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the messenger of good tidings to the distressed objects of this neighbourhood. I am, madam, with the utmost gratitude,

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CXCI.—*The Lady's Answer.*

My Good Girl,

I Received your's, the contents of which served to confirm me in the opinion I long entertained of the goodness of your head and heart. The success of my Recomendatory Letter to Lady Bountiful gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, since it introduced you to the notice and regard of a most respectable family. I hope you will profit by her ladyship's excellent advice and example, and that you may do so I must enjoin you to be very observant of her commands. Let me hear from you occasionally, as I have the welfare of your family at heart; and remain,

Your Friend, &c.

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LETTER CXCII.—*On the Excellence of mental Qualifications.*

Dear Cousin,

AS I would wish to guard you against those fashionable vices and follies which are baneful to the rising generation, I take the liberty of recommending to your serious regard the great importance of the cultivation of the mind. Though the human race is distinguished from the brutal by the endowment of reason and speech, the bulk of mankind, and the younger part especially, are more solicitous about the ornaments of the body than those of the mind. Nay, so erroneous are their notions of right and wrong, that they imagine money and dress constitute happiness; whereas daily experience and observation prove the contrary. Permit me then to recommend to you the pursuits of those studies which are necessary to form your mind, and finish your character. Your tutor will direct you in the choice of books, and assist you in such particulars as may further your improvement.

I remain, your's, &c.

L E T.

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LETTER CXCIII.—*From a young Gentleman in London,  
to a Friend in the Country, on the prevailing Vices and  
Temptations of the Metropolis.*

Dear Sir,

I Had not long taken up my residence in this town before I was convinced of the truth of your remarks on the tendency of its vices and temptations to corrupt young inexperienced minds. Through the good effects of precept enforced by example, to which I have been accustomed from earliest life, I hope my mind has been formed to virtue, and that I have imbibed sound principles of action. However with these advantages I find it extremely difficult to guard against the vices and follies which here prevail almost universally. My situation frequently obliges me to associate with young men of fashion as they are called, and so they generally appear, in acting conformably to the fashion of abetting vice, and laughing virtue out of countenance. Surrounded with tempters to dissipation and extravagance, I find it necessary to summon all my resolution to withstand them. Public places are infested with sharpers, and prostitutes of several ranks and degrees, so that if you frequent them, you are constantly exposed to injury both of person and property. Nor are select companies always free from those harpies, who like the arch fiend stalk throughout society in quest of prey, or, in other words, seeking whom they may devour. Besides they assume such guises in this scene of noise and confusion, that it is hardly possible to distinguish characters, or discern the man of honour from the scoundrel. As you have lived many years in the world, I should deem it a favour if in the course of our friendly correspondence you would point out to me those means which appear to you most effectually conducive to prevent corruption and imposition, amidst such a variety of fraud and deception, which will add to the many favours conferred on, Sir,

Your very much obliged and very humble servant.

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LETTER CXCIV.—*The Answer.*

My dear young Friend,

THE contents of your's serve to confirm me, among other instances, in the good opinion I entertain of your sense and virtue. Your remarks are in general pertinent, and your resolutions noble and manly, as they may prove

prove great preservatives against the pernicious influence of depraved morals and corrupt examples; which I am persuaded abound in most of the polite circles the metropolis. You candidly ask my advice respecting the means of avoiding the evils to which you are exposed in it. I as candidly recommend to you by no means to appear in the society of dissolute and abandoned characters be their rank ever so exalted, nor form any friendship but with persons of approved honour and integrity. Further I must counsel you to retain and cherish those notions of religious duties you imbibed in your early life, and that regard for moral honesty, which however despised by the thoughtless and abandoned, are essential to form the character of the Christian and the Gentleman, and will ever be the boast and glory of wise and good men. From what I know of your disposition, you will, I doubt not, allot part of your time to reading, and the improvement of your mind, and the remainder to innocent amusement and recreation. Upon the whole I trust you will pursue such a line of conduct as will tend to my satisfaction and your own happiness; and remain,

Your's most sincerely.

*LETTER CXCV.—On the Means of obtaining useful Knowledge, and the Improvement to be gained by Conversation.*

Dear Friend,

IT is very true, that though there is no obligation imposed on any man to acquire a knowledge of every thing, yet every rational being is under some obligation to improve his understanding. The common duties of society oblige all persons whatever to exert their reasoning powers on many occasions. Every hour of life calls for some regular exercise of our judgment concerning persons and actions, times and things, for without a prudent determination in the affairs we are engaged in, we shall be plunged into perpetual errors.

The most effectual means of improving the mind seem to be the following—Observation, reading, instruction from lectures, conversation, and meditation. Observation is the notice we take of all objects that come in our way; the experience of every man is in proportion to the accuracy of his examination, and the measure of his enquiries. By reading we collect our personal stock of knowledge

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ledge of others, whose attainments have been perpetuated  
and dispersed by writing. Lectures are such verbal in-  
structions as are delivered by teachers to select auditors.  
Conversation is another method of improving our minds,  
wherein by mutual investigation the profit of the speakers  
is also mutual. When we converse familiarly with an  
intelligent friend, we have his help at hand to explain to  
us every obscure expression in his discourse, and to inform  
us of his whole meaning. Meditation or study is the soli-  
tary improvement we make upon all or as many of the  
foregoing advantages as we enjoy. By meditation we fix  
in our memory that which we learn from what others write  
or speak.

If we wish to improve by conversation, our aim should  
be to cultivate the acquaintance of persons wiser than our-  
selves. In mixed company we should be quick to hear,  
but slow and cautious in speaking; it being far more easy  
to betray our ignorance, and give undesigned offense, than  
to conciliate the esteem of strangers. Those who make  
an ill use of the freedom of conversation, ought to be  
shunned as incendiaries; they have opprobrious sligmas  
ready to fix upon any opponent, and upon every difference  
in sentiment, the antagonist is branded with some invi-  
dious epithets. But while we shun all persons disqualified  
for social intercourse of such kind as tends to mutual im-  
provement, it behoves us to guard against the workings of  
evil dispositions in our own breasts; because in proportion  
as we give way to them, men of worth and ingenuity will  
justly decline our acquaintance, and avoid our company  
with secret contempt.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CXCVI.—*To a young Gentleman on the bad  
Effects of Prejudice.*

Dear Sir,

AS the care of your education was committed to me  
by your worthy father, I am sincerely concerned for  
your improvement in every virtuous and ornamental ac-  
complishment. I hold it my bounded duty to guard you  
against every obstacle that may obstruct your progress in the  
pursuit of them. Of these none is more powerful than  
that which is known by the name Prejudice, and which for  
that cause I shall endeavour to define.

Prejudice

Prejudice then, which is also called prepossession and prejudging, is the forming an opinion, or judgment, on any matter or subject, without previous examination into its nature and properties, and receiving the same as authentic, and confirmed; or, on the other hand, suffering our own opinion and judgment to be implicitly guided by those of others, without tracing the causes on which they are founded. Hence it is evident, that prejudice is not only the spring of error, but also of persisting in error. In conversation it is the source of that positiveness and presumption which are equally contemptible and disgusting. In a moral sense it leads to mistake evil for good. In a word, prejudice is the bane of reason, the foe of truth, and the perverter of the mind, with respect to the moral, social, and literary systems.

Such being the effects of prejudice, you will permit me to remind you, that in all our studies and enquiries upon all subjects within the compass of human capacity, we should form a resolution to dispossess ourselves of former opinions, and determine to enquire impartially into what is advanced for or against, and then be directed by the aid of truth and reason. To this must certainly have been owing the improvements which have been made in the liberal arts, and indeed in every useful acquisition in general.— You will, I presume, by duly reflecting on these observations, be fully convinced of their propriety, as founded on reason and experience; and if so, they will doubtless call forth your attention, and become objects of your practical regard. I remain, as ever,

Your's sincerely.

LETTER CXCVII.—*From a Gentleman, who had lately lost his Wife, to his Friend, a reverend Divine.*

Rev. Sir,

INDUCED by the Friendship which has long subsisted between us, I have recourse to you for advice and consolation, on an event to me the most affecting that ever occurred during the whole course of my life, having sustained the loss of a partner united to me not only by the bands of wedlock, but the more important ties of sincere affection. She expired after a painful illness of about twenty days, with resignation and composure, previously imparting her blessing to me and six young children who sur-

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rounded her bed, bewailing the dissolution of the ten-  
derest of mothers. From the general tenor of her life,  
which was religious, without parade and ostentation, and  
the hope she expressed on her departure, as founded upon  
Christian principles, she is, doubtless, happy, while I am  
left behind, the disconsolate mourner of a loss irreparable,  
and hapless father of an helpless progeny. Sinking almost  
under the pressure of complicated woes, it occurred to me  
that I had a pious friend, whose duty and office it was, as  
well as inclination, to administer comfort to the afflicted.  
To assuage my grief, I therefore determined to address you  
upon the awful occasion. I should be extremely obliged  
if you would favour me with a visit; but, if prevented by  
any incident, entreat I may hear from you, as the only  
satisfaction I can receive in lieu of the pleasure of an in-  
terview. I remain, with profound respect, reverend Sir,

Your sincere but distressed Friend.

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### LETTER CXCVIII.—*The Answer.*

My dear Friend,

WHILE I sincerely condole with you on a loss so truly  
affecting, I must at the same time recommend to  
you that resignation to the dispensations of providence  
which is incumbent on you as a man, and more especially as  
a Christian. An acquiescence with the divine will should  
have a due influence over us in every state and condition,  
whether prosperous or adverse. Many important lessons  
are taught in the school of affliction, and many real ad-  
vantages derived from apparent distress. These scenes  
serve to divert us from worldly objects, to subdue pride  
and ambition, and direct our views to the centre of bliss.  
Remember that you must follow your beloved wife, how  
soon you cannot know. Let the uncertainty and brevity of  
human life be a warning to you to redeem the time, and  
be studiously careful of the education of your children,  
see that they are trained up in the way they should go,  
and above all, take care that you become yourself an ex-  
ample of the precepts you recommend to their practice.  
Let them first be well acquainted with the Bible, and when  
their understandings are in some degree matured, put into  
their hands such pious books as tend to recommend, illustrate,  
and

and explain it\*. Thus have I discharged what I deem my bounden duty, both in a sacred and social capacity; and as I trust I have dealt faithfully on the occasion, and been attentive to your welfare, present and future, hope you will be led thereby to an entire submission to the divine will, and dependence on the divine goodness, in the paths

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of

\* The best assistant the Christian reader can have for an explanation of those parts of the Scriptures which are beyond the comprehension of the generality of mankind, and which we earnestly recommend to their perusal, is an excellent, learned, and pious Work, now publishing in Weekly Numbers; intituled, THE UNIVERSAL FAMILY BIBLE; or CHRISTIAN'S DIVINE LIBRARY: Being a Complete and Clear Exposition and Commentary on the Holy Scriptures. Containing the sacred Text of the Old and New Testaments, with the Apocrypha at large. Illustrated with Notes and Annotations, wherein all the difficult and obscure Passages are clearly and fully explained; the seeming contradictions reconciled; the Mis-translations corrected; former Errors rectified; the Deistical Objections refuted; the Prophecies and Parables faithfully elucidated; and the whole of Divine Revelation (on which the eternal Happiness of Mortals depend) displayed in its original Purity, and rendered easy and profitable to every Capacity. The whole forming a complete Commentary, with practical Improvements and general Reflections on each Chapter, calculated to enlighten the Understanding, purify the Heart, promote the Cause of Piety and Virtue, and make Mankind wise unto Salvation. To which is added, a circumspect View of the great Connection between the Old and New Testaments; an Explanation of the Divine Offices used in the Jewish Church, both before and after the Captivity; Account of the Lives of the inspired Writers; and many other Articles relative to Jewish and Christian Antiquities, not to be met with in any other Werk of the like Kind. Also a copious Index, or Concordance, pointing out, in the clearest Manner, every minute translation recorded in the Holy Scriptures. With a brief Table of the Interpretation of all proper Names; Indexes Historical and Geographical; Account of Scripture Weights and Measures; with many other Matters of the most important Nature, and essentially necessary to explain and illustrate the sacred Writings. The whole forming *A Complete Universal Treasury of Divine Knowledge.* This admirable Work is written by the Reverend and learned Dr. Henry Southwell, late of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and Rector of Asterby in Lincolnshire; and embellished with one hundred beautiful and grand Copper Plates, representing the most material Passages in the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, and the Apocrypha. It is published in One Hundred Weekly Numbers (Price Six-pence each) for the convenience of those sincere Christians whose Circumstances prevent them from purchasing the Whole at once; and may be had of Mr. Cooke, No. 17, Pater-noster-Row, by one or more Numbers at a Time, as may best suit the Convenience of the Purchaser.

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of faith and obedience, for all blessings temporal and eternal. I have now only to commend you to the divine blessing; the one and only thing needful, and subscribe myself

Your affectionate friend, &c.

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LETTER CXCIX.—*To a Friend in Explanation and Recommendation of Virtue and Charity.*

Dear Sir,

HAVING already given you my thoughts upon several subjects in which we are interested, as men and Christians, I now proceed to treat on the cardinal virtue of Charity, which, in my opinion, equals, if not surpasses all the rest. This god-like virtue has been represented by many in a very partial, restrictive light, though none is in itself more complete and comprehensive, as I trust will appear from the following definition:

Charity is a step beyond justice, and is truly characterised as a virtue of the heart, and not of the hands. Gifts and alms are the expressions, not the essence of this virtue. A man may bestow great sums without being charitable, and he may be charitable when he is not able to bestow any thing. Charity is a habit of good-will in the soul, which disposes us to the love, assistance, and relief of mankind, especially of those whose circumstances call for humane assistance. The poor but virtuous man who has this excellent frame of mind, is no less entitled to the reward of his virtue, than the man who builds an hospital or founds a college.

There needs no stronger argument to prove how universally and deeply the seeds of compassion are planted in the heart of man, than the pleasure we take in the representation of it. From a propensity to pity the unfortunate, we express that sensation by the word *Humanity*, as if it were a principle inseparable from our nature. That it is not inseparable, too many instances daily occur to prove; there are many reproachful instances of selfish tempers, which seem to take part in nothing beyond themselves. Yet humanity, the source of Charity, is so great and noble a part of our nature, that a man must do some violence to himself, and suffer some painful conflicts, before he can suppress it, and ingraft on his heart a disposition of an opposite nature. Upon the whole, when we see a truly compassionate

man

man, we may depend on his possessing a number of other good qualities; and that he is a man with whom we may trust a wife, children, fortune, and reputation. Nay, we are authorized from sacred writ to pronounce Charity the greatest of the cardinal virtues; they are denominated by the distinct appellations of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

*LETTER CC—From a Widow in the Country left in embarrassed Circumstances by her Husband, to her Friend, a Man of Rank in London.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the many instances of your benevolence towards our family in the several difficulties with which through unavoidable misfortunes in life, they have been obliged to struggle; I am encouraged to hope you will not be offended at my present application. Know then, good Sir, that I am left a widow with five children to provide for. Though the farm my late husband rented was not very extensive, by means of œconomy and industry we brought up our children in a decent manner. However, at the time of his death, his circumstances were so reduced, that I was obliged to sell off our whole stock to prevent a seizure, and satisfy the demand of creditors. They were generous enough indeed to allow me something; but that was only like a temporary respite. My eldest daughter, I presume, is qualified to go out into the world as Lady's-maid; but I have no friend to recommend her; and I am assured, by the schoolmaster here, that my eldest son is capable of filling an inferior part in a public office. The rest I have no other prospect of supporting but by my own industry. I am totally at a loss what line of life to strike into. Thus embarrassed, I take the liberty to represent to you, that if in your wonted goodness you would take my son under your protection, and recommend my daughter to some worthy family in any station that she may appear to be fit for, my happiness would indeed be great. I have no merit to plead but that of telling the truth. A letter from you, or your lady, will do me the highest honour, and confer the greatest obligation on,

Your much obliged and most humble Servant.

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LETTER CCI.—*The Answer.*

MADAM,

I HEARD of your husband's death some days ago, and the nature of the circumstances in which you was left. You are reconciled I hope to the event, and submit to it with becoming resignation. He was worthy of the esteem of all who knew him, and if he was not rich, he was honest. He did the best he could for his family, and more cannot be expected from any one. Your eldest daughter shall be taken into my family, and I will exert my interest with a friend who has some influence in the state, to provide for your eldest son. Be not uneasy for the young ones and yourself. When I come into the country, which will be as soon as the session of parliament closes, I will not only devise some plan for your future livelihood, but furnish you with the means of pursuing it in such a manner as to afford a probable view of success. You will find inclosed something for a temporary relief. Continue to do your duty to the young children as a pledge of your conjugal felicity. Reign yourself to the will of Heaven; then you need not doubt of the divine protection.

I remain your friend and well wisher.

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LETTER CCII.—*From a Lady to a Friend, in Answer to a Letter of Compliment.*

SIR,

A S I confess I am not humble enough to reject the commendations you are pleased to bestow on me, so I declare I am not presumptuous enough to admit them; beside, one instance would be a proof of my vanity, the other of my want of breeding. Though I can hardly persuade myself they are applicable to me, yet they cannot fail of convincing me of the sterling wit of the ingenious author. I am, Sir, most respectfully.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCIII.—*Inviting a Friend to a Party of Pleasure.*

Dear Madam,

PURSUANT to the desire of some particular friends of yours, I take upon me to solicit the favour of your company on a little excursion into the country on Saturday. I need not intimate to you what will be the general opinion

nion if you are absent, any more than the general pleasure that will attend your being present; so that I have only to entreat you will not think of an apology, and subscribe myself

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCIV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

THE compliments you are pleased to pass demand my thanks; the invitation to be of the agreeable party does me honour, and I should have been unhappy in missing an opportunity, which I am persuaded will afford me infinite pleasure and satisfaction. I rejoice that no prior engagement will preclude me, and propose calling on your spouse to-morrow to know the appointed hour of meeting. Present my compliments to that lady, and assure her I have never failed of being happy where she has been of the party. I remain, with due respect,

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCV.—*From a Widow in the Country to a generous Friend in London.*

Dear Sir,

HAVING experienced many instances of your friendly regard, I make no scruple of opening my mind to you on a subject of the most melancholy kind. You are no stranger to the character of my late husband, and I presume, from your wanted candour, you think with me that whatever may have been the weaknesses of our friends while living, some degree of tenderness is due to their memory. My husband on his death-bed lamented the fashionable vices to which he had been addicted, and declared the utmost concern for the bad example he had set his children. I kept the two boys at the grammar school, where they had been placed by a relation of their father's, till they attained to a proper age for going out into the world. They now seem to have such wild romantic notions, that I am wholly at a loss in what manner to settle them in business. In extenuation of their follies, they constantly urge the conduct of their father, and are in short far beyond the reach of my authority, insomuch that I see nothing but ruin before them. Their sisters are young, so that I have some hopes of forming their tender

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minds, and keeping their passions under proper and ne-  
cessary restraints. But, dear Sir, what can you advise me  
to do with the boys? You are the only friend to whom I  
can open my mind, and from whom I can expect sympathy  
in my present distressed situation. Your conduct I am per-  
suaded is ever guided by the dictates of charity, so that I  
entertain not a doubt of your communicating your friendly  
council to me, and in that assurance I subscribe myself,

Your much obliged Friend.

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LETTER CCVI.—*The Answer.*

Dear Madam,

I Heard the nature of your circumstances before the re-  
ceipt of your letter. I am happy to hear that the  
girls are under your government, and as yet untainted by  
the follies of their brothers, and hope they will prove a  
comfort to you, and an honour to those with whom they  
may be hereafter connected, to promote which desirable  
end nothing on my part shall be wanting. But your grand  
question is, in what manner are you to dispose of your  
two sons? I am free to acknowledge that it is of a very  
serious nature, and requires deliberation. As they seem  
too wild and giddy for any mercantile profession, I would  
advise you to purchase an ensigncy in a marching regiment  
for the eldest, and as for the youngest, I will prevail with a  
friend of mine, who is a captain in the navy, to take him  
on board his ship as midshipman. They may succeed in  
these professions; however, at all events, you will have  
done your duty, and must leave the result to time. Let  
them both be sent up to me, and I will endeavour by re-  
monstrance on the one hand, and lenity on the other, to  
impress their minds with a sense of the duty they owe to  
God, to their mother, and their friends. That we may  
be directed to the best means of advancing the welfare of  
your family, is the sincere wish of

Your Well-wisher, &c.

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LETTER CCVII.—*To a Friend, on the bad Effects of a  
litigious Disposition.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the friendship that has for some time subsisted  
between us, I am concerned to hear that you are in  
pursuit of any measure which seems to tend to your disad-  
vantage

vantage. The effects of a litigious spirit, and the consequences of going to law, are too well known to need description; indeed they are admirably caricatured in prints which represent the state and condition of the parties successful and unsuccessful, at the close of a suit. The only difference is, that the one exults, and the other laments. They are equally destitute, the bone of contention being carried off by the rapacious harpies of the profession.

Thus much have I premised to pave the way for my advising you before it is too late, to consent to submit the point in dispute between you and your neighbour Wrangle to arbitration; as I am persuaded you will save much time, trouble, and expence, and at all events be a gainer by the compromise. This is the ingenuous opinion of

Your sincere Friend and Well-wisher, &c.

LETTER CCVIII.—*From a Gentleman to his Nephew, on his going to College.*

Dear Nephew,

YOU are now going to commence student in one of our grand seminaries of learning. I think it my duty to caution you againſt some of the dangers to which you will be exposed. You must admit the importance of being careful in the choice of your company. It is an old but excellent adage “that evil communication corrupts good manners;” for nothing tends so much to contaminate the mind as vicious connections. Your conduct must be regulated by your own reflections, from which, if they are just, it will be apparent to you, that the only secure paths are those of religion and virtue; which it will not be difficult for you to pursue; if you live according to that simplicity which the rules of academic societies prescribe. Pay becoming deference to characters of superior age, quality, station, or ability. Be civil to all; have friendship with few; and not too quickly with any. Observe minutely the genius, temper, and disposition of men. Improve by their learning, imitate their virtues, and shun their vices. Cherish that laudable emulation which will incite you to a due exertion of your faculties, and be the means of your excelling in some science or art, that may be useful hereafter, not only to yourself, but also to the community. Your success in life depends upon yourself; you may rest assured, however, of wanting nothing that I can bestow to

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co-operate with your endeavours to promote that valuable  
end. I remain,

Your affectionate Uncle.

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LETTER CCIX.—*From a Father to his Son entering upon  
commercial Life, on the Choice of Friends.*

My dear Boy,

YOU are to remember that Friends are as necessary to promote the grand ends of commercial as of social life. The frequent occasions you will have for advice with respect to the former, will render you desirous of selecting from your most intimate acquaintance some few who you could wish to consider in the light of friends. In chusing these, the greatest care and caution are required, as a mistake may subject you to very fatal consequences. The best means, in my opinion, we can be regulated by in the choice of friends, are the manner in which they have been observed to conduct their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world; for the man who by his indiscretion has injured himself, instead of being referred to as a guide, should be set up as a mark to warn others rather to shun his practice than to follow his example. Let your main view be to select as your companions, and particularly as your intimates, men of probity and good sense. From the conversation of such men you will derive improvement, from their advice benefit. In mixed companies be rather reserved than talkative, for it is an instance of understanding in a young man to be readier to hear than to speak. Those loose hints may suffice for the present to show my care and concern for your welfare. I beg you will, from time to time, communicate whatever you may think worthy my notice, as the greatest pleasure I enjoy is to contribute, as much as in me lays, to the happiness of my children. I remain,

Your affectionate Father.

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LETTER CCX.—*From a Father to his Son, on the perni-  
cious Effects of drinking to Excess.*

Dear Harry,

I Am persuaded from many instances you have given of possessing a good share of common sense, that you will receive the advice communicated in this letter, as proceeding from my concern for your present and future welfare.

It

It has been rumoured in your neighbourhood, that you have lately been addicted to immoderate drinking, insomuch that its effects have rendered you some time the jest of the company amongst whom you ordinarily spend your evenings. Without entering upon the validity of the charge, I take the liberty of pointing out to you some of the evils which must result from persisting in a course of intemperance.

Drunkenness tends to impair the state of the body, of the mind, and to bring on the greatest calamities both present and future. It not only introduces the most fatal diseases, but has been the frequent cause of sudden death. It destroys the faculties of reason and reflection, exposes a man of sense to ridicule and contempt, and lays him on a level with the blockhead. It prevents the man who is addicted to it from the due exercise of any of the social virtues or relative duties ; in a word, it militates against our Creator, our neighbour, ourselves, and is generally attended with irretrievable ruin. If such are the evils proceeding from this pernicious practice, a sober, dispassionate review of them, one would imagine sufficient to dissuade any person, of common understanding, from a continuance in it. I hope you will think of this, and that the caution of a parent, in a matter of the greatest importance, will produce the desired effect. I remain, as ever,

Your affectionate Father.

LETTER CCXI.—*To a Relation, upbraiding him with Extravagance.*

Dear Cousin,

YOU must permit me to declare, that I ever had, and shall continue to have, a real regard for your interest and welfare ; consistently with which I cannot but censure your conduct as highly repugnant to the same. As the favourite of our worthy uncle, deceased, you was supplied with the means of gratifying an inordinate passion for pleasure and luxury of every kind ; and you afterwards pursued a course of dissipation, till you lavished the property he bequeathed you in his will. You cannot but acknowledge that I have, upon many occasions, extricated you from difficulties, and relieved you in necessities, I wish I could say they were in general less owing to indiscretion. With respect to your present application, I must

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plainly tell you, I cannot attend to it with any degree of  
prudence, because you have violated so many promises,  
and your requests have lately become so frequent, that by  
complying with them I should injure myself and family.  
Beside I have little ground to hope you would appropriate  
the sum you ask for to any laudable purpose. It might,  
indeed, protract your credit, a short space of time, and  
thereby involve you in greater embarrassments. But,  
waving so disagreeable a subject, I shall only add, that  
when you give sufficient proofs that you are convinced of  
your folly and extravagant course of life, and are deter-  
mined to forsake it, nothing shall be wanting in my power  
to advance your interest.

I am, your loving Cousin, &c.

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LETTER CCXII.—*To a young Friend, on the Consequences  
frequently attending youthful Follies.*

Dear Sir,

AS the purport of the following lines is to impress you with a due sense of the importance of attending in early life to some pursuits, and rejecting others, as they may evidently appear to affect your future welfare, I hope you will receive them as candidly as they are submitted to your consideration. It is a great blessing to be descended from Parents, who are both able and willing to afford their children the means of obtaining such knowledge, as if pursued with due attention, will qualify them for filling some respectable station in life, and conduce to their present and future welfare. It is as great an evil when children neglect the improvement of the means thus afforded by parents from the most affectionate motives, through the prevalence of vice or folly of any kind. Fatal, however, as this neglect is too frequently, it is yet too general, and I must honestly confess myself a melancholy instance of it. Though favoured by providence with a good natural understanding, cultivated by some degree of learning, and placed in a line of life, which I had only to follow to ensure, in every probable view, a series of successes, I attached myself to gay dissolute company, followed fashionable example, and became, in a word, a slave to my passions. What were the consequences? The neglect of every rational and profitable pursuit; the exposing myself to perilous situations, and, in short, reducing myself

myself, at the age of twenty-five, to a necessity of seeking the means of existence from very precarious undertakings. My sufferings, in consequence of youthful follies, have, at times been great; but, to the honour of humanity, I must say they have often been alleviated by the benevolence of friends. When struggling under the ills of life, I dare not repine, because I am conscious they are owing to my past misconduct; and when, through the candour and liberality of a generous Patron, I am enabled to live with a degree of comfort, I cannot but acknowledge it is more than I deserve; but the more the demerit of the object, the greater the merit of the benefactor, as it discovers a feeling sense of the frailties to which poor mortals in general are liable. Pardon prolixity, as the contents of this letter are the effusions of the heart, and the result of experience. I wish to incite a resolution to attend to the dictates of reason and virtue, and to maintain an opposition to the suggestions of folly and vice, in whatever form they may present themselves. You know what is right, and what is wrong. The path of prosperity lies before you; take the advice of a suffering wanderer; pursue it and be happy.

I am, dear Sir, sincerely your's.

### LETTER CCXIII.—*To a Friend, on the Force of Habit.*

Dear Sir,

I Recollect that in the course of a conversation some time ago, very pertinent remarks were made concerning the force of habit, which too often impelled us to practices both offensive and indecent. A very ingenious Essayist has treated the fashion of snuff-taking with great wit and raillery; though I am afraid it has been productive of very little effect. However, as a hint was suggested to me by a friend, that other particular habits are equally objects of censure, I send you a few loose thoughts, which if they divert you for the present moment is all that can be expected from so incompetent a genius as I profess myself to be. Without affecting great knowledge of natural philosophy, I think I may venture to affirm, that much pleasure is derived from certain bodily sensations, —say, that these sensations are heightened when they are produced from a mixture of pain with pleasure. The application of the nails where itching is excited from any cause, gives pleasure in proportion as it is heightened by the

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the degree of irritation, so that the greater the force, the  
greater the present allay, however painful may be the  
consequences. This may justly be deemed an impulse of  
nature; but to be constantly applying the hand to the  
head, or to particular parts, that, in promiscuous compa-  
nies, either indicates an idle habit, or raises a suspicion  
that our tenements are infested with obnoxious inhabitants.  
As habit begets habit, and impulse proceeds from sym-  
pathy, as in the instances of crying, laughing, gaping,  
&c. so it is probable that we are, as it were, impercepti-  
bly led to scratch where there is no irritation, by fre-  
quently observing others do so when there is much. When  
habits are confirmed; the mind becomes unconscious of  
this impulse, insomuch, that we do that which but for shame  
and decency we most wish to avoid. I shall conclude these  
trifling hints with recommending one habit to you as most  
ornamental of all, "That of doing well."

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCXIV.—*To a Friend, after a long Epistolary Correspondence.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the great regard I entertain for your person and  
talents, I can never be tired of your correspondence,  
and hence am induced to write to you, though, through  
its long continuance, every subject is almost exhausted, and  
I have little or nothing to say worthy of your notice.  
When invention is tortured, there will be defect in the  
product, for in the intellectual system, that which flows  
spontaneous is the best. A trite thought will strike at a  
glance, but a laboured detail will appal and disgust. Suf-  
fice it therefore to say, that throughout life it shall be my  
study, by word and action, to cement the friendship sub-  
sisting between you, and

Your humble Servant.

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LETTER CCXV.—*Describing the Character of a Friend generally deemed singular.*

SIR,

AS upon a late occasion you seemed not only to censure  
but ridicule some peculiarities in the behaviour and  
expressions of my Friend Downright, you must permit  
me to vindicate a character, worthy, in many instances, of  
esteem

esteem and imitation. If Mr. Downright is deemed singular, he has one quality that will not only exempt him from censure, but recommend him to the respect of every good member of society, which is, that he is singularly honest. So rigid is his virtue, that he disapproves of many customs which others give into without impeachment of character. He explodes performances of every kind, if they tend to countenance infidelity or obscenity, reprobates gaming, and carries command in his family without using severity. In his words and actions he discovers an aversion to duplicity, fraud, and oppression; will not crouch to an overbearing tyrant upon account of his opulence, nor crush a fellow-creature in a state of adversity. In a word, if he has some foibles they are over-balanced by his virtues, to which I hope you will pay in future the respect they demand.

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCXVI.—*On the grand Design of Learning in general.*

Dear Sir,

I remember to have been told by my classical tutor, that having made a proficiency in the learned languages, he was recommended by a very eminent philosopher, as well as divine, to proceed to the study of men and things, as the grand end of all his pursuits in learning. From an experience of the benefits to be derived from a compliance with the advice of that great man, I take the liberty of recommending it to you, as I would wish you to become an honour to your family, and an ornament to mankind. When I had gained some knowledge in books at the academy, I vainly plumed myself upon the acquisition; till, upon launching into the world at large, I was convinced I was a mere novice in the knowledge of life, because I had but rarely dipped into the grand volume of nature. Profit then by my example, select intelligent companions, not mere bookworms, but men of sense and experience, for you will derive more benefit from that instruction which is founded on practice than from all the theory in the world; the one being only the outlines, but the other the basis of the superstructure.

Your's, &c.

L E T.

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LETTER CCXVII.—*On the excellent Effects of the Union  
of a good Head and a good Heart.*

Dear Sir,

IT has with too much truth been long lamented, that the good qualities of the head and heart are rarely found together, as that union is absolutely necessary to form a mind truly noble. A good head will form a proper judgement of what should be done in our respective stations of life, and a good heart will incline us to do it, to the utmost of our power. That very principle which disposes us to seek happiness, or endeavour to relieve ourselves in distresses, will dispose us to endeavour to contribute to the happiness of others, and the alleviation of their distresses. The man who possesses a good head, and a good heart, is inclined to overlook errors, and forgive injuries, though, upon some occasions, he finds it necessary to act with a becoming spirit. In a word, a man of this description seems best fitted, upon every principle of reason and religion, to answer the grand ends of his creation, which consist in the fulfilment of his duty to God, his neighbour, and himself. I have been led to these observations from general reflections on human conduct, and presume upon the whole you will conclude with me, that they are founded upon truth and experience.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCVIII.—*From a Father to his Son at College,  
concerning his general Conduct and Behaviour.*

JAMES,

AM very sorry to hear, from a friend of mine, who is just come from Oxford, and has, at my request, made enquiries into your conduct and behaviour, that it deviates in general from the rules of decorum, and reflects equal disgrace on your character and understanding. You gave evident proofs of genius, and discovered a well-disposed mind from your early years to the time you left the academy, when, at your own particular desire, I sent you, at no small expence, to one of our grand seminaries of learning, to complete your studies. Now I am given to understand, you are wholly indifferent as to literary improvement, regardless of your reputation, disobedient to your tutors, and, in one word, reprobate as to every thing praise-worthy. My indignation at this reverse of character

I can.

I cannot suppress, for I must feel both as a father and a man. By virtue of parental authority, I therefore enjoin you reformation of conduct, upon pain of incurring my displeasure in the highest degree, and declare that if you persist in acting in direct opposition to the conviction of your own mind, as well as your own interest, present and future, I will withdraw my protection, determined not to countenance licentiousness ever in a son. As I need not point out to you the means by which alone you can regain your own credit and my favour, I shall only add, that it is at your own option to be happy or miserable.

Your's, as you may deserve.

LETTER CCIX.—*From the Son to the Father.*

Much honoured Sir,

I know not what effects the purport of your last letter would have produced on my mind, were I not conscious that in being represented to you as the most reprobate of mankind, I have been infamous traduced. I will not attempt to palliate, nor dare I presume to deny many youthful follies of which I have lately been guilty, but I can take upon me to declare, that they have been enormously exaggerated by malevolent tongues. With all submission, however, I stand corrected, bow to the rod, and will endeavour, in every instance, to improve by your severe chastisement, because, on cool reflection, I am persuaded it arose from your concern for my welfare. While I humbly entreat your forgiveness of past misdemeanours, and solemnly promise strenuous endeavours at future amendment, you will permit me, at the same time, to request you will not suffer envious insinuations, to gain credit with you, or make impressions on your mind to my disadvantage. I am, with all humility and respect,

Honoured Sir,

Your dutiful Son.

LETTER CCXX.—*From a Gentleman to a Lady, who had written highly in his Commendation.*

MADAM,

I have some time been studying for words to express my sense of the honour you have done me in your very exalted commendation. You will give me leave, however, to confess, that as on the one hand I have not humility enough

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to reject your praises, so neither on the other hand have I  
presumption enough to think I deserve them; because the  
one would be a proof of ill-manners, the other of my  
vanity. I hope upon the whole you will think me justified  
in assuring you, that though I cannot apply your observa-  
tions to myself, -they are not without their effect, as I am  
fully convinced by them of the brilliancy of the wit, and  
the force of the diction, however deficient the qualities  
may be which are commended. I am, Madam,

Your most obedient, humble Servant.

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LETTER CCXXI.—*From a Lady to a Gentleman of the  
Law, on his poetical Commendation of her Beauty.*

SIR,

UPON a review of the very pretty verses, enclosed in  
your last, I find myself bound on requital to allow  
you as large a portion of wit as you have given me of  
beauty, for surely, as you have stretched your conscience  
to commend my person, I may do violence to my under-  
standing in extolling your poetry. But, my good Sir,  
could you think me so vain a fool as to believe all that you  
have said of me? Give me leave to remind you, that there  
is a considerable difference between sense and beauty; that  
men are never violently influenced by beauty till it has  
weakened their reason; nor feel the force of sense till their  
judgements become sound. If I thought you disposed to take  
in good part what a woman may say, I would advise you to  
decline poetry, and stick to the law. If you are deter-  
mined to be a cheat, act with some conscience at least,  
and choose to bubble people rather out of their money  
than their understandings. Remember there are some few  
generous spirits, which comprehend not only a just discern-  
ments, but all the powers of criticism. Satirists of this  
kind may arise, therefore beware of their lash.

I am, &c.

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LETTER CCXXII.—*To a Gentleman on Pedantry.*

SIR,

I Am sorry to find you entertain an opinion of the abili-  
ties of Mr. Pompous, as a first-rate wit, and must take  
the liberty to undeceive you in a matter which concerns  
your understanding. Pompous, instead of a Wit, is in the  
truest sense a Witling, who talks much and says nothing,

an invader of the liberty of speech, and the right of judgement. If you will believe him, all learning centers in himself. He would persuade you that he is a master of the languages, and a proficient in the sciences; in a word, that he has seen every thing, done every thing, and knows every thing. But, in reality, he is an insipid, superficial creature, a babbling blockhead, a palpable liar, a word-monger man, whose mind is wholly unlettered, with all his pretensions to acquaintance with books.

How different such a character from the man of real science! Nay, how preferable is it to be social with common attainments, than impertinent with the most comprehensive acquisitions! Such is my aversion to the odious character of a pedant, that were I disposed to become learned, the very idea of it would cure my ambition, and cause me to wish to live in ignorance.

I remain, your's, &c.

**LETTER CCXXIII.—To a young Gentleman from his  
Tutor, on the Folly of Affectation.**

Dear Sir,

**A**S the grand design of learning, and indeed education in general, is to render us useful and respectable members of society, my sincere desire is, that you may not fail in those valuable ends. To this purpose I must take the liberty of reprimanding you for an intollerable affectation in all that you say or do. When I check you for this folly, you urge the necessity of obtaining the good opinion of friends. I admit it, but you cannot expect to be praised every moment, if you wish for genuine praise you must acquire it by merit. The man who prefers being really praise-worthy will not value himself on little attainments, nor caress any one for praising him to his face. Conduct yourself in such a manner as to induce mankind to praise you in their actions, then your passion for esteem will be duly gratified in the applause of all the good and sensible, who are either your friends or acquaintances.

I remain, your's, &c.

L E T.

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LETTER CCXXIV.—*To a young Gentleman on the Death  
of his Father.*

Dear Sir,

HERE is not, in my opinion, a nicer point respecting the social duties, than that of administering consolation. Without entering upon it, I must be ingenuous enough to express my approbation of your grief, excited by the virtuous principles of the excellent father you have lost, in such a degree as not to be suppressed by the consideration of becoming the possessor of an affluent fortune. From this disposition I am persuaded you will do honour to his memory by a due management of his estate, nor exult over his grave by prostituting to riot, excess, and debauchery, what he acquired by much industry and prudence. By these means you will show the sense you retain of your loss, and obviate the distress of others upon the melancholy occasion.

I remain, yours sincerely.

LETTER CCXXV.—*To a Man of Rank, in Acknowledgement of a Letter of Consolation and Condolance.*

Dear Sir,

FROM the tokens of friendship with which you never fail to honour me when labouring under any distressing circumstance, I have the most convincing proofs of your goodness; indeed my misfortunes serve to display your generosity. All the return I can make is to assure you, that great as my obligations may be, they cannot exceed the grateful sense I shall ever retain of them, nor surpass the sincerity with which I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your most obliged and most humble Servant.

LETTER CCXXVI.—*Acknowledging the Receipt of a Present.*

Dear Sir,

I AM just now honoured by the receipt of your letter, with the music you have been pleased to send me. Were I not convinced of your inclination to oblige me, I might dwell upon the subject of acknowledgement; but, this I decline, persuaded that a continual repetition of favours must be disgusting to a mind so liberal as your's. You will however rest assured, that I have a due sense of

your

your favours, and that you may ever command my best services. I remain, most sincerely,

Your's, &c.

**LETTER CCXXVII.**—*From a Gentleman to a Person of Rank, returning Thanks for the good Opinion he is pleased to entertain of him.*

SIR,

I Cannot find words to express the sense I have of the honour done me by your Excellency's very obliging Letter. Indeed, to adopt the phrase of a pleasing writer, the language of the heart can be answered only by the heart itself. Your Excellency could not lay an obligation on me more binding, than by judging so favourably of my conduct in general, and the instances in which I have endeavoured to show my attachment to yourself in particular. Duly impressed with all favour, I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant.

**LETTER CCXXVIII.**—*Acknowledging the Condescension of a Superior in the Acceptance of a Present.*

SIR,

YOU will permit me to assure you, that I esteemed the honour you did me, in the acceptance of my little present, as a sufficient obligation, without the additional favours you have heaped upon me. I can only confess, that to thank you as I ought is above my power, which I hope you will admit as the test of my gratitude, and more effectual than all the words I could multiply upon the occasion. I am, Sir,

Your most obliged and most humble Servant.

**LETTER CCXXIX.**—*On the Folly of a magnificent Appearance in common People only.*

SIR,

IN reply to the question proposed in your last, whether a magnificent appearance is commendable? you will give me leave to make the following observations: A magnificent appearance well becomes persons of rank, as it wou'd derogate from the dignity of such characters not to appear in public with their proper marks of distinction. But with respect to private persons, pomp and ostentation only serve to incur hatred and envy, and to embarrass them

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them in their own particular concerns, whereas a well regulated œconomy renders them beloved and esteemed. I never knew any persons in private life who derived any advantage from a magnificent appearance, though many are foolishly fond of making what they call a figure in the world; but to make a figure in this sense of the word is nothing more than to make one coxcomb stare at another. The most shining action in the world is not praise-worthy when it has vanity for its motive, and even those actions which seem to proceed from a virtuous principle fall short of their commendation, if they are in the least suspected of vain-glory. Accept these thoughts on the subject proposed, and believe me to be, with great sincerity.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCXXX.—*On the Choice of a Mode of Life.*

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your very obliging letter, by which I find you shift the scene of your life from the town to the country, and prefer a mixed state, which in my opinion constitutes real enjoyment. Many people are inclined to run into the extremes either of solitude or active life, unmindful that in solitude they generally become useless by too much ease, and that in active life they are liable to be distracted by too much precipitation. Those people seem designed for solitude, who are dull and reserved, and like pictures may be placed more to advantage in a corner than a full light. Busy spirits, on the contrary, derive an additional splendour from being exhibited in full display. Prudence, however, dictates contentment where circumstances will not admit of choice, to arrive at which I shall endeavour to have recourse to the aid of Philosophy, remembering the observation of a sensible old gentleman, that though in human life, as well as a Game at Hazard, every one wishes for the highest cait, those act the wisest part, who, though the chance is otherwise, endeavour to make the best of it. I am, Sir,

Your obliged humble Servant.

L E T.

LETTER CCXXXI.—*To a Lady from a Gentleman, who having broken her Looking-Glass presents her with another.*

MADAM,

I Request your acceptance of what I send you, not as a present, but a restitution. Upon a superficial view it may appear as a trifle, but if you look into it with attention, it will discover one of the most delightful obje'sts in the world. In a word, you will see there the picture of the woman I admire. This is a secret I would not disclose but to yourself, and I think I may venture to confide in you without being thought indiscreet. You will see there features very captivating, features which you know have an absolute power over me, as well as that they are entirely at your disposal. You will permit me, therefore, to take the liberty that you will arrange them in such a manner as to encourage the hopes of, Madam,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

LETTER CCXXXII.—*Recommending a Relation to the Notice of a Man of Rank and Influence.*

SIR,

THE Gentleman who attends you with this letter is my relation, though much nearer allied to me in friendship than in blood. From what has passed between us, I must entreat you to convince him, that the cause I espouse is not a matter of indifference to you, and that you are disposed to render him those services for my sake, which you would for his own, had he the honour of being known to you. I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most humble Servant.

LETTER CCXXXIII.—*Recommending a Son to the Patronage of an intimate Friend.*

SIR,

I Would not violate the friendship which has so long subsisted between us so far as to urge a plea in recommendation of the bearer to your notice, when I inform you he is my son. Persuaded that you will regard him in the same light as if he had the honour of being your own, I have only to thank you for the favours which from that principle you may be disposed to confer on him; and remain,

Your most humble Servant.

LETTER CCXXXIV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

IN imitation of that conciseness which in some instances is a test of friendship, I assure you, that as you cannot interest yourself in any thing which does not concern me, I have omitted nothing that could add weight to my influence in behalf of your son, and only wish that I may be as happy in serving him, as he has merit to deserve it.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

LETTER CCXXXV.—*To a Gentleman entreating his interest in his official Department.*

SIR,

THOUGH for some time I looked upon the civilities I received from you as the mere effects of complaisance, I have since flattered myself that you meant something more by them, and that the many obliging things you have lately said to me, were rather designed to convince me of your friendship than politeness. I therefore take the liberty, Sir, to remind you of the partial opinion you was pleased to entertain of me, and humbly to request a favour of you, which entirely depends on you and the honourable board at which you preside. If you have the goodness to espouse my cause, I know your authority and address will be irresistible, and I shall have nothing to do but to endeavour to merit the favour, by being, all my life, Sir, your much obliged,

And very obedient Servant.

LETTER CCXXXVI.—*From a Gentleman in Retirement, on Account of the ill State of his Health, to his Friend.*

Dear Sir,

I Wrote to you ten or twelve days ago, and returned you thanks for the two letters which I at length received from you. If you were sensible of the satisfaction they gave me, you would be concerned for not having written to me oftener, and for not frequently repeating the consolation of which I have so much need. My melancholy here, and my want of company, have produced a good effect in reconciling me to books, which I had for some time forsaken; but being able to procure no other pleasure, I have

have been forced to taste, and relish that of reading. Prepare than to see as great a Philosopher as yourself, and consider what a progress a man must have made, who for six months has either studied or been sick ; for if one of the chief aims of philosophy is a contempt of life, sickness is one of the best instructor's, and persuades us more efficaciously than either Plato or Socrates. As I am very uncertain when I shall leave this place, I humbly request that you would not forget me so long as you have done, but shew me, by doing me the honour of writing to me, that you are convinced of the real esteem with which

I am, your's, &c.

LETTER CCXXXVII.—*To a female Friend, condoling her on a melancholy Event.*

Dear Madam,

THOUGH I have armed myself against most of the accidents of life, I think it impossible you should feel those which befall you more sensibly than I do. I look upon it as the greatest of misfortunes to give you a testimony of my respect on this melancholy occasion. But occasions are not of our choosing, and all we can do is to suffer none to pass, whether good or bad, without shewing those we esteem the part we take in all that concerns them. I must entreat you to be assured of my sincerity, and not to look upon it as a bare compliment, when I profess myself,

Your most devoted Servant, &c.

LETTER CCXXXVIII.—*From a young Lady, with a Present, to her Sister.*

Dear Sister,

AS a New-Year's-Gift, I have sent you a new head-dress, which for the fashion of it seems not unworthy of your acceptance. Without any compliment you possess a good share of beauty, and know how to give every thing you wear an engaging turn ; I doubt not, therefore, but it will become you extremely. I hope you will receive it with the same pleasure I present it, and that you will believe me,

Your most affectionate Sister.

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## LETTERS on the most common Occurrences of Life.

LETTER CCXXXIX.—*From a Youth on a Visit in the Country, to his Father in London.*

Honour'd Sir,

I Have nothing that gives me greater pleasure than to embrace every opportunity of shewing my dutiful regard for the best of parents, whether present or absent. Since my arrival here, I have been very happy in the respectful attention of the family, in the pursuit of rural sports, and in the instructive conversation and salutary advice of my uncle, and in a happy experience of the confirmation of my health, which was the main object in view when I left town. As you may require my attendance in the counting-house, I shall beg leave of my uncle to permit my departure about the close of the following week, being desirous of testifying, upon all occasions, with what profound esteem I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful Son, &c.

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LETTER CCXL.—*From a domestic Servant in London to his Parents in the Country.*

Honour'd Father and Mother,

I THINK it my duty to inform you, that I had the good fortune to get another place within a fortnight after I left the last. My master and mistress seem perfectly satisfied with me, as I have every reason to be with them. My fellow-servants in general seem well disposed, so that by a due attention to my conduct and behaviour to those above me, and those upon an equality with me, together with obedience to the commands of my master and mistress, I hope to pass my time in the family happily, and to get such knowledge in domestic business as may be of service to me hereafter. It gives me great pleasure to observe the season so mild, and the spring so farwar, as to afford a promising expectation of beautiful crops the next season. You and my mother are now grown old; you have reared a large family by industry and good management, and are

therefore

therefore entitled to comfort in your latter days. Nothing would make me happier than to save a little money in service, in order to put me in the way to contribute to the same. I am,

Your dutiful Son.

LETTER CCXLI.—*From a young Man in Town to his Uncle in the Country, requesting a Favour.*

Honour'd Sir,

WHEN I wrote to you last I informed you that I was in expectation of getting into the counting-house of a respectable citizen, and have now the pleasure to acquaint you that I have accomplished that desirable end. Though my situation in life is advanced, my wages at present are, but low, and I have neither lodging nor board in the house. I am also rather in want of clothes and other necessaries, to make that appearance, which, as the world goes, greatly influence the opinion and judgement of mankind. As I trust I have never given you cause to upbraid me with extravagance, but, on the contrary, am conscious of having applied the money you was so kind as to send me occasionally to proper purposes, I take the liberty of humbly entreating that you would enclose me a draft for ten pounds in your next letter. I did not choose to make application to my cousin, having never yet disclosed the particulars of my circumstances to him, and not doubting, from former instances of your generosity, but you would serve me in the present emergency. You may rest assured, that I shall ever be assiduous in performing the duties of my station, and obtaining the good-will of my friends, and all with whom I have any connections. I am, with the profoundest respect,

Your dutiful Nephew.

LETTER CCXLII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Nephew,

I Received your's, and am happy to hear that you have not been disappointed in your expectation of being advanced in point of situation in life. A citizen of London, if a man of probity as well as property, is a most respectable character, so that I need not remind you, that it will be both your duty and interest to serve your employer with diligence and integrity. You cannot reasonably expect

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high wages on commencing the office of clerk, and must  
endeavour to proportion your expences to your allowance.  
I admit the truth of your remark, with respect to the appli-  
cation of the money I have sent you from time to time,  
and shall, according to desire, enclose a draft for ten  
pounds in my next letter, which you will receive in the  
course of a few days. Your keeping the particulars of  
your situation from your cousin I approve, as I would wish  
to avoid all cause for jealousy between relations. You are  
now arrived at an age when it becomes absolutely necessary  
for you to be well acquainted with the value of money, nay  
the very nature of your profession requires it. I shall only  
add, that I hope you will be guided in all your measures  
by the rules of prudence and discretion; and subscribe  
myself,

Your affectionate Uncle.

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LETTER CXLIII.—*From a young Man who had deserted his Master's Service to his Father, requesting his Interposition to obtain his Re-admission.*

Honour'd Sir,

LIKE the prodigal my sufferings have brought me to  
repentance, as like him I was never duly sensible of  
the blessings of Providence till I felt the want of them.  
Through the allurements of vicious company, I was in-  
duced to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty  
to God and man. Your ears doubtless have been shocked  
with a detail of the irregularities of my conduct for some  
time, which caused me to elope from my apprenticeship,  
and from one of the most indulgent master's. Blushing  
with conscious guilt, and filled with the deepest contrition,  
I presume to beseech you, Sir, to intercede in my behalf,  
and use your influence to procure me permission to return  
to a service I have so ungenerously deserted. So powerful  
an advocate I know not, yet at the same time I know not  
any one who can be so reluctant to undertake my cause as  
yourself, from a nice sense of the offences I have com-  
mitted. All the atonement I can make is, to endeavour,  
in every instance, at a reversion of my former conduct.  
This I sincerely promise, if I should be so happy as to be  
re admitted into my master's service; it being the purpose  
of my heart, through the divine assistance, to render my  
future life one continued scene of gratitude and duty. I am,

Your affectionate, though undutiful Son.

LETTER CCXLIV.—*The Father's Answer.*

Dear Son,

**W**ORDS cannot describe my feelings for the disgrace you have brought on me by your indiscreet, I may add, profligate behaviour. Your flagrant breach of duty to your Creator, your Parent, and your master is highly criminal, and scarcely admits of palliation. However, as I would not divest myself of paternal tenderness, nor resist an inclination to rescue you from destruction, I have complied with your entreaty, interceded by letter with your offended master, been favoured with his very kind answer, and now send you the copy enclosed. You will read your pardon, and see a full display of clemency and humanity, and if you are not dead to every sense of gratitude, you cannot but fix a resolution of immediate reformation. If you appear to feel the contrition of the prodigal you allude to, you may depend on meeting a similar reception with him, and it will soon be manifest, from your conduct, whether, like him, your sufferings have brought you to yourself. You will attend to these hints, and rest assured that your treatment in future will be proportioned to your observance of them. I remain,

Your affectionate Father.

LETTER CCXLV.—*The Father's Letter to the Master.*

Worthy Sir,

**I** Never had occasion to lament a cause that induced me to write to you before the present. You must be too well acquainted with it to need particular mention. Suf- fice it, therefore, to inform you, that I have received a letter from my son, acknowledging the atrocious nature of his offence, professing the deepest contrition for it, ex- pressing the sincerest resolution of amendment, and upon that ground entreating me to intercede with you in his behalf, to re-admit him to your service. Impelled by the feelings of a parent, I have complied with his request, and thus presume, from many former instances of your huma- nity and benevolence, to become his advocate. If you will deign to grant so great a favour as to receive the returning prodigal, as he calls himself, I hope his behaviour will correspond with his promise; and be assured that nothing shall erase the obligation from my memory.

I am, Sir, your's most sincerely.

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LETTER CCXLVI.—*The Master's Answer.*

Dear Sir,

I withheld the disagreeable circumstance of your son's elopement for a few days from your notice, hoping that his speedy return would prevent the disquiet it would give you. In that interval I find, from your letter, he has made application to you; and cannot but feel with you as a father the concern with which it must have been attended. Ever since I have been conscious of the fallibility of human nature, I have been inclined to lenity in my general proceedings, and though I am extremely sorry for the cause, cannot withstand a propensity to exercise it in the present case. I have therefore only to assure you, that I am disposed to pardon the errors of your Son, to re-admit him to my service; and if it shall appear, from his future conduct, that his late professions were sincere, to do every thing in my power to contribute to his future welfare. I remain, Sir,

Your affectionate Friend.

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LETTER CCXLVII.—*From a young Woman to her Aunt, requesting a Favour.*

Dear Madam,

YOU have given me so many proofs of your good-will and generosity, that I blush at the thought of being troublesome to you on the present occasion. However, as you are, and have long been, my only friend, I humbly presume, under a very particular circumstance, to entreat the favour that you would be so kind as to advance me a little money, which I have now an opportunity of applying to very considerable advantage. I beg you would excuse the freedom I have taken in the request, which should you be pleased to grant, will add to the many obligations conferred on,

Your dutiful and much obliged Niece.

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LETTER CCXLVIII.—*From an Apprentice to his Guardian, in a Matter of the most serious Concern.*

Dear Sir,

AS I have no friend in the world but yourself, to whom I can communicate and refer for advice, in points of importance, I take the liberty of acquainting you, that I labour at present under very great difficulty and uneasiness

fness of mind. You are to understand, that my fellow apprentice, for whom I had a great regard, has forfeited the confidence reposed in him, by a breach of trust, to which he ungenerously gained my consent, by means of a pretence I did not in the least suspect. Thus unhappily circumstanced, what would you advise me to do? My master has been injured. If I make discovery of the matter the young man is ruined—If I conceal it, I must share the guilt of injustice at present, and be liable to the punishment due to it on detection hereafter. Let me have your candid opinion and advice in my present critical situation as soon as possible, and you will highly oblige

Your most obedient and dutiful servant, &c.

LETTER CCXLIX.—*The Answer.*

Dear Edward,

**A**S I am much alarmed at the cause of your last letter, I send you, by return of post, the advice you request, nay further, I enjoin you to a compliance with it. It is simply this—Acquaint your master instantly with the injustice that has been done him. My reasons are, that any delay in the discovery would be dangerous to yourself in several instances, and destructive to your own peace and happiness, as well as disgraceful to those with whom you have any connection. There can be no other means of vindicating your own interest, or preventing your being looked on as an accomplice in the fact. I will call shortly on your master, to know the event of this unfortunate matter; and remain,

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCL.—*From a young Woman just entered on a Service in Town to her Aunt in the Country.*

Dear Aunt,

**S**INCE I informed you of my safe arrival in this great town, I have had the pleasure of being recommended to a housemaid's place in a good family by my cousin Daniel. To add to my satisfaction, I find my master and mistress very good sort of people, and always pleased, provided the servants only do as they are ordered. For a few days my situation was a little strange to me, but I am now more reconciled to it, and think I shall soon like it very well. I shall endeavour to follow the advice you

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gave me at parting as long as I live. Remember me to all  
enquiring friends, and let me have the pleasure of hearing  
from you as often as convenient. I am,

Your dutiful Niece.

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LETTER CCLI.—*The Aunt's Answer.*

Dear Dolly,

I Am very happy to find from your own account that you  
are situated in so agreeable a family, and doubt not  
but you will behave in such a manner as to get the good-  
will of your master and mistress, and all with whom you  
may be concerned. Though you may sometimes wish to  
be at home with your friends in the country, I hope you  
will make your mind easy, by remembering that you left  
them for your own good, and to promote yourself in the  
world. Be careful above all things to keep your cha-  
racter; for upon that will depend your future success in  
life, and 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. When you have any spare  
time, which in regular places is generally the case on  
Sundays, I desire you would not forget to read your Bible,  
and other good books I gave you at your departure, be-  
cause they will teach your duty to God and man, and en-  
courage you to put it in practice. Your uncle sends you  
his blessing, and your cousins their's, to which I add my  
sincerest wishes that I may live to be a comfort to you all;  
and remain,

Your affectionate Aunt, &c.

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LETTER CCLII.—*From a Son to a Father, requesting  
Consent to his Marriage.*

Honour'd Sir,

A S I have hitherto held myself bound in duty to con-  
sult you in all the important concerns of life, I  
now apply to you for your concurrence in a matter which  
it is presumed you will agree with me to be highly mo-  
mentous. Having since I entered upon business for myself  
been greatly at a loss in the management of domestic  
affairs through the want of a female partner, I cast an eye  
upon the daughter of a tradesman in this neighbourhood,  
with whom I have been some time acquainted. The father  
is a man of character and property. The young woman

is agreeable in person, amiable in disposition, and much esteemed by all who know her. To come to the point, my honoured father, I have obtained her consent to marriage as well as that of her parents, but am determined to defer the ceremony till the alliance shall be stamped with your approbation, though I trust that, upon the strictest enquiry, you will find no cause for objection. The old gentleman is ready and willing to give you a meeting upon the matter, as well as to agree to any proposals respecting a portion, as may appear to be reasonable. As the event depends upon your decision, I beg the favour of a speedy answer; and remain,

Your dutiful Son.

LETTER CCLIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Son,

THOUGH you seem, by your expressions in your letter, to be rather hasty respecting your proposed alliance, I cannot but approve of your design of a worthy partner for life, to share with you both in the pleasures and the crosses of life. I deferred, however, my answer, till I had an opportunity, through means of a particular friend, to make the necessary enquiries concerning the object of your choice; and finding, from his account, that she is a worthy character, you have my free consent to act as you think proper. This you may communicate to her father, with assurance that I will meet him at any time and place he shall please to appoint, and concur with him in any measures that may tend to the mutual interest and happiness of our children, which if an union should take place, it shall be my constant endeavour and study to promote. I remain,

Your affectionate Father.

LETTER CCLIV.—*From a Father to a Daughter, stating the Imprudence of a hasty Marriage.*

Dear Sally,

THE contents of your last letter give me much concern, as they express an inclination to hurry yourself into a condition on which your future happiness or misery, respecting this life at least, in a great measure depends. I have no objection to your entering into the married state; but would wish you to have some regard to the manner and time, and must be plain to tell you, I think

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the one too hasty, and the other too early. In the one respect you cannot, in the course of a few weeks, during which I am given to understand you have formed an acquaintance with the object of your choice, have sufficient knowledge of his character and circumstances; in the other you must (as not having attained to the age of sixteen years,) be supposed unqualified for the due management of the domestic affairs of a family. From these considerations, notwithstanding the affection I bear you, I must, in order to act consistently with the duty I owe both to you and myself, absolutely deny you my consent, and add, that if you are determined to marry, in opposition to my will, you must expect to live without my assistance. Think this not hard, since if you will proceed, your disappointment cannot be greater than mine; but I hope you will not hurry yourself into ruin, and your father into the grave.  
I remain,

Your's most affectionately.

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LETTER CCLV.—*From a young Man at Service in Town  
to his Father in the Country.*

Honour'd Father,

IT certainly will give you pleasure to hear, that I am well in health, and in a situation far better than when I first came up to this town I had reason to expect. I am hired by a very good tradesman to carry out parcels, open and shut shop, and do any thing in the family I may be ordered by my master or mistress. They are both worthy people, as are their son and the apprentice, as well as the servants in general. Good order is preserved amongst us; every one knows his duty, and does it with chearfulness. I am promised better wages when I become better acquainted with the business, and shall not fail, as soon as it is in my power, to make some return for the indulgence you have always shewn me. Three resolutions, with the blessing of God, I hope to keep, namely these; never to stay on an errand, get in liquor, nor tell a lie. You fixed them in my memory, by repeating them as subjects of your fatherly advice when I lived with you at home; so that I trust they will remain with me through every path in life. Accept of and present my duty to my mother; and believe me to be,

Your dutiful Son, &c.

L E T.

LETTER CCLVI.—*The Answer.*

My dear Boy,

YOU was right in being assured it would give me pleasure to hear of your welfare, since you quitted our cottage in a small village, and entered into the world of hurry and business. You well know that your future happiness depends entirely on your conduct and behaviour, which I doubt not will be such as to afford satisfaction to your master, and bring credit to yourself. These good ends will be greatly promoted by keeping the resolutions mentioned in your last; because no consideration will gain you more esteem, or make you more noticed by those who may, perhaps, hereafter, be valuable friends, than industry in business, and a decent becoming behaviour, both to superiors and equals. While you continue to endeavour to do well, you may expect such assistance, divine and human, as will enable you to accomplish all reasonable desires, respecting yourself, and those for whom you may be concerned. I remain,

Your loving Father.

LETTER CCLVII.—*From a seafaring Man in the Downs,  
to his Wife in London.*

Dear Nelly,

I take the earliest opportunity of letting you know, that after a tedious absence of near three years, I am at last arrived within the prospect of my native land, and in as good a state of health as can be expected at the close of a long drink-water voyage, as we tars call these trips to the East-Indies. Having been as sparing in expences as possible, and made some little advantage by what trifles I carried out as a venture, which from the returns here, will add, I hope to the stock; it is my design to leave off the sea service, and put you into a shop, while I work at my trade as a ship-carpenter, so that by these means, through our joint industry we may get a tolerable livelihood. This resolution I came into on finding, that let my service be ever so long, or my character in my trade ever so good, I shall never get above the rank of carpenter's mate without interest, but must drudge on till I am grown grey headed, and then be refused even that birth because I am grown old. When we reach Woolwich I shall let you know, and desire you will come on board, for I cannot

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come on shore till our stores are delivered up. Remember  
me to all enquiring friends ; and believe me to be your  
ever loving husband.

PETER PLANK.

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LETTER CCL.VIII.—*Rebuking a young Man for Remi-  
ness in the Duties of his Profession.*

Dear Nephew,

I Do not presume to call you to account on the present occasion, because I enabled you to begin the world, but because I wish you to succeed in it, which you can never expect to do unless you are diligent in your occupation. You must shake off idle habits, abandon unprofitable company and unseasonable recreations, and employ more of your time in the exercise of the duties of your calling. Inspect the state of your profits on the one hand, and your losses on the other, together with your disbursements of every kind, and then you will be able to form a due judgement of the situation of your affairs. Let me entreat you as a friend to reflect on the inconveniences to which a reduced tradesman is subject for the remainder of his life ; such as indignities from those whose property he has squandered ; contempt from all, not excepting the idle compa-  
nions of his folly, conscious remorse for the injustice he has done his family ; and all these from what cause ? From the indulgence of an idle careless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction beyond the present hour, and brings a future series of disgrace and poverty. Finally, let me advise you to think on these things before it is too late, and resolve on such a course of life as will bring peace and pleasure to your own mind, and prosperity to yourself and family.

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LETTER CCLIIX.—*The Answer.*

Honour'd Sir,

THE only atonement I can make for the folly and indiscretion with which you so justly charge me, is to plead guilty. I must confess that I have too long indulged habits of carelessness and dissipation, and had begun to feel their effects before I received your friendly reproof and advice. Some creditors have threatened me hard, others have insulted me, yet, upon cool reflection, I cannot but transfer the blame from them to myself, in with-holding

from

from them their just demands. The conviction of my own mind respecting my erroneous conduct, together with the force of your very judicious remarks, will, I hope, produce the desired effect, in diverting my attention from ruinous objects, and fixing it on such as are of momentous concern. By these means it is my firm resolution to redeem lost time, retrieve loss of character, amend an impaired constitution, and afford my family and friends that pleasure and satisfaction they so well deserve at my hands. With sincere acknowledgement of all favours, and thanks for this present instance of your regard, I beg leave to subscribe myself, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful Nephew.

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**LETTER CCLX.—*From a young Lady in the Country to a Brother in Town, reproving him for Neglect of filial Duty.***

Dear Brother,

**N**O TWITHSTANDING the supposed superiority of your sex, I must take upon me, though a sister, to censure your conduct, when I find it deviate from those rules that are or should be binding upon mankind in general. The particular at which I mean to point is your neglect of that dutiful regard which you must be conscious in your own mind you owe to your parents. Sorry am I to find, that such is your attachment to the pleasures and amusements of London, that you cannot spare a few minutes, even in the course of a whole month, to give us a few lines respecting the state of your health, or any occurrences that may fall out during your absence. If you admit that your parents in particular, and your relatives in general, have testified their esteem for you in every possible instance, as I think you ought to do; you must of course acknowledge yourself highly blameable for the neglect of that return which upon such a principle is their just due. Suffer me then to prevail with you to fulfil a duty too long omitted, by writing to us immediately, which will afford the greatest satisfaction to us all, and to none more than

Your affectionate Sister, &c.

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LETTER CCLXI.—*The Answer.*

My dear Sister,

WHEN a culprit is arraigned at the bar, he holds up his hand, submitting himself to the laws of his country. I stand charged by you with neglect of a relative duty. What am I to do? Briefly as follows: First, to acknowledge the charge, and secondly embrace the first opportunity of returning to my duty, and soliciting a general pardon upon terms of future amendment. As you have been my accuser on the present occasion, I must request of you now to become my advocate, not doubting but the pleas you may prefer in my behalf will prove effectual. Intercede then with my parents and relations, represent to them the inadvertence of youth, and soften my breach of duty as arising from that cause, not from disrespe&t; assure them upon the whole, that I shall ever hereafter retain a due sense of their esteem, and endeavour to testify it upon all occasions. I am,

Your much obliged and affectionate Brother.

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LETTER CCLXII.—*To a Gentleman, congratulating him  
on a fortunate Event.*

Dear Sir,

AS I am convinced, from your known good sense and experience in life, you can discern the feelings of an open mind, from the wily insinuations of a heart of deceit, I frankly present myself among the numerous train who will certainly offer their congratulatory addresses to you on the very considerable addition made to your fortune by the demise of Mr. Worthiefs. I am conscious you have had no reason for doubting the sincerity of my former professions, and am therefore persuaded you will believe me when I declare, that no one could hear of the late fortunate event with more real pleasure than myself. Nay, I will not scruple to add, that there is cause for general joy, since that estate which has fallen from an unworthy to a worthy possessor, will enable the latter to extend his generosity, and render his services to distressed fellow-creatures more numerous than they possibly could be before. You will, I am confident, continue the same man as ever, because you are a man of ingenuous principles, and not to be biased in opinion or conduct by any incident in this fluctuating scene of existence. I am, as ever,

Your's, &c.

L E T.

LETTER CCLXIII.—*From a Gentleman to a Lady with whom he had been at a Party the Night before.*

Dear Madam,

THOUGH you rendered the party with whom I had the honour of being engaged last night extremely happy by your affable behaviour and diverting conversation, I could not but feel a concern at your being detained some hours beyond your usual time of retiring to rest, especially as I know the delicacy of your frame and constitution. Hence I could not deny myself the satisfaction of enquiring into the state of your health this morning, and requesting that you would send me word by the bearer, how you slept, as I hope you have not suffered by our pressing you to stay so late. It is no compliment to add, that the health of so respectable a character should be attended to, as the good and happiness of many must be affected by its loss. I remain, Madam,

Your obliged humble Servant.

LETTER CCLXIV.—*The Answer.*

SIR,

YOU will please to accept my sincerest acknowledgement for the attention you show to my health in your very polite and obliging letter of this morning. I have the pleasure to assure you, that though I sat up very much beyond my usual hour, I find myself extremely well, and free from the least inconvenience. My friends often express an anxious concern for the indifferent state of my health; I hold myself greatly indebted to them, and undertake to assure them, that if any mode can be pointed out for its restoration and confirmation, I will immediately adopt it, that I may be the better disposed to enjoy their company and conversation, in which center my greatest delight.

I am, Sir,

Your obliged humble Servant.

LETTER CCLXV.—*From a Gentleman to a Lady, with a Present of Tickets for a Concert.*

MADAM,

FROM your happy turn for music, and the progress you have made in that enchanting science, I presume to offer to your acceptance some tickets for the concert on Friday evening next, especially as it will be attended by some of

the

160 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
the first masters and best judges in the kingdom. If you  
have no particular engagement, I hope for the pleasure of  
seeing you upon the occasion. I must request your com-  
mands if previously engaged for a future performance, as  
we receive tickets only once a fortnight. Waiting your  
pleasure,

I am, Madam,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

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LETTER CCLXVI.—*The Lady's Answer.*

SIR,

YOU will please to accept of my most respectful ac-  
knowledgement of the honour you do me by your  
very obliging letter, and the polite manner in which you  
offer me the tickets for the concert on Friday evening next.  
I am extremely concerned that a prior engagement will  
preclude me from the pleasure of attending the perform-  
ance of that evening, and, as I know the value of tickets  
to persons of a musical genius, return them by the bearer,  
in order that you may not miss an opportunity of obliging  
other ladies, who, upon the present occasion, may be more  
fortunately circumstanced than myself. I shall most thank-  
fully embrace the offer at any other opportunity—that may  
be convenient; and subscribe myself, in the mean time,

Your much obliged and most humble Servant.

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LETTER CCLXVII.—*From a Gentleman in London to a  
Servant in the Country, whom he is desirous of hiring.*

JAMES,

YOUR behaviour in your station in Mr. Evergreen's  
family, when I was last on a visit, engaged my no-  
tice, and met with my approbation, so far, that if your  
master is willing to part with you, and you are disposed to  
come to town, I should be glad to employ you in my ser-  
vice at advanced wages. You may be assured of attending  
me whenever I come down into your country, so that you  
will have frequent opportunities of seeing your friends.  
No business shall be put upon you here that you do not un-  
derstand, nor shall any encouragement be wanting that  
you may appear to deserve. Let me know your determi-  
nation as soon as possible.

L E T.

LETTER CCLXVIII.—*The Countryman's Answer.*

Good Sir,

YOU do me honour in offering me a service in your family in London, and I do not know but I might make many advantages by it. However, as I must beg leave to decline it, and you have been so very good to write to me with your own hand, I think it my duty to give you as good reasons as I can in my plain way, why I would wish to stay where I am. You will please to understand then, that I live on the spot where I was born, so that it agrees with my constitution; I have been long in the service of my present master and mistress, who treat me well; I have heard of the wicked practices of town servants, and how they corrupt each other. For these, and other reasons I will not take the liberty of troubling you with, I hope you will not be angry with me for not desiring to change my situation; and I shall be happy in doing any thing to oblige you when you come down. I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant, &c.

LETTER CCLXIX.—*From a Relation of one Servant, reproving another for leading him into a criminal Practice.*

Mr. Patrick,

I Am given to understand, by Harry, Lord Wo thy's servant, who is a relation of mine, that you enticed him to play at cards, and having won from him more than he could answer from his own stock of money, he made free with some of his lady's to answer your pressing demand. Without farther ceremony, therefore, I must chastise you for such behaviour, and insist that you immediately return the silly lad, if not the whole, that part which is the property of his lady, as he will certainly be called upon to produce it, and if he should fail in so doing be discharged for a breach of trust, and, what is worst of all, want a character to recommend him in future. Besides, if this affair should come to the ear of your master, who is a gentleman of strict honour, you will certainly be dismissed in disgrace. Do not hesitate, but do what I require of you without delay, as the only means of preventing bad consequences on both sides.

Your's, as you may deserve,

EDWARD EQUITY.

L E T-

162 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
LETTER CCLXX.—*From the Servant reproved in the  
former, to the young Man whom he had over-reached.*

Mr. Harry,

I Received a letter, by yesterday's post, from Mr. Edward Equity, Lord Upright's steward, and your relation, concerning the affair that passed between us when your master and mistress visited at our house. After chafing me for being accessory to your making use of your lady's money, in part of payment of what I had won from you at cards, he insisted on my immediate refunding at least your lady's property, if not the whole, in order to prevent the bad consequences that might fall on us both for such unjustifiable behaviour. Sensible of the propriety of what he insists on, I am determined to comply with it immediately, and propose calling upon you the very first opportunity, and returning the sum I won from you without reserve. I am ready to make any concession to Mr. Equity, desire you would keep the matter secret, and pledge myself never to entice you, nor play more with you, on any account whatever.

I am, your well-wisher,

PATRICK PLAYFUL.

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LETTER CCLXXI.—*From a female Relation to a young  
Lady who discovered a Partiality for a Man of bad  
Character.*

Dear Cousin,

In matters of importance I always waive ceremony, and dispense with apology for doing what I hold my bounden duty. You may remember the esteem which I had for your deceased father and mother, nor can you be unconscious of the regard which in many instances I have testified for your welfare and happiness. From these motives, I must be plain to tell you my surprize, when, amongst the occurrences of the day, I heard a little while ago, that you discovered a partiality for that notorious rake Dick Ramble; what then must be my astonishment when the report was afterwards confirmed? It is a common saying, "that reformed rakes make the best husbands?" This in some instances may be true; but that woman would be very imprudent who should take a man as a partner for life before he had given proofs of his reformation, if he bore such a character. Ramble has

long

long been known not only to be a rake, but a libertine in every sense of the word. His company is shunned by every sober person of his own sex; and every woman of prudence disclaims intercourse with him. If you are seen frequently in places of public resort with such a man, though you may be really virtuous, the censorious world will entertain opinions highly injurious to your honour and interest. If such are the effects of a slight intimacy, what must be those of an indissoluble alliance? Loss of character, loss of property, loss of every thing dear both in present and future. A moment's reflection must surely impress these considerations on your mind with due weight, and point out to you the necessity of immediately spurning from your company so obnoxious a character, which that you may do is the sincere wish and desire of

Your's most sincerely.

### LETTER CCLXXII.—*The young Lady's Answer.*

Dear Madam,

AFTER reflecting seriously on the purport of your last letter, I could not but free you from that censure of ill nature and severity, which I thought you deserved on my first perusal of it. I am now convinced that your remarks and admonitions proceed from laudable motives, and am ready to acknowledge them as tokens of friendly regard and esteem. You must, however, permit me to declare, that though there is a kind of levity apparent in the behaviour of Mr. Ramble I was entirely ignorant of his character till you made me acquainted with it. At all events, indeed, I rejected his proposals of marriage till I had consulted you and other respectable friends. But to the point: You may believe me, when I declare, that in consequence of your kind intimation and admonition, I will to-morrow break off all intimacy with him, and forbid his addresses, either in person or by letter, in future, for ever. As a further proof of the sincerity of my resolution, I propose leaving town in a few days, and retiring to a friend's house in the country, there to ruminate on my conduct, in order to rectify what has been done amiss, and form such a plan as may afford satisfaction to those with whom I am connected, and promote my own real good. I shall take the earliest opportunity of waiting upon you; but must at present content myself with returning

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ing you a thousand thanks for your kind warning, and  
assuring you that I shall ever remain,

Your most obliged and very obedient Servant.

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LETTER CCLXXIII.—*From a Lady to her Friend, a  
Woman of Fashion, who had lately been brought to Bed of  
a Son and Heir.*

Dear Madam,

IN looking over a list of the occurrences of the day, I was happy in reading your safe delivery of a son and heir at your Villa at Hampton. The mutual affection which has long apparently subsisted between you and the worthy baronet your spouse, must have afforded great pleasure and satisfaction to the whole circle honoured with your friendship; and the recent pledge of your love, with which it has pleased the great disposer of events to bless you, cannot but contribute to heighten the same. You will permit me, amongst others, to congratulate you and Sir William on the favourable event, and sincerely to express my wish for the continuance of the life of your beloved Son, and that on his attaining to years of maturity, he may be a comfort to his parents, an honour to his family, and an ornament to mankind. I am, with compliments to the baronet, dear Madam,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

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LETTER CCLXXIV.—*To a Gentleman, on his Return  
from a Government abroad,*

Dear Sir,

WHEN the public prints announced your return from your government, I could not refrain from paying you my immediate respects upon the occasion in this manner; though I propose shortly to do myself the honour of waiting upon you. In the mean time I cannot but anticipate the pleasure which an interview will afford me in the opportunity of recognizing many past occurrences, recounting many pleasing scenes that took place in the early part of our lives, and attending to a recital of your transactions during your absence, especially as they have already acquired you the applause of your king and country.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your's most sincerely.

L E T-

LETTER CCLXXV.—*To a Clergyman, on his Preferment in the Church.*

Rev. Sir,

WHEN I heard of your presentation to a valuable Rectory, I was happy to find that a gentleman was advanced in his profession who had nothing but merit to recommend him to the patronage of that class of mankind which the world calls the great; and the more so, as it is a proof that amongst great men there are some good men. Your theological tracts have gained you much credit with the professors of religion in general; but the arguments advanced in your Dissertation on the Evidences of Christianity, in opposition to the objection of infidels, have particularly stamped your character as a learned and able divine. That you may long continue the powerful advocate of so venerable a cause, and enjoy the sublime pleasure of an approving conscience, and an approving God, is the sincere prayer of, reverend Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

LETTER CCLXXVI.—*To an Officer on his Preferment in the Army.*

Dear Sir,

MIDST the partial distribution of honours, and the too general neglect of merit which prevails in the best governed state, it gives me inexpressible satisfaction to find, from the new list of promotions, that instead of being superseded, you are advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. I doubt not, however, but the general officer under whom you acted in the last war; made a point of representing your services in the light they deserve, and congratulate you on the bestowal of that reward to which you are justly entitled.

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCLXXVII.—*To an Officer on his Preferment in the Navy.*

Dear Sir,

HAVING, since the conclusion of the last war, been in a great measure secluded from society in an obscure corner of the world, it must have afforded you equal astonishment and pleasure to find yourself called forth into actual service, and appointed from the rank of post-captain to

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to the command of a ship of the line. Your patron, Sir  
Jeremy Just, though not a placeman, living in the country  
contiguous to the mansion of Sir Gregory Graspall, was  
solicited a favour, respecting some adjacent premises that  
belonged to him, by that aspiring statesman. As the  
favour in no degree appertained to politics, Sir Jeremy  
always wished to preserve the character of a good neigh-  
bour, complied with the request of Sir Gregory, who to  
his honour was no sooner applied to by the former to use  
his influence for his friend Captain Dauntless, than he  
went up to London, and as he is one of the board of  
admiralty, exerted himself so effectually as to obtain your  
appointment to a ship of the line. There are no doubt some  
sparks of honour and gratitude latent in the breast of every  
individual, however they may be smothered by the preva-  
lence of the meaner passions; and there are particular  
seasons and circumstances which irresistably stimulate sordid  
minds to generous actions. Wishing you all success and  
happiness, I remain,

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCLXXVIII.—*To a Friend on the Wisdom of  
bearing what are called the Adverse Occurrences of Life  
with Fortitude and Resignation.*

Dear Sir,

THE tender concern you expressed at the melancholy  
situation in which you found me on your last visit,  
surrounded by a dying son, an afflicted wife, and a dis-  
tracted family, I esteem as a testimony of your friendship.  
I trust, however, that I am not in any danger of sinking  
under my grief, or suffering even the most adverse occur-  
rence to affect me in such a manner as to depress my spi-  
rits, or confound my understanding. We are told by the  
wisest of men, that there is a time for sorrow as well as for  
joy, that is, as I conceive, a time when sorrow is more  
conducive to the good of mankind than joy. The happi-  
ness of man may be considered in a twofold view, that of  
which he is capable here, and that for which he may rea-  
sonably hope hereafter, so that a due attention to both  
seems to be the highest degree of prudence attainable in  
this life. If pleasing objects only were presented to our  
minds, we might pass our time here happily enough, so  
long as we could banish the thought of hereafter, but as it  
is

is of all considerations the most important to provide for a future state, it is absolutely necessary that there should be certain occurrences to put us in mind of it.

The man of wisdom, and the man of pleasure, are both affected at the sight of a dead or a dying friend, yet their feelings are very different. The man of wisdom considers the agonies he sees as circumstances attending the separation of body and spirit; and therefore the chief object of his care is the future state of the person he regards. The man of pleasure is terrified at beholding the agonies, and at the thought of losing his friend, and with him the sense of those enjoyments which they were accustomed to participate in this life. The concern of the one is rational and manly, that of the other weak and childish.

The affecting objects we are daily liable to behold, incline us to serious thoughts it is true, but I could never conceive that there was any thing very frightful, ghastly, or terrible, in these meditations. It is probable, that while I had not these objects before me I did not entertain serious thoughts so often as became me; this malady, therefore, of my son, might have been lengthened for my sake, and if it was not, there can be no disadvantage in my thinking so; because the condition in which I saw him is certainly a proper memento, and if I make a right use of it, my present melancholy will be the cause of future comfort.

Occurrences apparently adverse have a tendency to give us just conceptions of this world, as well as to open to us a kind of prospect into the other. We are too apt, while all things round us are serene, to think of nothing but what concerns the present state of existence; but when we are roused by afflicting visitations, we are as it were constrained to open our eyes, and to see the vanity of placing our joys in things of transient worth, which it is neither in our power to preserve, or to follow.

Upon the whole we may conclude, that if it be admitted life would not be worth possessing without certain seasons of joy, it must also be admitted, that the true value of life would never be known without certain seasons of sorrow.

I doubt not but you will concur with me in these sentiments, and that they will, upon all occasions, incline you to a proper resignation to the divine will.

I am, your's most sincerely.

L E T-

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LETTER CCLXXIX.—*To a Friend. Remarks on tra-*  
*velling.*

Dear Sir,

**A**S I have frequently laid it down as a maxim, that every man should endeavour to promote the advantage of his native country, it has been insinuated, that I am averse to travel, or at least that I think it unnecessary. To exempt myself, therefore, from such imputation, I here send you my opinion upon that subject: I am well convinced, that men who reflect on what they see, and endeavour to understand what they hear, labour under a great deficiency in point of education through want of travelling. Hence I am for sending all young men in exalted life abroad, provided that care be taken by those who accompany them to put them always in remembrance that they are one day to return home, and that they are sent, not to stare and be diverted merely, but to improve their minds. They should in particular be cautioned against imbibing prejudices respecting the customs of their own country, and attaching themselves to those which they see practised abroad. I do not pretend to say an Englishman ought not to conform himself to the manners of Italy while he remains there; but I affirm, that it is preposterous in him to think of retaining those manners when he returns home; for surely it must be allowed, if it be right to affect the Italian in Italy, it is also right, on the same principle, to resume the Englishman in England. The true use of travelling, according to my opinion, is not to enlarge the extent of an Englishman's education, but to give it a polish. Young gentlemen ought to have their principles fixed before they leave their native country, because an Englishman who does not act on English principles seems to me unworthy to breathe English air. We have suffered, and never received any benefit from our attachment to foreign maxims. It is certainly right to export our commodities; but it is as certainly wrong to exchange our notions of government for any of the reigning opinions on the other side of the water.

I remain,

Your's, &c.

L E T.

LETTER CCLXXX.—*To a Friend on the Tediumness and Embarrassments attending Law-Suits.*

Dear Tom,

WHEN I went up to London, you know it was with a design to compromise, if possible, all disputes with my mother-in-law, but I am sorry to inform you, I had hardly been there a week, before I was convinced the thing was impracticable. Her ladyship breathes nothing but vengeance, and has applied to a practitioner, deemed very expert in his profession, without affecting to be scrupulously conscientious. Last term the old lady brought a bill in Chancery against me; she has also prevailed on my wife's trustees, to exhibit another bill in the Exchequer. Her lawyer has found out a second cousin of my wife's, and persuaded him to disturb me in the possession of some estates, under the title of heir at law. Thus you see, a man who has the greatest aversion to this kind of contest immersed over head and ears in suits, and, what is worse, compelled to live upon bad terms with a family which it is his sincere desire to treat with the utmost respect.

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCLXXXI.—*To the same, on the foregoing Subject.*

Dear Tom,

FROM the circumstance I mentioned in my last, though of a very different temper from my mother-in-law, I have been obliged to act in my own defence, accordingly have selected an attorney and three counsel, who, upon enquiry, I was assured were honest in principle, and competent to their profession. They frankly tell me that though the old lady will prevail in nothing, she may put me to very great expence, because the whole costs will fall upon my wife's estate. To add to the melancholy of my situation, my Eliza, with whom I could have been happy in the meanest state, affords me much disquiet. She is so affected by the treatment of her mother, that she has given herself up to a kind of despondency, by which means, in the space of a few months, I am, from one of the happiest men in the world, become the most miserable. By nature I am not much turned for business; by education still less fitted for it, and least of all from choice. The objects of my desire are peace, a private

H

life,

170 FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE,  
life, with the power of indulging the woman I love, and  
conversing with the men I esteem. Judge then of my  
situation, when I tell you, that instead of perusing a fa-  
vourite author, taking the benefit of the air, and passing  
the morning with a few intelligent friends, my time is  
engrossed with running from one inn of court to another,  
and hearing tedious law details read over to me from  
morning till night.

Having thus fairly and honestly stated my present me-  
lancholy circumstances, shall conclude with assuring you  
I remain,

Your sincere Friend.

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LETTER CCLXXXII.—*From a Lady to her Friend, on  
Female Vanity.*

Dear Emily,

A MONGST the circumstances that have fallen out  
in our family, since you have been at Bath, I  
presume the following will in some degree conduce to  
your entertainment: You are to understand then, that  
the Frenchwoman who you know was recommended to my  
Aunt as a proper Governess for her daughters, had scarce  
been three months in the house, before she entered into  
the bands of wedlock with the tutor to their oldest brother,  
a man about fifty-five, who, through œconomy had  
saved near two thousand pounds. Upon this marriage  
there has happened the strangest, and at the same time the  
pleasantest, change that can be imagined.

The lady is grown quite young again in her own imi-  
gination, and, what is still stranger, she affects the woman  
of quality, keeps a couple of maids, that she may call one  
of them her woman, and though before she introduced  
a kind of penurious reserve wherever she came, she is  
now become, though not generous, very expensive. The  
poor husband in the mean time is grown quite melancholy,  
from a prospect that he shall certainly fall a sacrifice to  
this woman's vanity. A few days ago I went to see a  
friend who lives about ten miles from us, with an inten-  
tion of passing a month, and (would you believe it!)  
Madam was pleased to make me a visit; but to avoid  
having too much or too little patience, I thought proper  
to be out. You see, my dear, what trifles I write you,  
and in truth I am glad we have nothing but trifles to  
write. I was in great fear that my first epistle would have

informed

informed you of my Uncle's death, but as he is now perfectly recovered, I have likewise recovered my spirits, and therefore chuse to entertain you with such trivial matters, rather than be thought deficient in that respectful friendship which will always subsist in the bosom of

Your obedient servant,

CLARINDA.

LETTER CCLXXXIII.—*To a Friend, on the Folly of being peevish.*

Dear Philip,

**A**S I have ever approved your notions of friendship in general, I would wish to convince you that I am really your friend, and in a degree not common in these days. To be plain with you, I am much displeased with the conclusion of your last letter, because I think it trivial and spleenetic. You had wrought yourself into an opinion that your friends neglect you, and full of this prejudice, you talk of my sleeping over a kind epistle from the man I most esteem. Do you imagine, Phil. that accidents will not happen to your acquaintance as well as to other people? Prythee be not peevish. I allow it to be an imperfection of the greatest wits, but surely it is an imperfection easily removed. Examine your own conduct; you will find that you are in general courteous, communicative, and candid. How then can it be possible that a man of such a character should be neglected by his friends? Can such a companion be easily found? Or could the loss of him be remembered without regret? Have a just respect for your own merit, my good Sir, and then you will never be in the vapours.

I remain, most sincerely, your's, &c.

LETTER CCLXXXIV.—*On the Government of the Passions, particularly that of Anger.*

Dear Sir,

**A**S philosophers admit the necessity of the human passions, because, without them there would be no ground for the exercise of human reason, so they also admit that the greatest display of sound sense of which we are capable, is the reducing those passions to its dictates, which in moral life are the only guides to point out what is good, and what is evil. To recount the mischiefs that have resulted from passions uncontrolled by reason, would

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be an endless task; I shall therefore confine my present remarks to that of Anger: This foolish passion has been very properly defined as a sudden blaze of pride, which, from a principle of self-love, sets itself up in opposition to reason. But if we reflect coolly, we must observe, that Anger, instead of promoting, counteracts its very design, because it dispossesses a man of the power of acting or speaking with due propriety.

Anger is equally mischievous in every system, whether political, religious, civil, or social. In the business of controversy, a good cause is often lost, and a superior understanding overcome by the mere force of a cool temper. A very incompetent disputant will gain ground, if he can work his opponent up to a rage, whereas the most shrewd and powerful antagonists are such as cannot be provoked. Besides this, passion is highly ridiculous, because it impels a man to act nonsense (if I may be allowed the phrase) as well as to speak it, and it is strange that reason cannot overcome absurdity, and escape the effects of it. From these observations, and many others that might be adduced, it becomes our duty and interest, as reasonable beings, to check the first fallies of anger, ere it be too late, and we fall a prey to the dreadful ravages it makes on the understanding.

Yours, &c.

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**LETTER CCLXXXV.—On the Benefits which are sometimes derived from alarming Strokes of Providence.**

My dear Friend,

I have the pleasure to assure you that the shock of an apoplexy, which is frequently fatal to the patient's understanding, has, in the case of my Father-in-law, had a quite contrary effect. He conversed with me the very next day after his recovery like a wise and good man rescued from the jaws of death, or (as the poet says)

“ Leaving the Old, both worlds at once they view,  
“ Who stand upon the threshold of the New.”

That though health was the greatest of temporal blessings, yet it was precarious and uncertain, for which cause a man ought to make a due use of it while he has it; and not rely on its continuance. He is at present so well recovered, that he declares he is not sensible of any injury from this severe trial. However strange as it may appear, he has directed

directed his books to be immediately settled, made a new will; and besides the care taken therein of some poor relations, has provided for their present subsistence. In a word, he has taken, and is taking, all the precautions possible to prevent being surprised by death, and speaks of his late accident as a peculiar blessing from Providence, or, as he himself very singularly phrases it, the most sensible mercy he ever experienced. He is as cheerful, or rather more so than formerly; treats his children and servants with the greatest tenderness and affability, and, to sum up all, endeavours to shake off every imperfection that appeared in his former course of life. Grave reflections these, but to a friend, grave as well as gay reflections are welcome. We are not at all times masters of our tempers, but we ought always to be masters of our inclinations, so far as to hear, both with patience and pleasure, whatever comes from a person we esteem. In this disposition I hope all your letters will ever find him, who is, and will be during life,

Your faithful Friend, &c.

LETTER CCLXXXVI.—*To a Friend. Description of a singular Character.*

Dear Sir,

B EING sent by my Father to transact some concerns for him in the West country, I had orders to call upon an old acquaintance of his, who having had but little success in trade, about twenty years ago retired, but he is now quite immured, or rather buried himself in a little farm of his own, where he has dwelt ever since, without stirring ten miles from home. This gentleman, as I had heard, was a very pleasant, sociable, good-natured man. When I entered his house, he received me with civility, and asked me how my Father did, and then enquired whether I had brought any account, I answered in the negative, and added, that he had, with much concern, directed me to enquire into the state of his health, whereupon he insisted upon my passing the evening, and taking a bed with him. We supped on a cold fowl, good butter, and excellent cheese, but without seeing any creature but himself. In the morning I rose early, eat a crust of bread, drank a glass of cordial, and took my leave.

The singularity of this man's disposition afforded me much entertainment, when I asked him how he diverted

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himself in the country? I take no diversion at all, nor do  
I labour, for I change my work when I begin to be weary,  
and in variety of employments I find rest. I then asked  
what news there was? I'll tell you, sir, said he, smiling,  
the last news I read, which was many years ago, that our  
people of England here were going to loggerheads with the  
Americans, and from that time to this, I know nothing  
of domestic or foreign affairs. But sure, continued I,  
you read some books? Yes, replied he, I am a pretty good  
scholar; I have read the Bible, and Raymond's History  
of England, Bankes's Geography, Cooke's Newest Duty  
of Man, Maynard's Josephus, Barlow's History of Eu-  
rope, Hall's Encyclopædia, and other valuable works, over  
many times, which compose my library. He showed me  
his garden in very good order, though dressed by no other  
hands than his own. The apartment in which I slept,  
was neat, and every thing in it, though plain, perfectly  
in order. When he retired to his chamber, I heard him  
pray very devoutly, and in a low voice, commend himself  
to the protection of Heaven. Upon the whole I presume  
you will allow the character of my Father's old acquain-  
tance, though singular in many instances, to be laudable,  
and worthy of imitation, and am sincerely

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCLXXXVII.—*To a Friend in a perplexed  
State through the Caprice of a Mother-in-law.*

Dear Sir,

THE letter you wrote your friend Mr. Stedfast, he trans-  
mitted to me, with a very kind one of his own, and I  
dare assure you that we equally sympathise with you in the  
anxiety of which you complain. Your mother-in-law,  
Lady Whimsy, must be a woman of a very singular temper,  
to resolve on making the man unhappy on whom the hap-  
piness of her daughter depends. Yet female caprice is no  
miracle, and if compassion in distress could render the effects  
of it easy to you, I could inform you of many who owe their  
uneasiness to a like cause. There is certainly a weakness in  
women, especially when they are in years, which too-  
often inclines them to fancy they are treated with contempt,  
and that is a thing they never forgive. In your case, the  
marriage of Lady Whimsey's daughter, without her con-  
sent, was an indubitable proof of it; nor can any sub-  
mission

mission you can make, weaken the strength of this evidence. In my judgement, therefore, all attempts to pacify the old lady are vain, and you must content yourself with demonstrating in a legal manner, that she has it not in her power to do you injury in point of property. Perhaps this may bring her to herself, for it sometimes happens, that mischievous dispositions conceive a fear for those whom they find it impossible to injure. But perhaps you will say, the evils you most fear will be brought about before this can be effected; to which I can only reply, that patience is the sole remedy for all inevitable misfortunes. Prudence, which protects us from lesser ills, points out this cure for those it cannot prevent. That you may adopt the most effectual means of obviating your present troubles, is the sincere wish and desire of

Your's, to command, &c.

**LETTER CCLXXXVIII.—*From a Lady to her Friend,  
on the Prudence of Wives conforming themselves to the Con-  
ditions of their Husbands.***

Dear Madam,

I Am extremely happy to inform you that my cousin Emily has exchanged two or three visits with me since her marriage, and proves a much better wife than I expected while she was single; she had much pride, but she has now entirely laid it aside. Indeed, throughout her conduct, she manifests the greatest prudence in conforming herself to the state and condition of her husband, a tradesman of eminence. Contrary to the prevailing maxims of the day, she gives it as her opinion, that the wife of a citizen should not assume the airs of a woman of quality; let her fortune be what it will; nor should the mode of St. James's prevail in the environs of the Exchange. I confess I was almost ready to laugh at the wonderful reformation; though I turned grave when she showed me her plate and china. Without exceeding the bounds of truth, I may say that a Countess might be well content with such a collection. Upon the whole, the husband seems exceeding kind, and Emily seems to entertain a proper sense of it, but of this you will judge better, when, at her request, you accompany me on a visit.

Your's, &c,

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LETTER CCLXXXIX.—*From a Man of Fortune to his  
Friend, purporting several laudable Resolutions respecting  
his Tenants in the Country.*

Dear Sir,

As the summer season advances, and I have now no business which requires my continuance in town, I shall retire into the country, where if nothing extraordinary happens, I intend to pass three or four months. During that time, as I wish to be active, I propose visiting every foot of land I possess, and conversing with each of my tenants. If they have any grievances, I will redress them; if they make any reasonable requests, I will comply with them, and if I can either think or hear of any thing for their advantage, I will do all within my power to procure it. I do not give you this as my character, but as the character I am anxious to deserve. We are, my friend, to do good, and doing this to others, we do it most effectually to ourselves. A considerable estate is a deposit left in our hands by Providence, of which we are one day to give a strict account.

But when I talk of being never idle, I do not mean that I shall never unbend or divert myself, on the contrary, I propose to make some alterations in that article too, and when my scheme is so perfect as to be worthy your perusal, it shall be transmitted for your approbation or amendment. If I have been guilty of egotism, I have the consolation to know I have written to a friend, who, with all the judgment, has none of the malice of a critic, and who will pardon any thing in one who has the honour to be, with great truth,

His obliged and

Obedient humble servant.

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LETTER CCXC.—*From a Merchant in London to his  
Friend at Leghorn.*

Dear Sir,

It is now near five months since I received your letter, by Captain Burton, and you then seemed to be much in love with Italy. I must, however, desire you not to become an instance of being so far captivated with that bewitching place, as to forget your friends in London. It is true we northern clowns have less speculative knowledge than you Italian Virtuosi, but then let me tell you, English sincerity is a solid virtue, and will weigh down a vast

vast number of polite accomplishments. I have been bred a merchant from the same age that you were bred a scholar, and yet I received a letter from a friend like you, with more pleasure than my correspondent's advice of the safe arrival of a ship, when the insurance is high. Of one thing I am confident, which is this, that I have let slip no opportunity of plaguing you, nor will I, till you have the good-nature to please me by writing an answer, because I remain,

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCXCI.—*To a Lady, congratulating her on her Marriage.*

Dear Madam.

THOUGH from your last, I had reason to think you approached the indissoluble bond, I could not apprehend the change would have been so sudden. I pleased myself with the prospect of being your companion and confidant in the delightful task of choosing silks, laces, and ribbons; and imagined that my being consulted on affairs of such importance, by so fine a young lady, would have made me appear in a more favourable light to my sister Charlotte's companions, than I could expect from my being a girl just come from school—but you have disconcerted all my schemes.

However, as I have not the smallest doubt of your happiness, I sincerely rejoice at the event. May it be long and uninterrupted, and may every thing conspire to render it more and more complete! My papa gives Mr. Frankly just such a character as I wish the man may deserve who shall make a wife of my sister Charlotte; and why may I not add, since it is to my dear Mrs. Frankly, who shall make a wife of my sister's sister, your own Sophy?

Long, dear madam, may Mr. Frankly live, deserving of so fair a character, deserving of so amiable a bride! And to conclude, in one word, long may you both live the happiest pair in England!

With compliments to Mr. Frankly, I remain,

Dear Madam, your's, &c.

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LETTER CCXCH.—*To a Lady, inviting her into the  
Country.*

My dear Julia,

I do not know whether I flattered myself the other day when I thought you spoke to me with an air of uncommon friendship. You seemed to speak with great concern of our parting for the summer. But for heaven's sake, my dear, what should one do all the dull season in London? Vauxhall is well enough for once or twice, and Ranelagh half a dozen times in the season. What is it then my dear Julia can find to entertain her in an empty town for five long months together?

I have an interest, my dear, in persuading you out of conceit with so disagreeable a place, for I want of all things that you should spend the summer months with us at Melville-Park. We go on Monday. Will you go with us? Pray do—there is a corner in the coach. Or will you come when we are settled? I am sure that it will make you happy, and that nothing can make us more so than your company.

You have not seen our new house, but it is a mighty pleasant one. There are fine prospects from the park, and a beautiful streamlet runs through the garden; nor are we quite out of the way of entertainment. There is a deal of company round, and we have an assembly within a mile of us.

What can I say more? Surely nothing but that your Sophy's happiness is at stake, and that whenever you are tired, she will not tease you to stay a day longer. Come then, dear Julia, and oblige your affectionate

SOPHIA MELVILLE.

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LETTER CCXCIII.—*The Answer.*

Dear Sophy, .

I never received more pleasure from a letter in my life than from your last. You know I have not been in love yet: and certainly a billet-doux is the only thing which could please a girl of my years better than such a testimony of friendship from one who is an honour to all who have the happiness of her acquaintance.

Whatever I may have expressed, my dear, about my uneasiness of your leaving London, was truly from my heart, for I am never so happy as when in your company.

I am

I am greatly obliged to you for your kind invitation, but I cannot think of parting so long with dear London. I am of opinion with lady Betty Gaylove on this occasion, " That London, in winter, is the best place in the world ; " and London, in summer, is better than any where else."

Do not suppose, Sophy, that I say this by way of apology to decline your invitation : for I am determined to go, if it were from no other motive but to convince you how sickening the country is, and that it is not the company but the place I shall run away from, I agree with you, that Vauxhall is insipid, and Ranelagh tiresome, but will you agree with me that the prospects in your park, and the garden, and the beautiful streamlet, will become, in a week's time, equally insipid, equally tiresome ?—I fear not.

You tell me you love me, Sophy, and I know you will excuse the girlish giddiness of your friend ; for, honestly, I never heard that I had another fault. Adieu, my dear ! Promise me that you will not take it amiss when I run away, and I am happy to attend you, at a minute's notice, to Melville-Park.

Your affectionate, &c.

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LETTER CCXCIV.—*From a young Woman, lately come to London for a Place, to her Mother in the Country, giving an Account of her Situation.*

Honoured Mother,

**A**LTHOUGH it was somewhat against your inclination that I came to London to put myself to service, I believe you will not be sorry I did so, when you know how happy it has made me. I was always uneasy to live upon your labour, for what we could do in the country was not enough to provide ourselves ; and though you was so kind to us, it was very hard upon you. I am now trusting to the work of my own hands, and, I thank God, I live very comfortably.

It is not a great family I live in, but they are sober, industrious people ; and I do not know whether I am not better off than if I was in a higher place, where servants are often treated as if they were not human creatures as well as their masters and mistresses. We have every thing in plenty, and keep good hours, and there are no bad doings of any sort suffered in the family. On Sundays we all go to church in the afternoon ; and when I once asked for a

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holiday to go and see my aunt, they did not deny me. My  
aunt is in good health, and sends her love to you, and  
sister Sally.

I do not see but what we servants live as well as our mis-  
treses, and we have none of their cares to vex us; so I  
think we ought to be thankful for the situation in which  
Providence has placed us. As for my part I love my mas-  
ter and mistress better than I do any body in the world, ex-  
cept you and Sally; and I do not desire to change my  
place so long as I live, if they continue pleased with me;  
and I shall always strive to give them satisfaction.

Honoured Mother, I wish you would read this to sister  
Sal, and tell her from me, it is better to come to London,  
and live as I do, than to continue in the country to be a  
slave for nothing, and a burthen upon you into the bar-  
gain. If she thinks well of it, I will take care to get her  
a good place before she comes; and I am sure, if she be-  
haves as she ought to do, she will always find friends in  
my master and mistress.

I am, honoured Mother,  
Your dutiful and affectionate daughter.

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LETTER CCXCV.—*From another young Woman who  
had lately come to Town for a Place, to her Mother in the  
Country.*

Dear Mother,

I have been at Mr. Edwards's, a fortnight this very day;  
and, I thank God, begin to find myself somewhat  
easier than what I have hitherto been. But indeed I have  
suffered a deal since I parted from you and all my dear  
friends. At our first coming hither, I thought every thing  
looked so strange about me: and when my brother got  
upon his horse, and rode from the door, I thought every  
thing looked stranger and stranger; so I got up to the win-  
dow, and looked after him 'till he was quite out of sight;  
and then I sat down and cried. Many a time have I cried  
since, bat I do my best to dry up my tears, and to appear  
as cheerful as I can.

I shall never forget, dearest mother, your advice to  
me at parting. I think of it every day, aye, every hour  
of the day. But yet I think it would be better to have it  
in writing; that would be what I would value above all  
things; but I am afraid to ask for what would give you so  
much

much trouble. So, with my duty to you and my honoured father, and love to all friends, I remain,

Your affectionate daughter,

LETTER CCXCVI.—*From the Mother to her Daughter,  
in Answer.*

My dear Child,

YOU must not be discouraged at things appearing strange and disagreeable to you now. 'Tis always so in a situation like your's at first. I had my share of it, but soon learnt to bear all with chearfulness, and hope you will endeavour to follow my advice in this, as you used to say you loved to do in every thing. You must consider, that we never should have parted with you, had it not been for your good; and that if you continue virtuous and obliging, the whole family you are with will love and esteem you. Keep yourself as much employed as you can, which is the best way of wearing off any thing that may disturb you. Do all the business of your place, and be always ready to assist your fellow-servants when you can. This will fill up your time, and greatly contribute to endear you to them. I need not caution you against speaking ill of other people, for I know you was never addicted to this vice. But if you should at any time, hear a bad story of any body, try to soften it all you can.

From the good character I hear of the family you are with, I am in great hopes you will be daily more and more happy with them; but I should be glad to see it confirmed by your next, and the more particular you are the better. You did not mention any thing about your health in your last; but I had the pleasure of hearing you was well, by 'Squire Harcourt's man, who told us he called upon you as he left London, and that you looked as fresh as a rose, and as bonny as a blackbird.—You know Thomas's way of talking.—However, I was glad to hear you were well; and desire you may not forget to mention your health in your next. Your father desires his blessing, your brothers their love, and all friends their kind compliments to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child! and continue you a comfort to us all, and particularly to

— Your loving Mother.

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LETTER CCXCVII.—*From a Lady to her Cousin, on  
Peevishness of Temper.*

Dear Madam,

I Dare say you are sensible that I love and respect you highly. You have had some proofs of it, and when opportunity offers, I shall not be backward to shew you more. I repeat this merely that you may be prepared to consider what I am going to tell you as you ought; for, not to mention the affection of a friend and a relation, I think I have some right to give you my advice, both from my years, and from the readiness I have ever shewn to serve you.

I thought I had settled you as happily as woman could wish to be settled, when I had married you to a young man of Mr. Clifford's merit and industry, and had put him in a way of employing his talents to advantage, by setting him forward in a genteel manner. Pray understand me rightly: though I esteem Mr. Clifford much, yet all this was done for your sake, not for his; it is you who are my relation, and what I have done was to make you happy. Except yourself, Mrs. Clifford, I know not the woman who would be otherwise in your situation; but the peevishness of your disposition, I am sorry to say it, threatens you with a life of misery, unless you timely correct it.

You cannot have forgot your behaviour last night, and the uneasiness it gave the whole company: let me beg, therefore, you will consider if there was any real cause for it. Mr. Clifford acted like a man of understanding and good-nature, in concealing your frailty, as much as he could, from his visitors, and in seeming to overlook it himself; but believe me he feels it, and what he feels he will remember.

People, my dear cousin, who are uneasy in themselves, are sure to make all around them so: and I am sure you are not only unhappy now, but, unless you govern your temper, will be daily more and more so. To chide servants before any company is unbecoming, but before such a company as you had the honour to entertain last night, the grossest insult that can be offered; and nothing could give either his friends or yours so much disquiet as to observe you return the good humour with which he attempted to carry that off, with sharpness to himself.

Do

Do not take it ill, my dear, that I speak so freely to you. You have but this fault that I know of, and I could wish you to correct it ere it be too late. Without either father or mother, I know no person who has so much right to counsel you as myself. People are often as completely ruined by their follies as by their vices; and I assure you I think you in the greatest danger. But I have done. To a woman of your understanding, it is enough to point out an error. You have sense enough to know what is right; and that you may be enabled to exert it is the earnest wish of.

Dear Madam, your affectionate Cousin,

### LETTER CCXCVIII.—*The Answer.*

Dearest Madam.

WITH great surprise, as well as sorrow, I have read your friendly letter: and am too well convinced of your sincere wishes for my happiness to doubt the truth of your remarks.

But is it really possible I should be so highly to blame as you say I am, yet be so insensible of it myself?—However, I will take your word; and I promise you to be on my utmost guard to give you no farther room to complain of my conduct, and not to endanger the happiness I enjoy with the best of husbands.

I always thought myself happy in the favour of all my friends, and of you above all: and shall I do any thing to forfeit that favour?—God forbid! I know that you will be equally overjoyed at my amendment as you was sorry for my fault; and Mr. Clifford and I both beg you will favour us with a visit very soon, that you may see the happy alteration you have worked upon me. I communicated the purport of your letter to him, though I did not dare to read it. It was not that I doubted my guilt, but I did it as a first penance for my offence.

He told me, he had often been vexed about me, but knew not how to mention it. Oh! madam, had you seen the delicacy with which he expressed this; the readiness that appeared in his face to forgive, and the pain at thinking I should be uneasy to be told of it; you would be convinced that it is impossible for me to offend so much goodness, and that all admonitions will for the future be unnecessary.

Mr.

Mr. Clifford has as strong a sense of his obligations to you as I have. You have given us an opportunity of being one of the happiest couples upon earth ; and God forbid I should ever be the occasion of our forfeiting it.

I have troubled you with a long letter. My heart was full, and I could not suppress the effusions of my gratitude and love.

You are too generous, dear madam, not to forget faults that are past, and not to believe that in this and every other instance of my conduct, you may always depend on an implicit obedience from

Your grateful and affectionate Cousin.

**LETTER CCXCIX.—*From a young Lady to a Gentleman whom her Parents had compelled to receive as a Suitor.***

SIR,

IT is a poor return which I make to your assiduities, when I acknowledge that, though the day of our marriage is fixed, I am still incapable of loving you. You may have observed, in the long conversations we have frequently had together, that some secret hung upon my mind. I durst not reveal my sentiments, because I knew that my mother, from an adjoining closet, both heard and saw every thing that passed between us. Her commands, as well as those of my father, to receive you for a husband, are absolute ; and unless you have the generosity to desist, I am undone for ever.

Consider, Sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made with perhaps an offensive sincerity ; but that conduct is greatly to be preferred to a concealed dislike, which could not but embitter all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion who has been long tenderly engaged to another. I will not go so far as to say that my passion for that gentleman, whose wife I am by promise, violent as it is, should ever lead me into the commission of any thing injurious to your honour. I know it would be sufficiently dreadful, to a man of your delicacy, to receive mere civilities in return for the tenderest endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. For heaven's sake then forbear. Let passion give way to reason, and I doubt not but that fate has in store for you some worthier object, in recompence for your generosity

generosity to perhaps the only woman who could be insensible of your merit.

I am, Sir, your most humble Servant.

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**LETTER CCC.—From a young Lady to her Father, who had promised her in Marriage to a Gentleman whom she could not love.**

Honoured Sir,

**T**ILL now I never imagined it could be a painful task for me to answer any letter that came from my dear papa. But your's of last Monday distresses me to such a degree that I know not how to send an answer, consistent with the duty I owe, and the affection I bear to the best of parents, without relinquishing my sincerity, and sacrificing my peace and happiness for life.

Ah! dear sir, reflect—let me conjure you to reflect, on the intrinsic worth and use of riches. Can riches purchase health?—can they purchase peace?—can they purchase happiness?—No.—Then suffer me not, dear sir, to forfeit all these for a splendid settlement with a man whom I can never love, and who, but for his wealth, would have been the last man in England you would have thought of for a husband to your Polly.

These are truths which I am afraid will be disagreeable to you, and it is with pain I write them; but, my dear papa, what pain would it give you to see your only daughter miserable, without a prospect of an end! What would shorten my days would, I know, put a period to your's. The sense of that affection, and of my own love and gratitude to you, the most indulgent of parents, will make me submit to any thing. Dispose of me as you please; but that you may be convinced of the fatal consequences, before the indissoluble knot is tied, is the prayer upon her knees of, dearest Sir,

Your dutiful Daughter.

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**LETTER CCCI.—From the Wife of an Officer to her Husband abroad, a few Days before her Death.**

My Dear,

**T**HE indisposition which I have laboured under for some months past has increased upon me with fatal rapidity, and my physicians have informed me this morning that I cannot live another week.

Even

Even now my spirits fail me ; and it is the ardent love I bear you which carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you, the most painful circumstance in the prospect of death is, that I must part with you. But even in this there is a comfort to you as well as to me, that I have no guilt to hang upon my mind, no unrepented folly to retard me ; that I pass my last hours in reflections upon the happiness we have enjoyed together, and in sorrow that it is so soon to have a period. This is a frailty which, I hope, is so far from being criminal, that I cannot help thinking there is a kind of piety in being so unwilling to be separated from a state which is the institution of heaven, and in which we have lived according to its laws. As we know no more of the next life but that it will be happy to the good, and miserable to the wicked, why may we not please ourselves, at least to alleviate the difficulty of resigning this being, in imagining that we shall have a sense of what passes below, and may possibly be employed in guiding the steps of those with whom we walked with innocence when mortal ?

Such, my dear, are the thoughts with which I revive my languid heart : but reduced as I now am, I feel myself unable to support the agonising idea of the grief you suffer at the news of my departure. My strength forsakes me. Farewell ! thou belt of husbands. My last breath, will, if I am myself, expire in a prayer for you. The pen drops from my fingers. I shall never see thy face again. Farewell ! for ever.

FIDELIA HALL.

LETTER CCCII.—*From a Lady to her Friend on bearing  
of her Illness.*

Dear EMILY,

AFTER the many ardent professions which I have made to you of my sincere regard, I must have been an unpardonable dissembler did I not feel myself very sensibly affected at the intelligence of your severe indisposition.

We receive life, my dear, on the condition of pain and sickness ; and we ought by no means to repine at feeling ourselves what we know human nature is hourly liable to. You have hitherto been in possession of every worldly advantage ; and this attack upon it is no doubt the harder to be

be borne, as it is the first. But disagreeable as your situation appears, when compared with what it was, compare it with that of many around you, some of whom perhaps hardly ever enjoyed a day of health in their lives, and you will find more cause of thankfulness than of discontent.

At this moment, my dear, there are in London alone, numbers lingering in the agonies of death; numbers left by their physicians to expect that stroke which they have in vain endeavoured to ward off; numbers in an uncertainty still more dreadful, and numbers, though exempted from all these, suffering as much as you do, and doomed to suffer it for life.

Would you form a proper judgment of your own condition, view the condition of these. This, my dear girl, is no fallacious argument: all our enjoyments we measure by comparison, and it was intended we should do so. Let the sense of your being in no danger of death, and the assurance of your physicians that the disorder will not be of continuance, give you spirits; and let me have the happiness to see you cheerful when I come to town next week, and to hear that it is in some measure owing to the serious counsel of

Your sincere Friend.

LETTE CCCIII.—*From a Lady to her Niece, on the destructive Use of Beauty-Washes, &c.*

My dear HARRIET,

ALL our physicians, after attentively examining the different nostrums daily obtruded on the world as helps to female beauty, have pronounced that there is not one which, from the quality of its ingredients, is either safe or effectual. Alas! you have not yet heard of the hapless fate of the beautiful Clarinda. Adorned by nature with every charm which could accomplish the fairest of women, her insatiable soul still panted for farther admiration. She had recourse to art. Her face, her neck, her breasts, which rivalled celestial beauty, were daily anointed with the Stygian application. The necessary exhalations of the vital fluid were detained; and, in all the triumph of beauty she fell, no longer ago than yesterday, a victim to the ambition of false allurement.

Learn

Learn hence, my dear, if you value the true happiness of your life, to abandon a practice so injurious to your constitution. Though the lilies and roses combine in your cheek, will they flourish if the canker has seized them? Behold the artless nymph of the valley: no paint ever touched her face, and yet Clarinda, in all the pomp of colouring, was not to be compared with her. It is health which gives fragrance to her lips, bloom to her countenance, and lustre to her eyes.

But could this treacherous art even be practised with impunity, what pleasure can it yield? Can it inspire that conscious self-applause which results from the possession of native charms? Can it elude the keen, penetrating gaze of a lover? Yes, it may elude. But short will be the triumph of imposture: and then, love, beauty, happiness, adieu!

Whenever, therefore, the bloom of youth shall leave you, attempt not to renew it by methods so ruinous and inadequate; and should disease impair your complexion, endeavour to extirpate the cause, and returning bloom will again light up your charms in the inimitable painting of nature. I am at all times, my dear Harriet,

Your affectionate Aunt,

AMELIA TOMKINS.

P. S. In my next I shall give you a Beauty-wash of a different kind, which the experience of many years authorises me to pronounce both innocent and infallible.

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**LETTER CCCIV.—*From the Same to the Same, with Directions to make a Cosmetic, which was never known to fail.***

I Have taken the earliest opportunity to send you the receipt I promised in my last, which as you seem so anxious to improvet those charms which heaven has bestowed upon you, cannot fail to have the desired effect. You must not be offended at the plainness of my expressions. It proceeds entirely from the love I bear you. Besides, my dear, I am old, you are young. I have seen much of the world, you hardly any.

Early in the morning then you must use a certain quantity of fair water as a preparative; after which all sudden gusts of passion, particularly envy, which gives the skin a fallow paleness, must be carefully avoided. It may seem superfluous, if not impertinent, to talk of temperance to

you,

you, yet this must be attended to, in eating as well as drinking, if you would shun those pimples, for which the advertised washes boast such extraordinary cures. Instead of rouge, use moderate exercise, which will enliven your cheeks with a bloom not to be imitated by art. Ingenuous candour, and unaffected good humour, will give an openness to your countenance, which will make you universally agreeable. A desire of pleasing will give fire to your eyes, and the morning breeze at sun-rise, the hue of vermillion to your lips. That amiable vivacity, which you now possess, may be happily heightened and preserved, if you avoid late hours and the card-table, and by no other means whatever.

Indulge me in a few words more, my dear, and I have done. Preserve an unaffected neatness in your apparel. Your fortune will permit you to dress elegantly; but your good sense should always prevent you from descending to gaudiness, which may strike the eyes of the ignorant, but fails not to disgust every person of true taste and discernment. You indeed possess more than you seem conscious of, which is no small addition to your merit; and to induce you to improve these on solid principles was the motive of this and the former letter from, my dear Harriet,

Your affectionate Aunt.

**LETTER CCCV.—From a Lady to her Friend, acquainting her of a Sister's Death.**

My dear Lady BETTY,

I Had scarcely stepped into the carriage to follow my sister to Margate, whither she set off about a week ago, when a letter from my aunt, Lady Crempton, informing me of her death last Friday, was put into my hand.

It is even so, Lady Betty! Our dear Almeria is gone. Blooming as we saw her so lately, she is now reduced to a lump of unanimated clay. To eternity are closed those sparkling eyes; hushed is that voice which commanded attention from every hearer, and that frame which art was ransacked to adorn, has now no other covering than an humble shrowd, and, ere to-morrow's sun, will be confined in the narrow compass of a tomb.

Ah! my dear Lady Betty, for to you I can breathe my sorrows, tell me what is life? What all the giddy pride of youth, of birth, of opulence? What the vain adoration

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adoration of a flattering world? Delusive pleasures, fleeting  
nothings, beneath the attention of a rational being!

Alas! my dear, in what dissipation 'have I hitherto  
lived! such, that I dare say you will be astonished at this  
sudden change of sentiment, and hardly believe it is your  
friend who writes to you. But, thank Heaven! I am at  
length roused from my dream; my sister's fate has roused  
me, pointed out to me the ends for which I was formed,  
and taught me to reflect that there is no time to be lost for  
their accomplishment.

If in an hour, a minute, I may be as my dear Almeria  
is, it is awful to consider how unprepared I have hitherto  
been to make my appearance at the grand tribunal. Death  
I knew was the unavoidable portion of humanity, yet I  
never took the smallest precaution to arm myself against  
the terrors of it.

I seldom went a journey, even of a few miles, without  
an attentive provision of every thing necessary, and have  
I neglected every provision for that long, that last journey,  
which before I have finished this letter, I may be called up-  
on to undertake?

Reason, just kindled, shudders at the recollection of  
that endless train of follies, of which I have been guilty.  
Well might poor Almeria feel all their force: vain,  
gay, unthinking as myself, I tremble at the bare ima-  
gination of those ideas which her last moments must have  
inspired.

Whether it was the suddenness of her fate, or a letter  
she wrote to me not two hours before her death, which  
has worked this sudden change upon me, I know not;  
but this I know, that I can never sufficiently acknowledge  
the goodness of that divine power, without whose assistance  
it could not have been effected.

I am sensible, dear madam, that your concern for my  
sister will be greatly alleviated by finding me at length a  
rational being. Inclosed you have my sister's letter, from  
which you may judge of the sentiments with which she  
expired. Heaven has, I hope, accepted her contrition,  
and will enable me, as she desires, to be more early in  
mine. Believe me, my dear Lady Betty,

Your afflicted, but affectionate Friend.

L E T.

LETTER CCCVI.—*From the Lady to her Sister, the Night before her Death.*

My dear, thoughtless Sister,

**B**EFORE this can possibly reach you, the unchanging fiat will be passed upon me, and my eternal happiness, or misery determined. I am not even flattered with the possibility of seeing another morning—short space to accomplish the mighty work of eternal salvation.

Yet precious, my dear, as my moments are, I cannot better employ them, than in admonishing, in conjuring you to prepare betimes for that dreadful hour you know you cannot escape, and are uncertain how soon it may arrive. We have had the same education, have lived in the same manner, and, though accounted very like in our faces, I am afraid resembled each other more in our follies.

Alas! of what waste of time have we both been guilty! Dress was our study, pomp and admiration our ambition; pleasure our business, and the fashion our God. How often have I, because I heard others around me do so, deny the existence of that futurity which I shall in a few hours experience, and of which I am already fully convinced.

One moment, methinks, I behold the blissful seats of Paradise unveiled, hear millions of myriads of celestial forms tuning their golden harps to songs of praise; the next a scene all black and gloomy, where nothing is to be heard but sobs and groans, and heart-rending shrieks. My wandering fancy varies the prospect, and involves me in a sad uncertainty of my doom. On one hand, smiling angels beckon me into their presence, on the other, the furies seem to surround me, prepared to snatch my fleeting soul.

I scarcely hope, nor will the worthy Dr. Southwell suffer me to despair. He comforts me with the promises in holy writ, with which to my shame be it confessed, I was totally unacquainted: but now what balm do they yield to my tormented conscience!

I must now, thou dear, last object of my earthly care, bid thee eternally adieu! In giving you this warning, I have discharged the duty of a sister and a Christian. All I have now to do is, to retire into myself, and devote the few minutes allowed me to that penitence which can alone entitle

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entitle me to a happy immortality. My spirits fail me,  
and I have now hardly strength left to say farewell for ever!

SUSAN LAMBERT.

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LETTER CCCVII.—*From one Lady to another, on Diffidence in Love.*

DEAR CHARLOTTE,

NOTHING could give me a more favourable opinion of Mr. Garrison's addresses to you than that awkward silence, that ungenteel bashfulness, as you are pleased to term them, whenever you meet. Diffidence in a lover, my dear, is not to be ridiculed. I have long considered it as a proof of sincerity in both sexes, and am convinced that, when unaffected, it really is so.

I never yet saw a dangler, who had not a round of passionate speeches at the tip of his tongue, which meaning nothing he was never at a loss to utter with volubility. By this volubility alone, I have known many girls seduced; and totally ruined. You, dear Emily, I am persuaded, are more upon your guard. The lover, believe me, deserving of notice, is he who knows not how to express his feelings; who is full of doubts, fears, and perplexities; and who, when he speaks, speaks with diffidence and hesitation. The dangler, on the contrary, is ever bold, insolent, and self-satisfied; and addresses every woman, who is imprudent enough to listen to him, with the same assured air, unconstrained familiarity, and unvaried adulation. Such a one is well enough for a partner, a night or two at one of the publick balls, but the other is the partner for life. Think of this, my dear, and believe me

Your affectionate Cousin.

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LETTER CCCVIII.—*From Miss Courtney to Miss Southern, humorously exposing the injudicious Fondness of Parents to their Children.*

My dear HARRIET,

WE have often laughed together, in our dear tête-à-têtes in the country, at the absurd behaviour of many of our acquaintance to their children, and vowed that when it was our fate to be mothers, we would act in another manner.

I have been witness to a strange scene of this sort. You must know, my dear, I had an invitation to drink tea, and

and spend the evening last night with Mrs. Fondle. You have often told me of Mrs. Fondle, and I little imagined that your description of her was less lively than the reality. When I entered, I found her two pretty little boys, the eldest not above six, the youngest hardly three years old, extremely busy in torturing an unhappy kitten, which I understood was reared with no other view than to gratify their infantine cruelty. One of them was diverting himself with drawing a string very tight about its neck, and the other every now and then got its ear into his mouth, and bit it 'till the poor animal gave a loud squall, with which I saw they were both uncommonly delighted. Mrs. Fondle sat by all the time looking, with an eye of the most inconceivable satisfaction, sometimes at them, sometimes at me, and now and then remarking with a smile, that "she loved to see boys *unlucky*, as it was a sure sign of spirit and understanding."

In this manner was our time spent 'till Mr. Fondle came in, and supper was served. I was now in hopes that the young gentlemen would be sent to bed, or at least taken out of the room; but my hopes were vain. Mr. Fondle, I found, was as ridiculously fond of the children as his wife, at least was too little master at home to interfere in such matters. Having placed them on two high chairs at the table, he desired the eldest to say a long grace, which he repeated four different times, having always been guilty of some omission, so that it was almost half an hour before we could fall to.

Well, this ceremony being at last over, Mrs. Fondle cut up a duck, put a leg upon each child's plate, and helped each very plentifully to gravy and pease, apologising, however, for serving them first, by telling us they would set up an instant roar if they saw any body with a bit before themselves. Unfortunately it was my lot to sit next the youngest, whose head I had once or twice stroked, and who on that account, I was assured by his mamma, honoured me with no small share of his favour. The good lady was perfectly right, for master Jackey was continually distinguishing me by some mark or other of his regard. Sometimes he poured his gravy into my plate; at others he ran away with half my peas, pawed my duck with a remarkable degree of

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archness, and then wiped his fingers on my apron ;  
his mother only putting on a constrained frown, and  
telling him he should be sent from table if he continued  
plaguing the lady in that manner. At last, to crown all,  
by one unlucky move, he overset his plate, now newly  
supplied with a large quantity of gravy and butter, and  
the contents falling on a new favourite gown, it was  
so miserably greased, that I shall never be able to put  
it on again.

This accident was highly lamented by Mr. and Mrs.  
Fondle, and the maid called in good earnest to remove  
Jackey from the table ; but he set up such a yell as the  
girl was carrying him off, that his mother ordered him  
to be brought back, and declared it would break her little  
lamb's heart to be sent away from the company. Jackey  
was therefore placed in his chair again, but indeed at the  
other side of the table ; and I now had nobody but master  
Dicky to dread, who had hitherto applied himself so  
closely to his supper, that his mamma said he behaved  
like a man, and should have money to buy cherries  
next morning.

I now began to think myself pretty safe, and endeavoured to be very cheerful, in order to abate Mrs. Fondle's anxiety, who alternately kissed her son Jackey, and expressed the deepest concern imaginable for my gown ; when, as if my evil stars had determined to mortify me, somebody asked me what it was o'clock. On looking at my watch Dicky was greatly pleased with it, and desired me to let him look at it. It would have been cruel to deny the sweet little fellow's request, especially as Mrs. Fondle assured me the child would take very great care of it. I therefore complied, but unfortunately he took it into his head to try if the glass would bear a knock, as he called it ; and struck it with such force against the corner of the table, as broke both the chrystral and the dyal plate, and did so much damage upon the whole as Mr. Cummings assures me will require above a guinea to make good.

The father was now out of patience, and actually damned the child for his *unluckiness* ; upon which the mother burst into tears, and said she would rather pay for a hundred watches than have her little fellow cursed at in such a cruel manner. She told her husband he ought

to be ashamed of himself, so he ought; and concluded with saying, she knew the lady, meaning your humble servant, so well, that she was sure she did not mind such a trifle, or put it in competition with the satisfaction of her pretty lamb, that she did not. I was of course obliged to take Mrs. Fondle's side of the question; but some altercation arising between her and her husband, who swore she spoiled the children, the company, which consisted of two other ladies and myself, found it necessary to withdraw; with what sentiments I leave you, my dear, to judge.

Heaven defend me, and all I wish well to, from such another visit, prays, my Harriet,

Your affectionate friend,

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LETTER CCCIX.—*A humorous Letter of Advice, relating to Marriage.*

**W**ELL then, my dear, sweet Clarissa, since you will have it so, I will tell you what I think will be your fate with our friend Mr. Courtney, as you are resolved upon marrying him: you love him, and in truth he will deserve your love; so that, if it is not your own fault, you will be very happy with him.

As he is nearer forty than thirty, you must expect some ingredients of the old bachelor in him, but not a grain of the ill-nature.

Though time has rivetted some peculiarities, you will take more pleasure in conforming to them, than some, I hope not many, women would in opposing them. If you find him fond of cleanliness, you will not call him nice and finical. If he loves punctuality at meal-times, you will not teach your servants to think him peevish and impatient.—Should he say “this chicken, my dear, is too much roasted,” you will not answer, it is done to a turn; should he condemn the sauce of that fricassee, you will not insist it is the same he admired but a few days before; you will not make a point to contradict him in every complaint he shall make at table, as if you thought his censuring the cook was an affront to the mistress. If you see he loves order and regularity among the servants, you will not encourage them to say he is so particular that nobody can live with him. If you see him grave, upon settling his annual accounts, you will not persuade your

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physician or your midwife to send you to Bath in the  
winter, or to Margate in the summer, by which you  
will again run out the next year. When you travel with  
him, you will not stuff and load your carriage like the  
York machine; and when you are going together on a  
party of pleasure, and he asks if you are ready, as the  
chariot is come, and it is time to go, you will not call  
him as punctual as one of the wooden figures at St. Dun-  
stan's, and keep him waiting as if you were willing to try  
whether he is not as patient too.

You will remember the life that he has been used to,  
and will not therefore expect that when he changed his  
state, he was also to change his nature. You will not  
let him say, now the management of my comforts is in  
the hands of her whose happiness it is to see me happy,  
there is more confusion in my house, and disorder among  
my servants. I used to eat better at a tavern than now  
at my own table: a party of pleasure with her I love best  
in the world, is tiresome and disagreeable; and, though  
our income is more than sufficient, with the least econo-  
my, for all our necessaries, comforts, luxuries, and even  
pleasures, I have less pocket-money than when I was a  
school-boy,

This you will never give him occasion to say. You will  
therefore hear instead, no family is so well managed as Mrs.  
Courtney's; no man lives so happy as Mr. Courtney; and  
though he enjoys all the luxuries of life he cannot spend  
his income. No party of pleasure is agreeable to him, of  
which his Clarissa is not one. You will find in every  
thing he eats, every thing he drinks, every thing he does,  
thinks, or says, Clarissa gives the relish. If he is pleased,  
it is chiefly that Clarissa is the cause. You will find him  
industrious to be happy at every thing, because he sees  
his Clarissa is industrious to make every thing agreeable to  
him: and I will add, my dear niece, you can never quar-  
rel, though you have heard it is inseparable from matri-  
mony. You will be so constantly employed in contend-  
ing which shall contribute most to the happiness of the  
other, that you will not have one moment to spare for  
contending about any thing else.

I am, my Dear, &c.

ELIZA.

L E T.

LETTER CCCX.—*To a Friend, on his Recovery from a dangerous Illness.*

Dear Sir,

GIVE me leave to mingle my joy with that of all your friends and relations, in the recovery of your health, and to join with them to bless God for continuing to your numerous well-wishers the benefit of your useful and valuable life. May God Almighty long preserve you in health, and prosper all your undertakings, for the good of your worthy family, and the pleasure of all your friends and acquaintance, is the hearty prayer of, Sir,

Your faithful Friend, and humble Servant.

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LETTER CCCXI.—*On the same Occasion.*

Good Sir,

I Have received with great delight, the good news of your recovery from the dangerous illness with which it pleased God to afflict you. I most heartily congratulate you and your good lady and family upon it; and make it my prayer, that your late indisposition may be succeeded by such a renewal of health and strength, both of body and mind, as may make your life equally happy to yourself, as it must be to all who have the pleasure to know you. I could not avoid giving you this trouble, to testify the joy that affected my heart on the occasion; and to assure you that I am, with the greatest affection and respect, Sir,

Your faithful humble Servant.

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LETTER CCCXII.—*In Answer to the Preceding.*

Dear Sir,

I Give you many thanks for your kind congratulations. My return of health will be the greater pleasure to me, if I can contribute in any measure to the happiness of my many good friends; and, particularly, to that of you and yours; for I assure you, Sir, that nobody can be more than I am,

Your obliged humble Servant.

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LETTER CCCXIII.—*A young Woman in Town to her  
Sister in the Country, recounting her narrow Escape from  
a Snare laid for her on her first Arrival, by a wicked  
Procurer,*

Dear Sister,

WE have often, by our good Mother, been warned against the dangers that would too probably attend us on coming to London ; though I must own, her admonitions had not always the weight I am now convinced they deserved.

I have had a deliverance from such a snare, as I never could have believed would have been laid for a person free from all thought of ill, or been so near succeeding upon one so strongly on her guard as I imagined myself : And thus, my dear Sister, the matter happened :

Returning, on Tuesday, from seeing my cousin Atkins, in Cheapside, I was overtaken by an elderly gentlewoman of a sober and creditable appearance, who walked by my side some little time before she spoke to me ; and then guessing (by my asking the name of the street), that I was a stranger to the town, she very courteously began a discourse with me, and after some other talk, and questions about my country, and the like, desired to know if I did not come to town with a design of going into some genteel place ? I told her, if I could meet with a place to my mind, to wait upon a single lady, I should be very willing to embrace it. She said, I look'd like a creditable, sober, and modest body ; and at that very time she knew one of the best gentlewomen that ever lived, who was in great want of a maid to attend upon her own person ; and that if she liked me, and I her, it would be a lucky incident for us both.

I expressed myself thankfully, and she was so very much in my interest, as to entreat me to go instantly to the lady, lest she should be provided, and acquaint her I was recommended by Mrs. Jones, not doubting, as she said, bat, on enquiry, my character would answer my appearance.

As that, you know, was partly my view in coming to town, I thought this a happy incident, and determined not to lose the opportunity ; and so, according to the direction she gave me, I went to inquire for Mrs. C----, in J----n's Court, Fleet-Street. The neighbourhood

bourhood look'd genteel, and I soon found the house. I ask'd for Mrs. C----; she came to me dress'd in a splendid manner; I told her what I came about; she immediately desired me to walk into the parlour, which was elegantly furnished; and after asking me several questions, with my answers to which she seemed very well pleased, a servant soon brought in a bowl of warm liquor, which she called Negus, consisting of wine, water, orange, &c. which, she said, was for a friend or two she expected presently; but as I was warm with walking, she would have me drink some of it, telling me it was a pleasant innocent liquor, and she always used her waiting-maids as she did herself. I thought this was very kind and condescending, and being warm and thirsty, and she encouraging me, I took a pretty free draught of it, and thought it very pleasant, as it really was. She made me sit down by her, saying pride was not her talent, and that she should always indulge me in like manner, if I behaved well, when she had not company; and then slightly ask'd, what I could do, and the wages I required? With my answers she seemed well satisfied, and granted the wages I asked, without any offer of abatement.

And then I rose up, in order to take my leave, telling her I would, any day she pleased, of the ensuing week, bring my cloaths, and wait upon her.

She said, That her own maid being gone away, she was in the utmost want of another, and would take it kindly, if I would stay with her till next day, because she was to have some ladies to pass the evening with her. I said this would be pretty inconvenient to me, but as she was so situated, I would oblige her, after I had been with my aunt, and acquainted her with it. To this she replyed, That there was no manner of occasion for that, because she could send the cook for what I wanted, who could, at the same time, tell my aunt how matters stood.

I thought this looked a little odd; but she did it with so much civility, and seemed so pleased with her new maid, that I scarcely knew how to withstand her: But the apprehension I had of my aunt's anger for not asking her advice, in what so nearly concerned me, made me insist upon going, though I could

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perceive displeasure in her countenance when she saw  
me resolved.

She then pleyed me very close with the liquor, which she again said was innocent and weak; but I believe it was far otherwise, for my head began to turn round, and my stomach felt a little disordered. I entreated the favour of her to permit me to go, on a firm promise of returning immediately; but then my new mistress began to raise her voice a little, assuring me I should on no account stir out of her house. She left the room, in a sort of a pe, but said she would send the cook to take my directions to my aunt; and I heard her take the key out of the outward door.

This alarmed me very much; and, in the instant of my surprize a young gentlewoman entered the parlour, dressed in white farrin, and every way genteel; she sat down in a chair next me, looked earnestly at me awhile, and seemed going to speak several times, but did not. At length she rose from her chair, and bolted the parlour-door, and, breaking into a flood of tears, expressed herself as follows:

" Dear young woman, I cannot tell you the pain I  
" feel on your account; and, from an inclination to  
" serve you, I run a hazard of involving myself in greater  
" misery than I have yet experienced, if that can be.  
" But my heart is yet too honest to draw others, as I  
" am desired to do, into a snare which I have fallen in-  
" to myself. You are now in as notorious a brothel as  
" is in London: And if you escape not in a few hours,  
" you are inevitably undone. I was once as innocent as  
" you now seem to be. No apprehension you can be  
" under for your virtue; but I felt as much: My repu-  
" tation was as unspotted, and my heart as unversed in  
" ill, when I first entered these guilty doors, whither I came  
" on an errand, much like what I understand has brought  
" you hither. I was by force detained the whole night,  
" as you are designed to be; was robbed of my virtue;  
" and knowing I should hardly be forgiven by my  
" friends for staying out without their knowledge, and  
" in the morning being at a loss, all in confusion as I  
" was, what to do, before I could resolve on any thing,  
" I was obliged to repeat my guilt, and had hardly time  
" afforded me to reflect on its fatal consequence. My  
" liberty

" liberty I intreated to no purpose, and my grief served  
 " for the cruel sport of all around me. In short, I have  
 " been so long confined, that I am ashamed to appear  
 " among my friends and acquaintance. In this dreadful  
 " situation, I have been perplexed with the hateful im-  
 " portunities of different men every day ; and though I  
 " long resorted to my utmost, yet downright force never  
 " failed to overcome. Thus in a shameful round of guilt  
 " and horror, have I lingered out ten months ; subject to  
 " more than tongue can express. The same sad lot is in-  
 " tended you, nor will it be easy to shun it : However, as  
 " I cannot well be more miserable than I am, I will assist  
 " you what I can ; and not, as the wretched procuress  
 " hopes, contribute to make you as unhappy as myself."

You may guess at the terror that seized my heart, on this sad story, and my own danger ; I trembled in every joint, nor was I able to speak for some time ; at last, in the best manner I could, I thanked my unhappy new friend, and begged she would kindly give me the assistance she offered : which she did ; for the first gentleman that came to the door, she stepped up herself for the key to let him in, which the wretched procuress gave her ; and I took that opportunity, as she directed, to run out of the house, and that in so much hurry and confusion, as to leave my cloak, fan, and gloves behind me.

I told my aunt every circumstance of my danger and escape, and received a severe reprimand for my following so inconsiderately, in so wicked a town as this, the direction of an entire stranger.

I am sure, sister, you rejoice with me for my deliverance. And this accident may serve to teach us to be upon our guard for the future, as well against the viler part of our own sex, as that of the other.

I am, dear Sister,

Your truly affectionate Sister.

*N. B. This shocking story is taken from the mouth of the young woman herself, who so narrowly escaped the snare of the vile procuress ; and is fact in every circumstance.*

LETTER CCCXIV.—*To a Bettie Companion abroad, describing the State of a Club to which they belonged.*

Dear Bob,

ACCORDING to desire, I send you an account of what has happened among your old acquaintance since you have been abroad. You will be surprised at the changes which time has produced. To begin then with myself: I have had the misfortune to lose my son *Jo*; and my daughter *Judy* is married, and has brought me another *Jo*. *Jack Kidd of the Fountain*, where we kept our club, has lost his wife, who was a special bar-keeper, and got his maid *Prist*, with child—you remember the slut, by her mincing airs—married her, and is broke: but not till he had, with his horrid rum, poisoned half the society. We began to complain of his wine, you know, before you left us; and I told him he should let *us* have neat, who drank our gallons, if he was honest to *himself*; and, if he was to regard *conscience* as well as *interest*, must do less harm by dispensing his rats-bane to those who drank pints, than to those honest fellows who swallowed gallons. But the dog was incorrigible; for he went on brewing and poisoning, till he killed his best customers; and then what could he expect?

Why, what followed; for, truly, *Bob*, we began to tumble like rotten sheep. As thus: The dance was begun by that season'd finner *Tim Brackley*, the half-pint man, who was always sotting by himself, with his *whets* in the morning, his *correctives* after dinner, and *digesters* at night, and at last tipp'd off of one of the kitchen-benches in an apoplexy. 'Tis true he was not of our club; though we might have taken warning by *his fall*, as the saying is; but we're above it. So the rot got among us; and first, honest *Jack Adams* kick'd up of a fever. *Tom Dandy* fell into a jaundice and dropsy, and when his doctors said he was mending, slipped through their fingers, in spite of their art and assurance. *Roger Harman*, the punster, then tipped off the perch, after very little warning: and was followed in a week by *Arthur Sikes*. *Ralph Atkyns* bid us good-b'ye in a few months after him. And *Ben Tomlyns*, who, you remember, would never go home sober, tumbled down stairs, and broke his collar bone. His *surgeon* took him first, a *fever* next, then his *doctor*; and then, as it were of course, *sick*, a natural round enough, you'll say, *Bob*.

{ His

His widow made a handsome burial for poor *Ben*; took on grievously, and in five weeks married her journeyman. *Jemmy Hawkins* was a long time ailing, yet would not leave off; so he died, as one may say, of a mere natural death. *Ralph Rawlins* fell sick, after a large dose; and had so narrow an escape, that he was frightened into a regimen; and now drinks asses' milk of another complexion than that which gave him his malady; and between *physic* and the *byp*, serves for a *memento mori* to others, and neither lives nor dies himself. While honest Capt. *Tinker*, who was deep gone in a consumption, is in very little better case: and if any thing saves him, and me, and the rest of our once numerous society, it will be the bankruptcy of our worthy landlord; for that has broke up the club.

So much for the club: The account of the neighbourhood I shall reserve for a future letter, and remain,

Your's, &c.

LETTER CCCXV.—*From the same to the same, describing the State of the Neighbourhood.*

Dear Bob,

**A** GREEABLE to your request, I now proceed to a description of the neighbourhood:

Poor *Jerry Jenkins*, the prim mercer, has had a statute taken out against him, and five shillings in the pound is all the result of his pragmatical flurting. *Dan. Pocock* the draper has had an estate left him, and quitted business: while *Sam. Simpson* the grocer has lost one in law, and gone mad upon it. See, *Bob*, the ups and downs of this transitory state! *Harry Barlow* the Turkey merchant has left off to his nephew, and now pines for want of employment. *Joshua Williams* the cheesemonger, a strange projecting fellow, you know! is carried out of his shop into a sponging house by *his own maggots*. *John Jones* the organist is married to *Sykes*'s daughter *Peggy*, who proves an arrant shrew, and has broke about his head his best *Cremona* fiddle, in the sight of half a dozen neighbours. The wife of *Job Johnson*, our sword-cutler, has eloped from him. You know they always lived like dog and cat. *Paul Lane*'s daughter *Poll* has had a bastard by 'Squire *Wilson*'s coachman; and the 'squire's own daughter *Miss Nelly* has run away with her father's postilion. *Dick Jenkyns*, that vile rake and beau, is turned *Quaker*; and that still greater

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libertine, *Peter Mettram*, *Methodist*: While old *Satan*, to  
make up his loss in these two, has subdued *Will Wigley*  
and *Tom Allen*, who you know used to be very hopeful  
young fellows, and are now rakes of the town. *Tony Williams* I had like to have forgot. He has cheated all  
our expectations, having escaped the gallows, and died a  
natural death, after a hundred rogueries, every one of  
which deserved hanging.

Parson *Mattbews* goes on preaching and living excell-  
ently, and has as many admirers as hearers, but no pre-  
ferment: while old clumsy Parson *Dromedary* is made a  
dean, and has hopes, by his sister's means, who is a fa-  
vourite of a certain great man, to be a bishop.

In my next I shall present you with the state of politics  
amongst us, and remain,

Your's, &c.

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LETTER CCCXVI.—*From the same to the same, on  
Politics.*

Dear Bob,

IN my last I wished to give you a sketch of the party  
opinions prevalent amongst us. Very little judgment  
can be formed of these from any of the publications, ei-  
ther diurnal or monthly; nor can we determine concerning  
the state of public affairs, or the conduct of ministers,  
from their vague and contradictory accounts; for while  
some are made as *black* as *devils* on one side, they are  
made as *white* as *angeis* on the other. They never did  
*one good thing*, says the enemy: They never did *one bad*  
says the friend. For my own part, I think, considering  
the undoubted truth of the maxim *Humanum est errare*, and  
how much easier it is to find a fault than to mend one, the  
gentlemen in the administration will be well off, if the  
public will *middle* the matter between the two *extremes*.  
Mean time one side goes on, *accusing* without *mercy*; the  
other *quitting* without *shame*. 'Tis the busines of *one set*  
of newipapers to *bijpatter* and *throw dirt*; and of the  
*other* to follow after them, with a *scrubbing-brush* and a  
*dishclout*: And after all, the one *bedaub* so plentifully, and  
the other *wipes* off so *sooty*, that, let me be hanged, Bob,  
if I'd appear on 'Change in such a motley garb of black  
and white, that a certain great man wears without con-  
cern, when these *aswibers* and *scozurers* have done their  
wor.<sup>?</sup>

avørst and their best upon it. But use, they say, reconciles us to all things. And a great happiness, I'll warrant he thinks it, that with all this *r ubbing* and *s crubbing*, it does not appear *t hreadbare* yet, though a thousand are trying to pick holes in it.

But I have done with news, and my politics, given you, as it were, the world in miniature, think it time to close it ; which I shall do with wishing, that now our poisoning landlord *Kidd* is broke and gone, you were among us your old friends now-and-then, to enliven us and smoke your chearful pipe, as you used to do, when we were all alive and merry. And with this hearty wish, I conclude myself, dear *Bob*,

Your Bottle-Companion, and humble Servant.

**LETTER CCCXVII.—*An Offer of Assistance to a Friend who has received great Losses by a Person's Failure.***

Dear Sir,

I Am exceedingly concerned at the great loss which you have lately sustained, by the failure of Mr. Tranter. I hope you behave under it like the man of prudence you have always shewn yourself, and as one who knows how liable all men are to misfortunes. I think it incumbent, on this occasion, not to console you by words only, but in the spirit, and with the chearfulness of a most sincere friend, to offer my service to answer any present demand, so far as 200l. goes, which you shall have the use of freely for a twelve month, or more, if your affairs require it ; and will even strain a point rather than not oblige you, if more be necessary to your present situation. You'll do me great pleasure in accepting this offer as freely, as it is kindly meant by, dear sir,

Your's most faithfully.

**LETTER CCCXVIII.—*The Friend's Answer, accepting the kind Offer.***

My dear Friend,

HOW shall I find words to express the grateful sense I have of your goodness ? This is an instance of true friendship indeed ! I accept most thankfully of some part of your generous offer, and will give you my bond, payable in a year, for 100l. which is, at present, all I have occasion for; and if I did not know I could then, if not before

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before, answer your goodness as it deserves, I would not  
accept of the favour. This loss is very heavy and affect-  
ing to me, as you may suppose; yet your generous  
friendship is no small comfort to me in it. For so good  
a friend is capable of making any calamity light. I am,  
dear sir,

Your most faithful and obliged humble Servant.

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LETTER CCCXIX.—*Of Consolation to a Friend in  
Prison for Debt.*

Dear Sir,

I Am exceedingly concerned to hear of your confinement.  
I But there is one comfort, that when a man is got to the  
undermost part of fortune's wheel, he may rise, but can-  
not sink lower. You see all around you too many unhappy  
objects reduced to the same distress; and you see them  
either extricating themselves from those difficulties (which  
I hope you soon will), or learning to bear them with a  
true Christian resignation. For well does the wise man  
observe, that *the race is not to the Swift, nor the battle to the Strong, nor riches to a man of Understanding.* And it will  
yield you some consolation, when you reflect, that this  
life is but a state of probation, and he that meets with  
misfortunes here, may, by a proper use of them, and by  
God's Grace, be intitled to a blessed hope; when a pro-  
perous state may make a man forgetful of his duty, and  
so reap no other good but what he finds in this transitory  
life. Remember, my friend, that the *School of Affliction* is  
the *School of Wisdom*; and so behave under this trying ca-  
lamity, as to say, with the Royal Prophet, *It is good for  
me that I was afflicted.*

I think myself, however, not a little unhappy, that  
my circumstances will not permit me to assist you on this  
grievous occasion, in the way a friend would chuse to do,  
if he was able; but if, by my personal attendance on any  
of your creditors or friends, I can do you pleasure or ser-  
vice, I beg you to command me. For, in whatever is in  
my poor power, I am, and shall ever be,

Your faithful Friend and Servant-

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LETTER CCCXX.—*In Answer to the preceding.*

Dear Sir,

I now experience fully the truth of the honest English phrase, that *a friend in need is a friend in deed*. You have filled me with such unspeakable comfort, to find that I am not abandoned by all my old acquaintance, that, in a great measure, your seasonable kindness will enable me to pursue the advice you give me.

But what is most grievous to me in this matter is, my poor wife and children, who have deserved a better fate, had it been in my power to have done better for them, than now I am ever likely to do.

As to your kind offer, my dear friend, I will beg to see you as often as may not be detrimental to your own affairs.

I will get you to go to Mr. Maddox, my principal creditor, and one or two more; I will tell you about what; only fear I shall be too troublesome to you. But you are so kind as to offer your service in this way, and I am reduced to the sad necessity of pushing myself upon you, without the least hope of ever having it in my power to shew you, as I wish to do, how much I am

Your ungrateful, though unhappy Servant.

LETTER CCCXI.—*From a young Gentleman on a Visit in  
in Town, to his Uncle in the Country, describing the Town.*

Honoured Sir,

In compliance with your desire, to send you an account of my observations on this busy scene of action, which, through your indulgence, I am permitted to visit I transmit you the following, as I shall others in succession:

To begin, my cousins carried me, in the first place, to see the Tower of London, which we have heard so much talk of in the country; and which no one that visits this great town omits seeing. 'Tis situated by the Thames side, surrounded with an old wall, about a mile in compass, with a broad deep ditch, which has generally more mud in it than water. All round the outward wall guns are planted, which are fired on particular occasions. At the entrance on the right-hand, we saw the collection of wild beasts kept there; as Lions, Panthers, Tygers, &c. also Eagles, Vultures, &c.

We

We were then carried to the Mint, where we saw the manner of coining money, and striking medals, &c. From thence we went to the Jewel-house, and were shewn the Crown, and the other Regalia, which gave me no small pleasure, as I had never seen these things before, and heard so much talk of them.

We saw the Train of Artillery, in what they call the Grand Storehouse; filled with cannon and mortars, all very fine, a diving-bell, and other curiosities; and I thought, upon the whole, that this great magazine of curiosities and stores was the most worthy of the notice of a stranger to London, of any thing I had been shewn.

From hence they carried me to the Monument, built in remembrance of the fire of London, a very curious pillar, from the gallery of which we had a survey of the whole city. But as it stands low, I cannot say, but I liked the prospect from St. Paul's cupola much better, when I was carried up thither, yesterday; for that being the highest situation in the city, and more in the centre of London and Westminster, commands a fine view over both cities, Hampstead and Highgate hills, Surrey, the river, &c.' The cathedral is a most noble building, and I admired it not a little, for its Choir, Chapels, Dome, Whispering-place, Vaults below, and other curiosities too tedious to mention.

This, sir, may serve for one letter, and to shew you how much I am desirous, by my obedience to your commands, to prove myself

Your dutiful Nephew.

LETTER CCCXXII.—*From the Same, describing various Places about London.*

Honoured Sir,

I have taken a cursory view of the several hospitals in this metropolis, which are in general noble buildings, and reflect the highest honour on their respective founders, and those who have liberally contributed to their support.

The Blue-coat hospital is a noble charity, and the sight of the children at church much delighted me. The Charter-house too is another noble charity.

The Guildhall of London is a handsome building, adorned with paintings of the most eminent judges of England,

England, and monuments to perpetuate the memory of that illustrious statesman William Pitt, earl of Chatham, and William Beckford, a distinguished patriot. The Royal Exchange is likewise a very fine edifice; but they say the statues of the kings and queens there are all ill done, except that of Charles II. in the middle of the area, and one or two more.

I have also seen Westminster-hall, and the two houses where the Lords and Commons meet. They are by no means answerable to what I expected, though the House of Commons is the neatest, and very convenient for hearing and seeing.

Somerset-Place is a noble new pile of building, erected on the spot where Somerset-house lately stood. Here are several of the offices belonging to government, which, from their commodious situation, and other conveniences, may boast a pre-eminence to most in Europe. The Treasury, a fine new building. Whitehall, whose glory is the banqueting-house, justly admired for its architecture by Inigo Jones, and inside painting by Rubens. It is a noble situation for a palace, which, were it to be built like this, would be the most magnificent in the world.

We took coach from hence, and were carried through the principal squares and buildings about London and Westminster, which are highly worth seeing; such as Lincoln's-inn-fields, St. James's square, Soho-square, Hanover-square, Cavendish-square, Grosvenor-square, Portland-place, Manchester-square, Portman-square, and Bedford-square, with the multitude of stately buildings, and noble streets contiguous to the latter; a sight worthy of admiration.

The diversions of Sadler's Wells consist of rope-dancing, vaulting, music, dancing, and pantomime. But the grandest spectacle of all was a representation of their majesties going with the royal family, attended by the nobility, and a superb retinue, to the cathedral of St. Paul. Several who were present at the real procession, declared their surprise at the exactness of this resemblance of it. For my own part, I was so pleased, that I hardly regretted being absent on the memorable 23d of April.

I was equally gratified on another visit to this place of entertainment, by an exhibition of the demolition of the Bastile,

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Bastile, and it will ever serve to check the ambition and  
oppression of tyrants in general.

I remain,

Your dutiful Nephew.

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LETTER CCCXXIII.—*From the same, describing a Passage down the River, with the Humours of Greenwich Park at Holiday-times.*

Honoured Sir,

MY very obliging relations, desirous of gratifying me with a view of every thing curious, accompanied me last Tuesday down the river, on what they call a party of pleasure; but with design principally to see Greenwich-park and hospital.

We took water at the Tower, which I described in my first letter. I was much afraid of danger from anchors, cables, and such-like, as we passed by great numbers of ships, that lay in our way at first setting out. But afterwards the river looked very pleasant, and the number of boats all rowing with the tide, made the prospect very agreeable.

After sailing a few miles, we came within sight of the dock-yard at Deptford, where several large ships upon the stocks afforded a fine sight; as the naval strength of England is both its glory and its defence.

I was highly delighted with the prospect of the royal hospital at Greenwich, for seamen grown old in the service of their country. When we landed we went into this fine building; and in the inside, every thing, in my judgment, was perfectly agreeable to the magnificence of the outside; especially since the late repairs and embellishments, with the addition of a new and most elegant chapel.

From thence we went into the park, where I beheld divers odd scenes of holiday folks. Here appeared a rakish young fellow, with two or three women who looked like servant maids; the hero delighted, the nymphs smiling round him—There a careful-looking father with his children on each side; trains of admiring lovers, ready-paired, followed one another in thronging crowds to the gate; a sea-officer, with a lady not over-burdened with modesty by her behaviour: A cloud of city apprentices, some with, some without their lasses: Half a dozen beaux ogling all

they

they met; and several seemingly disconsolate virgins walking alone. The concourse of middling objects pressed chiefly toward a high hill in the middle of the park; where, as they arrived, their business was to take hold of hands, and run down as fast as possible, amidst the huzza's of a multitude of people, who earnestly expected to see the women fall, in hopes that their cloaths would not lie so conveniently, when they were down, as might be wished.

This, Sir, is a diversion you would not expect so near the polite city of London; but I assure you, such a levity possessed almost every body assembled on this occasion, as made the park, though beautiful in itself, no way entertaining to

Your most dutiful Nephew.

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**LETTER CCCXXIV.—*To a Country Gentleman, describing a public Execution in London.\****

SIR,

I have this day been satisfying a curiosity natural to many people, by seeing an execution at Tyburn:

That I might the better view the prisoners, and escape the pressure of the mob, which is prodigious, nay almost incredible, if we consider the frequency of these executions in London, which are several times in the year, I mounted my horse, and accompanied the melancholy cavalcade from Newgate to the fatal tree. The criminals were five in number. I was much disappointed at the unconcern and carelessness that appeared in the faces of three of the unhappy wretches: the countenances of the other two were spread with that horror and despair which is not to be wondered at in men whose period of life is so near, with the terrible aggravation of its being hastened by their own voluntary indiscretion and misdeeds. The exhortation spoken by the bell-man, from the wall of St. Sepulchre's church-yard, was well intended, but the noise of the officers, and the mob, was so great, and the idle curiosity of people climbing into the cart to take leave of the criminals, made such a confused noise, that I could not hear the words of the exhortation when spoken; though they are as follow:

“ All good people, pray heartily to God for these poor

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\* This letter was written some time before the place of execution for the County of Middlesex was removed from Tyburn to the Old-Bailey.

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“ poor sinners, who now are going to their deaths; for  
“ whom this great bell doth toll.

“ You that are condemned to die, repent with lamentable tears. Ask mercy of the Lord for the salvation of your own souls, through the Merits, Death, and Passion, of Jesus Christ, who now sits at the Right-hand of God, to make intercession for as many of you as penitently return unto him.

“ *Lord have Mercy upon you! Christ have Mercy upon you!*”—Which last words the bell-man repeats three times.

All the way up Holborn the crowd was so great, as, at every twenty or thirty yards, to obstruct the passage; and wine (notwithstanding a good order against that practice) was brought the malefactors, who drank greedily of it, which I thought did not suit well with their deplorable circumstances: after this, the three thoughtless young men, who at first seemed not enough concerned, grew most shamefully daring and wanton; behaving themselves in a manner that would have been ridiculous in men in any circumstance whatever: they swore, laughed, and talked obscenely, and wished their wicked companions good luck, with as much assurance as if their employment had been the most lawful.

At the place of execution, the scene grew still more shocking; and the clergyman who attended was more the subject of ridicule, than of their serious attention. A Psalm was sung amid the curses and quarrelling of hundreds of the most abandoned and profligate of mankind, many of whom were picking pockets at the same time: All the whole preparation of the unhappy wretches seems to serve only for the subject of a barbarous kind of mirth, altogether inconsistent with humanity. And as soon as the poor creatures were half dead, I was much surprised, before such a number of peace-officers, to see the populace fall to hailing and pulling the carcasses with so much earnestness, as to occasion several warm encounters and broken heads. These, I was told, were the friends of the persons executed, or as such, for the sake of tumult, chose to appear so, and some persons sent by private surgeons to obtain bodies for dissection. The contests between these were fierce and bloody, and frightful to look at; so that I rode back among a large number of people, who had been upon

the same errand with myself. The face of every one spoke a kind of mirth, as if the spectacle they had beheld had afforded pleasure instead of pain, which I am wholly unable to account for.

In other nations, common criminal executions are said to be little attended by any beside the necessary officers, and the mournful friends; but here, all was hurry and confusion, racket and noise, praying and oaths, swearing and singing psalms: I am unwilling to impute this difference in our own from the practice of other nations, to the cruelty of our natures; to which, foreigners, however, to our dishonour ascribe it. In most instances, let them say what they will, we are humane beyond what other nations can boast; but in this, the behaviour of my countrymen is past my accounting for; every street and lane I passed through bearing rather the face of holiday, than of that sorrow which I expected to see, for the untimely deaths of five members of the community.

One of the bodies was carried to the lodging of his wife, who not being in the way to receive it, they immediately hawked it about to every surgeon they could think of; and when none would buy it, they rubbed tar all over it, and left it in a field hardly covered with earth.

I assure you I shall not again take so much pains to see another execution.

Your's affectionately.

LETTER CCCXXV.—*From a Tradesman, under Confinement at the suit of a merciless Creditor.*

SIR,

FROM the dreadful effects of the miseries I have undergone, this may most probably be the last time I shall be able to trouble you with a representation of my deplorable state and condition. In a word, the prisoners are so numerous, and the allowance so scanty, as scarcely to afford us a mere subsistence. You cannot charge me with extravagance, or neglect of business. You are the sole creditor that confines and prevents me from exerting myself in my avocation to do that justice I wish to do to all mankind. Listen then to the dictates of humanity, and, by rescuing me from impending death, secure to yourself the only means of putting me into a condition of paying

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ing that debt which must otherwise be forfeited to your  
cruelty. I am, Sir,

Your wretched Supplicant.

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LETTER CCCXXVI.—*From a surly old Fellow, on a  
Visit in London, to a Country Neighbour.*

Neighbour John,

I Most desire you to order my folks at home to prepare things for my return, which I assure you shall be as speedy as possible, being heartily sick of this town, and every object that I behold in it. All is puff and parade; I cannot pass along the streets without being poisoned with the folly and impertinence of knaves or blockheads. One recommends to me the perusal of a book, of which he never read more than the title page, because it was penned by a hum drum fellow, that laughs at his dull insipid jokes, and another salutes me with a reverend bow, and asks me the time of the day, though I never beheld him before in my life. Another professes himself my most humble servant, though he would not lend me a shilling to keep me from starving. Another asks me for the loan of a guinea, complimenting me as a worthy good-natured gentleman. One solicits my company at the tavern, another to the play, though neither of them know whether I have any relish for wine or grimace. A third would lure me into a brothel, with an assurance of finding there one of the loveliest creatures upon earth, when at the same time she is the essence of every thing detestable, and instead of inspiring love, fit only to create disgust. I was recommended by a doating old fool, to go to hear Doctor Drone, merely because the Doctor was his bottle-companion; and subjected to the disgrace of the congregation, by snoring, from the effects of his very composing discourse. In short, I cannot be quiet either at home or abroad; nor can I take any amusement, eat, or sleep, without interruption. For want of air I have no appetite; for want of quiet I cannot rest; and from the continual hurry, noise, and bustle, of this execrable town, I do not know whether I retain my senses. Indeed, if I was to stay here much longer, I verily believe I should forget my mother-tongue, if not my own name. Deliver the enclosed to Mrs. Trusty, and expect me shortly amongt my good coun-

try

try neighbours, that I may enjoy a happy riddance from the tiresome life I have led in this sort of distraction, noise, and nonsense.

LETTER CCCXXVII.—*From a Usurer in the Country, to his Son, in Town.*

Dear Dick,

WHATEVER you do, take care not to run into the fashionable mode of expensive dress. Shun long tailors' bills as you would shun a pestilence. You have not worn your last suit above a year and a half, so that you may get them turned, and, with new metal buttons, they will look very handsome. I never had a suit but once in three years. I desire you would call on Mr. Luckless, of Gray's-Inn, Mr. Spendall, of the Temple, and Mr. Gayleſs, of the Strand, and tell 'em if I have not civility money, I shall put into force the bonds I have against them. Be not put off with the fine oily promises of Mr. Brilliant, the lace-man, but touch him at once, and bring an execution on his body and goods, for you know I have a judgement, and that will serve both you and me. If you neglect this opportunity, I shall lose two hundred pounds before they have brought me so little as cent. per cent. Dispatch your business, and haffen to the country, for consider the charges you are liable to in town, as you cannot dine at home, and provisions are so dear that a meal at the cook's-shop cannot stand you in less than four-pence.

I am, your loving Father,

LUKE LOVEGOLD.

LETTER CCCXXVIII.—*A Father to a Daughter in Service, on hearing of her Master's attempting her Virtue.*

My dear Daughter,

I Understand, with great grief of heart, that your master has made some attempts on your virtue, and yet that you stay with him. God grant that you have not already yielded to his base desires! for when once a person has so far forgotten what belongs to himself, or his character, as to make such an attempt, the very continuance with him, and in his power, and under the same roof, is an encouragement to him to prosecute his designs. And if he carries it better, and more civil, at present, it is only

the

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the more certainly to undo you when he attacks you next.  
Consider, my dear child, your reputation is all you have  
to trust to. And if you have not already, which God for-  
bid ! yielded to him, leave it not to the hazard of another  
temptation ; but come away directly (as you ought to have  
done on your own motion) at the command of

Your grieved and indulgent Father.

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LETTER CCCXXIX.—*The Daughter's Answer.*

Honoured Father,

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

Your dutiful Daughter.

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LETTER CCCXXX.—*Humorous Letter to a Friend, ad-  
vising him to turn Quack:*

Dear Jack,

AS a proof of my concern for your misfortunes, I  
send you the trifle enclosed, and with it a word of  
advice, which I hope you will take in good part : Of all  
the pursuits in life, I know of none more profitable than  
that of Quackery, and particularly so in the article of  
physic, by which the merest blockheads, through dint of  
assurance, and of external parade, live in elegance, and  
many of them acquire considerable fortunes. Now, as  
you have a pregnant genius, aided by a liberal education,  
I think you might figure away in that capacity with honour  
and profit. With the necessary apparatus you may be  
easily furnished ; these consist of a few physick books, a  
collection of recipes, hard terms, and ambiguous phrases,  
above the comprehension of the vulgar. In the wording  
of your bill, you must be prolix without meaning, and  
copious without matter, remembering, that, like the  
lawyer, tautology is the life and soul of your profession. In  
a word, take my advice, and I do not know but you may at-  
tain to the dignity of an alderman, if not to that of a  
member of parliament.

I am, your's, &c.

L E P

LETTER CCCXXXI.—*From a prodigal Spendthrift, to his Comrade, on coming into Possession of a capital Fortune.*

Dear Tom,

THE old gentleman, my venerable Sire, has bid this world adieu; though, for my own part, I must ingenuously confess, I thought his *quietus* rather tardy. In lamenting his departure, I should prove myself both fool and hypocrite. In the first instance, as from a decay of nature, his life could not be expected to be protracted much longer; in the latter, as my finances, which ran very short, are by his removal so considerably augmented. His avarice and penury, however, have produced me a good Twenty Thousand, Friend Tom, and as I find all his œconomy would not ensure to him a continued enjoyment of his darling pelf, why here goes for a merry life, if not a long one; my joys shall be concentered in jovial company, women, and wine. When the funeral rites are over, and the forms of law gone through, I shall hasten to London, that seat of pleasure, and rendezvous of the gay; then let the ladies take care of their hearts, for I think my elegant person, displayed to the best advantage, with the accompaniment of a magnificent carriage, splendid retinue, &c. will be irresistible. I am determined to adopt the good old adage, “While we live let us live.” Never to anticipate the ills of age, but enjoy my bottle and my friend as long as I am able, and amongst the rest none more cordially than yourself.

I remain, as ever, your's sincerely,

LUKE LIVEAWAY.

LETTER CCCXXXII.—*To a Friend, dissuading him from going to Law.*

Dear Sir,

I Am sorry to hear, that the difference between you and Mr. Archer is at last likely to be brought to a law-suit. I wish you'd take it into your serious consideration before you begin, because it will hardly be in your power to end it when you please. For you immediately put the matter out of your own hands, into the hands of those whose interest it is to protract the suit from term to term, and who will as absolutely prescribe to you in it, as your physician in a dangerous illness.

K

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The law, my good friend, I look upon, more than anything, as the proper punishment of an over-hasty and perverse spirit, as it is a punishment that follows an act of a man's own seeking and chusing. You will not consent, perhaps, now to submit the matter in dispute to reference; but let me tell you, that, after you have expended large sums of money, and squandered away a deal of time in attendance on your lawyers, and preparations for hearings, one term after another, you will probably be of another mind, and be glad, seven years hence, to leave it to that arbitration which now you refuse. "He is happy who is wise by other mens misfortunes", says the common adage: and why, when you have heard from all your acquaintance, who have tryed the experiment, what a grievous thing the law is, will you, notwithstanding, pay for that wisdom, which you may have at the cost of others?

The representation that was once hung up as a sign in the Rolls liberty, on one side, of a man all in rags, wringing his hands, with a label, importing, *That he had lost his suit*; and on the other, a man that had not a rag left, but stark naked, capering and triumphing, *That he had carry'd his cause*; was a fine emblem of going to law, and the infatuating madness of a litigious spirit.

How excellent to this purpose is the advice of our blessed SAVIOUR, rather than seek this redress against any who would even *take one's coat*, to give him *his cloak also*! For, besides the christian doctrine inculcated by this precept, it will be found, as the law is managed, and the uncertainty that attends, even in the best-grounded litigations, that such a pacifick spirit may be deemed the only way to preserve the rest of one's garments, and to prevent being stript to the skin.

What prudent man would rush into a proceeding where his property may depend, perhaps, on a perjured evidence swearing whatever will do for his subscriber's purpose! Where the tricks and mistakes of practisers, and want of trifling forms, may nonsuit you! Where deaths of persons made parties to the suit, may cause all to begin again! what wise man would subject himself to the vexations and common incidents in the law, if he could any way avoid it; together with the intolerable expences and attendances consequent on a law-suit? Besides the fears, the cares, the anxieties, that revolve with

with every term, and engross all a man's thoughts; where legal proofs must be given to the plainest facts; that a living man is living, and identically himself; and that a dead man is dead, and buried by certificate; where evidence must be brought at a great expence to hands and seals affixed to deeds and receipts, that never were before questioned, till a cause shall be split into several under-ones; these tryed term by term; and years elapse before the main point comes to be argued, though originally there was but one single point, as you apprehended, in the question. As to the law-part only, observe the process: First, comes the Declaration; 2dly, a Plea; 3dly, Demurrer to the Plea; 4thly, a Joinder in Demurrer; 5thly, a Rejoinder; 6thly, a Sur-rejoinder; which sometimes is conclusive, sometimes to begin all over again. Then may succeed tryals upon the law part, and tryals upon the equity part; oftentimes new tryals, or Re-hearings; and these followed by Writs of Error.

Then you may be plunged into the gulf of Chancery, where you begin with Bills and Answers, containing hundreds of sheets at exorbitant prices, fifteen lines in a sheet, and six words in a line (and a stamp to every sheet) bare-facedly so contrived to pick your pocket. Then follow all the train of Examinations, Interrogatories, Exceptions, Bills amended, References for scandal and impertinence, new Allegations, new Interrogatories, new Exceptions, on pretence of insufficient answers, Replies, Rejoinders, and Sur-rejoinders; till, at laist, when you have danced through this blessed round of *Preparation*, the *Hearing* before the Master of the Rolls comes next; Appeals follow from his Honour to the Chancellor; then from the Chancellor to the House of Lords; and sometimes the parties are sent down from thence for a new tryal in the courts below.—Good Heavens! What wise man, permit me to repeat, would enter himself into this confounding *circle of the law*,

I hope, dear sir, you will think of this matter most deliberately, and believe me,

Your sincere Friend and Servant.

## COMPLIMENTARY CARDS.

**C**Omplimentary Cards should always be short, easy, and consistent with politeness. They should contain but one subject, and that expressed with elegance and ease.

MISS AIRY's respectful compliments to Lady Blond, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to Tea and Coffee.

*Tuesday Morn.*

LADY BLOND's compliments to Miss Airy, is happy to accept her polite invitation.

*Tuesday Noon.*

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

*Wednesday Morn.*

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

*Wednesday, 2 o'Clock.*

LORD AIRY's compliments to Sir John Bright, should esteem it as a favour to be obliged with his company to take an airing to Kew—the chariot to be at the door at three.

*Friday Noon.*

SIR JOHN BRIGHT's respectful compliments to Lord Airy, will be happy to attend his Lordship punctually at the time.

*Friday, 1 o'Clock.*

MISS SPINNET's compliments, should be glad of Miss Guittar's company to pick a bit of dinner with her.

*Saturday, 8 o'Clock.*

MISS GUITTAR's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Spinet.

*Saturday, 10 o'Clock.*

MRS. SHADWELL's compliments to Miss Cloudy, should be glad of her agreeable company to pass the afternoon.

*10 o'Clock Morn.*

MISS

MISS CLOUDY's compliments to Mrs. Shadwell, cannot have the pleasure of accepting her agreeable invitation, being engaged in a party to the Museum.

*11 o'Clock Morn.*

LORD HAIRBRAIN's compliments to Mr. Sparrow, should be glad of his company in the evening to Vauxhall.

*Thursday, 4 o'Clock.*

MR. SPARROW's respectful compliments to Lord Hairbrain, must deny himself the pleasure of attending his Lordship, being already engaged in a party to Ranelagh.

*Thursday, 5 o'Clock.*

MR. GOODWIN's compliments wait on Miss Drury, to request the favour of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

MISS DRURY's compliments to Mr. Goodwin, acquaints him that she is engaged.

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## The PETITIONER's INSTRUCTOR.

AS Petitions are in general addressed to persons of superior rank or fortune, their compass should be as short, and their form as striking as possible. The main points are to represent the distressed state of the petitioner, and appeal to the humanity of the person addressed, in such manner as to obtain the desired relief.

Let the writer be careful to place the introductory superscription and address, at a considerable distance from the body of the petition, and the concluding prayer likewise should never be crowded near the preceding words.

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### P E T I T I O N S.

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

*To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.*

*The humble Petition of M. N.*

*Most respectfully Sherweth,*

*T*HAT your Majesty's most unhappy petitioner was convicted in May sessions, for having committed a robbery, (or burglary) and received sentence of death accordingly; but from the known benevolence of

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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 con-  
cord 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 †.*

---

*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 A. B.*

*Siculus,*

THAT your petitioner has lived many years in cre-  
dit, but through long sickness, and many losses in  
trade, is unable to bestow upon his youngest son an edu-  
cation 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 necessity. That your  
petitioner has nothing more to subsist on, but what he earns  
by

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\* This part, when requisite, to be omitted.

† With the alteration of a few words, the same petition will serve  
for either sex.

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 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 B.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sheweth,*

THAT your petitioner's late husband was a laborious and industrious honest man: that he was both by birth and servitude one of your parishioners. That whilst he enjoyed his health, it was his constant practice to do every thing in his power for the support of his family: that he was lately seized with a violent sever, 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.*

*To the Right Honourable the First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, for a Tide Waiter's Place in the Custom-House.*

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

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sheweth,*

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up in a trade, which at present is so bad that few hands are employed in it, and even those can scarce procure a subsistence. That your petitioner has sought for every opportunity to obtain employment in vain, and at present is left in a very distressed condition. That your

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petitioner being desirous to apply himself to some useful  
employment, and finding that some tide-waiters are at pre-  
sent 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.*

---

*From a poor reduced Widow, to a Lady, with whom she had  
lived as a Servant.*

*The bumble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherbet,*

THAT your petitioner was formerly one of your do-  
mestic servants, in the character of a chamber-maid:  
that she was married from your Ladyship's house to John  
Porter, a victualler, at the sign of the Red-lion, in Thrift-  
street: 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 con-  
vinced 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.*

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*To the India Company, from a young Gentleman, to be Surgeon's  
Mate on board one of their ships.*

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

*The bumble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherbet,*

THAT your petitioner served an apprenticeship to an  
eminent surgeon in the country, and afterwards at-  
tended the practice of the different hospitals in London;  
that having been examined at the company's hall, he  
was discharged with a certificate of his ability to exercise  
the profession of a surgeon, either at home or abroad.

*That*

That your petitioner being young, would willingly spend some part of his time in visiting different nations, particularly the East-Indies, in order to make himself acquainted with the disorders peculiar to these climates: that not having it in his power to go at his own expence, he has presumed to solicit the honourable directors to be admitted as surgeon, or surgeon's mate, on board of one of their outward-bound-ships; and as he presumes that his abilities will be found sufficient for the discharge of his duty, so likewise it shall be his principal study to treat every one of the patients committed to his care with the greatest humanity. That your petitioner shall, in all things, conform to the rules prescribed for his conduct, and if so happy as to succeed, shall,

*As in duty bound, ever pray.*

*From an aged and decayed Tradesman, to be admitted a Pensioner in the Charter-House.*

*To the Right Honourable the Governors of the Charter-House.*

*The bumble Petitioner of A. B.*

*Sherwetb,*

THAT your petitioner has lived many years in credit as a grocer, and brought up a large family of children: that having been afflicted with long illness, his business was utterly neglected; which, by many other losses, he was obliged to le: his shop, after having paid all his just debts; that your petitioner being not only destitute of all manner of employment, but also in great want of every necessary of life, he humbly begs to be admitted a pensioner in the Charter House.

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

*From a poor distressed Man, to a Gentleman in the same Neigbourhood.*

*To R. B. Esq.*

*The bumble Petition of Oliver Shenston.*

*Sherwetb,*

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

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tioner 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, he has ventured, in great  
humility, to lay his distressed case before you. The  
smallest matter for an immediate support will be ever  
gratefully acknowledged.

*And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

*From a Tradesman under great Difficulties, to his principal  
Creditors, for a Letter of Licence.*

To E. R. G. S.

*The bumble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherbet,*

THAT your petitioner has long carried on business,  
and brought up a numerous family: that having  
lately trusted goods to a considerable amount, to a person  
in whom he placed the greatest confidence, he soon after  
became insolvent, and he was obliged to stop payment:  
that altho' his debts are but small sums, yet being liable  
to be arrested, and confined in prison, he has taken this  
method of applying to you his worthy creditors: that from  
a review of his conduct ever since you have known him,  
he presumes you are convinced of his integrity and honour:  
that your petitioner having hopes of retrieving his losses in  
a little time, most humbly begs that you will be pleased  
to sign the inclosed letter of licence, by which your pe-  
titioner will be enabled to follow his business without  
interruption.

*And, as in duty bound, he will ever pray.*

---

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

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

*The bumble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherbet,*

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be se-  
duced by a young man under promise of marriage,  
although he afterwards deserted her: that your petitioner  
being

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 delivered 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, as in duty bound, will ever pray.*

*From a Mechanic, to the Trustees of a Charity-School; in behalf of a Boy.*

*To the Trustees of the Parish of St. Clement's.*

*The humble Petition of George Brown:*

*Sherweth,*

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a buckle-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 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 Prisoner for a small Debt, to a Gentleman celebrated for his Humanity.*

*To G. E. Esq.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherweth,*

THAT your petitioner has laboured many years to provide for a family of young children: that having been some 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

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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 he is confined, does not exceed forty shillings; and if you will be pleased to interpose so far in his favour to set him at liberty, and restore him to his family, his future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

*And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

*From a disabled Seaman, to be admitted on the Chest at Chatham.*

*To the Honourable the Commissioners of the Navy.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Siceweth,*

THAT your petitioner served ten years on board the Dreadnought, 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 a disbanded old Soldier, to be admitted into Chelsea Hospital.*

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

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Shecceth,*

THAT your petitioner served twenty 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, he 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 poor Citizen, to be admitted into Bancroft's Alms-Houses.*

*To the Worshipful the Trustees of Bancroft's Alms-Houses.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sheweth,*

**T**HAT 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 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 worships will find him a proper object of charity.

*And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

*From a poor Woman, to the Churchwardens of C. for the Christmas Bounty of Coals.*

*To the Churchwardens of C.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sheweth,*

**T**HAT 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 indutrious 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, 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 A. B.*

*Sheweth,*

**T**HAT 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

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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 Sailor, late in the Merchants Service, to be admitted  
as a Pensioner.*

*To the Directors of the Office for wounded Seamen in the  
Merchants Service.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sbeweth,*

**T**HAT your petitioner served as a seaman on board  
the ship Nightingale, trading to the Levant; that  
your petitioner continued near twenty years in the said  
service, until he was disabled by a fall from the mizen-  
mast, by which one of his arms was broken, and other-  
wise so much bruised, that he is utterly incapable of  
going to sea: that not having been brought up to any  
other employment, and destitute of every necessary of  
life, he humbly begs to be admitted as one of your  
pensioners.

*And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

*From a poor Sailor's Sister, praying that his 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 C. O.*

*Sbeweth,*

**T**HAT your petitioner is the sister of O. late mariner  
on board his majesty's ship the Medway: that your  
petitioner's brother 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 his  
infant daughter, whom she has by her labour supported  
till this time: that your petitioner is earnestly desirous  
that the child might receive such an education as would  
qualify her for an useful member of society; and as it is  
not now in her power, from long lameness, to be at that  
expence, she humbly prays that his daughter, who is now  
seven years of age, may be admitted as one of the orphans  
of your foundation.

*And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

*From*

*From a Person afflicted with Illness, to be admitted into an Hospital.*

*To the President and Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherweth,*

**T**HAT your petitioner has long been afflicted with a severe illness, and having spent all 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 a poor labouring Man, who had been impressed for Sea Service.*

*To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherweth,*

**T**HAT your petitioner, a poor hard working industrious man, has a wife and four children, who have nothing to subsist on but your petitioner's wages as a journeyman carpenter: that your petitioner, last night returning from his work to his family, was stopped by a press-gang, and carried on board a tender in the river, where he now is: that being utterly unacquainted with the sea, and as inevitable ruin will be the consequence to his family, he earnestly begs that your lordships will order him to be discharged.

*And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

*From a poor Man, whose Goods had been seized for Rent, to a worthy Gentleman in the same Neighbourhood.*

*To R. D. Esq.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

*Sherweth,*

**T**HAT your petitioner has always laboured hard to support his family. That his wife, and two of his children, having been long confined to a sick bed, run him to so much expence, that he had it not in his power to pay his landlord half a year's rent due last quarter-day. That

your

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your petitioner's landlord came yesterday and seized his  
goods, and unless redeemed in five days, they will be ap-  
praised and sold. That your petitioner has often heard of  
your great humanity to the afflicted, and humbly begs that  
you will so far interpose, as to save a poor honest man and  
his family from being turned into the streets.

*And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.*

---

## FORMS OF LAW, &c.

[Having presented our Readers with Letters on the most im-  
portant Concerns in Life, and Forms for writing Compli-  
mentary Cards, together with a great Variety of Petitions,  
from People in lower, or middling Stations of Life, to those  
in bigger Stations, we have here added some useful Forms  
in Law, such as Bonds, Wills, &c.]

### A B O N D.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I John Jones,  
of the Parish of St. Martin, in the county of Middle-  
sex, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to John Davis,  
of the said county of Middlesex, Esq. in the penal sum of  
two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great-  
Britain, to be paid to the said John Davis, or to his cer-  
tain attorney, his executors, administrators, or assigns;  
for the true payment whereof I bind myself, my heirs,  
executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents,  
sealed with my seal. Dated this second day of December,  
in the year of the reign of our sovereign  
Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great-  
Britain, France, and Ireland, king, defender of the faith,  
and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand  
seven hundred and

The condition of this

obligation is such, That if the above bounden John Jones,  
his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly  
pay, or cause to be paid to the above-named John Davis,  
his executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of  
one hundred pounds, of good and lawful money of Great-  
Britain, on the first day of September next ensuing the date  
hereof,

hereof, with lawful interest, then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

JOHN JONES.

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

WILLIAM DUN,  
RICHARD WHITE.

\* \* 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.

### LETTER OF ATTORNEY.

**K**NOW all men by these presents, that I *Thomas Brown*, of *Highgate*, in the county of *Middlesex*, gentleman, (for divers considerations and good causes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, constitute and appoint, my trusty friend *John White*, of *London*, 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 *Brentford*, in the said county, the sum of sixty pounds; giving, and by these presents granting to my said attorney, my sole and full power and authority, to take, pursue, and follow such legal courses, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining of the same, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and upon the receipt of the same, acquittances, and other sufficient discharges, for me, and in my name, to make, sign, seal, and deliver; as also one more attorney, or attorneys under him, to substitute or appoint, and again at his pleasure to revoke; and further to do, perform, and finish for me, and in my name, all and singular thing and things, which shall or may be necessary, and entirely as I the said *Thomas Brown*, 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, in and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents: In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the first day of *November*, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord *George the Third*, by the

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the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland,  
defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God  
one thousand seven hundred and —

THOMAS BROWN.

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

RICHARD EDWARDS,  
CHARLES SMITH.

---

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

KNOW all men by these presents, that I John Fore-  
castle, mariner, now belonging to his majesty's ship  
the *Terrible*, for divers good causes and considerations me-  
thereunto moving, have, and by these presents do make my  
trusty friend, (or beloved wife) Thomas Trusly, citizen and  
baker of London, my true and lawful attorney, for me,  
and in my name, and for my use, to ask, demand, and  
receive, of and from the right honourable the treasurer, or  
pay-master of his majesty's navy, and commissioners of  
prize-money, and whom else it may concern, as well all  
such wages, and pay, bounty-money, prize-money, and  
all other sum and sums of money whatsoever, as now are,  
and which hereafter shall and may be due, or payable unto  
me; also all such pensions, salaries, smart-money, or all  
other moneys or things whatsoever, which now are, or at any  
time hereafter shall or may be due unto me, for my services  
or otherwise, in any one of his majesty's ship or ships of war,  
frigates or vessels: Giving and hereby granting, unto my said  
attorney, full and whole power, to take, pursue, and fol-  
low, such legal ways and courses, for the recovery, re-  
ceiving, 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 attor-  
ney 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  
second day of November, one thousand seven hundred and —

JOHN FORECASTLE.

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

A. B.  
C. D.

A WILL.

## A W I L L.

In the name of God, *Amen*. The third day of *October*, one thousand seven hundred and ——

I *Richard Jones*, of the parish of *St. Bride*, in the city of *London*, grocer, being in health of body, and of sound mind and memory, do make this my last will and testament, at the same time utterly revoking all former wills made by me, declaring this to be my last will and testament.

*First*, I give and bequeath to my sister, *Mary Jones*, the sum of one hundred pounds. To my sister, *Anne Jones*, ninety pounds. To my brother, *Henry Jones*, one hundred and fifty pounds. To my brother, *David Jones*, fifty pounds. To my nephew, *James Jones*, thirty pounds, and to my two executors, twenty pounds each for their trouble. And *lastly*, after all my just debts are paid, I give and bequeath the whole rest and residue of my estates, whether real or personal, and all my stock in trade, and every thing I am possessed whatsoever or wheresoever, to my son, *Richard Jones*.

At the same time I do appoint Mr. *George Wilson*, draper, and Mr. *Robert Brown*, mercer, of the same parish, joint executors of this my last will and testament, to which I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this first of *March*, in the year of our *Lord*, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two.

RICHARD JONES.

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

JOHN BROWN,  
WILLIAM GREEN,  
HENRY OVERTON.

*An INDENTURE for an APPRENTICE.*

THIS indenture witnesseth, That *William White*, son of *John White*, late of *Epsom*, in the county of *Surrey*, hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily, and of his own free will and accord, put himself apprentice to *John Green*, citizen and linen-draper of *London*, to learn his art, trade, or mystery, after the manner of an apprentice, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, for and during the full term of seven years next ensuing; during all

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all which time he the said apprentice his said master shall  
faithfully serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands  
every where gladly obey. He shall do no damage to his  
said master, nor see it to be done by others, without letting  
or giving notice thereof to his said master. He shall not  
waste his said master's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to  
others. He shall not commit fornication, nor contract  
matrimony within the said term. At cards, dice, or any  
unlawful game, he shall not play, whereby his said master  
may be damaged. With his own goods, or goods of others,  
during the term, without licence of his said master, he shall  
neither buy nor sell. He shall not absent himself day nor  
night from his said master's service, without his leave, nor  
haunt alehouses, taverns, or play-houses; but in all things  
behave himself as a faithful apprentice ought to do, during  
the said term. And the said master shall use the utmost of  
his endeavours to teach, or cause to be taught and in-  
structed, the said apprentice in the trade and mystery he  
now professeth, occupieth, or followeth; and procure and  
provide for him the said apprentice sufficient meat, drink,  
apparel, washing, and lodging, fitting for an apprentice,  
during the said term. And for the true performance of all  
and every the said covenants and agreements, either of the  
said parties bind themselves unto the criner by their presents.  
In witness whereof they have interchangeably put their  
hands and seals, this tenth day of November, in the

year of the reign of our sovereign lord  
*George III.* by the grace of God, king of Great-Britain,  
*France*, and *Ireland*, defender of the faith; and in the year  
of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and ——

WILLIAM WHITE,  
JOHN GREEN.

GEORGE JOHNSON. } Witnesses.  
THOMAS PINE. }

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

A BILL

## A BILL of SALE of GOODS.

**K**NOW all men by these presents, that I, *John Brown*, for, and in consideration of the sum of pounds to me in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivering hereof, by *J. Harris*, of the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, *have bargained and sold*, and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said *James Harris*, all the goods, household-stuff, and implements of household, and all other goods whatsoever, mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, now remaining and being in

*To have and to hold* all and singular the goods, household-stuff, and implements of household, and every of them, by these presents, bargained and sold unto the said *James Harris*, his executors, administrators, and assigns for ever. And I, the said *John Brown*, for myself, my executors, and administrators, all and singular of the said goods, unto the said *James Harris*, his executors, administrators, and assigns, against me the said *John Brown*, my executors, administrators, and assigns, and against all, and every other person and persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant, and for ever defend, by these presents; of which goods I the said *John Brown* have put the said *James Harris* in full possession, by delivering him one silver tankard, &c. at the sealing hereof: In witness whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this tenth day of *June*, in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and ——

JOHN BROWN.

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

EDWARD WHITE,  
WILLIAM WEBB.

## A GENERAL RELEASE.

**K**NOW all men by these presents, that I *William Jarvis*, of *Brentford*, in the county of *Middlesex*, grocer, having remised, released, and for ever quit claim to *Benjamin Alton*, in the county of *Middlesex* aforesaid, carpenter, his heirs, executors, and administrators, of all, and all manner of action and actions, suits, bills, bonds, writings, debts, dues, duties, accompts, sum and sums of money, leases, mortgages, judgements by confession, or otherwise obtained, executions, extents, quarrels, controversies, trespasses, damages, and demands whatsoever, which

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which by law or equity, or otherwise soever, I the said *William Jarvis*, against the said *Benjamin Alton*, ever had, and which I, my heirs, executors, administrators, shall, or may claim, challenge, or demand, for or by reason, means, or colour of any matter, cause, or thing whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of these presents: In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this fifth day of *February*, in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and ——————

WILLIAM JARVIS.

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

ROBERT JAMESON,

ALEXANDER WILSON.

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

Forms very necessary for Persons in Business.

NOTE OF HAND.

London, Feb. 12, 179

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

\* \* \* Mr. Trust, to make this note negotiable, must inscribe his name on the back, and so must every person thro' whose hand it goes.

BILL OF EXCHANGE.

SIR, London, Feb. 11, 179

ONE month after date (sight, or at sight) please to pay Mr. Obligation, or order, the sum of pounds, shillings, and pence, and place the same to the account of Your humble servant, To A. B.

M. ———, merchant, Cornhill.

\* \* \* Before this bill is rendered properly negotiable, 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 acceptor's side.

††† 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.

Suitable

*Suitable Directions for addressing PERSONS of all RANKS,  
either in Writing or Discourse.*

TO the King's Most Excellent Majesty, *Sire, or, May it please your Majesty.*

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 Duke of S. *My Lord Duke, or, May it please your Grace, or, Your Grace.*

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

To the Right Honourable the Earl of B. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. the Lord Viscount D. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable the Lord F. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

The Sons of Dukes, Marquises, and the eldest Sons of Earls have 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 *Equires*, 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 Lord's, or, May it please your Lordships.*

To the Right Hon. Sir F. N. Speaker of the House of Commons.

*To the Clergy.*

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

To the Lord Bishop of S. *My Lord.*

To the Dean of C. or Archdeacon, or Chancellor, *Reverend Sir, &c.*

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

*To the Soldiers and Navy.*

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

All Colonels are stiled Honourable; all inferior Officers should have the Name of their Employment set first; as for Example, To Major W. C. to Captain T. H. &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 Plenipotentiaries, foreign Governors, and the Lord Lieutenant, and Lord Justices of Ireland.

To

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

To his Excellency, P. F. Esq. Ambassador to his Most Christian Majesty, *Sir, or, Your Excellency.*

*To the Judges and Lawyers.*

All the Judges, if Privy-Counsellors, are styled *Right Honourable*; 26 for instance:

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

To the Right Hon. P. V. Master of the Rolls, *Sir, Your Honour.*

To the Right Hon. Sir G. L. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, or of the Common Pleas, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

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

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

To Sir R. D. 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 G. Earl of C. Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Durham, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable B. C. Esq; Lord Mayor of the City of London, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

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

The Aldermen and Recorder of London are styled *Right Worshipful*, as are all Mayors of Corporations, except Lord Mayors.

To P. S. Esq; High Sheriff of the County of York, *Sir, Your Worship.*

To the Right Worshipful S. T. Esq; Alderman of Tower Ward, London, *Sir, Your Worship.*

To the Right Worshipful, J. 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 styled *Right Worshipful*, or *Worshipful*, as their Titles allow.

*To the Governors of the Crown.*

To his Excellency G. Lord S. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, *My Lord, Your Excellency.*

To the Right Hon. C. 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.

Those appointed by Proprietors, as the East-India Company, &c. are styled Deputy-Governors.

*To Incorporated Bodies.*

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