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## PREFACE.

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THE several editions which have recently been printed of the following pages are the best eulogium upon the selection here presented to the Public. To render it as complete as possible, consistently with its brevity in size and price, the Editor has endeavoured to introduce the greatest variety of useful and applicable matter. Elaborate letters upon general or natural history, learned criticisms, or long extracts, are rejected; as they tend rather to swell the size of the book, than promote the improvement of the practical correspondent, whose aim is to compress his subject, and who seeks the easiest model of placing his thoughts in the most simple and intelligible dress. In perusing the different styles of authors, the young student will form a judgment upon their comparative merits, and be led readily to adopt that which is most suitable to the occasion, whether it be the detail of facts or of fancy, of pleasure or business, of gaiety or solemnity. For the express purpose of instructing the youthful and uninformed mind in the art of easy and familiar correspon-

dence, we have added the following brief and indispensable rules, which, if attended to, will place the epistolary writer in a respectable view; an important consideration when it is reflected, that words pass the ear, and are quickly forgotten, or excused in the hurry of business or argument, while, on the contrary, our written thoughts are preserved for years, mark the inattention or ability of the writer, and frequently are the foundations of his good or bad fortune.

## INTRODUCTION.

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TO give weight and respectability to our epistolary production, four things are indispensably necessary, viz. Orthography, Grammar, Style, and Punctuation.

A correct ORTHOGRAPHY is absolutely of the highest importance; ignorance in this particular is always considered a mark of ill-breeding, vulgar education, and stupidity. To obtain this perfection, it is absolutely necessary to depend on memory, and a knowledge of the etymology of words, but chiefly the former; which is to be acquired in reading elegant and classical authors. Sometimes, indeed, words are spelled differently by these, but such instances are rare, and where there is but one way of spelling a word, should it be mis-spelled, ridicule would deservedly follow. It is now usual to dismiss the *u* from the final syllable of words ending in *our*, as *honour*, *labour*, &c. and the concluding *k* from words ending *ck*, as *almanack*, *tragick*, *comick*; *compleat*, is now more properly written *complete*, &c. In such cases, it is no error to adhere to the old orthography, though it is more polite, more correct, and has less appearance of singularity, to conform to the new.

GRAMMAR is deduced from certain rules, which give every word its due force and form; these rules are nearly similar in all countries, subject to the exception of such idiomatic phrases as can be taken only collectively, and which, when separated, convey no meaning; false grammar, either in writing or speaking, throws a strong sarcasm on the education of the de-

faulter, and in many instances might make his composition unintelligible, or at least dubious.

As the Rules of Grammar cannot be contained in a work of this brief nature, and they are accurately extant in many excellent books, we shall endeavour to point out some of those errors which the unlearned but too frequently fall into.

*I comes, I goes, &c.* for *I come, I go, &c.* *Learn* is frequently used for *teach*, *set* for *sit*, *laid* for *lay*, *mistaken* for *mistaking*, &c. *Was* is used for *were*, and the power of conjunctions is little attended to, viz. if *he was*, instead of if *he were*. Adjectives are commonly used for adverbs; *he wrote agreeable to your order*, should be *he wrote agreeably*. Indeed, it were to be wished, that the numerous instances of false Grammar, to be met with in the most esteemed authors, and pointed out in the works of writers on Grammar, were collected, and exhibited in a cheap shape, as they more palpably impose false syntax, &c. to the unlearned, than whole pages of abstruse deductions.

**STYLE.** Vulgarism in language or writing is a certain characteristic of bad company, a bad education, or being little read in good authors. Proverbial expressions and trite sayings are the flowers of the rhetoric of a low-bred man;—instead of saying, *My friend was compelled by necessity* he would say, *Needs must when the devil drives*, or *Necessity has no law*; such vulgar aphorisms ought to be rejected which are common and in familiar use. An attentive writer would not say, *It was all through you it happened*, but *It happened from your inattention*. An affectation of learning is also one of the greatest blemishes of style; there are two distinct modes of speaking the English language, so different from each other, that a person using the superior, may render himself unintelligible to one accustomed only to the inferior, phrasology; the reason is, that many words and phrases are to be expressed by Saxon as well as Roman derivatives; the former are in common use, the latter are more peculiarly in the possession of the learned. The ~~more~~, however, ought constantly to be kept in view.

Too frequent quotations is a vice in style which is always sure to draw on the person using it the imputation of the grossest pedantry. Ladies are apt to introduce into their letters the prevailing French and Italian phrases, sprigs of poetry, and scraps of plays. A quotation or happy phrase, judiciously introduced, certainly is an elegance in style; but the too frequent introduction of them is an unpardonable affectation, and renders our letter little more than a copy of another author.

It is of the greatest consequence in writing, to avoid all expletives; to refrain from the insertion of long parentheses; to use periods of moderate length; and to avoid as much as possible terminating a sentence with an unimportant word, or an indeclinable part of speech.

TAUTOLOGY is so great a fault in composition, that too much care cannot be taken to avoid the use of words exactly synonymous. There is also a species of literal tautology, called alliteration, which consists in forming sentences with many words beginning with the same letter. It should be used very sparingly, and with great taste, as the abuse of it is very frequent.

The use of figures of rhetoric must always be moderate and judicious. No blemish in style exceeds what is termed a *broken metaphor*; for example, it is very proper to say, "He who would *climb* to the highest eminence must *step* with caution;" but if it were said, *He who would soar*, &c. it would be nonsense. In short to acquire a genteel style, little more is necessary than to *follow nature* and *ease*, to use the most polished and best-turned sentiments the subject admits of, to avoid pedantry, affectation, and the adoption of phrases in common use with the *beau monde*, on the one hand, and vulgarity, cant words, and want of orthographical or grammatical accuracy, on the other.

PUNCTUATION, inasmuch as it is necessary to the proper division of sentences, is of very great importance to perspicuity. It may easily be acquired by looking at the position of points in books, and by consulting good treatises. In general, points are the pauses which

a correct orator would use in speaking, and as a knowledge of their powers is to be acquired with very *little care*, the neglect of them is unpardonable.

Among the secondary attainments to finishing our epistolary communications handsomely, is the art of writing well.

An idea that it is not *genteel* to write a good hand is very prevalent, and industriously circulated by the indolent; but we may quote, in contradiction to their judgment, the opinion of the accomplished Lord Chesterfield. Daily experience also proves, that many are solely indebted to the perspicuity and elegance of their hand-writing for their elevation in the world.

Various opinions prevail respecting the use of *capital letters*; but all writers agree that every sentence should begin with one, and that proper names, and the emphatical words in a sentence, should only be distinguished by them.

Several other little matters ought to be attended to, to make a letter appear like the production of a well-bred person; such as *the leaving a margin* on the left hand; *the distance from the top of the sheet* where the letter ought to begin; and *the place for the date*; but these being regulated entirely by fashion, written rules would only puzzle the reader.

*Regard to the straightness of your lines* ought to be strictly attended to; and, if you rule lines with a lead pencil, take care to efface them before your letter is sent away.

*In making up a letter*, fold it so as to leave room to conceal the wafer, or display the seal intended for it; the folds ought to be strongly pressed with an ivory folder, or the hand, so as to lie flat, and make the corners sharp; that, when they are sealed, they may not show an uneven surface, or unhandsome shape.

THE  
UNIVERSAL LETTER-WRITER;

OR,

COMPLETE ART OF  
POLITE CORRESPONDENCE:

Containing

A GREAT VARIETY OF LETTERS

ON THE MOST FAMILIAR, USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE, AND  
ENTERTAINING OCCURRENCES IN LIFE.

---

INFANTILE LETTERS

ON

FILIAL DUTIES, &c.

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*EXCEPT the correspondence that may pass between children, these must, generally, consist of requests on the one side, and permission on the other. The matter contained in them should be of the most simple and unadorned style. Great care should be taken that the composition of children be not too formal or stiff, nor should their faults be corrected without a satisfactory explanation. Parents and Friends should prevent them from writing in a loose and ungrammatical manner, much of the epistolatory inaccuracy of younger years arising from our want of timely explanation, and the ignorant communications of nurses and inferior servants.*

*Letter from a young Lady to her Parents.*

I HOPE that my dear papa and mamma will excuse the badness of the writing of this Letter, when they shall be pleased to recollect, that this is my first attempt since I have learned to join my letters together. I have long been anxious to have the pleasure of being able to write to you, and beg you will be pleased to accept this my first humble offering. As my constant study ever has been, so shall it continue to be, to convince you how much I am, my dearest parents,

Your most affectionate and dutiful daughter.

---

*Letter from the same to her Parents on another Occasion.*

MY dear papa and mamma will be pleased to accept of my most respectful compliments, on the close of the old and commencement of the new year. As it has pleased God to give you good health during the course of the last year, I beseech him to grant you the same to the end of the present, and many more. This is a happiness your family have most earnestly to wish for, and in particular,

Your most humble and dutiful daughter.

---

*Letter from the same to her Mamma.*

GIVE me leave, my dear mamma, to tell you, as well as my pen will permit me, or rather as well as my unexperienced hand is capable of directing it, how truly sensible I am of all your favours, and that I will endeavour by my conduct to merit the continuance of them. My prayers are morning and night, offered up to heaven for your preservation, nor are you ever in the day absent from my thoughts. May God preserve you, and grant you every thing you can wish for, from the good behaviour of

Your dutiful and affectionate daughter.

*Letter from a young Gentleman to his Companion, recovered from a Fit of Sickness.*

IT gives me the most sincere pleasure to hear that my dear Henry is recovering his health so rapidly. Had you died, it would have been to me a most terrible loss: but it has pleased God to preserve my friend. I will take the first opportunity that offers, to call and tell you how valuable your life is to

Your sincere friend and playfellow.

---

*Answer to the preceding Letter.*

YOUR obliging letter, my dear Billy, is a fresh proof of your friendship and esteem for me. I thank God I am now perfectly recovered. I am in some doubt, whether I ought not to consider my late illness as a just punishment for my crime of robbing Mr. Goodman's orchard, breaking his boughs, and spoiling his hedges. However, I am fully determined that no such complaint shall ever more come against

Your sincere friend and playfellow.

---

*Letter from a young Gentleman to his afflicted Friend.*

I CANNOT fail, my dear Harry, most sensibly to feel the loss you have sustained in the death of a good and indulgent father. It pierces me to the heart: for I know how great was your affection for him, and how feelingly you must bemoan his loss. I will call upon you to morrow, and we will cry together; for, as we always mutually enjoyed our sports, why should we be separated in our griefs: They tell me you do not cry, but sit in gloomy silence. I do not like that; for I have somewhere read, that tears ease the heart, and open a passage for the anguish of the soul. That God may give you patience under this terrible calamity, is the most fervent prayer of

Your disconsolate friend.

*Answer to the preceding Letter.*

I KNOW of nothing in this world but a letter from my dear Billy, that could have so soon awakened me from the deep and melancholy gloom with which I was overwhelmed. Your letter forced from my eyes a flood of tears, and since that my heart is much easier. Am I not wicked in thus repining at my hard fate, when it is undoubtedly the work, the pleasure of that great God, to whose will, my dear father has often told me, we ought at all times to submit? Others, perhaps better children than myself, have experienced the like loss, and more must hereafter submit to the same dreadful misfortune. How contentedly should I have died in his stead! But then I should have prevented him going so soon to heaven.. My poor mamma is almost distracted, and my grief adds to her's. I will, therefore, endeavour to conceal it. Let me see you to-day or to-morrow at farthest; which is all I can say at present, but—what a father have I lost!

---

*Letter from a young Lady to her Brother in the Country.*

YOU seem, my dear Billy, to make good the old proverb, "Out of sight, out of mind." It is now two months since I received a letter from you, and you appear to forget, that we little maids do not like to be treated with neglect. You must not pretend to tell me, that, however fond you may be of your books, you could not find leisure to write to me in all this time. They tell me that you spend a great part of your leisure time with a little miss of about eight years of age, with whom you are very fond of reading and conversing.. Take care, if I find that to be true, that I do not come down, and pull her cap for her. As for yourself, if you were within the reach of my little tongue, I would give you such a peal as should make you remember it for some time to come. However, if you will write to me soon, I may possibly forgive all that is past, and still consider myself as

Your most affectionate sister.

*Answer to the preceding.*

I AM very sorry, my dear sister, that I have given you so much reason to complain of my neglect of writing to you, but be assured, that my affections for you are the same they ever were. I readily confess, that the young lady you complain of has, in some measure, been the cause of it. She is as fond of reading as I am, and I believe loves you on my account. I did not tell her what you threatened her with: but I am sure, were you to come here on that errand, instead of pulling her cap, you would embrace and love her. As to what you say respecting your little tongue, I promise you, I do not wish to come within reach of the sound of it, when anger sets it in motion. But, as it is the only weapon you little maids have to make use of in your own defence, that must not be refused you. However as the holidays are now approaching, and consequently I shall soon see you, I will do what I can in future to avoid setting your little alarum in motion, and especially when I shall pay you a visit. I bought you, at our fair, a most brilliant doll, which I shall bring up with me when I come to London. Till then, believe me

Your most affectionate brother.

## JUVENILE AND PARENTAL LETTERS DURING THE SCHOLASTIC AGE.

### *Letter from a Father to his Son at School.*

I COULD not, my dear child, give a more convincing proof of my affection for you, than in submitting to send you to so great a distance from me. I preferred your advantage to my own pleasure, and sacrificed fondness to duty. I should have done this sooner, but I waited till my enquiries had found out a person whose

B

character might be responsible for your education; and Mr. Browne was at length my choice for that important trust. Your obedience, therefore, must be without murmuring or reluctance; especially when you reflect that a strict attention to his appointments, and an implicit compliance with his commands, are not only to form the rule of your safe conduct in this life, but to be preparatory to your happiness in the next. With regard to your school connexions, it is impossible for me to give you any instructions at present. All that I shall now say to you on this subject is, quarrel with no one, avoid meddling with the disputes of others, unless with a view to promote an accommodation; and, though I would wish you to support the dignity of a youth, be neither mean nor arrogant. I have nothing more now to add, than to pray God to give you grace and abilities, and that your own endeavours may second the views of

An affectionate father.

---

*Letter from a Youth at School to his Father.*

I AM infinitely obliged to you, honoured Sir, for the many favours you have bestowed upon me; all I hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be considered as some proof how sensible I am of your kindness. Gratitude, duty, and a view to my own future advantages, equally contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement and your satisfaction. I have received the books you sent for my amusement. The Princess of Persia I have almost finished, after which I shall peruse Mrs. Chapone's Letters on the Improvement of the Mind. They please me much. The liberal allowance of money you have been pleased to make me, shall be applied in the best manner I am able. I am sure my dear father will not censure me should I devote a part of it towards the relief of the wretched and unfortunate. Pray give my most dutiful respects to my mother, my kindest love to my brothers and sisters, and believe me, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful and affectionate son.

*From a Brother at Home to his Sister at School.*

I CANNOT avoid telling you, my dear sister, how unkind it is taken by every one here, that we seldom receive any news from you. My mother, in particular, is very much displeased with you, and says you are a very idle girl. You are very sensible how dear you are to us all; think then, whether it be right to omit giving us the only satisfaction that absence affords to real friends, which is often to hear from each other. When you write, do not attempt idle excuses; but either give a substantial reason for not writing sooner, or candidly confess your fault, ask pardon, and avoid the necessity of doing so any more. I remain

Your tender and loving brother.

---

*Answer to the preceding Letter.*

I SHALL take your advice, my dear brother, and not think of forming idle excuses for my neglect of writing, but confess my fault, and thank you for your kind reproof, promising you at the same time, to endeavour to amend my conduct in future. I write this immediately on the receipt of your's, to beg my mamma's pardon, which I know you can procure, as also my aunt's, on this my promise of amendment. I hope you will continue to excuse all my little omissions; and be assured I am never so forgetful of myself as designedly to neglect my duty. I shall certainly write to my mamma by the next post; this is just going, which allows me only time to tell you, that I pass my days agreeably enough at school, and yet I long to see my dear friends. Give my duty and best respects to my mamma and aunt, and believe me ever

Your tender and affectionate sister.

*Letter from an elder Brother to a younger one at School.*

AS you are now, my dear brother, gone from home, and placed in a very capital seminary of learning, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that childish amusements should be laid aside, and instead of them, more serious thoughts imbibed, and things of more consequence made the objects of your attention; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent. You may judge, in some measure, of the value of a good education, from the unavailing lamentations you daily hear those make, who foolishly shrunk from the difficulties attending the various branches of scholastic education. What a difference there is between an aged man of learning, and one who totally neglected his education in his youth? The form-  
•, in the evening of his life, finds a perpetual source of amusement in the knowledge he acquired in his early days, and his company is admired and sought by all those who wish to derive understanding from the knowledge of others, improved by a long life and philosophical experience; but the ignorant old man is no company for himself, nor any one else, unless over a pitcher or a bottle, when the assistance of a pipe will be necessary to excuse his silence. I know you have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life as I do my own. We are all very well, thank God, and your friends desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit; and be assured, that a letter from you will always give great satisfaction to your parents, but to none more than to

Your most affectionate brother.

*From a young Gentleman at School to his Brother  
at a distant Academy.*

DEAR BROTHER,

HOW often do I wish that fortune, and the views of our friends, had permitted us to continue as we began our journey through life, hand-in-hand.

I long for the coming of the holidays on no account more than to meet you again, to revisit our old haunts, to see our old friends, to talk over old stories, and compare notes on our more recent adventures. I feel, if possible, more attachment for you, than I did before our separation; and, notwithstanding the difference of our destinations in life, assure you I have no idea of pleasure, or hope of advantage, in which I do not wish you a joint partaker with

Your affectionate brother, and sincere friend.

*From a young Gentleman to his Father, requesting  
Leave to learn French.*

HONORED SIR,

we have at this time several boarders in the house lately arrived from France, for the purpose of being instructed in the English language, their society would be of great advantage to me in learning to speak and pronounce the French, which renders me very desirous to obtain your permission to begin learning it without delay; if you are so kind to grant me this favour, I flatter myself that I shall in this particular deserve your approbation.

I am, honored Sir,

Your dutiful and affectionate son.

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*His Father's Answer.*

DEAR GEORGE,

I CONGRATULATE you on the very fortunate opportunity which presents itself to forward your proficiency in the French language. As your mamma and I speak the language, we shall expect when with us, you use it chiefly in conversation, and shall receive with the greatest pleasure such of your future letters as are written in French. I must caution you against too much diffidence, or mauvaise honte. But I forbear to dwell on these topics, not doubting that your worthy and discreet master, Mr. E. will have said to you every thing which can forward or facilitate your improvement.

I remain, dear George,

Your affectionate parent.

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*From a young Lady to her Mamma, desiring  
Leave to learn Arithmetic.*

DEAR MAMA, OR HONORED MADAM,

THE great pleasure I see other young ladies take in the study of arithmetic, and the advantage it seems to give them in conversation, render me desirous to be similarly accomplished. I throw myself with confidence on the kindness of my dear, and ever indulgent mamma, to favour me in this particular, and flatter myself that her approbation of my proficiency in this branch of education, will be equal to that she was pleased to bestow on me in the last holidays, and which contributed so much to the felicity of

My dear mamma's

Most dutiful and affectionate daughter.

*The following letter from Dr. Johnson to Miss Thrale, commanding the study of Arithmetic, is a model of Ease and Perspicuity.*

London, July 24, 1783.

DEAREST MISS SOPHY,

BY an absence from home, and for one reason or another, I owe a great number of letters, and I assure you, that I sit down to write your's first. Why you should think yourself not a favourite, I cannot guess; my favour will, I am afraid, never be worth much; but, be its value more or less, you are never likely to lose it, and less likely if you continue your studies with the same diligence as you have begun them.

Your proficiency in arithmetic is not only to be commended but admired. Your master does not, I suppose, come very often, nor stay very long; yet your advance in the science of numbers is greater than is commonly made by those who, for so many weeks as you have been learning, spend six hours a day in the writing school.

Never think, my sweet, that you have arithmetic enough; when you have exhausted your master buy books. Nothing amuses more harmlessly than computation, and nothing is oftener applicable to real business or speculative enquiries. A thousand stories, which the ignorant tell and believe, die away at once, when the computist takes them in his gripe. I hope you will cultivate in yourself a disposition to numerical enquiries; they will give you entertainment in solitude, by the practice; and reputation in public by the effect.

If you can borrow *Wilkins's Real Character*, a folio, which the bookseller perhaps can let you have, you will have a very curious calculation, which you are qualified to consider, to shew that Noah's ark was capable of holding all the known animals of the world, with provision for all the time in which the earth was under water. Let me hear from you soon again.

I am your's, &c.

*Dr. Johnson to Miss Susannah Thrale; on Study,  
Religion, &c.*

DEAREST MISS SUSY,

WHEN you favoured me with your letter, you seemed to be in want of materials to fill it, having met with no great adventures, either of peril or delight, nor done or suffered any thing out of the common course of life.

When you have lived longer, and considered more, you will find the common course of life very fertile of observation and reflection. Upon the common course of life must our thoughts and our conversation be generally employed. Our general course of life must denounce us wise or foolish; happy or miserable; if it is well regulated, we pass on prosperously and smoothly; as it is neglected we live in embarrassment, perplexity, and uneasiness.

Your time, my love, passes, I suppose, in devotion, reading, work, and company. Of your devotions, in which I earnestly advise you to be very punctual, you may not, perhaps, think it proper to give me an account; and of work, unless I understood it better, it will be of no great use to say much; but books and company will always supply you with materials for your letters to me, as I shall always be pleased to know what you are reading, and with what you are pleased, and shall take great delight in knowing what impression new modes or new characters make upon you, and to observe with what attention you distinguish the tempers, dispositions, and abilities of your companions.

A letter may be always made out of the books of the morning, or talk of the evening; and any letters from you, my dearest, will be welcome to your, &c.

*Doctor Johnson to Miss Jane Langton, Daughter of his intimate and dear Friend Bennet Langton, Esq. then a very young Lady.*

MY DEAREST MISS JENNY,

I AM sorry that your pretty letter has been so long without being answered; but when I am not well, I do not always write plain enough for young ladies. I am glad, my dear, to see that you write so well, and hope that you mind your pen, your book, and your needle, for they are all necessary: your books will give you knowledge, and make you respected; and your needle will find you useful employment when you do not care to-read. When you are a little older, I hope you will be very diligent in learning arithmetic; and, above all, that through your whole life you will carefully say your prayers, and read your bible.

I am, my dear,

Your most humble servant.

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*From a young Lady to her Mother, requesting Leave to learn to dance.*

NEARLY the whole of the young ladies in our school learn to dance, and without I can obtain my dear mamma's permission, I must look singular. I assure you, that so far from remitting my attention to the other branches of my education, this indulgence will operate as a spur to my industry and assiduity; but though I have so earnest a desire to attain this very polite and graceful accomplishment, I entreat you to believe, that if your answer should not be favourable to my wishes, I shall feel no other sensation than regret, at having made a childish and improper request, being convinced that your affection and judgment will withhold nothing without the best and wisest reasons. I remain,

Dear Mamma,

Your most dutiful and affectionate daughter.

*From a young Lady to her Mamma, thanking her for the Permission.*

MY DEAR MAMMA,

I CANNOT delay a single post to convey to you an idea of the heart-felt gratitude with which so ready a compliance with my wishes inspire me. When I feel a desire to possess more good qualities of mind, or more personal accomplishments than I do already, my chief motive is an inclination to approach as near as possible to that pattern of excellence and elegance, which I always see you display, and which renders you the admiration of all your acquaintance, and me the envy of mine. I remain,

My dear mamma,  
Your most affectionate and grateful daughter.

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*From a young Gentleman to his Father claiming a promised Increase of Allowance.*

HONORED SIR,

THE last time I had the pleasure of seeing you, you kindly promised, that when I had finished reading the fourth Book of the Æneid, an additional allowance should be made to my pocket money; I have the pleasure to inform you that I completed it yesterday, and am proud to add, to the entire satisfaction of my master.

I take so early an occasion to convey this information to you, not from an eagerness to obtain the promised pecuniary recompence, but that I may afford you the pleasure I perceive you derive from a knowledge of my making a progress in my learning; at the same time I do not mean to say, that the anticipation of your promised bounty gives me no pleasure; it is flattering to me in a most interesting point, and I shall consider it an addition to the load of obligation already laid on,

Honored Sir,

Your most dutiful and affectionate son.

*From a Young Gentleman, on the Approach of the Holidays.*

HONORED SIR,

IN a few days I shall have an opportunity of revisiting H—, and of renewing those pleasing scenes which have been interrupted by my being at school. The separation has been attended with very pleasing effects ; for had I never been divided from you, I should have never felt that lively joy which now plays around my heart, and will endear our meeting.

I flatter myself that my improvements will equal your wishes, and that you will have no occasion to tax me with negligence. Mr. and Mrs. H. beg their respectful compliments ; please to accept of, and present my duty to my mamma, respects to all my friends, and love to my brothers and sisters.

I am, honored Sir,

Your dutiful son.

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*From a young Lady to her Mamma, and on the same Occasion.*

DEAR MAMMA,

YOU speak in your very kind letter, of the pleasure you promise yourself in my company these Christmas holidays ; I beg leave to offer you my most sincere thanks for your obliging expressions, the satisfaction I feel from them can be better conceived than committed to paper. It shall be my constant desire to merit similar sentiments from you, and may every wish of your heart be as completely gratified as I trust this will be, the 21st being fixed for the day of our going home.

Present my duty to my papa, and affectionate and respectful remembrances to my relations and friends, and believe me,

Dear mamma,  
Your most dutiful and affectionate daughter.

*From a Preceptor to his Scholar during Vacation Time.*

DEAR CHARLES,

I AM unwilling to omit the first opportunity that offered, of commencing a correspondence with my young friend, for fear, during this leisure time, the advice I have given and the rules I have set down, in respect to writing letters, may be either forgotten or neglected. I think it my duty, therefore, to remind you of these observations, and by insisting on regular answers oblige you to practise; as well as to observe. You may remember that my first advice was to be careful of your spelling, and not to make use of pompous language in addressing your friends; a simplicity of style always recommends itself, and displays far more learning than rhapsodical bombast: be also as brief as possible, for a prolix writer exhausts the patience of his reader. Avoid repetitions, for they offend the ear; except they are *artfully* introduced, to mark some *artful* point. I disapprove of parentheses (*except they be absolutely necessary*), for they generally create confusion: some masters are very fond of recommending long s's, and appropriating the round one to the final letter of a word. Never send a letter to any one with an interlineation: it is an affront, for it betokens both laziness and carelessness: there is no excuse for an interlineation, except it is a piece which you wish to prove an original, and of which there should be no duplicate. Avoid capital letters, which should only be appropriated to proper names or particular nouns. When you introduce a word which requires more than common notice, or on which the reader should lay a great accent, put a *dash* under it *with your pen*: such words, when printed, are put in *italics*; but do not be too fond of this, for I have known many puzzled by these dashes, which have frequently intimated wit where there was none. Never let me see you write *you was*, or I shall deny *you were* ever a pupil of mine. Be attentive to the time, and do not jumble the present, past, and future, as many writers do. Use the conditional mood, provided the sen-

tence *be* conditional; this, I confess, is not a general observation, but if a man *pretend* to write, he ought to be correct. Do not crowd us with monosyllables, for they are very insignificant creatures, nor use many long words, for fear you may exceed comprehension. I hate particles when they are avoidable; be, therefore, sparing in your *fors*, your *buts*, and your *ands*. Quotations, when not made too common, display, both a variety, and some knowledge of authors; but beware of misapplying them, for you not only insult the author you borrow from, but expose yourself to ridicule. Do not arrogate the power of making words, for we have sufficient in our language to express our meaning, and there are very few who possess competent abilities for the task. Avoid cant and obsolete phrases; nor insert a word that you do not perfectly comprehend. These hints, I hope, will be sufficient; let me, therefore, see they are observed, while I remain, with compliments to your father,

Your sincere friend,

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## LETTERS

FROM

YOUTH TO MATURITY.

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*THIS important period is marked by the anxiety of the parent, for the future provision of his child. The youth, or his friends, now determine on the avocation he is to pursue through life, whence result new habits, new connexions; and independence of their former protectors. Letters on these subjects should be familiar, yet demonstrative: and their general reasoning be conveyed in a style of experience rather than passion.*

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*Letter to a Father, concerning the Choice of a proper Profession for his Son.*

DEAR SIR,

YOU very well know that I have a good opinion of your son, and think him a modest, grave, and sober youth. For this reason I hardly think him qualified for the profession you seem inclinable to choose for him; for I much doubt whether he has talents for the law, or ever will have that presence of mind which is indispensably necessary, in order to make a figure at the bar. In any smooth and easy business he will probably succeed, and be an useful member of the community. I must confess to you, and I hope you will excuse the freedom, that I have some doubts whether your son's genius may be equal to that of an universal merchant. This opinion, which I have entertained of your son, should you think it just, will be no obstacle to his succeeding in the world, in some creditable and easy business. Though I think him unequal to the profession you seem inclinable to allot him, yet I by no means think him destitute of common sense, and experience teaches us, that, in some sorts of business, ample advantages may be made by very moderate talents, with much reputation. These are principally such employments as merely consist in buying with prudence, and in selling them at a profit. Hence we see several wholesale dealers gain large fortunes with ease and credit, and without any other secret, than the plain practice of buying at the best hand, paying for their goods punctually, and vending them always for what they really are. As to what you hint of placing him in the physical tribe, I like that no better than the other. Consider only this one thing, how long it will be before he will be capable of entering into business, or acquiring reputation as a physician, if he ever does it at all; for who chooses to trust his health to an inexperienced young man? The law requires a sprightly impudence, if I may so say, and the physician a solemn one. It is from hence easy to foresee, that he may, in the profession of either physic or law, live over all his days, and remain at last quite unknown;

for as practice in both faculties is the best teacher, and theory a most uncertain guide, he may live to forty or fifty years of age, and not come into any business that shall improve himself, or benefit his consulters. Whereas, in the way I propose, no sooner shall he become of age, and fit to be trusted with the management of any affairs at all, but his seven years will be expired; and if he has not been inattentive to his business, he will be enabled, with the fortune you can bestow upon him, to enter upon the stage of the world with great advantage, and become directly a necessary and useful member of the community. My good friend, when you and I recollect that most of the noble families in the kingdom, as well as the genteel ones, had the foundation of their grandeur laid in trade, I expect not, in such a country as our's especially, that any objection to my advice will be formed, either by you or your lady, on this score, if you have not more significant reasons, proceeding from the youth's turn of mind and inclination, which, I think, should always be consulted on these occasions. By thus viewing your son in the same light I do, that of a well-inclined lad, of moderate passions, great natural modesty, and no soaring genius, I believe you will think it best to dispose of him in such a manner as may require no greater talents than he is possessed of, and may, in due time, make him appear in the face of the world, fully qualified for what he undertakes.

I am, Sir, &c.

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*Letter from a Father to his Son containing general  
Rules for agreeable Conversation.*

I HAVE taken this opportunity, my dear Harry, to inform you of some things in your general conversation which I think would be proper for you to observe and amend, particularly your excessive fondness for talking, which equally discovers itself on all occasions. I have always considered you as a youth who does not want sense, and I am willing to hope that I am not therein deceived; but the dangerous self-sufficiency of most young men, seems to have seized you in a violent degree, which I hope a little reflection will remove. The

art of rendering yourself agreeable in conversation, is a matter worthy of our most serious study. It is an advantage which few can boast of, though all put in their claim for it, and nothing is so constant an enemy to success, in those who would excel in this art, as their harbouring an opinion of their own proficiency, before they have attained to any tolerable degree of knowledge in what they imagine themselves possessed of. Conversation, when rightly managed, will admit every member of the company to have a share in the pleasure and applause it affords. If a man speak little, you must not from thence conclude that he is willing to give up every claim to conversable merit. Perhaps he cannot sing, but he certainly is as desirous of having his peculiar humour, or his dry joke, applauded, as you may be for being called on for another song. Though he may be no mathematician, perhaps he is versed in religious disputation; if he despise plays, he may admire history; though he understand not geography, he may know how to describe the humours of mankind; and though he pretends not to politics, he may have a turn for some more useful science. When these things are considered, if his modesty be great, you cannot oblige him more than giving him an opportunity to display his capacity on the subject he believes himself most able to handle with advantage; for, in order to support a thorough good humour, a man must be pleased with himself as well as with others. When this is properly managed, conversation seldom fails to prove entertaining; and to the neglect of this are owing many of the yawning hours, spent in companies composed of men not capable of behaving agreeably. The manner of telling a story is also worth your notice, and you have known the pleasure of hearing a long one well told. Mr. Jackson has an admirable talent in that way; but then you must observe, that half the pleasure he gives, arises from his happily avoiding any of the silly digressions which are the great cause of a story seeming tedious. You never hear him mingle his relations with, "I remember very well it was the same day that 'squire Thomson's son came of age—I bought my bay nag the day before at

the fair. I can scarce think of it without laughing. But, however, as I was saying," and an hundred more such dead weights to attention. Nor does he ever praise a story before he relates it; a fatal rock to many a good tale. When a story wants a preparatory recommendation, it is not worth telling; and even when the relation is tolerable, the generality of auditors are apt to persuade themselves, "the mountain's labour has produced only a mouse." These are loose and general hints; but, by a due improvement of them, you will find yourself very sensibly grow more and more agreeable, wherever you converse. An easy and becoming freedom you have already, and by the addition of discretion in the use of them, and complaisance to others, you will probably succeed in your wish of becoming amiable in the opinion of men of sense and judgment, which should you accomplish it, will add much to the pleasure of

Your affectionate father.

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*Letter from an Uncle to his Nephew, an imprudent Apprentice.*

DEAR NEPHEW,

IT cannot fail to give me great concern and anxiety to hear that you are lately fallen into bad company, keep late hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, by breaking the rules of his family. When he expostulates with you on this occasion, I am told you return pert and bold answers; and instead of promising, or endeavouring to amend, you repeat the offence. You have entered, it seems into clubs and societies of young fellows, who despise all good examples, and make such persons as would do their duty, the subject of their ridicule, as persons of narrow minds, who have not the courage to act with the spirit they do. On this occasion, however, I must expostulate with you, and set before you the evil consequences attending your present conduct. In the first place, what can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you have bound yourself by contract to observe? Do you think it honest to break through engagements, into which you have so solemnly entered, and

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which are no less the ruies of the corporation you are to be one day free of, than those of a private family? Seven years, some of which are already elapsed, are not so long a time, but that you may see it determined before you will be fit to be trusted with your own conduct. Twenty-one, or twenty-two years of age, is full early enough for a young man to be his own master, whatever you may think of the matter; and you may surely stay till then, at least, to choose your own hours and your own company. I fear however as you now go on, if you do not alter your conduct, your discretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of the contract. I have gone through the same servitude with pleasure and credit, and I found myself my own master full soon enough for my discretion. What you think of yourself I know not; but I wish you may do as well for your own interest and reputation, as I have done for mine; and assure you I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to act as you do. I could have stood the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you choose, for being too narrow-minded to break through all moral obligation to my master in order to shew the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandoned mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending; and if you were assured that you could stop when you came for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and good conscience, that you will not do so for your master? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in forbearing to do any injury, than in giving offence. You are now at an age when you should study to improve and divert your faculties: you should now lay in a fund or knowledge, which ripened by time and experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you apprehend you have nothing to learn, either as to your business, or as to the forming of your mind? Would it not be much better to choose the silent, the sober conversation of books, than such companions as never read or think?

When I was your age my pecuniary advantages were laid out in the purchase of instructive and amusing friends—I mean books; you would pass many economical and pleasant hours in reading such useful volumes as Du Fresnoy's Chronological Tables; The Early Blossoms of Genius and Virtue; Essays on Rhetoric; Tomkin's Beauties of English Poetry, &c. By applying yourself to books, instead of such vain company, you will in time be qualified for the best sort of society, and be respected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unnecessary expences, will employ all your leisure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and open and enlarge your notions of men and things, and finally set you above that wretched company, with which you now seem so much delighted. One thing let me recommend to you, and that is, to keep a list of the young men whom you at present consider as your companions, or of whom you have any knowledge, and, during the next seven years, observe what fate will attend them. See if those who follow not the course you are so lately entered into, will not appear in a very different light from those who do; and from the industry and prosperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other (if their vain ways do not destroy them before or as soon as they began the world) you will find reason enough daily to justify the truth of the observations I have here thrown together. As nothing but my affection for you could possibly influence me to these expostulations, so I shall soon hope to receive from your master a pleasing account of your reformation.

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*Letter of Advice from a Father to his Son, who is just beginning Business.*

YOU are now, my dear Joseph, entering on the busy stage of the world, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business; consequently the frequent occasions you will have of advice from others will make you desirous of singling out among your most intimate acquaintance, one or two whom you would wish to consi-

der as your friends. Nothing requires so much care and attention as the choice of our friends; for by a mistake in that point, you cannot conceive how fatal may be the effects of it. It will therefore be proper for you to form a judgment of those who are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, by the reputation they bear in the world; for the man who has ruined himself by his own indiscretion, is much fitter to be set up as a land-mark for a prudent mariner to shun his course, than as an example to follow. Old age is generally slow and heavy, while youth is headstrong and precipitate; but there are some old men who are full of vivacity, and some young men replete with discretion. This induces me rather to point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom we should choose to associate; but, after all, I consider it as a never failing good sign of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors choose his company, and he delights in theirs. Let your endeavours therefore be, by all means, to associate yourself with men of sobriety, good sense, and virtue; for that proverb is an unerring one which says, "A man is known by the company he keeps." If you can single out such men, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice. Be sure to remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unreserved in delivering your sentiments, when occasions require it, yet you must be much readier to hear than to speak; and it is for this reason, perhaps, that nature has given us two ears and but one tongue. A silent young man generally makes a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When, therefore, you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments; and by those means you will judge of the merits and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recall.

As correct and clear accounts mark the man of an exact and honest disposition, it were well to have always

Collins's Complete Ready Reckoner by you, for in a business of complex calculation, connected with stamps and other duties, payable on bills, &c. it is improper to trust to memory. At the same time be particularly cautious that the books your servants read, when their daily duties are over, are such as will render their judgment and morality better. In my family I have always for their amusement such volumes lying on the book-case for general use, as Ray on the Wisdom of God in the Creation. The Creation, in five books, after the manner of the Death of Abel; The Death of Cain; Cotton's Miscellaneous Works; The Principles of Politeness, by Dr. Trusler, &c. The good effects of attention in these inferior particulars will return upon yourself. Our time must ever be divided between occupation and amusement, and it is your duty to render that amusement profitable. Believe me, I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me! and of this you may be assured, as also that I am,

Your ever affectionate father.

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*Letter from a Mother to her Son, in Answer to his Complaints of Hardships in his Apprenticeship.*

I AM very sorry, my dear Sammy, to hear that your master and you do not agree so well as I could wish. I was always afraid you would expect the same indulgence when you got abroad into the world, as you experienced when at home. You know, that in many instances, I have endeavoured to make seeming hardships as easy to you as I could; but if this makes you more difficult to be satisfied it would be a great trouble to me. Your uncle tells me, I am afraid with too much truth, that the indulgences you have received from me, have made your present situation more disagreeable than it would otherwise have been. Whatever I have done for you, was always intended for your good, and nothing could so deeply afflict me, as to see my tenderness have a mischievous effect. Therefore, my dear

child, to my constant care for you, do not add the sorrow of my seeing it the cause of your behaving worse than if I had been less tender to you. Before we put you to your master, we had a very pleasing character of him from all his neighbours, and those who had any dealings with him. As Mr. James, who is now out of his time, gives him the best of characters, and declares your mistress to be a woman of great prudence and good conduct, I know not how to think they would, in any respect, use you ill. Consider, my dear, you must not, in any other woman than myself, expect to find a fond and perhaps partial mother; for the little failings which I could not see in you, will conspicuously appear to other persons. My affection for you would make me wish you to be always with me; but as that would be inconsistent with your future welfare, and as you must certainly be a gainer from the situation you are now in, let a desire to promote my happiness, as well as your own, make every seeming difficulty light. I have desired your uncle to interpose in this matter, and he will write to you soon. He has promised to see justice done you; provided your complaints are founded on reason.

**Believe me, my dear child,**

Your ever affectionate mother.

*Letter from a Father to his Son on Inebriety.*

MY DEAR SON,

HARD drinking is a vice that breaks a man's rest, impairs the understanding, extinguishes the memory, inflames the passions, corrupts the will, lays the foundation of the worst and most dangerous distempers, incapacitates a person from pursuing his studies, and from applying to the duties of his calling, be it what it will. It meets with contempt from the world, and, even if a man's circumstances were above feeling the expence, which is seldom the case, it alters and changes the practiser of it from himself; but, should his fortune be but moderate, it is a great wonder indeed, if want and beggary be not its consequences. If he has a family, his

children, who by their father's industry and sobriety, might have made a creditable figure in life, are left to the mercy of the world, and often exposed to shame, misery, and an unhappy end. Consider, my son, how a man can answer this conduct to God, to his parents, and other relations, to his wife, to his children, to himself, and persist in an unnatural and barbarous vice, which not only makes himself miserable and contemptible, but transmits the mischief to his unhappy and innocent children, if he has any. Add to all this, that it is a vice a man cannot easily master and subdue, or which, like some others, may be caused by age; but it is a vice that feeds and nourishes itself by practice, and grows upon a man as he lives longer in the world, till at last, if it cut him not off in the flower of his days, it at least renders the evening of his life miserable and unhappy. Consider all these things, my dear son, and, before it be too late, get the better of a vice which you will find difficult to subdue when it be grown to a head, and which will otherwise creep upon you more and more every day, till it shuts up your life in misery, as to yourself, and contempt as to the world. Instead of giving cause, even to your nearest and best friends, to remember you with pleasure, it will make a kindness in them to forget they ever had in the world, if a parent, such a son; if a tutor, such a pupil; if a brother or sister, such an unhappy near relation; if a wife such a husband; if a child, such a father; if a friend, such a wretched one, that cannot be thought of without pity and regret, for having shortened his days, and ruined his affairs, by so pernicious a habit. What a joy, on the contrary, will that noblest of conquests over yourself, yield to all your dear relations! and what pleasure in particular will you give to the aged heart, and declining days, of

Your most affectionate father.

*Letter from an Apprentice to his Master, begging Pardon for a great Fault he had committed.*

KIND SIR,

AFTER my repeated promises of amendment, I cannot but be ashamed of myself, that I should so soon give you fresh cause of complaint; and this consideration has induced me to apply to you by writing, rather than presume to speak to you in person. I hope what is past will be forgiven; and let this letter testify against me, if ever I knowingly or wilfully offend again for the future. You have children of your own; they may possibly offend, though I hope they never will as I have done; yet, Sir, would you not wish they might meet with pardon, if they should, rather than reprobation? My making or my ruin, I am sensible, lies in your breast. If you will not forgive me, sad will be the consequences to me, I doubt. If you do, you may save a soul, as well as a body, from misery; and I hope, Sir, you will weigh this with your usual goodness and consideration. What is past I cannot help; but for what is to come, I do promise, if God gives me health and power, that my actions shall testify for me, how much I am, good Sir,

Your repentant humble servant.

*Letter from a Master to his Apprentice, in Answer to the preceding.*

WILLIAM,

SUCH has been the influence your letter has had over me, that I have resolved to pass over all you have done. Surely I may at last depend on these your solemn assurances, and, as I hope, deep contrition; if not, be it as you say, and let your letter testify against you for your ungrateful baseness; and for me, in my readiness, which, however, shall be the last time, to forgive one that has been so much used to promise, and so little to perform. But I hope for better, because I yet wish you well, being, as you use me,

Your's, or otherwise.

*Letter from an indulgent Father to a profligate Son.*

SON HENRY,

YOUR continued ill courses oblige me to write this letter to you. I flattered myself that your solemn promise of amendment might have been better depended on; but I see to my great mortification, that all I have done for you, and all I have said to you, are thrown away. What can I say more than I have said? Yet, once more, I am desirous to try what the force of a letter will do with one, who has not suffered mere words to have any effect upon him. Perhaps this remaining with you, if you will now and then seriously peruse it, may, in some happy moment, give you reflection, and, by God's grace, bring on your repentance and amendment. Consider, then, I beseech you, in time, the evil of your ways, that your present courses must impair a good constitution, destroy your health, and undoubt-edly shorten your life. No family which values their own honor, and the welfare of their child, will suffer your addresses to a daughter worthy of being sought after for a wife, should you incline to marry. In that case, the worst of their sex only will accept of you as a companion for life, which will make you completely miserable, when you had it in your power to be as happy. As to another world, beyond this transitory one, my heart trembles for what most probably will be the con-sequence to your poor soul; for the human mind is seldom at a stop.

If you do not grow better, you will undoubtedly grow worse, and you may run into those sins and evils which you now perhaps think yourself incapable of, as already you have arrived at a height of folly and wickedness, which once you thought you should never be capable of being guilty of. Do not, my dear son, let your poor mother and me have the mortification to think, that we have been the unhappy means of giving life to a child of perdition, instead of a child of glory; that our beloved son, with all the pains we have taken

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to instil good principles into his mind, in hopes he would one day prove a credit and comfort to his family, should, instead of answering our longing wishes, when at age, take such contrary courses as will make us join to wish he had never been born. Consider, my dear son, we do not want any thing of you but your own good. Let us but have reason to hope, that when we are dead and gone, you will support our name with credit, and be no burden to your poor sisters, nor disgrace to our memories. Let them think of you as a protector in my stead, rather than as an ungrateful spoiler among them. My dear son, I conjure you by all our past tenderness and affection for you, by our hopes and fears from infancy to manhood, to think of all these things; reflect on the instability of all worldly enjoyments. You will find, that no satisfaction, which is not founded on virtue and sobriety, can be durable, or worthy of a rational creature. Your good mother, whomingles her tears so often with mine, to deplore the sad prospect your ill courses give us, joins also her prayers to mine, that this, my last effort, may be attended with success, and that you will at last listen to the advice of

Your indulgent and afflicted father.

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*Letter from a Son to his Father, in answer to the foregoing.*

HONORED FATHER,

IT is with no small share of shame and confusion that I have perused your indulgent letter. I am extremely sorry that all your good advice before has been so thrown away upon me, as to render this further instance of your paternal affection necessary. I am resolved instantly to set about a reformation, and to conform myself entirely to your good pleasure for the future. I beg, Sir, the continuance of your's and my good mother's prayers to God, to enable me to adhere

to my present good resolutions. I have so often promised, and so often broken my word, rather indeed through the strength of my passions than a design of non-performance, that I think I ought now to give you some proof that I am in earnest; and what better can I give, than to assure you that I will henceforth break myself from the frothy companions I used to take so much delight in, and whose lewd banters and temptations have so frequently set aside my good purposes? You, Sir, for the future, shall recommend the company proper for me to keep, and I beg you will chalk out for me the paths in which you would have me tread, and as much as possible I will walk in them. When I shall have convinced you of the sincerity of my reformation, I hope you and my honored mother will restore me to your good opinion, which it shall be my constant study to deserve. I have already broken with one of my companions, who attempted to laugh me out of my good resolutions. I beg leave to wait upon you for such a space of time as you shall think proper, in order to break myself from the rest of my profligate companions, and that I may have the benefit of your advice and direction for my future conduct. May God continue long, for the benefit of us all, your life and health, and make me happy in contributing as much to your future comfort, as I have, by my past excesses, to your trouble of mind, which shall be the constant prayer of

Your truly penitent and dutiful son.

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*Letter of Advice to a young Lady, on her affecting masculine airs.*

DEAR POLLY,

IT is with singular pleasure I viewed the late ration and improvement in your person, so visible wit hin the space of a few months. The dawning of fine sens e, and a good judgment, which discovers itself in your conver-

sation, leads me to hope I shall see every perfection of my sister, your late excellent mother, revived in you. Yet one thing, the duty of a tender uncle, obliges me to blame in you, and that is a certain affection that has lately stolen in on your behaviour, of imitating the manners of the other sex, and appearing more masculine than the amiable softness of a woman can justify. I have been particularly offended, permit me to tell you, my dear, at your new riding habit, which is made so extravagantly in the mode, that one cannot easily distinguish your sex by it; for you look in it neither like a modest girl, nor an agreeable boy. I would have you remember, my dear, that as sure as any thing intrepid, free, and in a prudent degree, bold, becomes a man; so whatever is soft, tender, and modest, renders your sex amiable. In this one instance we do not prefer our own likeness, and the less you resemble us, the more sure you are to charm; for a masculine woman is a character as little creditable as becoming. I am no enemy to a proper presence of mind in company; but I would never have you appear bold, talkative, or assumed. You will find the first leisure moments you have well rewarded by reading and attending to the volume, the Duties of the Female Sex, abridged from Gisborne. Modesty in the outward behaviour is a strong prepossession in a lady's favor; and without it, all your perfections will be of little service, either as to reputation or preferment. You want not sense, and I hope you will kindly receive these well intended hints from

Your affectionate uncle.

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*Dr. Johnson to Mr. James Boswell, on his Reconciliation with his Father.*

DEAR SIR,

I HAD great pleasure in hearing that you are, at last, on good terms with your father. Cultivate his kindness by all honest and manly means. Life is but short; no time can be afforded but for the indulgence

of real sorrow, or contests upon questions seriously momentous. Let us not throw away any of our days upon useless resentment, or contend who shall hold out longest in stubborn malignity. It is best not to be angry ; and best, in the next place, to be quickly reconciled. May you and your father pass the rest of your time in reciprocal benevolence.

I am, &c.

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*From the late Colonel Stedman to his Son, to be delivered after his Death.*

MY DEAR JOHN,

AS the last good I can do for you in this world, I now join to the trifles I leave you, these few lines, and which I beg of you often to read for my sake, who ever loved you so tenderly. Above all things fear God, as the Supreme Author of all good ; love him in your soul, and be religious ; but detest every tincture of hypocrisy.

Regard your neighbour, that is, all mankind, and of whatever nation, profession, or faith, while they are honest, and be ever so thyself ; it is the best policy in the end, depend upon it.

Guard against idleness ; it is the root of every misery, to which bad company gives the finishing stroke.

Love economy without avarice, and be ever thyself thy best friend.

Fly from the excesses of debauchery ; they will rot thy body, while they are a canker in thy mind. To keep both sound, my dear, be never behind hand with thy correspondent, with thy creditor, with thy daily occupations or with thy conscience, and thy soul shall enjoy peace.

By using air, exercise, diet, and recreation, thy body shall possess health and vigour.

Dear John, should fortune frown, (which depend upon it sometimes she will), then look round on thou-

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sands more wretched than thyself, and who, perhaps, did less deserve to be so, and be content. Contentment is better than fine gold.

Wish not for death, it is a sin; but scorn to fear it, and be prepared to meet it every hour, since come it must, while the good mind smiles at its sting, and defies its point. Beware of passion and cruelty; but rejoice in being good-natured, not only to man, but to the meanest insect, that is, the whole creation without exception: detest to hurt them but for thy food or thy defence. To be cruel is the portion of the coward, while bravery and humanity go hand-in-hand, and please God.

Obey with temper, and even pleasure, those set over thee; since, without knowing how to be obedient, none ever knew how to command.

Now, my dear boy, love Mrs. Stedman and her little children from your heart, if ever you had a real love for your dead father, who requests it of you. She has most tenderly proved a help in thy infant state; and while thou art a brother to her helpless little ones, prove thyself also a parent and a guardian, by constant kindness, and a proper conduct. Let that good sense with which Heaven has been pleased to befriend thee, ever promote peace and harmony in my dear family; then shall the blessings of Almighty God overspread you and them, and we, together with your beloved mother, my dear Johanna, have a chance once more to meet, where, in the presence of our Heavenly Benefactor, our joy and happiness shall be eternal and complete; which is the ardent wish, the sincere prayer, and only hope of your once loving father, thy tender parent, who, my dear child, when you read this, shall be no more, and rests with an affectionate heart to all eternity.

Your's,

JOHN GAB. STEDMAN.

Hensly-house, near Tiverton, Devon.

Jan. 14, 1787.

P. S. Let not your grief for my decease overcome you; let your tears flow, my dear, with manly moderation, and trust that I am happy,

## LETTERS ON BUSINESS.

*AS letters on the subject of business are almost always unvaried, and peculiar to the house where they are written, few specimens will be necessary. All that can be said in the way of general instruction, is to be found in one of Lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son.*

*"The first thing necessary in writing letters of business is extreme clearness and perspicuity; every paragraph should be so clear, and unambiguous, that the dullest fellow in the world may not be able to mistake it, nor oblige to read it twice in order to understand it. This necessary clearness implies a correctness, without excluding an elegancy of style. In business, an elegant simplicity, the result of care, not of labour, is required; nor does it exclude the usual terms of politeness and good breeding, but on the contrary, strictly requires them."*

### *Letter from a young Tradesman to wholesale Dealers, with an Order.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HOPE it will not be a disagreeable surprise to see below an order on my own account.

I am not in the least doubtful of your serving me on the best terms; that is, so as to enable me to sell as cheap as others.—And whenever you have occasion for money, your demand shall either be paid, or you may draw on me for the amount. Pray be careful in choosing my goods, and expeditious in forwarding them, which will tend to increase your correspondence with

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant.

### *From a Tradesman in the Country, to a dealer in the City.*

SIR,

HAVING been recommended to you by Mr. Roberts, with whom I served my apprenticeship, I have

herewith sent you a small order as under, which I hope you will execute on as good terms, and with the same care and dispatch, as for the rest of your correspondents.—After having given me the usual credit I will remit you a London bill for the amount; and if you treat me well, I will omit no opportunity of increasing my commissions, and testifying that

I am,

With much respect, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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*From a young Tradesman to the Customers of his late Master; (a Circular Letter.)*

SIR,

WITH much regret I inform you of the unexpected decease of my late worthy master. Mr. P. has caused his executors to make an arrangement, by which I am to transact the business he was used to carry on, for the joint benefit of his widow and myself, till his son, now only fourteen years old, comes to years of maturity, at which time Mrs. P. is to retire, and he is to take an active share in the business.

Under these circumstances I take the liberty to solicit a continuance of your favours in the way of business, for my own as well as the widow and orphan's benefit; assuring you that all your orders shall be attended to with the utmost punctuality and care.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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*From the Trustees of a Tradesman's Affairs to the rest of the Creditors; (Circular.)*

SIR,

YOU are requested to meet us, the undersigned, and the rest of the creditors of Mr. J. C. at the G. Coffee-house, K. Street, on Thursday next, the 20th instant,

at eight o'clock in the evening precisely, to receive a dividend of the said Mr. C.'s effects, got in by us, and to examine the general state of his affairs.

We have the pleasure to inform you, that Mr. C.'s affairs turn out very well, and you are not likely to be a loser by your lenity towards him; he has behaved, in every respect, like an honest man, though unfortunate; it is our intention, on Thursday, to submit to the creditors a plan, which, without any considerable detriment to them, will be of the most essential service to C. for which reason your punctual attendance will be esteemed a favour by

Your most humble servants.

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*From a Tradesman to a Customer, demanding Payment of Money.*

SIR,

YOUR bill for goods supplied last year, has now been delivered upwards of three months, and I have waited on you several times to solicit payment, but have not been so fortunate as to find you at home; I have a very large sum to make up in the course of a week, and shall esteem it a very particular favour, if you can let me have the amount of my bill delivered within that time; I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in writing to you on this subject, and believe me,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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*Answer to the preceding.*

SIR,

I AM sorry you have had the trouble of calling so often for your money, and still more that it is not in my power to pay your bill within the time you mention; I am, at present, very short of cash, and shall be so for these six weeks; at the end of that time I will settle with you.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*The Tradesman's Reply.*

SIR,

I SHOULD be sorry to appear troublesome to any customer; but you who are not in any business, may not probably know how subject tradesmen are to large demands for cash, and how much an omission of payment may injure them in the world; the credit on your Bill already exceeds by some months what it is usual in trade to give, and what I give my customers in general; I hope, therefore, you will not take it amiss, that I have drawn on you at six weeks for the amount of my demand: I have sent the bill by my clerk for your acceptance, not doubting that it will be duly honored, and that you will excuse this liberty from,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

*From a Tradesman unable to honor his Acceptance, to a Merchant.*

DEAR SIR,

IT gives me the greater pain to be under the necessity of writing to you on the subject I am now about to do, but I think it better to apprise you of the circumstance beforehand, than to permit a bill with your name on it to be dishonored without your knowledge. The bankruptcy of Mr. C. who is my debtor to a considerable amount, and from whom I was in daily expectation of payment, has straitened me for cash so much that I can only raise 30*l.* towards the amount of the bill for 97*l.* 17*s.* which I accepted in your favour, and which will become due the day after to-morrow.

If you would have the kindness, if the bill remains in your hands, to receive that sum in part, and my acceptance at two months for the remainder, I will take care it shall be duly attended to; or if the bill is out of your hands, if you would favour me with cash to supply the deficiency I will give you the like bill and allow discount, with pleasure. I am given to understand

there will be a considerable dividend of Mr. C.'s effects: if an assignment of my claim on him would be any satisfaction to you, as a collateral security, I am willing to make it, or to do any thing else in my power to convince you that I mean to act honestly.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your sincere friend,  
And obliged humble servant.

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*From a Merchant to a Tradesman, demanding Money, and expressing Disapprobation of his Proceedings.*

SIR,

INCLOSED is your account, and I am sorry the statement of your mode of living, which has been reported to me, is such, that I must, in justice to myself, demand an immediate payment of the balance. It is not my disposition to act unkindly, or distress any man, but when I see people, with my property in their hands, squandering away their substance in wanton extravagance, it becomes necessary for me to see a little to my affairs. Sir, I am informed you keep a horse and chaise, and country lodgings; that you belong to clubs, and are a Buck, an Odd Fellow, a Free and Easy, and the Lord knows what: in a word, that business is but a secondary concern with you; nay, what is worse, I have heard it hinted that you game. I began the world, Sir, with a greater capital than you, and with as good a connexion, in cheaper times, but I never kept a horse till I was not able to walk, and other men no richer than myself, kept their coach; as to the sin and folly of wasting my time in debauchery and gaming, I always was above it, for whatever you may think, a man is much more creditably employed in his business, than in sotting amongst mimics and stage players, or wasting money not his own, amongst sharpers.

Sir, you having married my kinswoman will not protect you against my taking the necessary steps to reo-

ver my money; were you my own son I would not act otherwise, and am very sorry to have reason to cease subscribing myself

Your sincere friend.

*The Answer.*

DEAR SIR,

FOR so I shall persevere to call you, notwithstanding the unkindness of your last; you have lived long enough in the world to know, that when a man is fortunate, in any respect, there are not wanting envious persons to do him an injury; I considered myself happy in the possession of your good opinion, and have found an enemy to supplant me. I will answer the charges you bring against me, one by one, and you will see at once how little they are founded in truth.

As to my keeping a horse and chaise, I have not rode in one, except your's, these three years, only once on this occasion. B. who owed me a great deal of money, was absconding near the sea-coast; I learnt where he was, and having got a writ out against him, went down to the place with my attorney, that it might be properly executed, and the chaise was his; so I only paid for the hire of the horse which was on the whole a saving to me.

The state of my poor wife's health is such as to require country air, and I have taken a lodging for her near K. but this is so small an expence, I am persuaded, were you the most miserable economist in the world, instead of a liberal minded man, you would think such a trifle ought not to be spared to preserve your cousin's health, and perhaps life.

As to clubs, I belong to none, except the lodge of Free-masons, to which you yourself introduced me, and you, who know all the members, can judge whether they are proper company or not; and with respect to gaming, I can declare I never played at any game of

chance in my life, except whist, and not that for more than a shilling a point.

But let assertions go for nothing between us, and facts speak for themselves ; if you will favour me by eating a bit of dinner at my house to-morrow, we will go over my books together, and you will see by the regularity and general state of them, how I attend to business ; and as it will be Saturday, on which day I generally go to K. if you will have the goodness to take your tea there, you will see what sumptuous country lodgings I have got.

If you insist on instant payment of the balance of your account, I must arrange matters accordingly ; but though it will put me to some inconvenience, it will not efface the memory of past kindness, or prevent my acknowledging myself

Your much obliged friend,  
And humble servant.

*Letter from a Tenant to a Landlord, in Excuse for not paying his Rent.*

SIR,

IT is to me a matter of great uneasiness, that I cannot at present fulfil my engagements. I have experienced lately such heavy losses, and met with such great disappointments, that I must intrude another quarter on your goodness. Whatever shifts I may then be put to, you may depend on hearing more to your satisfaction than at present, from, Sir,

Your most humble servant.

*Letter from a Country Tenant, on a similar Occasion.*

HONORED SIR,

TO the misfortunes of an unfavourable season, it has pleased God to add great sickness in my family, loss of

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cattle, and several other unhappy incidents, so that I am obliged to trespass on your patience a month or two longer. I hope the wheat harvest will enable me to answer your just expectations, which will afford infinite satisfaction to,

Sir,  
Your most obedient humble servant.

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*Letter in answer to the preceding.*

MR. MASON,

I HAVE received your letter, and hope you will be as good as your word at the expiration of the time you have fixed. I would by no means wish to distress any honest man; I hope I shall not meet with the worse usage for thus shewing my tenderness. Lenity abused, even in generous tempers, provokes returns, which some people would call severe, but should not be deemed such if just.

I am your's, &c.

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*From a Friend to another, on not receiving Money promised.*

DEAR SIR,

I EXPECTED to have heard from you long before this with respect to the money which you were so kind to promise you would lend me; depending totally upon that promise, I have neglected applying elsewhere, and as to-morrow will be the day, when a large bill of mine becomes due (for which purpose I wanted the cash) I hope you will not fail in fulfilling your word, otherwise my character will be materially injured, I am, Sir,

Your repentant humble servant.

*Apology to a Person wanting Money.*

SIR,

I AM exceedingly sorry to hear you are so embarrassed, particularly as it is not in my power to give you any assistance; my circumstances being almost as bad as your's.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*To a Friend on Breach of Promise.*

SIR,

YOU may remember when I lent you the sum of £.50, that you positively assured me you would repay me in three months—on that account I ventured to let you have the money, which I intended for my landlord; it has been now some weeks since the expiration of the time, and I have neither seen nor heard from you. As I have been guilty myself of a breach of promise, owing to your's, you will exceedingly oblige me, by settling it as soon as possible.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JONATHAN MEANWELL.

*An Answer.*

SIR,

I AM exceedingly sorry that your good nature should suffer by my misfortunes; I had every reason to think I should be able to fulfil my promise, but I am now determined to surrender all that I am worth, and as far as my stock will permit, give every creditor satisfaction.

I am, Sir,

Your distressed friend, &amp;c.

*To a Nephew going abroad.*

MY DEAR JACK,

I CONGRATULATE you upon the success of your interest, in so readily acquiring such an eligible situation abroad; I think it my duty, however, to assure you, that all the advantages of this voyage chiefly depend upon your proper behaviour and regulation of conduct. Avoid dissipation and idleness, which are very destructive to health, than which nothing could be more dear to you in a strange climate.—While you seek for a fortune, let justice and honor be your guides, and do not sully the laws of humanity, by taking an unworthy advantage over the forlorn. I hope to see you before your departure, in order to add something to your purse and stock, that you may remember,

Your affectionate uncle,

**HENRY GOODHALL.**

*From the Nephew in Answer.*

MY DEAR UNCLE,

I KNOW not how to express my grateful thanks for your kind advice. Believe me, I shall always endeavor to keep your bright example before my eyes, that I may never deviate from the paths of rectitude. I shall do myself the extreme pleasure of seeing you to-morrow, till when, I remain, dear uncle,

Your affectionate nephew,

**JOHN HAZARD.**

*Letter from one Friend to another in Distress, with Offers of Assistance.*

DEAR SIR,

THE great losses you have sustained by the failure of Mr. Ross, have caused me much uneasiness. I hope

you behave under it like the man of prudence you have always shewn yourself. As one who knows how liable all men are to misfortunes, I think it is incumbent, on this occasion, not to console you by words only, but with the spirit and cheerfulness of a sincere friend, to offer you my service, to answer any present demand, so far as two hundred pounds will go, which you shall freely have the use of for a twelve-month, or more, if your affairs require it; and I will even strain a point, rather than not oblige you, if more be necessary to your present situation. You will do me great pleasure in accepting this offer as freely as it is kindly meant by,

Dear Sir, your's most faithfully.

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*Letter in Answer to the preceding Offer.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THE grateful sense I have of your kindness will never be erased from my mind. This is, indeed, an instance of true friendship! I accept most thankfully of some part of your generous offer, and I will give you my bond, payable in a year, for one hundred pounds, which is at present, all I have occasion for; and if I did not know I could then, if not before, answer your goodness as it deserves, I would not accept of the favor. This loss is very heavy and affecting to me, as you may suppose; yet your generous friendship is no small comfort to me in it; so good a friend is capable of making any calamity light.

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful and obliged servant.

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*Letter of Acknowledgment for great Favors received.*

HONORED SIR,

GIVE me leave to approach you with the most thankful acknowledgments of a grateful heart, for the favor

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and benefit your goodness has conferred upon me. It shall be the business of my whole life, to the utmost of my power, to deserve it; and my whole family, which you have made happy by your bounty, will every day join with me in prayers to God, to bless you with the continuance of your valuable health, a long life, and all worldly honour; as it will become us to do for the unmerited favours conferred upon,

Honored Sir,

Your dutiful servant.

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*Letter of Refusal to lend Money.*

SIR,

I AM exceedingly sorry that your request comes to me at a time, when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot, with any convenience, comply with it. On any future opportunity, when I may have money to spare, I shall be ready to oblige you. I hope, Sir, you will therefore excuse

Your most humble servant.

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*Letter in Compliance to lend Money.*

SIR,

I CONSIDER myself much obliged in the request you make me. I most cheerfully comply with it, and inclose a note for the requested sum payable on sight; and am not a little glad it is in my power to shew you how much I am,

Sir,

Your faithful friend and servant.

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*Letter to a Person, who wants to borrow Money of another without any Claim but Assurance.*

SIR,

WHILE I was out of town, I find you did me the favor of enquiring two or three times for me; and

among my letters I found one from you, desiring the loan of fifty guineas. You must certainly have mistaken me or yourself very much, to think we were enough known to each other for such a transaction. I was twice in your company ; I was delighted with your conversation, and you seemed as much pleased with mine. Should I answer the demands of every new acquaintance, I should soon want power to oblige my old friends, and even to serve myself. Surely, Sir, a Gentleman of your merit cannot be so little beloved as to be forced to seek new acquaintance, and to have no better friend than one of yesterday. Be this as it may, it does not at all suit my convenience to comply with your request, and therefore I must beg you to excuse,

Your's, &c.

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*Letter to a Friend advising him against going to Law.*

DEAR SIR,

It is with no small regret I hear that the difference between you and Mr. Bond is at last likely to terminate in a law-suit. I wish you would take it into 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. The law, my good friend, I look upon, more than any one thing, as a proper punishment for an over-hasty and perverse spirit, as it is a punishment that follows an act of a man's own seeking and choosing. You will not be content, 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 hearing, one term after another, you will probably be of a different mind, and

be glad, seven years hence, to leave it to that arbitration which now you refuse. Indeed, what wise man would rush upon a proceeding, where the principal men of the profession (though the oath they take if serjeants, obliges them not to sign a sham plea, nor plead in a cause against their own opinion) are not ashamed, under the specious but shameful notion of doing the best they can for their clients, to undertake, for the sake of a paltry fee, to whitewash over the blackest cause, and to defeat the most just? Where your property may depend altogether upon the impudence of an eloquent pleader asserting any thing, and a perjured evidence swearing whatever will do for his suborner's purpose—where the tricks and mistakes of practitioners, 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, I say, would subject himself to these vexations and common incidents in the law, if he could any ways avoid it, together with the intolerable expences and attendances consequent on a law-suit? Besides, how great are the fears, the cares, the anxieties, that revolve with every term and engross all a man's thoughts! You may be plunged into the bottomless 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) barefacedly so contrived to pick your pocket. Then follow all the train of examinations, interrogatories, exceptions, bills amended, replies, rejoinders, &c. &c. till, at last, when you have danced through the blessed round of preparation, the hearing before the Chancellor comes next, then from the Chancellor to the House of Lords, and sometimes the parties are sent down from thence for a new trial in the courts below. What wise man, permit me to repeat, would enter himself into this destructive labyrinth of the law? I hope, dear Sir, you will think of this matter deliberately, before you proceed in your present angry purpose; and if you should judge it proper to take my advice, and avoid a law-suit, I am

sure you will have reason to thank me for it, and for the zeal with which I am,

Your sincere friend and servant.

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*Letter from a Tradesman to his Daughter, on her first going out to Service.*

MY DEAR GIRL,

YOU are now embarking on the dangerous commerce of the world at the early age of eighteen—an age the most dangerous in the life of a female. Do not, therefore, treat with indifference the advice of a parent, who has bought wisdom by experience, and who has no other view in the trouble he is now taking, but to teach you how to shun those dangers which proved the destruction of thousands.

In the first place, remember how young you are, and how easily your youthful mind may be led astray, if you be not exceedingly cautious in your conduct. For this reason, never be too confident of your own resolutions, but religiously avoid even the appearance of temptation, and always ask for that advice, which your father will always be ready to give you, with candor and tenderness, if you be not above taking it!

Attend divine service on Sundays as often as the nature of your connexions will admit, and do not neglect the perusal of the sacred writings. By these means you will retain the character of a good christian, and you will thereby find yourself strengthened in the love of virtue.

Be punctually honest to every trust reposed in you: for the deficiency of even but a shilling, or a shilling's worth, is as fatal to a person's character, as if the deficiency were for the largest sum. A character once tainted, is for ever ruined; but this is an admonition I believe, I have now little need to give you.

At all times punctually speak the truth, and do not endeavour to hide a fault by the use of a lie. As I trust

you have high notions of honor, let me ardently entreat you not to forfeit any part of that honor by the use of a lie, which belongs only to little, mean, and narrow, souls. My dear girl, cautiously avoid a lie even on the most trifling occasions, if you wish to preserve your honor untainted.

Be affable and civil to every one, however low their stations in life may be, and never look with contempt on any one, merely because they may not dress so well as yourself. The day will come, when the queen and the beggar will be on a level.

Among the minor virtues, cleanliness stands foremost.—It is of the greatest importance in culinary and domestic concerns. A well-informed judgment in the art of cookery and confectionary being of the utmost importance in the respectable family you are about to enter into, I shall therefore present you with two very excellent books on these subjects, either Glasse's whole art of Cookery, or Mason's and Glasse's Whole Art of Confectionary, improved by Mrs. Wilson. You will also find Halesmore's Domestic Economy of much benefit to you.

In the commerce of this world you will meet with variety of tempers, and some of them no ways pleasing to you: but if your fortunes or hopes depend upon them, do not contend with your superiors about trifles, since many a good friend has been lost by servants endeavouring to be wiser than their masters, mistresses, or superior connexions. Wise servants will always endeavour to discover the bent inclinations of those they serve; and when they have once discovered them, it will be no difficult matter to give satisfaction.

Carefully avoid all party-connexions among servants. Do what you can to make up differences, but never foment them. Do not see them injured whom you serve, without acquainting them therewith; but avoid being the bearer of little idle tittle-tattle tales. Keep your own counsels, and trust no one with your bosom secrets but your father or your real friend.

All this advice, however, will be but of little effect, unless you keep yourself strictly virtuous. It is from a strict adherence to virtue that all your future hopes must flow; but should you, in an unguarded moment, depart from the rigid rules of virtue, you will then be ruined, lost, and undone for ever, when your relations, friends, and even acquaintances, will forsake you and shun you. But God grant that such may never be the case of my motherless girl!

A few hints may not be improper to guard you against the snares and temptations which designing men throw in the way of young and inexperienced girls.

Never accompany any man singly, to walk with him in the fields, to ride with him in a coach, or to go to any of the public places of amusement. Girls too easily persuade themselves, that every young fellow who dangles after them, wishes to make wives of them; but no mistake can be more fatal to their reputation and character; for there are an infinite number of those coxcombs, who endeavour to captivate the hearts of girls, only that they may have an opportunity of boasting in company how great are their conquests.

When a young man of fortune expresses his love to a girl, who has no fortune but her virtue and accomplishments, great, indeed, should be her caution. It is a great chance, indeed, if this consideration does not throw her off her guard, and induce her to consider that as love, which may be found to be only a snare for her ruin. It is this fatal mistake which has filled our public streets with so many unhappy girls.

Real and sincere love is modest and timid, and every young woman may lay down this as a certain rule, that no man who really wishes to make a wife of them, will ever attempt to take the least indecent liberties with them, nor ask for an improper favour, under promise of marriage at a more convenient time. The moment a man attempts any thing of this kind, the prudent girl will instantly fly from him, and ever after shun him as she would plague, pestilence, and famine.

Were young women properly to consider how important and how difficult the proper choice of a husband is, we should not hear the complaints of so many unhappy couples. But, the misfortune is they marry first, and think it will be time enough to consider afterwards ; and hence it is that so many complain all the rest of their lives, and look back with regret and horror on that day in which they quitted service to embark in a state of married slavery.

There is another, and a very important consideration, which ought to be constantly uppermost in your mind before you venture to take a husband. Ask yourself these plain questions ; how are we to live after we shall be married ? As I have no fortune myself, will my husband's income support us suitably, at least, to my present condition, and will he be able to take care of me in sickness, and enable me to bring up our children in a decent manner ? Remember that, however tenderly you may love each other, if want of any kind stare you in the face, there will be no means whatever of retaining happiness in your house, and terrible, indeed, is that situation which affords no hope but in death. Such must be the situation of the generality of those who embark inconsiderately in the married state.

Thus, my dear girl, have I finished the few hints I thought it necessary to give you, on your first launching into the dangerous commerce of the world. I could have said a thousand things more to you, but I am sensible how irksome too long a detail of admonitions are to young minds, I know very well, that if you attend properly to these few hints, your own good sense and judgment will supply the place of every thing I have left unsaid ; but if these are disregarded by you, it would be to no purpose had I given you a thousand more.

I shall conclude with admonishing you to remember how unexperienced a girl of your age must be, and how much you stand in need of the advice of a father. Let prudence be your guide, and let it be the study of

your life by day, and on your pillow by night, never to deviate a step from the thorny path of virtue. Let me but live to see you confirmed in these maxims, and I shall then cheerfully resign my breath to him who gave it me, in the pleasing hope that you will live an amiable and valuable woman, long after I shall be laid in my peaceful grave, and mouldering into dust.

Your affectionate father,

R. J.

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*From a Quaker to his Friend.*

FRIEND OBADIAH,

THOU wilt oblige both Sarah my partner, and thy friend Zaccheus, if thou wilt purchase for me a pipe of Port wine—half ditto of Sherry—puncheon of Coniac brandy—and ditto of Jamaica rum. If thou wilt send them by our carrier, with an account of the charges, thou shalt receive the money thou hast laid out, from  
Thy friend of the faithful.

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*The Answer.*

FRIEND ZACCHEUS,

ACCORDING to thy wish I took our friend Jonathan, who understandeth the quality of liquors, and have purchased for thee the quantity thou hast desired; which thou wilt receive a short time after this, with a bill of the charges. Remember me to the partner of thy days,

Thy friend.

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*From a Creditor to a Debtor.*

IT is out of my power to give you any further indulgence, seeing that the money has been long due,

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and I am at present in great want of it; if, therefore, you will not settle your bill by fair means, you shall shortly be obliged by legal compulsion. I am, Sir,

Your's.

*The Answer.*

SIR,

WHEN it is at present out of my power to discharge the debt I have contracted with you, I hope you will consider that making me a prisoner will only add cost to the bill, and render it of course more impracticable. If bereft of my liberty, I shall consequently be deprived of all means of either doing for myself or others. Your further indulgence will, in the end, be better for yourself, and add to the obligations of, Sir,

Your humble servant,

*The Debtor's Wife's Answer.*

SIR,

Mr. JONES's present embarrassments having obliged him to leave town, it must be of course evident, that it is totally out of his power to comply with your demand: time, I hope, will make a vast alteration in our circumstances; till when my husband cannot be seen, I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*An anonymous Letter to a Tradesman.*

SIR,

LIKE a true friend, I take this opportunity of assuring you that neither your manners nor appearance

are calculated for a tradesman—You never return thanks to any customer for his money, and seem unwilling to oblige ; the consequence will soon be, that yourself and shop will be totally deserted.—You have a disagreeable way of making replies, and instead of recommending your goods, last time I was in your shop I was very uneasy to see several ladies, and particularly elderly gentlemen, standing—Pray, have you no chairs ? if they were a scarce commodity, you should have offered them the stool which you employed yourself--so much for your manners. As to your appearance, I would recommend you to a hair-dresser. Why not appear as genteel in your shop, as you do at the *hopping* assemblies in the evening? I presume that you would derive more advantage from it.. In hopes that these friendly hints will be of service, I remain, Sir,

Your very humble servant,  
A. B.

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*From a Clergyman to another.*

REVEREND SIR,

AS I find myself exceedingly weak and infirm, I fear I shall be incapable of going through divine service to-morrow, with that zeal and devotion which are so truly necessary on the occasion. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of requesting your kind assistance, imagining, if not already engaged, you could be able to officiate for me, since I understand your parish church, the repairs not being yet complete, will not be open for divine service this month—Should it please God to restore me my health, and give me the same opportunity of serving my friend, my willingness shall prove how much I am,

Your obliged brother in God, &c.

*The Answer.*

SIR,

THOUGH I know myself but a poor substitute for so worthy a pastor, I shall, on this occasion, exert my weak abilities to supply your place, praying Heaven the cause may soon be removed, and my dear friend restored in perfect health to his congregation.

Your very humble servant, &c.

*A Merchant to another, requesting the character of a Clerk.*

SIR,

Mr. DIXON has applied to me for a place that is now vacant in my counting-house. He seems a decent, honest man; but appearance not being sufficient assurance, seeing that I must place great confidence in him, I have taken the liberty of requesting your candid opinion, both of his honesty and abilities. He has informed me that he was employed for some time in your house; I should be glad particularly to know on what account you parted with him. As he calls the ensuing week, your answer previous to then will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your very humble servant.

*The Answer.*

SIR,

THE person mentioned in your letter, is really worthy both of your confidence and encouragement. He served me when in partnership with Mr. Middleton, but that being dissolved, I was obliged to dismiss several hands, in order to lessen my expences; it was with the greatest regret on both sides that we parted. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*From a Servant's late Master to a Gentleman.*

SIR,

IN answer to your favor of the 15th instant, wherein you request a faithful character of the bearer, I assure you, upon my honor, that his diligence and knowledge of the business he professes, together with sobriety and honesty, entitle him to much notice; he has been in my service upwards of six years; and it was with the greatest regret that I parted with him.

Your's, &amp;c.

*On the same Occasion.*

SIR,

I THINK it my duty, in reply to your very polite address of the 8th inst. candidly to inform you, that I discharged Thomas, my late servant, who lived with me only one month, for his continued inebriety, which rendered him totally incapable of doing his duty.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &amp;c.

*To a Lady for a Servant's Character.*

MADAM,

IN consequence of a vacancy in my family, I have been applied to by Mrs. Cook, who wishes to engage with me in the capacity of a housekeeper; she has spent some time I understand in your service. The necessity, therefore, of the case, will, I hope, be sufficient excuse for my being urgent in requesting a sincere character of this servant, as I depend entirely upon your veracity and honor.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant.

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*An Answer to the above.*

MADAM,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of answering your favor, relative to Mrs. Cook, who lived with me four years as housekeeper; having testified the utmost diligence and attention in my service, I must confess that she is fully competent to the task she undertakes.

I am, Madam,

Your humble servant.

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*From a Gentleman to another, relative to a bad Servant.*

SIR,

THE footman whom I received into my house, on account of your recommendation, has proved himself, I am sorry to say, during his short stay with me, the very reverse of honest, sober, and industrious; these being his characteristics, as you were pleased to write, but of which in my service, at least, he has proved himself totally undeserving. As I think it a duty every honest person owes to society, to give the real characters of servants when required, I request, should he apply to you instead of me for a recommendation, you will be so good as to refer him to his last master, which will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your humble servant.

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*The Answer.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter, which has somewhat surprised me; as I must repeat, that the footman alluded to was in every sense of the words, honest, sober, and industrious, while he lived with me, otherwise I should not have kept him three years. I shall certainly

give the man the character he deserves, while I knew him, and at the same time tell the enquirer what you are pleased to remark, that you were his last master, by means of which reference you may have an opportunity of proving your declarations ; but I think they should be *proved*, before the man is rendered incapable of earning his bread.

I am, Sir,  
Your humble servant.

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*From a Nephew to his Uncle wanting a Commission.*

DEAR SIR,

AS you have long supplied the place of a father, and by your evident attention loved me as a son, I trust my present application may not be deemed either presumptuous, or an imposition upon your goodness. I am induced for two reasons to make the following request ; first because my welfare in life has always seemed your concern ; and, secondly I am unwilling to be any longer a burden to my kind uncle. I am anxious, at this critical period, to serve my king and country ; and presuming that a commission may now be had on reasonable terms, would deem it the greatest addition that could possibly be to all former obligations, if you wwould procure me even the most humble.—My chief ambition shall be to preserve the same, and distinguish myself in such situation, whereby I flatter myself I may gain opportunity of rising—merit seldom goes unrewarded. I cannot bear the thoughts of being thus in obscurity, leading a dull inactive life, when my services are so much wanted—but, above all, to be constantly obliged to weary my dear uncle with repeated solicitations, without either the hope or the prospect of a return. I shall wait with the utmost impatience for your answer, and should it be your inclination to comply, I shall always be proud to make most hearty acknowledgments of your goodness, and prove myself no longer a troublesome, but grateful nephew,

WILLIAM NOBLE.

*The Answer.*

**BEAR WILLIAM,**

THOUGH I confess your request in some measure pleased me, as it shews an eager wish to serve society, besides displaying a great magnanimity of mind; yet, the thoughts of the dangers you would encounter, render me somewhat slow in gratifying your desire. However, if your inclination does not change, and you will not be dissuaded from those honorable motives you have already testified, of deriving fame and support, I shall let you have a sufficient sum to procure the first commission that is to be purchased. Think, however, on the fatigues and dangers of war—think on the malignant frowns of fortune—think on captivity and death. Many there are, allured by the military dress, only appear what they are not. I have no reason to doubt your courage; for real valour, and not vanity, has evidently prompted this desire. I should be very proud to see my nephew a hero, and boldly aspiring to honor; but it would grieve me very much to think, that after he obtained his wish he should have any cause to repent it. I therefore beg you will seriously weigh the business in your mind, for a week at least, and upon your communicating the effects of that consideration I will endeavour to prove myself

Your affectionate uncle,

**ANTHONY NOBLE.**

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**LETTERS**

ON

**COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.**

*It would be easy to fill a very large volume with the letters of lovers without illustrating the topic of love: because every difference of circumstances and situation,*

however slight, makes a very material one in the commencement, progress, and effects of the passion. The letters of lovers are said to be agreeable to themselves alone, because no person or thing is mentioned in them but themselves; this observation is in some degree true, for the explanation of passion begins in egotism, proceeds in complaint, crimination, exculpation, and compliment, and ends, if fortunately, in self gratulation, if otherwise, in self-defence. Lovers, in general, injure their cause in the eyes of the prudent by unlimited protestations, extravagant exaggerations, and absurd hyperboles; things unpardonable in any person of moderate judgment, and which must proceed either from folly or a wish to deceive.

In writing of love-letters the style ought to be perspicuous and elegant; the homage to beauty, wit, and talents, must be paid with ardour and point, and the protestations of affection have strength enough to prevent their being deemed rapid, and moderation enough to prevent their being thought insincere. The promissory parts ought to be made with strict regard to probability of power, and inclination to the performance; and the complimentary parts should, in spite of the dictates of gallantry, and the promptings of passion, be restrained by the strictest rules of truth, reason, and permanent applicability.

Interest is often a very great stumbling-block in the progress of mutual passion; the old consider it too much, the young too little; passion perverts the latter, a forgetfulness of its effects the former; but passion leads into greater and more irreparable errors, than extreme prudence; for which reason the advice of seniors, of parents, particularly, ought to be sought with ardour, and implicitly followed on a topic of so much importance.

*Genuine Letter from Mr. Bullock, a large Northamptonshire Freeholder, to Mrs. Margaret Clark.*

TO HER I VERY MUCH RESPECT,  
MRS. MARGARET CLARK.

LOVELY, and oh ! that I could write loving Mrs. Margaret Clark, I pray you let affection excuse presumption. Having been so happy as to enjoy the sight of your sweet countenance and comely body sometimes, when I had occasion to buy treacle or liquorish powder at the apothecary's shop, I am so enamoured with you, that I can no more keep close my flaming desire to become your servant. And I am the more bold now to write to your sweet self, because I am now my own man, and may match where I please; for my father is taken away, and now I am come to my living, which is ten yard land, and a house; and there is never a yard of land in our field but is as well worth ten pounds a year as a thief is worth a halter, and all my brothers and sisters are provided for. Besides, I have good household-stuff, though I say it, both brass and pewter, linens and woollens; and though my house be thatched, yet if you and I match, it shall go hard but I will have one-half of it slated. If you think well of this motion, I will wait upon you as soon as my new clothes is made, and hay-harvest is in. I could, though I say it, have good matches amongst my neighbours. My mother, peace be with her soul, the good old gentlewoman has left me a good store of household linen of her own spinning, a chest full. If you and I lay our means together, it shall be hard but I will pave the way to wealth.

Your loving servant till death,  
**MISTER GABRIEL BULLOCK.**  
(Now my father is dead.)\*

\* This letter was given to Sir Richard Steele, by Mr. Browne Willis, and conveys a simplicity of affection preferable to the studied effusions of vanity.

*Letter from a Gentleman to a Lady, disclosing his Passion.*

MADAM,

THOSE only who have suffered them, can tell the unhappy moments of hesitative uncertainty which attend the formation of a resolution to declare the sentiments of affection; I, who have felt their greatest and most acute torments, could not, previous to my experience, have formed the remotest idea of their severity. Every one of those qualities in you which claim my admiration, increased my diffidence, by shewing the great risk I run, in venturing, perhaps before my affectionate assiduities have made the desired impression on your mind, to make a declaration of the ardent passion I have long since felt for you.

My family and connexions are so well known to you, that I need say nothing of them; if I am disappointed of the place I hope to hold in your affections, I trust this step will not draw on me the risk of losing the friendship of yourself and family, which I value so highly, that an object less ardently desired, or really estimable, could not induce me to take a step by which it should be in any manner hazarded.

I am, Madam,  
Your affectionate admirer and sincere friend.

*The Answer.*

SIR,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter, and the obligations I feel to you for the sentiments expressed in it; and assure you, that whatever may be the event of your solicitations in another quarter, the sentiments of friendship I feel, from a long acquaintance with you, will not be in any manner altered.

There are many points besides mere personal regard to be considered ; these must refer to the superior knowledge of my father and brother, and if the result of their enquiries is such as my presentiments suggest, I have no doubt my happiness will be attended to by a permission to decide for myself.

At all events, I shall never cease to feel obliged by a preference in itself sufficiently flattering, and rendered still more so by the handsome manner in which it is expressed ; and I hope, if my parents should see cause to decline the proposed favor of your alliance, it will not produce such disunion between our families, as to deprive us of friends who possess a great portion of our esteem and regard.

I am, Sir,

Your obliged and sincere friend,  
And humble servant.

*From a Gentleman to a young Lady of superior Fortune.*

MADAM,

I CAN no longer do so great violence to my inclinations, and injustice to your charms and merits, as to retain within my own breast those sentiments of esteem and affection with which you have inspired me.

I should have hazarded this discovery much sooner, but was restrained by a dread of meeting censure for my presumption in aspiring to the possession of a lady, whom beauty, wit, and fortune, have conspired to raise so high above my reasonable expectations.

You have judgment enough both of your own good qualities, and the characters of those with whom you converse, to make a proper estimate of my sincerity on this occasion. I am above deceit, and have not, therefore, at any period of our acquaintance, pretended to be a man of greater property than I am, which conduct I hope will tend to convince you of my general sincerity; believe me, my dearest A——, were our circumstances

reversed, I should hardly take to myself the credit of doing a generous action, in overlooking the consideration of wealth, and making you an unreserved tender of my hand and fortune. I shall await your answer in a state of most miserable impatience, and therefore rely on your humanity not to keep me long in suspence.

I am, Madam,

Your most humble servant.

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*The Answer.*

SIR,

GIVING you credit, as I do, for an elevation of mind capable of the most generous sentiments, I cannot believe you guilty of the meanness of speculating on the heart of a lady, with a view to her property; knowing your accomplished manners, and cultivated understanding, I feel the greatest obligation to you for the polite and affectionate declaration contained in your letter. In an affair of so much importance, however, I must refer myself entirely to the discretion of my father. At the same time, I must caution you against feeling hurt at minute inquiries, and resolute objections, which perhaps may be made; young people think too little of wealth, old ones, *perhaps*, too much; but I know my father's prudence and kindness so well, as to pledge myself to abide by his final decision, whatever pain it may cost me. Yet I advise you not to despair of success, as you will find a warm and zealous advocate in

Your sincere friend and humble servant.

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*From a Widow to a young Gentleman, rejecting his Suit.*

SIR,

THE objections I have to make to the proposal contained in your letter are but few, but they demand some

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attention, and will, I believe, be rather difficult to obviate.

You are, by your account, two-and-twenty. I am, by mine, six-and-forty; you are too young to know the duties of a father: I have a son, who is seventeen, and consequently too old to learn the duties of a son from one so little senior to himself. Thus much with respect to age. As to the little fortune I possess, I consider myself merely trustee for my children, and will not, therefore, impose on you, by acceding to the common report, that I am rich. However, as you have borne a lieutenant's commission these three years, as you tell me, you may, perhaps, have reserved out of the profits of that, a sufficient sum to obviate every difficulty on that head.

I will press these objects no farther; when you can convince me that in point of age, fortune, and morals, you are such a person as I can, without reproach, take for a husband, and admit as guardian to my children, I shall cease to think, as I now candidly confess I do, that motives far from honourable, or disinterested love, have influenced your application; till that happens, I must regret that an ill-timed effort of gallantry, on your part, deprives me of the pleasure of subscribing my

Your sincere friend, and humble servant.

*Letter from a young Lady to a Gentleman, declining his Addresses.*

SIR,

HOW extremely sorry am I that any part of my conduct, which was only meant to convey general politeness and respect to the friends of my father, should have been so misconstrued as to have afforded ground for the hopes expressed in yours, which I have just received. I have, therefore, to thank you for the politeness of your letter, and to inform you that I feel no

sentiment in my mind which should induce you to persevere in a suit which can only end in disappointment and rejection.

I cannot omit to notice an insinuation in your's respecting a supposed pre-engagement on my part ; whether such a hint proceeds from vanity or misinformation it is equally injurious and indelicate. Two persons only have a right to interrogate me on such a subject ; to you my only answer must be, that taking your supposition in the affirmative, you have no reason to hope to supplant the object of my predilection : or, taking the negative, my mind is not so entirely vacant, that your idea is absolutely necessary to prevent total vapidity. Wishing you more success in another quarter,

I remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant.

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*Letter from Sir Richard Steele to his wife.*

MY DEAR WIFE,

BEFORE this short absence from you, I did not know that I loved you so much as I really do ; though at the same time I thought I loved you as much as possible. I am under great apprehensions lest you should have any uneasiness whilst I am defrauded of my share in it, and cannot think of tasting any pleasure that you do not partake with me. Pray, my dear, be careful of your health, if for no other reason but because you know I could not outlive you. It is natural in absence to make professions of an inviolable constancy ; but towards so much merit it is hardly a virtue, especially when it is but a bare return to that of which you have given me such continued proofs ever since our first acquaintance.

I am, &c.

*From a Wit to his Mistress.*

MADAM,

I TAKE the liberty of assuring you that you must either pull out your eyes, or I must pull out mine—that's a fact. You must either not be so handsome, or I must be blind, that's another. Though my passion be as violent as any lover's need be, I hope, you will not expect that I should either hang or drown myself; for, believe me, Madam, I shall do neither. I should certainly betray great want of sense, and little knowledge of your merit, if I was inclined to leave the world while you were in it. To deal sincerely with you, Madam, I choose the infinite happiness of being with you, before the glory of dying for you; besides, I entertain such a good opinion of your sense, as to believe you prefer a living lover to a dead one; the lips that are warm, and ready to imprint a thousand sweet kisses, to those that are cold and closed for ever! the limbs which are animated with motion, to those that are lifeless and good for nothing; but, Madam, if I must die, pray kill me with your kindness, not with your cruelty; I had much rather expire upon your bosom than at your feet; should you be tenderly inclined to give me a death of this sort, I am ready to receive it immediately, on any ground in the three kingdoms: appoint but your place and time, and I will not fail to meet my murderer.

Your's for ever.

*Letter from Sir Richard Steele to his Lady, previous to their Union.*

MADAM,

IF my vigilance and ten thousand wishes for your welfare and repose could have any force, you last night slept in security, and had every good angel in your attendance. To have my thoughts ever fixed on you,

to live in constant fear of every accident to which human life is liable, and to send up my hourly prayers to avert them from you ; I say, Madam, thus to think, and thus to suffer, is what I do for her who is in pain at my reproach, and calls all my tender sorrow impertinence. You are now before my eyes, my eyes that are ready to flow with tenderness, but cannot give relief to my gushing heart, that dictates what I am now saying, and yearns to tell you all its aching. How art thou, oh my soul, stolen from thyself ! How is all thy attention broken ! My books are blank paper, and my friends intruders : I have no hope of quiet but from your pity : to grant would make more for your triumph ; to give pain is the tyranny, to make happy the true empire of beauty. If you would consider aright, you will find an agreeable change in dismissing the attendance of a slave to receive the complaisance of a companion. I bear the former in hopes of the latter condition ; as I live in chains without murmuring at the power which inflicts them, so I could enjoy freedom without forgetting the mercy that gave it.

Madam, I am,  
Your most devoted,  
Most obedient servant.

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*From a humorous Lover to his Fair One.*

MISS, or, MY DEAR MISS, or,  
MY MOST DEAR YOUNG LADY,

DID you ever see an almanack in your life ?—You may say this is an odd question.—I will give the reason then why I ask it : There is an odd sort of a fellow, usually pictured in it, Madam, with the devil knows how many darts in his body ; and what of him? you will cry—Nothing, Madam, but that he is only a type of your very humble servant ; for that little rogue, Cupid, has so pinked me all over with his confounded arrows, that I look like—let me think—like what?

your ladyship's pincushion!—but this is not all;—your eyes had like to have proved more fatal to me than Cupid and all his roguery; for, Madam, while I was star-gazing the other night at your window; full of fire and flame (as we lovers usually are) I dropped plump into your fish-pond. By the same token I hissed like a red-hot horse-shoe flung into a smith's trough.—It was a hundred pounds to a penny but I had been drowned; for those that came to my assistance, left me in this sad pickle to shift for myself; because forsooth! laughing had so conquered their sides, that they were incapable of affording me the desired aid.—Seeing some fish, (very good, I presume, when dressed) approaching me with an air that seemed to question me what business I had there, I took the liberty of catching a few of my fellow-sufferers; of which I intend to make an offering to your ladyship, as well as of, Madam,

Your devoted slave, &c.

*Letter from an elder to a younger Brother, cautioning him in the Choice of a Wife.*

DEAR WILLIAM,

YOUR interest is more the object of my thoughts than you perhaps imagine. Though you are younger than I, yet my duty requires my care for your good, and particularly in a point that may be so material to your whole life, as is that of love. Miss Howard is amiable on many accounts; her features are regular, her wit sprightly, her deportment genteel, and her voice, I had almost said, ravishing. Yet I greatly fear, with all these endowments, she will not make the wife you ought to wish for. Her airy flights and gay behaviour are pleasing as a partner in conversation; but, will they be equally agreeable in a partner for life? What now charms you, charms all others. Though she is delightful in company, are you satisfied she will be as agreeable when alone with you, or when she has not an opportunity of

shewing away in company, what you, perhaps, may not approve? She now sees nobody but whom she chooses to see; if she should be a wife, it is more than probable she may dislike restraints; and can you approve of a diffuse conversation in one you desire to yourself? Think not, brother, that I have any interested motive for this advice; for I assure you I have not. I am not your rival, nor desire the lady you seem too fond of. As very few prudent matches are made by young gentlemen of your age, I caution you against thinking of a gentlewoman who may be a suitable companion to a gentleman whose station and choice lead him into much company and gay life; but to men whose circumstances require a more retired way of life, it is obvious a woman, whose talents lie principally in conversation, can never, for that reason only, justify a young gentleman for choosing her for a wife. Shut not your ears to reason, forget not yourself, and be sure to remember that the pleasure of an hour or two, and of twenty, thirty, or forty years, or a whole life, must arise from very different sources.

I am, dear brother,  
Your's most affectionately.

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*Letter from a young Tradesman to a Gentleman, desiring Permission to visit his Daughter.*

SIR,

I FLATTER myself that the integrity of my intention will excuse the freedom of these few lines, whereby I am to acquaint you of the great regard and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, Sir, attempt any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honorable views to her, choosing, by your influence, if I may approve myself to you worthy of that honor, to commend myself to her approbation. You are not insensible, Sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved

in the world, of my ability, by God's blessing, to make her happy. This the rather emboldens me to request the favor of an evening's conversation with you, at your first convenience; when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement or discouragement from your own mouth. I am, Sir, in the mean time, with great respect and esteem,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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*Letter from the same to the young Lady, by Permission of the Father.*

MISS,

I HOPE I shall stand excused in venturing to make known to your honored father, the great desire I have to be thought worthy of a relation to him by your means. As he has not discouraged me in the hopes I have entertained, that I may possibly be not unacceptable to him, and to all your worthy family, I propose to do myself the honor of a visit to you next Monday. Though he has been so good as to promise to introduce me, and I make no doubt has acquainted you with it, I nevertheless give you the trouble of these lines, that I might not appear wanting in any outward demonstration of that inviolable respect, with which I am, dear Miss,

Your most devoted humble servant.

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*Letter from a young Lady in the Country to her Father, acquainting him with an Offer made to her of Marriage.*

Manchester, May 1.

HONORED FATHER,

MY duty teaches me to acquaint you, that a gentleman of this town, whose name is Smith, and by business a linen-draper, has made some overtures to my cousin Arnold, in the way of courtship to me. My cou-

sin has brought him once or twice into my company, as he has a high opinion of him and his circumstances. He has been set up three years, possesses a very good business, and lives in credit and fashion. He is about twenty-seven years old, and is likely in his person. He seems not to want sense nor manners, and is come of a good family. He has broken his mind to me, and boasts how well he can maintain me ; but I assure you, Sir, I have given him no encouragement, yet he resolves to persevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and esteem. I would not, Sir, by any means, omit to acquaint you with the beginning of an affair, that would shew a disobedience unworthy of your kind indulgence and affection. Pray give my humble duty to my honored mother, love to my brother and sister, and respects to all friends.

I remain

Your ever dutiful daughter.

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*Letter in Answer to the preceding.*

DEAR POLLY,

YOUR letter of the first instant has come safe to hand, wherein you acquaint me of the same proposals made to you through your cousin's recommendation, by one Mr. Smith. I hope, as you assure me, that you have given no encouragement to him ; for I by no means approve of him for your husband. I have enquired of one of his townsmen, who knows him and his circumstances very well, and I am neither pleased with him nor his character. I wonder my cousin should so inconsiderately recommend him to you, though I doubt not his good intentions. I insist upon it, that you think nothing more of this matter, and your mother joins with me in the same advice. Adieu, my dear girl, and believe me

Your affectionate father.

*Another on the same Occasion.*

DEAR POLLY,

I HAVE received your letter of the first instant, relating to the addresses of Mr. Smith. I would advise you neither to encourage nor discourage his suit; for if on enquiry into his character and circumstances, I shall find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. However, my dear girl, consider that men are deceitful, and always put the best side outwards. It may, possibly, on the strict enquiry which the nature and importance of the case demands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me, therefore, advise you to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap, for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. In the mean time he may be told, that you are entirely resolved to abide by my determination in an affair of this great importance. This will put him on applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will, in this case, as in all others, study your good. Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins in the advice you here receive from

Your affectionate father.

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*Letter from Mr. Smith to the young Lady's Father.*

SIR,

THOUGH personally unknown to you, I take the liberty to declare the great value and affection I have for your amiable daughter, whom I have had the honor to see at my friend's house. I should think myself entirely unworthy of her favor, and of your approbation, if I could have thought of influencing her resolution, but in obedience to your pleasure, as I should, on such a supposition, offer an injury likewise to that pru-

dence in herself, which I flatter myself is not the least of her amiable perfections. If I might have the honor of your countenance, Sir, on this occasion, I would open myself and circumstances to you in that frank and honest manner, which should convince you of the sincerity of my affection for your daughter, and at the same time of the honorableness of my intentions. In the mean time I will in general say, that I have been set up in my business, in the linen-drapery way, upwards of three years; that I have a very good trade for the time; and that I had a thousand pounds to begin with, which I have improved to fifteen hundred, as I am ready to make appear to your satisfaction; that I am descended of a creditable family, have done nothing to stain my character, and that my trade is still further improveable, as I shall, I hope, enlarge my capital. This, Sir, I thought but honest and fair to acquaint you with, that you might know something of a person who sues you for your countenance, and that of your good lady, in an affair that I hope may one day prove the greatest happiness of my life, as it must be, if I can be blessed with that and your daughter's approbation. In hopes of which, and the favor of a line, I take the liberty to subscribe myself, good Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant.

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*Letter from the Cousin to the Father and Mother of the  
young Lady.*

DEAR COUSIN,

THE pleasure of having cousin Polly so long with us, demands my thanks to you both. She has entirely captivated a friend of mine, Mr. Smith, a linen-draper of this town. I would have acquainted you with it myself, but I advised cousin Polly to write to you about it; for I would not for the world any thing of this sort should be carried on unknown to you, at my house especially. Mr. Smith has shown me his letter to you, and I believe every tittle of it to be true; and really, if

you and my cousin approve of it, and also cousin Polly, I do not know where she can do better. I am sure I should think so if I had a daughter he could love. Thus much I thought myself obliged to say, and shall conclude with my kind love to you all, and remain

Your affectionate cousin.

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*Letter from the Father, in Answer to Mr. Smith.*

SIR,

I AM much obliged to you for the favor of your letter, as also for the good opinion you express in behalf of my daughter; but I think she is yet full young enough to alter her condition, and embark in the cares of a family. I cannot but say, that the account you give of yourself, and your application to me, rather than first to try to engage the affections of my daughter, carry a very honorable appearance, and such as must be to the advantage of your character. As to your beginning, Sir, that is not to be so much looked upon as the improvement, and I doubt not but you can make proof of what you assert on this occasion. Still I must need say, that I think, and so does her mother, that it is too early to encumber her with the cares of the world. As I am sure she will do nothing in so important an affair without our advice, so I would not for the world, in a case so nearly concerning her, and her future welfare, constrain her in the least. I intend shortly to send for her home, for she has been longer absent from us than we intended, and then I shall consult her inclinations. You will excuse me when I say, (for she is my daughter, and a very good child) that I shall then determine myself by that, and by what shall appear to offer most for her good. I am, Sir,

Your friend and humble servant.

*Letter from Mr. Smith to the young Lady, after her Return home.*

DEAR LADY,

IT is with great pleasure I hear of your safe arrival at your father's house, of which I take the liberty to congratulate your good parents, as well as your dear self. I will not, Ma'am, fill this letter with the regret I had to part with you, because I have no reason to merit, at present, to expect that you should be concerned for me on that account. However I am not without hope, from the sincerity of my affection for you, and the honesty of my intentions, to deserve, in time, those regards which I cannot at present flatter myself with. As your good father, in his kind letter to me, assured me that he should consult your inclinations, and determine by them, I should humbly hope to pay you and him a visit. I think, far different from many in the world, that a deception in an affair of this weighty nature, should be less forgiven than in any other. Since then, dearest lady, I build my hopes more on the truth of my affection for you, and the honor of my intentions, than on any other merit or pretensions, I hope you will condescend, if not to become an advocate for me, which would be too great a presumption to expect, yet to let your good parents know, that you have no aversion to the person and addresses of, dearest Ma'am,

Your most affectionate humble servant.

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*Letter from the young Lady, in Answer to Mr. Smith.*

SIR,

THE letter you favored me with I am happy to find my parents no less satisfied with than myself. Reserve, which is always disagreeable to generous minds, seems now unnecessary between us. My father is perfectly satisfied with the truth of every thing you have advanced,

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and I shall be obedient to his will. As soon as your business will permit of your absence from home, you will be welcomely received by my parents, as well as by  
Your friend for life.

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*Letter from a Maid Servant in Town, to her Father and Mother in the Country.*

DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER,

AS I am sensible it is neither my duty nor interest to conceal any thing from you, I must acquaint you, that I am addressed, in order to change my condition, by one Mr. Turner, a printer, who lives in the neighborhood by us. He is a young man, of a sober character, and has been set up about two years, has good business for his time, and is spoken of and beloved by every one. My friends here think well of it, particularly my master and mistress; and he says he doubts not, by God's blessing on his industry, to maintain a family very prettily. I have fairly told him, how little he has to expect from me. However, I would not conclude on any thing till I had acquainted you with his proposals, and asked your blessing and consent; for I am, and ever shall be,

Your most dutiful daughter.

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*Letter from her Parents in Answer to the preceding.*

DEAR BETSEY,

YOUR dutiful letter has come safe to our hands. We can only pray to God to bless and direct you in all your engagements. Our distance from you must make us leave every thing to your own discretion; and, as you are so well satisfied with Mr. Turner's character, as well as your friends, and your master and mistress, we give you our blessing and consent with all our hearts; we are

only sorry we can do no more for you. Let us know when it is done, and we will do some little matters, as far as we are able, towards housekeeping. Our respects to Mr. Turner. Every body joins with us in wishes for your happiness; and that God may bless you, is all that can be said by

Your affectionate father and mother.

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*Letter of Advice to a Daughter in the Country, against receiving the Addresses of a Subaltern.*

DEAR NANCY,

WITH the deepest sorrow I hear of your encouraging the addresses of a soldier, whether serjeant or corporal I know not, who happens to quarter next door to your uncle. What, my dear child, can you propose by such a match? Is his pay sufficient to maintain himself? If it be, will it be sufficient for the support of a family? Consider, there will be no opportunity for you to increase his poor income, but by such means as will be very grating for you to submit to. Will your hands be capable of enduring the fatigues of a wash-tub for your maintenance? Will following a camp suit your inclinations? Think well of the certain misery that must attend your making such a choice. Look round at the wives of all his fellow-soldiers, and mark their appearance at their homes and in public. Is their abject condition to be coveted? Do you see any thing desirable in poverty and rags? As to the man for whom you must endure all this, he may possibly indeed be possessed of honesty, and a desire to do his best for you; at least you may think so; but is it probable he will? If he be wise and industrious, how came he to prefer a life so mean and contemptible? If he were bred to any trade, why did he desert it? Be cautious of pushing yourself into ruin; and as I am not able to maintain you and a young family, do not throw yourself upon the uncertain charity of well-disposed people, who are already

vastly encumbered by the miserable. I hope you will not thus rashly increase the unhappy number of such, but will give due attention to what I have said; for I can have no view but that of discharging the duty of  
A loving and affectionate mother.

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*Letter from a Gentleman to a Lady, against the tedious  
Forms of Courtship.*

MADAM,

ONE of the ancients, describing a youth in love, says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak, nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute; and whenever I shall be in your company, and behave like a fool, do not forget that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare thus much, I must presume to say, that a favorable reception of this will, I am certain, make me more worthy of your notice; but your disdain would be what I believe myself incapable ever to surmount. To try by idle fallacies, and airy compliments, to prevail on your judgment, is a folly for any man to attempt, who knows you. No, Madam, your good sense and endowments have raised you far above the necessity of practising the mean artifices which prevail upon the less deserving of your sex. You are not to be so lightly deceived; and if you were, give me leave to say, I should not think you deserving of the trouble that would attend such an attempt. This, I must own, is no fashionable letter from one who, I am sure, loves up to the greatest hero of romance: but, as I would hope, that the happiness I sue for should be lasting, it is certainly most eligible to take no step to procure it, but what will bear reflection. I should be happy to see you mine, when we have both outlived the taste for every thing that has not reason and virtue to support it. I am, Madam, notwithstanding this unpolished address,

Your most respectful admirer,  
And most humble servant.

*Letter from a Mother to her high-spirited Daughter respecting her married Conduct.*

DEAR POLLY,

IT most heartily vexes me, to hear of the frequent bickerings between you and your husband. I hoped much better things from your prudence. "From my prudence!" you will perhaps say, as if I thought all the fault was your's. But, my dear, I do not think so; I cannot think so; and yet I may find fault with your want of prudence. Prudence will oblige a good wife to bear a little contradiction from her husband, though perhaps not always just. Suppose he is peevish, petulant, uneasy in his temper, and on slight, or no occasion, as you may think; must you be peevish and petulant because he is so? How do you know what things may have happened to him abroad, in the way of his business, to make him so? Or, if it be only humour, why must you be as bad as he with whom you find fault? Is an ill temper in a husband so taking a thing, that his wife, who finds it intolerable to her, must nevertheless imitate or assume it? The reason why you will not allow him to be oftener in the right, and while you condemn as causeless his petulance and waspishness, must proceed in a great measure, from a slender opinion, if not contempt, of his judgment. If you think him a man of sense, it is impossible but you should allow that there may be some cause, though you do not immediately penetrate it, why he should be disturbed. It would be kind in you to suppose the best, and conclude, that his tenderness for you will not let him communicate it to you, rather than to imagine he is always in the wrong, and always angry without reason. But were it actually to be so, are you commissioned to punish him with provocations and resentments? If you love him as you ought, you will extenuate his failings, and draw into an advantageous light those actions which may be interpreted in his favor. If I heard you once say, you will give him as good as

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he brings, that you will not bear his unaccountable humours, and such-like vulgar and provoking expressions, it must come to this point; either he or you must give way, one of your tempers must be subdued, and overawed by the other. If it be his case, tired out by your resolute and sturdy behaviour, to submit, do you think this will be a credit to either him or you? What an abject wretch will he be deemed! What a termagant you! This I aver, that meekness, condescension, and forbearance, are so far from being despicable characters in our sex, that they are the glory of it. What is meekness, my dear, if you are not to be tried by provocations? What is condescension, if you must always have your own way? What is forbearance, if you are to return injury for injury, with the hostile spirit of a fierce enemy, rather than to act with the sweet complacency of a tender wife, who has vowed obedience and duty? So long as you can have your way in every thing, you will be a mirror of condescension; but when once you come to be contradicted, why then you are at liberty to contradict again. If he be out of the way in his humour, you will never be in the way in your's. If he gives you one unkind word he shall have two in return; for you will give him as good as he brings. If he be passionate, you will be so too. You will return provoking answers for reflecting words, and so make your house a constant scene of confusion and your life uncomfortable. And for what? Why to shew how bravely you can return injury for injury, how nobly you can contend for victory over your husband, and how you can make him despised in his family, as well by children as servants, and yourself discredited by the poor victory, supposing you were to win it by breaking his spirits! Is this, my dear, the part of a tender wife to an husband? And do we not vow reverence to a husband as our head? How this can be, if you are to return evil for evil, to make yourself the judge, jury, and executioner too, by acquitting yourself, condemning him, sentencing him, and punishing him with all the severity of licentious speech, provoking snappish-

ness, or the still more affecting deportment of sullen and contemptuous silence? Let me on the whole, beseech you, for my sake, who would be loth to be thought to have set any bad example; for your family's sake, for your reputation's sake, as well as his, to resolve on a different conduct. Make the good rule your's, of never being out of humour when he is so. First soften him by good temper, then, when softened, expostulate mildly, on the unreasonableness of his anger. If you convince him thus, he will avoid the like error. He will see you advise him for his good; and that you contend not for victory, of contradict for contradiction's sake, but for his own sake, and you will both reap the happy fruits of it in the comfort of your lives, in the respect of your neighbours and friends, and in the pleasure you will give to your relations, who will visit and be visited by you both, with that delight, which nobody knows more how to estimate than, my dear,

Your ever affectionate mother.

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*Letter from a Daughter to her Father, pleading in the Behalf of an imprudent Sister.*

DEAR SIR,

EMBOLDENED by the most tender regard you have always shewn to your children, I presume to become an advocate for my sister, though not for her fault. She is very sensible of the crime in marrying without your consent, and she is sorry she has offended you; but she has great hopes that Mr. Bladon will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for his past wildness, and engage your forgiveness. As his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth, or otherwise it would not have been a very indiscreditable match, had it had your approbation, I could humbly hope, for my poor sister's sake, that you will be obliged rather to encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favor, than make him despair

of a reconciliation, and so perhaps treat her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not apprehensive of; for he is really very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. She is dejected for her fault to you, and wishes, yet dreads to have your leave to throw herself at your feet to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy. Pardon, Sir, my interposing in her favor, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister, she is your daughter, though she has not done so worthily as I wish, to become that character. However, Sir, be pleased to forgive her, and let me have the happiness of having contributed to that good event. I am, dear Sir,

Your ever dutiful daughter.

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*Letter from the Father in Answer.*

MY DEAR SALLY,

YOU cannot but suppose, that your sister's imprudent marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet, I will assure you, that it arises more from my affection for her than from any other consideration. What she has now done is not vicious but indiscreet; for you remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the wild assertion of a rake making a good husband, was the most dangerous opinion a young woman could imbibe. Her husband has been with me this morning for her fortune, and it was with much temper I told him, that as all she could hope for was wholly at my disposal, I should disburse it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage; and that, as he was a stranger to me, I should choose to know he deserved it, before he had power over what I intended to do for her. He bit his lip, and with a hasty step was my humble servant. Tell the rash girl that I would not have her be afflicted at this

behaviour of me, for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other. If he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behaviour from this disappointment; but if he married her only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession rather than his. Your interposition in her behalf is very sisterly, and you see I have not the resentment she might expect; but would to God she had acted with your prudence! For her own sake I wish it, I am,

Your affectionate father.

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*Letter from a Nephew to his Aunt, concerning ludicrous Treatment in Courtship.*

DEAR AUNT,

FOR some time past I have been making my addresses, in the best manner I can, to Miss Johnson, but have not the least room to boast of my success. The accounts you gave me of her good sense, and many uncommon qualifications, will not permit me to arraign her conduct; and the good opinion I have long entertained of myself, makes me very slow in blaming my own. I would have obeyed your orders to write to you sooner, but knew not what to say; and by waiting till I began to fear you would think me negligent, I am in no better condition. I first declared my regard for her in a manner I thought most suitable for that purpose. She very encouragingly made me no answer; and when I spoke again on the subject, she asked how you did, and was glad to hear you was well. Being then out of my play, I talked of indifferent things a good while, and at last fell again upon the reason of my attending her. She ordered the cloth to be laid, and complaisantly hoped I would stay supper, when I had no more opportunity of speaking that time. Two days after I repeated my visit. She received me at first politely; but when I began to resume the subject I came upon,

she rang for the maid, and bid her put on the tea-kettle. About six visits passed before I could obtain one word to my business ; and the first thing she answered upon that head was, that length of time was necessary to the making of an acquaintance that must not be either blushed at or repented of. This she spoke with such an air of gravity as put what I would have replied quite out of my head. Yet next visit I began again ; I told her how happy I should think myself, if I could be encouraged to hope for the smallest share of her favor ; but she made me such an odd answer as plainly demonstrated to me, that I had more of her contempt than approbation. This made me as earnest as her to wave the subject, and so we went on upon the weather for a whole week before. When we had done that, we talked politics ; and in short, after two months study how to accomplish the happiness you pointed out to me, I find myself not one single step advanced ; for when I see her now, we both talk with seeming satisfaction on any subject where love has no part ; but, when that is introduced, all her easy eloquence sinks into reserve. I could not think of relinquishing my addresses before I had your further advice, in hopes of which, I am, honored Madam,

Your dutiful nephew.

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*Letter from a Father to his Daughter, on the Subject  
of Marriage.*

DEAR SALLY,

THREE several proposals have been made me on your account, and they are so particularly circumstanced that I cannot approve of one of them. The first is by Mr. Adams, for his son Thomas, who, you know, is very weak in his intellects, and so apt to be misled, that he wants a guardian for him in a wife, and so does you the reputation to think you a proper person for that office. I think the first weakness in the world

in a husband is that of intellect, and I should suffer much to have you joined to a man who has no head, and is, for that reason, highly unworthy to be your's. A foolish wife is much more tolerable, because she can be kept up ; but a foolish husband will go where he pleases, and do what he pleases ; and although he knows nothing else, will think he knows too much to be controlled by his wife. He will have this lesson taught him by rakes and libertines, when he is capable of no other. So I did not think it necessary so much as to consult you about him. The second is Mr. Graham, for his son William, who has run through such a course of libertinism, that he has hardly his fellow, and has neither a sound head nor a sound heart. He is so far from being reclaimed, that his father proposes a wife as a last hope for him ; and says, condescends to like you better than any one he ever saw, which was the reason of the old man's application to me. The third was from Mr. Tomlinson, whose nephew is as bad a sot as the other is a rake, but who promises to reform, if his uncle can procure my consent and your's : I gave a total denial to the request of the uncle, who desired that the matter might be brought on by my authority and interposition. Thus my dear girl has had bad fortune in the offers of three persons, not one of them being worthy of her choice ; the one a very fool, the second a profligate rake, and the third a vile sot. But I have a fourth affair to mention to you, against which there can lie but one objection, and that is, some disparity in years. This is my good friend Mr. Ruff, as honest a man as ever lived, a man of prudence, a man of fortune, and easy circumstances, a master of a genteel house and business, well respected by all the world, and most by those who know him best ; a good-natured man, humane, compassionate, and though frugal not a niggard. Now, my dear daughter, what think you of Mr. Ruff ? I wish with him, my dear, that your ages had been more suitable, yet, considering the hazards a young woman runs from rakes, sets, and fools, of every degree ; considering that in this matter inde-

pendence is much to be wished for, and that all the grand desirables of life will be so well supplied ; considering too that he is slighty, a neat, a personable man, and has good health, good spirits, and good humour, and is not quite yet got to the top of the hill of life ; considering all these things, I say, I think that one consideration might be given up for the many other more material ones, which would be so well supplied in this match. Say, my dear daughter, say freely what you think. You will much oblige me if you can get this matter over ; but if you cannot, and be so happy as I wish you—why then—I do not know what to say—but I must—I think—acquiesce. But yet I could once more wish—but I will say no more till I have your answer, but that I am,

Your affectionate father.

P. S. Your good old aunt Grace, hearing you were likely soon to be married, has purchased Moss on the Management of Young Children, and the diseases of lying-in Women. She has heard the book highly recommended, and therefore sends it to all her new-married acquaintance.

*Letter from the young Lady, in Answer to her Father.*

HONORED SIR,

I CANNOT be so forgetful of myself, as to be insensible of the obligations, which both nature and gratitude lay me under to obey your commands ; and I am willing to do so at all events, if what I have to offer be not thought sufficient to excuse my compliance. Mr. Ruff is, I believe, possessed of all the merit you ascribe to him ; but be not displeased, dear Sir, when I say, he seems not so proper a husband for me, as for a woman of more years and experience. For, Sir, is not a likeness of years attended with likeness of humours, an agreement in diversions and pleasures, and thinking

too? And can such likeness, such agreements, be naturally expected, where the years on one side double the number of the other? Besides, Sir, is not this defect, if I may so call it a defect, that will be far from mending by time? If you insist upon my obedience, I will only take the liberty to observe, that if I do marry Mr. Ruff, it will be entirely the effect of my duty to the best of fathers, and not of an affection for a gentleman that I respect in every light but that in which you propose him. And, dear good Sir, consider then, what misunderstanding and evil consequences may possibly hence arise, and render unhappy the future life of

Your most dutiful daughter,

*From a young Lady to a Gentleman.*

SIR,

NATURE, it is said, never produced any thing without some motive or design.—I wish to know the utility of fools; I do not mean those witty fools of former days, who were so remarkably pertinent and shrewd—but the mere empty fools of the present time. I cannot for my life conceive, what advantage they are to society, except it is to afford others an opportunity of displaying their wisdom.—Your opinion will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*The Gentleman's Answer.*

MY DEAR LAURA,

I RECEIVED your pretty lively letter, and am now preparing to consider the question you have started relating to fools.

As nature is said to have made nothing in vain, what apology then, for fools? This difficulty, which has so

long puzzled the learned, I will offer you two solutions to answer; one by denying, and the other admitting the fact.

First, then, I deny that nature ever made a fool, but as she makes any other monster; not by design, but through some accidental imperfection in the organs of conception, or casual event happening afterwards to the infant in the cradle.

Next, I admit fools to have been made by design, and no offence to you, shall take the liberty to offer you this hypothesis of the matter.

Providence made man, and seeing it not good that man should be alone, he made woman; then seeing it not good that woman should be alone, he made a fool; before which time, it is said, she amused herself with the devil. Since, heaven and fools have divided the favors of the fair. I am, my fair querist,

Your faithful respondent,

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## LETTERS

or

### FRIENDSHIP AND CONSOLATION.

*EARLY life is the time for the formation of perfect and honorable friendships; those then created are more firm, and less subject to decay and interruption, than any which have their commencement later in life. We do not mean, by this observation, to close the avenues of the heart against the approaches of kindness at any period, but merely to shew the value of those early connexions, which can never be replaced by any equally permanent. How valuable is that friendship which can be preserved and continued to the hour of death! when the period of eternal separation approaches, how inestimable are the blessings of friendly consolation!*

*Dr. Johnson to Mrs. Thrale, on the value of long-established Friendship.*

London, Nov. 13, 1783.

DEAR MADAM,

SINCE you have written to me with the attention and tenderness of ancient time, your letters give me a great part of the pleasure which a life of solitude admits. You will never bestow a share of your good-will on one who deserves better. Those that have loved longest love best. A sudden blaze of kindness may, by a single blast of coldness be extinguished, but that fondness, which length of time has connected with many circumstances and occasions, though it may for a while be suppressed by disgust or resentment, with or without a cause, is hourly revived by accidental recollection. To those that have lived long together, every thing heard, and every thing seen, recalls some pleasure communicated, or some benefit conferred, some petty quarrel, or some slight endearment. Esteem of great powers, or amiable qualities newly discovered, may embroider a day or week, but a friendship of twenty years is interwoven with the texture of life. A friend may be often found and lost, but an *old friend* never can be found, and nature has provided that he cannot easily be lost.

I have not forgotten the Davenants, though they seem to have forgotten me. I began very early to tell them what they have commonly found to be true. I am sorry to hear of their building. I have always warned those whom I loved, against that mode of ostentatious waste.

You seem to mention Lord Kilmurry as a stranger. We were at his house in Cheshire; and he one day dined with Sir Lynch. What he tells me of the epigram is not true, but perhaps he does not know it to be false. Do not you remember how he rejoiced in having no park: he could not disoblige his neighbours by sending them no venison.

The frequency of death to those who look upon it in the leisure of Arcadia, is very dreadful. We all know what it should teach us ; let us all be diligent to learn. Lucy Porter has lost her brother. But whom have I lost ? let me not now remember. Let not your loss be added to the mournful catalogue. Write soon again to, Madam,

Your's, &c.

*Mr. Locke to Mr. Molyneux, on the advantages of Friendship.*

Oates, April 26, 1695.

SIR,

YOU look with the eyes, and speak the language of friendship, when you make my life of much more concern to the world than your own. I take it, as it is, for an effect of your kindness, and so shall not accuse you of compliment ; the mistakes and over-valuings of good-will being always sincere, even when they exceed what common truth allows. Thus on my side I must beg you to believe that my life would be much more pleasant and useful to me if you were within my reach, that I might sometimes enjoy your conversation, and, upon twenty occasions, lay my thoughts before you, and have the advantage of your judgment. I cannot complain that I have not my share of friends of all ranks, and such whose interest, assistance, affection, and opinions too, in fit cases, I can rely on. But methinks, for all this, there is one place vacant, that I know nobody that would fill so well as yourself ; I want one near me to talk freely with, *de quolibet ente* ; to propose to the extravagancies that rise in my mind ; one with whom I would debate several doubts and questions, to see what was in them. Meditating by one's self is like digging in the mine ; it often, perhaps, brings up maiden earth, which never came near the light before ; but whether it contain any metal in it, is

never so well tried as in conversation with a knowing judicious friend, who carries about him the true touchstone; which is love of truth in a clear-thinking head. Men of parts and judgment the world usually gets hold of, and by a great mistake (that their abilities of mind are lost, if not employed in the pursuit of wealth and power) engages them in the ways of fortune and interest, which usually leave but little freedom or leisure of thought for pure disinterested truth. And such who give themselves up frankly, and in earnest, to the full latitude of real knowledge, are not every where to be met with. Wonder not, therefore, that I wish so much for you in my neighbourhood. I should be too happy in a friend of your make, were you within my reach. But yet I cannot but wish that some business would once bring you within distance; and it is a pain to me to think of leaving the world, without the happiness of seeing you.

I do not wonder that a kinsman of your's should magnify civilities that scarce deserve that name; I know not wherein they consisted, but in being glad to see one who was any way related to you, and was himself a very ingenious man; either of those was a title to more than I did, or could shew him. I am sorry I have not yet had an opportunity to wait on him in London, and I fear he should be gone before I am able to get thither. This long winter and cold spring has hung very heavy upon my lungs, and they are not yet in a case to be ventured in London air, which must be my excuse for not waiting upon him and Dr. Ashe yet.

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*The Bishop of Rochester to Mr. Pope.*

The Tower, April 10, 1723.

DEAR SIR,

I THANK you for all the instances of your friendship, both before and since my misfortunes. A little

time will complete them, and separate you and me for ever. But in what part of the world soever I am, I will live mindful of your sincere kindness to me ; and will please myself with the thought, that I still live in your esteem and affection as much as ever I did ; and that no accident of life, no distance of time or place, will alter you in that respect. It never can me ; who have loved and valued you ever since I knew you, and shall not fail to do it when I am not allowed to tell you so ; as the case will soon be. Give my faithful services to Dr. Arbuthnot, and thanks for what he sent me, which was much to the purpose, if any thing can be said to be to the purpose, in a case that is already determined. Let him know my defence will be such, that neither my friends need blush for me, nor will my enemies have great occasion of triumph, though sure of the victory. I shall want his advice before I go abroad, in many things, but I question whether I shall be permitted to see him, or any body, but such as are absolutely necessary towards the dispatch of my private affairs. If so, God bless you both ; and may no part of the ill fortune that attends me, ever pursue either of you ! I know not but I may call upon you at my hearing, to say somewhat about my way of spending my time at the Deanery, which did not seem calculated towards managing plots and conspiracies. But of that I shall consider—You and I have spent many hours together, upon much pleasanter subjects ; and, that I may preserve the old custom, I shall not part with you now till I have closed this letter with three lines of Milton, which you I know, readily, and not without some degree of concern, apply to your ever affectionate, &c.

Some nat'ral tears he dropt, but wip'd them soon :  
The world was all before him where to choose  
His place of rest ; and providence his guide.

*Dr. Arbuthnot to Mr. Pope.*

I LITTLE doubt of your kind concern for me, nor of that of the lady you mention. I have nothing to repay my friends with at present, but prayers and good wishes. I have the satisfaction to find that I am as officiously served by my friends as he that has thousands to leave in legacies, besides the assurance of their sincerity. God Almighty has made my bodily distress as easy as a thing of that nature can be. I have found some relief, at least sometimes, from the air of this place. My nights are bad, but many poor creatures worse.

As for you, my good friend, I think, since our first acquaintance, there have not been any of those little suspicions or jealousies, that often affect the sincerest friendships: I am sure not on my side. I must be so sincere as to own, that though I could not help valuing you for those talents which the world prizes, yet they were not the foundation of my friendship; they were quite of another sort; nor shall I at present offend you by enumerating them! and I make it my last request, that you will continue that noble disdain and abhorrence of vice, which you seem naturally endued with, but still with a due regard to your own safety, and study more to inform than to chastise, though the one cannot be effected without the other. Lord Bathurst I have always honored, for every good quality that a person of his rank ought to have: pray give my respects and kindest wishes to the family. My venison stomach is gone, but I have those about me, and often with me, who will be very glad of his present; if it is left at my house it will be transmitted safe to me.

A recovery in my case, and at my age, is impossible; the kindest wish of my friends is *euthanasia*; living or dying I shall always be your's, &c.

*Letter from Mr. West to Mr. Gray soliciting his Correspondence.*

Christ-Church, Nov. 14, 1735.

YOU use me very cruelly; you have sent me but one letter since I have been at Oxford, and that too agreeable not to make me sensible how great my loss is in not having more. Next to seeing you is the pleasure of seeing your hand-writing; next to hearing you is the pleasure of hearing from you. Really and sincerely I wonder at you, that you thought it not worth while to answer my last letter. I hope this will have better success in behalf of your quondam school-fellow; in behalf of one who has walked hand-in-hand with you, like the two children in the wood,

Thro' many a flowery path and shelly grot,  
Where learning lull'd us in her private maze.

The very thought, you see, tips my pen with poetry, and brings Eton to my view. Consider me very seriously here in a strange country, inhabited by things that call themselves Doctors and Masters of Arts; a country flowing with syllogisms and ale, where Horace and Virgil are equally unknown; consider me, I say, in this melancholy light, and then think if something be not due to

Yours, &c.

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*From James Howell to Mr. R. S. on his neglecting to answer his Letters.*

London, 19th July,  
the 1st of the Dog-days, 1626.

SIR,

I SENT you one of the 3d current, but it was not answered; I sent another of the 13th like a second arrow, to find out the first, but I know not what's become of either. I send this to find the other two; and if this fail, there shall go no more out of my quiver.

If you forget me I have cause to complain, and more if you remember me ; to forget, may proceed from the frailty of memory ; not to answer me when you mind me, is pure neglect, and no less than a piacle. So I rest your's easily to be recovered.

Ira furor brevis : brevis est mea littera + cogor,  
Ira correptus corrumpisse stylum.

*From a Gentleman, who had long neglected a Correspondence to his Friend..*

DEAR SIR,

WHEN I look back to the date of your two last, and reflect on the length of time they have remained unanswered, I feel the most poignant sensations of shame and regret ; I will not aggravate the impropriety of my omission, by amusing you with childish excuses of illness and business, but confess that an unaccountable negligence, and foolish habit of procrastination, have made me so inattentive. I throw myself on your kindness to excuse this omission, to renew our interrupted correspondence, and must intreat you not to consider me as deficient in friendship for you, though appearance goes so far towards my condemnation in that particular.

I beg it with an ill grace, but as my ease of mind depends on it, must request you to favor me with an answer to this as soon as possible ; let me know every thing which interests you, or has done since you wrote last ; I have many things to communicate, but am resolved to devote this letter to apology alone, and to the purpose of assuring you how sincerely I am,

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend,  
And humble servant.

*From Dr. Johnson to Mr. Boswell, in answer to repeated Requests that he would write.*

DEAR SIR,

WHY should you importune me so earnestly to write? Of what importance can it be to hear of distant friends, to a man who finds himself welcome wherever he goes, and makes new friends faster than he can want them? If to the delight of such universal kindness of reception, any thing can be added by knowing that you retain my good-will, you may indulge yourself in the full enjoyment of that small addition.

I am glad that you have made the round of Litchfield with so much success; the oftener you are seen, the more you will be liked; it was pleasing to me to read that Mrs. Aston was so well; and that Lucy Porter was so glad to see you.

In the place where you now are there is much to be observed; and you will easily procure yourself skilful directors. But what will you do to keep away the *black-dog* that worries you at home. If you would, in compliance with your father's advice, enquire into the old tenure, and old charters of Scotland, you would certainly open to yourself many striking scenes of the manners of the middle ages. The feudal system in a country half barbarous, is naturally productive of great anomalies in civil life. The knowledge of past times is naturally growing less in all cases not of public record; and the past time of Scotland is so unlike the present, that it is already difficult for a Scotchman to image the œconomy of his grandfather. Do not be tardy nor negligent; but gather up eagerly what can yet be found.

We have, I think, once talked of another prospect, a history of the late insurrection in Scotland, with all its incidents. Many falsehoods are passing into uncontradicted history. Voltaire, who loved a striking story, has told what he could not find to be true.

You may make collections for either of these projects, or for both, as opportunities occur, and digest

your materials at leisure. The great direction which Burton has left to men disordered like you, is this, *be not solitary; be not idle;* which I would thus modify: if you are idle, be not solitary; if you are solitary, be not idle.

There is a letter for you, from  
Your humble servant,

S. J.

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[This letter is written by the author of the celebrated Elegy in a country Church-Yard, and many other beautiful poems; he was a man of truly great genius and elevated mind, though open to every affection, and tender attachment: he refused with steadiness the situation of Poet Laureat, which was offered him by the Minister. He was born in 1716, and died in 1771.]

Cambridge, Nov. 7, 1749.

THE unhappy news I have just received from you equally surprises and afflicts me.\* I have lost a person I loved very much, and have been used to from my infancy; but am much more concerned for your loss, the circumstances of which I forbear to dwell upon, as you must be too sensible of them yourself; and will, I fear, more and more need a consolation that no one can give, except He who has preserved her to you so many years, and at last, when it was his pleasure, has taken her from us to himself; and perhaps, if we reflect upon what she left in this life, we may look upon this as an instance of his goodness both to her and to those that loved her. She might have languished many years before your

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\* The death of his aunt, Mrs. Mary Antrobus, who died the 5th of November.

eyes in a continual increase of pain, and totally helpless; she might have long wished to end her misery without being able to attain it; or perhaps even lost all sense, and yet continued to breathe; a sad spectacle to such as must have felt more for her than she could have done for herself. However you may deplore your own loss, yet think that she is at last easy and happy; and has now more occasion to pity us than we her. I hope, and beg you will support yourself with that resignation we owe to Him, who gave us our being for our good, and who deprives us of it for the same reason. I would have come to you directly, but you do not say whether you desire I should or not; if you do, I beg I may know it, for there is nothing to hinder me, and I am in very good health,

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*The Countess of Hertford, afterwards Duchess of Somerset, to Dr. Burnett, occasioned by some Meditations the Doctor had sent her on the Death of her Son, Lord Beauchamp.*

SIR,

I AM very sensibly obliged by the kind compassion you express for me, under my heavy affliction. The Meditations you have furnished me with, afford the strongest motives for consolation that can be offered to a person under my unhappy circumstances. The dear lamented son I have lost, was the pride and joy of my heart; but I hope I may be the more easily excused for having looked on him in this light, since he was not so from the outward advantages he possessed, but from the virtues and rectitude of his mind. The prospects which flattered me, in regard to him, were not drawn from his distinguished rank, or from the beauty of his person, but from the hopes that his example would have been serviceable to the cause of virtue, and would have shewn the younger part of the world, that

it was possible to be cheerful without being foolish or vicious, and to be religious without severity or melancholy. His whole life was one interrupted course of duty and affection to his parents ; and, when he found the hand of death upon him, his only regret was to think on the agonies which must rend their hearts ; for he was perfectly contented to leave the world, as his conscience did not reproach him with any presumptuous sins, and he hoped his errors would be forgiven. Thus he resigned his innocent soul into the hands of a merciful Creator on the evening of his birth-day, which completed him nineteen. You will not be surprised, Sir, that the death of such a son should occasion the deepest sorrow ; yet, at the same time, it leaves us the most comfortable assurance, that he is happier than our fondest wishes and care could have made him, which must enable us to support the remainder of years which it shall please God to allot for us here, without murmuring or discontent, and quicken our endeavours to prepare ourselves to follow to that happy place where our dear valuable child is gone before us. I beg the continuance of your prayers, and am,

Sir, your's, &c.

*Mrs. Rowe to her Mother, on the approach of her own Death.*

[The writer of this letter was born 1674, and died 1737 ; she was a Lady of exemplary piety and understanding and produced several admirable works.]

MADAM,

I AM now taking my final adieu of this world, in certain hopes of meeting you in the next. I carry to my grave my affection and gratitude to you. I leave

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you with the sincerest concern for your own happiness, and the welfare of your family. May my prayers be answered when I am sleeping in the dust. May the angels of God conduct you in the paths of immortal pleasure.

I would collect the powers of my soul, and ask blessings for you with the holy violence of prayer. God Almighty, the God of your pious ancestors, who has been your dwelling-place for many generations, bless you.—It is but a short space I have to measure;—my shadows are lengthening, and my sun declining: that goodness which has hitherto conducted me, will not fail me in the concluding act of life: that name which I have made my glory and my boast, shall then be my strength and my salvation.

To meet death with a becoming fortitude is a part above the powers of nature, and which I can perform by no power of holiness of my own; for, oh! in my best estate I am altogether vanity,—a wretched helpless sinner; but in the merits and perfect righteousness of God my Saviour, I hope to appear justified, at the supreme tribunal, where I must shortly stand to be judged.

[N. B. This letter was not to be sent to her mother, till she was dead.]

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The following are specimens of elegant and forcible solicitation, ardent gratitude, and affecting condolence. Dr. Dodd was a clergyman of great talents; he attained to several ecclesiastical preferments, and a considerable share of popularity, but his expences were so disproportioned to his income, that he was driven to commit a forgery, for which he was executed at Tyburn, June 27, 1777.

*Dr. Dodd to the King, (written by Dr. Johnson.)*

SIR,

MAY it not offend your Majesty, that the most miserable of men applies himself to your clemency, as his last hope, and his last refuge; that your mercy is most earnestly and humbly implored by a clergyman, whom your laws and judges have condemned to the horror and ignominy of a public execution.

I confess the crime, and own the enormity of its consequences, and the danger of its example. Nor have I the confidence to petition for impunity; but humbly hope, that public security may be established, without the spectacle of a clergyman dragged through the streets to a death of infamy, amidst the derision of the profligate and the profane; and that justice may be satisfied with irrevocable exile, perpetual disgrace, and hopeless penury.

My life, Sir, has not been useless to mankind; I have benefited many. But my offences against God are numberless, and I have but little time for repentance. Preserve me, Sir, by your prerogative of mercy, from the necessity of appearing unprepared at that tribunal before which kings and subjects must stand at last together. Permit me to hide my guilt in some obscure corner of a foreign country, where, if I can ever attain confidence to hope that my prayers will be heard, they shall be poured with all the fervour of gratitude for the life and happiness of your Majesty.

I am, Sir,

Your Majesty's, &c.

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*Dr. Johnson to the Right Honorable Charles Jenkinson, now Earl of Liverpool.*

SIR,

SINCE the conviction and condemnation of Dr. Dodd, I have had, by the intervention of a friend, some

intercourse with him, and I am sure I shall lose nothing in your opinion by tenderness or commiseration. Whatever be the crime, it is not easy to have any knowledge of the delinquent without a wish that his life may be spared ; at least when no life has been taken away by him. I will, therefore, take the liberty of suggesting some reasons for which I wish this unhappy being to escape the utmost rigour of his sentence.

He is, so far as I can recollect, the first clergyman of our church, who has suffered public execution for immorality ; and I know not whether it would not be more for the interest of religion to bury such an offender in the obscurity of perpetual exile, than to expose him in a cart, and on the gallows, to all who, for any reason, are enemies to the clergy.

The supreme power has, in all ages, paid some attention to the voice of the people ; and that voice does not least deserve to be heard when it calls out for mercy. There is now a very general desire that Dodd's life should be spared. More is not wished ; and, perhaps, this is not too much to be granted.

If you, Sir, have any opportunity of enforcing these reasons, you may, perhaps, think them worthy of consideration ; but, whatever you determine, I most respectfully intreat that you will be pleased to pardon for this intrusion,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
And most humble servant.

*Dr. Dodd to Dr. Johnson.*

June 25th, Midnight.

ACCEPT, thou great and good heart, my earnest and fervent thanks and prayers for all thy benevolent and kind efforts in my behalf. O ! Dr. Johnson, as I sought your knowledge at an early hour in life, would to heaven I had cultivated the love and acquaintance of so ex-

cellent a man! I pray God, most sincerely, to bless you with the highest transports—the infelt satisfaction of *humane* and benevolent exertions! And admitted, as I trust I shall be, to the realms of bliss before you, I shall hail *your* arrival there with transports, and rejoice to acknowledge that you were my comforter, my advocate, and my *friend!* God be with you!

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*Dr. Johnson to Dr. Dodd, the Evening previous to his Execution.*

DEAR SIR,

THAT which is appointed to all men is now coming upon you. Outward circumstances, the eyes and the thoughts of men, are below the notice of an immortal being about to stand the trial for eternity, before the Supreme Judge of heaven and earth. Be comforted: your crime, morally or religiously considered, has no very deep dye of turpitude: it corrupted no man's principles: it attacked no man's life: it involved only a temporary and reparable injury. Of this, and of all other sins, you are earnestly to repent: and may God, who knoweth our frailty, and desireth not our death, accept your repentance for the sake of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In requital of those well-intended offices which you are pleased so emphatically to acknowledge, let me beg that you make in your devotions one petition for my eternal welfare.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your affectionate servant.

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*Dr. Johnson to Mrs. Thrale, on the Death of her Husband.*

London, April 5, 1781.

DEAREST MADAM,

OF your injunctions to ~~post~~ for you and write to you, I hope to leave neither unobserved; and I hope to find

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you willing, in a short time, to alleviate your trouble, by some other exercise of mind. I am not without my part of the calamity. No death since that of my wife has ever oppressed me like this. But let us remember that we are in the hands of Him, who knows when to give, when to take away ; who will look upon us with mercy, through all our variations of existence, and who invites us to call on him in the day of trouble. Call upon him in this great revolution of life, and call with confidence. You will then find comfort for the past, and support for the future. He that has given you happiness in marriage to a degree of which, without personal knowledge I should have thought the description fabulous, can give you another mode of happiness as a mother ; and at last the happiness of losing all temporal cares in thoughts of an eternity in heaven.

I do not exhort you to reason yourself into tranquillity. We must first pray, and then labour ; first implore the blessing of God, and those means which he puts into our hands. Cultivated ground has few weeds ; a mind occupied by lawful business, has little room for useless regret.

We read the will to-day ; but I will not fill my first letter with any other account than that, with all my zeal for your advantage, I am satisfied ; and that the other executors, more used to consider property than I, commended it for wisdom and equity. Yet why should I not tell you, that you have five hundred pounds for your immediate expences, and two thousand pounds a year, with both the houses, and all the goods ?

Let us pray for one another, that the time, whether long or short, that shall yet be granted us, may be well spent ; and that when this life, which at the longest is very short, shall come to an end, a better may begin which shall never end.

I am, dearest Madam,

Your's, &c.

*Lord Baltimore to Lord Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Stafford, on the Death of his Wife.*

MY LORD,

WERE not my occasions such as necessarily keep me here at this time, I would not send letters, but fly to you myself with all the speed I could to express my own grief, and to take part of your's which I know is exceeding great, for the loss of so noble a lady, so virtuous and so loving a wife.. There are few, perhaps, can judge of it better than I, who have been a long time myself a man of sorrows. But all things, my lord, in this world, pass away, *stratum est*, wife, children, honor, wealth, friends, and what else is dear to flesh and blood ; they are but lent us till God please to call for them back again, that we may not esteem any thing of our own, or set our hearts upon any thing but Him alone, who only remains for ever. I beseech his Almighty goodness to grant, that your lordship may, for his sake, bear this great cross with meekness and patience, whose only Son, our dear Lord and Saviour, bore a greater for you ; and to consider that these humiliations, though they are very bitter, yet they are sovereign medicines, ministered unto us by our heavenly physician, to cure the sickness of our souls, if the fault be not our's. Good, my Lord, bear with this excess of zeal in a friend, whose great affection to you transports him to dwell longer upon this melancholy theme, than is needful to your Lordship, whose own wisdom, assisted with God's grace, I hope, suggests unto you these and better resolutions than I can offer unto your remembrance. All I have to say more is but this, that I humbly and heartily pray you, so to dispose of yourself and your affairs (the rites being done to that noble creature) as to be able to remove, as soon as conveniently you may, from those parts, where so many things represent themselves unto you, as to make your wound bleed afresh ; and let us have you here, where the gracious welcome of your master, the conversation of your friends, and variety of

business, may divert your thoughts sooner from sad objects; the continuance whereof will but endanger your health, on which depends the welfare of your children, the comfort of your friends, and many other good things, for which I hope God will reserve you, to whose divine favor I humbly recommend you, and remain ever

Your Lordship's

Most affectionate and faithful Servant,

GEORGE BALTIMORE.

From my lodging in Lincoln's-inn-fields, Oct. 11, 1631.

### OLD AGE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH.

[The following letter describes that great wit and genius, Dr. Swift, in his last stage of life, when reduced to the miserable state of idiotism; the most mortifying satire on the vanity of human intellect, and severest visitation of Providence.]

*Mrs. Whiteway to Lord Orrery.*

MY LORD,

THE easy manner in which you reproach me, for not acquainting you with the poor dean's situation, lays a fresh obligation upon me; yet, mean as an excuse is for a fault I shall attempt one to your lordship, and only for this reason, that you may not think me capable of neglecting any thing you could command me. I told you in my last letter the dean's understanding was quite gone, and I feared the farther particulars would only shock the tenderness of your nature, and the melancholy scene make your heart ache, as it has often done mine. I was the last person whom he knew, and when that part of his memory failed, he was so outrageous at seeing any body, that I was forced to leave him, nor could he rest for a night or two after seeing any person: so that all the attendance which I could pay him, was call-

ing twice a-week to enquire after his health, and to observe that proper care was taken of him, and durst only look at him while his back was towards me, fearing to discompose him. He walked ten hours a day, would not eat or drink if his servant stayed in the room. His meat was served up ready cut, and sometimes it would lie an hour on the table before he would touch it, and then eat it walking. About six weeks ago, in one night's time, his left eye swelled as large as an egg, and the lid, Mr. Nicholls, his surgeon, thought would mortify, and many large boils appeared upon his arms and body. The torture he was in is not to be described. Five persons could scarce hold him for a week from tearing out his own eyes: and, for near a month, he did not sleep two hours in twenty-four: yet a moderate appetite continued, and what is more to be wondered at, the last day of his illness he knew me perfectly well, took me by the hand, called me by my name, and shewed the same pleasure as usual in seeing me. I asked him if he would give me a dinner? He said, to be sure, my old friend. Thus he continued that day, and he knew the doctor and surgeon, and all his family so well, that Mr. Nicholls thought it possible to call for what he wanted, and bear some of his old friends to amuse him. But alas! this pleasure to me was but of short duration; for the next day or two it was all over, and proved to be only pain that had roused him. He is now free from torture; his eye almost well, very quiet, and begins to sleep, but cannot, without great difficulty, be prevailed on to walk a turn about his room: and yet, in this way, the physicians think he may hold out for some time.

I am, my lord,  
Your lordship's most obedient  
Humble servant,  
W. WHITEWAY.

*Dr. Johnson to the Honorable Mr. Wyndham, on his  
(Dr. Johnson's) Recovery from Illness.*

THE tenderness with which you have been pleased to treat me, through my long illness, neither health nor sickness can, I hope, make me forget ; and you are not to suppose, that after we parted you were no longer in my mind. But what can a sick man say, but that he is sick ? His thoughts are necessarily concentrated in himself ; he neither receives nor can give delight ; his enquiries are after elevations of pain, and his efforts are to catch some momentary comfort. Though I am now in the neighborhood of the Peak, you must expect no account of its wonders, of its hills, its waters, its caverns, or its mines ; but I will tell you, dear Sir, what I hope you will not hear with less satisfaction, that, for about a week past, my asthma has been less afflictive.

---

*Mrs. Rowe to the Countess of Hertford:*

MADAM,

THIS is the last letter you will ever receive from me, the last assurance I shall give on earth, of a sincere and stedfast friendship ; but, when we meet again, I hope it will be in the heights of immortal love and ecstasy. Mine, perhaps, may be the first glad spirit to congratulate your safe arrival on the happy shores. Heaven can witness how sincere my concern for your happiness is. Thither I have sent my ardent wishes that you may be secured from the flattering delusion of the world, and after your pious example has been long a blessing to mankind, may you calmly resign your breath, and enter the confines of unmolested joy !

I am now taking my farewell of you here, but it is a short adieu, for I die with full persuasion that we shall meet again—But, O, in what elevation of happiness ! in what enlargement of mind, and perfection of every fa-

sulty ! What transporting reflections shall we make, on the advantages of which we shall feel ourselves eternally possessed !

To him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, we shall ascribe immortal glory, dominion, and praise for ever. This is all my salvation, and all my hope. That name in whom the Gentiles trust, in whom all families of the earth are blessed, is now my glorious, my unfailing confidence ; in his merits alone I expect to stand justified before infinite purity and justice. How poor were my hopes if I depended on these works, which my own vanity, or the partiality of men have called good, and which, if examined by divine purity, would prove, perhaps, but specious sins ? The best actions of my life would be found defective, if brought to the test of that unblemished holiness, in whose sight the heavens are not clean. Where were my hopes but for a Redeemer's merits and atonement ? How desperate, how undone my condition ?—With the utmost advantage I can boast, I should start back and tremble at the thoughts of appearing before the unblemished Majesty.—O Jesus, what harmony dwells in thy name !—Celestial joy and eternal life are in the sound.—Let angels set thee to their golden harp ; let the ransomed nations for ever magnify thee !

What a dream is mortal life ! What shadows are the objects of sense ! All the glories of mortality, my much beloved friend, will be nothing in your view at the awful hour of death, when you must be separated from the whole creation, and enter on the borders of the immaterial world.

Something persuades me that this will be my last farewell in this world. Heaven forbid that it should be an everlasting parting !—May that divine protection, whose care I implore, keep you stedfast in the faith of christianity, and guide your steps in the strictest paths of virtue ! Adieu, my most dear friend, till we meet in the paradise of God.

ELIZABETH ROWE.

## MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

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*An ironical Letter to a Slanderer.*

SIR,

THE particular assiduity you have displayed in defending my character, when a middle aged, squint-eyed, short, impertinent fellow, was practising every unjust means, and exerting all his feeble endeavors, to sully it, highly deserves my thanks. I own myself your debtor so much that I am apprehensive it will never be in my power to repay you; I wish every person would follow your example—How noble, how illustrious the pattern—you scorn to wound the reputation of your neighbor—you despise the poor mean practice of calumny, which hurts, perhaps ruins, the name and character of a man, which it should be always his greatest care to preserve.

You will be so kind, I hope, as to receive this poor acknowledgment of your goodness, as a small token of gratitude; and whenever I experience the same civility and benevolent interposition again, pardon me if I should be tempted to make my private thanks more public. I am,

Your much obliged servant.

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*A Challenge.*

SIR,

THE epithets which you were pleased to bestow upon my late conduct, being, in my opinion, illiberal and impertinent, I demand that satisfaction due to injured honor,—and, therefore, insist upon your meeting me to-morrow, with whatever friend you may think proper, in order to settle this business according to the laws of honor.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

*The Answer.*

SIR,

YOU are a young man without a family; I have a wife and three children; my life being dear to them, is consequently dear to me; nor do I think I could meet my audit with Christian fortitude, did I wilfully enter the road of death, and leave a widow and fatherless infants to bewail my loss! and for what? because a mere empty butterfly (as I must call you) thinks proper to fire a pistol or two; if you wish me to meet you, please to provide for my wife and children, in case of danger, and I will then prove my valor and courage. As your fortune enables you to perform this, if you deny, the cowardice is upon your side; and you must accordingly expect to be publicly reproached, and for ever despised

By your's, &amp;c.

*From a Cousin to another, on making and breaking Promises.*

DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE more than once remarked how very prone you are to make promises; but, I seldom or ever knew you to fulfil *one*:—This, I must confess, has very much hurt your character; some people have in consequence called you a liar; others, more mild, a fool; instead of making friends by it, you have certainly lost many. As you subject yourself to be frequently teased and insulted, by this foolish custom, I wonder you do not drop it. Were I to repeat my visits every day till you fulfilled all the promises you made me since last week, I fear I should soon become troublesome and disagreeable; and I assure you, if you do not drop this mode of promising, without any intention of performing, I will not only adopt the measure, but persuade your other acquaintance to follow my example.

I am, dear cousin,

Your's, &amp;c..

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*From a Friend to another on Peevishness.*

I AM very sorry to remark, my dear friend, that the most common accidents of this life are too apt to ruffle your temper—it gives me much uneasiness; for peevishness, instead of profiting, generally does much harm; besides, a man exposes himself, who wants fortitude and patience; those great and amiable virtues, which our religion so forcibly enjoins! During our correspondence, I have remarked some parts of your letters exceedingly splenetic and warm, in this you are both unkind to yourself and your friend—you seem to doubt the purity of his mind, and pay no respect to your own merit, when so constantly in the vapors. I am now resolved, in hope to effect a happy cure, never to take notice of any letter that displays the least peevishness or complaint, presuming by this silence I shall prove myself

Your sincere friend.

*A humorous Letter from a Friend to another upon Wishes.*

SIR,

I MUST agree with friend Horace, that notwithstanding all our possessions, we fain would be having; if a man had the whole world, I dare say he would wish for the other: in short, we are never to be content; though our right hand be full, we would hold out the left; and, should Providence overload both, we would, doubtless, put the gifts in our pockets, and empty our hands for future favours; however, I presume that I am an exception to this rule—Heaven has given me a wife; I never desire to have two! I have three children, and never wish to have more! My friends, too, are so numerous, that with gratitude I confess I have enough. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

*A humorous Letter in Answer.*

SIR,

**NOTWITHSTANDING** your boasting, it is my opinion that you are as guilty of wishing as any body else ; when your lady and you, according to matrimonial custom, have quarrelled, did you never wish yourself dead (I would not presume the *lady*)—when one of your children has been crying, did you never wish yourself deaf ? When your friend has intruded *sans ceremonie*, did you never wish—yourself away (I do not mean *him*.) We are all induced to wish now and then. Castle-building in the air so entertains the imagination, that we find a pleasure in deceiving ourselves. Thus, I remember my poor grand-mother was a rich woman ; when lame she wished for a pair of legs ; but Mercury did not hear her ; and I was obliged to call in a mechanic, who proved labour of greater utility and profit than wishes ; for by his art he supplied her with a pair of crutches.

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

*A Lady to her Friend, raising a Subscription for a distressed Person.*

MY DEAR HARRIOT,

THE distresses of poor Mrs. Williams, who once enjoyed all the tranquil pleasures of this life without the least suspicion of these her present misfortunes, have so exceedingly moved my sympathy, that being unable myself to relieve her as I wish, I intend, by the assistance of my friends, to render her circumstances more easy if possible. I have, therefore, resolved to open a subscription for her among my acquaintance, and, if my dear Harriot will exert her influence where

she is, she will not only have the hearty prayers of this unfortunate woman, but the grateful thanks of her sincere friend. I am,

Your's, &c.

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*Recommending a Relation to a Gentleman of Rank.*

SIR,

THE gentleman who delivers this letter is a near relation, but whom I esteem myself more allied to by friendship than consanguinity. Convinced of your late kindness to me, I take the liberty of recommending him to your notice, assuring you, that whatever services are rendered him, will exceedingly add to the obligations of

Sir,  
Your much obliged servant, &c.

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*The Answer.*

SIR,

I HAD the pleasure of your cousin's company to dinner yesterday; the young gentleman's conduct and behaviour are so very engaging, that I assure you, both for his and his relative's sake, I shall do all in my power to serve him.

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

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*Recommending a Son to an intimate Friend.*

SIR,

THE unviolated friendship which has subsisted so long between us, induces me to recommend to your

notice the bearer, who is my son ; persuaded, that for his father's sake, you will serve him according to the best of your ability. I remain, Sir,

Your's, &c.

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*The Answer.*

SIR,

YOU have exceedingly obliged me, by giving an opportunity of proving my friendship. I hope shortly to be able to afford a test ; though notwithstanding I shall use all my influence, I never shall be able to serve your son as much as he deserves. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

## CARDS OF COMPLIMENT.

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MR. B—— requests the pleasure of Mr. F——'s company this evening, to join him and other friends at the Theatre.

*Tuesday Morning.*

Mr. F——'s most respectful compliments to Mr. B——, is very sorry he is engaged on a similar occasion.

*Tuesday, 1 o'Clock.*

Mr. Airy presents his best compliments to Miss Watson, requests the honor of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

*Thursday Afternoon.*

Miss Watson returns thanks to Mr. Airy for his polite offer, which she is very sorry she cannot accept, having already engaged herself.

*Thursday, 5 o'Clock.*

Miss H——'s respectful compliments to Mrs. W——, intreats the honor of her company this afternoon to tea and coffee.

*10 o'Clock, Morning.*

Mrs. W——'s compliments to Miss H——, is happy to accept of her polite invitation.

*11 o'Clock, Morning.*

Miss Wilmott's compliments to Miss Harcourt, requests the pleasure of her company to dinner next Sunday—Dinner to be on table at four o'clock.

*Friday.*

Miss Harcourt's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Wilmot.

N. B. All cards of compliment should be confined to one subject, expressed with ease, elegance, and brevity.

*President of the United States and the Governors of the different States are generally addressed,*

*TO his Excellency, T. B. Governor of the State of New Jersey.*

To his Excellency T. J. President of the United States, Members of Congress, and Members of some of the States.

*Members of Congress and Members of some of the states Legislature are generally styled Honorable.*

*Bishops are addressed*

To the Right Reverend A. B. Bishop of the State of Pennsylvania.

*Clergymen are addressed*

To the Reverend A. B. Pastor of St. George's.

*Gentlemen in public stations, besides those above specified—Men of fortune, and Merchants in a large trade, are usually through courtesy addressed*

To A. B. Esq.



## USEFUL FORMS IN LAW, &c.

### A Will.

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of October, one thousand eight hundred and

I, *RICHARD WALKER*, of Third Street in the city of *Philadelphia*, 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 Walker*, the sum of one hundred dollars. To my sister *Ann Walker*, ninety dollars. To my brother *Henry Walker*, one hundred and fifty dollars. To my brother *David Walker*, fifty dollars. To my nephew *James Walker*, thirty pounds; and to my two executors, twenty dollars 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 of, whatsoever or wheresoever, to my son, *Richard Walker*.

At the same time I do appoint Mr. *George Trusty*, draper, and Mr. *Robert Goodwin*, mercer, of the same city, 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 eight hundred and

RICHARD WALKER.

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

A. B.

C. D.

E. F.

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*An Indenture for an Apprentice.*

THIS indenture witnesseth, that A. B. by and with the consent of C. D. hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord put himself apprentice to E. F. to learn the art, trade, and mystery of [a Shoemaker] and after the manner of an apprentice, to serve him the said E. F. from the day of the date hereof, for and during, and to the full end and term of seven years next ensuing. During all which term the said apprentice his said master faithfully shall serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands every where readily obey. He shall do no damage to his said Master, nor see it 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 any. He shall not commit fornication, nor contract matrimony within the said term. He shall not play at cards, dice, or any other unlawful game, whereby his said master may have damage. With his own goods nor the goods of others, without licence

from 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 ale-houses, 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 endeavor to teach, or cause to be taught or instructed, the said apprentice in the trade or mystery of Shoemaking, and procure and provide for him sufficient meat, drink, lodging and washing, fitting for an apprentice, during the said term of seven years, and for the due performance of all and singular the covenants and agreements aforesaid, the parties bind themselves each unto the other firmly by these presents. *In witness whereof* the said parties have interchangeably set their hands and seals hereunto. Dated the twenty-eighth day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

A. B.

Bound before me,  
Y. Z.

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*A Bond.*

KNOW all men by these presents, that I A. B. of C. D. am held and firmly bound unto E. F. of G. H. in the full and just sum of ten thousand dollars to be paid to the said E. F. his certain attorney, executors, administrators or assigns: To which payment well and truly to be made and done, I bind myself and each and every of my heirs, executors, and administrators firmly by these presents. Sealed with my seal and dated the first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America the thirty-fourth.

The condition of the above Obligation is such, that if the above bound A. B. his heirs, executors or admi-

nistrators shall and do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, unto the above named C. D. certain attorney, executors, administrators or assigns, the full and just sum of five thousand dollars to the said E. F. on or before the sixth day of November which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten, without fraud or further delay, then the above obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered }  
in the presence of }

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*Power of Attorney.*

KNOW all men by these presents, that I A. B. have constituted, made, and appointed, and by these presents do constitute, make and appoint my trusty and loving friend C. D. my lawful attorney for me and in my name and stead, and to my use, to ask, demand, sue for, levy, recover, and receive, all such sum and sums of money, debts, rents, goods, wares, dues, accounts, and other demands whatsoever, which are or shall be due, owing, payable, and belonging to or detained from me by any manner of ways or means whatsoever, by X. Y. and Z. giving and granting unto my said attorney by these presents full and whole power, strength and authority in and about the premises, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means in my name for the recovery thereof; and upon the receipt of any such debts, dues, or sums of money aforesaid, acquittances, or other sufficient discharges, for me and in my name to make, seal, and deliver, and generally all and every other act and acts, thing and things, device or devices in the law whatsoever needful and necessary to be done in and about the premises, for me and in my name to do, execute and perform, as fully, largely and amply, to all intents and purposes, as I might or could do, if I were personally

present, or as if the matter required more special authority than is herein given; and attorneys, one or more under him for the purpose aforesaid, to make and constitute, and again at pleasure to revoke, ratifying, allowing, and holding for firm and effectual, all and whatsoever my said attorney or his substitutes shall lawfully do in and about the premises by virtue hereof. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighth day of October, Annoque Domini, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

A. B.

Sealed and delivered in }  
the presence of us, }

E. Z.

G. H.

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*A Bill of Sale of Goods.*

KNOW all men by these presents that I, *John Smith*, for and in the consideration of the sum of pounds to me in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivering hereof, by *J. Jones*, of the receipt whereof I do hereof acknowledge, *have bargained and sold*, and by these presents do *bargain and sell unto the said J. Jones*, 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 *J. J.* his executors, administrators, and assigns for ever. *And I*, the said *J. S.* for myself, my executors, and administrators, and all and singular of the said goods, unto the said *J. J.* his executors, administrators, against me the said *J. S.* his 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 *J. S.*

have put the said J. J. 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 eight hundred and

JOHN SMITH.

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

A. B.  
C. D.

*A General Release.*

KNOW all men by these presents, that I, L. G. of in the county of grocer, having remised, released, and for ever quit claim to F. O. in the county of aforesaid, carpenter, his heirs, executors, and administrators, of all and all manner of action and actions, suits, bills, bonds, writings, debts, dues, duties, accounts, sum and sums of money, leases, mortgages, judgments by confession, or otherwise obtained, executions, extents, quarrels, controversies, trespasses, damages, and demands whatsoever, which by law of equity or otherwise soever, I the said L. G. against the said F. O. 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 eight hundred and

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

A. B.  
C. D.

*Note of Hand.**New York, Feb. 12, 1808.*

On demand (or two months after date,) I promise to pay Mr. *John Morgan, or order*, the sum of pounds      shillings, and      pence, for value received.

A. B.

\* \* \* Mr. Morgan to make this note negotiable, must indorse his name on the back, and so must every person through whose hands it goes.

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*Bill of Exchange.**Baltimore, Feb. 11, 1808.*

SIR,

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

To

M. ——, merchant, Philadelphia.

A. B.

\* \* \* 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.

§§§ 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 instruments are always deemed invalid by law.

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*An Agreement for letting Houses, Lodgings, &c.*

Made between Mr. *John Smith*, and Mr. *Joseph Gadd, of Burlington.*

THE said *John Smith*, for himself, his heirs, executors, or administrators, doth hereby agree to take of the said *Joseph Gadd*, a house and garden No. 8, situ-

M

ate in *Chapel-street, Burlington*, and late in the tenure and occupation of *William Holloway*, for one year certain, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds, to be paid quarterly as soon as the rent becomes due. The said *John Smith* further agrees to commence tenant at *Lady-day* next, to pay all taxes whatever (land as well as other assessments), and not to quit the said house, &c. after the term of one year agreed upon, without giving six months notice in writing. The said *John Smith* also agrees to leave all locks, bolts, windows, shutters, and other fixtures, in complete and decent repair as they are at present, and not to suffer any business or employment to be carried on that may be a nuisance or prejudice to the neighbourhood, or that may be contrary to the original lease by which the premises are held.—Also to leave all improvements made on the said house, and to preserve entire, and leave all trees, shrubs, roots, &c. in the garden.

It is also hereby understood, that the said *John Smith* agrees to pay the said *Joseph Gadd* two quarters rent over and above what may be due at the time of his quitting the said house, if such notice as above mentioned be not given as aforesaid; and also, that such glass windows as may be broke or damaged while he keeps possession of the said house, shall be properly repaired or amended at his own cost and charge.

And the said *Joseph Gadd* hereby agrees to accept of the said *John Smith* as tenant on the above terms and conditions, reserving for himself the right of landlords, to give six months warning to tenants to quit possession of the said house, if such a step should be found necessary. In consequence of which the above parties have respectively signed this memorandum of agreement, and the counterpart, the first day of *March, 180*.

JOHN SMITH.  
JOSEPH GADD.

\* \* \* When used for lodgings, or any other common bargain, the particulars respecting houses must be left out, and those of lodgings, &c. inserted in their stead.

## PETITIONS.

*From a poor Woman, whose Husband was dead, soliciting Relief.*

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

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

SHEWETH,

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

---

*A poor Widow to a Lady, with whom she had lived as a Servant.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner was formerly one of your domestic servants, in the character of a chambermaid: that she was married from your Ladyship's house, to 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 convinced of your ladyship's great

goodness, has presumed to approach you in this manner, earnestly praying that your ladyship will deign to look with compassion on a distressed widow, and take under your kind protection one or more of her helpless children, so as they may be brought up in the paths of virtue.

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

---

*A distressed Man to a charitable Gentleman.*

*To R. B. Esq.*

*The humble Petition of William Harley,*

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a cabinet-maker, and by constant application to business was able to support himself, together with a wife and four children; that about six months ago your petitioner was seized with a severe illness, which has confined him to his bed ever since. That during that time he was obliged to pawn his clothes, 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 ever be gratefully acknowledged.

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

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*A Tradesman to his principal Creditors, for a Letter of Licence.*

*To E. R. G. S.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

SHEWETH,

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 although 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 honor; 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 petitioner will be enabled to follow his business without interruption.

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

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*The Petition of a Family in distress to a Person in affluence.*

*The humble Petition of Widow B.*

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has lately lost a beloved and affectionate husband, who by his industry and assiduity provided a sufficiency to support his family, and through his honest endeavours she and her children were enabled to live with comfort, though not with splendor; but by his sudden and unforeseen dissolution, your petitioner and six helpless children are now bereft of all means of support, and must perish with want if humanity affords not relief. Your petitioner's furniture is seized for rent, and a few days must deprive her of her little, if your grace, whose benevolence of heart is universally known, vouchsafes not to raise a forlorn widow from distress and want. A small matter may put your petitioner in a way of providing for a young family, destitute at present of all relief, which, should it please your grace to give in this hour of calamity, will not only be

attended with the blessings of poor orphans, but your petitioner will gratefully acknowledge your benevolence.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*From a Person under Sentence of Death, for a Robbery, &c.*

*To his Excellency T. W. Governor of the state of New-York.*

*The humble Petition of W. S.*

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your Excellency'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 your Excellency's disposition, he humbly presumes to throw himself at your feet, and hopes to experience that clemency which has been so often 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 Excellency's humane consideration, to make amends for his past transgressions, by being a grateful citizen, an useful member of society, a comfort to his friends, and a credit to himself.

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

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

*A Prisoner for Debt to a Gentleman celebrated for his Humanity.*

*To G. E. Esq.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

SHEWETH,

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 court, and took out an execution against him, and he is now a prisoner in jail, and his children starving for want of bread ; and 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 as to set him at liberty, and restore him to his family, his future life shall be one continual act of gratitude.

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

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*From a poor Man, whose Goods had been seized for Rent.*

*To R. D. Esq.*

*The humble Petition of A. B.*

SHEWETH,

THAT 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 petitioner's landlord came yesterday, and seized his goods, and unless redeemed in five days, they will be appraised and sold. That your petitioner has often heard of your great humanity to the afflicted, and humbly begs you will so interpose, as to save a poor honest man and his family from being turned into the streets.

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

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*Bill of Sale.*

KNOW all men by these presents, that I A. B. of &c. in consideration of the sum of, &c. to me in hand paid by C. D. of, &c. at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained, sold, and confirmed, and by these presents do, &c. unto the said C. D. all the goods, household stuff, and implements of household, and all other goods and chattels whatsoever mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, now remaining and being in, &c. To have and to hold all and singular the said goods, household stuff, and implements of household, and every of them, by these presents granted, bargained, sold, and confirmed unto (the only proper use and behoof of) the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns for ever, freely, quietly, peaceably and entirely, without any contradiction, claim, disturbance, or hindrance of any person whatsoever, and without any account to me, or to any other whatsoever, to be made, answered, or hereafter to be rendered; so that neither I the said A. B. nor any other for me, or in my name, ought to exact, challenge, claim or demand, at any time or times hereafter, any right, title, interest or demand of, in, to or for the said goods, &c. or any part or parcel thereof, but from all action, right, title, estate, claim, demand, possession, and interest thereof, shall be wholly barred and excluded, by force and virtue of these presents. And I the said A. B. for myself, my executors and administrators

shall and will warrant and for ever defend all and singular the said goods and household stuff unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, against me the said A. B. my executors, administrators and assigns, and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever, of which goods, &c. I the said A. B. have put the said C. D. in full possession, by delivering him one silver cup in the name of all the said goods and chattels, at the sealing and delivery hereof. In Witness, &c.

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*Bond of Indemnity.*

THE condition of this obligation is such, That whereas the above named J. H. at the special instance and request of the above bounden I. T. and for his only debt, duty, matter and cause, together with him, the said I. T. are held and firmly bound unto a certain J. S. of, &c. in and by one obligation, bearing even date herewith, in the penal sum of four hundred dollars, conditioned for the true payment of two hundred dollars, on, or before the day of, &c. next ensuing the date of the said obligation, together with lawful interest for the same, as by the same obligation and condition thereof, relation being thereunto had, may more fully appear. If therefore the said I. T. his heirs, executors or administrators, shall and do, on or before the said day of, &c. well and truly pay or cause to be paid, unto the above named J. S. his certain attorney, executors, administrators or assigns, the aforesaid debt or sum of two hundred dollars, with its interest in discharge of the said recited obligation: And also shall and do from time to time, and at all times hereafter, well and sufficiently save, defend, keep harmless and indemnify the said J. S. his heirs, executors and administrators, and his and their goods and chattels, lands and tenements, of and from the said obligation, and of and from all actions, suits, payments, costs, charges and damages, for or by reason thereof. Then, &c.

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Which will enable the Reader to find out any particular Letter, &c. wanted.

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