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George Harwood's
Book, Bought Aug.t 7th
1799

Decs. F

FRONTISPIECE

The only way which can Improve we find,
Must be by Letters, they Instruct the mind,
They every pleasure open to the Heart,
Wisdom, and Rapture, both alike Impart.

THE

NEW LONDON *LETTER WRITER,*

CONTAINING THE COMPLEAT

ART OF CORRESPONDING

WITH EASE, ELEGANCE, AND PERSPICUITY,

ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS, VIZ.

Trade, Affection, Love, Courtſhip, Marriage, Friendſhip, Gratitude, Hiſtory, Commerce, Induſtry, Proſperity, Prudence, Inſtruction, Generoſity, Misfortunes, Conſolation, Prodigality, Virtue, Vice, Piety, Wit, Mirth, Folly, Pleaſure, Humanity, Morality, Education, Happineſs, Buſineſs, Sickneſs, Death, Integrity, Œconomy, Affluence, Politeneſs, Fidelity, Riches, Duty and Concerns of Parents, Children, and other Relations, Maſters, Miſtreſſes, Officers, Soldiers, Seamen, &c.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

MODELS FOR CARDS, OR NOTES OF COMPLIMENTS,

ALSO, A

COLLECTION OF PETITIONS,

ADAPTED TO EVERY SITUATION,

LIKEWISE

Neceſſary Rules for addreſſing Perſons of all Stations,

AND

PRECEDENTS OF BONDS, LETTERS OF ATTORNEY, WILLS, &c. &c.

A NEW EDITION, WITH IMPROVEMENTS.

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, M. A.

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TO THE READER.

AS the advantage of the public has been, in every respect, constantly kept in view throughout this valuable work, we beg leave here to inform our readers that the plan of close printing which we have observed has enabled us to insert the whole of Dr. *Johnson*'s letters, some of which, had we followed the common method, we must have omitted, or else we must have added an additional 6d. to the price: in order to avoid which we have left out, in all the letters, the dates and places at which the correspondents are supposed to have written, as well as the names or signings. But that we may inform our readers in this particular, we here prefix, once for all, a letter (which the Dr. received on publishing the first edition of this work) with the date, signing, &c. complete, entirely in the modern taste, and as is now practised by all persons of respectability .....

To Dr. Johnson, *Author of the* New London Letter Writer.

SIR,

THE great satisfaction I have received from the perusal of your works in general surpasses all I have yet felt in the study of any other modern author whatsoever; but when I met with your New London Letter Writer, I was constrained (seeing the many advantages that attend it) to write to you on the occasion. No person can now complain or give any reason for not cultivating this most useful of all sciences; for, if, he can but hold his pen, if he refers to your excellent book, let his subject be what it may, he will there find an elegant and useful example. Our schools have adopted it, and find great benefit therefrom; and the general observation of every one here that has seen it is, that it is not only calulated to instruct the ignorant, but also to amuse the learned.

I am,

Sir,

Oxford University,
May 7, 1794.

Your humble servant,
JOSEPH RODE.

P. S. Please to send me all the works you may hereafter publish.

THE NEW LONDON *LETTER WRITER.*

ON TRADE, FAMILY CONCERNS, &c.

LETTER I,

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

MY WORTHY FRIEND,

WITH shame, arising from a consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters—filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I know not of a more powerful advocate to intercede for me, than my honoured, though much injured, parent. It was the allurements of vicious company that first

tempted me to forſake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was treated with the greateſt tenderneſs. Fully ſenſible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power, but know not of any other than by acting diametrically oppoſite to my former conduct. Let me beg of you, ſir, to intercede with my worthy maſter to intercede with my worthy maſter to take me again into his ſervice, and my whole future life ſhall be one continued ſcene of gratitude.

I am, ſir, your affectionate
Though undutiful ſon.

LETTER II,

The Father's Anſwer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

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

I am your affectionate father.

LETTER III,

The Father's Letter to the Maſter.

MY WORTHY FRIEND,

I Have often written to you with pleaſure, but alas! I am conſtrained at preſent to addreſs myſelf to you on a ſubject I little expected. I have juſt now received a letter from your ſon, by which I am informed he left your ſervice through the inſtigation of evil company; his letter contains a penitential acknowldgment of his offence, together with a declaration of his reſolution to act conſiſtently with his duty for the future. He has begged of me to intercede with you in his behalf, and

I know

I know your humanity will excuſe parental affection. If you will again receive the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reaſon to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promiſes; and it will confer a laſting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige

Your ſincere well-wiſher.

LETTER IV,

The Maſter's Anſwer.

SIR,

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

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

I am, ſir,

Your affectionate friend.

LETTER V,

From an Apprentice to his Father.

HONORED SIR,

AS I know the great ſatisfaction it will yield to my dear father to hear how very much I approve of the buſineſs I am about learning, I embrace the firſt opportunity of writing. My maſter is an honeſt, pious, and moſt worthy character; the family ſeem to follow his example by preſerving the greateſt order and regularity; he both encourages and ſeems pleaſed with my performances; in ſhort I never was ſo happy—and if my dear father wll let me hear from him conſtantly, it will compleat the felicity of his Dutiful ſon.

LETTER VI,

The Answer.

DEAR TOM,

YOUR approbation both of your master and business has given me great satisfaction; and I think it my duty to admonish you to industry and sobriety, as these qualifications are most essential for a man of business; be very careful whose company you keep, for—"Evil communications corrupt good manners;" be also attentive to the œconomy of your domestic affairs, and do not waste the money that I allow you: these hints I hope will be of service, and whenever you want advice, do not fail in writing to

Your affectionate father.

LETTER VII,

From a Father to an Idle Son.

DEAR GEORGE,

I AM very sorry to hear that you are idle and negligent, and, notwithstanding the mild admonitions of your master, pay no attention to your business; this is a very ungrateful return for all the trouble I have had with you, and the pains I have taken to settle you in the world. I fear you associate with some improper friends, whom, too late, you may find your enemies. Oh, my dear boy, do not aspire to begin life before you have acquired the means of living. I hope this short reproof (for I will not dwell long upon a disagreeable theme) will convince you of your error, and that you will cease to give further uneasiness to

Your fond father.

LETTER VIII,

The Answer.

HONORED SIR,

I FEAR the frailties of my youth have been sadly misrepresented and cruelly exaggerated to my dear father, as well as to my master, by those idle gossips, who, having no business of their own to heed, spend their time in venting calumny and destroying the reputation of their neighbours. My future conduct I hope, will convince both my father and mas-

ter,

ter, that I have been in a great meaſure abuſed, and that I am not only a faithful ſervant, but

Your dutiful ſon.

LETTER IX,

From a Maſter to his Apprentice's Father.

DEAR SIR,

I AM exceedingly grieved to be under the neceſſity of writing to you upon ſo unpleaſant a theme, but I ſhould think myſelf very much to blame were I ſilent on this urgent occaſion—Your ſon, I am ſorry to inform you, does no good, and what, I am ſtill more ſorry to add, I fear will do harm, both to his own and family's reputation. I have diſcovered a very unhappy connection between him and a female of bad character. As ſuch evils have frequently terminated in the ruin of many young men, I ſieze the earlieſt opportunity of exhorting you to remedy it in time, and am, ſir,

Your obedient ſervant.

LETTER X,

From a young Merchant to a Wholeſale Dealer.

SIR,

BY the recommendation of a neighbour, who has expatiated much upon your character, I think proper while commencing buſineſs, to make application to you, requeſting you will ſend me a proper quantity of things for a young beginner, of the beſt quality, and on the moſt reaſonable terms, which I think myſelf entitled to, as all our dealings will be for ready money. I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XI,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

IN anſwer to your favor of the 6th inſtant, I ſhall, by to-morrow's coach, ſend you a few articles, which I ſhall ſubmit to you as a ſpecimen of both the quality and cheapneſs of all my things—ſhould it be your pleaſure to repeat your order, I

ſhall

ſhall endeavour to prove myſelf deſerving of your favor. I am, with ſincere wiſhes for your ſucceſs,

Your obliged ſervant.

LETTER XII,

From a Tradeſman to another for Money.

SIR,

HAVING an unexpected bill to make up, and being at preſent deficient in money, I take the liberty of troubling you for the ſmall balance of accounts that is between us. If it ſhould not be convenient to let me have the whole, a part at this critical juncture will exceedingly oblige

Your very humble ſervant.

LETTER XIII,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your requeſt, I have encloſed an order, payable at ſight, for the full balance which remains due, to Mr. Tradewell, Cheapſide, who will deliver either it or the caſh upon receiving your receipt for the ſame. I requeſt, for the future, that you will give me proper notice when you wiſh payment to be made.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV,

From Wholeſale Dealers to a Retail one.

SIR,

WE are exceedingly ſorry to be under the neceſſity of becoming now urgent, but as you are very backward in your remittances, and our profits ſo ſmall on the goods we have ſent you, we expect an immediate draught, or order, for the ſum which is ſo long due, otherwiſe we ſhall be obliged to take ſuch meaſures as muſt prove very diſagreeable to you, and, ſir,

Your humble ſervants.

LET-

LETTER XV,

The Answer.

GENTLEMEN,

THE unexpected and severe losses which I have felt have been, I assure you, the sole cause of my being thus remiss —I humbly acknowledge your lenity, and request your acceptance of my bill at two months date, money being at this time very scarce, and my debtors exceeding tardy in their payments. Should this be agreeable, you may depend on my punctuality for the future; as I now intend to enter into a resolution of giving no credit. I am, with sincere thanks for your late goodness, gentlemen,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER XVI,

A Reply to the above Answer.

SIR,

WE should be exceedingly sorry to distress any one, knowing the ill consequences of being distressed ourselves. We have therefore sent a bill for your acceptance at three (instead of two) months date; by which time we sincerely hope you may surmount all your difficulties. We remain, sir,

Your humble servants.

LETTER XVII,

From a Retail Dealer to a Wholesale one.

SIR,

AS it behoves me, as well as every one else in business, to be very particular in respect to the goodness of their commodities, I am sorry to inform you, that the last articles I received from your house by no means correspond with my wishes —and if you do not, for the future, let me have prime goods, regard for my reputation will oblige me to apply elsewhere. I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

LET-

LETTER XVIII,

The Answer.

SIR,

I AM exceedingly sorry, through the mistake of my journeymen, you should have any cause for complaint; but, as I intend for the future to oversee the articles you may hereafter require made up before they are sent, you may depend upon receiving the very best. A proper abatement shall be made on the former goods delivered. I am, sir,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER XIX,

From a Tradesman to a Relation.

DEAR SIR,

KNOWING the good nature and urbanity of your disposition, I take the liberty of revealing my present distress; flattering myself I shall experience that benevolence which I have hitherto done. My circumstances are at present embarrassed, and if I do not immediately procure the sum of 500l. I must inevitably fail in business. You know the value of my stock, and likewise my expectancies; if, therefore, you could oblige me with the above sum, payable at three, six, nine, and twelve months, at 125l. each, you will not only save me from ruin, but exceedingly oblige

Your distressed cousin.

LETTER XX,

The Answer.

MY DEAR SAM,

AS I think it a pity that honesty and industry should ever suffer, come and dine with me to-morrow, and the money shall be ready. I entertain so good an opinion of your principles, that I am determined to take no bills at those short dates —but, (for I knew your disposition) if you will urge security, I shall only desire your note, on demand, for the whole; and, depend upon it, I never will demand it, till I know it is perfectly convenient. Do not keep my dinner waiting, which will be ready at two o'clock.

Yours sincerely.

LET-

LETTER XXI,

From a Tradesman to a Friend.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

ENCOURAGED by your repeated professions of friendship I take the liberty of soliciting your assistance, presuming, as you had such amazing luck at cards last Monday at my house, you will be so kind as to lend me the small sum of one hundred pounds; the money I want immediately, having unfortunately lent my name to a person who has used me ill, and left me to answer it.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXII,

The Friend's Apology.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOUR situation gives me great uneasiness, particularly as it is totally out of my power to comply; for the money which I won at your house last Monday, I may lose this evening at my Lord Riot's. I am, with the greatest concern for your misfortunes,

Your very humble servant.

LETTER XXIII,

From the Tradesman to another Friend.

SIR,

MY sister, for whom you have professed such esteem, has, knowing the great necessity I have for an hundred pounds, prevailed upon me to make immediate application to you, well knowing the sincerity of your professions and the urbanity of your disposition; the money shall be returned next week.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER XXIV,

The Friend's Apology.

SIR,

I AM very sorry, on your sister's account, that I cannot possibly comply with your request; your embarassment does not

in the leaſt ſurpriſe me; it is what I expected on account of the unmeaning ſplendid extravagance which I have witneſſed at your houſe. I have frequently taken the liberty of hinting to your ſiſter, that it did not become a youg tradeſman to ſpend ſo much in entertainments, but I am ſorry to find my advice was not taken. I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XXV,

A Reply to the above.

SIR,

I Think proper (for the laſt time) to inform you, that thoſe entertainments alluded to, were given at my ſiſter's requeſt, and totally againſt my will;—it was never my deſire to furuiſh a table for any perſon unworthy of it;—a real friend ſhould always be welcome! My ſiſter deſires me to add, that ſhe entirely forgets when you were ſo kind to give your advice; for my part, I think you ſhould have proved your diſapprobation to my extravagance, by not countenancing it. However, as I now intend to improve upon the hints you have been ſo good to give, I beg leave to inform you, that buſineſs puts it totally out of my power to enjoy the pleaſure of YOUR company in future. I am,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXVI,

The Tradeſman's Siſter to a young Lady.

DEAR MARY,

MY brother is exceedingly diſtreſſed for the loan of 100l. having, by my fooliſh perſuaſion, lent his name for that ſum, which he muſt now anſwer. I am exceedingly embarraſſed on his account, as he will, no doubt, impute his misfortune to me: he has applied to all thoſe whom we imagined his friends, but met with an unkind repulſe. Perhaps if you was to ſpeak to that gentleman, the banker, whom you introduced to us laſt week, he would be ſo kind as to accommodate my brother with this trifle till his remittances become due; by your compliance with this requeſt, you will make me for ever,

Your obliged friend.

LET-

LETTER XXVII,

From the Banker to the Tradesman.

SIR,

I WAS exceedingly surprised, upon an application from Miss L— in your favor, to hear that you should lend your name to any person upon what pretence soever. I assure you that I would not be bound even for my brother, nor would I lend you the sum you want, without you could give me proper security.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXVIII,

The Answer.

SIR,

I DIFFER in opinion with you, for without we assist one another, it is impossible for commerce to raise her head; he must be a suspicious wretch indeed who has no faith in a brother. I now beg leave to inform you, and with no little exultation, that I neither do, nor DID, want the sum which was mentioned: my sister being both extravagant and credulous, I devised this stratagem, by means of a friend, who pretended to have left me in this supposed distress, in order to shew her the folly of her entertainments, as well as the gratitude and friendship of her dear guests—to which number you had lately made an addition—Happily now I have opened her eyes. The very person whom she did nat look upon as her friend, on account of some late unwelcome reproofs, was the young lady who had made the application to you, and has since, with unparallelled generosity, raised the money that she supposed I wanted, on her jewels.—I saw, I admired her goodness; and, resolving to shew my gratitude, have since made her my wife. As you are the person who, by her father's will, was appointed to hold her fortune till she was either of age or pleased to alter her situation, I thout it my duty to represent the matter in its true colours, that you may be prepared to account with me immediately for the lady's property.

Your humble servant, &c.

LETTER XXIX,

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

SIR,

I HAVE been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you that, from variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand, and the favor shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by

Your obedient servant.

LETTER XXX,

From a Farmer on the same Occasion.

HONORED SIR,

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

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXI,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

I am yours sincerely.

LET-

LETTER XXXII,

A congratulatory Letter to a Friend, on ſome good Fortune which he had experienced.

SIR,

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

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XXXIII,

From a Servant's late Maſter to a Gentleman.

SIR,

AS an anſwer to yours of the 15th inſt. wherein you requeſt a faithful character of the bearer, I aſſure you, upon my honor, that his diligence and knowledge of what he profeſſes, together with his 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.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIV,

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 Michael, my late ſervant, who lived with me only one month, for his continual inebriety, which rendered him totally incapable of doing his duty. I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXV,

To a Lady, for a Servant's Character.

MADAM,

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

Your obedient servant.

LETTER XXXVI,

The Answer.

MADAM,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of answering your favor relative to Mrs. Spencer, who lived with me four years, as house-keeper, having testified the utmost diligence and attention in my service. I must confess she is fully competent for the task she undertakes. I am, madam,

Your humble servant.

LETTER XXXVII,

On a similar Occasion.

MADAM,

BEING applied to this morning by one Mrs. Pitta, who wishes to be hired as a cook, and who has consequently referred me to you for her character, I take the liberty, according to custom, of requesting it with candor and sincerity. I am, madam,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII,

The Answer.

MADAM,

I CONFESS that Mrs. Pitta, the cook who lived with me, is a quiet, sober, honest woman; and the only fault I find in her,

her, is taking ſnuff, which was the ſole cauſe of our ſeparation. I am, madam,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIX,

To a Gentleman, for a Servant's Character.

SIR,

IN conſequence of an application from Lewis Doxat, who wiſhes to ſerve me as a groom, I trouble you, ſir, with whom he ſays he lived laſt, for his character, depending on your honor and veracity. I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XL,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

LEWIS DOXAT, during the time he ſpent in my ſervice, behaved, I aſſure you, with great care and diligence. I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLI,

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, thoſe being the characteriſticks, as you were pleaſed to write, but of which (in my ſervice at leaſt) he has proved himſelf totally underſerving. 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.

LET-

LETTER XLII,

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 deserved 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.

LETTER XLIII,

To a Friend, on a Breach of Promise.

SIR,

YOU may remember when I lent you the sum of 50l. that you positively assured me you would repay it in three months—on that account, I ventured to let you have the money, which I intended for my landlord; it is 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 yours, you will exceedingly oblige me by settling it as soon as possible. I am, sir,

Your very humble servant.

LETTER XLIV,

The 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 I am worth, and as far as my stock will permit, give every creditor satisfaction. I am, sir,

Your distressed friend.

LET-

LETTER XLV,

From a Wholesale Dealer to a Country Shopkeeper.

MR. HARTNELL,

IT has given me great uneasiness to find a sudden discontinuance of that correspondence which has lasted for so many years between us. I am ignorant of having, in any one instance, given a cause for offence, as still I retain the same esteem and regard for you. There are few, I am sure, that will be more ready than myself to give you every opportunity of succeeding in your business. I must, therefore, request your candour and sincerity, and if it be agreeable to you to renew our former dealings, trust me, whatever articles your commissions may direct in my way, shall be regularly sent, and charged on the most reasonable terms. I am,

Sir, Your humble servant, &c.

LETTER XLVI,

From an embarrassed Tradesman to a Creditor.

SIR,

A VARIETY of unexpected losses and disappointments, which put it entirely out of my power to satisfy the demands of my creditors, except I am allowed a letter of licence for twelve months, oblige me to make this application to you, who are the principal; and, I doubt not, but when you recollect my former punctuality, and the regularity of my late payments, you will not be averse to this proposal. If this indulgence be denied, it will be totally out my power to retrieve my affairs, and ruin must inevitably ensue. I am sure, if favoured with your concurrence, that my other creditors will immediately comply; which will enable me to pursue business with an easy mind and additional alacrity, in hopes of surmounting difficulties, and proving myself,

Your grateful servant, &c.

P. S. Your answer will be waited for with the utmost impatience.

LETTER XLVII,

The Answer.

SIR,

YOUR late punctuality is such an assurance of your integrity and honesty, that I am readily disposed to acquiesce with your desire; and should it be agreeable to have a meeting of your creditors, I will certainly use all my influence to induce the rest to follow my example—That these crosses may be the last you may experience, and that this desired accomodation may be attended with a happy issue that may lead to uninterrupted success hereafter, is the sincere wish of, Sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER XLVIII,

From a Country Shopkeeper to a London Merchant.

SIR,

I REQUEST you will be so kind, by return of post, to let me know the current prices of those articles, which I have subjoined. If I think they admit of sufficient profit, you will shortly receive a very considerable order for myself and correspondents. I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

(the List follows)

LETTER XLIX,

The Answer.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request, I have, underneath, added the prices to those articles which you wish to know; shewing, at the same time, the retail prices that you may be a judge of the profits. As I have some apprehension that their prices will be shortly advanced, recommend the present time as the best for yourself and friends to purchase. I am, sir,

Your very humble servat.

(the Prices, &c. follow)

LET-

LETTER L,

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

SIR,

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

I am,

Your obedient faithful servant.

LETTER LI,

The Master's Answer.

MR. BURTON,

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

I am,

Your affectionate master.

LETTER LII,

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

SIR,

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

I am, sir,
Your sincere friend.

LETTER LIII,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

Your sincere friend.

LET-

LETTER LIV.

From a Father to a run-away Apprentice.

DEAR DICK,

THOUGH you muſt know yourſelf to be unworthy of that epithet, yet as I ſtill retain the ſame parental affection for you as ever, I would fain make you ſenſible of the duties of a ſon. Your maſter, whom I know to be a worthy quiet man, both by his late behaviour and his conduct now, has informed me, that you have, without any provocation that he knows of, left him, and are now in concealment with a young man, who I muſt declare to be your greateſt enemy under the maſk of friendſhip: though his ſervant would not confeſs where you both were, he has promiſed to deliver you this, and I hope theſe few lines will meet with your ſerious reflection, and have greater weight than verbal admonitions or perſonal remonſtrances. If a ſpark of filial gratitude dwells in your breaſt, you muſt, for my ſake, return to your duty—Conſider, Dick, the unremitting pains I have taken in your education. Many a hard earned guinea I have ſpent in qualifying you for buſineſs. I alſo gave a hundred to your maſter with you; and, if you but knew with what difficulty I procured the money, I am ſure you would not thus repay me with ingratitude! The indulgence and generoſity of your maſter leave not the ſhadow of excuſe in palliation of your miſconduct: in hopes of your voluntary return he has forborn, according to cuſtom to advertiſe you; but, if you ſtay longer away, you muſt expect to ſee your name publiſhed to the great diſgrace of yourſelf and family; need, I ſay more to awaken ſenſibility, and invite you to your home? Yes; and that there may be no apology for your abſence, be aſſured that you ſhall not only be forgiven, but never reproached by either your maſter or me: let me then perſuade you, if not for mine, for your own ſake, to abandon theſe puerile follies; for ſurely you muſt be conſcious that all your future happineſs and proſperity depend upon your preſent care and attention. Let not your adverſaries, who call themſelves your friends, miſlead you. I have no reaſon to deceive you; my admonitions proceed from the juſt motives of love and ſincerity; if I find them ſlighted and neglected, I ſhall then renounce you for ever; but if I find they are attended with a happy iſſue, ſtill ſhall I remain,

Your ever affectionate father, &c.

LET

LETTER LV,

The Son's Answer.

HONORED SIR,

YOUR goodness leaves me not the smallest plea in extenuation of my conduct. I am conscious of my folly, and, in some measure to deserve both your's and my master's forgiveness (which is at present unmerited) I shall exert every endeavour to redeem the time I have wantonly lost. I confess that it was owing to the dangerous advice of evil disposed persons, that I have thus deviated from my duty, and consequently offended both a good parent and a worthy master: this candid acknowledgment will, I hope, be some assurance of my contrition, while a speedy reformation shall prove me in future,

Your dutiful son, &c.

LETTER LVI,

From a Tradesman to another demanding a Debt.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of six months since I delivered in a bill of a trifle that you owe me for Spanish shoes and slippers for your lady. I am not accustomed to give credit, as my profits are remarkably small; besides, sir, if you please to recollect, I paid you ready money for the cottons, which were purchased for me by my housekeeper. I must therefore insist upon your immediately discharging the account between us, for which I shall remain, sir,

Your very humble servant.

LETTER LVII,

The Answer.

SIR,

I HOPE you will believe me, when I declare upon the word of a tradesman, I never received the bill you mentioned. As I give no credit myself, I expect none, and am somewhat surprised that on my account particularly you would deviate from your established rule. It is rather hard, you must allow yourself, that a man, who would fain support a character of honesty and integrity, should be liable to pay all the unexpected

pected debts of an extravagant wife: yours is not the only bill that has surprised me. If you will be so kind as to send me a receipt to-morrow, it shall be discharged; but any other account contracted for the future, without my knowledge or consent, I must beg leave to decline. I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER LVIII,

From a Friend to another relative to a Sale.

SIR,

I UNDERSTAND by an advertisement to day, that several very scarce paintings are to be disposed of by auction at Christie's in Pall Mall, the first Thursday in next month. As I am unavoidably obliged to be in Richmond that week, you will exceedingly oblige me by attending and purchasing, at any price, whatever painting is valuable and scarce—I shall repay you with grateful thanks, and remain for the same,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER LIX,

The Answer.

SIR,

YOU will pardon me, I hope, for declining your request, as my reasons I think will sufficiently plead an apology. Pictures are somewhat like books, liable to a variety of tastes —what I might think good may, peradventure, meet with your disapprobation; and the very things that might strike your fancy I may unfortunately overlook—I should be very sorry that my friend should suffer by my want of taste (as I do not pretend to any) therefore presume that my non-compliance will prove how much I am

Your very humble servant.

LETTER LX,

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 im-

impofition upon your goodnefs. I am induced for two reafons to make the following requeft;—firft, becaufe my welfare in life has always feemed your concern; and, fecondly, I am unwilling to be any longer a burthen to my kind uncle.—I am anxious, at this critical period to ferve my king and country; and, prefuming that a commiffion may be had on reafonable terms, would deem it the greateft addition that could poffibly be to all former obligations, if you would procure me even the moft humble—my chief ambition fhall be to deferve the fame, and diftinguifh myfelf in fuch fituation, whereby I flatter myfelf, I may gain an opportunity of rifing—merit feldom goes unrewarded. I cannot bear the thoughts of being thus in obfcurity, leading a dull inactive life, when my fervices are fo much wanted—but above all, to be conftantly obliged to weary my dear uncle with repeated folicitations, without either the hope or the profpect of a return. I fhall wait with the utmoft impatience for your anfwer, and fhould it be your inclination to comply, I fhall always be proud to make moft hearty acknowledgments of your goodnefs, and prove myfelf no longer a troublefome, but

Grateful Nephew.

LETTER XLI,

The Anfwer.

DEAR CHARLES,

THOUGH I confefs your requeft in fame meafure pleafed me, as it fhews an eager wifh to ferve fociety, befides difplaying a great magnanimity of mind; yet the thoughts of the dangers you would encounter render me fomewhat flow in gratifying your defire. However, if your inclination does not change, and you will not be diffuaded from thofe honourable motives you have already teftified, of deriving fame and fupport, I fhall let you have a fufficient fum to procure the firft commiffion that is to be purchafed.—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 drefs only, appear what they are not! I have no reafon though to doubt your courage; for real valour and not vanity has evidently prompted this defire. I fhould be very proud to fee my nephew a hero, and boldly afpiring to honor; but it would grieve me very much to think that after he obtained his wifh he fhould have

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.

LETTER LXII,

The Nephew's Reply.

DEAR UNCLE,

YOU may reſt ſatisfied that I have duly conſidered my requeſt before I made it. I am not (as I hope you will allow me) one of thoſe empty fools who would fain exhibit a red coat, without proving themſelves worthy of it—Such bear the external appearance of men, while in fact they have women's hearts. If I have the honor to wear his majeſty's livery, I ſhall endeavour to prove that I am ſenſible it is an honor. At preſent I am waſting a life that might be better employed.—Death is the common lot of all, and a man may as well face him in the field, as endure the lingering pains of diſſolution upon a bed—for my part

"I nought can boaſt but a deſire to be
"A ſoldier, and gain a name in arms."

If, therefore, my dear ſir, you will be pleaſed (as you have partly promiſed in your affectionate letter) to procure me a commiſſion as ſoon as convenient, I hope it may be ſhortly in my power to repay your goodneſs, and be a credit both to myſelf and family. I remain, dear uncle,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXIII,

A Reply to the above.

DEAR WILLIAM,

AS I find you are abſolutely determined to purſue your fortune in the field, I will no longer oppoſe ſo laudable a wiſh, and will endeavour, as ſoon as poſſible, to grant your requeſt.

I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTERS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE, &c.

LETTER I,

DEAR HARRY,

I AM ſorry to hear, by ſeveral accounts from Bath, that you are become guilty not only of the greateſt extravagance, but the moſt dangerous imprudence. You frequent, I underſtand, the habitation of a female, both unknown and unreſpected—I ſhould be glad to know what your intentions are—Do you mean to make her your wife? Certainly, Harry, my conſent is neceſſary—your father, I think, deſerves your candour and ſincerity, for the great fondneſs and attention he has always ſhewn you; you may depend upon it I would never object to any thing which tended to your future happineſs—Indeed I ſhould be unwilling, nay, exceedingly mortified, that you ſhould ſtain the credit of your family, and ſully your name by an improper union; and I muſt ſuſpect (with ſome reaſon) that a lady who admits the clandeſtine viſits of a gentleman, and is only to be ſeen with him when the duſky ſhadow of night adds to her concealment, is guided by no honorable views, or, at leaſt, is ſo weak and imprudent, that ſhe may be guilty of the ſame after marriage: but if it be a piece of gallantry, which occaſions your viſits, and that your intentions are baſe and cruel, be aſſured, Harry, that I ſhall abandon you for ever!—for, however faſhionable and common it is now become, yet the inhumanity of impoſing upon a credulous female, and taking from her that which you can never reſtore again, renders the actor a diſgrace to ſociety, as well as to that religion (chriſtianity) which he pretends to! How can he ſhew his face, I wonder, that renders a poor eaſy fond creature aſhamed of ſhewing hers! I hope I have ſaid enough to baniſh from your breaſt ſuch vile deſigns, if there were any; and though, for giving you this trouble, I may appear bold and officious, yet, believe

believe me, ſon, I am not only your true friend and counſellor; but alſo

Your fond and affectionate father.

LETTER II,

The Son's Anſwer.

HONORED SIR,

YOU muſt certainly be aware of thoſe malicious tongues that are always ready to calumniate, as well as exaggerate every matter that may wear the appearance of ſecret gallantry. I do not heſitate, therefore, in calling thoſe vile informers, who have endeavoured to ſow diſcord between a father and a ſon, both deſpicable cowards and baſe lyars. You have been ſo good to give me an education ſuitable to the fortune I hold in expectation, and treated me in every inſtance with ſuch parental affection, that not only demands my warmeſt gratitude, but all the filial effuſions of duty; therefore I deem myſelf reſponſible to you for every part of my conduct in life. I am conſcious of ſome indiſcretions, and receive your gentle reproofs with due ſubmiſſion; I confeſs, ſir, that a few days after my arrival here I did become enamoured of a lovely young creature, who, though inferior to me in fortune, ſurpaſſes all the fair I have yet ſeen, both in mental and perſonal accompliſhments. I have viſited her, but ſhe never would ſee me alone; her niece was always preſent;—I have walked with her, but ſtill in the company of others, and ſhe generally preferred the open day to the 'duſky ſhadow of night;' far be it from me to harbour a thought to her diſadvantage! I would die ere I would wrong or inſult that innocence I ſo much admire! Apprehenſions of your diſpleaſure, I own, had deterred me from avowing this ſecret paſſion before; but I aſſure you it was my intention, and I had almoſt concluded a letter to the purpoſe when I received yours, which required one of a different nature. I candidly acknowledge that, to engage her affections, I incurred expences beyond the bounds of my allowance, but this conduct, though culpable, will, I hope, be deemed pardonable, ſeeing it ariſes from the prevalence of love ——

'That great refiner of the human heart,
'The ſource of all that's great, of all that's good,
'Of joy, of pleaſure! If it be a weakneſs,
'It is a weakneſs which the beſt have felt,
'I would not wiſh to be a ſtranger to it.'

I ſhall return home immediately, and flatter myſelf, when I inform you of the parentage and connections of this young lady, you will not be averſe to my wiſhes; but if it be your pleaſure to diſapprove, I aſſure you I ſhall then endeavour to ſuppreſs my inclinations; in the mean time, I ſubſcribe myſelf,

Your dutiful ſon.

LETTER III,

From a Daughter to her Father, acquainting him with a Propoſal of Marriage.

MY DEAR HONORED SIR,

AS Mr. Beveridge, whoſe father, I am ſenſible, is one of your moſt intimate acquaintance, has, during your abſence in the country, openly avowed a ſincere paſſion for me, and ardently preſſed me to comply with his overtures of marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of that nature, however advantageous they might ſeem, till I had received your opinion on ſo important an affair, being determined to be entirely directed by your ſuperior judgment, and, according to your advice, either prohibit or encourage his addreſſes. I ſhall, however, take the liberty with due ſubmiſſion, to diſcloſe candidly my real ſentiments of the young gentleman, hoping I am not too blind or partial in his favor: he appears perfectly honorable in his intentions, and to be by no means inferior to any gentleman of my acquaintance, either in reſpect to good ſenſe or good manners. I acknowledge, ſir, that I could admit his addreſſes with pleaſure, were they attended with your conſent and approbation; but, ſir, be aſſured that I am not ſo far engaged as to act with precipitation, or comply with any offers, inconſiſtent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude for your paternal indulgence, I ſhall ever owe you. Your advice, there as ſoon as poſſible, on ſo mo-

momentous a ſubject, will be the greateſt ſatisfaction imaginable to, dear honored ſir,

Your moſt dutiful daughter.

From a young Gentlem n to a Lady, who had rejected his Paſſion for further Conſideration.

LETTER IV.

DEAR MADAM,

YOU will now give me leave, I hope, to renew a ſubject, which, according to your requeſt, I have, with the greateſt difficulty imaginable endeavoured to ſuppreſs. You have ample proofs, I flatter myſelf, that neither intereſted nor diſhonourable views attend this propoſal. I candidly declare, that I never found my heart in the ſituation it is now. This ſenſibility of love, ſuſceptible of every nice feeling, induces me to announce an utter averſion to those tedious forms of courtſhip, which I hear have often continued, till love itſelf became weary and indifferent. Whether my paſſion is more ardent than common, I cannot ſay, but I really aſſure you, I can live no longer without you, I am ſo much, madam,

Your ſincere admirer.

LETTER V,

From the young Lady in Reply.

SIR,

I AM no more fond of the faſhionable modes of courtſhip than yourſelf. Plain dealing, I acknowledge, is beſt; but methinks common decency ſhould always be preſerved.

Our acquaintance has been longer than ſix months—too ſhort a time, I think, to form an opinion of one's diſpoſition; and I aſſure you, ſir, I hope, the man that is deſtined to be my huſband, may know me perfectly, while he is my lover.

There is ſomething ſo peculiar and whimſical in your manner of expreſſion, that I am abſolutely at a loſs to determine whether you are ſerious, or only write for your own amuſement. I muſt, therefore beg leave to decline all further remarks upon this ſubject, till we are better known to each other, and you explain yourſelf in more intelligible

terms

terms. I shall then, perhaps, be better able to form a judgment of your passion, and no more capable of returning a proper answer. What influence your future addresses may have over me, I cannot possibly say; but to be more free and candid, your present attempts have made no impression on the heart of

Your humble servant.

LETTER VI,

From the same in Reply to another Letter received after some time.

SIR,

SINCE neither of us, I believe, is over fond of squandering away time on idle unmearing compliments, I think now proper to inform you, in direct terms, that, notwithstanding my parents are deceased, the dispotal of my person is not altogether in my own power, for, according to the will of my late father, I can transact nothing of any moment without both the consent and approbation of Mr. Friendly, of the Middle Temple; he is my counsel upon all particular occasions, and a gentleman too of such strict honour and honesty, that I am determined to abide always by his advice. I think proper, freely to acknowledge, with candour and sincerity, that I have no objection to your person; if, therefore, you think it worth your while, to wait upon my guardian with your proposals, and if I find that he approves of them, I shall act without any mental reservation, and be very apt to encourage a passion, which I imagine to be both honourable and sincere.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER VII,

To a Lady, desiring her Love.

MADAM,

I AM bold, though a stranger, to make these lines a messenger at this present of my good meaning towards you; wherein I go not about my pretence of a most entire and hearty good will, which I profess to bear you, to make present surmise thereupon, that on so bare an assertion you should immediately credit me, I prize your worthiness at a far greater value,

value, and weigh your good allowance so much, as I only desire by your favourable liking I may entreat to have access to you, not doubting but by being in your presence, I shall sufficiently, by apparent proof, maintain the efficacy of that I now protest, and give you so good occasion to think well of me, as you shall have no reason to repent, that upon so honest and loving request you have condescended to my entreaty; whose health and prosperity tendering as mine own, I send you with my letter a token of that affection I bear you, which I pray you most heartily to accept of and wear for me. And ever so to continue,

Yours, if you please to accept of me.

LETTER VIII,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

Your friend as far as one unacquainted may be.

LETTER IX,

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

MADAM,

PERHAPS you will not be surprised to receive a letter from a person who is unknown to you, when you reflect how likely so charming a face may be to create impertinence; and I persuade myself, that when you remember where you sat last night

night at the play-houſe, you will not need to be told this comes from the perſon juſt before you.

In the firſt place, madam, I aſk pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing this letter; but after this I beg leave to tell, that my thoughts are honourable, and to inform you who I am—I ſhall not pretend to be any better—I keep a ſhop in Henrietta Street, and though but two years in trade, I have tolerable cuſtom. I do not doubt but it will encreaſe, and I ſhall be able to do ſomething for my family. If your inclinations are not engaged, I ſhould be very proud of the honour of waiting on you; and in the mean time, if you pleaſe to deſire any friend to aſk my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not prejudice you againſt.

Madam, your moſt humble ſervant,

LETTER X,

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

SIR,

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

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

I am, ſir, with reſpect,
Your friend and ſervant.

LET-

LETTER XI,

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

HONORED FATHER AND MOTHER,

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

Your dutiful daughter.

LETTER XII,

The Answer.

DEAR SALLY,

YOUR mother and I thank you for your dutiful application to us in a concern of so great moment. All we can do is to beg of God to bless and direct you in this your intended settlement. As we live at too great a distance to pay you a personal visit, we shall freely submit the conduct of the whole affair to your own prudence and discretion. You are old enough to make choice for yourself, and 'tis evident, by your wise precautions, that you have taken it into your serious consideration. As you are so perfectly well satisfied with your

lover's character, as your maſter and miſtreſs ſeem to confirm it, and as you have a fair proſpect of ſucceſs by your joint endeavours, we hereby give you both our bleſſings and free conſents. All that we are ſorry for is, that we can make your intended huſband ro ſuitable return. Let us know, however, when your marriage ſhall be actually conſummated, and we will ſtrain a little in your favour. We will, however, at leaſt, contribute ſomething towards houſe-keeping. Pray preſent our love and reſpects to him, though unknown. All your relations here join in their good wiſhes for your well doing; and we think ourſelves the ſooner you are ſettled the better. We are,

Your truly loving father and mother.

LETTER XIII,

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

HONORED PARENTS,

THIS comes to inform you that Mr. Phelps and myſelf am actually man and wife; but that, as his houſe and ſhop are not yet perfectly fitted up to his ſatisfaction, I ſhall continue for about three weeks or a month with my good maſter and miſtreſs, till it will ſuit with his convenience to take me home. They are ſo well pleaſed with my ſettlement that they have made me a voluntary preſent of five guineas towards houſe-keeping; what ſmall matter of money I have ſaved in my ſervice Mr. Phelps has given me for pin-money, as he calls it.—I had no thoughts of concluding this match ſo ſoon as I have done, but when I produced your anſwer to my laſt, he would not let me reſt till I added my own conſent to yours. I hope I ſhall have no occaſion to repent of my compliance with his paſſion for me, ſince his intentions, I dare ſay, were ſtrictly honorable. He preſents his duty to you both, though unknown, and joins with me in deſiring you to put yourſelves to no manner of inconvenience, out of any natural love and affection for me; ſince he has aſſured me, and has deſired me to tell you ſo, that he doubts not but to be able, through his own induſtry, with the bleſſing of God on his endeavours, to maintain me very well, though not extravagantly, and permit me to make as good an appearance as any of his neighbours' wives that have any good œconomy; he deſires I ſhould always go neat and decent, but not to affect, as too many young wives do, dreſſing in all the colours of the rainbow. In a word, I have

a fair

a fair prospect of being happy, and shall make it my study to make him so, and your joint prayers for the continuance of our love will be a means to make us more so.—Without any farther ceremony, therefore, we shall subscribe ourselves

Your most dutiful son and daughter.

LETTER XIV,

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

MADAM,

EVER since I saw you at the Wells, when I was on a journey to Bristol, my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. And although it is impossible this may be rejected, yet I can no longer conceal a passion which has preyed on my spirits these six weeks. I have been settled in business about three years—my success has been equal to my expectations, and is now encreasing. My family is respectable, though not rich; and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference where the affections are placed on so lovely an object. I can only say, madam, that I prefer you to all the young ladies I have seen, and if business continues to encrease, I shall be greatly in want of one of your prudence to manage my domestic affairs. Be assured, madam, that whatever time I can spare from the necessary duties of my profession shall be devoted to your company. If you will favour me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed a particular favor, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect, by

Your real admirer.

LETTER XV,

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

DEAR BROTHER,

YOU know that in all affairs of importance I have constantly acted by your advice, as I still am determined to do, and therefore have sent you inclosed the copy of a letter from a young gentleman in London, whom I have seen at the Wells. His behaviour here was polite without affectation, and an air of sincerity appeared in all he said. With respect to the sub-

ject he writes on, I will give you my own thoughts, and delay sending an answer till I have had your opinion.

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

Your affectionate sister.

LETTER XVI,

The Brother's Answer.

DEAR SISTER,

I AM glad to hear of your prudence in not being over hasty in an affair of such importance, and upon which your happiness or misery in this world will inevitably depend. Your reasons against remaining any longer in a state of widowhood are what I much approve of, and it will give me great pleasure to promote your interest and happiness as far as I am able. I have enquired concerning Mr. Glover, and every one gives him an excellent character. I have likewise conversed with him, and find he is a very sensible young man—As to your objection concerning disparity of years, I do not think it has any great weight, and, upon the whole, I have but one reason against your union, and that is, that there is nothing more precarious than commerce, and the merchant who has unlimited credit to-day, may be in the Gazette to-morrow. I do not urge this in order to prevent your happiness; but only that whilst you are free you may take such measures as to secure a sufficiency against the worst. These, dear sister, are my sentiments concerning this affair; but remember I leave it entire-

entirely to yourself, not doubting but you will proceed with the same prudence you have begun with.

I am your affectionate brother.

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

LETTER XVII,

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter, and the reason for delaying an answer was that I wanted first to consult my brother, whose opinion I had by the post yesterday. I freely acknowledge that you are far from being disagreeable, and the advantage on your part, with respect to compliments, are, I think, superior to those on mine. But these are but small matters when compared with that which is absolutely necessary to make the marriage-state happy—I mean an union of minds.—Neither of us have had many opportunities of conversing together, and at that time you had not mentioned any thing of this—I have no objection against marrying, were I assured of being no worse than at present; but there are such a variety of unforeseen accidents daily happening in the world, and all conspiring together to promote dissentions in families, that we can never be too careful how to fix our choice. I shall not, sir, from what I have seen of your behaviour and heard of your character, have any objection against your request; but I confess I am afraid you have been rather too precipitate in your choice; and although my person may have engaged your attention, yet I am afraid all those charms you so much extol are not sufficient to keep you loyal to the marriage vow. But I will hope the best, and believe you as virtuous as you are represented, nor give my mind to any other but you—In the mean time I shall be glad to hear that you continue your visits to my brother—you will find him one of the worthiest persons you ever conversed with, and much esteemed for his knowledge in the law. I now give you leave to write as often as you please, as I hope all your letters will be agreeable; and as for the time fixed for any thing else, I shall leave it be settled by yourself and my brother, and am, dear sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVIII,

From a Lover to a Father, on his Attachment to the Daughter.

SIR,

AS I ſcorn to act in a manner that may bring a reproach to myſelf and family, for I hold clandeſtine proceedings unbecoming of any man of character, with candour and exultation I take the liberty of avowing my love for your daughter, and humbly requeſt permiſſion to pay her my addreſſes, as I flatter myſelf my family and expectancies will be found worthy of your notice. I have ſome reaſon to imagine that I am not altogether diſagreeable to your daughter; but I aſſure you, honeſtly, that I have not, as yet, endeavoured to win her affections, for fear it might be repugnant to a father's will.

I am, ſir, with reſpect,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XIX,

The Father's Reply.

SIR,

I MAKE no doubt of the truth of your aſſertions, relative to yourſelf, character, and connections; but as I think my daughter too young to enter into ſuch a ſerious engagement, I think it will be moſt adviſeable to decline any further proceedings for ſome time longer, and remain

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XX,

A different Reply.

SIR,

THERE is ſo much candor and honeſty apparent in your letter, that to withhold my conſent would be both ungenerous and unjuſt. According to the duty of a father, I ſhall firſt make ſome neceſſary enquiries, aſſuring you I never would oppoſe my daughter's choice, except I had ſome very juſt reaſon to imagine it would be productive of ill conſequences; for I am convinced that, in the marriage ſtate, happineſs conſiſts only in reciprocal love. You may therefore depend upon hearing from me in a few days, till when I remain

Your very humble ſervant.

LETTER XXI,

From the ſame.

SIR,

AS my enquiries have given me every ſatisfaction, finding that your character is irreproachably juſt, I beg leave to inform you, that I ſhall be very happy to ſee you at my houſe, whenever it is convenient to you. Should you meet with my daughter's approbation, your diſpoſitions appear ſimilar, and your hearts united, I ſhall be proud to join your hands, and further, as much as poſſible, your connubial happineſs.

I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXII,

From the Lover to the Daughter.

MY DEAR MARIA,

I MAY now with honor and propriety make a tender of my heart and hand, having this day received the generous concurrence of your father, without which I did not think proper to addreſs his daughter, my family and connections being ſuch as could be ſubmitted to the ſtricteſt enquiry. Thus far advanced in hopes, I flatter myſelf my dear girl will afford me an opportunity of diſcloſing a paſſion, which it is my deſire may improve with time and continue for life. I am, dear madam,

Your moſt devoted ſervant.

LETTER XXIII,

A Reply to the above.

SIR,

AS you have been very ſucceſsful in your application to my my father, who ſeems pleaſed with your character and family, I think I ſhould be wanting in both duty to him, and reſpect for you, did I dare to oppoſe his inclinations, or diſcourage a gentleman who has teſtified ſo much honor and regard for me. Your viſits ſhall be received with all due reſpect; but I muſt beg leave to premiſe, I ſhall never be tempt-

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ed to part with my hand till it is accompanied with a ſincere heart. I am, ſir,

Your moſt obedient.

LETTER XXIV,

From a young Lady to her Father on a Propoſal of Marriage.

HONORED SIR,

I THINK I ſhould be wanting both in duty and reſpect, did I not conſult a father, who has manifeſted ſo much care and concern for my welfare, on all occaſions of importance. I have this day received a propoſal of marriage from Mr. Falkner, the ſon of our very honeſt and reſpectable neighbour; he has profeſſed the greateſt eſteem for me, but I have declined liſtening to his addreſſes, till I had firſt received my father's advice and opinion, as I am determined, not only in this, but all other concerns, to be entirely guided by your ſuperior judgment. I am, dearest ſir,

Your affectionate daughter.

LETTER XXV,

The Father's Reply.

MY DEAR CHARLOTTE,

I CANNOT expreſs the ſatisfaction I felt while reading your affectionate letter—you have exhibited ſtrong proof of filial reſpect in thus ſolliciting advice, on a buſineſs which equally concerns both you and me. The gentleman's father you have mentioned I know perfectly well; he bears a moſt reſpectable character, and his circumſtances in life are thought to be good; but I am a total ſtranger to his ſon, and therefore would adviſe my daughter to take ſome time for conſideration, that we may acquire as much knowledge as poſſible of his diſpoſition and manners, and ſee whether his connection with you would be perfectly agreeable to his father: for I have too great a regard for my child to wiſh her to enter into a family where ſhe would not be properly reſpected. I aſſure you, my dear girl, nothing would give me ſo much pleaſure and happineſs, as to ſee you united to a man of merit and probity, to which I think my daughter's virtues are entitled. Every opportunity, therefore, of promoting a deſirable union it ſhall be my ſtudy eagerly to embrace. I remain

Your affectionate father.

LET-

LETTER XXVI,

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

MADAM,

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

Your real admirer.

LETTER XXVII,

The Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a great deal surprised. Although I have seen you several times, yet I had the most distant thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. You desire of me to enquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You must excuse me when I tell you, that I am obliged to decline making any such enquiry. However, as your behaviour when in my company was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent common decorum.—My worthy guardian, Mr. Gulstone, is now at his estate at Woolwich, and his conduct to me has been so much like that of a parent, that I don't chuse to take one step in an affair of such importance without I have both his consent and approbation. There is an appearance of sincerity runs through

your letter; but there is one particular to which I have a very strong objection, which is this——you say that you live along with your mother, yet you do not say that you have either communicated your sentiments to her or your other relations; so neither would I, on any consideration, admit of any addresses contrary to the inclinations of yours. If you can clear up this to my satisfaction, I shall send you a more explicit answer. I am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER XXVIII,

The Gentleman's Answer.

DEAR MADAM,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greatest pleasure I can clear up to your satisfaction that matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you I communicated the affair to my two cousins, but had not courage sufficient to mention it to my mother; however, that is now over, and nothing, she says, would give her greater pleasure than to see me married to a young lady of your amiable character; nay, so far is she from having any objection, that she would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not persuaded her against it, as she has been these three days afflicted with a severe cold, and I was afraid that if she had ventured abroad so soon, it might be attended with dangerous consequences. But to convince you of my sincerity, she has sent the enclosed, written with her own hand, and, whatever may be the contents, I solemnly assure you that I am ignorant of, except that she told me it was in approbation of my suit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I shall then be able to explain things more particularly. I am, dear madam,

Your real lover.

LETTER XXIX,

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

DEAR MISS,

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

My dear Charles has told me that you have made such an im-

impreſſion on him, that he knows not how to be happy in any one elſe, and it gives me great happineſs to find that he has placed his affections on ſo worthy an object. Indeed it has been my principal ſtudy to inſtruct him in the principles of our holy religion, well knowing that thoſe who do not fear God will never pay any regard to domeſtic duties. His dear father died when his ſon was but ten months old, and, being deprived of the parent, all my conſolation was that I had his image left in the ſon. I nurſed him with all the tenderneſs poſſible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age I ſent him to a boarding-ſchool, and afterward to the univerſity. Whilſt he was proſecuting his ſtudies, I was conſtantly employed in recommending him to the care of that God, whoſe eyes behold all his creatures, and will reward and puniſh according to their merit. Ever ſince his return from Oxford he has reſided conſtantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connections hath been equal to my utmoſt wiſhes. At preſent, my dear miſs, I am in a very ſickly condition, and, although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuſe the indulgent partiality of a mother, when I tell you that it is my real opinion, you can never place your affections on a more worthy young man than my ſon. He is endowed with more real worth than many others whom I have known; and I have been told of inſtances of his benevolence, which he has induſtriouſly concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly conſideration now upon my mind is to ſee him happily married, and then my whole care and attention ſhall be fixed on that place where I hope to enjoy eternal felicity. I am, dear miſs,

Your ſincere well-wiſher.

LETTER XXX,

The young Lady's Anſwer.

MADAM,

I WILL excuſe the fondneſs of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours I heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accompliſhments of your ſon, ſo that I was no ways ſurpriſed at what you ſay concerning him. I do aſſure you, madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you before even nobility itſelf, and I think it muſt be my own fault if ever I repent calling you mother. I was going

to say that you had known but few pleasures in this life, to be deprived of your husband so soon, and the rest of your life spent under so many infirmities; but your letter convinces me that you have felt more real pleasures in the practice of virtue and resignation to the Divine will than ever can be had in any temporal enjoyments. I have sent inclosed a few lines to your son, to which I refer you for a more explicit answer, and am, madam,

Your sincere well-wisher,

LETTER XXXI,

The young Lady's Answer to her Lover.

SIR,

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

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXXII,

From the same.

SIR,

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

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

your

your lover as soon as you please, and may every happiness attend you both in time and eternity.

And now, sir, have I not told you enough? some might imagine too much; but I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practise if standing in the presence of my maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable—I look for it, and should be very unhappy if disappointed—but I will hope the best, and doubt not but the religious education bestowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate on the whole of your future conduct in life. You may therefore lay aside the tedious formalities of courtship, and write to me as one with whom you intend to spend your time in this world. Present my sincere respects to your worthy mother. I hope she gets the better of her disorder, and be assured that I am

Yours sincerely.

LETTER XXXIII.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR ANGEL,

IS there any medium between pleasure and pain?—Can mourning and mirth be reconciled? Will my dear charmer believe, that whilst I was reading her letter with the greatest pleasure, I was shedding tears for an affectionate parent? Thus Divine Providence thinks proper to mix gall with our portion in life. It is impossible for me to describe the variety of passions struggling in my breast. Ten thousand blessings to my charmer on the one hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of two impossibilities, one of which I am obliged to struggle with, the other, thanks to you, is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honoured mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort unless I could call you mine; but I am now obliged to submit to the one, whilst I have the pleasing prospect of being in possession of the other. Will my dear sympathize with me? I know she will; and although all my hope of temporal happiness is centered in you, yet I doubt not but you will excuse my shedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent, whom I am now going to commit to the tomb. My mother is to be buried this evening, and as soon as I can settle every thing with the executors, I will, as it were, fly to meet you. God grant that our happiness in this life may be conducive towards

wards promoting our everlasting felicity hereafter. And I am, as before,

Yours while life remains.

LETTER XXXIV,

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

DEAR COUSIN,

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

taste

taſte for rural and domeſtic life, I doubt not but you will be pleaſed. I am

Your affectionate couſin.

LETTER XXXV,

From a young Gentleman to a Lady.

MADAM,

I COULD no longer conceal the reſolution which I have taken to ſerve you all my life, and bear the character of your love eternally. If my love and ſervice be agreeable to you, you may ſignify it to me when you pleaſe, that I may have the honor and ſatisfaction to bear in public every where the quality of, madam,

Your moſt humble
And obedient ſervant.

LETTER XXXVI,

Another on the ſame Subject.

DEAR CHARLOTTE,

IT is a general reflection againſt the manners of the preſent age that marriage is only conſidered as one of thoſe methods by which avarice may be ſatisfied. The opportunities which I had of converſing with you at Lady B——'s have at laſt convinced me that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have thoſe qualifications neceſſary to adorn her ſex, although adverſe fortune has denied her money. I am ſure that all thoſe virtues neceſſary to make me happy in the marriage ſtate are centered in you; and whatever objection you may have to my perſon, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you ſhall conſent to be mine, it ſhall be my conſtant ſtudy to make your life agreeable, and under the endearing character of huſband endeavour to to ſupply your early loſs of the beſt of parents. I ſhall expect your anſwer as ſoon as poſſible, for I wait for it with the utmoſt impatience. Madam,

Your moſt humble
And moſt obedient ſervant.

LETTER XXXVII,

From the young Lady in Reply.

HONORED SIR,

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

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

I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and would consider myself highly honored, could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg that you will endeavour to eradicate a passion, which, if nonrished longer, may prove fatal to us both. I am, sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXXVIII,

The Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR CHARLOTTE,

WAS it not cruel to start such cruel objections? Could you suppose me capable of so base an action as to destroy your freedom and peace of mind? Or do you think I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another? It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none else can. I cannot enjoy one moment's rest till I have your answer, and then the happy day shall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy; but your tender nature cannot suffer you to be cruel. Be mine, my dear, and I am yours for ever. My servant shall wait for an answer to your ever sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centered in you. I remain, madam,

Your most humble

And obedient servant.

The Lady's Answer.

LETTER XXXIX,

SIR,

YOUR answer to my first objection, I must confess, is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the other; but I find that if I must comply, I shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and even the most cautious have been deceived. However, sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter to her ladyship, as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I have left the time to your own appointment; and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be happy but with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation. I am, sir, with the greatest respect,

Yours sincerely.

LETTER XL,

From a jealous Lover to his Mistress.

OH MADAM, MADAM!

I AM neither blind nor deaf—I can both see and hear!—Your partiality for Mr. Careless is every day before my eyes, and your tenderness for him has now reached my ears! But why have you deceived me? Why promised constancy and love, and drove one to madness and despair? What action of my life hath merited this base return? Have I not loved?—Yes, cruel beauty! doated to distraction; then why use me thus? As I cannot bear the thought of being a dupe any longer, I wish to know your real and candid sentiments. If it be your pleasure that all our former vows, all our fond protestations should be revoked, I am content; for I despise a lifeless hand. The heart is the chief of my ambition. Your candor, therefore, will greatly oblige, madam,

Your distracted lover.

LETTER XLI,

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your unkind letter, which I muſt declare I could not comprehend; no circumſtance of my life, I preſume, can prove me guilty of any impropriety or indecorum; I certainly thought proper to diſguiſe our partiality, and therefore laſt night, at Lady Riot's endeavoured to conceal my real love, for fear of incurring the ſarcaſtic ridicule of our friends. In my opinion, nothing is more imprudent, nothing more offenſive, than for lovers to appear lovers in company; it is both diſagreeable and diſguſting to ſociety. I truſt I have ſaid ſufficient to remove all your groundleſs fears, and aſſure you how much I am

Yours ſincerely.

LETTER XLII,

A different Reply.

SIR,

I HAVE ſent herewith a moſt excellent comedy, called "All in the wrong." I requeſt you will read it with attention, as I preſume it will cure, in ſhewing its abſurdity, that jealouſy which is apparently the cauſe of your letter. I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XLIII,

From a jealous Lady to her Lover.

SIR,

BELIEVING you to be a man of honor, my credulity yielded to your profeſſions, for I ſhould never have admitted your addreſſes, had I not conſidered your propoſal as the reſult of truth and probity. The ſuppoſed rectitude of your principles created an eſteem; and the ſeeming accompliſhments of your mind, not theſe of your perſon, were ſtrong advocates in your favor; but now I find myſelf deceived; I am ſorry I have any reaſon to recede from the good opinion I entertained of you; but I ſee your infidelity, and all your vows towards me are both forgotten and broken by the apparent attention which you have lately paid to Miſs Gurrier. I therefore in-

ſiſt,

insist, if yet a spark of honor remains, that you will either release me from an unfortunate contract, or remove my suspicions by the best authority; till when expect to hear no further from

Your forsaken.

LETTER XLIV,

From a Lover to his Mistress's Aunt, requesting her Intercession.

MADAM,

HAVING several times, with your knowledge, been happy in the company of your niece, I have often endeavoured to avail myself of those opportunities of avowing my honest and sincere love; but, just as I have been about to speak, my fears have vanquished my hopes, and I have been obliged to suspend my design. I confess I have thrown out some intimations, but it seems the young lady did not or would not comprehend them. As I flatter myself, madam, that my family and connections have already recommended me to your favor, I most humbly solicit that you will be my advocate on this occasion. I would fain make a declaration of my love, but not knowing how to begin it, request you will be so good as to prepare the way. I wait with the utmost impatience your reply, till when believe me, madam,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLV,

The Aun's Answer.

SIR,

DIFFIDENCE is generally the companion of merit, and a sure token of respect; therefore I cannot say that I have any dislike on my own part, to the manner of your proposal; but not knowing how my niece may take it, trial must prove the event. Agreeable to your request, I shall take the first opportunity of apprising her of your love to her, and use all the eloquence I am mistress of in your favour. I am, sir,

Your friend and servant.

LETTER XLVI,

From the same.

SIR,

YESTERDAY I took an opportunity of speaking to my niece, relative to the business on which you wrote to me. I received no direct answer, but am led to imagine, by the blush I perceived, and the hesitation I witnessed, that there is room for hope; having thus far prepared the way for love, I leave the rest to you, and am, sir, wishing this affair may terminate both to your and my niece's advantage.

Your sincere friend, &c.

LETTER XLVII,

From a modest Lover to his Mistress.

DEAR MADAM,

I HAVE long struggled with the most honorable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man: frequently I have endeavoured to reveal it personally, and as frequently in this manner, but never till now could summon sufficient courage to consummate my design. I can no longer labour with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more when I have endeavoured to reveal it. With rapture I fly to see you, and yet, when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated as I ought, I am utterly confounded and totally deprived of utterance. Sure it must be a diffidence in myself—a consciousness of my own unworthiness—and an exalted opinion of your merit, that occasions this timidity. Love, it is said, inspires men with courage, and stimulates them to noble atchievements; how differently does it operate with me! seeing it deprives me of all necessary confidence! Believe me, madam, though romantic as it may appear, my passion is real and sincere. If respect be a crime, it bears its own punishment—it is unnecessary for me to add that my designs and motives are honorable. Who could dare approach so much virtuous excellence with any unworthy views? My family and circumstances will, I flatter myself, stand the test of the strictest enquiry. Oh then, my dear madam, condescend to embolden my respectful passion by a favorable reply, which will for ever oblige

Your affectionate and devoted admirer.

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

The Lady's Reply.

SIR,

MODESTY is allowed to be the greateſt ornament of our ſex, and I cannot ſee any reaſon to deem it blameable in yours; to ſay more on this occaſion would ill become me—it would border upon preſumption; to ſay leſs would juſtly appear affectation it would ſeem, that I knew not how to pay that regard to modeſt merit which modeſt merit only deſerves. I remain, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER XLIX,

From an Aunt to her Niece, diſapproving of her Choice.

MY DEAR NIECE,

DO not, I beg you, imagine the liberty which I now take of admoniſhing you, with reſpect to one inſtance of your conduct, proceeds from any officious impertinence; on the contrary, it is my regard for your honor and future happineſs which prompts me to take up the pen. I am informed that you have imprudently given encouragement to the addreſſes of that inſignificant coxcomb Mr. Bucknall, and abſolutely admitted him as a ſuitor in form. This report I am ſorry to find corroborated, by his being conſtantly ſeen with you at public places, and other circumſtances, which, I am ſorry to ſay, prove my niece very deficient in prudence and diſcretion: the accounts I hear of this young man are exceedingly alarming; he has been the ruin, I underſtand, of two unguarded females in the country, whom, after he ſeduced, he abandoned to their miſery; and may I not with ſome reaſon be apprehenſive that his views, in reſpect to you, may be equally baſe and diſhonorable? Oh then, my dear niece, deſpiſe the company of a man who is void of all the principles of honor, virtue, or humanity. Your education has been good, therefore I cannot think you deſtitute of underſtanding; you have been, from your infancy, taught the ways of virtue, therefore I cannot think you will wilfully ſwerve from the path of rectitude; reflect ſeriouſly then on the evil tendency of this unthinking behaviour, and abandon from your preſence, a man unworthy of your notice; be aſſured it is through motives of benevolence

and

and ſincerity of regard, that you have received, I hope, theſe timely admonitions from

Your affectionate aunt.

LETTER L,

A Reply to the above.

DEAR AUNT,

I HAVE ſuffered myſelf ſo much by defamation and calumny, that I am unwilling to condemn before I am well aſſured of the guilt. I cannot ſee thoſe failings in the gentleman alluded to, which you have been ſo good on my account to remark. Seeing you have been miſinformed concerning my conduct, I am naturally led to hope that the other accounts are equally erroneous. I ſhould deſpiſe the man that ever inſulted or abuſed one of my own ſex; but I am not ſo credulous as to give credence to every idle report and hearſay: I am unwilling to take a ſuppoſition for an aſſurance, and look upon what may be a fiction as a downright truth. Pardon me, aunt, when I declare that in my eyes this gentleman is poſſeſſed of honor, virtue, and humanity! I have never known him to break his word; I have never heard him ſlander or blaſpheme; and I have often witneſſed his generoſity void of oſtentation.—— However, as your letter alarmed me not a little, I have, with true candor and ſincerity, ſhewn it to Mr. Bucknall, aſſuring him that it would be out of my power to ſee him again, if he did not, on good authority, acquit himſelf immediately. I ſaw evident marks of innocence in his countenance—he thanked me kindly for my openneſs—promiſed to convince you of the injuſtice of your declarations, and, in return, I have promiſed to reward him with my hand: of courſe I feel myſelf exceedingly obliged to my aunt, for her kind and affectionate letter, as it will either be the means of preventing much ſorrow and miſery, or effectually compleat the future happineſs of her

Grateful niece.

LETTER LI,

From a young Lady's Friend to a diſagreeable Suitor.

MICHAEL PITTA,

BEING the ſincere friend of Miſs Mary Bradby, to whom ſhe has in confidence revealed her utter averſion to your intruding

truding impudence and nonſenſical jargon, I have undertaken, in conſequence of her requeſt, to inſiſt that you will forbear further ſolicitations, as they are both contemptible and diſguſting. Conſummate ignorance can alone after this be guilty of a perſeverance which may produce ſuch fatal conſequences, as to provoke my friend to apply to ſome male relative for protection. I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER LII,

From a Lover after receiving Wounds in Battle to his Miſtreſs.

MY DEAR MARIA,

YOU have often declared before battle had called me away, that not the beauty of my perſon, but the accompliſhments of my mind, had gained youu affections; happy for me if this be true, for I can no longer boaſt thoſe perſonal charms with which my looking-glaſs once flattered me.—I have loſt one of my eyes and am deprived of a leg; but as they are gone in an honorable cauſe, I hope my dear Maria will give me no reaſon to regret their loſs. I did not think proper to ſee you till you were previouſly prepared for my reception, for fear my appearance might not only ſhock but diſguſt. If, therefore, you are as equally anxious as I am for an interview, ſignify it by an immediate anſwer, and I ſhall fly on the wings of love to prove myſelf

Your devoted ſervant.

LETTER LIII,

The young Lady's Reply.

DEAR JAMES,

IF I grieve and ſeem unhappy at your misfortunes, my ſorrow, believe me, is pure and proceeds from anxious apprehenſion that yeur health may thereby be impaired———I prayed to heaven to preſerve your life—it is preſerved, and I am thankful! Oh then let me ſee you as ſoon as poſſible, and believe me

Yours ſincerely.

LETTER LIV,

From a young Lady after the Small-pox to her Lover.

SIR,

THE reason of my long silence will now, I hope, appear, and plead its own excuse. You was pleased, when you first honored me with your addresses, to say the beauties of my person were only excelled by the perfections of my mind; if you really preferred the latter, and thought as you declared, those mental accomplishments were predominant, the loss of my personal accomplishments, which are now totally spoiled by the severity of the small-pox, is not so much to be regretted. It gives you a happy opportunity of proving yourself to be a man of truth and veracity, by now accepting my hand, (which will consequently be accompanied with my heart) when my only recommendation, if I have any, arises from that consideration which you was pleased to prefer and avow your partiality for. I am, sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LV,

The Answer.

MY DEAR,

THOUGH I confess that the declarations of suitors are in general questionable, and that personal beauty is always most attractive, I hope to prove that it is really your disposition which I admire. Though I regret your misfortune, I exult in this opportunity of proving my honor and truth; and will be proud to accept your inestimable hand, being accompanied with your heart, whenever my dear Susannah thinks me worthy. I am still

Your affectionate and sincere admirer.

LETTER LVI,

From a rich Lover to a young Lady without Fortune.

DEAR MADAM,

HAPPINESS, not interest, has ever been the chief of my ambition; and therefore I have entered a resolution, should the proposal meet with your acquiescence, of making you the sole mistress of my heart, hand, and fortune; intrinsic merit,

is

is, in my opinion, ſuperior to all the gifts of fortune, and as Providence has already favoured me with competent independance, what occaſion have I for more? Am I not better enabled to gratify my inclinations in the purſuit of merit?—Riches, I am reſolved, ſhall be no bar to our happineſs, nor preclude me from one of the principle objects of exiſtence. The very amiable qualities which you poſſeſs, are to me of greater value than bags of wealth; your perfections and accompliſhments are ample compenſations for the want of fortune, and, without flattery, I declare I think you are a treaſure in yourſelf. As ſuch I offer you my hand and heart, which if you think worthy of your acceptance, the whole ſtudy of my future life ſhall be to render the union productive of mutual happineſs; be pleaſed then to think ſeriouſly on this propoſal, and, when you have ſufficiently deliberated, by candidly informing me of your determination, you will exceedingly oblige

Your real admirer.

LETTER LVII,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

YOUR honorable propoſal demands my warmeſt thanks and gratitude, and though at preſent I cannot think of accepting it, yet time, I hope, will remove every objection; beſides, I think matters of this kind require proper conſideration on all ſides; and I wiſh that you would firſt of all conſult with your relations and friends, as it would tend much to my unhappineſs if you incurred their diſpleaſure on my account.

I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER LVIII,

From a late Lover to a Lady.

MADAM,

I HAVE been ſo long, and with ſo little ſucceſs, preferring my addreſſes, that, finding them equally irkſome to you and myſelf, I think it now the beſt way to decline them for ever! I confeſs myſelf guilty in not having done this long ago, but I was amuſed with hope, as well as the falſe intimations of your

friends. I wish, when I had first made known my wishes, you had been so ingenuous as to have given me a peremptory denial instead of encouragement! That cruelty would have been kindness; but there is double cruelty in the kindness you have shewn! it would have prevented trouble on my part and anxiety on yours; but I shall no longer intrude with my professions, nor shall you be any longer under the necessity of rejecting them—from this day I am at liberty to renew my choice; you to select another for yours! and as I once held you in the profoundest esteem, I cannot forbear expressing a desire that you may meet with a man who may be as constant and sincere as your late unfortunate admirer.

Adieu for ever!

LETTER LIX,

From a late Lover to a Coquette.

MADAM,

THOUGH my understanding may be doubted, and my penetration insulted, yet you shall find that the latter is capable of discerning fallacy, and the other of resenting insolence. I am sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of charging you of both these crimes. The proposals I made to you were not only honorable but sincere; and while you seemed to incline to listen, you was at the same time encouraging the addresses of several idle fops and vain witlings, who not only bring disgrace on their own sex, but too often bring reproach on yours. In knowledge of beauty and susceptibility of love, I presume, I am equal to any man, but none can entertain a greater aversion to thoughtless coquetry than I do; for it sullies every other illustrious quality. If these hints are taken as they are meant, and effect a happy reformation, I shall be proud both to repeat my visits and renew my professions; but if vanity and conceit close your ears against the friendly admonitions of a lover, pardon him, madam, if for the future he disclaims that title. I am

Your very humble servant

LETTER LX,

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

IF vanity and conceit are failings to be found in me, I must beg leave to observe that others, nay, even yourself, are guilty of the same; the understanding and penetration you boast of pronounce you both vain and conceited; and I cannot forbear declaring that the contents of your letter (deserving thanks only for its brevity) are exceedingly rude and unwarrantalbe; I never sought your addresses; I never assured you of the possession of my heart; I have undoubtedly an equal right as yourself to judge and act—If I take pleasure in sounding the depth of the boasted penetration of your sex, or amuse myself with a train of empty admirers (among which number perhaps I had rated you) for the gratification of punishing their arrogance, am I, I pray, responsible to you for those whims? be assured, sir, I shall never solicit your permission, nor that of any other man, to indulge my inclinations. I must candidly declare that I never deemed you a man of much understanding, and your late behaviour has now convinced me, that my opinion was just; I therefore request that you will keep your hints and admonitions to yourself, nor dare to repeat your disagreeable visits, or renew your fulsome professions; as, I assure you, they will meet with both indifference and contempt, by one who is determined never to be

Your humble servant.

LETTER LXI,

From a young Lady to an aged Suitor.

SIR,

I AM obliged by that duty I owe myself humbly to request a truce to those addresses which you have lately honored me with, for fear you make me guilty of rudeness, which I wish to avoid, especially to a man of your years, as old age, I acknowledge, should always be treated with respect. To prevent any application to my guardian, I also take the liberty of assuring you that every advocate in your favor will be vain, for I am well aware of those evils which attend unequal matches—Dotage must fall to the share of the old—disgust to the share of the young; mutual wretchedness is the result, instead of mutual happiness. Please then to reflect coolly on

what I have ſaid, and deſiſt from purſuing an object, that never could bring you content. I am, ſir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXII,

From a young Lady to a Gentleman introduced by her Father.

SIR,

ON ſubjects like theſe, where peace of mind and happineſs are ſo much concerned. ceremony and compliments are both diſguſting and unneceſſary. You may remember when you was pleaſed to honor me with your addreſſes, that I aſſured you it was out of my power to love you as a huſband, but that I would endeavour to eſteem you as a friend; you have now even forfeited that eſteem by baſely taking recourſe to compulſion, and treacherouſly winning the conſent of an infatuated father, (who poſitively inſiſts on my receiving your addreſſes, after my late peremptory rejection) thus endeavouring to enſlave my mind under a diſſembled eſteem for my perſon: I therefore ſeize this opportunity of aſſuring you that your attempts are as fruitleſs as they are pitiful, aud my heart being already engaged to a more worthy object, I am determined to die, before I ſacriſice my hand!

Sure, ſir, upon cool and deliberate reflection, you muſt, notwithſtanding the wiſhes of my father, deſpiſe the acceptance of a lifeleſs hand, and ſo far become the man of ſpirit, if poſſeſt of either honor or feeling, as to forget a woman who proves herſelf now ſo unworthy your attention. I am, ſir,

Your humble ſervant.

LETTER LXIII,

From the above Lady's ſecret Lover.

MY DEAR ANNE,

APPRISED of your father's cruelty and the baſeneſs of your intended huſband, I think in this caſe an elopement both praiſe-worthy and proper. You are at preſent expoſed to inſult and deſpotiſm, while methods baſe and cruel may be taken of blaſting all our early hopes, and rendering life for ever miſerable! Let me, therefore, prevail on you to put yourſelf under my care and protection—this night a coach ſhall be ready, and I hope ſpeedily to convey you from all appre-

henſions

hensions of cruelty. You know my honor and sincerity; believe me, I would not urge this proposal was I not alarmed for your safety. Believe me, dear Anne,

Your real admirer.

LETTER LXIV,

From the young Lady in Reply.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH I am conscious of the impropriety of eloping, yet I think, in my situation, it is somewhat excuseable; I have endeavoured in vain to remonstrate with my father; but tears and solicitations are unavailing! he has insisted upon my marriage with Mr. Violent to-morrow; who then can blame me for running away to-night? When a parent forgets his tenderness and affection, he may censure himself for his child's want of duty and obedience. I shall therefore, in compliance with your will, meet you secretly this evening; till when I remain

Your distressed lover.

LETTER LXV,

From the Daughter, after eloping, to her Father.

DEAR SIR,

I CONFESS the precipitate and rash step I have taken, but must urge in my own defence the unkindness of a father: though I have long maintained a great regard for the gentleman who is now my husband, yet, had not you, sir, insisted upon a marriage that would have rendered me for ever unhappy, I would never have been guilty of those clandestine proceedings. I am now wedded to a man worthy of both my heart and hand! if, deserving to be your daughter's husband, he should certainly be acknowledged as my father's son-in-law!— I presume, then, that cool deliberation will remove all resentment; there being faults on both sides, (perhaps mine are the greater, for despair had almost subdued my senses) we should mutually forget the past, and endeavour to make each other happy. Though I feel myself blest in the arms of an affectionate husband, yet my happiness I find incomplete till a parent's anger is abated. Oh then, my dear sir, permit me once more to enter your presence, kneel at your feet, and humbly

sue

ſue for pardon; while my future conduct ſhall convince how much I am

Your dutiful daughter.

LETTER LXVI,

The Father's Reply.

MY DEAR CHILD,

IN blaming you I muſt blame myſelf; my faults far exceed yours, which I ſhall endeavour to atone for by giving (as far as I am able) a handſome allowance to your huſband for the ſupport of you both. Come home immediately; but do not let us recal the paſt, as I am now determined to prove myſelf

Your affectionate father.

LETTER LXVII,

From a Huſband to his Friend on the Extravagance of his Wife.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM exceedingly ſorry to be under the neceſſity of requeſting your aſſiſtance on a buſineſs diſagreeable and painful, but in ſuch a ſituation, to whom can we apply for aid and advice but our boſom friends? The extravagance of my wife is beyond all bounds; ſhe is out every night, and I am deprived of the domeſtic comforts which ſhould be the attendants on matrimony; ſhe has often broken my repoſe, but ſhe ſhall never break my heart.—I am determined that we ſhall ſeparate till ſhe becomes ſenſible of her folly and diſſipation; as you were witneſs to our unfortunate marriage, I hope you will now be witneſs of this temporary divorce. I ſhall ſend her to my ſiſter, and make her a proper annual allowance; but I am reſolved, if ſhe idly laviſhes what I give her, inſtead of encreaſing, to diminiſh the ſame; and if ſhe involves me more in debt, to adveriiſe and abandon her for ever!——If I find ſhe repents of her folly, and wiſhes to become wiſe, I ſhall not only be happy to forget the paſt, but proud to receive her again to my arms!

This world being ſcurrilous and cenſorious, I think it my duty herein to aſſure you, (who will, I know, aſſure every body elſe when occaſion requires) that I have not the leaſt rea-

ſon

ſon to call her virtue in doubt; in this reſpect I believe her the beſt wife in all the world; and, for this noble quality, I regret ſincerely, that her imperfections prevent us from enjoying true happineſs together. I am, dear ſir,

Your afflicted friend.

LETTER LXVIII,

The Friend's Anſwer.

MY LORD,

I NEVER found the taſk of friendſhip and ſympathy more difficult and painful in all my life.—I have long ſeen your lady's defects, long pitied your lordſhip's ſituation, and dreaded this ſad effect; but ſtill I hope that this ſorrow is the forerunner of joy; a heavy ſhower always brings ſunſhine: unknown to my friend, and in pity for his ſufferings, I ſought your lady, and reproved her with all the tender eloquence I was maſter of——At firſt, I believe, I was deemed rude and impertinent; but on this occaſion I took the liberty of diſcloſing the contents of your letter, which had ſuch a happy effect, that I hope ſeparation is now unneceſſary; as a proof of her ſudden reformation, ſhe has renounced her former acquaintance, and is determined neither to ſee viſitors, nor pay viſits, except in your company, and with your permiſſion.—She has prayed me to be an advocate in her favor, and I muſt now requeſt your lordſhip, for my ſake, will forget the errors of her youth, and for the preſervation of that virtue which you admire—change your intentions. A wife, abſent from her huſband, is expoſed to many temptations and evils, and, for want of that protection ſhe has a right to, ſhe may meet with inſults which otherwiſe ſhe could avoid. Pray then conſider the danger, as well as now (I preſume) the inutility of of ſeparation; and that connubial happineſs may ſoon return and continue, by changing the bitters you have taſted to endleſs ſweets, is the ſincere wiſh of

Yours ſincerely.

LETTER LXIX,

From a Clergyman to a new married Couple.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I HAVE taken the liberty of offering a few hints (it being my lot, amongſt other offices of my function, to join your hands

hands according to the ſacred rites of our church) reſpecting the nature and obligations of this awful ſtate which you have entered by mutual conſent. The Holy Scripture has, in many places, particularly the epiſtles, ſufficiently explained the general deſign of this inſtitution; and, as you might lately have obſerved, a ſelect part thereof was read to you at the ſolemnization of the marriage rites, well worthy of your private conſideration. I think it my duty to aſſure you, that the obligations of huſband and wife are reciprocal, or, in other words, there are certain duties which the man owes the woman, and the woman the man, the performance of which is highly eſſential towards future peace and tranquility; but if ſincere affection for each other dwell within your breaſts, and that your motives for entering this ſtate are well founded, there is very little occaſion for friendly admonition or council, as that love for each other will not only inform you of your duties, but likewiſe inſpire you to fulfil them. You will then love and cheriſh each other, you will then participate each others joy or grief, reſulting from proſperity or adverſity; in ſhort, you will live for each other. The huſband, by induſtry and ſobriety, will endeavour to provide honeſtly for his family, and the wife will diligently employ herſelf in all the neceſſary duties of domeſtic concern; by this care and affiduity to promote each others welfare, a mutual affection will take place, that nothing but death can diſſolve! That this may always prove the happy lot of my dear young friends, is the ſincere wiſh of

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTERS ON FRIENDSHIP, &c.

LETTER CXIV,

The following Letter of Friendſhip was written by a Gentleman.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IT was a ſtrange notion of Paſchal, that he would never admit any man to a ſhare of his friendſhip. Had that great man been a miſanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow creatures, I ſhould not have been much ſurpriſed; but as his love to mankind extended ſo far as either his knowledge or influence, it is neceſſary to conſider his reaſons for a conduct apparently ſo ſtrange. Paſchal had ſuch elevated notions of the deity on one hand, and ſo low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought, if he placed his affections on any created being, it would be a ſort of inſult to the Creator, and robbing him of that worſhip which was due to him alone. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed.

Friendſhip is of a very delicate nature, and either the happineſs or miſery of both parties may, in ſome ſenſe, be ſaid to depend on it. Friendſhip obliges the parties engaged to lay open their minds to each other; there muſt not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the deity, nor an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the word friendſhip. Benevolence, mercy, pity, compaſſion, &c. are only parts of it.

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

LETTER CXV,

An Anſwer to a Letter for Courteſy and Favour received.

SIR,

HOW much am I bound to you for a multitude of favours, and eſpecially for that you have made choice of me, as to

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

Your affectionate poor friend.

LETTER CXVI.

A merry Letter to his intimate Friend in London.

HEROICAL SPIRIT,

I HAVE received your epiſtle of alacriſy, and remain much indebted to your kind heart for vouchſafing us poor country ſwains ſo much of the labour of your pen to deceive ſlow footed Time withal. Thanks unto the Almighty, I have had my health indifferent well ſince coming down, only the ſeparation of my ſecond ſelf hath been a continual ſickneſs unto me; to remedy which, I have hitherto found out no better way than to call for a cup of rubicular, to help to exhilirate and corroborate my fatigued ſpirits. We ruriculars are very barren of any novelty, worthy the preſenting to your curious underſtanding, but do preſume out of the bundle of your affection, that you that live at the well head will be pleaſed to vouchſafe us, your poor friends, a report by your letters, at leaſt, of ſuch exchange news as paſſeth current amongſt you, which we will take as a ſpecial favour from, and ſtudy how to enumerate. We are at this preſent putting foot into the ſtirrup, and riding ſome a great many miles to a maritime coaſt, where there will be provided for us all the rarities of fiſh the ſea can afford, where I will not be unmindful to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In the mean time recommending my love to my loving ſiſter your wife, with your worthy ſelf, and all your friends, I wiſh you all true happineſs ſuitable to a brave diſpoſition, and will for ever reſt,

Your aſſured loving brother.

LET-

LETTER CXVII.

A Letter to his silent Friend.

SIR,

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

And am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LETTER CXVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

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

Yours to my power.

LETTER CXIX,

A Letter of Thanks for Kindness shewed to his Son.

SIR,

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

Your assured loving friend,

LETTER CXX,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

will employ myſelf only for his good, and your fatherly care committed to me. And ſo with a thouſand commendations I commit you to God.

I am, ſir

Your moſt humble ſervant,

LETTER CXXI,

To his Friend fallen to Poverty.

SIR,

IF your wealth had been the foundation of my love, I ſhould now ceaſe to love, becauſe you are no longer rich; but ſhould I now ſo err, I ſhould ſhew myſelf to have been unto you in your proſperity not a friend, but, (like unto the reſt, that have relinquiſhed you in your poverty) a mere flatterer: we ſee how, during the ſummer time, the ſwallows flock to our houſes, we may obſerve how mice will be ſure to get into the barn that is repleniſhed with corn; and while the pot hath any honey, it is hard keeping the flies away; but rare is the friendſhip which fleets not in the probation time of adverſity. Beſides that poor comfort of adverſity, pity, I lend you the ſum of 200l. which ſo long make uſe of, till Time, the mother of mutations, encreaſe your ſtore with a proportion able to make repayment to,

Your friend to his ability.

LETTER CXXII,

A letter from one Kinſman to another in London.

COUSIN,

I AM glad to hear of your preferment in London, and that, as I hear by your father and mother, you are ſo well ſettled there, and with ſo good a maſter and miſtreſs. It is no little comfort to me to underſtand that you do ſo reſolutely, and with ſo good a mind, diſpoſe yourſelf to your buſineſs, which I gladly wiſh you would continue. You muſt now remember, that your friends with great care, charge, and induſtry, have brought you up, and that their intent and meaning therein, was, that in expectation thereof, they ſhould have joy and comfort of you in your elder years; for which, as you have now bequeathed yourſelf to this place of ſervice, ſo muſt you without any

fear

fear of hard usage, bitterness of speech, or other mistakes of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may be, being yet unacquainted with the customs and usage of London, you do now think well of that which hereafter may turn to discontentment. But, good cousin, so be it, you have no want of things needful and necessary, frame yourself to bear all those cross matters whatsoever, and give yourself wholly on God's name, to the benefit of your service, you shall therein want no help, furtherance, or encouragement on my part, and if you perform it well and honestly, you shall not want when time serveth, for an hundred pounds or two, if in the mean time, I may see your good care of your master's business, and please your mistress, for therein you shall the better please your master. Your friends are all well; who, rejoicing in that already they see you so well behaved, do daily pray to God to prosper and bless you; and thus, with my hearty commendations, I bid you farewell.

Your loving kinsman,

LETTER CXXIII,

From one Friend to another.

SIR,

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

Honored and worthy sir,
Your humble servant,

LETTER CXXIV,

From a sick Friend.

SIR,

I WILL not tell you how extremely sensible the sorrowful news of your sickness was to me; only I must put you in mind

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

Your obedient faithful ſervant,

LETTER CXXV.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

AS ſoon as ever I was able to hold a pen, I availed myſelf of the oportunity to ~~render you~~ thanks, for the conſolation which you gave me, in the delightful entertainment of your letter. Yet, I pray you, ſir, deprive me not of this contentment, if you would not have me ſick again For I can aſſure you it is a very great ſatisfaction to me, to ſee myſelf ſo honoured with the favour of your rememberance, in quality of,

Dear ſir,

Your ſincere well wiſher.

LETTER CXXVI.

A Recommendation to a Friend.

SIR,

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

Your very humble ſervant,

LET-

LETTER CXXVII,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

Sir, with respect,

Your friend and servant.

LETTER CXXVIII,

To a Friend with a Present.

SIR,

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

Yours sincerely,

LETTER CXXIX,

The Answer.

SIR,

SHOULD I be wanting to return you my thanks for the present you sent me, I might be censured, not only to be unworthy of it, but likewise of your favour and good opinion which I most of all esteem; and therefore, to avoid any such mis-

misfortune, I send this paper as the silent messenger of my unfeigned thanks and good wishes towards you, not doubting speedily to give a better demonstration of the esteem I have for you; however, hoping, as a friend, you will be pleased, at present, to take this in good part, I rest till a better opportunity enables me more fully to express myself,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER CXXX.

A Letter of Comfort to a Friend in Adversity.

SIR,

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

Yours, bound to serve you.

LETTER CXXXI.

The Answer.

SIR,

LIKE as the rain doth fall from a wandering traveller when he comes drooping in, even so at the receipt of your kind and cordial letter, I felt my sorrows waste and vanish from me, being presently refreshed by your good counsel; and all my sorrow is, in this my adversity, that I have nothing to requite your love withal, but the poor and slender payment of thanks. It is common with others, whom we

reckon in the number of friends, to fall off when they see their friend is fallen into any calamity; but such are no more to be accounted of than the flattering shadow that walks before us in the sunshine, whilst your love, being built on the constant foundation of your goodness, cannot be shaken with the unfortunate chances of your friend; in all estates your love doth know no change; and this in the midst of my troubles shall bring me store of assured comfort, that I am blest with a friend so faithful unto him, who is,

Your friend in the same fidelity.

LETTER CXXXII,

A Letter full of Compliments.

SIR,

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

Yours to serve you by night or day.

LET-

LETTER CXXXIII,

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

ZIR,

I REZEIVED a piece of paper from you, which I think volks call a letter. but when I pulled it open, I am zure I could not tell wone letter in it; I gave it to wone of our neighbours; that is to say, wone that dwells within two or three doors of our door, a little thick way; and he being a better scholard than my present zelf, made hard shift to pick out the words. but the devil a bit of zense can I wind in it: you talk of obliging and vavours; in my conscience, zir, you be not like me one jot, nor do I vavour you at all: you also talk of gratitude and merits; I'll swear I do not know what to make of your lingua; my neighbours tell me it is latin, and I wonder that you should write latin to me, you know I cannot stand under it, and in truth you shall be no zervant of mine, I will have no such zervants: as vor your writing, our volks put into the fire: as vor those shells you zent, I know not how to call them, I e'en mended our door with them, and so I thank yon vor 'em. When you come again, you shall be welcome to your old friend.

LETTER CXXXIV,

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

GOOD SIR,

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

able, and conducing to the procuring of your welfare: and that you may recover your former ſtrength ſhall be the prayers of,

Your moſt affectionate friend in ſorrow.

LETTER CXXXV,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

THE very ſight of your cordial letter did give ſome eaſe to my diſtreſſed miſeries, for which you have the kind and hearty thanks of a ſick and almoſt dying man. It is long ſince I conſidered that worldly wealth is but droſs; neither do I eſteem it as any comfort, only to procure thoſe neceſſaries, which, while we live on earth, we ſtand in need of: for well I know, that when my breath is departed from me, and my blood grown cold, and death has brought my body to the grave, that then the wealth of Croeſus will not avail me any thing, nor ſtand me in any ſtead; my heart now fixed upon a better ſubject; which is, that after death my ſoul may find reſt and comfort in another world, whither I am now going, endeavouring to repent of all my paſt ſins, conſulting with my maker, concerning my happineſs; for he is the beſt and only phyſician that can give eaſe to theſe my ſore afflictions. This is a farewell to you I do ſend, who am,

'Till death give eaſe,

Your friend in torments.

LETTER CXXXVI,

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

SIR,

UPON the long familiarity that has paſſed between us, and your laſt proteſtations of ſincerity in friendſhip, urged by neceſſity, and the haſte that my occaſions require, I have made bold to let you know, that I ſtand in need of——with which if you can poſſibly furniſh me, without any prejudice or hindrance to your own affairs, I ſhall take it as an extraordinary kindneſs; and if it ſtand with your conveniency, pray ſend it by

by the bearer, or by ſome ſpeedy hand; and in ſo doing, you will very much oblige him who is

Your moſt humble ſervant.

LETTER CXXXVII,

The Anſwer.

SIR,

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

Sir, your moſt obedient,

And humble ſervant.

LETTER CXXXVIII,

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

REVEREND SIR,

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

when ſhe exerted the ſmall remains of ſtrength, and ſpoke to me as follows:—

MY DEAR,

I am now going the way of all fleſh, but God, the everlaſting God, will be your comfort. When I firſt became yours, I looked for all the happineſs conſiſtent with the ſtate of human nature in the vale of miſery; here ſhe fainted, looked wiſhfully at me, and ſhed a tear over her dear children, who were crying by her bed. She attempted to ſpeak, but in vain. At laſt fixing her eyes towards heaven, ſhe cloſed them, never to be opened till the ſound of the laſt trumpet. I was ſunk for ſome time in the greateſt diſtreſs. At laſt I recollected that I had ſtill a friend left in you, to whom I might with a view of conſolation, lay open the inmoſt receſſes of my heart. I know not what to write; excuſe incoherence and impropriety, from him whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXXIX.

The Anſwer.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I SINCERELY commiſerate your variegated calamity, and wiſh there was any thing in my power that could alleviate your diſtreſs. You well know that all afflictions of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God. My dear friend, endeavour to reconcile yourſelf to this awful diſpenſation of Providence. I am ſenſible of your loſs, but you know not what God may yet have in ſtore for you. Perhaps he has only deprived you of one mercy in order to beſtow another. It is a great comfort that your beloved ſpouſe died in the faith and fear of the dear Redeemer, and it will be the greateſt honour ever you can acquire to inſtruct your children in thoſe principles which made the proſpect of death agreeable, and even welcome to the mother. May that gracious God who has thought proper to afflict you, continue to ſupport you under this and every other trial, till you arrive at laſt in the kingdom, where the weary are at reſt, is the ſincere prayer of,

Your moſt affectionate friend.

LETTER CXL,

A Gentleman requesting to borrow 100l.

SIR,

I AM bold in my great necessity, under assurance of your forwardness to do me good, to intreat your special aid furtherance in two things, the one thereof is to lend me of wonted favours 100l. the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kind and friendly care of my well doing. I am of opinion none other than yourself can fit the occasion better. And truly such is the force of imprisonment, as contrary to that you have wontedly known in me; my understanding is quite decayed, and sore worn with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distuned, it must needs follow, the memory must needs sound nothing but discord. In fine, sir, it is in you to do me good, and to make me by this only action for ever beholden unto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelity, assure yourself if ever God gives me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be yoked in courtesy. Good master Bennet, the matter hereof requireth some haste, whereto I must intreat you fail me not. Fare ye well, this 8th of September, 1795.

Your imprisoned friend.

LETTER CXLI,

The Answer.

SIR,

NEEDLESS it were you should intreat me that wherein you have found me most willing, and such whom with small persuasion you may induce to a far greater purpose than what in your last letter is required: the messenger I have appointed to return again to my chamber to-morrow morning, at which time I will not fail to send you your desired sum; for the other, hard will it be for me to accomplish that wherein yourself seems so imperfect, or that the dullest conceit forged from the most distempered of your imaginations cannot but sound far better tunes than the ripest of my inventions any way are able to deliver. Nevertheless, such as it is, or (by dislike of your own) you will have to account of, that will I prepare to your view, and put forward to your good speed, thinking it better by the delivery

very of a groſs device, to ſatisfy the demand of a friend, than by concealing the ſimplicity thereof, to be cenſured uncourteous. In concluſion, it is lawful for you to uſe me to the uttermoſt, and fitteſt to our confirmed league of amity, that in whatſoever you ſhould employ me; wherein I deſire you conceive no more than ſuch as I intend to become, and you ſhall aſſuredly find me,

Your faithful friend.

LETTER CXLII.

A Letter to his Friend for a Breach of Promiſe.

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

Your ever aſſured friend.

LET-

LETTER CXLIII,

The Answer.

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

Your much obliged friend.

LETTER CXLIV,

A Letter to an unthankful Friend.

SIR,

I HAVE ever been so loath to think ill of you that I scarce allow mine own witness against you, or those strong presumptions that make me think you mean to keep no promises nor no friends; if you will needs have it so let our acquaintance now grow sickly and die, privately, lest I be blamed for trusting, and you for deceiving so great a trust. For since our love is grown into so desperate a lethargy, I will not wake it; for I had rather it should pass away in a trance, and the

 remem-

rememberance thereof never hereafter be mentioned. What your friendſhip was, I cannot tell, but I am aſſured to the view it was fit for greater courteſey than I required; what mine own was, judge when you have moſt need of a friend: neither will I tell you what a ſea of misfortune your breach of promiſe hath led in upon me; but I'll bid you now an ever farewell, and with my letter conclude all rites of love betwixt you and me, and reſt,

No longer your friend.

LETTER CXLV,

A Letter for Admittance into Service.

SIR,

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

I am with reſpect, ſir,

Your very humble ſervant.

LETTER CXLVI,

To his Friend, a Mercer.

SIR,

DEAR ſir, many ſalutations, &c. As many occaſions fall out, I ſtill preſume to trouble you, grounding my boldneſs upon the hope of your love and good will, I requeſt you to ſend me as much black ſattin as will make me a ſuit. I am your debtor

debtor already, besides in good will and love, a small sum, which for that it hath been long obtained, you may conjecture it to be desperate, yet on my credit, it is as sure as any money in your purse: my intent being honest, but my store not such as at this present I can satisfy; next term I expect the plenty of my purse will be so profuse, that God permitting, without fail for these, and the old debt, you shall be fully discharged. Acknowledging myself beholden.

And am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LETTER CXLVII,

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

SIR,

WHILST you was under my care I made it my principal study to discharge the duties of my station, consistent with the character of a minister of the gospel, and now that you are removed to the fountain head of learning, I consider myself in some manner still under the same obligation. In a letter I have lately received from your tutor, I hear with great pleasure that you make great progress in your studies. Although Providence has placed me at this distance, yet I have a strong inclination to communicate my thoughts to you on a subject of the utmost importance; I mean the necessary obligation you are under of reducing knowledge to practice, and that unless the one correspond with the other, learning instead of a blessing becomes a real curse.

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

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER CXLVIII,

The Answer.

SIR,

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

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

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

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

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

I am, sir,

Yours with gratitude.

CARDS

CARDS OF COMPLIMENT.

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

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

Tueſday Morn.

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

Tueſday Noon.

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

Wedneſday Morn.

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

Wedneſday Noon.

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

11 *o'Clock in the Morning.*

LORD

LORD BRADBEE's respectful compliments to Sir Aaron Hartnell, will be happy to attend Sir Aaron punctually at the time.

12 *o'Clock in the Morning.*

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

9 *o'Clock in the Morning.*

Mr. BREMER's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Mitchell.

How to begin LETTERS with new COMPLIMENTS.

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

SIR,

In considering your manifold obligations wherewith you have obliged me, it puts me in mind how much I am your debtor, and how unable I am at present to make you satisfaction: thanks is too mean a present for so much worthiness; yet at present, sir, may serve to let you know, that I am not ungrateful.

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

HONOURED MADAM,

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

MADAM,

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

MADAM,

In the fresh rememberance of those pleasant charms I gained from your resplendent eyes last meeting, I have the boldness to salute your ears with those presumptuous words—that I am your lover.

SIR,

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

MADAM,

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

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

SIR,

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

MADAM,

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

SWEETHEART,

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

KIND SIR,

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

HONEST WILL,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

Your wiſdom has confounded my ſecond thoughts, therefore I refer myſelf to your better judgment; and I'll aſſure

you

you on my part there ſhall no more diſturbance ariſe that may any ways be prejudicial to our mutual ſociety hereafter.

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

MADAM,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

Suppoſe that I was angry at your abuſe, it was only that you were injurious to me, but that I might thereby let you ſee your own folly, which being known, I hope you will amend.

MADAM,

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

MADAM,

You know your powerful charms have no resistance, then be not cruel while I do not contend; but when you find an opposition to your will, then use what severity shall best become your sex, &c.

MADAM,

Nature has curiously framed your outward shape beyond the parallel of your fellow creatures; then do not strive to stain what she hath made by any hard-heartedness unbecoming your sex. You know how unkind you have been.

MADAM,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

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

SIR,

Your letter I received, and am glad to hear of your welfare: as touching the business you have commanded me to effect, it shall be done according to your content, therefore rest yourself satisfied with my reality.

SIR,

Few words among friends are best: as for what you have heard

heard keep it to yourself, for it is very dangerous to be a meddler in those cases. I have other business to acquaint you with, &c.

SIR,

My humble service I present to you and your bedfellow, wishing you true joy, long life, and health in this world, and everlasting joys in the world to come. We are all well at present, I bless God. I would send, &c.

SWEET SIR,

I admire that I have never seen you all this while: I hope my looks did not fright you when you was last at our house. If some of your quality had but half the invitation I have given you, I should have seen them often in this time, but it is no matter.

AH! MADAM,

Impute not my so long absence to any neglect of mine; for had I been at my own disposing I would scarcely have been ever from you; but sickness, &c.

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

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

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

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

You may remember, madam, that at our last meeting, you promised me that I should have that happiness again on Monday next, the same place as before.

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

Conſult with your parents firſt, ſir, and get their good wills, and you ſhall ever find me according to my promiſe.

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

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

Never doubt nor fear, but firſt of all make trial: Experience is the beſt miſtreſs; I doubt not but that ſhe will be kind, and that all things may ſucceed according to your deſire.

Thouſands you know have miſcarried for want of making a quick purſuit in ſuch concerns as yours are: you know that a place of good preferment is ſoon catched up.

Conſult with reaſon firſt, and be not over raſh in your attempt, leſt you precipitate your whole deſign.

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

I doubt not but you are diſpoſed to melancholy; therefore let me adviſe you to leave that loneſome place, and betake yourſelf to the city, where you will find diverſity of ſubjects that will expoſe you to a harmleſs mirth, and innocent recreation.

Exclaim not, madam, againſt your ſole admirer, one that adores your very name like a ſacred deity; one that hath Atlas's ſtrength to undergo the greateſt burdens that afflictions or torment can lay upon him for your ſweet ſake.

I grant your ſuit, ſir, if your love be true; but firſt you muſt give me leave to make trial of your conſtancy.

Conſent not, daughter, to their falſe deluſions; for not one gallant among ten is to be believed; let your love be on what

what I ſhall think reaſon, then you will live a happy life hereafter.

Your father's good will you muſt firſt aſk, before I ſhall make myſelf ſurer to you; yet this I will tell you, if what you demand me according to his good liking, I can ſatisfy you that I fancy you above any man.

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

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

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

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

CONCLUSIONS and ENDINGS of LETTERS, on all Occaſions.

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

The humbleſt of your ſervants.

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

The greateſt admirer of your worſhip's virtues.

Thus

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

Your diſtreſſed ſervant.

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

Your faithful friend and moſt humble ſervant.

But leſt I ſhould ſeem troubleſome in being tedious in this my letter, I ſhall only add this to my former acknowledgment, that I am,

Your moſt obliged and faithful ſervant.

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

Your affectionate father.

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

Your dutiful ſon.

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

The only admirer of thy beauty.

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

Yours, more than you deſerve.

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

Yours till death, in death, and after death.

Now

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

Your friend more than you are your own.

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

Your moſt faithful friend.

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

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

STILES AND TITLES OF HONOUR;

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

READER,

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

To the King's moſt excellent Majeſty. Sire, or May it pleaſe your Majeſty.

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

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

To

To the NOBILITY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To the PARLIAMENT.

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

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

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

To

To the CLERGY.

To the moſt reverend the Lord Archbiſhop of Canterbury. My Lord, or, Your Grace.

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

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

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

To the Officers of his MAJESTY's HOUSHOLD.

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

To the ARMY and NAVY.

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

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

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

All Colonels are ſtiled Honourable; all inferior Officers ſhould have the Name of their Employment ſet firſt; as for example—To Major A. M. To Captain E. S.

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

To the AMBASSADORS, SECRETARIES, and CONSULS.

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

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

To his Excellency D. F. Eſq. Ambaſſador to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty. Sir, or, Your Excellency.

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

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

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

To the JUDGES and LAWYERS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To

To the LIEUTENANCY and MAGISTRACY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To the Governors of the CROWN.

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

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

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

TO INCORPORATE BODIES.

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

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

SEVERAL

USEFUL FORMS IN LAW,

WITH

PETITIONS, &c.

A BOND.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I Thomas Gordan, of the parish of St. Bridget, in the city of London, gentleman, are held and firmly bound to William Burton, of the said parish and City of London, Esq. in the penal sum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said William Burton, Esq. or to his certain attorney, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the true payment whereof, I bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with my seals. Dated this fifteenth day of September, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and

The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above bounden Thomas Gordan, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the before named William Burton, his executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of two hundred pounds, of good and lawful money of Great Britain, on the first day of May next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest, then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

Thomas Gordan.

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

John Joce,
William Doo.

Wher

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

A Letter of ATTORNEY.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I John Reay, of Colcheſter, in the county of Eſſex, gun maker, (for divers conſiderations and good cauſes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, conſtituted, and appointed, my truly friend Richard Jones, of Sudbury, in the county aforeſaid, gent. my true and lawful attorney, for me, in my name, and to my uſe, to aſk, demand, recover, or receive, of and from A. H. of Bucking, in the ſaid county, the ſum of one hundred pounds; giving, and by theſe preſents granting to my ſaid attorney, my ſole and full power and authority, to take, purſue, and follow ſuch legal courſes, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining of the ſame, as I myſelf might or could do, were I perſonally preſent; and upon receipt of the ſame, acquittances, and other ſufficient diſcharges, for me, and in my name, to make, ſign, ſeal, and deliver; as alſo one more attorney, or attorneys under him to ſubſtitute or appoint, and again at his pleaſure to revoke; and further to do, perform, and finiſh for me, and in my name, all and ſingular thing and things, which ſhall or may be neceſſary, and entirely as I the ſaid John Reay, in my own perſon, ought or could do in and about the ſame; ratifying, allowing, and confirming, whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in and about the execution of the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents: in witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal, the ninth day of October, in the year of the reign of our ſovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, and in the year of our Lord God, one thouſand ſeven hundred and

John Reay.

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

Benjamin Standring,
William Gunſton.

A Sea-

A Seaman's WILL and POWER.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I Thomas Bowling, mariner, now belonging to his majesty's the Tartar, for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving, have, and by these presents do make my trusty friend (or beloved wife) Thomas Windsor, citizen and joiner, of London, my true and lawful attorney, for me, and in my name, and for my use, to ask, demand, and receive, of and from the right honourable the treasurer, or pay-master of his majesty's navy, and commissioners of prize money, and whom else it may concern, as well as such wages, and pay, bounty money, prize money, and all other sum and sums of money whatsoever, as now are, or at any time hereafter shall and may be due, or payable unto me: also all such pensions, salaries, smart money, or all other money or things whatsoever, which now are, or at any time hereafter shall or may be due unto me, for my service, or otherwise, in any one of his majesty's ship or ships of war, frigates, or vessels: giving and hereby granting unto my said attorney full and whole power to take, pursue, and follow such legal ways and courses, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining, and discharging upon the said sum or sums of money, or any of them, as I, myself, might or could do, were I personally present; and I do hereby ratify, allow, and confirm, all and whatever my said attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents: in witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and

Thomas Bowling.

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

John Ivory,
James Liptrap.

Forms very necessary for Persons in Business.

NOTE of HAND.

Surry, June 24, 1796.

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

Thomas Sterling.

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

BILL of EXCHANGE.

SIR, *London, July* 5, 1796.

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

Your humble servant,
Christian Holmbee.

Mr. ———, Merchant, Cheapside.

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

For a Tide-Waiter's Place in the Custom House.

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

The humble Petition of D. E.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up in a trade, which at present is so bad that few hands are

are employed in it, and even thofe can fcarce procure a fubfiftance —That your petitioner has fought for every opportunity to obtain employment in vain, and at prefent is left in a very diftreffed condition. That your petitioner being defirous to apply himfelf to fome ufeful employment, and finding that fome tide-waiters are at prefent wanting on the river, has, with the greateft humility, prefumed to beg of your lordfhip to be employed as one. He is ready to produce proofs of his ability to difcharge the duty of that ftation, and if fo happy as to feem worthy of your lordfhip's notice, he fhall on all occafions obferve the ftricteft fidelity, and make it appear to the world that he has not been unworthy of your favour.

And, as in duty bound, fhall ever pray.

To the fame, for a Place in the Excife.

To the Right Honourable the firft Lord Commiffioner of the Trerfury.

The humble Petition of P. F.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune not to be brought up to any other employment than that of a gentleman's fervant, in which ftation he continued till laft year, when he married, and was difcharged from his place.—That your petitioner being out of all manner of employment, and having learned the whole art and myftery of guaging, he has prefumed to addrefs himfelf to your lordfhip for one of the prefent vacant places of a common exciferman, in any part of the kingdom where your lordfhip fhall think proper to order. His conduct has always been blamelefs, and his character will bear the ftricteft enquiry, and on all occafions he will make it his principal ftudy to difcharge every part of his duty with the utmoft fidelity.

And, as in duty bound, fhall ever pray.

From a decayed Tradefman, to the Prefident and Governors of Chrift's Hofpital, for the Admiffion of a Boy on that Foundation.

The humble Petition of R. B.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has lived many years in credit, but through long ficknefs, and many loffes in trade, is unable

to

beſtow upon his youngeſt ſon an education ſuitable to qualify him for an honeſt employment, by which he might become uſeful to ſociety. That your petititioner is a freeman of the city of London, and while in proſperity ſerved all the offices in his pariſh. That his other children are ſo far grown up, as to be already bound apprentices to different trades, without ever having any aſſiſtance either from public or private charities. That your petitioner would not have made this requeſt, had he not been impelled by the greateſt neceſſity. That your petitioner has nothing more to ſubſiſt on, but what he earns by his daily labour, and which is ſcarce ſufficient to procure him the neceſſaries of life. In conſideration of which he humbly begs your honours will be pleaſed to take the premiſes into conſideration, and admit a friendleſs boy into your foundation.

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

From a poor Citizen. to be admitted into Beucroft's *Alms Houſes.*

To the Worſhipful the Truſtees of Beucroft's *Alms Houſes.*

The humble Petition of D. D.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner is a native of London, where he ſerved his apprenticeſhip, and afterwards carried on buſineſs for himſelf; but by a variety of loſſes is now reduced, in his old age, to ſolicit the relief of ſome public charity; that hearing there is at preſent a vacancy in your alms-houſes, he humbly begs to be admitted as one of your penſioners, being well convinced your worſhips will find him a proper object of charity.

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

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

The humble Petition of H. P.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner's late huſband lived in great credit in Cheapſide, and was free of your company many years; that he died in very low circumſtances, and left your pe-

 titioner,

titioner, in her old age, wholly unprovided for; that your petitioner is at present utterly destitute of all the necessaries of life, and therefore humbly begs to be admitted into your alms houses.

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

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

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of R. N.

SHEWETH,

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

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

From a working Man to the Trustees of a Charity School, in Behalf of a Boy.

The humble Petition of D. E.

SHEWETH,

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

years of age, may be admitted, in order to qualify him for some useful employment.

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

From a discharged Soldier to be admitted into Chelsea Hospital.

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

The humble Petition of N. D.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner served twenty-one years as a private centinel in the 12th regiment of foot, and during the whole time behaved as became a good soldier; that he was in every engagement during the last war in America; and although he did not receive any wounds, yet, when he returned to his native country, his health was so much impaired, that his commanding officer was obliged to discharge him from the regiment; that your petitioner, not having been brought up to any trade, has no other way of procuring a subsistence, but by applying to your honour to be admitted either as an in or out-pensioner on the royal foundation at Chelsea.

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

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

To the Hononrable the Commissioners of the Navy.

The humble Petition of D E.

SHEWETH,

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

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

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

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

The humble Petition of N. D.

SHEWETH,

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

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

From a Soldier to his Colonel to be discharged.

To the Honourable Colonel Loft.

The humble Petition of T. I.

SHEWETH,

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

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

From

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

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

The humble Petition of B. I.

SHEWETH,

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

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

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

To D. G. Esq.

The humble Petition of B. A.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has laboured many years to provide for a family of young children; that having been 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 county court, and took out an execution against him, and he is now a prisoner in Newgate, and his children starving for want of bread; that your petitioner has often heard of your great goodness to your fellow creatures in distress. The whole debt and costs for which I am confined does not exceed forty shillings; and if you will be pleased to interpose so far in my favour as to set me at liberty, and to restore me to my family, my future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From

From one to be admitted a Watchman.

To the Church Wardens of D.

The humble Petition of W. E.

SHEWETH,

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

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

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

To the Right Honourable the Postmaster General.

The humble Petition of V. N.

SHEWETH,

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

bear the ſtricteſt ſcrutiny, and if ſo happy to ſucceed, will give ſecurity, (if demanded) and in all things act with the greateſt fidelity.

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

To the Right Honourable the Counteſs of C.

The humble Petition of R. M.

SHEWETH,

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

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

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

To the Miniſter, Church Wardens, and Overſeers of the Pariſh of D.

The humble Petition of M. D.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner's late huſband was a laborious and induſtrious honeſt man; that he was both by birth and ſervitude one of your pariſhioners. That whilſt he enjoyed his

health, it was his constant practice 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, shall ever pray.

FINIS.