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*** Pleaſe to aſk for *Brown's Engliſh Letter-Writer*;

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PREFACE.

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

THE practice of letter-writing muſt have taken its riſe when letters were firſt known, but that period cannot be exactly aſcertained. When Abraham ſent his ſervant to bring Rebecca as a wife for Iſaac, he ſent preſents to the intended ſpouſe; but alas! jewels cannot convey the language of the heart. Letter-writing has been uſed by the moſt polite nations, and certainly nothing can tend more towards the improvement of the rational faculties; nothing can more alleviate the cares of life: Our friends, our relations may be ſeparated from us to the utmoſt extremity of the univerſe, and yet a few lines may convey our ſentiments to them. By this very uſeful art, we may lay open all the ſecrets of our hearts on a ſingle ſlip of paper, and converſe with thoſe whom we are ſeparated from. Letters from friends or relations, are in general, either too long or too ſhort; they frequently abound with redundancies, or particulars entirely unneceſſary; or they want ſomething to fill up the ſubject. They ſometimes contain nothing beſides the news of the day, or the private affairs of a family, without any reference to moral obligations or rational entertainment. Every letter ſhould convey ſome inſtructive precepts, and while we make uſe of pleaſantry, we ſhould never forget duty.

Many works have been publiſhed on the ſubject of letter-writing, but moſt of them conſiſt of compilations from the writings of authors of

great fame, who knew but little of the occurrences of human life: It is one thing to know private life; it is another to know the world; but when both are joined together, the letter-writer muſt expect ſome applauſe. To remedy theſe defects this work was undertaken; and the author has received ſuch aſſiſtance, from ſome of the greateſt perſonages in the kingdom, that he cannot doubt of its being agreeable to every perſon who wiſhes to promote the intereſt of the riſing generation.

All the letters in the following pages are originals, not one of them having been copied from any author whatever; and were the writers of ſome of them made public, the work would be purchaſed with the utmoſt avidity.

The Grammar prefixed, is ſo plain, that even a child who can read may underſtand it; and the Legal Forms, which are more numerous and more important than in any former publication, will be of the utmoſt ſervice, particularly to thoſe who reſide in the country, and have not an opportunity of applying to an attorney.

The petitions are drawn up in ſuch a plain eaſy manner, that nothing more is required than to tranſcribe them.

The Cards, or Notes of Compliments, will be a great help to facilitate buſineſs in ſuch caſes as may not require a letter; and the general inſtructions for carrying on epiſtolary correſpondence, together with other particulars of importance, cannot fail of becoming valuable.

Such is the nature and plan of this work, and as it was undertaken for the benefit of the riſing generation (tho' it would be found of the utmoſt utility to the public in general) ſo there can be no doubt but it will be received as a moſt uſeful preſent.

INSTRUC-

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

WRITING LETTERS;

By which, and the following MODELS,

Any Perſon may become Maſter

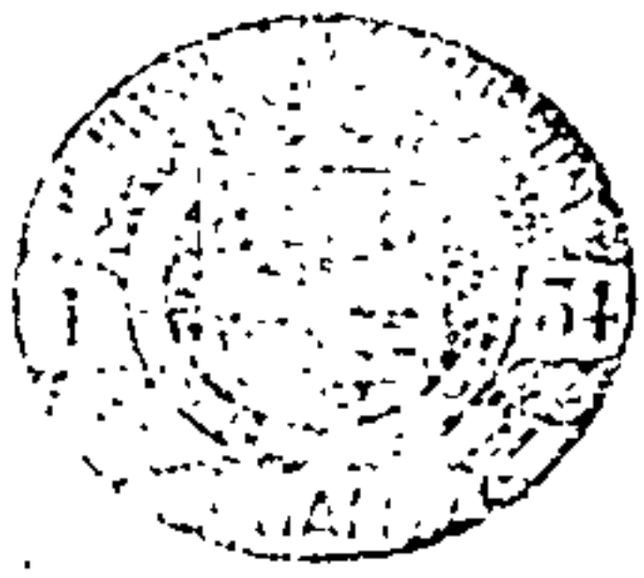
OF THE

EPISTOLARY STILE.

THE great art of Letter-writing conſiſts in an accurate knowledge of the ſubject, and the circumſtances of the perſon to whom we addreſs ourſelves. The man of ſtudy will never be deſtitute of matter, and all mankind are conſidered as thoughtful, intelligent beings.

In all letters let truth be the principal object in view; let no falſhood be inſerted, and then there can be no inconſiſtency. If the letter is to contain an accuſation of the conduct of a young perſon, let it be written in tenderneſs; for if otherwiſe, it will never be attended with any beneficial conſequences. If on buſineſs in the mercantile world, let every thing be ſo clear, as not to admit of a

doubt when you come to ſettle accounts. This will prevent many anxieties which often take place in families, and ſecure a part of the property which is often ſquandered away in ſuits at law. In love and courtſhip, unleſs ſincerity take place. no happineſs can be expected. Let a love-letter contain the language of the heart, and let that heart contain nothing but what is innocent. In real friendſhip the heart will direct the pen, and ſentiments unthought of before will flow copiouſly. A good heart will regulate the conduct; it will afford matter for epiſtolary correſpondence; every thing will flow with elegance: And while the writer improves his own rational faculties, he will, by attending to theſe rules, inſtruct and entertain his correſpondents. The rules laid down are ſo eaſy, that any perſon attending to them, will never write with impropriety, and all that can be added is, the Grammar muſt be attended to, and likewiſe the peruſal of the letters in this work.



A COM

A

COMPENDIOUS GRAMMAR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,

Adapted to the meaneſt Capacities:

CONTAINING

All that is neceſſary to be known, in order to READ, WRITE, and SPEAK with a becoming Propriety.

GRAMMAR is the art of one human creature ſpeaking to another, ſo as to be underſtood.

Letters, ſyllables, words and ſentences, include every thing in grammar. Letters form ſyllables, ſyllables words, and words ſentences.

There are twenty-ſix letters in the Engliſh language, *viz.* A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z; a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, ſ, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Twenty of theſe are conſonants, and ſix are vowels.

Two or more conſonants cannot form a ſyllable, without the aſſiſtance of a vowel; thus we cannot ſay *brght*, but if we add *i*, then it is *bright*.

The firſt thing to be learned in grammar, is the knowledge of letters; which are to be formed into ſyllables, and ſyllables into words.

Words are ſigns by which we convey our thoughts to each other.

The Engliſh language conſiſts of nine parts of ſpeech, or rather nine different ſorts of words, *viz.*

I. The Article; II. The Noun; III. The Pronoun; IV. The Adjective; V. The Verb; VI. The Adverb; VII. The Prepoſition; VIII. The Conjunction; IX. The interjection.

The following example will ſerve to point out the uſe of theſe words:

1 2 7 2 5 1 2 5 7
The Habit of Thinking is a Privilege beſtowed on
4 2 7 1 4 2 3 8
human Beings, by the Great God himſelf; but,
9 6 6 5 3 5 3
alas! how often do we abuſe it!

The Article is prefixed to words in the following manner, *The* Lord, *the* King, *the* good Man.

A Subſtantive is uſed to expreſs the name of any thing that can be underſtood by the ſenſes: Thus we ſay, a *Horſe*, a *Stone*, a *Houſe*, &c.

A Noun Subſtantive may ſtand by itſelf, but an Adjective cannot, unleſs joined to a Subſtantive: Thus, we cannot ſay *a good*, but we may ſay *a good Man*. Thus again, we may ſay *O God!* which forms the Noun Subſtantive joined with the Interjection:

But

But let us ſay *O God, thou art good*; then the Subſtantive and Adjective are joined.

Pronouns are words uſed inſtead of Nouns: Thus we ſay *I, you, he, ſhe,* inſtead of making uſe of the name of the perſon alluded to. Pronouns muſt always be joined to active or paſſive Verbs: Thus, we may ſay *I love, I read, I hear, I teach*; and *I am loved, I have been taught,* &c. In the uſe of Pronouns in writing, we muſt deſire the reader to attend to the following rule, *viz.* they may either be applied to Subſtantives or Adjectives. Thus, we may ſay *I* am a *Man, he* has a *Horſe, I* have a *Wife*; but in Adjectives, we ſay *I* am a *virtuous* Man, *he* has a *fine* Horſe, *I* have a *beautiful* Wife.

Adjectives are the qualities of a thing; ſuch as, a *hard* Stone, a *good* Man, a *pious* King.

A Verb is a word conveying the ideas of *being, doing,* or *ſuffering*: Thus, I ſay, *I love, I work, I ſuffer.*

Verbs are either active or paſſive.

Active Verbs imply all that a human being can do of himſelf, without any ſupernatural aſſiſtance: Such as, I *love Mary*; I *read a Book.*

Paſſive Verbs ſignify the force that any thing has upon our minds, ſo as to regulate our conduct; ſuch as, *I am* loved; *I am* taught; *I am* hated; *I am* brought under *the power of all my enemies, and I am* obliged *to ſubmit to their cruelty.*

In Verbs, or words, we are to conſider the *Perſon,* the *Number,* the *Time,* and the *Mode.*

Thus with reſpect to the Perſon.

I *love,* thou *taught,* he *learns.*

In Numbers, *Thou* loveſt, *he* hates.

In Times, I *hear,* I *read.*

The

The Mode is the manner in which paſſions or actions are repreſented, and it muſt allude to Time. Time is preſent, paſt, or future.

The Indicative Mode conſiſts of the following expreſſions.

1. I have,	We	Have.
2. Thou haſt,	Ye	
3, He hath, *or* has,	They	

Time paſt.

1. I had,	We	Had.
2. Thou hadſt,	Ye	
3. He had,	They	

Future Tenſe, or Time.

1. I ſhall, or will	Have.	We	Shall or will have.
2. Thou ſhalt, or wilt		Ye	
3. He ſhall, or will		They	

Imperative Mode.

1. Let me have.	Let us have.
2. Have thou, or do thou have.	Do ye have.
3. Let him have.	Let them have.

Subjunctive Mode.

Preſent Tenſe, or Time.

1. I	Have.	We	Have.
2. Thou		Ye	
3. He		They	

PARTICIPLE.

PARTICIPLE.

A *Participle* is a part of Speech derived from a *Verb*, but ſometimes it is uſed as a Noun Adjective. It is active and paſſive, *viz.* active, *loving*, *hearing*, *ſeeing*, paſſive, *loved*, *heared*, *taught*.

ADVERBS.

Adverbs are added to *Verbs* or *words*, and are generally uſed to point out ſome particular circumſtances, relating either to an action or quality.

Thus we ſay *wiſely*, *lovingly*; and when ſet before a *Verb*, we ſay *heretofore I taught*, *yeſterday I loved*, *already I have ſought you*, &c.

PREPOSITION.

The word *Prepoſition* is uſed to point out ſomething going before the words to which they are applied.

Thus we ſay *by them*, *to them*, *from them*, *with them*, viz. *Tell me what you want*; that is, *aſk of me*. He *ſprung* from me. *Through*, *under*, *by*, *to*, *from*, may be applied to any Verb as Prepoſitions.

CONJUNCTION.

Conjunction is the joining of two or more ſentences together, ſo as to form a complete period. Thus we would ſay, *I walked out laſt week to ſee the gardens at Richmond, where I met* WITH *Mrs. Wilſon, who is really an ornament to her ſex:* Or *you and I rode to Wincheſter together,* BUT *Mr. Wilſon ſtaid at home. I was at Shrewſbury on the ſeventh of laſt month,* BUT *do not remember ſeeing your friend Mr. Johnſon. They were rebuked,* BECAUSE *they could not hold their peace. I have done all I could to ſerve you,* BUT *my endeavours have not been attended with the deſired ſucceſs.*

INTER-

INTERJECTION.

Interjection implies a ſtrong expreſſion, ariſing from ſome affliction in life.

Thus we ſay *Oh! alas! good God! Heavens preſerve me! God help me! alas! what have I been doing? Ah! wretched man that I am!*

In writing a ſentence grammatically the points and ſtops muſt be attended to, otherwiſe the whole will be little better than nonſenſe.

In Engliſh grammar the following points are commonly uſed in a ſentence:

A Comma,	Marked thus	,
A Semicolon,		;
A Colon,		:
A Period,		.

EXAMPLES.

The books were brought to me, and nothing can equal the elegance of the binding; which I would have you mention to Mr. Wilſon: It really does him credit.

I have ſent the things you ordered, and they came ſafe; but they do not pleaſe me: I would have you take notice of theſe things to Mr. Wilſon.

In grammar there are three other marks, which may be uſed occaſionly, although they are not always neceſſary in the ſame ſentence.

Theſe points are:

Interrogation,	Marked thus	?
Admiration,		!
Parentheſis,		(

EXAMPLE.

EXAMPLE.

O how happy are thoſe who love the Lord! for how can we doubt of his goodneſs? he loves his creatures (or rather) he deſires to make them happy.

The great utility of writing grammatically ought much to be encouraged, for we often hear perſons ſpeak, and as often read their letters ſo improperly compoſed, that they raiſe a bluſh from a friend, and excite laughter from an enemy.

EXAMPLES.

I *were* going to London. It ſhould be read, ſpoken or written, I *was* going to London.

They *was* going to London. It ſhould be, they *were* going to London.

A COMPLETE SENTENCE.

I will love thee, O God! thou haſt been good unto me; but wilt thou remove my doubts? The goodneſs of the Divine Being, ſhould be conſidered with reverence: he is all mercy, but (except in ſome few caſes) we little attend to it.

The marks of Admiration and Interrogation may both be uſed as Periods, at the end of ſentences, and every ſentence ſhould begin with a capital letter; but ſtill, an Interrogation (?) and Admiration (!) may be uſed in the middle of ſentences. A Colon (:) denotes ſomething wanting to complete the ſentence, and therefore it is ſeldom followed by a capital.

When any paſſage is quoted from another author, it muſt ſtand marked thus; "he ſhall not be afraid "of evil tidings (ſays the Pſalmiſt) his heart is fixed "truſting in the Lord."

When

When any thing is mentioned of a ſtriking nature, particularly any thing ſatyrical, it muſt ſtand in Italics; thus ſpeaking or writing we lay an emphaſis on the word; by writing of a wicked man, we ſay his *piety* is well known. This is the force of ſatire, by inverting the words, and making that appear as a virtue which is a vice.

Sometimes it may be neceſſary to put a word in CAPITALS. Thus we write; "He was too good "to live SO long."

A PERFECT SENTENCE.

Containing every mark in Grammar.

"He who truſts in the Almighty (as the pſalmiſt ſays) "ſhall never be moved:" But what then ſhall be the fate of the wicked? Alas! their condition will be deplorable; for had they not preferred VICE to VIRTUE, they might have enjoyed the Divine favour. It has happened (however) otherwiſe; for they loved the *charms* of nominal pleaſure, in preference to ſuch as could give peace and happineſs to the mind.

LETTERS

LETTERS

ON

Every Occurrence in LIFE.

LETTER I.

From a young Man who had served two Years of his Apprenticeship, to his Mother, a poor Widow.

Dear and Honoured Mother,

THE distance at which providence has placed me from you, has neither made me ungrateful nor undutiful. I often think of your wants, but 'till this day I have not had it in my power to give you any assistance. My master has treated me with so much tenderness, that I can never be too grateful to him. This morning he sent me with a bill to a gentleman, who generously gave me a guinea, and that I have sent to you to alleviate your present distress; and you will receive along with it, eight shillings which was given me for my Christmas-box. I had four shillings more given me, which I have laid out for a Bible; that I may never forget my duty to my God as well as to my parent. Happy if I could do more to serve you; but trust in God, who I hope will never leave you, nor forsake you. For my own part, I have some comfort in trusting in

God; but that truſt is ſupported and encouraged by my duty. In the mean time, my prayers ſhall be for you; and if I can procure any more it ſhall be ſent.

I am, your dutiful Son,

London Aug. 12, 177 WILLIAM RAY.

LETTER II.

The Mother's Anſwer.

My dear Billy, *Kingſton Aug.* 16, 177

UNDER all the afflictions of age and preſſures of poverty, my mind is ſupported, when I conſider that you join the fear of God to your duty to me. I aſſure you, my dear, I was without a dinner when your preſent came; and with tears I muſt declare, that nothing but neceſſity could have forced me to accept of it. I would have returned it; but ah! what can we do when hunger and cold pinch us. Had it pleaſed God to reſtore your father to health, I ſhould not have been now a diſconſolate widow; but the Divine Being is good in all his ways. I have been ill ſome time, but bleſſed be God I am reſigned to his will, nor ſhall I ever complain; for we poor mortals ought to ſubmit. Mr. Mayor has promiſed to get me a ſmall matter from the pariſh; but whatever may happen to me, let me go out of the world with this conſolation, that you are diſcharging your duty to God and man. It is that alone will ſupport you on a death-bed; nay, it will make the proſpect of eternity pleaſant to you. Go on, my dear, in an uniform courſe of virtue and piety; that will procure you the approbation of God, of a good conſcience, and will ſupport my drooping years.

I am, your affectionate mother,

SUSANNAH RAY.

LETTER III.

The Son's Answer.

Honoured Mother,

EVER anxious for your welfare I waited with impatience for your letter, and it is with pleasure I can inform you, that something will now be done to serve you. I was not at home when your letter arrived, and as I don't desire to conceal any secrets from my master, he opened and read it. Upon my return he shewed me it, telling me that I was much to blame for not having mentioned your afflicted case to him. I made the best apology I could, for you know we may be poor without making our poverty known to the world. My master has generously sent you two guineas, and you will receive some left off cloaths sent by my mistress. At the same time, I have the pleasure to inform you, that my master will be at your town some time next month; and, being well acquainted with Mr. Mayor, will endeavour to prevail upon him to forward whatever may be of service to you. I have just received a suit of new cloaths in consequence of my sending you the trifle. Thus providence often heaps favours upon us, even while our merits do not entitle us to them. My mind is easy when I hear of any thing that can promote your interest, and sweeten the cares of old age. It is but a little time when I shall be old myself; and then may those consolations which yield you so much comfort, give me consolation. I am permitted to visit you at next Easter, but before that time I hope you will be provided for.

I am, your dutiful son,

WILLIAM RAY.

LETTER IV.

From a young Woman just gone out to Service, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Arrived at this place about ſix o'clock on Saturday evening, and met with ſuch a reception from Mrs. Oakley, as muſt ever make a laſting impreſſion on my mind: it ſhall be my ſtudy to pleaſe her as far as lays in my power. The coach ſet us down a mile diſtant from the houſe; but Mrs. Oakley had been waiting ſome time in her chaiſe with her two daughters, and ſuch was the condeſcenſion of that good lady, that ſhe took me into the carriage and made one of her daughters walk home on foot. The place where I am now ſettled is delightful, and I have little more to do beſides dreſſing my young ladies in the morning, and reading to them in the afternoon; but I fill up my vacant hours in making up plain work for the family, by which I ſave my lady a conſiderable ſum which ſhe would be obliged to pay was ſhe to give it out. I hate idleneſs, and am determined to be uſefully employed. Our family conſiſts of the lady, her two daughters, one footman, a houſe-maid, a cook-maid and myſelf. The curate of the pariſh lives in the village, and he reads prayers to us every evening. Mrs. Oakley gives away all the broken meat to the induſtrious poor, ſhe pays for the education of their children, and ſhe viſits the ſick from houſe to houſe. She is really a good woman, and I ſhall ſtudy to profit by her example. Give my duty to my dear mother, my love to my ſiſter, and be aſſured,

I am your ever dutiful daughter,

MARY ELLIS.

P. S. Pray ſend me a pamphlet lately publiſhed, called, *The Farmer's Wife; Or, The Complete Country Houſewife.* The price is only 1s. 6d. Mrs. Oakley ſays it contains many very important particulars, and will prove exceeding uſeful to me.

LETTER

LETTER V.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

WITH pleasure did I receive yours, and embrace this first opportunity of sending you an answer. I am glad to hear you met with such a favourable reception from Mrs. Oakley, and it is no more than what I expected from that good lady. The account you give me of your situation, affords me comfort; but it is comfort mixed with fear. You have different passions to struggle with, in consequence of the mixture of persons, and the diversities of characters. Good as your lady is, you will be obliged to study her temper and suit your conduct toward it as far as is consistent with your duty to God. Perhaps you will find more trouble with your young ladies than you have yet thought of; but that trouble will sit light and easy upon you, if you preserve your temper; for by submitting in some trifling things to their humours, you will for ever engage their esteem: nay, they will esteem you better for it ever after. It will be still more difficult, perhaps, for you to conduct yourself towards the two women servants; your station, although that of a servant, being somewhat higher than theirs, they will envy your situation, and, if they can find an opportunity, seek to injure you in the esteem of your lady. But, my dear, nothing is more easy than to avoid this. Take no authority upon you but what is just and reasonable; be meek, be humble, affable, easy and agreeable. Soften your lady's orders; but when you cannot, then tell them the reason in plainness and sincerity. Make charitable allowances for trifling faults, but never at the expence of truth; and, by gentle persuasions, endeavour to persuade them to be dutiful to their lady, if they would expect honour in time, and happiness in eternity. You will naturally have occasion to be

in company with ſtrangers, and when that happens, let me beg you will neither ſeal up your lips, nor engroſs the converſation to yourſelf. But above all, let me beg you will never forget your duty to your God, the author of your being and ſalvation. It is ſaid of wiſdom, *that her ways are ways of pleaſantneſs, and all her paths are peace*; and the Pſalmiſt ſays, *Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing ſhall offend them.* Conſider, that in all places wherever you are, the eye of God is upon you, and nothing can conceal you from his ſight. This will guard you againſt all the temptations that may fall in your way. May God Almighty direct you through life to eternity, is the ſincere prayer of,

Your affectionate father,

GEORGE ELLIS.

N. B. I have ſent that *very uſeful little book* which you requeſted.

LETTER VI.

From a poor Widow in Briſtol, to her Son on board one of the Ships of War.

Dear Child,

JACK Thompſon, who arrived here a few days ago, called upon me, and told me that you are ſtationed off Port-Royal in Jamaica. I have, therefore, taken the opportunity of ſending you this by the mail; but God knows it was with much difficulty I could ſpare as much as would pay the poſtage. It is with ſorrow I muſt inform you, that your father died three months ago, ſo that I am left a diſconſolate widow. He was ill about a month, but ſenſible to the laſt; and juſt before he died prayed fervently for you, that your life might be preſerved to be of ſervice to me, and that you might never curſe and ſwear, as too many ſeamen do. "O!" ſaid he, "that my "ſon would conſider the many dangers he is conti-"nually expoſed to, and ſeek God as the only

"Being

"Being that can protect him; then would he be "cheerful in the midst of the greatest storms, know-"ing that nothing wrong can come from the hands "of a good and gracious God." He said little more, and left this world for a better. To procure myself a small subsistence, I have taken a room on a ground floor to keep a little school for children, and to do a little plain work. Indeed, I could get my living at plain work, but it is difficult to procure it; and as for working, I am not able to stand it. However, I make myself easy, trusting that God will never leave me destitute of a subsistence, while I use the means in my power. I am still indebted for some part of your father's funeral expences, but I hope the undertaker will not trouble me 'till you come home. Perhaps you may have nothing to spare, for I know your wages are but small; but whatever may happen, remember your father's dying words, and then you may be sure of the Divine blessing. I hope you will write to me the first opportunity, and let me know when you think you will be in England.

I am, your affectionate mother,

ELIZABETH WILSON.

LETTER VII.

The Son's Answer.

Dear and Honoured Mother,

ABOUT three weeks ago I received your letter, with the melancholy news of my father's death; and, as if the Divine Being determined at all times to mix mercies with afflictions, I am this day entitled to forty-six pounds prize money, and you will receive enclosed my will and power to take it up, and use what part of it you are in want of 'till my return, which I hope will be in about six months, or sooner. Send the enclosed as directed, and as the packet

packet will probably ſail ſoon after you receive this, let me beg you will return the anſwer; but you need not write to me yourſelf 'till you hear farther, for as we are to put in at Cork, you will hear from me there. Our ſhip's crew are very ſickly, but bleſſed be God I have hitherto had my health; and as I have done more work than came to my ſhare, the admiral has promiſed to advance me.

And now, my dear mother, will you believe me, that I ſhall never, through the Divine aſſiſtance, forget my father's dying words. They ſhall be engraven on my heart, and the whole of my conduct ſhall be regulated by his inſtructions. We have no chaplain on board, for he lives at his eaſe in England, but I read ſome part of the Bible and the Whole Duty of Man every Sunday. May God ſupport your aged life, and be aſſured that while I have any thing you ſhall never want.

I am, dear Mother,
Your dutiful Son,
JOHN WILSON.

LETTER VIII.

The Sailor's Letter encloſed to his Sweetheart.

Dear Nancy,

I Have embraced this opportunity of ſending you a letter encloſed in one to my mother, and if you will enquire for John Capſtan at Deptford, on board his Majeſty's ſhip the Union, you will receive a ſmall preſent; but if you cannot go ſo far, you may direct a penny-poſt letter, and the parcel will be ſent you. You will ſee my mother when ſhe comes to town, and ſhe will tell you further. Let me beg you will put yourſelf in mourning for my dear father lately deceaſed, for you know I cannot go into mourning at ſea.

And

And now, my dear, let me ask you, whether you are still constant? I can assure you I am, and always shall be. I am soon to be advanced, and as we shall be in England in about six months, I hope you will then give me your hand, that we may be happy. We have had good success, and I shall have enough for us both. I intend to devote my life to the sea, but still you know I shall have some time to spend with you. Probably you may live to see me a captain, and then my Nancy will be a captain's lady. Is not that grand Nancy? Yes, my dear, and I hope you will see it. Let me beg you will make me up some shirts, and a gown for my mother, with such other things as she shall want. I hope you will not be angry when I tell you, that I still read my Bible, nor do I ever curse or swear. I am not, however, too particular; for I love innocent pleasure as much as ever. Let me beg to have a letter from you, which you may send by the packet, directed to me at Port Royal.

I am, dear Nancy,

Your real lover,

JOHN WILSON.

LETTER IX.

The young Woman's Answer to the Sailor.

Well, Jack,

MAY every success attend Captain Wilson; who, if he succeeds according to his hopes, must soon be an Admiral. However, Jack, remember that if you build castles in the air I shall not be able to climb up to them; you must purchase me wings, and teach me to fly. To be plain with you, I cannot blame you, nor any young man, for endeavouring to mend their circumstances; but, I am afraid, you promise yourself too much. Perhaps you are vain in your own conceit; and, like many others

in

in the world, you feed your mind with delusive hopes. "Strange!" you will say, "are not all women "vain? and here is one who presumes to caution me "against vanity." Well, Jack, (for you are not yet a Captain) I am perhaps as weak and vain as the rest of my sex, and you know it is more easy to give advice than to take it. My advice, however, is sincere, and perhaps you will find it so. I once promised myself many things, but now I have learned the duty of resignation, and I was led to it by circumstances I little thought of. You know my mother died two years ago, and my father committed to my care the sole management of his family, which made my station respectable, and my life agreeable.

Such was my situation for some time, but my hopes were soon blasted and my peace of mind disturbed. My father got into company with the widow of a publican, where he usually spent the evenings; and, after a courtship of one week, he married her and brought her home in triumph. Madam had been only a few days in the house when she quarrell'd with me; and because I made use of some expressions not very agreeable to her, my father turned me out of doors. Providence found me shelter in the house of a poor widow, who has procured me a service in a genteel family at Hackney, where I am now happily settled.

Thus you see that we should never promise ourselves too much, lest we receive nothing in the end.—With respect to constancy, be not afraid; for none shall receive my hand, 'till your infidelity prompts me to it. Your good mother called upon me, and next day brought me the present from Deptford, which will at this time be of considerable service. I saw her safe into the stage for Bristol, but she is very infirm. I am glad to hear you have not forgot your God and your Bible, which are my only support. May Heavens preserve you, and bring you safe home to England, is the sincere prayer of

Your friend,

ANNE BURCHET.

LETTER

LETTER X.

From a young Gentleman at Weſtminſter School to his Father in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

IT is now above ſix months ſince I have heard from you, which has made me extremely uneaſy, eſpecially as I told you that I wanted to remove from my lodgings. There are three of us lay in one bed, ſo that we are either ſweated or ſtarved to death; for I think I ſhall ſoon die, if I am not removed. Maſter Howard, of our claſs, has fine lodgings at the houſe of one Mr. Jones, where he is treated with great tenderneſs, and I could wiſh to be along with him.

I have now got into Homer, and I have turned ſeveral parts of that celebrated poet's works into Latin verſe. I am fond of Homer, for I think he gives the beſt deſcription of things I ever read. The conſultation of the Gods fills me with admiration, and I can find no inſtance of courage equal to that of Achilles. The feelings of Priam for the calamities brought upon his people by the conduct of his ſon Paris, melts me into ſympathy; and ſometimes I am apt to forget, that Helen was beautiful. Upon the whole, Sir, I think the claſſick authors ſuperior to all others, and it ſhall be my ſtudy to make myſelf complete maſter of them: Only let me beg you will ſuffer me to remove to new lodgings.

I am, Sir,

Your dutiful ſon,

GEORGE COOPER.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

The Father's Answer.

Dear George,

YOUR letter to me arrived about two weeks ago, but your mother and myself were then on a visit to your uncle Danby in Lincolnshire, where we spent the greatest part of the summer. I shall now give you an explicit answer to your letter, and I am sorry to tell you, that I do it with reluctance. The complaint you make concerning your lodgings, does not deserve notice; and, with respect to your request, I shall not comply with it. Do you imagine that a school-boy should be indulged with those pleasures which are only fit for persons advanced in years, and who know what use to make of them? No, George: I will never be a tyrant, I will never treat you with cruelty; but I must keep the same guard over your passions as I have done over your morals. I spent some time in procuring you the lodgings where you now are, and I know you have been always treated with humanity; but youth are fond of changes, they love new faces and new apartments, without considering that they will meet with the same difficulties in the second as in the first, of which I have seen a great many instances. You tell me much of the progress you have made in learning, and I hope it is true; but I am sorry to find you extolling pagan virtues without taking notice of what we find recorded in the sacred scriptures. In learning Latin and Greek, you should endeavour to make yourself acquainted with the languages without following the poet to his groves, grottos, and enchanted castles. Make yourself acquainted with their words, but for God's sake forget their sentiments. What is the valour of Achilles when compared with the conduct of the Apostle Paul, when that Christian hero was taking leave of his friends at Ephesus, with a courage not to be paralleled in any age or nation. He said, "And

"now

"now I go bound in the ſpirit to Jeruſalem, not "knowing the things that ſhall befall me there; only "this, that the Holy Ghoſt witneſſeth, that in every "city bonds and afflictions abide me." And again, "When I have been at Jeruſalem, I muſt alſo viſit "Rome." But did the great Apoſtle of the Gentiles do all this from motives of pride? Did he expect any temporary emoluments? No: he, like his Divine maſter, knew not where to lay his head; he knew that he ſhould be treated with the utmoſt contempt by his countrymen the Jews, and if ſent to Rome, he ſhould ſuffer an ignominious death. But how chearfully does he obey the Divine command!

You mention old king Priam weeping over the vices of his children, and you tell me you are affected. But what is that when compared with the conduct of our Divine Lord when he beheld Jeruſalem, and wept over that once celebrated city? He was the ſum and ſubſtance of all the antient prophecies; but when he made his appearance, he was rejected and deſpiſed by thoſe whom he came to ſave. He looked forward to their approaching miſery, and, as a Divine Being clothed in fleſh, he ſhed tears of compaſſion.

And now, George, what can you find in your pagan authors equal to this? Priam ſhed tears as a man, Chriſt as the Being who was to pay a ranſom for the ſins of the world. I am by no means an enemy to the progreſs you make in uſeful learning; but let me beg you will converſe with the heathens without becoming one yourſelf. Let every day be ſpent in acquiring uſeful learning, but let one part of that day be ſet apart for the ſtudy of the ſacred ſcriptures. In that inexhauſtible fund you will acquire more learning, than in all the books in the world. In theſe ſacred books God ſpeaks to men; he ſpeaks to their paſſions, their hearts and their reaſon; whereas, in human compoſitions, one ſinful creature ſpeaks to another. I ſhall be in town next week, and in the mean time, am,

Your affectionate father,

JOHN COOPER.

LETTER XII.

From a Tradesman in London to his Son, a Merchant's Clerk in Bristol.

Dear Charles,

WITH a melancholy heart and a trembling hand do I sit down to write to you. Alas! my dear child, I once thought you would have been the last to whom I should have had occasion to write on such a subject; but I am your father, and if you are not altogether hardened, let me beg you will sympathize with me, and comply with my request. Yesterday I received a letter from your master, in which I am informed that you have neglected your business, and given yourself up to idleness and dissipation; nay, that you have joined yourself to a company of strolling players, who, undoubtedly, if you adhere to them, will bring you to destruction. Ah! Charles, was it for this that I gave you a liberal education? Did I deny myself many of the comforts of life, that you should enjoy them? Did I watch over your infant years with the most incessant care, and live to hear of your becoming a disgrace to your family, a dishonour to human nature, and a scandal to religion? Ah! Charles, who first taught you to address the Supreme Being in the way of Duty? Was it an enemy, or a friend? No: it was your father. And are my grey hairs to be brought down with sorrow to the grave? Is your aged mother to see you a vagabond? Are all your friends to be disgraced, and an indeleable stain of dishonour brought upon your relations? Have you forgot every thing that I taught you? And are you now lost to every sense of duty? O! heavens forbid. My infirmities will not permit me to call on you; but if you have any regard for your indulgent parents, if you would wish for honour in this life, and happiness hereafter, you will immediately return to your duty, and discharge every obligation

obligation you are under to your master. Be not dazzled with the gaiety of this world; for young as you are, old age and infirmities will approach, unless you are cut off by the way. Do you never think of eternity, where all human existence must terminate? Do you never consider that you are an accountable being whom God will examine, when the secrets of all hearts are disclosed? Let me beg to hear from you, and heaven grant that this letter may make some impression on your heart. This, dear Charles, is the sincere prayer of,

Your ever affectionate father,

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XIII.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

Dear and Ever Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter at a time when I was spending my evening with some of my graceless companions. Alas, Sir! that I should ever have made choice of those as friends, who are incapable of friendship. When I received your letter, I returned home to my chamber, and read it with deliberation, and during the whole of the night, my mind was agitated with the most violent passions. I struggled between inclination and duty. Inclination to renew my former vicious practices: Duty to you, my ever honoured father, and to my God. In the morning my bible too, long neglected, presented itself to me; and in it I read that God will have mercy on the vilest sinners. With shame do I now look back on my former conduct in life, and with pleasure will I embrace the practice of virtue. I have communicated my resolution to Mr. Bale my master, who, notwithstanding the many provocations I have given him, received me with tears of joy, and embraced me with open arms

of affection. Believe me, honoured Sir, when I tell you that I am ſincere; and, for the future, I will never frequent the company of thoſe who led me aſtray, nor on Sunday will I ever abſent myſelf from a place of Divine worſhip.

Let not my dear mother be troubled, but aſſure her, that ſhe will find me a new man as ſoon as ſhe comes here on a viſit. I have ſent ſome little preſents to my ſiſters, which I hope they will accept of, and let them join with you, in being once more reconciled to an offending brother. I hope none of you will be offended, when I tell you that I have placed my affections on Miſs Howard, the only daughter of an eminent merchant in this city; and if I am ſo happy as to procure her parents conſent, I ſhall ſucceed to the buſineſs carried on by her father, for he intends to retire. She is an amiable young lady, and I wiſh you would write to her father in my behalf. I am informed you have had ſome dealings with him formerly; ſo that you will be under no difficulty in opening the affair. I hope to hear from you ſoon, and am,

Your ſincere penitent ſon,

CHARLES SMITH.

LETTER XIV.

The Father's Anſwer.

Dear Charles,

I Am more alarmed in reading your letter, containing an account of your reſolution of amendment, than I was when I read that from your maſter, wherein that good man deſcribed your character and conduct without reſerve. I never loved ſudden changes; and I know ſo much of human nature, that I cannot believe your repentance to be ſincere. A ſudden change from vice to virtue, is ſeldom attended with beneficial conſequences. Repentance is progreſſive, and

and it requires time to bring it to a ſtate of perfection. It is common, in Roman Catholic countries, for debaucheés to become devoteés, and the bawdy houſe is changed for a cloyſter. It is much the ſame in Proteſtant countries; where the debaucheé changes his outward conduct all of a ſudden, and inſtead of the baudy-houſe, frequents the church. I ſhall never find fault with external religion, but I look upon repentance as a total change of the whole man; but this is commonly the work of time. Evil company muſt be parted with gradually, and the ſooner we withdraw the better. Happy ſhall I be to hear of your reformation; and as for your propoſed ſcheme of marriage, you will find that I have written my ſentiments on the ſubject to Mr. Howard. Every encouragement ſhall be granted you in my power, and may God direct you in the paths of virtue. This is my deſire through the day, and my prayer in the night.

I am, dear Charles, your affectionate father.

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XV.

Mr. Smith's Letter to Mr. Howard.

My Dear Friend,

IT is ſo long ſince we have had any connection in the way of trade, that I ſhould have forgot your name, had it not been for a letter which I have lately received from my ſon, who is clerk to Mr. Bale in your city. Perhaps you are no ſtranger to my ſon's character, which I am afraid has been, for ſome time, that of a libertine. Indeed he has ſent me a pompous account of his reformation; but I am too much of an infidel to believe it. He tells me he has contracted an acquaintance with your daughter, whom he repreſents as a virtuous young lady, and I doubt not but ſhe is ſo; at leaſt more ſo than himſelf. Friendſhip between young perſons generally proceeds, firſt,

to courtſhip, and laſtly, to marriage; and happy when the marriage ſtate is entered into upon principles of virtue. This, however, is not always the caſe; and that is my reaſon for writing to you.

An union between my ſon and your daughter, would be to me a happy event; but ſtill I would have the whole conducted on honourable principles: I mean, that if a match is concluded, it ſhould be with your conſent and mine. If you chuſe to conſent that your daughter ſhould be married to my ſon, and ſhe is willing, I will give him ſufficiency to ſet him up as a merchant; but I will neither preſs you, nor deſire you, to force the young lady's inclinations. Let natural right take place; let us do as we would be done by. Let me beg you will be ſo obliging as to ſend me an anſwer, and then I will wait on you at Briſtol.

I am, Sir,

Your ſincere friend,

JOHN SMITH.

LETTER XVI.

Mr. Howard's Anſwer.

Dear Friend,

YOUR letter was the more agreeable, becauſe it has renewed a former acquaintance; and to be plain with you, I am no ſtranger to the conduct of your ſon. His conduct, for ſome time, was not conſiſtent with the character of a gentleman; but I can aſſure you, ſo far as I am able to form a rational conjecture, he will be an ornament to ſociety. He has left his graceleſs companions, and ſpends his evenings either at home in his cloſet with his books, or in my houſe along with my daughter. He has, for ſome time, paid his addreſſes to her; and if you are willing, he ſhall have my conſent. I would, however,

have them to converſe together for ſome time; and as they will be always under my care, ſo you may be aſſured that nothing improper can take place.

It has been my intention, for ſome time, to retire from buſineſs; and I ſhould think myſelf extremely happy, to ſee my daughter married into ſuch a reſpectable family as yours. You will have little occaſion to trouble yourſelf concerning money to ſet up your ſon in buſineſs, for I have enough for that purpoſe, beſides what will ſupport me in a ſtate of retirement. My wife, as well as myſelf, is anxious to ſee you, and we have prepared lodgings for your reception. There is another thing I would mention, and that is, that you would draw a veil over every part of your ſon's conduct that has given offence. If I have no objection to the marriage, ſurely you cannot: your ſon cannot be more valuable, nor can you wiſh to promote his intereſt more, than I do that of my daughter. Let us ſettle the affair amicably, and let us never forget that we are mortal. I hope that all things will turn out well in the end; and therefore let us endeavour to promote the intereſts of the riſing generation, without injuring our peace of mind. —

I am, your ſincere friend,

WILLIAM HOWARD.

LETTER XVII.

From a Clergyman in the Country, to a young Gentleman bound Apprentice to a Grocer in London.

Dear William,

IT pleaſed God to remove your mother, by death, a few days after your birth, ſo that you had not the ineſtimable benefit of her maternal inſtructions. That loſs was, in ſome meaſure, made up by your father's paternal tenderneſs; but he likewiſe was taken away from you before he had completed his pious

pious design, namely, that of seeing you properly qualified to go out into the world. On his death-bed he sent for me, and committed to my care the remaining part of your education. How far I have discharged my duty, you know; and I can appeal to the Divine Being that I have left nothing undone that, in my humble opinion, could promote your interest. This, however, was no more than my duty; but my duty is not yet wholly performed.

It is not enough that I have instructed you in the principles of useful learning, I must still endeavour to see a fabrick arising from the foundation already laid. You know, that when you left this place, I was confined to my bed with a severe fit of illness, so that I could not give you any verbal instructions; but blessed be God, I am now somewhat better, and shall endeavour to make up by writing, what I could not deliver in words.

The business you have made choice of, is honourable and profitable, but at the same time, it is laborious; so that if ever you acquire what is called an independency, you must endeavour to make yourself acquainted with the most minute parts. It is the study of little things that leads us to the knowledge of great ones, and those who are industrious in youth have the greatest reason to expect success in their more advanced years. I have many things to write to you, but must first beg leave to know something of the family in which you are settled, and as soon as I receive your answer, you may expect another letter from me.

I am,

Your ever sincere friend,

RICHARD MOORE.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

Reverend and Honoured Sir,

WHEN I left the place of my nativity, I felt a violent struggle in my mind between inclination and duty. I could have wished to spend my advanced years in that place where I first obtained your acquaintance; but when I reflected that it was my duty to follow some useful business in this world, I gave up my own inclination, and with chearfulness submitted to what I considered to be the design of an all-wise providence. It is true, I was obliged to take my leave of you when you was extremely ill; but a thousand thanks to my ever-honoured tutor, that, with the recovery of health, his tender regard for my best interests is renewed, or rather continued.

And now, in obedience to your commands, I will give you what information I can respecting the family where I am settled. My master is a little turned of fifty, and his wife is about six years younger: They have two sons at school, and one daughter living at the house of a relation in the country, where she receives a private education. We have three shopmen, two porters, an errand-boy, two servant maids, and myself. My master, like a plain honest citizen, keeps no country-house, no carriage, nor any servant in livery. He attends constantly on business, bills are never returned unpaid, and he balances the account of debtor and creditor once every week. My mistress is neither gay nor mean; she seems to enjoy pleasure, without being a slave to it at the expence of virtue and piety. I never go into her apartment, but I find her engaged either in reading, working with her needle, or conversing with women of good sense. Our shopmen are gay young sparks, and two of them generally spend the evenings very late at a public

house

houſe in the neighbourhood; the other retires to the kitchen, and reads a diverting book to the maids.

My maſter and miſtreſs are regular in their attendance on Divine worſhip every Sunday, and when they return from church, a chapter of the Bible is read in the parlour; and when the Bible is cloſed, my maſter makes ſome remarks on what has been read. With reſpect to proviſions, we have plenty; but nothing extravagant: We have ſuch wholeſome victuals as the ſeaſon produceth, but we are not pampered with French cookery; nor, like thoſe who turn day into night, and night into day, do we dine at ſeven in the evening: We breakfaſt at nine, dine at two, and ſup again at nine. We retire to our apartments at ten, except the two ſhopmen whom I have already mentioned, who do not come home 'till late; but my maſter, I ſuppoſe, has his reaſons for keeping them. Indeed, a few mornings ago, he repeated to them in the ſhop, two lines which I have ſomewhere read, viz.

"Early to bed, and early to riſe,
"Is the way to be healthy and wealthy and wiſe."

And now, my ever honoured tutor, will you, in compliance with your promiſe, continue your correſpondence. I have much need of your advice, and to me your inſtruction ſhall ever be ſacred. Bleſſed be God you are recovered, and may your valuable life be long preſerved for the benefit of the world.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

LETTER XIX.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

Dear William,

THE deſcription you have ſent me of your family gives me much pleaſure, and it is much more to my ſatisfaction than I expected. You know I have

I have often told you, that wherever you ſettle in this world, whatever your temporal circumſtances may be, you will meet with ſomething to counterbalance the greateſt advantages. Thus, while the amiable character of your maſter and miſtreſs preſents you with a fair example to copy after, you find temptations thrown in your way by the conduct of the two ſhopmen. But remember, that wherever you are, you cannot conceal your moſt ſecret actions from the eyes of an all-wiſe God. His knowledge and his power will drag your crimes from the darkeſt obſcurity; and although you may obtain pardon of God, yet take my word for it you will find repentance bitter. Let me, therefore, beg you will attend to the following rules, which, through the Divine bleſſing, may prevent you from falling into ſuch ſnares as young men are too much ſubject to.

Endeavour to riſe from bed in the morning one hour, at leaſt, before you are wanted in the ſhop, and let that hour be ſpent in reading a chapter in the Bible, and in praying for the Divine aſſiſtance through the day; for the goodneſs, wiſdom and power of God muſt be always kept in mind, if we would enjoy that tranquillity to which many are ſtrangers. Let all your buſineſs through the day be conducted with integrity, whether in your maſter's preſence or abſence. Be always chearful, and take great care that nothing diſcompoſe your mind ſo as to put you into a paſſion. Take every opportunity at meals to make ſome rational remarks on the goodneſs of God, who opens his hand liberally and ſatisfies all the wants of his creatures. When you hear any perſon mock at religion, deſire him to make a trial of the practice of its duty, but never pretend to ſuperior ſanctity. Keep good principles, and good practice will flow from them. A ſtedfaſt faith begets a conſtant hope, and the more faith the more humility. Behave ſubmiſſively towards your ſuperiors; friendly towards your equals; condeſcendingly to your inferiors, and lovingly to all. Before you retire

to

to reſt, examine how you have acted through the day; *ſincerely confeſs your ſins, and then you may be* aſſured of pardon. Never frequent public houſes in the evening, for a practice of that nature wears off the force of religious duties, and men often become profligates or infidels, before they have ſo much as conſidered that they had deviated from the path of duty.

I have ſent you a few books, for I would adviſe you rather to read a little and treaſure it up in your memory, than peruſe many authors, without being able to remember any thing. May the Divine Being direct you in every thing, and bring you to honour and happineſs. Let me beg to hear from you when you have an opportunity; but you muſt never, to pleaſe your friends, deprive your maſter of that ſervice which is his right.

I am, yours ſincerely,

RICHARD MOORE.

LETTER XX.

From a Tradeſman in London, to a Correſpondent in the Country.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of ſix months ſince I ſent your account, and you have never yet remitted me any money. Is this, Sir, conſiſtent with the nature of trade, or how do you think to carry on buſineſs, unleſs you make good your payments? Trade, Sir, is of a tender nature; it muſt be carried on with induſtry, prudence, and integrity. There is, indeed, one thing in your conduct, which I think can never be excuſed. I have written to you above ſix different times, and, although you have ſent me ſeveral anſwers, yet you never ſo much as aſſigned a reaſon, to my ſatisfaction, for withholding from me that property which you

knew

knew was my right. An honeſt man will keep fair accounts with his creditors, and when he finds he is not able to make good his payments, will chearfully give up his all, without being forced to it by a commiſſion of bankruptcy. He who keeps regular accounts will ſoon diſcover whether he can ſupport his family and pay his debts; and if he finds that the profits of his trade will not anſwer theſe ends, he will immediately look out for another employment. Do you imagine that I am able to make good my payments, if I am to be treated by the reſt of my correſpondents as I have been by you? No, Sir, I could not; but thank God, I have balanced debtor and creditor in ſuch a manner, that I know what I have and what I owe. I enjoy, at leaſt, this comfort, that I am not indebted beyond what I am able to pay; but that is no reaſon why you ſhould deprive me of any part of that property which was acquired by honeſt induſtry. I muſt, therefore, tell you, that unleſs you make me a remittance very ſoon, I ſhall be obliged to take ſuch ſteps as will be no ways agreeable to you. Let me beg you will not put me to that trouble, for I am ſorry to do what the world may call an ill-natur'd action.

I am, yours,

THOMAS FIGG.

LETTER XXI.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

IT gives me much concern that you ſhould have conceived a bad opinion of me, eſpecially as I never intended to deceive you, nor injure you in any part of your property. I have been unfortunate, and I will now lay open the whole affair to you. Mr. Jarvis, my brother-in-law, begged of me to accept ſome bills for him, which I inadvertently did, with-

out knowing or considering the nature of his circumstances, which I find were desperate; for he has lately failed, and I have had the money to pay. This, however, has not ruined me altogether, nor are my accounts so much confused as you seem to imagine. Several considerable debts have been paid me lately, and I have remitted you a bill for sixty pounds, payable at sight. I have all the reason in the world to hope, that the remainder will be paid in less than three months; and, in the mean time, I doubt not but you will send me the articles contained in the inclosed order. I assure you, Sir, I shall endeavour to profit by your advice; and, for the future, watch more regularly over my affairs.

I am, &c.

GEORGE WATKINS.

LETTER XXII.

From a Tradesman in the Country to a Merchant in London, desiring a Composition with his Creditors.

SIR,

WHEN I first entered into business I had great reason to expect success; but we often form vain hopes, and promise ourselves more than we have reason to expect. The first thing that affected my credit was the extravagant conduct of an unhappy son. I took him from school into my shop, and, during the space of three years, he never neglected business, nor did he give me or my customers any offence. I then thought myself happy; but, alas! the whole peace of my family was soon destroyed. Trusting in my son's integrity, I sent him to collect what debts were owing to me in the country; but no sooner had he received the money, than he joined himself to a company of strolling players, and squandered the whole away. It was some months before I learned any thing

thing concerning him; but at last I met him by accident, starving for the necessaries of life; polluted in his morals, cloathed in rags, and divested of all sense of honest shame.

What could I do? To discard him totally might have driven him to more dangerous courses than those he had left, and perhaps brought him to an untimely end. He had injured me; it was impossible for him to make restitution; his character was lost; and, therefore, I proposed to send him to the East-Indies. With much difficulty I procured for him the place of a writer, and he sailed from England two months ago. Since that time I have been mostly employed in settling my books, and, with concern I must tell you, that I must either call a meeting of my creditors, and give them up what I have, or they must give me some short time to bring myself about, so as to pay them. Distressed as I am, I am willing to become a day-labourer rather than injure my creditors; and as you have hitherto been my friend, let me beg your advice how to proceed in this extremity. I wait your answer with impatience, and am,

Yours, with respect,

THOMAS JOHNSON.

LETTER XXIII.

The Merchant's Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Perused your letter with tears, and I can the more easily feel for your misfortunes, because I have a son whose conduct has been little better than yours. When I first entered into business, I made it my fixed resolution never to distress an honest man while I considered him unfortunate, but not criminal. By dispensing with the severity of the law on particular occasions, we often save something for the future;

and I have often found, that a ſingle act of lenity has preſerved an honeſt man from ruin, and ſecured the property of his creditors.—Acting conſiſtent with thoſe principles, I called a meeting of your creditors; and they, with myſelf, are all unanimous in conſenting to give you credit three years longer. We are willing to ſend you what goods you want, and to take only ſmall remittances, 'till ſuch time as you can extricate yourſelf out of your misfortunes, which I hope will ſoon take place. I have written to ſeveral perſons in the country in your favour, and you will find the number of your cuſtomers inlarged. Take courage, my dear friend, and nothing ſhall be wanting, on my part, to ſerve you. I would have you come to London for a few days, where you will meet with a welcome reception, and then you may give orders for ſuch goods as you think will be moſt wanted.

I am yours, &c.

FRANCIS SMITH.

LETTER XXIV.

From a young Gentleman, whoſe Education had been neglected in his Youth, to a Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

THE ſmall eſtate left me by my uncle has had a different effect on my mind, from what commonly happens in ſimilar caſes; for inſtead of devoting my time to faſhionable follies, I am not aſhamed to acknowledge (nay, I do it with pleaſure) that I have taken lodgings in a private family in Iſlington, dividing my time between reading, company and walking. I have begun the hiſtory of England, but I am much at a loſs to know what other ſubjects are proper; for, you know, that my education was much neglected. Sometimes, indeed, I read divinity, but I know

know not what books to peruſe. I am not fond of controverſy, and yet I love to be informed concerning the truth. Here, Sir, my mind is bewildered; and no ſooner have I peruſed one book, than the next I take in my hand makes me diſbelieve every ſentiment I embraced before. I often beg of God that he would give me aſſiſtance, in directing me to chuſe that which is good, and refuſe evil; but this by no means prevents me from making uſe of human means, as ſecond cauſes.

Under theſe circumſtances, I have preſumed to ſeek advice from you (reverend Sir) whoſe extenſive knowledge and copious reading can only be equalled by your exalted piety. I know that the duties of your ſtation require much of your time, and perhaps you do more than you are legally obliged to; but what ſignifies all we do in this world, ſo as we are engaged as rational creatures, and as pious Chriſtians? I could wiſh to improve myſelf in knowledge without confining myſelf as a Monk to a cloiſter, and to taſte the ſweets of converſation while my rational faculties are making progreſs in ſcience. I ſhall not at preſent intrude any further on your time, but muſt beg to hear from you as ſoon as poſſibly you can. In the mean time, give my reſpects to your amiable family, and tell them, that I intend ſpending a week or two with them, during the ſummer. I have ſent by the coach the neweſt pattern of ruffles for your daughter Miſs Polly, and hope ſhe will accept of it, as a ſmall tribute of gratitude due to you. The other trifles, which you will find incloſed, are not worth the mentioning; and, be aſſured, that wherever I am,

I am ſincerely yours,

R. E.

LETTER XXV.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My dear Sir,

I Received your letter and would have answered it sooner, but there were so many persons sick in my parish, that I could not dispense with attending them. It has been often said, that the life of a clergyman is little better than a state of idleness; but those who do their duty, will not find it so. However, I shal not insist on that subject at present; and let those who abuse the clergy, take care that they do not injure religion.—And now, Sir, with respect to the contents of your letter: I must confess, indeed, that there is something in it too general, and yet I will endeavour to be particular in my answer.

I am no stranger to that neglect which your parents shewed in your education; but now, by the death of your uncle, you have the means put in your power to make a proper improvement. I am, however, much against your reading polemical controversy; for, from what you have told me, I am able to tell you, that a Romish priest would be under no great difficulty to make you a convert. There is no grudge like a religious one; and, in religious controversies, I am sorry to say that truth is seldom sought after, and as seldom found. Indeed it cannot well be otherwise, for the greatest part of our religious controversies are spent in abuse, scurrility and falshood. I would therefore have you to avoid the perusal of books on controversy as much as possible, till such time as your mind is so well settled in the principles of holy religion, that there can be no great fear of your being distracted. With respect to a general course of reading, it requires some consideration; but, as I have often thought of the subject, so I shall not be under much difficulty in giving you such an answer as, I hope, will prove satisfactory.

To

To ſpend ſome part of your time in reading the hiſtory of England, is certainly commendable; but I would, by no means, have you confine yourſelf wholly to it. The conſtant uſe of one ſort of reading will, in the end, become as nauſeous as living continually on one ſort of victuals. We ought to read on different ſubjects; but that muſt be done with care, otherwiſe the mind will be led into confuſion; and the perſon who is ſeeking after knowledge, will find himſelf like one intoxicated with liquor.

There is ſomething extremely profitable in dividing our time properly. Thus the man of buſineſs ſhould read little; the man of reading ſhould have little connection with buſineſs. Your circumſtances in life, by an act of Divine Providence, ſets you above the neceſſity of attending a mercantile employment, for which you was deſigned; and your inclinations having led you to reading and ſtudy, I ſhall rejoice to give you all the aſſiſtance in my power.

When I was about your age, I ſpent the day in the following manner. Having addreſſed myſelf to the Divine Being, I read at leaſt two chapters in the ſacred ſcriptures, with ſome practical commentaries upon them. Breakfaſt being over, I ſpent the forenoon in peruſing hiſtory, which enlarged my mind, and made me acquainted with the ways of this lower world. Leaving my ſtudy, I walked about two hours into the fields, and then returned to dinner, where I enjoyed the company of my friends, who with me partook of our Maker's bounty. The chearful-glaſs was circulated, innocence reigned in every heart, and uſeful knowledge was diffuſed; but I muſt reſerve the remainder 'till my next. In the mean time,

I am, Sir, ſincerely yours,

B. S.

LETTER

LETTER XXVI.

From the Same to the Same.

My dear Sir,

I told you, in my laſt, how I ſpent my time during the former part of the day, and now I muſt tell you how I concluded it.

After dinner I returned to my cloſet, and read ſome of the beſt authors on natural law, and compared what thoſe authors ſaid with the municipal laws of my country. Towards evening, the mind being fatigued, I peruſed one or other of the moſt agreeable poets; after which, when the weather would permit, I walked into the fields. At ſupper our converſation turned upon ſerious ſubjects, and the whole was cloſed by recommending ourſelves to the protection of the Divine Being. But although I have mentioned theſe things to you, yet you muſt only conſider them as leading principles; becauſe a variety of reading is often neceſſary, for which no rules can be laid down. There is not a man in the world who can comprehend every branch of human ſcience; his knowledge is too much circumſcribed, and his paſſions too much engaged in the purſuit of ſecular affairs, to attend to every thing he reads.

The human mind fluctuates ſo much between doubtful and experimental knowledge, that it is ſurpriſing we know any thing. Our memories are frail; our underſtandings contracted. This the antients well knew; but happily the moderns are, in ſome meaſure, releaſed by the aſſiſtance of grammars and lexicons. Lexicons, or, as they are commonly called, Dictionaries, contain an univerſal ſyſtem of learning; but then they are only to be conſulted in the ordinary courſe of reading. To be continually reading without a memorial aſſiſtance, muſt be extremely diſagreeable; and, therefore, it becomes neceſſary for us to have ſome ſyſtems drawn up, in order to conduct us

through

through the laybrinth. Where ſuch ſyſtems are conducted with judgement and learning, by men of underſtanding, then they become uſeful to the community at large. There are many terms of art but little underſtood, and therefore we are often under the neceſſity of having recourſe to Dictionaries for an explanation.*

But there are ſome other parts of learning which I would have you, by all means, to attend to; I mean the hiſtory of the Romans, and that of the church of Chriſt. The firſt will preſent you with a view of ſome of the moſt ſtupendous truths, that ever took place on the theatre of this lower world. Here you will be preſented with the account of an obſcure band of robbers, firſt trampling upon every moral obligation, and then riſing to ſuch a ſtate of grandeur, as to boaſt that the ſun roſe and ſet in their dominions. You will find the baſeſt vices conſidered as virtues by the Romans, and even Providence itſelf making uſe of thoſe vices to eſtabliſh an everlaſting kingdom, an everlaſting church.

In the ſecond, you will find a moſt beautiful commentary on thoſe words in the Pentateuch, *The buſh burneth, and is not conſumed.* The diſtinguiſhing luſtre of Divine Providence will diſplay itſelf to your view, under every occurrence, in the hiſtory of the Chriſtian church. You will read, you will admire, you will improve. Wiſhing ſincerely that God may preſerve you in a way of duty, I ſhall only add, that I am,

Dear Sir, your ever affectionate friend,

B. S.

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* The New Complete DICTIONARY of ARTS and SCIENCES, by the Rev. Mr. MIDDLETON, and Others, is, in many reſpects, ſuperior to any in our language, and will anſwer all the purpoſes abovementioned. It is now publiſhing in weekly numbers, and will be completed in only 80 ſixpenny numbers, making two elegant volumes in folio; the price of which, in ſheets, will not exceed forty ſhillings. But it may be had by one or two numbers at a time.

LETTERS

LETTER XXVII.

From a young Tradesman in London, to an aged Person in the Country, retired from Business.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of two years since I entered into business in the Strand, but I have not met with the success I expected. Disappointments have discouraged me much; but willing to promote my interest, I have engaged in another branch of business, I mean the building-trade, which requires no attendance, the whole being conducted by other persons, so that I can still attend my shop. But I am often much put to it for money, and that is the reason why I trouble you with this. A fair prospect presents itself, if I could go through with my present undertakings, and I am no stranger to your goodness of heart. I have several houses almost finished, and, 'till they are completed, I would mortgage them to you for two thousand pounds. That sum would enable me to acquire a considerable fortune, and you would be in no danger of losing. I would allow you five *per cent.* with a considerable premium; and some of my friends would willingly enter into a joint bond with me for the payment, which shall be made good as soon as I have disposed of the houses. I can assure you, Sir, that great fortunes have been made by the buildings carried on near London; and I hope that my present application will not give offence, for nothing of that sort was intended.

About a month ago my wife was delivered of a boy, whom I have named after you, and next summer she intends visiting you along with her son. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience; and, in the mean time, I am, with all manner of respect,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS HOLMES.

LETTER

LETTER XXVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Received your letter, aud am extremely sorry for the contents, which I look upon as the visions of a madman. Pray, Sir, what do you mean? what do you propose to yourself, by leaving the business to which you was brought up, and to enter into one with which you are utterly unacquainted? Vain, indeed, are your hopes; and, in the end, you will find yourself disappointed. I had once some hopes you would have conducted yourself as a young man of industry, but your present proposal puts me in mind of the old proverb, *All covet, all lose.* To grasp immoderately at riches, is generally a prelude to poverty; and I have often found the man who was anxious to acquire a fortune in a few years, spend twenty years in a prison, and die forsaken, despised and miserable. I was above forty years in trade, and when I retired from business, I found myself not worth half so much as was reported. It was enough that I had as much as would support me in my old age, and to leave the remainder to my poor relations. Trade, my dear Sir, is a plant that must be reared with tenderness, and nothing less than patience can bring it to a state of maturity. Our time in this life is short, and if we acquire riches in an honest manner, be assured they will not be great. For my own part I consider you as an object of compassion, nor would I be in your case for the world. How distracted must your mind be, while fluctuating in the condition you have represented to me. You have been building castles in the air, and unless you desist from your present pursuits, you will either become a beggar, or, perhaps, (shocking to mention) commit a crime that will involve your family in misery, and stigmatize your name with infamy.

You

You aſk me to lend you money upon a mortgage of your houſes. Let me beg, Sir, you will take a walk to the Fleet, or the King's-Bench priſons, and there you will find as many builders as there are windows in your houſes. No, Sir; I am neither a tyrant nor a knight-errant. I am willing to aſſiſt you with money in conducting your own buſineſs, but I have nothing to do with your romantic ſchemes. I conſider the men with whom you are engaged as deſperate adventurers, who probably will bring ruin upon you without injuring themſelves; becauſe they have neither money nor characters to loſe. Do you love your wife? would you deſire to diſcharge your duty to your family? Break off your preſent connections, and you will find me a faithful friend. All I have written is with a view to promote your intereſt, and let me beg you will pay ſome regard to my advice. You will, in the end, find what I have ſaid to be true. I ſhall be ever ready to ſerve you as long as I live, but may God Almighty give you better inſtructions than I can. I ſhall be in London in a few weeks, and then I ſhall have an opportunity of enquiring into your affairs.

I am, Sir, your ſincere friend,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

LETTER XXIX.

From a young Tradeſman, newly ſet up in Buſineſs, to a Lady's Maid in the Country.

Dear Miſs Betſy,

BEFORE you left London you promiſed that you would never give your hand to another, 'till you firſt acquainted me with your intention: I muſt ſtill continue to ſollicit the hand of that dear angel, who is in poſſeſſion of my heart. My father has given me fifteen hundred pounds to ſet up in buſineſs, and as I am well ſettled, I only want your love, your-

ſelf to make me happy. Remember, I do not accuſe you with the breach of any promiſe, becauſe you never yet gave me your conſent; but your amiable diſpoſition gave me reaſon to hope you would not be cruel. Your ever honoured and worthy parents have always treated me with the utmoſt reſpect, although I never preſumed to beg of them to intercede with you in my favour. My affections were freely placed on you, being drawn by the force of your merits, your piety and virtue. I know you have a ſoul ſuperior to any thing mean; but I hope, if you have the leaſt regard for the ſincerity of my intentions, you will accept of a few trifles which I have ſent by the coach.

My mother has been long in a bad ſtate of health, but both ſhe and my father deſired to be remembered to you, and are glad to hear your family are coming to town; and I can aſſure you, if permitted, they will wait on your lady to procure you one week's abſence. I am all impatience to ſee you; but, in the mean time, hope you will honour me with a letter.

I am, my dear angel,

Your ſincere lover,

JOSEPH ATKINS.

LETTER XXX.

The young Woman's Anſwer.

SIR,

A Violent cold, and a multiplicity of buſineſs, prevented me from anſwering your letter ſooner; but now, having obtained an hour's leiſure, I ſhall devote it to that purpoſe. You know, that when we firſt became acquainted, we were both too young to think of any ſuch thing as marriage; and although a friendſhip took place, yet I knew my ſtation in life to be much inferior to yours, and this determined me to be upon my guard. Unequal matches are ſeldom

happy ones, and disgust often takes place, where affluence and poverty are connected in marriage.

With respect to worldly poverty, my parents are poor, but they are rich in good works to me; a sort of treasure they take much pleasure in, but it will neither go to the Bank or the Exchange. I shall always respect you for the professions you have made, and I doubt not of your sincerity, but still I have many objections. I am afraid, the want of fortune on my part, may deprive me of that happiness which I should wish to enjoy in the marriage state. The great uncertainty, the many dangers attending trade, appear to be dreadful. Supposing, that either by misfortunes, by losses, or by extravagance, you should become a bankrupt, then I must be reduced to a state of poverty just at a time when I was in hopes of living comfortably. Let me therefore beg you will look out for some other person more proper than myself, and may every blessing attend one whom I wish well.

ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER XXXI.

From the young Tradesman in Reply.

Dear Miss Betsy,

IF I respected you before, you have now completed the conquest, by your prudential letter, which contains so many wise remarks, that I hope I shall never suffer them to depart from my memory. But why, my dear, all your fears? Is not my love of your person, without looking for a fortune, proof of my sincerity and of your merit? But why do I talk of fortune? The beauties of your mind are greater than all my poor paltry trifle; and whatever respect I am bound to have for my parents, yet, I freely acknowledge, that good works are preferable to all their riches. And why, my dear, so many fears, such anxiety concerning poverty? Because a few, and indeed too many tradesmen, bring misery upon themselves by their extravagance and neglect of business; why, I say, must

a body of uſeful men be condemned? Upon mature reflection, you will think otherwiſe. Let us but attend to our duty, and leave the reſt to Divine Providence. The fatal misfortune attending tradeſmen, is their ſeeking to be rich too ſoon; and while they graſp at ſhadows, they loſe the ſubſtance. For my own part, I am determined not to ſeek riches, but to be content with an honeſt ſubſiſtence as the fruits of my induſtry: If I get any more, you will be always conſulted in what manner to lay it out. Acting in this manner, you have no reaſon to be afraid; for whatever ſtate we are in here below, there is no certainty of real happineſs. Let me therefore beg you will make me eaſy, by complying with my requeſt when you come to town.

I am, your ſincere lover,

JOSEPH ATKINS.

LETTER XXXII.

From the young Woman's Father to his Daughter.

Dear Child,

EVER ſince you went into the country Mr. Atkins has been frequent in his viſits to us, and the more I converſe with him, the greater reaſon I have to eſteem him as a worthy deſerving young tradeſman. You have often told me, you would never marry without my conſent; in that you may do as you pleaſe, for I ſhall never lay reſtrictions upon you, I am ready to adviſe, but muſt not direct. You are now arrived at years of maturity, and it is natural you ſhould enter into the marriage ſtate, eſpecially if an agreeable offer preſents itſelf. And where, my dear, can you meet with a more agreeable perſon than Mr. Atkins? His family is reſpectable, he is induſtrious, and, in my opinion, bids fair to be proſperous. Not that I would ever promiſe too much on any thing human; but, putting all the circumſtances together, I think you cannot do better than give him your hand and heart. You know I love you, and I am certain he is worthy of

you. I ſhall, however, leave that to yourſelf, nor ſhould I have troubled you with this had I not believed it for your advantage. Your mother is greatly recovered from her late illneſs, and longs earneſtly to ſee you, which we hope will be about the beginning of next month. In the mean time I would have you to write to Mr. Atkins, for he calls here every evening.

I am, your ever affectionate father,
WILLIAM BARTON.

LETTER XXXIII.

The young Woman's Anſwer to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Was on a viſit with my lady when yours arrived, ſo that I had not an opportunity of anſwering it 'till this evening. Bleſſed be God that my dareſt mother is better, let me beg ſhe will take care of herſelf in this cold ſeaſon, for a relapſe is more to be feared than the beginning of any diſorder whatever. With reſpect to Mr. Atkins, I am no ſtranger to his many valuable qualities; but ſtill I think he propoſes marriage rather too ſoon, for he has not been above ſix months in buſineſs. Indeed, when I think of his propoſal, my mind is often filled with a number of perplexities, and I ſtruggle between love, fear, intereſt and duty. You ſeem to approve of his ſuit, and as I know you would not do ſo but with a view of promoting my intereſt, ſo I dare not diſobey you. But you muſt ſtill let my conduct in this, and in every reſpect, be regulated by your commands, which to me are very ſacred. We intend being in town on next Saturday ſe'ennight; but I have written this evening to Mr. Atkins, and as my letter to him contains nothing ſecret, you may deſire him to let you peruſe it. I have ſent ſome trifles to my dear mother, and preſent her with my duty.

I am, honoured Sir,
Your ever dutiful daughter,
ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

From Miss Barton to Mr. Atkins.

SIR,

I Received yours, with another from my father, and am glad to hear that you often visit my poor parents. Indeed, that is one of the greatest comforts I enjoy; for I believe they have lived to survive many pretended friends. And now, Sir, I must freely tell you, that your person was never disagreeable to me, nor have I any just reason to find fault with your conduct. I received your generous present, and must acknowledge it was far superior to any thing I could have expected. Your proposal is honourable, and your professions have all the marks of sincerity. I never had any objection to the marriage state, farther than that of being afraid of rushing into it too precipitately. Hasty marriage is speedy vengeance; but I hope that will never be the case either with you or myself. What you have said concerning trade is undoubtedly true, and so is what you mention relating to happiness. Be assured, Sir, that I do not look for uninterrupted happiness in this world; if I did, I should have no higher views; but still this world must not be neglected while we are in it. Industry enables us to live honestly, to support our families, and to relieve the wants of the poor. The extravagant person, instead of having any thing to give, wastes the substance of others; the virtuous industrious man, has an open hand and a generous heart. I have only to add, that I shall not, for the future, start any new objections; but, trusting to the providence of a good and gracious God to direct me, freely consent to be yours. But remember never to expect more from me than from any other woman. I am sensible of many weaknesses; my temper may not be at all times the same; but it is the glory of your sex to sympathize with us. I shall mention your proposal to my lady, for I cannot leave her 'till she is provided with another in my room. If you are at my father's on Monday

ſe'ennight, you will have ſome reaſon to expect me there; and, in the mean time,

I am, ſincerely yours,
ELIZABETH BARTON.

LETTER XXXV.

From a Sailor, juſt arrived at Portſmouth from the Eaſt-Indies, to his Sweetheart at Wapping.

Dear Bett,

THIS will inform you, that we are ſafe arrived at Portſmouth, after a tedious paſſage of ſix months: But the beſt of all is, we have taken a prize, and I ſhall have four hundred pounds to receive, beſides my wages. Ah! Bett, what a lady you will be! I intend to take a public houſe in Wapping, and you will be the landlady. Much money may be picked up: and, when we have got enough, we will retire from buſineſs, and live in the country. Jack Capſtan, whom you once loved, had his head knocked off, during the engagement; and Tom Forecaſtle, another of your ſweethearts, was waſhed overboard. Let them go, and happy for me they are gone, becauſe I ſhall now enjoy my dear Bett. I have a large aſſortment of china, a fine ſilk gown, and twenty yards of muſlin, which I will lay in your lap. Oh! how I long to ſee Wapping; and, I can aſſure you, that I will never be unfaithful. Not one of the girls in Wapping ſhall lead my affections off from my Bett; neither a high head, nor a flounced petticoat, ſhall ever tempt me. Let me beg you will meet me at the ſign of the Ship at Gravesend; where I will take you on board, and bring you ſafe to Deptford. I ſhall be only a few days on board; and, as for the Cuſtom-houſe officers, we ſhall fill them with liquor, and then we can get our property on ſhore. Do Betty, love me, and I will make you a good huſband.

I am, your honeſt tarr.
THOMAS TARPAULIN.

LETTER

From a young Gentleman at the University, to a Clergyman in the Country.

Reverend Sir,

THE care you took of my education, when I was under your tuition, muſt ever be acknowledged with gratitude; and, I can aſſure you, that the directions you gave me from time to time, ſince I removed to the univerſity, have been of great ſervice to me, I am indebted to you; but, like a loſing gameſter, I muſt continue venturing, 'till I have ſtaked my laſt guinea, and perhaps at laſt become inſolvent: However, if this ſhould be the caſe, then I muſt take the benefit of the next act for the relief of poor debtors.—The truth is, I was laſt night in company with ſome gentlemen, and the ſubject turned on the nature of toleration, ſo far as religious ſentiments were entitled to that privilege. For my own part, I had not conſidered the ſubject; the freedom we enjoy in this kingdom ſeemed to render it unneceſſary, and I thought that every man ſhould be permitted to worſhip God according to the dictates of his conſcience. To this it was objected, by ſome perſons preſent, that there were opinions which ought not to be tolerated, becauſe they diſturbed the peace of ſociety. Inſtances were brought from the old teſtament, in ſupport of this doctrine; and the arguments ſeemed to be unanſwerable, unleſs I could reject the whole of Divine revelation.—To all the favours you have already conferred on me, let me beg you will add this one more; namely, to point out the nature of toleration; how far it is conſiſtent with civil ſociety; whether Chriſtians, agreeable to the nature of their profeſſion, can ever become intolerant; what has been the ſtate of toleration under the old and new teſtament diſpenſation; and how far intolerance is inconſiſtent with the rights of private judgment. Your worth is great, your learning is

universal, and your benevolence is so extensive, that that I cannot doubt of receiving an answer.

I am, reverend Sir,

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS MALPAS.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My Dear Sir,

CHRISTIANITY knows nothing of toleration; for it is contrary to its spirit to claim worldly power, and toleration cannot be granted where power is wanting. The Jews never tolerated the practice of any religion differing from their own, but this was owing to two causes. First, they were a peculiar people, different in their manners, customs and religious ceremonies, * from all the rest of the world They were made acquainted with the knowledge of the true God, while the heathen nations around them were sunk into the grossest idolatry. Secondly, the

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* For a proper investigation of this subject, we would refer our readers to "*The Religious Ceremonies and Customs of all Nations*," written by the Rev. Dr. *Hurd*, and now publishing in weekly numbers, adorned with elegant copper-plates. One or two numbers may be had at a time, price only six-pence each.

Jews

Jews were not permitted to ſuffer ſtrangers to reſide among them, unleſs they complied with their eſta*bliſhed form of religion*; and even to this day the Jews retain the ſame intolerant ſpirit, and probably would put it in practice, were they not reſtrained by the civil power of thoſe nations through which they are ſcattered abroad in the world.

The heathen Romans, when they conquered a great part of the world, made no alteration in the eſtabliſhed forms of religion, but ſuffered the people, whom they had ſubdued, to retain their ancient rites and ceremonies.

From what we read in the new teſtament, it does not appear that ever the Romans eſtabliſhed a place of worſhip, according to the forms of heathen idolatry, among the Jews, and yet they did ſo in all the heathen nations. The reaſon is obvious; the Romans, and thoſe whom they, from motives of pride, called barbarians, were equally idolators, nor did they much regard what idols they worſhipped; but the Jews worſhipped the one true God, and the Romans were ſuch profound politicians, that they preferred the enjoyment of the taxes, to that of overturning the eſtabliſhed religion.

But here it will be objected; why did the Romans perſecute, even to death, many thouſands of the primitive Chriſtians? Upon a ſtrict enquiry it will, perhaps, be found, that none of primitive Chriſtians were proſecuted merely on account of religion, but rather from motives of ſtate policy.

Your humble Servant,

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVIII.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

WHEN Christianity was first promulgated, the Jews, at that time spread through many parts of the Roman empire, were in hopes that a most glorious person was to make his appearance in the world, who, by his power, was to subdue all their enemies; but finding that the humility of Christ did not answer their expectations, they became most bitter enemies to all those who embraced his doctrine. The Christians, while they obeyed the Roman Emperors in all things of a temporal nature, acknowledged Christ to be their King. The purity of their doctrines, the simplicity of their manners, and their extensive charity, alarmed the heathen Priests, who had, for many years, deceived mankind; and all the Jews were exasperated against them, because they acknowledged the authenticity of the law of Moses, but refused to comply with the levitical ceremonies, which they considered as abolished by the death of Christ.

The heathen Priests represented the Christians as a dangerous set of people, whose design was to overturn the established religion; and the Jews accused them as a body of people guilty of high treason, in acknowledging Christ to be their King. Under these circumstances, the Christians were falsly accused and often cruelly persecuted, but perhaps with less severity than what is contained in the accounts transmitted to us.

Mankind are fond of novelty, and therefore there is great reason to believe that when Christianity first made its appearance, many pretended to embrace it who were ignorant of its principles, and unacquainted with God's design in sending a saviour into the world. It will not admit of a doubt, that such unprincipled converts, mistaking the nature and tendency of the Christian religion, would be guilty of some gross excesses;

ceſſes; ſuch as affronting the pagans in their ſolemn acts of worſhip, and perhaps ſpeaking diſreſpectfully of the Emperors. Theſe things *however* have been, in a great meaſure, concealed from us; for it muſt be acknowledged, that the primitive eccleſiaſtical writers have deſtroyed the works of the heathens, preſerving only ſuch paſſages as ſeemed moſt ſuitable to their purpoſe; a way of proceeding as ſcandalous, as any thing ever practiſed by the Papiſts. This part of the conduct of thoſe, vulgarly called the primitive fathers, leads me to doubt the truth of many things they have written. Do I glory in having anſwered my antagoniſt? let me firſt deliver his arguments to the public. To act otherwiſe, is ſimilar to that of traducing the character of a man, who is not preſent to vindicate his own conduct. It is acting the part of a backbiter, to eſtabliſh our own importance at the expence of truth. He that is engaged in a good cauſe, need not be aſhamed of his adverſary.

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER XXXIX.

In Continuation.

Dear Sir,

BUT let us now enquire how the Chriſtians acted when they enjoyed the protections of the civil power. Did they act conſiſtent with the genius of that religion which they profeſs'd? No: The man of Sin was beginning to make his appearance. Conſtantine would have acted the part of a generous Prince, had he only granted a toleration to the Chriſtians; but from motives of policy, he made their religion the eſtabliſhed one of the empire, and proſcribed all thoſe who adhered to the ancient rites and ceremonies. The Chriſtian Biſhops, having acquired power, made a bad uſe of it indeed: They ridiculed the heathen ſuperſtition, they treated the Jews as though they were mere heathens; and, with reſpect to their own brethren

thren who differed from them in religious ſentiments, they perſecuted them with the moſt unrelenting cruelty.

From that time, 'till many ages after, perſecutions became an article of the popiſh creed, but never that of a real Chriſtian: No; a real Chriſtian cannot perſecute; but it was the practice of deſigning Prieſts, who, in order to aggrandize themſelves and inrich their families, endeavoured to murder one half of the human ſpecies, while they kept the other half in a ſtate of ignorance.

The ſtate of the world, during many centuries, contributed greatly towards eſtabliſhing clerical power. Toleration was not granted, and in any of the nations where popery was publickly profeſſed, thoſe who oppoſed the moſt idle, inſignificant, ridiculous ceremonies, were immediately put to death. It is true, that no ſtatute for burning proteſtants ever took place in England, 'till 1405, in the reign of Henry IV. But, notwithſtanding, there being no law for that purpoſe before that time, yet the prieſts ſupplied the deficiency.

In 1157, during the reign of Henry II. ſome Germans came over to England, who profeſſed a belief in ſentiments contrary to thoſe embraced by the generality of the people. Theſe perſons, about thirty in number, were ſummoned before a convocation of popiſh prieſts at Oxford, where they were publickly excommunicated, and every perſon having been prohibited from giving them the leaſt aſſiſtance, they all periſhed for want in the fields.

When we look back to the times of the reformation, we naturally expect to hear that thoſe, who had been perſecuted for their religious opinions, would never have become perſecutors themſelves: But as the great and good Dr. Secker ſays, "The old laven of perſe-
" cution was not ſoon forgot, 'till the ſpirit of
" genuine Chriſtianity baniſhed it out of the nation,
" and enlarged the minds of men, with uſeful know-
" ledge."

Let

Let us, therefore, bless the Almighty that we live under a government, where every man is permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience, so as he gives no offence to the peace of his neighbours. Our holy religion, like its Divine author, is all purity, benevolence and mercy; and as primitive Christianity was propagated in the world, by the purity of the lives of its professors, their integrity and innocent manners, so let us follow their example, and convince the infidel world, that we are the true disciples of Jesus Christ.

I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere friend,

THOMAS ROWE.

LETTER XL.

From a Lieutenant in the Army to a young Lady, the Sole Heiress of a Nobleman.

Dear Lady Barbara,

THE precipitate manner in which our regiment was hurried away from Northampton, prevented me from opening to you the dictates of an honest heart, but the pen must supply the deficiency of words. That I have been long enamoured of your many amiable accomplishments, there can be no reason to doubt; and although your elevated rank in life, prevented me from making a declaration of my passion, yet my sentiments were still the same; there could be no change in my love, my affections were unalterably fixed, and your person, your mental accomplishments, all conspiring together, formed the beloved object. I know that your noble father will never consent to our union; but, madam, let me beg you will only consider, that although I am not a nobleman's son, yet my father is descended from an

honourable family; and, I myſelf, as a gentleman and a ſoldier, have the honour to carry the King's commiſſion.

I have this, however, to ſay, that a noble generous mind cannot be confined down to forms; natural rights are the ſame in all ages and nations, nor can the laws of any country ſet thoſe rights aſide. It was never my intention to make you unhappy, by marrying in an imprudent manner; but I cannot help thinking that my paternal eſtate, joined to my commiſſion, will be ſufficient for both of us. Not that I would deſire my dear Lady Barbara to accompany me to the field of battle: God forbid; all that I deſire is, that you would let me remain in poſſeſſion of your heart; I ſay remain in poſſeſſion, for, from the whole of your conduct, and your amiable behaviour, I cannot help thinking, there was a time when I was not diſagreeable. I will chearfully ſubmit to all the fatigues of a campaign, upon condition you will give me your promiſe to be mine; and I ſhall expect your anſwer, directed to me at Southampton.

I am, dear Madam,

Your moſt devoted humble ſervant,

EDWARD GOULD.

LETTER XLI.

The young Lady's Anſwer.

SIR,

I Received your letter, and muſt freely acknowledge, that it has been attended with ſhocking circumſtances to me.—To ſay that I have not ſome regard for you, would be to tell a moſt horrid falſhood; to ſay that I prefer you to all others, would be inconſiſtent with female modeſty. To diſobey my parents, ſhocks me much; and yet, where I have given my heart I muſt beſtow my hand. To marry at the open-

ing

ing of a campaign, might make me for ever a miserable widow; and yet I love, and I would be both dutiful and honourable; dutiful to my parents, and honourable to the man who has placed his affections upon me.—But you are going to engage in battle, against the enemies of your country: Well, Sir; and what will support you under all the fatigues of a campaign? will fashionable follies answer such valuable purposes? No, Sir, they will not.

The corruption of humanity, the vices of men, the unbounded desire of acquiring power, and the insatiable thirst for vain honours, have made war, in some manner, necessary; and yet, the man of humanity, will conduct himself with tenderness. Does the injured rights of your country require your assistance? remember it is your duty to comply. Are you to be preferred to a high command in the army? remember that you must command men as good as yourself. God abhors cruelty, and severe will be the account you must make, if you treat those brave men with cruelty, who are venturing their lives in defence of their country. You may rise to a high command in the army, but remember that virtue wil raise you much higher. You have all my good wishes; and be assured, I never will give my hand to any one, 'till such time as I find you are not worthy of a place in my heart.

I am, &c.

BARBARA YELVERTON.

LETTER XLII.

From a young Woman in the Country to her Father in London.

Honoured Sir,

I Have been now about twelve months in this place, and 'till now I concealed my real situation from you, in hopes it would one day be better, but quite

the reverſe has taken place. During the firſt month I was here, Mrs. Elwell treated me with tenderneſs, but ſhe is fond of new faces; and now, that I begin to grow old in her ſervice, ſhe finds fault with every thing, although I never complain. You are my father, and it is my duty to tell you the truth. I am much better in health than formerly; and thanks to God and to you, I can get my living any where, ſo that I have no reaſon to ſtay here any longer, unleſs you deſire it, and your will ſhall always be a law to me. Not that I want to leave this place, but you will perhaps be ſurprized to hear, that in the compaſs of a few months, I have almoſt promoted the education of two young ladies, who were little better than reprobates, when I firſt took them under my care.—I think that the moſt proper method for my future plan of life, would be to keep a boarding ſchool; and you know I am, through your indulgence, in ſome meaſure qualified for it: I am not averſe to depend on the will of others; but I hope you will coincide with me, that it is my duty to make my circumſtances in this life as agreeable as poſſible. That, however, cannot be done while I remain here, and therefore, I hope you will have no objection to my coming to London.—In all things I will be directed by you; and I hope to have your anſwer.

I am, honoured Father, your dutiful Daughter,

ELIZABETH ARNOT.

LETTER XLIII.

The Father's Anſwer.

My Dear,

TO be precipitate in any thing, is the ſure ſign of a weak mind; to act with prudence will ever intitle you to reſpect. Your reaſons for leaving your place are to me ſatisfactory, but I could wiſh you would

would do it with honour; I mean that you would give your lady proper notice, that she might procure another teacher for her children: For my own part, I am sorry to hear of these things; but I have been deceived and so have you. But what signifies this in the common affairs of this world; we are not to depend upon the capricious wills of our fellow creatures, but we must do our duty, and leave the event to Providence: Your proposal for going into a school, is in all respects agreeable to me, and the more so, as I shall probably have it in my power to assist you. Before you leave your lady, I would have you spend a few hours with her, and in the most dispassionate manner, mention to her your reasons for coming away; taking care to act in the most delicate manner, so as not to give any offence, but to be always welcome again.

With open arms of affection, will you be received by your dear parents; but let me remind you, that wherever you go you will meet with affliction. You promised yourself happiness in the place where you now are: You have been disappointed, and perhaps you may be so again. The state of human nature in this world, is such, that no happiness can take place here below; I mean real happiness; for comparative happiness may be found. And now I think I may add, that as there is no real happiness in this world, yet, let our affliction be ever so great, we seldom lose hope, God seems to have implanted that in our nature, to support us under all trials, and to make us look forward to that everlasting country, where happiness will be complete. Upon the whole, my dear, do just as you please; and if you are to remove let it be as soon as you can, and let me know, that I may make ready to receive you in a proper manner.

I am, your affectionate Father,

WILLIAM ARNOT.

LETTER XLIV.

From a young Gentleman to a Clergyman on the Study of History.

Rev. Sir,

IT is now ſome years ſince you taught me the Greek and Roman Claſſics, and you know that I was always more fond of the hiſtorians than the poets. I find, however, that I am no hiſtorian; for I was a few evenings ago in company with ſome gentlemen whoſe friendſhip I would wiſh to cultivate; but ſuch is their great, and extenſive knowledge, that ſomething of a ſuperior dread reſts upon my mind when I ſee them make their appearance. They often mention the hiſtory of England as a ſubject as well known as the Accidence in Grammar; and the Roman hiſtory is to them as familiar as a common newſpaper; they know the laws and conſtitutions of the different nations in Europe, and with reſpect to the diſcoveries made by the moderns in different parts of the world, they can point out the cauſes and form rational conjectures concerning the conſequences. Why, my dear Sir, have not I learned theſe things? Am I too weak to comprehend them? Or what plan of reading ſhall I purſue, in order to make myſelf as accompliſhed as thoſe amiable perſons? I have, perhaps, too much time to ſpare; but ſtill I can aſſure you, that no part of that time ſhould be ſpent in idleneſs, if you would be ſo good as to point out for me a plan, by which I might conduct my ſtudies in hiſtory in an uſeful, becoming manner. Learning, without real knowledge, appears to me rather as a curſe than a bleſſing; and when I find how ignorant I am of many important facts, I bluſh; I am aſhamed, and think I have never yet learned any thing. This, however, my dear Sir, is not your fault, but it is my own: Perhaps, had I attended more to your inſtructions, I ſhould have had

no

no occasion to ask you for this advice; but, alas! youth and prudence are seldom found united; gaities and follies go hand in hand together, and the best of knowledge is neglected, in order to gratify our animal desires. I must, therefore, beg you will still be my friend; that you will communicate your best instructions to me; that you will point out the line of historical reading, and I can assure you, I shall abide by your advice. This is an act of charity which I dare say you will not deny, and be assured that I am,

Dear Sir, sincerely yours,

THOMAS YOUNG.

LETTER XLV.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am by no means surprized at what you mention concerning the company with whom you have lately contracted an acquaintance. While you was under my care, all I had to do was to instruct you in grammar learning; for, at that time, your tender years would not admit of my pointing out to you either the beauties or the utility of history. However, that I may be your friend to the last, remember that my care towards promoting your interest, shall extend to you in the way of my duty as long as I live in this world. I am extremely sorry to find that your own good sense could not have pointed out to you the proper methods by which history was to be read and understood. This, however, is generally the case with young men, who think themselves wise before they have learned any thing besides the jargon of a school education. We are, indeed, most wretched mortals; but this is no reason why we should always continue so. God is the God of order, and he would have us act as beings, whose continual dependence is upon

upon him, and to whom we are accountable for every exertion of our rational faculties.

With respect to the order in which history should be read, there are some few books in our language, and in French, but they are such wretched performances, that they serve rather to disgust, than instruct. The sacred history you have gone over already in your bible, but I think you ought likewise to read Josephus; who, although guilty of many errors, yet throws considerable light on the bible history, and continues his narration down to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. When you have finished Josephus, you must read the history of Great-Britain and Ireland; first in a large work, and afterwards in a short compendium, containing the leading facts, which (if you read with care) will bring to your mind every occurrence. Take great care never to neglect chronology; I mean the time when facts happened. I have often lamented the ignorance of many persons in that respect, who could relate every particular in the reign of a prince, and, at the same time, could not tell when he lived.

From the history of England, you must proceed to that of Rome, which will serve as an introduction to the history of all the states now existing in Europe: But do not leave the subject with the removal of the seat of empire, from Rome to Constantinople; you must continue it down to the middle of the fourteenth century, when the Greek empire was subdued by the Turks. If you attend properly to what you will meet with in this latter part of the history, you will easily become acquainted with every thing following after it.

I am, Sir, your sincere friend,

EDWARD TALBOT.

LETTER

LETTER XLVI.

From the Same, in Continuation.

Dear Sir,

AS a relaxation from general hiſtory, it will be neceſſary to read biography, or the lives of eminent perſons, of which I have often lamented, that we have not one proper collection; ſome being too ſmall, and others too large: However, you muſt uſe the beſt methods you can; for in biography there is much that ought to be remembered, and ſometimes as much ſhould be forgotten. In reading the lives of eminent perſons, take great care to avoid being led away by partial repreſentations. Lives are moſt commonly written by friends, prepoſſeſſed in favour of the party; or they are written by thoſe who have eſpouſed his ſentiments, or approved of his conduct. In ſuch caſes, truth is ſeldom found; but we muſt make allowances for human weakneſſes.

There is another ſpecies of hiſtory which, if you attend to, will finiſh your plan of education, and make you what you repreſent your friends to be. What I allude to, is voyages and travels, the moſt entertaining ſubjects that could be thought of; but, I am ſorry to ſay, they are ſo numerous, and that many of the authors relate things which do not ſeem to be conſiſtent with the truth. When I was young, I read moſt of the * voyages and travels at that time in print, but many more are now added. We want a judicious collection of them abridged in a proper

* The beſt collection of VOYAGES and TRAVELS we ever ſaw, and which contains all the late diſcoveries in the South-Seas, &c. is that ſelected by Mr. *John Hamilton Moore*. It is publiſhing in weekly numbers, price 6d. each, and comprehends accurate deſcriptions of every thing worthy of notice in the known world. By applying to any bookſeller, &c. you may be ſupplied with the above work, adorned with copper-plates, engraved in ſuperior ſtile, far beyond thoſe of any ſimilar publication.

manner

manner, containing every thing entertaining and instructing, without reciting a dry detail of uninteresting particulars.

These I would have you to read, as a relaxation from more severe studies; but, above all, let me beg you will consider the proper use of history. And first, it will make you acquainted with the state of human nature in all ages and nations. You will see, as it were, empires and states rising out of obscurity to grandeur; and you will see them sinking so low, as not to leave any more behind, besides an empty name. Secondly, you will become acquainted with the civil rights of mankind, and the principles upon which government is founded. You will learn what raised nations to grandeur, and what promoted their ruin. You will find that those persons, whom we are apt to consider as heroes, were only illustrious robbers and murderers, who trampled on the rights of their fellow creatures, in order to acquire fame. Lastly, history, in all its different branches, will present you with a most beautiful commentary on Divine Providence. You will discern the hand of God conducting the affairs of this lower world, and often making the passions of the worst of men subservient towards promoting the good of the whole: Nay, I may add, that an attentive perusal of history, will point out to you the necessity of a future state of rewards and punishments; for as vice is often triumphant in this world, and piety and virtue trampled on, so God, as a Just Being, will in the end render to every man according to his works. Such (my dear Sir) are the uses to be made of history; and if you attend to the subject, in the manner I have laid it down, you will be esteemed by your acquaintance, honoured by your friends, and reconciled to all that happens in the world.

I am, dear Sir, your sincere friend,

EDWARD TALBOT.

LETTER

LETTER XLVII.

From a poor working Man, imprisoned for Debt, to his Creditor.

SIR,

I Send this by the hands of my wife, whose afflictions exceed that of a widow; for a widow cannot have any hope of assistance from the dead, whereas the wife of a poor prisoner must both wish and hope for her husband's deliverance. Read this, Sir, and think a little of my situation: confined here within the walls of a prison, for a debt of four pounds contracted for necessaries during a long and severe illness, obliged to lie on the boards, nor am I able to work at my trade, which you know is of such a nature, that it cannot be carried on in prison. My poor wife has almost stripped herself naked, to procure me a little support; and have a child at her breast, she cannot go out to work. Ah, Sir! Can imprisoning a man's body pay debts! No: but it may render the debtor for ever incapable of paying what he owes to his creditors. Would you, Sir, had you been under the same afflicted circumstances as I was, considered yourself as guilty, in running into debt for a few of the necessaries of life? But supposing I had been either imprudent or extravagant, how can you repeat the Lord's Prayer in sincerity, while, instead of forgiving a fellow-creature, you are starving a whole family? I believe you will acknowledge, that you must either obtain pardon of God, or be cast out of his presence for ever. And can you expect that forgiveness, while you treat a poor family with cruelty? You are, Sir, the father of a family, and how do you know but your own children may one day suffer what I do now? Nay, how do you know what afflictions may happen to yourself before you go out of this world? God is merciful, and he loves mercy in his creatures. Let me therefore beg you will pity my poor family, and grant

grant me a letter of licence for one year, that I may have it in my power to pay you. Here I can pay nothing, but here I may ſtarve; nay, I am ſtarving already; and my poor wife, with my helpleſs children, are almoſt periſhing for bread: Surely you muſt have formed ſome bad opinion of me, otherwiſe you would never have proceeded ſo far. Remember what both you and myſelf have read in our Bibles, and ſurely you have not forgot the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew's Goſpel. Shew ſome compaſſion to an afflicted father, a diſconſolate mother, and three helpleſs infants: Set open the priſon doors where I am confined, that the hearts of the afflicted may ſing with joy. Treat my poor wife with tenderneſs, and let me beg you will ſend me a favourable anſwer.

I am, Sir, with reſpect,

Your humble ſervant,

JAMES PARRY.

LETTER XLVIII.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

I Have juſt received yours, and peruſed the melancholy contents with more concern than I am able to expreſs. It was repreſented to me, that you was an idle drunken fellow, who neglected your family, and ſpent more money in alehouſes than would have ſupported your wife and children. That was the reaſon why I took out a writ againſt you; for although I would not be guilty of an ill-natured action to any of my fellow-creatures, yet I cannot believe thoſe are worthy of the leaſt pity, who have not bowels of compaſſion to their children. To convince you, therefore, that I am not the tyrant you have repreſented me, I have given your wife five ſhillings, and

ſhall

ſhall this evening ſet you at liberty. As for granting you a letter of licence, it is altogether unneceſſary, for it would be attended with expence; and, I am certain, you could not pay the debt in one year. You may confide in me, that if you will act as an honeſt man to your family, and not frequent alehouſes, you will find me a friend, ready at all times to ſerve you. I will give you more time than you can reaſonably expect, and much more than you have deſerved, if report be true. Call for what you want at the bar in the priſon, and I will be with you about ſeven o'clock this evening.

I am, Sir, &c.

CHARLES ROBERTS.

LETTER XLIX.

From a young Man, a Carpenter, deſirous of ſetting up in Buſineſs, to the Perſon with whom he ſerved his Apprenticeſhip.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR tenderneſs to me, while I lived with you, encourages me to trouble you with this. To mention your having taught me an uſeful mechanical employment, is ſaying little, when I reflect on your care of my morals, and your regard for my intereſt, during the whole ſeven years of my apprenticeſhip. Virtue, however, cannot go unrewarded; and, as I am not the only inſtance of your benevolence, ſo I am fully perſuaded you enjoy more peace of mind, in conſequence of having done good, than thouſands of thoſe who have acquired what the world calls a fortune, at the expence of a good conſcience; being wounded in the ſight of God, while they were hated by their fellow creatures. But now I come to the main purport of this letter.

Mr. Beck, for whom I have worked upwards of three years, died a few weeks ago; and, having left no children in his own branch of business, every thing is to be disposed of. I am acquainted with all his customers, and they have promised to employ me, if I can only make interest sufficient to purchase his implements of workmanship, and stock in trade. That, however, is not in my power; for although I have lived extremely frugal, yet I have not saved any more than sixty pounds, which is not one sixth of the sum demanded. Credit, indeed, has been offered me for two years, but I have two objections. First, I am afraid it will not be in my power to make good the payment in that time: And secondly, I am not much in love with the executors. The truth is, they are profligates; and those who spend their own money in extravagance, will shew but little pity to me, if I am reduced to a state of distress. I have therefore ventured to present my case to you. Your goodness of heart is great, your character is established, and your fame has been long spread abroad among the virtuous and the pious. You know I have no security to give you, besides that of the word and handwriting of an honest man; and, if you will give me your advice and assistance in this affair, it shall ever be acknowledged with gratitude

By, Sir, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE BOOTH.

P. S. As the whole is to be sold by auction, I should be glad of your answer.

LETTER L.

The Answer.

SIR,

THREE days ago I received your letter, and would have answered it sooner, but I was laid up with a severe fit of the gout, which alone prevented

vented me; for you well know, that it was always my practice to anſwer letters, whether I complied with the requeſts contained in them or not. And now, my dear Sir, give me leave to paſs over all the encomiums you have beſtowed upon me; for the time for flattery is over, and nothing leſs than honeſt ſincerity will now go down with me.

There is not a ſenſible man in the world, who will blame you for endeavouring to ſettle in buſineſs; and I commend you for not putting yourſelf under the power of ſtrangers, who might, in an unguarded hour, lead you into a ſnare, and procure your ruin in this world. Alas! Sir, what ſavages are human creatures to each other! If their neighbours proſper, they give them aſſiſtance; if they are unfortunate, they are trampled on. There is an obſervation on trade, by an author in the laſt century, which has been ſince reduced into the form of a proverb; and, when I ſtate it to you in proverbial language, you will find that it corroborates the truth of what I have ſaid. "If your neighbour is going up the hill, ſet "your ſhoulder to him; if he is going down the "hill, put your foot upon him." The maxim is ſomething more than diabolical; but, without conſidering it any longer, I ſhall proceed to write you an anſwer.

From what I have heard from you, I find that it will require at leaſt five or ſix hundred pounds, to enable you to ſucceed your late maſter. This I am willing to lay down for you; and I have written a letter to a friend of mine, who will take your bond for the money. But I muſt not conclude this letter, without giving you ſome advice; which I hope you will not conſider as improper, eſpecially as it comes from an old man. Your buſineſs will naturally lead you into company; but, my dear Sir, let never drunkenneſs mark your character; never be the drunkards ſong. I have known a man, who had no buſineſs in company, deſtroy himſelf by drinking; and I have known a man, who had buſineſs in com-

pany, and always went home ſober. In company, pay your ſhare of the reckoning, but never go home like a beaſt. Keep an exact account of debtor and creditor every week; and, while you ſpeak with good manners to thoſe who are indebted to you, never be aſhamed to put them in mind of the neceſſity you are under, to diſcharge the duty incumbent upon you to your own creditors. You will have working men under you, but never pay them at an alehouſe, for this ſhews them a bad example; it corrupts their morals, and makes them neglect the duty they owe to God and to themſelves. Upon the whole, it is my ſincere deſire that God may give you ſucceſs, and make you an ornament to your brethren in the trade.

I am, your real friend,

SAMUEL ROBINSON.

LETTER LI.

From a young Merchant, to the Daughter of a Counſellor at Law.

My dear Miſs,

THE different opportunities I have had of being in your company, your many ſallies of wit and humour, joined to the moſt unaffected modeſty, have entirely won my heart, and I am become your more than humble ſlave.—You know I have been but lately ſet up in buſineſs, but the profits ariſing from the returns have exceeded my higheſt expectations. I find the ſlave trade extremely beneficial; and I doubt not but that, in a few years, I ſhall acquire a conſiderable fortune. But fortune is a ſmall conſideration with me, when I reflect on your many and valuable accompliſhments. It is undoubtedly incumbent upon me to look out for a partner for life; and who can I find equal to you? Perhaps you may think that I have an eye to your fortune; but, if ſo, you are much

much mistaken. I never heard what it was? and although your honoured father should think proper to cut you off with a shilling, yet that will be nothing to me. It is your merit I covet, your love I solicit, but your fortune, let it be ever so great, is beneath my notice.

And now, my dear, what objection can you have to me? Surely you cannot dislike me, on account of my being engaged in a life of trade.—Trade and commerce supports the interest, and promotes the glory of the nation. By trade and commerce the industrious poor are honestly employed, and by those they acquire a comfortable subsistance. Many of the noble families in England have had their rise from the mercantile world; and the ancestors of some of our Dukes, may glory as much in their being the descendants of Merchants, as others can of having sprung from illustrious robbers and murderers.

Consistent with the nature of my business, I cannot make you a settlement in money; but, what is much greater, I will attend to the duties of my station, and, if Providence should smile upon my endeavours, you will have no reason to complain.—I don't desire that any thing should be transacted in secret, and therefore should be extremely glad if you would shew this letter to your good father, who knows the affairs of this world too well, for me to give him any information.

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere admirer,

THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER LII.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and have attended to the contents with the utmost care. I have had no reason hitherto to complain of your conduct; but I must freely

tell you, that ſome of the arguments you have made uſe of, to ſet off your own importance, rather diſſuade than encourage me to enter into the marriage ſtate.—You are a merchant; how many thouſands of merchants have been bankrupts? You are concerned in the ſlave trade; and, let me aſk you, if that is conſiſtent either with humanity, or the law of God? Are not blacks, my dear Sir, the workmanſhip of the ſame Divine Being, who formed you and myſelf? In buying them, all thoſe of your profeſſion are the worſt of thieves; in ſelling them, you are moſt cruel murderers. By the firſt, you diſcover unbounded avarice; by the ſecond, unrelenting cruelty. By the firſt, you trample upon the ſacred rights of the whole human race; by the ſecond, you ſeek to acquire riches, which, in the end, will be accurſed. And ſhall I, Sir, give my hand to that man, who, in order to acquire a fortune, tramples upon the rights of humanity? Can I expect the Divine bleſſing upon a ſubſiſtence in this life, which has been acquired by iniquitous means? No, Sir: Let me love affluence, let me court grandeur, but let innocence and honeſt induſtry be the means to procure them. I muſt further tell you, that I am no friend to a mercantile life; a commiſſion of bankruptcy would make me a beggar, and you perhaps ſomewhat worſe. Your diſintereſtedneſs, concerning my fortune, has but little weight with me: It may conſiſt in words, but I am a ſtranger to your real ſentiments. I am glad you have permitted me to ſhew your letter to my ever honoured father, and you will ſoon receive an anſwer from him. In the mean time, whatever may be my private ſentiments, I ſhall continue to correſpond with you, 'till every point is cleared up; and, be aſſured, that I am

Your well-wiſher,

ELIZABETH NARES.

LETTER

LETTER LIII.

The Counsellor's Letter to the young Merchant.

Dear Sir,

MY daughter, who was never wanting in duty to me, has just now shewn me a letter from you, on the subject of marriage. I do assure you, Sir, that is a state, which, as it is necessary for the existence of society, so no reasonable person ought to have any objection to it. I have always found, that those who despise marriage are, in most respects, men of loose characters; not acting from principle, but following the instincts of unbribed lusts, gross passions, and unlawful desires. But it is not so with me, which leads me to consider the subject-matter of your letter, and I shall do it with as much candour as possible.

I think that, as a merchant, you set too little store by money; for that emblem of riches, is the only article you have to deal in. Your business as a merchant, is not better than that of a lawyer. We seek money, and, when we get it, we keep it; but what the merchant lays out to-day, he expects it will bring him much more, and thus his stock is continually fluctuating. I am afraid, that if you despise money, you will never make any great figure as a merchant, for a mercantile life is a life of care; and, if you look back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, you will find many respectable names in the order of knighthood, who, by their attention to mercantile affairs, were able in advanced life to retire from business, and purchase considerable estates. For my own part, I cannot have any objection to your union with my daughter; only that I am afraid, a levity of disposition will lead you off from business, and an idle merchant is like a drone in a bee-hive. I have heard an exceeding good character of you, and I doubt not

but

but you are deſerving of it; you will therefore be ſo obliging as to write to me, and I will conſult with my daughter concerning the affair.

I am, Sir, &c.

S. NARES.

LETTER LIV.

The Merchant's Anſwer.

Honoured Sir,

WITH pleaſure I received yours, and have conſidered what you mention with as much care as I poſſibly could. I am extremely glad that, like many gentlemen, you do not deſpiſe the mercantile world. I have often read, that the French and Spaniards had a ſtrong averſion to merchandize; but I know, from experience, that they have thought better ſince, and at preſent are as fond of the ſweets ariſing from it, as either we or the Dutch. Indeed, for my own part, I can ſee no other danger ariſing from merchandize, beſides what is the common effect of Divine providence, I mean loſſes at ſea; or, which is perhaps ſtill worſe, the wickedneſs of men. The firſt we ſhould ſubmit to, with reſignation, truſting that God will, in ſome other way, make up the loſs: The laſt we muſt likewiſe ſubmit to, becauſe human nature is always the ſame; and, I am ſorry to ſay, that there are too many men in the world, who are utterly unacquainted with honeſty; who have no principle to pay their debts.

But your grand objection is, my deſpiſing money. Let me beg you will excuſe an expreſſion, made uſe of by a young man in love; for you well know, that all lovers are blind. But the truth is, the expreſſion alluded to, ſo far from being unguarded, was the effect of conſideration. I think I have a ſufficient capital to carry on trade, and you know it is too much

much the fashion to court young ladies for their fortunes. It was therefore from a principle of honour, that I did not desire any money; well knowing that if my merit should, in time, entitle me to any, it would not be denied. Your daughter's merits are superior to riches, and her prudence will enable me to make a proper use of what little I have. I hope therefore the objection is removed, and that you will not obstruct my happiness, if I can obtain your daughter's consent. You will receive inclosed a letter for her, in which I have explained, at large, every thing contained in her's; and, if she gives me leave, I will wait on her.

I am honoured Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER LV.

The Merchant's Letter to the young Lady.

Dear Miss,

I Received yours, with one from your honoured father; and, as I have written to him, you will probably see my letter. In the mean time, I am called upon by you, to answer a question relating to a subject which I have, perhaps, too little understood. It was my lot to serve my clerkship to a merchant, who had great concerns in the slave trade, by which he acquired a fortune; and, as it was so commonly practised, I never seriously considered it. I am sorry to say, that long practice, even in bad things, becomes as it were a second nature, and habits are not easily shaken off. There are, however, circumstances in life, which do more towards the reformation of the human conduct, than the best instructions that can be given. Love opens a large extended

tended field for improvement, especially where the beloved object is virtuous. You have taught me more concerning the natural rights of my fellow creatures, than ever I knew before; and, to convince you that I am a tractable scholar, I have resolved to relinquish all connections with the slave trade, as soon as I can settle my accounts with my correspondents. Be assured that I am not hard-hearted, and much less would I rejoice, to see my fellow creatures in a state of slavery. It is a happiness, I am not confined to one species of merchandize; for I am acquainted with most branches, and consequently can adhere to that which is most beneficial to the community, looking for nothing more for myself, than the just reward of my honest industry; and this is what, I think, you will never find fault with.

And now, my dear, have I not given you the utmost satisfaction? and, the Divine Being is my witness, that sincerity has guided my pen. Let me add further, that in my addresses to you, I look to nothing of a romantic nature, but could wish to spend the marriage life with the same pleasure as some do courtship. A circumstance which some would rejoice in, has happened to me; and although advantageous, is melancholy. My brother James died about six months ago in the East-Indies, and has left a considerable fortune; but I shall not turn any part of it into trade, 'till I see how things go on with my present capital. I long to hear from you, but much more to call you my own. Nothing, but the duty of my profession, shall separate me from your company; and we may be happy, if we are only agreeable.

I am, dear Miss,

Your affectionate lover,

THOMAS ASHTON.

LETTER

LETTER LVI.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and ſhall begin with the latter part of it, namely, the death of your brother. I am of opinion, Sir, that you have not conſidered that ſubject with ſo much ſerioufneſs as it deſerves; but ſtill I am unable to enter into the inmoſt receſſes of the human heart. Do I love my brother? Do I wiſh for a continuance of his life? And ſhall I rejoice in the enjoyment of his fortune? I will freely acknowledge, that under ſuch circumſtances, there are commonly a variety of paſſions warring againſt each other, and it too frequently happens that avarice gets the better of compaſſion, and we forget our moſt beloved relations as ſoon as we are put in poſſeſſion of their inheritance. Be not offended, Sir, when I tell you, that the time is not far diſtant when you and myſelf will, like your brother, be conſigned to the ſilent grave; "where the wicked ceaſe from troubling, and "where the weary are at reſt." The death of your brother ſhould teach you to ſet a proper value upon all temporal enjoyments, but not like a popiſh recluſe, to neglect the duties of your ſtation.

I have often thought, that thoſe who frequently meditate on death are beſt prepared for it, and its terrors loſe their force; the vipers ſting is plucked out, in conſequence of familiarity. I have no doubt but your brother died truſting for ſalvation in the merits of a Divine Redeemer, ſo that I ſhall not ſay any thing more on the ſubject; for if I did not conſider you as well acquainted with the firſt principles of the Chriſtian religion, I ſhould not write to you as a friend. However, I conſider you as acting conſiſtent with the principles you profeſs, and therefore I ſhall open my mind to you without reſerve.

The

The letter you ſent to my father is, in all reſpects, ſatisfactory; and I take it for granted, that you acted upon honourable principles; for I am no ſtranger to the mercenary way in which matches are commonly made up. A man may deſpiſe an attachment to riches, and yet he may make a proper uſe of the benefits of Divine Providence. Your reſolution concerning the ſlave trade gives me much pleaſure, and happy ſhall I think myſelf if one word written by me ſhould be the means of putting an end to a practice contrary to the laws of humanity, and ſuch as will ever bring down a curſe upon thoſe concerned in it. I could wiſh for the Divine bleſſing; but how can I expect it while I am rioting on the ſpoils of my fellow creatures? This objection being overcome, I look towards your propoſal of marriage, and if you continue to act in the ſame manner you have hitherto done, I cannot reaſonably object to an union with you. Indeed I am afraid I muſt take you for better or worſe; but 'tis a comfort, I hope I have fortitude ſufficient to meet the ſtrongeſt temptations. My father agrees with what you have propoſed, and could wiſh that you would adhere to your reſolution of letting your brother's money remain in the funds 'till ſuch time as you can fully experience the nature of trade, and then you will know the value of money, with the uſes to which it ought to be applied. We expect to ſee you here, and perhaps I ſhall then have no objections againſt giving my hand where my heart is already placed.

I am, dear Sir, ſincerely yours,

ELIZABETH NARES.

LETTER

LETTER LVII.

From a Lady to a Clergyman, on her Husband and Son being killed in Battle.

Rev. Sir,

YOUR discourses from the pulpit have often instructed me in the way of my duty; by your pious instructions I have learned to reduce the principles of my religion to practice; and your example, as a living monitor continually before me, must never be eradicated from my mind. But, alas! I am now obliged to have recourse to the fountain head; with a heart overloaded with affliction, I apply to God and to you. And will my pious pastor bear with the infirmities of a weak, a distressed woman? Yes, he will; and he will become my consolatory guide.

The last post brought me an account of the battle of Minden, where my dear husband and beloved son were both killed, fighting for the rights of their injured country. Ah! what a stroke to me! I am left without a husband, and without a child; my widowhood must be spent in sorrow, nor can any earthly enjoyments give me comfort. Ah, my dear Sir! why should we suffer for the ambition of princes? Shall families be reduced to misery? Shall parents and children be destroyed, because kings will not remain contented with those poor spots of earth which Providence has assigned them? Has my good and gracious God ordered these things? Or do they happen in consequence of the unalterable decrees of fate? I declare, I am lost in amazement when I look at the mystery of Divine Providence, and as I can only judge of causes from their effects, I am sometimes induced to become an infidel. Is God unjust? May my heart never nourish such a thought! and yet I am, on many occasions, ready to be discontented. What means shall I use, my dear Sir, to reconcile myself to the various ways of Divine Providence? My heart is agitated; but I know you will sympathize

with me. It is difficult to ſtruggle between duty and natural affections, and God knows I am but a poor feeble creature. Let me beg you will give me your advice, for no mortal ever ſtood more in need of it; and whatever you ſay will be like balm to bleeding wounds.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your afflicted friend,

M. S.

LETTER LVIII.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

Dear Madam,

YOURS was delivered at my houſe while, conſiſtent with the nature of my profeſſion, I was attending to the grave the remains of a dear departed friend. Such, my dear madam, is the ſtate of human nature in this world, that one melancholy circumſtance often follows another. Every thing is deceitful to thoſe who place their confidence in earthly happineſs; but to thoſe who can look beyond the grave, all the troubles of this life are no more than trifles. The account you have ſent me of the death of your huſband and ſon, is certainly of a calamitous nature; but there is nothing in it ſtrange; nothing new; it is what we muſt certainly expect to meet with on the ſtage of this lower world. "Man is born to trouble "as the ſparks fly upwards;" but unfortunately for us poor mortals, we ſeldom think of affliction 'till, like a diſagreeable viſitor, it meets us at our doors, or, perhaps, penetrates into our moſt ſecret chambers, yea, into our hearts.

I am no ſtranger, madam, to your unaffected piety; but I am afraid, you have not conſidered what the wiſe man ſays, namely, "To be humble in the day "of proſperity, and in the day of adverſity to con-"ſider."

You

You have enjoyed many pleasing days, in company with your husband. You have brought up a son, who was an honour to his country; and, fighting in defence of that injured country, both husband and son are now consigned to the silent grave. And pray, madam, what is extraordinary in all this? Has it not happened in the world before you was born? and will it not take place when you are dead? You seem to find fault with the conduct of princes, for entering into what you esteen unnecessary wars; but let me put you in mind, that we in humble life, are not capable of penetrating into the cabinets of politicians. We act as subordinate beings, and the higher affairs of government should give us no manner of uneasiness; because many things will frequently happen that we are not able to account for, and this should reconcile us to the events of Divine Providence. You say much concerning the warring passions in your mind, but you have not said any thing concerning your resignation to the Divine will. I am afraid, madam, you have long dreamed of happiness, of the most uninterrupted pleasures, without considering that the Divine Being often affects us, in order to humble us. Do you, madam, imagine that you are to live for ever? And is the life of your husband more valuable than that of another person? Many brave men have laid down their lives, in defence of the rights of their country; families have been distressed in consequence, but Providence hath often smiled on the survivors, and the children have inherited the reward of their father's virtues. You must not arraign the conduct of Divine Providence, but rest assured in your own mind, that the Judge of all the earth will do right. But I am just called away, and therefore will write again to you as soon as possible.

I am, dear madam,

Your sincere well-wisher,

M. A.

LETTER LIX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Madam,

IN my laſt I took notice of the outlines of yours, and now I ſhall endeavour to enter into the ſpirit of it. According to the dictates of natural religion, every human being is obliged to ſubmit to the diſpenſations of Providence. This is what reaſon teacheth, and what humanity ſhould comply with. Shall God act as the ſovereign of the univerſe, and ſhall we not ſubmit to what God has appointed? Are we to chuſe what we would have for ourſelves? Then we are the governors of the world, and God is no more than an inſignificant being. I will freely acknowledge, that natural religion is, in many reſpects, extremely dark; but ſtill, when we make a proper uſe of reaſon, we cannot be much led aſtray. Truth is of a ſacred nature, and there is no great difficulty in acquiring the knowledge of its firſt principles. But, my dear madam, I have ſomething to mention to you of greater weight, than the religion of nature; I mean, Divine revelation.—Human reaſon is weak, but God has provided a remedy; when we were without help, Chriſt died for the ungodly. But he not only died, he roſe again; and, in conſequence of his reſurrection and aſcenſion, he confirmed poor ſinners in the belief of immortality; he comforted them againſt the terrors of the grave. If you have the leaſt regard for the Chriſtian religion? would you wiſh well to your own ſoul? would you deſire everlaſting happineſs? then, madam, reſign yourſelf to God. Beloved as the objects are, which have been torn from you; yet, if you put your truſt in the Divine Being, there are ſtill greater bleſſings in ſtore for you. You will in time enjoy tranquillity of mind, and in eternity everlaſting happineſs.

How

How happy, madam, could I perſuade you to look forward to eternity. There you will enjoy your huſband's and your ſon's company, and there you will enjoy the Divine favour.

Reſignation to the Divine will is a ſure ſign of humility; and, if you truſt in him, the Lord God will be your everlaſting protector. Humble yourſelf under the mighty hand of God, and he will exalt you in due time. Be not diſpleaſed with God, but look upon him as your friend. Indeed the conſolations of Chriſtianity are far ſuperior to any thing I can mention; and, forgetting relations, that will ſupport you in your old age. May theſe ſentiments make a laſting impreſſion on your mind; and, be aſſured, that

I am, dear madam,

Your affectionate friend,

M. A.

LETTER LX.

From a Clergyman to a young Nobleman.

My Lord,

WITH inexpreſſible grief have I heard, that you have given yourſelf up to all manner of debauchery; that you have ruined a young woman, who might have been ſtill virtuous, had it not been for the temptations which you threw in her way. Is it poſſible that the youth, whoſe education I ſuperintended with ſo much pleaſure, ſhould now become an abandoned profligate? But I know it is true, for I have received information from thoſe who would not deceive me. Ah! my dear Lord, have you forgotten all the inſtructions I gave you? Yes; And what is ſtill worſe, and attended with innumerable aggravations, you have deſpiſed the law of God, and tram-

pled on the rights of humanity. Was it for this, that I carried you in my arms? that I pointed out to you, in your infant years, the amazing beauties of creation; and taught you to love God as a friend, rather than to fear him as a ſovereign?

Let me beg you to call upon me, and I will not ſay what anger inſpires, what prejudice ſuggeſts; but the effuſions of the ſincereſt love ſhall be poured out upon my once beloved pupil. You muſt not be afraid of me, for you will neither find me an angry pedagogue, nor an imperious tyrant. I am no ſtranger to youthful paſſions, and therefore the greater lenity ſhould be ſhewn: But, however, decency, morality and religion, ſhould ſpeak more powerfully than the ſenſes. What is man, my dear Lord, if he takes council only from his own corrupted heart? Alas! I find, within myſelf, the ſame paſſions which have led you aſtray, and which would do the ſame with myſelf, were I not directed by conſcience and the fear of God. Ah! what are poor mortals, without the Divine aſſiſtance? Be not afraid to wait on me; my profeſſion, as a Miniſter of the Goſpel, teaches me to do all the good that lays in my power; and therefore I will leave nothing undone to reſtore you to your friends, and to reinſtate you with tenderneſs in the paths of virtue. Come, my dear pupil; and, if you will not, I will find you out wherever you are. You may think, you may project, you may act as you pleaſe; but I am determined through the Grace of God, that you ſhall not be loſt. "There "is more joy in heaven, over one ſinner that repent- "eth; than over ninety and nine juſt perſons, who "need no repentance."

I am, my dear Lord,

Sincerely yours,

G. G.

LETTER

LETTER LXI.

From the Same to the Same.

My dear Lord,

WITH horror have I ſpent the laſt night in my bed, when I conſidered, that inſtead of your calling upon me, you actually denied to be ſeen, when I came to your lodgings. Am I your enemy? Have I forgot the obligations I am under to your ever honoured father? Would you have me fall upon my aged knees, and beg you will return to your duty? I will do ſo, if you will ſuffer me. I know you have a noble, generous ſoul; and although, for ſome time, you have been contaminated by vice, yet I ſtill hope for your reformation.

Do you imagine I can find fault with you? None, but hypocritical devotees, take pleaſure in putting themſelves into a paſſion. Bleſſed be God, I have read the Goſpel, which ſhould be the rule of your conduct and of mine; and, in that divine book, I learned that Chriſt, with open arms of compaſſion, received the chief of ſinners. How attentive then ought we to be, not to break the bruiſed reed, nor quench the ſmoaking flax? I doubt not, but you remember Euſebius, an author whom I often recommended to your peruſal in your younger years, before you had polluted your mind with the groſſeſt impurities. That celebrated author tells us, that John, the beloved diſciple of Chriſt, in his advanced years, reclaimed a young man from the ways of iniquity, and then left him to the care of the Biſhop of Epheſus. Evangelical duty obliged the holy Apoſtle, for ſome time, to be abſent; and, upon his return, he aſked the Biſhop, what was become of the young man? The Biſhop anſwered, that he was loſt; by which he meant, that he had given himſelf up to looſe abandoned company; that he had forſaken his God, and was ſunk into all manner of impurity.

Bring

Bring me a horſe, ſaid the holy apoſtle; and, notwithſtanding his great age, he went in ſearch of the unhappy youth, and found him along with a band of robbers in the mountains. He brought the deluded youth back to a ſenſe of his duty, and he became an eminent preacher of the Goſpel: Nay, what is more, he ſealed his doctrine with his blood; he was adorned with the crown of martyrdom. And do I not ſeek you, my Lord, when all your friends have abandoned you? Nay, I will perſecute you, 'till I can once more reconcile you to the paths of virtue. It is now above twenty years ſince I firſt knew you, and therefore I ought to have ſome aſcendancy over you; yea, more than thoſe graceleſs companions, who have done all that lay in their power to pollute your mind, to corrupt your morals, and to make you a diſgrace to human ſociety. At this moment, tears of compaſſion for you flow from my eyes, and from the nobleſt motives; namely, religion and friendſhip. Come, my dear Lord, and dry them up; and then my grey hairs, like thoſe of your noble father, will go down with peace to the grave.

I am, dear Lord,

Your affectionate friend,

G. G.

LETTER XLII.

The young Nobleman's Anſwer.

Reverend Sir,

IT was about nine o'clock laſt night, when I received your letter; and, at that time, I was juſt waiting to attend one of thoſe unhappy creatures who had been ſeduced by me (if poſſible) as wicked as myſelf. I read your letter (do not ſay with ſcorn) perhaps to be remembered for ever, becauſe it induced me to look back to the firſt. Is there ſuch a thing

thing as Divine Providence, to conduct the affairs of this lower world? Yes, there must be, or my eyes would never have been directed to my bible, while I was meditating on unlawful pleasure. My bible! ah! why do I mention that sacred book? the title to eternal inheritance, but despised by a poor unworthy wretch, as I am. Yes, Sir, in the agitation of mind I laboured under, a neglected bible presented itself to my view. That book you first taught me to read, and would to God I had never forgotten what its precepts contain. But I have sinned, and what shall I say unto that God, "in "whom I live, move, and have my being!" Gracious heaven! what condition is my mind in at present! A guilty conscience teares me in pieces; Divine mercy presents me with a gleam of hope. One moment I look upon my sins as unpardonable, the next I remember that Christ died for the ungodly. Shall I lay violent hands on myself, like the Romans of old? Alas! I am not the author of my own being; nor has any man a right to take that away, which is not in his power to restore. Self-murder! ah! my God, may I never die a Roman death. But, alas! my passions; how shall I keep them under proper restraint? I abhor myself, and repent in dust and in ashes.

Tender, indeed, are the expressions made use of by my dear tutor; but how shall a poor, unfortunate, infatuated prodigal, reduce them to practice? Difficult as that task may be, I will endeavour to comply with your injunctions. The grace of God will direct me: but I have trampled upon his grace. My dear Sir, is there such a place as hell? Yes, there is, for I have a hell in my bosom. Ah! where shall I fly from myself? Ruined innocence! afflicted parent! despairing youth, and sinking old age, all conspire against me, and call aloud for the Divine vengeance! If ever you had the least regard for me, let me beg you will call upon me once more; and, I can assure you, you will not be denied. Indeed you would

never

never have been denied, but for guilt. Guilt creates ſin, and thus doth Satan reward his vaſſals. I will be implicitly obedient; I will, *if poſſible, perform* what you preſcribe. May God direct your pen, and may humanity take place in your heart.

I am, reverend Sir,

Your penitential and affectionate friend,

L.

LETTER LXIII.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

My dear Lord,

REfreſhing as a ſhower of rain deſcends upon the parched ground, during the ſultry month of July; chearful as it is for the merchant to find that his ſhip, reported to have been loſt, has got ſafe into the harbour; and comforting for a parent to hear of his prodigal ſon, returning to his duty; ſuch was your letter to me. Was I ever your enemy? Heaven forbid: But now your repentance, which I hope is ſincere, will comfort my declining years, and make the winter of age reſemble the beauties of ſummer.

You deſire me to point out to you the line of duty, conſiſtent with your preſent circumſtances, as the effect of your former conduct. My advice! yes; and my advice ſhall be given with the ſame ſincerity as if I were to appear the next moment before the tribunal of that unerring Being, who will do juſtice to all the children of men.

You have detached yourſelf from thoſe companions, who firſt ſeduced you from the paths of virtue; but you muſt pity, not hate them: Nay, the moment you find that any of them become ſenſible of their folly, you muſt point out to them thoſe pleaſures

which

which arise from sincere and genuine repentance. Spend two or three hours, every day, in reading books on moral, divine, and entertaining subjects; for, unless you mix these together, you will be apt to acquire a melancholy habit; and religion, the most pleasant thing in the world, will create disgust, and your best efforts will be rendered ineffectual. Take an exact survey of your estate, and pay off your debts as soon as possible; and this you ought to do, that you may have it in your power to be generous. When these debts are paid off, let me beg you will then give something to relieve the necessities of the poor; and, for God's sake, never shut your hand, where you see an apparent object of distress. You have seduced a young woman; let me beg you will settle an annuity on her, to enable her to live above prostitution. This is a duty you owe to God, to your conscience, to the community at large, and to the injured woman. The blood of Christ cleanseth from all impurities; but, that we may become worthy of that inestimable blessing, we must exert our utmost efforts, in making atonement for our former faults. Spend some hours every day, in chearful company; but always take care that no expression is made use of, by which religion is defamed, or the name of God wantonly traduced. When this happens, withdraw quietly, and say nothing. The repetition of blasphemous or indecent expressions, wears off from the mind all regard for God and his law; and such is the corrupted state of human nature, that the poison is insensibly drunk in, and poor mortals are ruined, before they so much as know that their conduct leads them towards a dangerous precipice. Well might the Psalmist say, "Lord, what is man, that "thou art mindful of him!"

It is long since you turned your back upon Divine ordinances; to publick worship you have been a stranger. Will you take the advice of one, who first taught you there was a God, and that you had an immortal soul? Yes, I think you will, and it shall be

be in the words of the Prophet; "Return and seek "the Lord, until he come and rain down righteous-"ness upon you." A regular attendance upon public worship, nourisheth the fear of God in the soul; and the more we attend to it, the greater pleasure do we take in religious duties. Be tender and compassionate to your tenants; always remembering, that let your station in this world be ever so elevated, yet you are still the servant of God. He exacts special obedience from you, and he will reward or punish you, according to your actions. Upon the whole, if you attend to what I have said, you will find the truth of those emphatical expressions, "Wisdom's ways "are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are "peace."

I am, my dear Lord, with great sincerity,

Your affectionate friend,

G. G.

LETTER LXIV.

From a Merchant retired from Business to a Clergyman.

On RELIGION.

Rev. Sir,

IT is long since I wished to have it in my power to retire from business; but the entanglements of trade, joined to the earnest desire I always had to leave the world with a fair character, kept me confined to the counting-house, to Lloyd's, and to the Exchange, 'till the sixtieth year of my age. I have been now about six months in the country, and although I have constantly attended public worship, yet I am afraid my heart is often absent; I worship God in words, while, I doubt, my affections are not fixed upon him, as a Being of infinite benevolence, able to supply

ſupply all my wants. I am ſorry to ſay, that beautiful as the country appears, yet I have been ſo long accuſtomed to London, that I often wiſh to return. But what can I do in the place of which I took a formal leave? And, perhaps, you will ſay, that it is much more proper that I ſhould be looking forward to eternity, and preparing myſelf for the enjoyment of everlaſting happineſs, in the preſence of my God and my Redeemer.

Alas, Sir! how ſhocking it is to be confined many years to buſineſs! It leads us to forget God and eternity; and we enter, in old age, upon the practice of religious duties with reluctance and diſcontent. Why thoſe jarring paſſions in the mind of a poor mortal? Is there no contentment in this life? Can nothing reconcile us to thoſe circumſtances in which providence has placed us? Poſſibly there is; but I muſt truſt to your directions, and as I have always experienced your friendſhip, I hope you will aſſiſt me on the preſent occaſion, and let me beg you will let me hear from you as ſoon as poſſible.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your ſincere friend,

T. B.

LETTER LXV.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

SIR,

RELIGION does not conſiſt in wearing a black, a brown, a white, or a ſcarlet habit. The utmoſt receſſes of a cloiſter cannot change the human paſſions. Merchandize, if conducted in a proper manner, can never lead the mind from the practice of virtue; nor can ſolitude alone make us happy, unleſs we retire with ſuitable diſpoſitions. I am afraid you have ſpent your beſt days in the purſuit of trifles, and now you offer to God the remains of a decayed conſtitution, and a weakened mind. The meaning

is this; you have ſpent youth and manhood to acquire money in the buſy world, and when you could enjoy the pleaſures of life no longer, you retired to the country to offer the ſhattered remains to God. Is this an acceptable ſacrifice? No, my dear Sir; and let me tell you in ſincerity, that I am not in the leaſt ſurprized that you ſhould find no happineſs in the country. God is every where preſent, and he will dwell with the meek and lowly in heart. You muſt either bring your mind down to your preſent ſituation, or you muſt embrace a ſituation ſuitable to your mind. The firſt may be a hard taſk; the ſecond may be eaſily complied with, but as it will rather be conſidered as improper for you to return to a life of trade, I ſhall preſume to give you what advice I can, and you may depend on it, that what I write ſhall be dictated by an honeſt heart, which wiſhes well to your intereſt.

Walk much into the fields, and reflect on the wiſdom and goodneſs of that Divine Being, who gave life to inanimate matter; who cloaths univerſal nature with unexampled grandeur; who ſent his ſon to die for ſinners; and who daily bears with our provocations. Look back to the mercantile world as a ſtate in which you have waſted much time; examine your heart, whether you have ever done injury to your neighbours; and if ſo, make a juſt recompence. Spend one hour every day in reading books of devotion, and another in ſuch as will enliven your mind. Do not confine yourſelf much to your cloſet, but rather court ſocial friendſhip and agreeable company. Look forward to eternity, but ſtill conſider, that God looks upon it as highly criminal in any one to conſider religion as of a diſagreeable nature. Thoſe who love God, will wiſh to be in his company as ſoon as poſſible, but they will wait with patience his appointed time. Be innocent; be virtuous; be pious; be chearful, my dear friend, and you will be happy.

I am, Sir, yours ſincerely,

C. D.

LETTER LXVI.

From a Lady in the Country to her Neice in London.

Dear Sophia,

I Received yours a few days ago, and ſhould have been extremely happy had not what you ſolemnly aſſerted turned out to be a falſhood. Alas, my dear! you may imagine yourſelf capable of playing the hypocrite with me, but you cannot deceive God; nay, you cannot always deceive the world. If there is an omniſcient ſpy on your conduct above, ſo you will find ſome here below. This is but too true, of which I will give you an inſtance.

Yeſterday Mr. Bailey from London, whom you well know, called upon me, and informed me, that you keep company with Mr. Harris, whom you know to be a rake, a man of no fortune, and one whoſe debauchery has brought ſhame upon his family and ruin upon himſelf. He has already promiſed marriage to ſeveral young ladies; he has deceived ſome, and ruined others: He is, in all reſpects, a villain; and therefore if you perſiſt in keeping company with him, your character, ſoul and body will be ruined.

And did I watch with care over your infant years when your mother died, that you ſhould give yourſelf up to a ruffian? Did I inſtruct you in the principles of virtue and religion, and do you now trample upon and deſpiſe every thing ſacred? Have I ſecured you a fortune, and is that to be ſquandered away by a lawleſs ruffian? Ah, my dear Sophia! bring not my grey hairs with ſorrow to the grave. The money I ſaved for you was but a ſecondary object with me; it was to promote your happineſs in time and eternity that I ſpent ſo many years in conducting your education. Have you no bowels of compaſſion for me? And if ſo, have you none for yourſelf? Will you give over all manner of intercourſe with that dangerous perſon, and come and reſide with me? Do not imagine that I want to make you unhappy: God

is this; you have ſpent youth and manhood to acquire money in the buſy world, and when you could enjoy the pleaſures of life no longer, you retired to the country to offer the ſhattered remains to God. Is this an acceptable ſacrifice? No, my dear Sir; and let me tell you in ſincerity, that I am not in the leaſt ſurprized that you ſhould find no happineſs in the country. God is every where preſent, and he will dwell with the meek and lowly in heart. You muſt either bring your mind down to your preſent ſituation, or you muſt embrace a ſituation ſuitable to your mind. The firſt may be a hard taſk; the ſecond may be eaſily complied with, but as it will rather be conſidered as improper for you to return to a life of trade, I ſhall preſume to give you what advice I can, and you may depend on it, that what I write ſhall be dictated by an honeſt heart, which wiſhes well to your intereſt.

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forbid; for only place your affections upon a deserving object, and with pleasure will I give my consent to your union. I must insist on an answer to this, and happy shall I be to find that you have complied with my request.

I am, your loving aunt,

S. B.

LETTER LXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Dear Aunt,

THE perusal of your letter has filled me with sorrow, shame and confusion. Two days have elapsed since I received it, and during the whole of that time, my mind has been agitated with the most violent passions: but still, Madam, I am not a hypocrite, although my conduct may have given just reasons for your being offended. I am sorry to tell you, that Mr. Harris insinuated himself into my company, before I was acquainted with his real character: Prudence and youth are seldom united, and I began to place my affections on an object who had nothing to recommend him besides an exterior appearance: Some days before I received your letter, I was put in mind of my danger by a worthy gentleman, who often visits at my uncle's, and it was my determined resolution to break off with him as soon as possible; and although it is no easy matter to remove the affections from what they have been improperly placed on, yet I trust in the Divine Being I have done it.

And now, Madam, will your humanity draw a veil over youthful follies? If you do not so, then I am ruined for ever, but I hope not. By you I was first taught to address my Maker: Your conduct made religion amiable to me, and will you now forsake me when I have complied with your request and returned

to

to my duty? The diſſipations of public entertainments, and the blandiſhments of dreſs, have no charms for me, when I conſider the ſuperior pleaſures ariſing from practical duties. Let me therefore beg, Madam, that you will once more receive me into your affectionate arms, and your will ſhall direct my conduct. I intend coming to you next week, but you muſt not upbraid me, on account of my former conduct: I am ſorry for it, and what can I ſay more. My heart is not ſo corrupted as you thought it was: No, Madam? I have not forgot my God, my Redeemer, my Saviour. Stretch out to receive me, your benevolent arms of compaſſion, and then you will, by the cords of love, draw a young creature out of the pit of deſtruction, and make her happy.

I am, dear aunt, your affectionate niece,

S. B.

LETTER LXVIII.

From a young Man who had run away from his Apprenticeſhip to his Father, deſiring him to intercede with his Maſter.

Honoured Sir,

I Have been juſt reading the parable of the Prodigal Son, and, from that affecting paſſage in ſacred ſcripture, I am encouraged, with ſome hopes, that you will forgive my folly, and once more endeavour to reconcile me to my juſtly offended maſter. As a parent, you cannot feel more for the irregularity of my conduct than I do myſelf. Without reaſon, without provocation, I left the beſt of maſters, who always treated me with tenderneſs; and perhaps I have almoſt broken my dear parents hearts. But does God forgive ſinners; and will not you and my maſter ſhew ſome compaſſion to an unhappy youth, who is willing

to return to his duty? Although I deſerted my maſter's ſervice, yet I never injured him, by purloining any part of his property: It was an unguarded frolic that led me away, a ſenſe of duty has brought me to repentance. Alas! I ſee nothing leſs than miſery before me; I am almoſt ſtarving, having been obliged to make away with my watch and ſome of my ſhirts. I hope, however, my character is not yet ruined; and if I am to be forgiven, then my life, through the Divine aſſiſtance, ſhall be new; it ſhall be my conſtant ſtudy to do my duty, and by my aſſiduous attention to buſineſs, make complete ſatisfaction for my folly. Let me beg you will write to me, and let your meſſage contain an acknowledgment of forgiveneſs.

I am, honoured Sir, ſtill your ſon,

T. P.

LETTER LXIX.

The Father's Letter to his Son's Maſter.

My dear Friend,

YOU will ſee from the incloſed, written by a prodigal ſon, what I muſt feel on the preſent melancholy occaſion; but you are a father, and I doubt not but you will rather bear with me, than exerciſe that coercive authority over an unhappy youth, which you have a right to do.

If you knew how I am filled with ſhame for my unhappy ſon's conduct, you would conſider me as a real object of pity. What a ſhocking circumſtance, to ſhake off from us the fear of God and neglect incumbent duties. To make ſome allowance for the paſſions of youth, who, in ſcripture, are juſtly compared with the wild aſs's colt, is conſiſtent with humanity; but it is extremely difficult to act under ſuch circumſtances, ſo as to bring young men back to a ſenſe of their duty,

duty, and at the ſame time ſupport the dignity which is the excluſive right of every maſter. But God remembers we are duſt; he knows our weakneſs, and where we are merciful, he generally beſtows his bleſſing.

This conſideration, my dear friend, leads me to the main purport of this letter, and that is to beg forgiveneſs for an unhappy ſon: Not that I deſire to draw a veil over any part of his conduct, for I know that will not admit of an excuſe, much leſs of a defence. Facts ſpeak for themſelves, and my unhappy boy ſtands condemned by the evidence of his own conſcience, and by his letter to me, which I have ſent you. And will you, my dear friend, receive into yonr favour a young offender? Will you give him an opportunity of entering once more upon a line of duty? Will you yet train him up as an uſeful member of ſociety? And will you have compaſſion upon an afflicted parent? To obtain ſo much is more than I dare expect, and yet I am encouraged to hope for it. To enforce the rigours of the law is ſometimes juſt, but mercy is always godlike: It is his darling attribute, and it ſhines with the moſt diſtinguiſhed luſtre when one mortal extends it to another. May not I therefore hope, that a gentleman of your humanity, will ſo far ſympathize with me, as to receive into your favour, a once fooliſh, but now a penitent youth, who has ſolemnly promiſed to make every reparation in his power; and thus you will ſhew yourſelf to be greater by this inſtance of your benevolence, than if you had acquired the fortune of a Nabob.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.

S. P.

LETTER

LETTER LXX.

The Master's Answer to the Father's Letter.

My dear Friend,

A Severe fit of illness has confined me above three weeks to my bed, but notwithstanding all my bodily pains, I could not delay one moment in sending an answer to your affecting letter. Indeed, Sir, you have affected me too much; but I shall not consider parental tenderness as bordering upon weakness. Love, or Cupid, was painted as blind by the antients; and the meaning pointed out was, that lovers cannot see faults in the beloved object. Well: and if lovers, who are no otherwise related than by affection, cannot see faults, what must be said of those parents who, after giving their children a religious education, shall live to see them despising their highest honour, religion; rebelling against the God that made them, and trampling under foot the blood of their redeemer. This is emphatically expressed by the evangelical prophet Isaiah. "Hear, O heavens! and give ear, "O earth! I have nourished and brought up children; "and they have rebelled against me; the ox knoweth "his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel "doth not know, my people doth not consider." Your son's conduct has affected me as much as it could any person, except yourself. He is not, however, so criminal as you may be apt to imagine; and I hope I shall always be able to make a proper distinction between voluntary transgressions, and youthful indiscretions. With pleasure do I hear that he is sensible of his folly, and with open arms will I receive him into my favour. Nothing that has passed shall ever be mentioned; nay, I will rather be more indulgent to him than ever, that he may be allured to the practice of virtue; for love operates upon a tender mind, but fear was made for a slave. Inclose this letter to your son, and let him know, that I will meet him in

a few

a few days at your houſe, on condition that he will not aſk me pardon, ſeeing I have already forgiven him. Indeed, I have forgiven him with pleaſure, as one of the beſt things I could do in this world; becauſe it may be the means of promoting his happineſs, both in time and in eternity.

I am, dear Sir, your ſincere friend,

C. B.

LETTER LXXI.

The Father's Letter to his Son.

Dear Billy,

I Have loſt no time in bringing about a reconciliation with you and your maſter; but happy for myſelf, that good man was as ready to forgive as you was to offend. What indulgence! What tenderneſs! And will not this make ſome impreſſion on my dear unfortunate child? If the goodneſs of God leads men to repentance, ſhall not your maſter's kindneſs have a ſtrong effect on you? Ah! my dear Billy! A new life is the only proof of a genuine repentance; for in vain do mortals pretend to be ſorry for their ſins, unleſs they forſake them. It is not an eaſy matter to form a juſt notion of the enormity of guilt, and we are ſo much inclined to partiality, or rather to ourſelves, that while we confeſs one folly, we conceal ten. Of this I have a ſtriking inſtance in your letter, and which afflicts me much. You ſay, "that "although you deſerted your maſter's ſervice, yet "you never robbed him." Alas! my dear Billy, what ſort of a confeſſion was this? Have you not waſted that time which was your maſter's property? Every hour of your time, except that portion which is appropriated to ſome particular purpoſes, is your maſter's: You have no right to diſpoſe of one moment of it without his conſent. Be not miſtaken, Billy; for

thoſe

those who are most sensible of their guilt, are most entitled to forgivenness. But you are forgiven, as you will see by the inclosed: And if this has no effect on your mind, I am certain nothing will. But ah! how pleasant will you find a new life! Pity your parents; but above all, pity yourself. I will do every thing to make your life agreeable, only disengage yourself from wicked companions. Remember, that when the fear of God wears off from the mind, the destruction of the man is not far distant. You have every favour shewn you which you can desire, and therefore improve the blessing to a proper advantage. Come, my dear child, to your afflicted parents; come to your worthy, your benevolent master. I have sent you money, and if you don't think it sufficient, you shall have more when you return.*

From your affectionate Father,

S. P.

LETTER LXXII.

From a young Woman, who had married without the Consent of her Parents, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

IT is, perhaps, my misfortune that I was born a woman, and subject to all the passions peculiar to my sex. There was a time when I imagined it could never happen that any part of my conduct would give offence to an indulgent parent, who has brought me up with so much tenderness. But alas! I may justly say, that it is not in poor frail mortals to direct their steps; we often pretend to be fortified against the force of temptation, but, like the unthinking fish, no sooner is the tempting bait presented, than we swallow it and are ruined. Not that I have any reason to consider myself under such circumstances; for whatever might have been youthful indiscretions on

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* To young Men, &c. who are not become perfect in the Rules of Arithmetic, &c. we would recommend *Mr. Davidson's Arithmetic and Measurement, improved by examples and plain Demonstrations*, price 2s. 6d.

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the part of Mr. Osborne, he is quite different now; and I doubt not but he will be obedient to you in every thing lawful and just, and that he will be a tender husband to me.

You have often told me, that if I married with your consent, you would give me as much money as would enable my husband to set up in business. But I have not done so. Alas! Sir, it is the first time I was guilty of a breach of your commands; and I hope it will be the last. And will you not forgive one whom you have often called your beloved daughter? Am I to be discarded for ever, by my dear and honoured father? I hope it is not in your nature, and that you will once more receive me into your favour. Permit me, therefore, with my dear husband, to fall on our knees before you, to implore your forgiveness, and beg your blessing. You have bowels of compassion, let my present afflictions plead in my favour. You are my father, and we have a father in heaven who forgives our sins as soon as we beg for mercy. Shall I not then receive the same favour from my earthly parent, which the Divine Being shews to repenting sinners? Yes, my father, I will come to your doors with my husband; and perhaps, in the mean time, you will give me some encouragement.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your loving daughter,

A. B.

LETTER LXXIII.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

THERE are times when mankind are apt to be fired with resentment, and I believe this never appears in a more striking light than when children are disobedient to their parents. The care I employed, and the money I spent in giving you an

education

education ſuitable to your ſtation in life, gave me reaſon to hope that you would never marry without my conſent; and little did I ever imagine you would give your hand to the man whom I knew to be a libertine. But all this is over, and I am tortured with anxiety. I will not, however, be ſo uncharitable as to ſuppoſe, that the man who has been once a libertine, ſhould always remain ſo: No, I will always hope the beſt, eſpecially where there is a profeſſion of repentance. My bowels of compaſſion for you are the ſame as ever, and I am willing to receive both you and your huſband into my favour, in hopes that every youthful indiſcretion will be ſucceeded by a ſtrict adherence to duty, and the practice of virtue and religion.

But ſtill, prudence directs me to act in a manner which perhaps you may not approve; and if ſo, you will diſconcert the whole of that plan which I have formed to promote your happineſs. According to your letter, Mr. Oſborne has forſaken his youthful follies; a circumſtance which will ever give me pleaſure; but I muſt inſiſt on ſeeing ſome further proofs of it. A ſudden reformation is ſeldom a laſting one, and the corruption of the human heart is unſearchable. He may have intereſted views, and as ſoon as he gets money into his hands, he may become the ſame libertine as before. I would, therefore, have him to work one year at his trade, as a journeyman; and if his conduct during that time is conſiſtent with the character of an honeſt man, then I will ſet him up in buſineſs, and it ſhall be in a reputable ſtation.

In the mean time, if you approve of this, both he and yourſelf may call upon me; my forgiveneſs you have, and if my bleſſing is of any ſervice to you, it ſhall be chearfully beſtowed. Be not afraid, my dear, for I am willing to do more for you than I have promiſed; and leſt you ſhould want money, I have ſent you ſomething incloſed to aſſiſt you in your preſent neceſſities.

I am, your ever affectionate father,

C. B.

LETTER

LETTER LXXIV.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents in the Country.

Ever honoured Parents,

I Shall ever acknowledge, with gratitude, the obligations I am under to the Divine Being, for bestowing upon me such pious and virtuous parents; but, I hope, my conduct will never induce you to repent of your tenderness. With gratitude I received your kind present, and you may be assured that I shall use it in the manner you have directed; but, in the mean time, I have something to mention, which I hope will not give offence.

Mr. Thomas Wood, a young man in our neighbourhood, who served his apprenticeship to a carpenter, and has lately set up for himself in business, has paid his addresses to me; and his character is that of a sober, industrious person, who bids fair to obtain an honest living in the world. His late master died a few months ago, and he has procured most of his customers; and his attention to business, shews him to be one of those who have no aspiring notions, beyond what is consistent with integrity.

My servitude, in this family, has been as easy as I could wish; but I think, with submission to you, that the offer made by Mr. Wood should not be despised, unless good reasons are shewn. The young man's behaviour to me has been modest, decent and affable. He has given me some few presents, but they are such as are consistent with the most rigid œconomy. We are frequently together on Sundays; and, so far as I can form any notion, an union with him would make me happy. I will not, however, be precipitate, but in all things be directed by you; and although my affections may be in some measure fixed, yet I hope I shall have fortitude sufficient to comply with your commands.—Your advanced years

call for the utmoſt exertion of my powers, to aſſiſt you under the decays of nature; and I think that, if I was properly ſettled in the world, it would be in my power to promote ſuch a deſireable undertaking; and, I am certain, Mr. Wood would not have any objections. Upon the whole, I leave it to your conſideration; and ſhall be directed by you, in whatever you order.

I am, my ever honoured parents,

Your affectionate daughter,

M. L.

LETTER LXXV.

The Father's Anſwer.

Dear Child,

WE received your letter, and, you may be aſſured, it made a deep impreſſion on our minds. It was always our intention to promote your intereſt; and it was with that view, in compliance with your requeſt, we ſuffered you to ſettle in London. That you ſhould place your affections on a young man, of the ſame age with yourſelf, is no ways ſurprizing; it is natural, and ſo far as is reaſonable, ought to be complied with. The character you have given us of Mr. Wood is extremely agreeable, and we doubt not but it is true. We cannot, however, be deaf to any thing, in which your intereſt is in the leaſt concerned, and therefore we could wiſh that you would act with caution. One ſtep of an imprudent nature, may make you unhappy in this life; and, from a variety of circumſtances, deprive you of eternal felicity. Mr. Wood may be as virtuous as you have repreſented him; but he is not my ſon, although you are my daughter. Providence ſmiles upon a prudent conduct, but thoſe who are precipitate in their choice, generally end their lives in miſery.

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The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and, we doubt not, but that fear has been long since implanted in your mind, *so as to bring forth the* fruits of moral and religious obedience. It is not our intention to make you unhappy, but we would beg you would not trust to your own knowledge; which, perhaps, may be often directed by ungovernable passions, but commit your whole case to that Power, whose providence superintends the affairs of this lower world.—May every blessing attend our dear child, for offering to make some provision for us in our advanced years.—It is an act of gratitude which, we hope, will never be reduced to practice. That God, who has preserved us hitherto, will do so 'till our decayed bones are consigned to the silent grave.

The God we worship now,
Will keep us 'till we die;
Will be our God, while here below,
And ours beyond the sky.

Upon the whole, my dear, act in a proper manner, and then you may expect the Divine blessing.

We are, dear child,

Your affectionate parents,

C. and D. L.

LETTER LXXVI.

From a young Man, a Blacksmith, to his Sweetheart.

Dear Betty,

I Am sorry that you treated my sincere proposal with disrespect; but, I have been informed, that you object to my trade. Alas! my dear, it is our duty to continue in that station in which Providence has placed us; and if my trade may happen to be de-

ſpiſed by the vain and the thoughtleſs, I am certain it is more uſeful and honourable to my fellow creatures, than many of the employments in life, which enable ſome of the worſt of the human race to parade the ſtreets in their carriages, and keep their country houſes, at the expence of the honeſt and the induſtrious.—Conſider, my dear, the order of Providence; and reflect, that an honeſt ſubſiſtence, acquired by induſtry with a good conſcience, is far ſuperior to the wages of iniquity, or that of rioting on the ſpoils of our departed relations. Am I to labour hard, to ſupport my wife and children? It is my duty; for this purpoſe I was ſent into the world, and, whatever may happen to me, I am determined to diſcharge my duty as an honeſt man: Nor am I afraid of poverty, for while I labour for a ſubſiſtence, I may naturally expect a bleſſing.

To be plain with you, I am ſo far from being aſhamed of my employment, that I often bleſs the Almighty, that his providence directed me to it. My parents died while I was young; I found refuge in a workhouſe, where I learned to read my bible; and ſince I was bound out apprentice I have, at my leiſure hours, acquired the knowledge of writing and accounts. It is now two years ſince I have worked as a journeyman; and, in that time, I have ſaved twenty pounds, beſides furniſhing a room. I have not yet money enough to ſet up in buſineſs, but my labour will be ſufficient to ſupport us both. You will never have occaſion to look for me in a public houſe; if I am not at home, you will find me at work. This is an honeſt declaration; and, God knows, I ſay no more than what I intend to perform.—And now, my dear, where are your objections? Is my face ſullied by my labour? much better it ſhould be ſo, than by guilt. God will bleſs honeſt induſtry, while a ſecret curſe will lie hidden in the midſt of ill gotten riches. Let me beg you will think more favourably of me; and, be aſſured, that if you will give me your hand and heart, you

ſhall

ſhall have mine in return: Nay, you ſhall have my love, my induſtry, my integrity, and all that I can *do for you in this world.—Let me beg you will fa*vour me with an anſwer; and, as I know your good nature, I hope you will not be cruel.

I am, dear Bett,

Your ſincere lover,

JOHN FARRIER.

LETTER LXXVII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Jack,

YOU are really become a preacher; and, while I read your letter, I imagine myſelf in the church: but I will not jeſt with you, and although I have nothing to do with other perſons notions, yet I love religion, and I hope I ſhall always fear God. I will freely acknowledge, that I was led to deſpiſe your honeſt employment, in conſequence of ſome hints thrown out by ſome of my fellow ſervants, one of whom was married a few days ago to a footman, who has nothing to ſupport her. I had not then conſidered what was for my intereſt, nor do I know that an union with you will promote ſo deſirable an end. Your ſentiments are fine, and your promiſes are fair; but, alas! how ſoon are we deceived? I am really ſerious, and would beg of you to conſider what you are about. If I comply with your requeſt and am miſerable, you will be ſo alſo; for whether afflictions may be the effect of your miſconduct, my extravagance, or the common lot of providence, yet you muſt ſtill feel for me, or you cannot feel at all. Under ſuch difficult circumſtances, how ſhall I act? May divine wiſdom direct me. I have written to my poor mother, concerning your propoſal; but, with her ſincere prayers for my welfare, ſhe has left me

entirely to my own choice. Will you, Jack, act as in the ſight of a God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived? Will you be what you profeſs in your letter? If ſo, my hand and my heart are at your ſervice, and I will be yours through the remainder of this life: But remember, I give up my liberty on theſe conditions; and, if I am deceived, I ſhall be no worſe than many who have gone before me. To convince you of my ſincerity, I have obtained leave to ſpend the afternoon with you on Monday next at my aunt's, for I never thought Sunday a proper time for courtſhip. Perſevere in the virtuous reſolutions you have formed; and, be aſſured, that nothing ſhall be wanting on my part to make your life as agreeable and happy, as can be expected in this world.

I am, dear Jack,

Yours ſincerely,

E. B.

LETTER LXXVIII.

From a young Gentleman entering into Holy Orders, to an aged Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

IT was your pious diſcharge of your duty, that firſt made religion amiable to me; and it was by your advice, I went to the univerſity. The time is near approaching, when I muſt enter into holy orders; but, previous to that period, I would deſire to mention to you ſomething, which appears to me to be of the utmoſt importance. I know your ability to give me information; I have long been acquainted with your benevolent diſpoſition; ſo that I ſhall make no apology for troubling one, who thinks every trouble a favour, where an opportunity preſents itſelf of doing good.

When

When I first entered on the study of divinity, I resolved to peruse the most reputed authors, who have lived since the second century, especially such as have written on controversial subjects; for although I should never desire to engage in controversies, unless in the cause of virtue and piety, yet I have found that polemical writers, with all their heat of temper, often throw much light on disputed passages in the sacred scriptures: And the first thing I would desire to be informed concerning, is, how far are national churches, or civil establishments of religion, consistent with our holy religion? According to what I read in the new testament, our Saviour and his Apostles lived in a poor despised state in this world.—They sought no temporal emoluments; they were strangers to what the world calls riches and honours; they went about doing good; and their reward was, all the cruelties which malice could invent. At present, it is true, many of our clergy are poor and afflicted; but, at the same time, we all know, that many of them have ten times more than enough; that they are wallowing in luxury, while their worthy brethren of the same order are starving.

The second thing that troubles me much, is, how shall I be able to discharge the pastoral duty, without giving offence? Nay, how shall I conduct myself, so as to make religion appear amiable to the people committed to my care? I am jealous of myself; but as you have been in the ministry of the gospel fifty years, you are able to give me advice, and that shall regulate my conduct.

I am reverend Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. B.

LETTER

LETTER LXXIX.

The Answer.

On Civil Establishment of Religion.

Dear Sir,

DURING our Saviour's ministry on earth, he often told his disciples that his kingdom was not of this world; and this was necessary, because they had very carnal notions of religion: Nay, it is plain, that when he took leave of them, previous to his ascension, that they imagined he was to return in a few days, and restore the kingdom of Israel. They firmly believed, that the end and design of his coming was to subdue all nations; and that he was able to do so they could not doubt, after the many miracles they had been witnesses of: But no sooner had God enlightened their minds, than they viewed things in a different light, and preached the Gospel in its spiritual purity.

During the apostolic age, many of the Christian converts imagined, that Christ was soon to return from heaven, and judge all nations; and yet we do not find, that the apostles gave them any reasons to hope so: On the contrary, they were desired to wait with patience; and St. Paul told the Thessalonians, that the man of sin must first be revealed. Some of the primitive converts believed, that by the man of sin was meant one of the Roman emperors; and as most of those were wicked men, they often fixed upon one after another. Before the reign of the emperor Constantine the great, the Christians had their meetings in most cities and towns, and they daily encreased in number; so that when Constantine ascended the throne, he found that, consistent with policy, it was his interest to abolish paganism, and establish Christianity on its ruin.

It is certain, that before that period, Christianity was greatly corrupted; its teachers had forsaken the simplicity

ſimplicity of their predeceſſors, who worked with their hands for a ſubſiſtence. The heathen prieſts had large ſalaries from the ſtate; and although the Chriſtian teachers condemned the doctrine taught by thoſe idolators, yet they had no objection againſt the emoluments: Then it was that the Chriſtian teachers began to meddle with civil power, or, as we in this age call it, *politics*. They began to exerciſe a coercive authority over all thoſe who refuſed to embrace Chriſtianity, and even went ſo far as to excommunicate the civil governors, when they differed from them in opinion. The beaſt with ſeven heads and ten horns was now beginning to riſe out of the errors that had taken place in the church, and this beaſt was nouriſhed by thoſe prieſts who pretended to be teachers of the Goſpel. But ſtill as things are at preſent, there can be nothing more beneficial to human ſociety, than civil eſtabliſhments of religion; and I may venture to affirm, that had we none of thoſe we ſhould ſoon be little better than Barbarians. As to the inequality of livings among us, it is much to be lamented; perhaps providence may, in time, point out ſome ſort of redreſs; but at preſent we ought to be humble and ſubmit to our ſtations. In many reſpects, our church is the beſt conſtituted in the world; but like all others, it wants ſome reformation. This, however, is not in your power or mine to bring about; and we may live content, without accepting of more livings than one, if that acceptance ſhould be contrary to the dictates of our conſciences. If the money appropriated for the ſupport of the Goſpel by our pious anceſtors, was equally diſtributed among the clergy, none would be too rich, nor any too poor. Then would the clergy be enabled to reſide on their benefices; religion would flouriſh; nor would any enter on the ſacred office, but ſuch as had the glory of God, and the good of their fellow creatures at heart. There would be no temptation for the gay and the thoughtleſs, to run their heads againſt pulpits, to pretend to take care of the ſouls of men, while they leave that duty to be

performed

performed by others, for less than a tenth part of the wages. But I am tired of the subject, and for the present shall conclude with my prayers to God, that he will direct you and bless you.

I am, Sir, sincerely yours,

B. A.

LETTER LXXX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

I Come now to your second query, namely, how shall you discharge the pastoral care? Your question is indeed a serious one, and I wish I was able to give you a satisfactory answer; but if I fail in doing it, you must impute it to my want of knowledge in such an important affair, which I need not be ashamed to acknowledge; seeing the great apostle Paul exclaims, "who is sufficient for these things?" To be a pastor (dear Sir) is to be the shepherd to watch over the souls of men; to point out to them their state by nature; to convince them of the necessity of repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ; to guard them against temptations; to build them up in their most holy faith, and to prepare them for eternal happiness: And how great are all these things? But that Divine Being, who sent us out to labour in the vineyard, is able to support us; nay, he will do it if we seek his assistance.

And first, let me beg you will set Christ before you as a pattern. For us men and for our salvation, he left his father's glory, and submitted to poverty, to death and to the grave.—For us he lived, toiled for our ease, and for our safety bled. He went about doing good to miserable offenders, and on the cross he prayed for his enemies: This should lead us to deny ourselves many of the comforts of this life, that

we

we may be able to relieve the wants of the poor, to dry up the tears of the widow, and do ſomething to provide for the orphan. *Believe me, my dear Sir,* our ſpiritual inſtructions will have little weight with thoſe who are in want, if we ſhut our bowels of compaſſion againſt them: They will never believe we are in earneſt, while we have a guinea concealed in our pocket. Be extremely careful in what manner you reprove your people for their vices; for unleſs reproof is mixed with tenderneſs, it will defeat its own intention, and the reproved perſon will conſider you his enemy, ſo that all your inſtructions will be loſt. Take great care what company you keep; for let your intentions be ever ſo innocent, you will have all eyes upon you, and the ſmalleſt deviation from this rule, will lay you open to much cenſure. Endeavour to make yourſelf perſonally acquainted with all your people, and keep a liſt of their names and ſtations in a book.

When you viſit thoſe who have families, put them in mind of the duty they are under to their children, in giving them a religious education. Tell them that their ſervants muſt not be treated as if they were beaſts of burden, but as rational creatures, who have precious and immortal ſouls. Inculcate ſocial religion, but let all your exhortations be delivered in a chearful manner. Never quarrel concerning thoſe tythes which the law has given you a right to, and this will melt their hearts to do you juſtice. If you act in this manner, you will be conſidered as the father of your people, and the work of God will proſper in your hand.

I am, &c.

B. A.

LETTER

LETTER LXXXI.

From a young Tradesman in distressed Circumstances, to another of Age and Experience.

Dear Friend,

YOUR knowledge of the world, joined to your goodness of heart, and adorned by the most exalted piety, encourages me to seek your advice in a case of real distress. You know I have not been full five years in business, and although the beginning promised fair, yet, alas! I have been deceived. So does the sun shine upon us in the morning; we take our pleasure in the fields for a few hours, we are overtaken by a sudden storm, and the day concludes in thunder and lightning.

To speak in plain words, the many bankruptcies which have lately taken place in the commercial world, have brought me to the brink of temporal misery: Two thirds of my property have been fraudulently taken from me, and I see no prospect before me, besides a prison or the Gazette: The former is dreadful, the latter is disgraceful. Under such unhappy circumstances, how shall I act? I have not been indolent or extravagant, but by an ill-timed and ill placed confidence, I have been injured.

A good character is what I strove to preserve, a good conscience is what I still enjoy: but the world is often deaf to all our pretensions to integrity. No sooner are we fallen than we are trodden under foot, our misfortunes are considered as crimes; we are despised by some, hated by others, but pitied by few. Ah! Sir, when shall we learn to do as we would be done by? When shall we love our neighbours as ourselves? It is the great misfortune in trade, that every failure is considered as criminal, although the person accused is often innocent. I know you have abilities to give me advice, I know you have a tender compassionate heart, and your charity will shine with a distinguished

lustre

luſtre, if diſplayed on the preſent melancholy occaſion, and by your advice, perhaps my ruin may be prevented. I have ſent this by my poor afflicted wife, and will wait on you as ſoon as I receive your orders for that purpoſe. In the mean time,

I am your ſincere,

Though afflicted friend,

THOMAS ELMSLEY.

LETTER LXXXII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

I Was extremely ill when I received yours, but notwithſtanding the violence of my diſorder, I thought it my duty to ſend you an anſwer as ſoon as poſſible. The narrative of your misfortunes is plain, ſimple and artleſs, and ſo far as I am able to judge, I believe it to be true. I may add that my own loſſes, occaſioned by the many recent failures, have been great; but then you will anſwer, that I am more able to bear with them than yourſelf; it may be ſo, and therefore my advice, as well as my aſſiſtance, is at your ſervice.

In all failures, the following methods are generally embraced; bankruptcy, compoſition, or flight; as for impriſonment, a man cannot be ſaid to embrace it, unleſs he intends to injure his creditors, and forfeit his title to a ſhare of the rights of common ſociety. The bankrupt laws were contrived for the eaſe of the debtor, and the benefit of the creditor; but I am ſorry to ſay, that the expence attending the commiſſion often injures both: But that is not the worſt, for ſuch is the cruelty of men to their fellow creatures, that the perſon who has once been a bankrupt, finds

his character traduced wherever he goes, and as long as he lives.

To run away when a man is involved in diſtreſs, may be conſidered as conſiſtent with ſelf-preſervation; but, alas! Who can ever wipe off the blot? Who can blot out the ſtain? To ſubmit to impriſonment is a thouſand times better, for a harſh creditor will ſometimes relent, and give his captive debtor that liberty, which the letter of the law has denied him. Compoſition is much better than bankruptcy, becauſe it points out the honeſty of the debtor, and ſaves the creditors much expence. I am ſorry, however, to ſay, that it does not always ſerve to ſupport the character of the injured, the unfortunate perſon. If he is once more enabled to procure a ſubſiſtence, it is expected he ſhould pay the remainder of his debts, which may not be in his power, although he will embrace that happy opportunity as ſoon as he can. However, a compoſition is what I would by all means adviſe you to, and I ſhall do every thing in my power, to get it conducted in a proper manner. I will give up at preſent my claim upon you, and poſſibly when every thing is ſettled, you may find your affairs leſs intricate than you imagine. Let me ſee you as ſoon as you can, and although I am aged and infirm, yet I will be your friend.

J. BARNARD.

LETTER LXXXIII.

From a Country Tradeſman, deſiring a Correſpondence with another Tradeſman in London.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of two years ſince my apprenticeſhip was expired, and during that time, I have been ſhopman to my maſter. It was my reſolution to have

have continued ſhopman to him ſometime longer, but I found ſeveral things very diſagreeable, which I do not mention, becauſe they are only family affairs, and no way connected with trade. But I had another reaſon for leaving his ſervice, namely, an opportunity of ſetting up in buſineſs, by the death of Mr. Bevan in this town, and with whom you was well acquainted. You know he has left no children, and his widow, having ſufficiency to ſupport her, is going to retire from buſineſs. The offer ſhe has made me of her ſhop, is fair and reaſonable, and I ſhall ſettle with her as ſoon as my mother arrives to advance me what was left by my father. It is true, I know not yet how much it amounts to, but I hope ſufficient to purchaſe the ſtock in trade, the fixtures, furniture, &c. Having ſaid thus much in general, I ſhall now proceed to open my particular buſineſs with you.

You have known me now about nine years, ſo that you cannot be a ſtranger to my character, eſpecially as I tranſacted moſt of my maſter's buſineſs with whom you had connections many years; and I ſuppoſe you will continue your correſpondence with him, as long as he continues in trade.

I cannot at preſent ſend you a liſt of ſuch goods as I ſhall want, but if you agree to ſerve me with what I want in your way in London, you may truſt that my payments will be regular, for I have laid down a plan of regular œconomy, and I know that moſt of thoſe, who frequent the ſhop are very good cuſtomers. It will not be proper for me to come to London, 'till I have found an honeſt ſhopman, in whom I can confide during my abſence, and then you may depend on ſeeing me. Wherever this letter ſhould find you, I ſhall be glad of an anſwer, and then I will ſend you ſome orders if neceſſary. I hope to hear of the welfare of your family, that they are all in good health, and a comfort to you in your declining years.

I am, Sir, yours reſpectfully,

E. JOHNSON.

LETTER LXXXIV.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear you have so fair a prospect of entering into business. To stimulate you on to industry, you have an excellent example in the conduct of Mr. Bevan, whom you are to succeed. He had been many years in trade, but never failed in his payments, nor do I suppose he has died worth much more than will support his family. He sought to live by his shop; he did much good, but never desired to acquire an opulent fortune; for he often said, that those who were most eager to procure riches, must either act dishonestly, or what was, and still is generally the case, they soon become bankrupts. Trade requires patient industry, and a fair character is a thousand times superior to an estate, acquired by taking advantage of the unwary.

The correspondence you desire to settle with me, is chearfully complied with, and you may depend on the articles you order being the best that can be procured; for I would wish success to every young beginner, who conducts himself with integrity, and acts upon honourable principles. Such were merchants and tradesmen in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when large fortunes were acquired, when many of the nobility married the daughters of citizens; when manufactures were encouraged, and when bankruptcies seldom took place. I do not mention these things, as if I imagined you would ever neglect your business; but it is a constant maxim with me, never to write a single letter concerning secular affairs, without inserting in it something of a moral tendency. This is a duty we owe to our fellow creatures, and it is a duty we owe to God, by making a proper use of the talents he has favoured us with.

However,

However, as it ſhall be my ſtudy to promote your intereſt, ſo far as it can be done in a way of trade, ſo I thought you would not be offended with what was well meant, for my ſincere wiſh is to ſee every virtuous young man happy. You may ſend your orders as ſoon as you pleaſe, and they ſhall be punctually executed by my ſon; for my infirmities will, I believe, oblige me very ſoon to retire from buſineſs.

I am, Sir,

Yours ſincerely,

S. VERE.

LETTER LXXXV.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Brother in the Country.

Dear Brother,

I Am glad to hear of your marriage, becauſe I know that Betty was always a good girl; and, I dare ſay, will make you an excellent wife. My laſt place in London, was not ſo agreeable as I could have wiſhed; but, you know, we muſt lay our accounts to meet with difficulties, and the more we prepare for them, they become the more light and eaſy to us. I have now got into a good family, where there are three young ladies. They have a great regard for me, and have already made me ſome valuable preſents, among which are three ſilk gowns. One of thoſe, with ſome other things, I have ſent to my ſiſter; and tell her, I ſhall ſend her the neweſt pattern of cotton, for a gown, that I can find.

I hope you will remember, that the low circumſtances in which we were left by our parents, ſhould teach us to provide for old age, as far as lays in our power. No doubt but you will have children, and it will be a ſhocking conſideration, to think of leaving

them as we were, unprovided for. To be ſure, a ſevere fever can, at any time, remove us from this world; but the conſideration of that ſhould never make us ſlothful, but be eager in doing our duty, always expecting the Divine bleſſing. I could wiſh to have a letter from my ſiſter; for as I approve of your choice, ſo I would wiſh to live with you and her in a ſtate of friendſhip.

I am, dear brother,

Your affectionate ſiſter,

SARAH LEE.

LETTER LXXXVI.

The Siſter's Anſwer.

Dear Siſter,

WE received yours, and I return you many thanks for your valuable preſent, which exceeds every thing I ever had or could expect. Your brother is induſtrious, and every one here ſays I have made a good choice. I am not afraid but we ſhall do well, as both our characters are good. I had ſaved five pounds in my laſt place, which, with thirty pounds ſaved by your brother, have enabled him to buy tools and materials for his buſineſs. We have alſo furniſhed a ſmall houſe, conſiſting of a ſhop, two rooms and a garret, with other conveniencies. We have a little garden behind the houſe, and in the garden are ſome fruit trees. Upon the whole, our ſituation is agreeable, although it was with a trembling heart, that I entered into the marriage ſtate. Your brother's tenderneſs to me has been ſuch, that I begin to bleſs the day I gave him my hand. When our labour for the day is over, we ſpend the evenings in agreeable converſation, and ſometimes we read part of a book. I wonder you do not think of marrying,

rying, as there can be no doubt but many offers have been made you; but I have ſuch an opinion of your good ſenſe, that I firmly believe you muſt have had reaſons for rejecting them. We long to hear from you, as often as you can ſpare time to write; and that you may enjoy health and proſperity, is the ſincere prayer of

Your affectionate ſiſter,

ELIZABETH LEE.

LETTER LXXXVII.

From a young Woman, Apprentice to a Millener in London; to her Friend, a Teacher at a Boarding-School, in the Country.

Dear Miſs,

I Called at your father's laſt week, and he has given me a proper direction to you. I heard you had been ſome time ill; but, ſo far as I can learn, you have got the better of your diſorder, and I ſhall once more ſee you in London. You know, that when we were at ſchool together, I often wiſhed to have gone into the ſame employment as you have obtained, but my father would not permit me; and you know, that although he is a tender parent, yet he is not a judge of female education. Had it not been for the inſtructions I received from you, I ſhould certainly have been loſt; but thanks to God, and to your friendſhip.

You know, that the character of milleners, in the vulgar acceptation, do not ſtand high in the eſtimation of the public; but, I think, this muſt ariſe from ſome ſort of wrong prejudices. That many young women have been ſeduced from milleners ſhops, cannot be diſputed; but does that prove, that no virtuous perſons can be left behind? Certainly it does not; otherwiſe it would naturally follow,

low, that becauſe there are many fraudulent practices committed by tradeſmen, ſo the moſt virtuous are not to be truſted. *For my own part, I hate ſuch uncharitable thoughts*; and, I think, the more we are ſurrounded by temptations, the more we ſhould be upon our guard. To put ourſelves in the way of harm, is certainly blameable, but that is what I have not done. It was my father's pleaſure; and, as I know he wiſhed me well, I could not diſpute his commands. Upon the whole, I ſhall endeavour to do my duty, truſting in Almighty God, that he will preſerve me from the power of temptation. Let me beg to hear from you, and be aſſured

I am, dear Miſs,

Your ſincere friend,

MARY BAILY.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Miſs,

I Received yours with that pleaſure which always takes place, where virtuous friendſhip exiſts. I am glad to hear that you called on my parents; but, alas! my dear, I am not the perſon I was, when you ſaw me laſt. I was then healthy and full of ſpirits, with roſey checks, like a milk-maid; but, ah! my dear, mark the change! I am now afflicted with a moſt violent cough, which prevents me from reſt day and night. I have a moſt emaciated body; my colour is quite gone; and, to add to my affliction, I ſee no proſpect of relief. You will be ready to aſk me, from whence did all this affliction ſpring? That, however, is what I cannot anſwer. Sometimes I impute it to damp ſheets, while you and myſelf were at ſchool; but had that been the caſe, I would have concluded that you would have ſuffered the ſame, as

we lay together in one bed. Again, I have ſometimes imputed it to the negligent manner in which I changed my dreſs, after dancing with the young ladies. But ſtill I may be miſtaken; and, as my father has often told me, we receive the ſeeds of death, when we are born.

The moment we begin to live,
We all begin to die.

And now, my dear Miſs Bailey, what do you think are my ſentiments, under ſuch a complication of diſorders? May yours, my dear, be the ſame. I am all reſignation. Notwithſtanding the proſpect of being agreeably married, and ſettled in the world; notwithſtanding all the hopes generally formed by youth, yet I begin to look forward to a bleſſed immortality. I have ſo much eaſe in my mind, that death, which to ſome appears the king of terrors, to me is like an amiable accompliſhed bridegroom. And why ſhould it be otherwiſe? We naturally wiſh to take poſſeſſion of a temporal eſtate, and why then ſhould not we long for an eternal one? In the one, we are ſubject to many diſappointments, loſſes, and vexations; in the other, all is compoſure and ſerenity. Not that I know I am dying, but I know the Judge of all the earth will do right; to his will I ſubmit, and rejoice in his favour.

I know, my dear, that your charms, accompliſhments, graceful appearance and ſituation in life, will ſoon expoſe you to many ſnares; but ſeek God, and keep yourſelf as much as poſſible out of the way of temptation. Remember, that the more powerfully you oppoſe evil and reſiſt temptation, the greater will your reward be in heaven. May the Almighty protect my dear friend, and keep her in the paths of piety and virtue, is the ſincere prayer of,

Dear Miſs, yours affectionately,

MARY ALLISON.

LETTER

LETTER LXXXIX.

From an aged Lady to a Clergyman.

Reverend Sir,

YOU know I have always taken your advice, even in the moſt difficult caſes, and you never yet deceived me in any thing whatever. As the dew diſtills its refreſhing drops on the vegetable creation to impart life, ſo did your councils, your admonitions, and your inſtructions operate upon my mind. I preſume you are no ſtranger to the contents of my brother's laſt will, in which he left his fortune to his daughter, on condition ſhe ſhould marry with my conſent. In caſe ſhe did not, her whole fortune was to be at my diſpoſal, and I was empowered to give it to whomſoever I pleaſed. Now, Sir, ſhe has entered into the marriage ſtate with a rake, who will ſoon ſquander away all that her father acquired by many years honeſt induſtry; and therefore I am determined to give the money to an hoſpital. I think it would be much better to ſupport the ſick and the lame, than to contribute towards the indulgence of diſſipated youth in the gratifying unlawful deſires, and the indulgence of irregular paſſions. You may object, perhaps, that this act of mine will reduce them to a ſtate of beggary; but pray, Sir, do not thoſe deſerve to ſuffer who had acted imprudently? ſhould they not have conſulted me before they ventured upon the brink of deſtruction, and plunged themſelves without the ſmalleſt hopes of ſucceſs, into a ſtate of ruin altogether irretrieveable?

I would, however, be directed by you, but I dare ſay you will not do any thing contrary to my inclination. I think my propoſal is right; and thoſe who act inconſiſtent with prudence, ſhould feel the effects of their folly. Let me beg you will ſend me an anſwer, and be aſſured, that

I am ſincerely yours,
ELIZABETH BERTIE.

LETTER

LETTER XC.

The Answer.

Madam,

I Received yours, and however wise you may be in your own conceit, yet I think you have not considered things in a proper manner. It was always my opinion, that whatever a father died possessed of, was the unalienable property of his children; and, however human laws may give a sanction to the validity of dying wills, yet I cannot think that natural rights can be set aside: But supposing your brother should have, in conformity with the worst of all customs, claimed the power of depriving his daughter of her right by nature; yet I cannot see how you can be justified in carrying his will into execution. Has he acted inconsistent with the principles of humanity? And must you, under the stale pretence of complying with the will of the deceased, add one injury to another? Has your brother projected a scheme to injure his child? And are you obliged to see it put into execution? No, Madam: This is beneath your character as a woman, and altogether inconsistent with the duty of a Christian. I acknowledge, that in many cases the will of the dead ought to be complied with, but never when inconsistent with reason and religion. God does not require that we should conform to the customs of this world, any farther than is consistent with the dictates of a good conscience; and, be assured from me, that it is much more honourable on many occasions, to set aside the will of the dead than to comply with it. You mention giving the money left by your brother to an hospital: I am afraid that is one of the worst resolutions you ever yet formed in your mind. To give money to hospitals at the expence of families who have a right to it by nature, is *robbing Peter to pay Paul.* In other words, it is like the thief who stole goods from the parish under

der a pretence of relieving the poor. Upon the whole, Madam, whatever imprudent steps your neice may have taken, yet let me beg you will not only restore to her what was left by her father, but that you will do it in such a graceful manner, as to make a lasting impression of gratitude on her mind, that she may honour both you and religion.

I am, Madam, yours, &c.

THOMAS GREEN.

LETTER XCI.

From a young Woman, Teacher at a Boarding School, to her Father.

Honoured Sir,

IT was with pleasure that I accepted of this place, having always had a strong desire to cultivate the minds of young persons; and, I can assure you, that my governess has treated me with every mark of tenderness: But as there can be no happiness in this world, without some mixture of grief, afflictions and disappointments, so I have found enough of those since I came to reside at this place. You know I am, but at the best, tender in my constitution, and there are no less than forty-six young ladies in the school. Besides myself, there is but one other teacher; who although well enough acquainted with some parts of female education, yet she knows not the grammar of the French language, so that all the drudgery of that is thrown upon me.—This is more than I am able to sustain; and although I am sorry to put you to any trouble, yet I must freely tell you, that unless I am removed from this school, I shall sink under my afflictions.—You know I had once an offer from Mrs. Dawson; and, if she is not provided with a teacher, I will accept of her place, and wait on her as soon as Mrs. Allen has procured one in my room.

Let

Let me beg to hear from you, as ſoon as you have waited on *Mrs. Dawſon*, and, in the mean time, give my duty to my dear mother, and my love to my ſiſter.

I am, honoured Sir, your ever dutiful daughter,

MARY BLAKE.

LETTER XCII.

The Father's Anſwer.

Dear Child,

I Received yours, and as I was indiſpoſed at the time, I got Mr. Fermor to enquire of Mrs. Dawſon, whether ſhe had procured a teacher, and I have the pleaſure to inform you ſhe has not. I may add further, that ſhe is ready to receive you with open arms of affection, and ſhe is now preparing a room for you. She has but few ſcholars, ſo that your life will be eaſy, and you know the ſituation is extremely agreeable. So far as I am able to judge, Mrs. Dawſon is a very agreeable woman; but whether or not I am deceived, your own experience will diſcover. You may reſt ſatisfied, that I ſhall never contradict you in your choice of places; for if you are happy, ſo am I. I have ſuch an opinion of your piety, virtue, and good ſenſe, that I think you would never deſire to leave a place, unleſs you had good reaſons for doing ſo; and as you have more to go through with Mrs. Allen than is conſiſtent with your ſtrength, ſo I would by all means adviſe you to come away as ſoon as poſſible. However, I would deſire you to part on good terms; and as for what money is due to you, let that be only a ſecondary conſideration. Take what you are offered, and however ſmall, do not complain. We ſhall be ready to meet you at the inn, and be aſſured that,

I am, your ever affectionate father,

GEORGE BLAKE.

LETTER XCIII.

From a young Gentleman in London, to a Clergyman in the Country.

Reverend Sir,

I Doubt not but you have heard of the unhappy fate of Mr. Young, ſon of your neighbour, and once your pupil. It is not above two years ſince he came from Jamaica, with a conſiderable ſum of money, and ſent for me to ſpend the evening with him at a coffee-houſe near the Royal-Exchange. Former friendſhip ſoon induced me to comply with his requeſt; but, to my great ſurprize, I found him totally changed from what he was when he left England. Inſtead of a ſober, virtuous young man, I found him one of the moſt impious, abandoned rakes, I ever yet met with. He ſpoke with contempt of religion, and ſeemed to take a peculiar pleaſure in blaſpheming the name of God. I told him, that he muſt not for the future expect to ſee me, becauſe *evil communications corrupt good manners*. He laughed at my ſimplicity, in believing the goſpel revelation; and plainly told me, that religion was inconſiſtent with the character of a gentleman. However, I did ſee him again; but, alas! where? In Newgate, and may I never forget the dreadful ſcene which preſented itſelf to my view. A young gentleman, who had received a liberal education, the heir to a landed eſtate, confined to a diſmal cell with fetters on his legs, and the book of God, too long deſpiſed, in his hand. Ah! thought I, let us deſpiſe religion ever ſo much, while in a ſtate of health, we are glad to ſeek its conſolations when death approaches. The unfortunate young man had ſpent all his money in gaming and debauchery; after which, he committed a forgery on the Bank, and was apprehended at Dover, in attempting to make his eſcape abroad. He was brought to his trial; and, being found

guilty

guilty, received ſentence of death. He ſent for me to viſit him; which I did, as often as I could ſpare time, 'till the evening before his execution, when his father and mother were taking leave of him. The ſcene was too ſhocking for me to be witneſs to, and therefore I retired, to lament the corruption of human nature. I was informed next day, that he died a ſincere penitent; and therefore I hope, you will adminiſter all the conſolation you can to his afflicted parents.

I am, reverend Sir,

Yours ſincerely,

G. B.

LETTER XCIV.

The Clergyman's Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

I Am no ſtranger to the melancholy affair which you communicated to me in your laſt; and I have complied with your requeſt, in ſaying all I poſſibly could to alleviate the diſtreſſes of the afflicted parents. But I have ſomething to ſay to you, which I hope will be attended to with ſerioufneſs. You have ſeen the unhappy, the ſhameful, the ignominious end of a young gentleman; who, along with yourſelf, was brought up in the paths of virtue, and heaven forbid it ſhould ever be your caſe; but let him that ſtandeth, take heed leſt he fall. You have as ample a fortune, as your late unhappy friend enjoyed; you are ſurrounded by the ſame temptations; and you are liable to fall into the ſame ſnares. This, Sir, ſhould teach you to be continually upon your guard, not truſting in your own ſtrength, but ſtill exerciſing the powers which God hath given you. *If ſinners entice thee, conſent thou not:* Let no pretended friend perſuade you to go to a public place,

where you may be in danger of having your morals corrupted, and your ſoul ruined. Reflect often on what you ſaw, when you viſited the cells of Newgate; conſider the dreadful ſcene which preſented itſelf to your view, when you ſaw the afflicted parents take leave of a condemned ſon; think of the ſhame which, in the opinion of the vulgar, he has brought upon his family; compare the pleaſures ariſing from the practice of religious duties and a ſtrict attendance to buſineſs, with the torturing, agonizing pains of a guilty conſcience; and, above all, conſider the dreadful account you muſt make at the judgment-ſeat of Chriſt, if you proſtitute your talents, and trample upon every ſacred obligation. *

However, I doubt not but you will continue to perſevere in what will promote your honour and happineſs; which is the ſincere prayer of

Your affectionate friend,

T. F.

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* *The Malefactors Regiſter, or the New-Newgate and Tyburn Calendar:* Containing the authentic lives, trials, executions, and dying ſpeeches of the moſt notorious malefactors, who have ſuffered death in Great Britain or Ireland, ſince the year 1700 down to the preſent time, will be of great ſervice in guarding the riſing generation againſt thoſe temptations ſo commonly thrown in their way. It is publiſhed in weekly Numbers, at Six-Pence each, adorned with new Copper-Plates, and may be had of ALEX. HOGG, No. 16, Pater-noſter-Row, and of all the bookſellers. Be particular in ordering the New Work, leſt an old publication ſhould be offered inſtead of it. This work abounds with moral reflections of the moſt ſalutary tendency, to young perſons in particular.

LETTER

LETTER XCV.

From a young Gentleman to a Lady, desiring her to make an Elopement with him to Scotland.

Dear Miss,

I Told you, when I was last in your company, that my father would never consent to my marriage with you, unless your fortune was equal to mine. In this he acts like old persons in general, whose passions being dead to every thing but avarice, they never pitty young ones, who have placed their affections on each other. They are cruel to the last degree; but there is a way to frustrate all their schemes and make ourselves free, by an elopement to Scotland. There we can be married, and then my father will soon be reconciled to the match, for he cannot deprive me of my fortune. I have reason to believe that my person is not disagreeable to you, and that you will consent to an union of hearts, which alone can make me happy. If you will comply with my request, I will have a post-chaise ready for you to-morrow evening, at the back of the garden wall, and we will set off together, without being discovered by any person whatever. I hope you will have no objection to what I have proposed; for, I can assure you, it is not possible for me to love any but you. As you will probably meet the bearer in the park, he will give you this, and you will find an opportunity of sending an answer.

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere lover,

S. T.

LETTER XCVI.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I Had once the misfortune to read some wild romances, but I do not recollect that any thing related in them is of so extravagant a nature, as what I find contained in your letter. Indeed, I am at a loss in what light to consider it; either it is the ravings of a madman, or written by the hand of one whose conduct to his parents can give him but little reason to expect happiness in this world. You mention your fortune being superior to mine; and if by fortune you mean riches, perhaps it may be so; for I can assure you, that I never asked my father whether he could give me one single pound on the day of my marriage. Indeed, my father always gave me leave to place my affections on whatever object I thought proper, so as the person had a regard to the fear of God, and practised religious duties. He told me, that if I did so, I should enjoy such happiness as the world could not deprive me of, and much more than what is annexed to what is vulgarly called fortune. But what strikes me most is, your romantic scheme of going to Scotland to get married, by which you would probably make the remainder of my life miserable, and bring down your own father's grey hairs with sorrow to the grave. And do you think, Sir, that I would for your sake disturb the peace of your family, and make your parents miserable? No: I love the marriage state; nay, I honour it; but if ever I enter into it, it must be upon such principles as shall promote my happiness in this world, as far as is consistent with the state of human nature. I would have you to consider these things properly; and if you will not, then make an elopement as soon as you please, but I hope it shall never be with me. Consider, Sir, that the young woman whose imprudent conduct disturbs the peace of a family is

seldom

ſeldom forgiven; and although you tell me, that your father cannot deprive you of your fortune, yet, be aſſured, that no part of my conduct, ſhall ever be the means of making him unhappy. I ſincerely wiſh that you may be preſerved from ruin, and become an honour to your parents and yourſelf.

I am, Sir, your well-wiſher,

M. G.

LETTER XCVII.

The young Gentleman's Anſwer.

Dear Miſs,

I Received yours, and, if I was enamoured of you before, I am much more ſo now. Your merits have rivetted my affections to the beloved object, and your prudence has made me a ſlave. I am aſhamed when I conſider that I have not made a proper uſe of my knowledge; but was ruſhing on without thought to my deſtruction, 'till you awakened my attention, and cautioned me againſt the dreadful impending danger, which hung over my head. Where, my dear, did you learn ſuch ſentiments? or rather, why have I forgot what was taught me in my youth? Your refuſing to accompany me to Scotland, will, I hope, in time be attended with the moſt beneficial conſequences, as will appear from what I am juſt going to mention. Finding that I could neither ſubdue my paſſion, nor prevail upon you to comply with my unguarded requeſt, I ſhewed your letter to my father, who, ſo far from acting the part of a tyrant, declared he would even intercede with you in my behalf. But I hope you will not put him to that trouble, but will conſent to be mine and then I ſhall be happy. My mother is equally agreeable, a circumſtance that would never have taken place, had you been ſo imprudent as to make an elopement with me

from

from your parents. Let me, therefore, beg you will not any longer keep me in a ſtate of anxiety; but, ſetting all forms and ceremonies aſide, conſent to be mine, and you will be treated with the utmoſt tenderneſs by all my family; you will be united to relations as virtuous as your own, and I hope you will have no reaſon to repent.

I am, dear Miſs,

Your ſincere lover,

S. T.

LETTER XCVIII.

The young Lady's Anſwer.

SIR,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear that you have made a proper uſe of the few ſimple hints I pointed out to you; it is not for my own ſake that I mention this, for although it is natural for every young perſon to deſire a happy ſettlement in life, yet I can aſſure you, ſo far as I am able to judge of my own heart, I can ſafely ſay, that I deſire no more than the neceſſaries of this world: If Providence gives me more, then I muſt act as a faithful ſteward, and, with it, endeavour to ſupply the wants of my fellow creatures. It gives me no ſmall pleaſure to hear that what I wrote has been the means of reconciling you to your parents; and from this you may learn, that when human actions are conducted with prudence, there is at leaſt ſome proſpect of ſucceſs. As to what you have propoſed to me concerning marriage, I will freely tell you, that I cannot have any reaſonable objections to it, eſpecially as you was never diſagreeable to me, and you have now obtained your parents conſent. I leave the remainder to yourſelf, and, when your parents think proper to appoint a day, I will meet you at the church. And now, Sir,

what would you have me ſay more? Perhaps I have ſaid too much, but that gives me but little uneaſineſs, while I know that my intentions are right, and, that as long as I act conſiſtent with the principles of religion and virtue, I may have reaſon to expect the Divine bleſſing.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

M. C.

LETTER XCIX.

From a young Gentleman of Fortune, to an amiable young Woman, whoſe Parents had left her deſtitute.

Dtar Madam,

THE many agreeable hours I have ſpent in your company at Lady Aſhurſt's can never be forgotten, but that is no more than what many beſides myſelf well know, and can be witneſs to. But whatever impreſſions your charms may have made on others, my affections are fixed in ſuch a manner, that nothing can alter them. Your merit, had you nothing elſe to recommend you, has made me a ſlave; and it is you only that can make me miſerable or happy. But when beauty, learning, virtue, and piety, are all united in one object, how can the whole force be reſiſted? Such, my dear Miſs, is your real character, and now you may judge of my preſent ſituation. How often have I pitied the wretched notions of thoſe who having ample fortunes, pay no regard to merit, but eſtimate the happineſs of the marriage ſtate, in proportion to the thouſands the bride is poſſeſſed of. It is different with me, my fortune is my own, and I ſhall conſider myſelf as more happy in the enjoyment of you, as a partner for life, than if ten thouſand pounds were added to my fortune. I think that the man who has ſufficient to ſupport him according

ing to his rank in life ſhould not wiſh for more; but I have ſufficient, and yet I wiſh for more, that is, my dear, I wiſh for yourſelf. An union with you, will be conſidered as the greateſt bleſſing I can enjoy in this life, and as ſoon as you will permit me, I will wait on you.

I am, dear Madam,

Your ſincere lover,

GEORGE LYTTLETON.

LETTER C.

The young Woman's Anſwer.

SIR,

I Was on a viſit when your letter arrived at this place, or I would have anſwered it ſooner, but now, as I am diſengaged for a few hours, I ſhall deliver my ſentiments in ſuch a manner, that you will have no reaſon to accuſe me of ingratitude. Had I nothing but grandeur in view, I muſt have conſidered your propoſal, as the higheſt honour that could have been conferred upon me; nay, I ſtill treat it with proper reſpect, although duty to God, to your family and to myſelf, obliges me to ſtate my objections without reſerve. What you ſay concerning the difference between truth and the common cuſtoms of the world, is in my opinion true, but who can deviate from the faſhion, without acting with impropriety. Suppoſing me to be the accompliſhed perſon, I am repreſented in your letter, yet I have great reaſon to fear, that none of theſe accompliſhments, will make any great figure in the eyes of a cenſorious world, nor does it appear from your letter, that you have ever mentioned it to your mother. If you really loved me, would you wiſh me to be miſtreſs of your family, and at the ſame time deſpiſed by all your relations? Would you not be ſorry to hear every perſon, with whom you are acquainted,

acquainted, tell you that you had married a poor beggarly girl, *with no fortune?* And would not even your ſervants refuſe to be obedient to me, who at preſent am in little better than a ſtate of ſervitude? Conſider theſe things, Sir, and then I believe you will neither deſire to injure me, nor diſhonour yourſelf.

I am, Sir, reſpectfully yours,

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CI.

The young Gentleman's Reply.

Dear Madam,

ALthough I can, by no means, approve of the objections you have ſtarted in your anſwer to my propoſals, yet I acknowledge myſelf to have been extremely negligent in not mentioning that I had obtained my mother's conſent, who deſires to ſee me happily united with you, ſo in that reſpect you may make yourſelf quite eaſy; and my good mother has deſired you to write to her, as ſhe is not able to call on you. As to what the world may ſay, with reſpect to diſparity of circumſtances, I think it is below your notice; and as for your being in a ſtate of ſervitude, if it be ſo, it is the order of Divine Providence, and who ſhall find fault with it? If God thought proper to remove your parents in your infancy, forget not that he has ever ſince extended his benevolence to you. You have not been left deſtitute of friends; but this is not to be wondered at, it would be rather ſurprizing if it was otherwiſe. Who could not admire a human form, adorned with every female excellence? It would be one of the greateſt marks of ſtupidity I ever knew. But I muſt ſtill have ſome hopes that you will comply with my requeſt, and that you will write to my mother, who

deſires

desires to hear from you. I have sent you some trifles, which I hope you will accept of, but I want to give you a heart.

I am, dear Madam, your sincere lover,

GEORGE LYTTLETON.

LETTER CII.

From the young Woman to the Mother of the young Gentleman.

Honoured Mother,

I Am sorry to hear that you are so infirm, as not to be able to come abroad as usual; but as I know you are prepared either to live or die, so I think you may make yourself happy; for while we act consistent with our duty, and put our trust in the Divine Being, we are sure of acceptance before him, and of a share of his favour throughout eternity. So far as I can learn, you are no stranger to the proposal your son has made to me; and, if you have seen my answer, you will be able to judge of my objections. That Mr. Lyttleton has merit there can be no doubt, but why should a poor orphan dishonour his family? Left destitute, and exposed to all the hardships of this life, I became an object of Providence, and hitherto God has been with me. I have no right to expect any gentleman for a husband, without injuring my peace of mind, and making me miserable for ever. From you, madam, I have received my pious instructions; and, I think, I cannot make you a more proper return, than to desire you will dissuade Mr. Lyttleton from thinking any more of me, for I am not worthy of his notice. An humble station should satisfy a poor person, and those who aspire at grandeur,

grandeur, are often plunged into ruin. That God may ſupport you under your preſent afflictions, is the ſincere prayer of,

Honoured Madam,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CIII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Miſs,

I Have not had a pen in my hands theſe ſix months, but with chearfulneſs I anſwer yours, although my eyes are weakened ſo much, that I can ſcarce ſee how to write. I have, for ſeveral years, attended to your behaviour, while I viſited your lady; and your unaffected piety, joined to an amiable form and a chearful diſpoſition, made a deep impreſſion on my mind. Before my ſon propoſed marriage to you, I often wiſhed that Divine Providence would direct him to place his affections on ſo worthy an object as you are. Alas! my dear, you little think what value I ſet on riches: With reſpect to theſe things, I was once as poor as yourſelf; but Fortune ſmiled upon me, and made my life as eaſy and agreeable as I could have wiſhed, and much more ſo than I had reaſon to expect. I had not the benefit of your education, which I look upon as far ſuperior to what the world calls a fortune, eſpecially when I find it adorned with the moſt exalted conduct. And now, my dear, I plead in behalf of my ſon: Will you conſent to call me mother? If you do ſo, I ſhall leave this tranſitory world with ſome degree of pleaſure; being convinced, that your good ſenſe and circumſpect behaviour,

will at all times prevent my ſon from running into extravagancies, and that you will be his comfort through life.

I am, dear Miſs, yours ſincerely,

ELIZABETH LYTTLETON.

LETTER CIV.

The young Woman's Reply.

Honoured Madam,

I Received yours, and ſincerely thank you for the contents; only that I lament to hear, that you are in ſuch a bad ſtate of health. Alas! how often have I thought of the ſentiment of an ingenious poet:

—— "Every beating pulſe we draw
"Leaves but the number leſs."

But does the ſoul, dear madam, periſh with the body? No; life and immortality have been brought to light by the goſpel, and death is no more than a paſſage out of one ſtation into another. Life is at beſt but a pilgrimage, or a journey through this world, and death is the paſſage to open to us an eternal ſtate of exiſtence. On this pleaſing ſubject, I have read many of the eaſtern tales, but none of them gave me much pleaſure. Allegory is indeed of great antiquity, but where the immortality of the ſoul is not ſupported by rational arguments, it becomes flat to me, and I look to Divine revelation. It is certain, that not only the Prophets of old, but even our Saviour himſelf made uſe of allegory or parables, to convey knowledge to the minds of his hearers; but this

this is a ſubject I will not inſiſt on; * only that every thing of an allegorical nature, ſhould be read with care and attention.

Having ſaid thus much, it is proper that I ſhould ſay ſomething concerning the objections I made to Mr. Lyttleton's propoſals: But then, what can I ſay? The united wiſhes of a mother and a ſon, are more than I am able to contend with; let me therefore deſire you will do juſt as you pleaſe. I am no ſtranger to many of your ſon's virtues; and to have the leaſt, nay, the moſt diſtant relation to you, ſhall ever be eſteemed my higheſt honour. I have written to Mr. Lyttleton, and, I hope, every thing will be conducted under the direction of Divine Providence. May God preſerve your valuable life; and happy ſhall I think myſelf, if ever I live to call you a mother.

I am, honoured Madam,

Yours in duty, &c.

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CV.

Miſs Benſon to Mr. Lyttleton.

SIR,

I Have read in a book, which I hope I ſhall never deſpiſe, that to thoſe to whom much is given, from them will much be required. This I will apply to you, in the moſt ſtriking manner I am able to expreſs. A letter from your mother now lays before me; and ſuch has been her care of your education, that the neglect of duty on your part, will, at the termination of human exiſtence, riſe up in judgment againſt you.

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* The only Chriſtian allegory is Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progreſs*, which has been long in the higheſt repute among Proteſtants of all denominations, as the beſt book on the ſubject ever written. This book Mr. *Maſon* has lately improved with moſt excellent *Notes*, explaining difficult Paſſages, and with a ſet of moſt beautiful Copper-plates, the Price is only 4s.

Let me judge, as a woman, concerning your proposals; and, upon that footing, I must declare them to be advantageous. Let me consider myself as a young woman who should know something of prudence, and then I think it is my duty to be upon my guard. Let me look upon myself as a Christian; and, under that character, I would not chuse to have my peace of mind disturbed, but to act as an accountable being.—However, to be plain with you, if I give you my hand, you must also have my heart; and shall I give my heart to a man who, perhaps, may afterwards despise me? Gracious heaven forbid! But I must submit. Will you take a forlorn orphan into your arms, and make her mistress of your fortune? Yes, you will answer: But is she to be esteemed and respected? To convince you of my sincerity, I declare that I am willing to comply with your request, but consider that I am no more than an helpless woman; and, if you do not treat me as a wife, I can only look up to that Being who has supported me hitherto. I shall still hope the best; and as I have submitted to be yours, so I hope you will be mine, and make up to me all those deficiencies occasioned by the loss of my parents, before I knew what it was to repeat the words, FATHER and MOTHER.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

SOPHIA BENSON.

LETTER CVI.

From a poor Man, to one of the Governors of Christ's Hospital.

Honoured Sir,

ALthough I have lived many years in your neighbourhood, and often worked for your family, yet I never presumed to trouble you 'till now. My wife died about three weeks ago, and has left me with seven children. I am determined, that those pledges

pledges of our conjugal felicity ſhall never have a *ſtep-mother; but, alas! it is almoſt impoſſible* for me to bring them up in a proper manner. I was adviſed to get my ſecond ſon into the Bluecoat-Hoſpital; but, alas! I know of no gentleman to apply to but you. In the liſt of thoſe, who have a right to preſent, I ſee your name inſerted: But, perhaps, you are already engaged; and if ſo, then all my hopes muſt for this time vaniſh. Perhaps it may be otherwiſe; perhaps you may conſider my family, as not unworthy of your notice; and you may, in compaſſion to an afflicted parent, "lift the burden from the ſoul op-"preſſed!" I could wiſh to bring up my children in the fear of God, and in uſeful knowledge; and I can aſſure you, that for that purpoſe I work hard from morning to evening. If you will aſſiſt me in this difficult affair, with reſpect to my poor boy, you will remove part of the burden I now labour under. You will lay me under a laſting obligation, and it ſhall ever be acknowledged with gratitude.

I am, honoured Sir, with great reſpect,

Your moſt humble Servant,

THOMAS BRASSINGTON.

LETTER CVII.

The Anſwer.

SIR,

I Was extremely ill with a fit of the gout, when I Received your letter, ſo that I could not anſwer it ſooner; but, now having obtained a ſhort reſpite, I ſhall, with pleaſure, give you all the ſatisfaction that lays in my power. I have often taken notice of your induſtry, in providing for your family; and although I will not ſay that ever I contributed towards your ſubſiſtence, yet I am certain ſome gentlemen have; ſo that you may reſt ſatisfied, you have not been forgotten.

It gives me great pleasure, that your letter came to me before I had disposed of *my right of presentation*, and your son shall have it. This, however, is but trifling, for I would be glad to do something for the rest of your family. Your eldest daughter is now fit to go to service; and, if you will permit her to come into my family, she shall be treated in the most tender manner. I have something in view for the younger children; and let me beg you will attend to your duty, as the father of a family, and as an honest man. Virtue is its own reward, and piety hath the promise. When exhausted with labour, in the evening call your children together, and read to them at least two chapters in the bible, and teach them to address their Maker in prayer. Take care never to contract debts, but live consistent with the nature of your circumstances. Have you little? Be contented with it. Are you prosperous in life? Reflect that you must give an account to God, in what manner you have disposed of his benefits. Upon the whole, be assured, that as long as you act consistent with the principles of virtue, so long you will find me your friend; and may prudence direct you in every thing that can serve towards promoting your interest.

Yours,

EDWARD TRUEMAN.

LETTER CVIII.

From a decayed Tradesman, to a Director of the East-India Company.

Honoured Sir,

IT is in the deepest humility, that I address this to you; for although we were brought up together at the same school, yet Providence has made such a vast difference in our temporal circumstances, that I should not be surprized, if you had forgotten there were ever such a person as myself. But notwithstanding all that difference, yet I feel myself endued with courage

courage ſufficient to ſolicit your aſſiſtance, in an hour of diſtreſs. Your family were diſtinguiſhed for that benevolence, which is the higheſt ornament of human nature, and I have no reaſon to believe that you are worſe than they. A bright example generally impreſſes its marks upon the deſcendants, virtue grows up from the original root, the tinſel of affluence is thrown aſide, and the poor are encouraged to approach within the veil.

When I firſt ſet up in buſineſs, I had ſome hopes of ſucceſs; and, during the firſt ten years I kept a ſhop, I paid my bills regularly, nor was any order returned without being duly honoured. But, alas! a dreadful reverſe of fortune took place. My brother, who was of an unſettled diſpoſition, propoſed going to the Eaſt-Indies; and, as he had no friend but me to truſt to, I advanced him more money than was conſiſtent with the nature of my circumſtances to grant. The conſequence was he died at the *Cape*, and every thing was loſt. Finding myſelf reduced to the utmoſt ſtate of diſtreſs, I called a meeting of my creditors, and gave them up my all. At preſent I am ſtarving; and all I would deſire, is to be admitted to be a common porter in the Eaſt-India houſe. This would procure bread for my wife and myſelf; but, unleſs you would be ſo good as to aſſiſt me, I muſt loſe it for ever.

As an afflicted perſon, as a man whoſe misfortunes have not been occaſioned by any thing that can reflect diſhonour on himſelf, let him be permitted to come before you as an humble ſupplicant. My life has been innocent and inoffenſive. I have done my duty to my family; and, if I have been unfortunate, it is in conſequence of what I conſidered to be a good-natured action. Let me beg you will ſend me an anſwer, which will greatly oblige,

Honoured Sir, your moſt obedient,

But diſtreſſed ſervant,

GORGE PRITCHARD.

LETTER

LETTER CIX.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours, and am much concerned to hear you are reduced to such distressed circumstances. I am sorry, that a multiplicity of business prevented me from calling on you; for I can assure you, whatever you may think to the contrary, I have never yet forgotton either you or your family.

With respect to your request, of being admitted a common porter in the East-India house, I am afraid you have not attended to the nature of that business. It is not enough to call it laborious, it is something more; and I am certain, that if you have nothing else to trust to, it will never support you and your wife. Upon a common average, it does not exceed nine shillings *per* week; and what is that, when all sorts of provisions are sold at the most exhorbitant prices? But not to keep you in suspence, I have something in view for you, which joined with a compliance of your request, will, I think, support you through old age. I have procured you the place of porter in one of the tea warehouses, and I have employed a friend to take a chandler's shop for you, where your wife may conduct the business; and what part of the house you do not want for yourselves, you may lett in lodgings.

With respect to what you imagine to have been lost by your brother's death, you may make yourself quite easy; as I shall procure for you, all that was due to him. And now, my dear Sir, what can I say more? Call upon me as soon as you can; and, be assured, you shall never be in want of a friend, while I live.

Your humble servant,

JOHN HARRISON.

LETTER

LETTER CX.

From a young Man, who, in a State of Drunkenness, inlisted to be a Soldier, to his Master, a Tradesman in London.

Honoured Sir,

HAD I attended to your instructions which you tenderly gave me from time to time, you would not have been troubled with this letter; but repentance comes when perhaps it is too late. On Saturday last, I unfortunately got into company with some drunken fellows, who kept me up all the night, and in the morning we were all laid hold of by a recruiting party, who had contrived to put money into our pockets while we were so stupid with intoxication, that we neither knew where we were nor what we were doing, What a poor thoughtless wretch have I been! I have despised the best advice that could be given; my conduct will be the death of my poor mother, and I am now the most miserable creature in the universe.—I am ashamed to send you this, and yet perhaps you will pity me. I find you are acquainted with Captain West, who commands the recruiting party, and, if you would but speak to him in my favour, so as to procure my discharge, I will never for the future keep such company. I will attend to my business, and be directed by your instructions. When I think of what I have done, I abhor myself, and am ashamed to look any of my friends in the face. I am not yet attested, but the Captain threatens to send me to the Savoy, which terrifies me much, because I may immediately be sent abroad. Pardon, dear Sir, this first fault I have committed, and I shall for ever be your faithful servant; and by my future conduct convince you, that your compassion on an unworthy object, has not been bestowed in vain. Let me beg to hear from you, for I am afraid

every

every moment of their taking me before a juſtice, and then it will be difficult to procure my enlargement.

I am, honoured Sir,

With ſincerity, yours, &c.

GEORGE HAWKINS.

LETTER CXI.

The Anſwer.

George,

WHAT I have long expected has now happened, and while I deteſt your unhappy conduct, I ſtill pity you. Like the prodigal ſon in the goſpel, you was deſirous of filling your belly with the huſks which the ſwine feed on; and having diveſted yourſelf of the fear of God, you joined yourſelf to a company of wretches who glory in their ſhame. All the inſtructions I gave you, have been like water ſpilt on the ground, and I look upon your ruin as completed. Suppoſing I was to interfere in your favour, what reaſon have I to expect you will ever change your conduct? No, George, I am afraid you are too much attached to your graceleſs companions, ever to return to your duty. As young men proceed gradually from virtue to vice, ſo evil habits are not eaſily ſhaken off. You may make profeſſions under your oppreſt calamitous circumſtances; and diſregard them as ſoon as you are ſet at liberty. I have often told you, that if ever you gave yourſelf up to company in alehouſes, you would ſink into the groſſeſt vices; you would neglect your buſineſs, and live to be deſpiſed by all thoſe who wiſhed to promote your intereſt.

But, George, that you may have nothing to plead in your defence, if ever you ſhould plunge yourſelf into the ſame unhappy condition again, I have procured your diſcharge, and I will ſtill employ you on condition

condition that you ſpend the evenings at home; for it is my fixed reſolution, that no drunkard ſhall reſide *in my houſe. I know that* I am accountable for my conduct to my ſervants, and you muſt acknowledge, you never yet ſaw any thing in my behaviour from whence you could take an evil example. I have paid the money for you to the captain, and if you behave as I would have you, I will never demand one ſhilling from you.

I am, your ſincere friend,

JOHN BELLAMY.

LETTER CXII.

From a Merchant in London, to one of the Boys belonging to Chriſt's Hoſpital, on his going into the Naval Service.

Dear Charles,

WHEN you was left an orphan, I got you admitted into Chriſt's Hoſpital, where you have received an education to qualify you for the ſea. It gives me great pleaſure to find that you have not ſpent your time in idleneſs, and therefore I have procured you a good place on board one of his Majeſty's ſhips of war. I may add, that I have recommended you to the captain; for whenever I begin a good work, I always endeavour to ſee it compleated. But ſtill, I have not yet done: I muſt continue my inſtructions, as long as you receive them with docility and cordiality; while your mind is untainted by vice, I ſhall retain ſome hopes of promoting your intereſt.

You are now got into a ſmall wooden world; but, ſmall as it is, you will find in it all the paſſions, and all the vices that are to be found in the kingdom at large. The conſideration of theſe things, induces me to put you in mind of the neceſſity you are under to be upon your guard. Let not any of thoſe on board

board frighten you from your duty. Be not ashamed of religion, for those who honour God, he will honour them; and those that despise him, shall be lightly esteemed. You will frequently hear blasphemous oaths repeated; but, instead of being contaminated by the pernicious infection, consider, that if you seek assistance from God, you will have great reason to expect his gracious protection, in keeping you from being led away by the stream of pernicious temptation.—Are you not daily surrounded by innumerable dangers? The enemy and the sea both war against you; and, as death presents itself to you on every side, surely you ought to be prepared for it; for as death leaves you, judgment will find you. I was some time at sea in my youth, and I have reason to bless God, that no temptation could ever force me to blaspheme his name. The pleasure I enjoyed was inexpressible, and although often mocked by my graceless companions, yet they respected me at last. I have sent you a few good books, which I hope you will peruse at your leisure hours; and may God Almighty direct you, and keep you in his fear, that you may enjoy his favour.

I am your second parent,

THOMAS HANBURY.

LETTER CXIII.

From a Sailor on board one of the King's Ships, to his Wife.

On board the TERRIBLE *in Plymouth-Sound.*

My dear Molly,

WE have been here some time waiting for the Admiral, whom we expect every day; and, in the mean time, we are taking in fresh water and provisions.

provisions. Although I happened to be impressed, yet, whatever many persons may think, I can assure you, that if a seaman will do his duty, he need not be afraid of any thing. We have plenty of victuals, and good wholesome beer; and although, when at sea, our provisions are salted, yet as soon as we arrive at a port, all sorts of fresh provisions are brought us. I have sixteen pounds to receive, which will be paid you on applying to Mr. Brown, our agent, at the Navy-Office; and you may expect to hear again from me, as soon as an opportunity offers. Our Captain, who has behaved like a man of courage and honour, has written to a merchant in London, to get dear little Tommy into the Blue-coat-hospital, where he will receive a good education. As for the two young ones you will do for them as well as you can, and I will send you money as often as I can. I shall not spend any thing, but for the most necessary articles, and we are in great hopes of picking up a few of our enemy's ships.

Let me beg the children may be kept at a day school, 'till they can read their bible, and shift for themselves. This is all we can do for them; and when we come to a death bed, we shall have the pleasure to reflect, that our time in this life has not been spent in vain.

I am, your affectionate husband,

JOHN MIZZEN.

LETTER CXIV.

The Answer.

Dear Husband,

I Received yours, and blessed be God you are well. The children shed tears over their father's letter, and prayed that Providence would once more restore

you to them. I was paid ſixteen pounds by Mr. Brown; and ſuch was his generoſity, that he gave me back the fees. Tommy is to be admitted into the Blue-coat-hoſpital at Eaſter; and as for the young ones, I ſhall take all the care of them you can deſire or wiſh. Betty is already in the teſtament, and Polly has juſt begun her ſpelling-book. They are good children, and they go to church every Sunday. I have bought them new ſtuff gowns, and ſuch other things as they were in want of; for you know I muſt make the beſt uſe of the money. I have three days waſhing every week, at the houſe of a gentleman in the neighbourhood; and he has promiſed to get Betty into the charity ſchool. Thus you ſee every thing is as well as could have been expected, nay, bleſſed be God it is no worſe. I hope the Almighty will preſerve my dear from all thoſe dangers which he is conſtantly expoſed to; and reſtore him at laſt to the arms of an affectionate wife, and three amiable children. Such is the prayer of one who muſt love you for ever.

ELIZABETH MIZZEN.

LETTER CXV.

From a young Woman gone to Service in London, to her Lover in the Country.

Dear Billy,

I Would have written to you before, but our people have had ſo many viſitors, that I could not ſpare time; but now having an opportunity, I ſhall in compliance with my promiſe, begin to keep up that friendſhip by writing, which was begun while we were in the country. The people I am ſettled with have treated me with civility, nor can I ſay that they exact more from me, than I am able to perform. But ſtill I am not altogether pleaſed with my ſituation;

you

you know it was my conſtant practice to get up in the *morning by ſix o'clock, and retire to reſt by ten in* the evening. Then I was fit for all the duties of my ſtation; but alas! what a change has taken place? Here we breakfaſt at noon, dine at ſeven in the afternoon; then our gentry go out to ſpend the evening, and ſeldom return 'till three in the morning.

This is what I little expected; and I am afraid, that if I continue much longer in this place, my health will be injured, for I have already caught cold, and I have not an opportunity of taking any thing for it. I wiſh you would conſult with my mother what is beſt for me to do, for although I am rather unwilling to leave my place, yet I know ſhe would not deſire me to continue in it, upon the ſuppoſition that I ſhould receive any injury. Let me hear from you as ſoon as poſſible, and be aſſured, that

I am ſincerely yours,

MARY BALLARD.

LETTER CXVI.

The Anſwer.

Dear Polly,

I Received yours, and the account you give me of your ſituation, affects me more than I am able to expreſs, but it is what I expected; for when I was in London, I found my own circumſtances exactly ſimilar to what you have repreſented. You know I ſaid every thing to diſſuade you from going to London, but you was fixed in your reſolution, ſo that I did not chuſe to contradict you. It is certainly the duty of every young perſon to ſee as much of the world as poſſible, but ſudden changes are ſeldom attended with beneficial conſequences. I waited on your mother, and ſhe is deſirous you would return as ſoon as you can; and my father is going to ſet me up in a

farm, so that I cannot see what reason you can have to withhold your hand from me any longer. I will meet you on the road, and I doubt not but we shall be extremely happy, for it is my design to make you so.

I am, dear Polly,

Your sincere lover,

WILLIAM BEECH.

LETTER CXVII.

From a young Gentleman in London, to his Guardian in the Country.

On DUELING.

Honoured Sir,

WHEN I left your family to reside in the Temple, I promised that I would consult you in all cases of a difficult nature; for as your good advices were never yet withheld from those who wanted them, so I doubt not but you will be ready on every occasion to assist me. I was a few evenings ago in company with some young gentlemen, and a dispute arose concerning the merits of an actress, in which I took no part, but one of the gentlemen challenged the other, and next morning they fought a duel in Hyde-Park. The consequences were not fatal; but the next time I saw them, I endeavoured to dissuade them from such a practice as inconsistent with moral duty, and totally opposite to the Christian religion. But how great was my surprize, when I found them treating all I said with ridicule, and even contempt: They told me, that I had not the spirit of a gentleman, whose duty it is to resent every injury, even at the expence of his own life. Strange thought I; am I not commanded to forgive injuries; and as my life was not given by myself, so I can have no right to sport with it, at the expence of injuring my conscience and offending my God.

God. However, they ſtill inſiſt, that if I refuſe to fight a duel when another injures my honour, or traduces the character of the perſon whom I reſpect, then I ſhall be conſidered as a coward, and driven as a poltroon out of every polite circle. Let me beg to hear from you as ſoon as you receive this, for I am led into a ſtate of doubting, to which I was a ſtranger 'till now.

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours dutifully,

C. B.

LETTER CXVIII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

ALTHOUGH I was much engaged in buſineſs when your letter arrived, yet I would not delay one moment in ſending you an anſwer. Little did I imagine that ever you could have any doubts in your mind, concerning the horrid practice of dueling; but I am ſorry to find from your own account, that by the keeping bad company you are in the high way to ruin. To believe the obligation of a moral or religious duty, and at the ſame time, to trifle with it as a matter of ſpeculation, ſerve only to point out that there is no wickedneſs, but men will practiſe, if by perverſion of reaſon they can ſtifle the agonizing pains of a guilty conſcience. Whenever I hear of a perſon beginning to doubt of the truth of moral obligation, I give him up as loſt. The change indeed is not ſudden, but gradual, and ruin is generally the conſequence. The young man who has received a virtuous education, contracts an acquaintance with rakes, whoſe time is ſpent in extoling plays, and ridiculing religion; their converſation wears gradu-

ally off from his mind, every virtuous ſentiment, and the crimes he would have ſhuddered at before, while he continued in a regular courſe of duty, appear to him as no worſe than trifling follies. He mocks at religion with his profane companions; he conſiders himſelf as ſet at liberty from every tyrannical reſtraint; he rejoices that religion is no more than a fable, while at the ſame time, he is forging chains to confine himſelf down to everlaſting miſery. Be aſſured, my dear Sir, I have ſeen inſtances of theſe things; and unleſs you detach yourſelf from your graceleſs companions, you will become a diſhonour to your family, you will bring infamy upon yourſelf in time, and promote your everlaſting ruin in eternity. I ſhall conſider the remainder of your letter in my next, and in the mean time,

I am, dear Sir,

Your ſincere well-wiſher,

GEORGE PARVAL.

LETTER CXIX.

From the Same to the Same.

Dear Sir,

I Come now to the ſecond part of your letter, namely, that which relates to dueling, or, in other words, *genteel murder*. Don't be ſurprized at the expreſſion, for whatever you may think to the contrary, I am very well convinced that it deſerves no better name. Every Chriſtian is commanded to forgive injuries, and to love his enemies; to do as he would be done by; and to conſider it as more noble to ſubdue the firſt emotions of anger, than to give vent to ungovernable paſſions, to expoſe his own ſoul and body to danger, or deprive his friend of his life. Does a ruffian challenge you to fight? tell him that you muſt

not

not fight, unless called to it in the way of duty. Consider whether it is not more honourable to submit to trifling affronts, than to plunge a sword into the heart of your neighbour. You mention *Honour*, and *Honour* is the hobby-horse of every one who is unacquainted with it. It is like a prostitute pretending to have modesty, or a thief to have honesty. True honour, Sir, consists in doing our duty in private life, and then extending the influence of our example to the community at large. It is the duty of a man of honour to forgive an injury; it is the character of a profligate to resent it. Am I to hazard my eternal salvation, because I am called a fool or a blockhead? No, Sir, our Saviour was called by the most opprobrious names, while he was going about doing good, and mocked when he laid down his life for a guilty world. How different the character of the duellist! I have often wished that we had a law amongst us, obliging every person who sends a challenge to another, to pay a fine of five hundred pounds, or be committed to the house of correction for one year: Nay, I would have the duellist, who kills his friend, hanged up in chains on the spot where the murder was committed, and all his personal estate confiscated for the benefit of the poor. Let me beg, Sir, that I may hear no more from you on this subject. Keep no more company with such wretches as you have described. Attend to what I taught you in your tender years, and then you will have reason to bless me for this advice.

I am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate guardian,

GEORGE PARVAL.

LETTER

LETTER CXX.

From a young Gentleman to a Friend.

On MEMORY.

Dear Sir,

I Have often wondered how you can remember every thing you read, for no ſooner do I peruſe a work than I forget it. You have often told me, there is ſuch a thing as an artificial memory; but as I did not rightly comprehend your meaning, I took no further notice of what you ſaid, which probably has induced you to look upon me as one who paid no regard to your inſtructions. I hope, however, you will think more favourably of me, and continue that friendſhip which we contracted ſome years ago. Indeed it grieves me much to think that I have read authors, whom I often hear quoted in company, but can ſeldom repeat a ſingle paſſage in them. I tell my companions that I have read ſuch and ſuch a book, but when they deſcend to particulars, I am loſt in ignorance and darkneſs. What, my dear friend, is this owing to? Or why ſhould I read to forget? Let me beg you to give me your opinion on this ſubject, for I cannot bear the thoughts of going through the world as an animal being, without memory, reflection or judgement. I am afraid I have not made a judicious choice of books, but have read whatever preſented itſelf to me without order or method. Whatever you dictate ſhall be ſacredly adhered to by me; and happy ſhall I conſider myſelf, if I can but enjoy thoſe pleaſures which many do, in conſequence of their remembering the beautiful paſſages in thoſe authors they have read.

I am, dear Sir, yours reſpectfully,

A. B.

LETTER.

LETTER CXXI.

The Answer.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours, and am not much surprized at the complaint you have made with respect to the want of memory, especially as you have not adhered to any fixed plan of reading. Reading every book just as it comes to hand, is like a person swallowing down twenty different sorts of victuals in a day. The one creates a foulness in the stomach, which generally ends in a consumption; the other discomposes the rational faculties, and makes learning itself (one of the greatest ornaments of human life) a nuisance, instead of a real advantage. In perusing books of history, you must take memorandums of the most striking incidents; and these you must arrange in such a manner, as to be able to refer to them on every occasion. In poetry, consider the subject matter the author has in view; and having read a passage two or three times over with care and attention, you will remember it at your leisure hours, and be enabled to repeat it in conversation. I am sorry we have not in our language so much as the plan of a common-place-book, to assist the memory; for such as have been published under that title do not deserve the name. During the fourth century of Christianity, it was common to repeat the Acts of our Saviour and his Apostles in verse, which made a lasting impression on the minds of the hearers, and this seems to have been the practice in later times; for we are told in the life of *Grotius*, that he composed the principles of the Christian religion in verse, and had them sung in the streets of the most capital cities in Holland. I have often wished that until such time as we can procure the plan of a common-place-book, this practice was to be a little more attended to; for a man will remember many things written in agreeable verse, which

which in profe would be forgotten. Language is the fame, whether in profe or in verfe; and tranflators may make ufe of either, fo as they do no injury to the original.* I fhall at all times be ready to give you what inftructions lay in my power; but you muft excufe me when I tell you, that unlefs you think while you read, your reading will be but of little fervice.

I am, dear Sir, yours fincerely,
H. BOWEN.

LETTER CXXII.

From a young Man, a Soldier in the Militia, to his Father in Yorkfhire.

Honoured Sir,

I Had not an opportunity of feeing you fince I was drawn into the militia, for the regiment marched within a few days after. We are now encamped, and I can affure you that whatever little difficulties we may have to ftruggle with, yet when I confider every thing I have no reafon to complain. Had I refufed to engage in defence of the injured rights of my country, I might have remained in Yorkfhire as an idle drone, but now I have fome comfort, in confidering that I am engaged in the way of duty. We have prayers and fermon every Sunday in the camp, and our Colonel has ordered a bible to be given to each of us. Nothing but regularity takes place, and as for curfing and fwearing, which you always cautioned me againft,

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* We would beg leave to recommend to young people in particular the following work, which forms a valuable epitome of Divine revelation, *The Hiftory of the Holy Bible in Verfe*, as contained in the old and new teftaments, with occafional notes, including a concife relation of the facred hiftory from the creation to the times of our Lord and Saviour Jefus Chrift and his Apoftles: and comprehending all the memorable tranfactions of upwards of four thoufand years. *By John Fellows.* It is now publifhing in 16 Sixpenny numbers, adorned with beautiful copper-plates elegantly engraved.

we

we know nothing of it. Why then, Sir, ſhould I complain? The great and good Colonel Gardener, who had a paternal eſtate of his own, chearfully laid down his life for the rights of his country; and although I am only a private ſoldier, yet if I do my duty, may I not expect that my reward will in proportion be equal to his? Upon the whole, I think that theſe three years ſervitude may be attended with the moſt beneficial conſequences, if I improve them in a proper manner. Give my duty to my mother and love to my ſiſters, and beg they will continue to remember me.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful ſon,

JOHN MILES.

LETTER CXXIII.

The Father's Anſwer.

Dear Jacky,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear that you are ſo well reconciled to the hardſhips of a life, the moſt honeſt and honourable that you could have embraced. I have often wondered, why people ſhould find fault with a military life. The life of a Chriſtian is compared to that of a ſoldier; for the Apoſtle Paul tells us, that he *had fought the good fight of faith.* Many of the moſt eminent perſons among the primitive Chriſtians were ſoldiers, and ſome of them chearfully laid down their lives for the truth, as it is revealed to us in the ſacred ſcriptures. The father of the great St. Auſtin was a ſoldier; Conſtantine the great was a Roman general, before he embraced the Chriſtian religion; aud Jovian, the Emperor, did not conſider it as a diſhonour to look up to the Divine Being for ſucceſs, before he engaged in any military exploits. Religion, my dear boy, is the grand

ornament

ornament of human life, and where can you make it appear with a more beautiful, a more diſtinguiſhing luſtre, than in faithfully diſcharging the duties of a military life? There is one thing, however, I muſt caution you againſt; namely, a connection with thoſe in the camp whom you will find given up, as it were, to all ſorts of wickedneſs. My dear lad, never forget that you are an accountable being, and therefore the more profanity you hear in company, you ought to be the more on your guard. Glorious indeed muſt the character of thoſe perſons appear in the ſight of Heaven, who by putting their truſt in the providence of God, and ſeeking his aſſiſtance, have been able to reſiſt the force of temptation. May every bleſſing attend my dear ſon, and when he has ſerved his country according to the appointed time by law, may he be reſtored to his indulgent parents, is the ſincere wiſh of a father who loves him.

GEORGE MILES.

LETTER CXXIV.

From a young Woman, who had been ſeduced, to her aged Father in the Country.

Ever honoured Father,

BUT, alas! why do I make uſe of ſuch a ſacred name? I have trampled upon all your commands, and have forſaken both you and my God. I have brought my mother's grey hairs with ſorrow to the grave; and although there can be no doubt but ſhe is in a ſtate of happineſs, yet how can I forgive myſelf for the trouble I gave her, when, conſiſtent with my duty, I ſhould have been her comfort. Ah! Sir, why was I born? Was it to diſhonour you, or to ruin my own precious and immortal ſoul? Yes, Sir, and I am afraid both ſoul and body are ruined. But is there no mercy with my God? Can I expect

no forgiveneſs from a once indulgent parent. In an unguarded moment I complied with the deſires of a villain, and, conſiſtent with the whole of his character, no ſooner had he in all reſpects completed my ruin, than he triumphed over my weakneſs. But will my dear father ſhut up the bowels of his compaſſion againſt a guilty, though penitent daughter? Did not you once love me, while in a ſtate of the pureſt innocence? And will you not be my friend in a ſtate of diſtreſs? Remember, Sir, that I am ſtill your child let my offence be ever ſo great. Take me once more into the arms of your parental affection, and the whole of my life ſhall be one continued act of obedience. I have none but you to apply to, and let me beg your anſwer may not drive me to deſpair.

I am, ever honoured Sir,

Your afflicted daughter,

MARY WILSON.

LETTER CXXV.

The Father's Anſwer.

Dear Child,

IS there joy my dear in heaven over one ſinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine perſons who need no repentance? Has God ſent the ſon of his love to die for mortals? Has he ſet open the gates of ſalvation for ſinners? And muſt I refuſe extending my compaſſion to a beloved, though an offending daughter? Gracious God forbid! may never ſuch a ſentiment take place in my mind. It was my principal ſtudy to bring you up in the fear of God; and although you have once yielded to the force of temptation, yet I know we are all frail creatures, and therefore as we expect mercy from the Divine Being, ſo we ought to do as we would be done by. Let not

the consideration of any thing that has happened, induce you to consider me as your enemy; no, my dear, I am your real friend. I am your father, and I have arms of compassion extended to receive you. Let me therefore beg you will come to me, no faults shall be remembered; and in consequence of your mother's death, you shall be mistress of my house, for I will never give you a step mother. Do not, my dear, mention despair, for in such cases, I am afraid there is but little hope of pardon. Come to my indulgent arms, and I shall never think of your having been guilty of a fault. I have been guilty of errors, I must look up to the Divine Being for pardon, and why then should I not pardon you? Yes, my dear, I do it with a chearful heart; and let me beg to see you as soon as you receive this, because every thing is prepared for your reception, and you will find your life agreeable.

I am, dear child, your affectionate father,

JOHN WILSON.

LETTER CXXVI.

The young Woman's Answer to her Father.

Ever honoured Sir,

YOU have often told me in the days of my innocence, that those who intend to act uprightly, have reason to expect the Divine favour; and altho' I may be justly considered as unworthy of it, yet a circumstance has taken place, which I hope will be for my advantage, and give some comfort to my aged parent. Mr. Serle, the Curate of our parish, was a few evenings ago in company with Mr. Brown, by whose vile insinuating arts I was first seduced; and the worthy clergyman represented his guilt to him in such lively colours, that next morning he brought a licence, and we were married. I have great reason to hope that Mr. Brown will make a good husband, for he is

now

now convinced of his folly, and only waits for your bleſſing. He is in a good way of buſineſs, and therefore I think myſelf extremely happy. We ſhall wait upon you in a few days, ſo that I muſt beg you will not upbraid him with any thing that is paſt. As a reparation has been made for the injury done me, let all be forgotten, that I may ſtill have an opportunity of living in the world in a creditable manner. Receive us, my dear father, with open arms of affection; and then you will have the pleaſing reflection in your mind, that you have, by one act of generoſity, reſcued an unhappy couple from deſtruction.

I am, ever honoured Sir,

Your affectionate daughter,

MARY BROWN.

LETTER CXXVII.

From a Father of a young Family, to a Gentleman of conſiderable Rank.

Honoured Sir,

ABOUT ten years ago, when I married, you acted to me the part of a real friend, and by ſetting me up in buſineſs, enabled me to provide for my family; but, alas! a variety of circumſtances have ſince that time, and indeed very lately taken place, that without your advice, and the aſſiſtance of worthy generous perſons, I ſhall become a moſt miſerable object, and my children be left unprovided for. The truth is, my wife died about two months ago, and the affliction I have been under on that melancholy occaſion has preyed ſo much on my ſpirits, that I did not attend properly to buſineſs, 'till forced to it by neceſſity, and then I found my affairs very much embarraſſed. My wife did not keep a proper account of what articles ſhe ſold on credit, ſo that it

is not in my power to recover many things due to me; and you know my ſmall place in the Cuſtom-Houſe, prevented me from giving a conſtant attendance to my ſhop. I ſee nothing leſs than miſery before me. I am too poor to become a bankrupt, even if I had an inclination to be ſo, but all the horrors of a priſon preſent themſelves to my view. What can I do, Sir, in a priſon? There I ſhall be buried from the world; there I cannot work, and while I am there my poor children will ſtarve. I dare not ſolicit you, for any pecuniary gratification, having received much of that already; but ſtill, in Chriſtian charity, I may beg you would adviſe me how to act. I have ſent incloſed the ſtate of my affairs; and, upon the ſevereſt ſcrutiny, it will be found that I have not made uſe of a ſingle falſhood. I would call upon you, but cannot without your permiſſion, which I hope, from your well known good nature, you will not refuſe to grant.

I am, honoured Sir,

Reſpectfully although afflicted,

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD PRICE.

LETTER CXXVIII.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

I Received your letter, and the contents have affected me much. I was in hopes that you and your wife had conducted things in ſuch a prudent manner, that a ſufficient proviſion would have been made for your family. It was in order to promote ſo deſirable an end that I procured you a place in the Cuſtom-Houſe, but now I find that all my endeavours to ſerve you have been of no manner of uſe. Remember I do

do not accuſe you of criminality, for when I give advice I am always tender, leſt the advice itſelf ſhould defeat its own intention, and make the man unhappy whom I thought it my duty to ſerve. The incloſed ſtate of your affairs is melancholy indeed, for I find you have neither a capital to carry on buſineſs, nor ſufficiency to pay your debts, and your place in the Cuſtom-Houſe will not ſupport you under ſuch circumſtances. You aſk for my advice, and that ſhall be readily granted; I only wiſh it could be attended with beneficial conſequences, ſo as to preſerve you from ruin and promote the intereſt of your family. The account you have ſent me of your wife's neglect in keeping proper accounts, ſhould have been attended to long ſince; for ſurely you muſt have had occaſion to make up payments before, and had you attended in a proper manner to your books, you would have found where the miſtakes lay, before it was too late to rectify them. I would have you to ſummons a meeting of your creditors, and as I am one I ſhall attend. Give up, without reſerve, all you have to them, and I ſhall endeavour to procure you time for the payment of the remainder. Whatever is ſpent at the meeting I will pay for it, and I will repurchaſe all you have, in order to ſet you up again in buſineſs. My conduct in ſuch an important affair will influence the reſt of the creditors, and then I doubt not of ſeeing you as well ſettled in buſineſs as ever.

I am, Sir, yours,

A. B.

LETTER CXXIX.

From a young Man in Priſon for Debt, deſiring to be reconciled to an aged Aunt, whom he had offended.

Honoured Madam,

LOOK with compaſſion to the ſubſcription of this letter, written from a diſmal priſon by a wicked young man, on whoſe education you ſpent both time and

pains, although he has not treated you with that gratitude which was his duty. The truth is, dear aunt, my eyes are now opened, and with shame I see my folly, my misery, my ruin. To whom, while I am starving with cold and hunger, can I apply but you. Is there no mercy for a penitent prodigal? Am I willing, nay, desirous of returning to the paths of virtue? but am I to receive no favour? be honoured with no sort of protection? nor treated with common humanity? I read yesterday the parable of the prodigal son, who in consequence of his contrition, his sense of his former follies and his resolution of amendment, was received with open arms of reconciliation by his father. And why, my dear aunt, will not you pity me? I am as much ashamed when I reflect on my former conduct in life, as you can be to hear my actions repeated: but when God offers pardon to repenting sinners, why should we withhold our charitable assistance from each other? Consider me, although sensible of my folly, yet in the high road to destruction. From the morning to the evening, and even during the whole of the night, I hear nothing besides cursing, swearing, blasphemy and obscenity. While I think of my duty as a sincere penitent, I am tempted, in order to avoid the imputation of singularity, to approve of what is said by those who have not the fear of God before their eyes. Extend your benevolence, dear aunt, in order to extricate me from this wretched state of confinement, which cannot be called better than *hell upon earth*. The remainder of my life shall convince you of my sincerity, and the blessing of him who was ready to perish will be your everlasting portion.

I am, honoured Madam,

Your unhappy nephew,

GEORGE WALLIS.

LETTER

LETTER CXXX.

The Answer.

Unhappy George,

I Received your letter, and read it with that attention which the serious nature of the subject pointed out to me; and although you seem to imagine that I am unaffected with your present miserable situation; although you think me devoid of bowels of compassion, yet in both you are mistaken; for I know how to forgive the follies, the vices of youth; to receive with the utmost chearfulness the returning prodigal, and to point out to the sincere penitent a line of subsequent duty. Your being arrested and thrown into prison, is what I expected long before the melancholy event took place. That your misery is great I cannot doubt, I wish I was as well convinced of the sincerity of your repentance. Professions of virtuous resolutions made during a state of confinement are seldom sincere, and as seldom do they take place in the conduct of the person who has been set at liberty. Afflictions may have brought you to a sense of your past follies, but under that affliction has any amendment of life taken place? Affliction may have induced you to despise the conduct of your abandoned companions; but, if set at liberty, would not you chuse to herd with them again? You declare that it is horrid, to be a constant ear witness to the blasphemous expressions made use of in prison; but, if at liberty, would you not join yourself to wretches, who, divested of the fear of God, make use of the same expressions? I am afraid you would: However, as I would not be censorious, but give all the encouragement in my power to the person who declares himself ashamed of his former conduct, so I have sent an order for the payment of your debts; and you will receive as much as will equip you, in a proper manner, to see me. But let me beg you will leave your

oaths

oaths and blaſphemy in the priſon, and when you come out of ſight of London, forget every place where your manners were contaminated, and where you was firſt ſeduced from your duty to God, to your country, your friends and yourſelf.

I am your affectionate aunt,

ARABELLA WALKER.

LETTER CXXXI.

From a Farmer in the Country, to his Landlord in London.

Honoured Sir,

FOR a gentleman of your rank to comply with a ſingle requeſt made by a poor man, whoſe famliy having received many benefits from you, is a great favour indeed, if complied with; and if neglected, it ſhall be ſubmitted to with becoming reſignation. The firſt thing I have to mention is, that the crop this year has been exceedingly barren, ſo that it will not be in my power to pay the rent before Chriſtmas. In that reſpect, I doubt not but you will ſympathize with me, and write to your ſteward to grant me time: But I have another thing to mention; my ſon Jack, whom you have often treated with tenderneſs, has ſome thoughts of going to the Eaſt-Indies, and I ſhould be under many obligations, if you could procure him a proper place. He knows but little of the nature of the ſervice, but your knowledge and your benevolence are capable to direct him. I would have ſent him to London for your advice, but as it will be ſome time before the Eaſt-India ſhips ſail, ſo I ſhall have time to receive your anſwer. I muſt add further, that there are but two years remaining of my leaſe, and your ſteward has intimated to perſons in the neighbourhood, that the rent is to be raiſed. I hope this is not true, for your ever honoured father

told

told me, that while I acted as an honest man, my rent should never be raised, nor should I be turned out of the possession of that farm which my father enjoyed, and where I first drew my breath. I doubt not, Sir, but you will consider what I have said in a proper manner, and whatever you prescribe shall be obeyed by me.

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours in all humility,

THOMAS HODGES.

LETTER CXXXII.

The Answer.

Farmer Hodges,

YOU have presented me with no less than three requests, and I shall comply with them as far as lays in my power; I mean the second, for with respect to the first and the last, I can do as I please. Now, Sir, in regard to the season; I am no stranger to it, and so far am I from exacting your rent at the appointed time, that I will give you six months longer to pay it than you have desired. Your second request, with respect to your son, may be attended with some difficulty, and yet I doubt not but I shall accomplish it. I would have him to go out in the station of a writer; and, if the climate should agree with his constitution, he will bid fair to procure a considerable fortune. Heavens grant it may not be the wages of iniquity! A curse attends ill gotten riches, and the avaricious man often reads his guilt in his punishment. When you send your son to London, I shall give him proper instructions, and I doubt not of procuring him a very good place. Lastly, you seem to think that my steward will advance your rent on the renewal of your lease. Be not uneasy on that account; my steward is my servant, and he cannot

not do any thing to injure you without my consent, which be assured shall never be granted. I respect what you mention concerning my dear father, but consider that I am an accountable being as well as he. My father has left me a pious example, but instead of confining myself to it in a slavish manner, I hope to aspire beyond it. Let parents teach their children, but let children endeavour to become both wiser and better than their parents. Upon the whole, I am your sincere friend: and as a proof of that honest friendship, I have sent some small presents to your children.

Yours,

CHARLES TURNER.

LETTER CXXXIII.

From a young Tradesman in London to his Uncle in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

ALTHOUGH I brought your displeasure upon me, for marrying before the expiration of my apprenticeship, yet as my wife is one of the most virtuous prudent young women that ever lived, so I doubt not but you will forgive me. Ever since I set up in business, although much pinched for want of a little money to carry it on, yet I have not contracted one shilling of debt besides what I can pay; and if my capital was a little more enlarged, I should be able to undertake several considerable jobbs, which I would endeavour to conduct with prudence, and I doubt not but I should be well paid. You often generously promised, that if ever I married to your satisfaction, you would give me something to assist me; and surely, Sir, if I have displeased you, the event has justified my choice; and perhaps my circumstances are much better, and my life more happy, than if I had married a wife with ten thousand pounds. I

have

have loſt no time, I keep no company but where my *buſineſs requires it*; my wife is not one of thoſe who will take part in the faſhionable follies of this world, and then may I not expect a bleſſing on our endeavours? I muſt not beg any thing from you; but let me hope, that I may yet have the happineſs to be reconciled to your favour. To pardon the guilty (if I have been ſo) is the darling attribute of the Deity; and I doubt not but you, who have practiſed a courſe of religious duties, will yet countenance a young man, whom you once treated with tenderneſs.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your affectionate nephew,

S. M.

LETTER CXXXIV.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sammy,

IT is true, that when you married ſo young I was much offended, for this juſt reaſon, that I imagined you had completed your own ruin, which was the more ſurpriſing to me, becauſe you had been always virtuous before. It is, however, with peculiar pleaſure, I hear that you have been ſucceſsful; and to convince you of my tenderneſs, I have deſired Mr. Hogg, to advance you as much money, as you can reaſonably deſire, to enable you to carry on buſineſs. Conſider, that if God in his providence has bleſſed you with a virtuous partner for life, you will have much to anſwer for if you do not attend to your duty. When Appelles the famous painter, drew the figure of an artiſt, he always repreſented him with tools in his hands; thereby inſinuating in a ſtriking manner, that the man who has been brought up to buſineſs, ſhould never be idle. A tradeſman ſhould be induſtrious, but he ſhould not place his confidence in his induſtry. "I will do every thing that is right," ſays

a great

a great man, "But I will look to Heaven for a "blessing." In vain, my dear Sammy, do we rise soon or sit up late, unless God bestows his blessing, and commands his life giving favour. Riches procured without a dependance on Divine Providence, have a secret curse lodged within them: They may give a man the enjoyment for some time of the affluence of life, but they will never convey peace of conscience, or make him happy in eternity. Be industrious in your business; be tender to your wife; and be indulgent to your children; but still remember, that riches will never make you happy, unless the Divine favour is stamped upon them. You will meet with losses, but they are the unavoidable lot of every man in trade, and as you know I am no stranger to business, so I think this advice coming from one of some experience, should not be despised: But as I am obliged to be absent a few days from my family, I shall send you what I further intended in my next.

I am, dear Sammy, your affectionate uncle,

S. M.

LETTER CXXXV.

From the Same in Continuation.

Dear Sammy,

I Have received a letter from Mr. Hogg, who informs me, that he has paid the money I ordered, and taken your bond, which I shall suffer to remain in full force, 'till I see in what manner you conduct yourself, and if your conduct is to my satisfaction, the bond shall be cancelled; and perhaps when I am no more in this world, you will find that I never neglected your interest. But this leads me to what I had further to say on a subject which I think is important. There is nothing more common among tradesmen in London, than to keep their country houses, and make parties of pleasure in their coaches and four on Sundays.

days. This was not always the fashion, for I can remember the time, when merchants and tradesmen went to church twice every Sunday, and spent the evenings at home with their families.

Can any thing be more rational, than that of setting apart some of our time for the worship of the Supreme Being? Is he not the God of creation and providence? and has he not a right to our services? We cannot add to his perfections, but we can shew ourselves to be his humble followers, by complying with every commanded duty. I would therefore advise you, when the business of the day is over, to spend some time with your family in chearful conversation, and never to frequent public houses, unless you are obliged to do it in the way of business. On every Saturday evening settle your books, that you may know how much you are indebted, and what you have to answer the demands of your creditors. On Sunday morning call your family together, and put them in mind of the obligations they are under to attend divine worship: Go together to the church, and let your own example teach your servants to behave in a decent reverend manner: And farther, let never your example lead them to the fields, to spend the afternoon in extravagance and dissipation; but still give them leave to follow their own inclinations, for I am fully convinced, your example will work more powerfully upon them, than either exhortations or instructions. Visit your neighbours in a friendly manner, and even invite them to your own house; but in this be cautious, for too much company is the ruin of business. By acting consistent with these prudential rules, you may expect as much success as is consistent with the order of Divine Providence, and further you have no reason to hope.

I am, dear Sammy,

Your affectionate uncle,

S. M.

LETTER CXXXVI.

From a young Man, settled as a Clerk to a Banker in London, to his Father in the Country.

Honoured Sir,

THANKS be to God and to you, that I am now agreeably settled. It was my wish always to be so, and now it has taken place. I have sixty pounds a year allowed me, and I board at the house of your old friend Mr. Watson, who treats me with every sort of indulgence. He would be glad to see you in London, but I often tell him that I have no hopes of your coming, because of your having been so long afflicted with the gout. My business is indeed laborious, and much is intrusted to my care, in consequence of the security I procured by your letter of recommendation; but I take pleasure in doing my duty, which I hope will not displease you. I shall, I hope, attend to the instructions you have given me from time to time; and although my dear father's bones should be consigned to the silent grave, yet I have no doubt of meeting with him in heaven. I keep no company in the evenings, but retire to my lodgings, and spend the time either in conversation or reading. This course of life has become so pleasing to me, that I know not what I could exchange for it. I am rather sorry that, before I left the country, I did not make myself better acquainted with accounts, but that I shall endeavour to do at my leisure hours. *

I am, honoured Sir, your dutiful son,

JOHN MASON.

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* *Bettesworth's Tables of Interest* are the best ever yet contrived for the assistance of bankers and tradesmen in general, in casting up their accounts; and by ballancing the interest, to point out the difference between debtor and creditor. Mr. Bettesworth is also the author of another little book, exceedingly well calculated for shopkeepers, and entitled, "*The Universal Reckoner.*" Price 1s. The Tables of Interest are Price only 1s. 6d.

LETTER CXXXVII.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Jackey,

WITH pleasure I received yours, and if I have not answered it by the first return of the post, you must impute it to the real cause; namely, my being obliged to be absent about the sale of some cattle, which might have been transacted by our man John, had not a dispute arisen from his ignorance of what he was about. The plan you have laid for the regulation of your conduct, is perfectly consistent with what I pointed out to you, while you was under my care; and while you adhere to it, I shall have no doubt but you will make a most distinguishing figure in this world. You are now intrusted with your master's property, nay, with the property of those who have trusted their property with him. Consider the honour arising from the consciousness of integrity, and shudder at the thoughts of injustice. Human laws may inflict a small punishment for the breach of trust, but how can you think of answering to the Divine Being, if you have robbed your master of his property? It is nothing to me, to tell me that your bondsmen will make good the loss, while your character is ruined and your eternal welfare at stake. But still I hope better things of my dear son: He has received a virtuous, a pious education, and why should I imagine he will ever act otherwise? Remember, my dear boy, that if you do your duty without trusting in your own merits, God will be your friend in time; and, although you have no right to claim it, he will reward you in eternity. Above all things, let me beg you will keep from bad company. Milton compares chastity to the sweet perfumes of a flower garden, and lewdness to the noxious steams arising from corrupted bodies in sepulchres. Attend

to virtue and religion, and you will be an object of the Divine care in time, and of his favour when time shall be no more.

I am, your affectionate father,

W. MASON.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

From a young Widow in the Country, to her Brother in London.

Dear Brother,

WHILE my husband was alive I had a friend to consult, but now that he is taken from me, whom shall I go to but you? You have often told me, that in all cases of distress your advice should not be wanting, and certainly I stand much in need of it at present. You know that my husband left me in very embarrassed circumstances, and now that I have got things settled and paid every one his own, I find myself with much less than is able to support me. I can neither beg nor work, and what then shall I do? Mr. Smith, whom you are well acquainted with, and who lost his wife about two years ago, has made proposals of marriage to me, but I cannot give him an answer 'till I hear from you. You are the only friend I have in this world, and whom else can I consult? So far as I can learn, Mr. Smith has a fair character, and he is in reputable circumstances. He can have no self-interest in view, while he solicits my hand; for he knows I have nothing to give, nor any thing to lose, unless it be that peace of mind which has constantly supported me under all my afflictions. Under these circumstances, dear brother, give me your advice what to do; and, I do assure you, it shall regulate my conduct.

Your loving sister,

MARY AICKIN.

LETTER

LETTER CXXXIX.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Sister,

EVERY time I receive a letter from you, I peruse it with as much chearfulness as an Alderman of London does the news-papers, when he reads that the stocks have risen ten *per cent.* for the day. You know I have been long acquainted with Mr. Smith, and I am convinced he is such a one as will never be a dishonour to you, if you consent to give him your hand. The multiplicity of business which I had to go through with prevented me from waiting on you, but still I never forgot you. You are my sister, and I will love you while I am in this world. I think the proposal made to you ought to be accepted of, lest a better should never offer, for I believe few men will be found more worthy of your notice than Mr. Smith. He is a man who has always attended to business; he has a tender and compassionate heart, and who more proper to be a husband to my sister? I would have you by all means to comply with his request, because I think it will be for your interest: Nor would I have you to keep him long in suspence, for he may alter his sentiments, in consequence of some other objects presenting themselves to his view. As you have already been married, so you know something of that state, and I doubt not but Mr. Smith and you will be happy in the enjoyment of each other. I will wait upon my dear sister and give her away in marriage, because she is to be the wife of my friend. May every blessing attend you; and may God Almighty, in his infinite wisdom, direct you to that which will in the end promote your interest, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate brother,

GEORGE EMPSON.

LETTER CXL.

From a Gentlewoman, on the Death of her Husband.

Reverend Sir,

I Have been often advised by you, during my younger years, to prepare myself for affliction, for sooner or later it would take place. Marriage made me happy, in my own poor opinion; and if happiness could be found in this world, I believe I enjoyed as much of it as most of those with whom I am acquainted. My husband treated me with tenderness, I became the mother of an amiable progeny, my children had (and still have) virtuous inclinations, but my God has taken my husband from me! How tender was his love! how delightful his conversation! how engaging his friendship! Perhaps I have done something to incur the Divine displeasure, and God has singled me out as an object of his anger. All my faculties are discomposed, for I once thought that my happiness was to remain for ever uninterrupted. What vain creatures we are, never to take advice 'till it is too late! Had I prepared myself to meet with afflictions, I should not have been afflicted when that melancholy event, the death of my husband, took place. I am now a real object of your pity, and I know that, like your Divine Master, the wretched never solicited your assistance in vain. My son George is bound apprentice to a linen-draper in London, but the other children are still at school. My husband has left you some books and a ring, which you will receive as soon as you arrive at this place, which I hope will be next week. In the mean time, let me beg to hear from you; for every word of consolation will help towards supporting me under my present affliction, and perhaps make a state of widowhood easy.

I am, reverend Sir,

Your unhappy friend,

ANNE HALE.

LETTER

LETTER CLXI.

The Answer.

Dear Madam,

HAD I not been convinced of the propriety of that advice you allude to, I would never have given it. I sincerely pity you, but not perhaps on such principles as you may expect; and remember, that while I find fault it shall be with tenderness, as the only means of producing the desired effect. And now, Madam, as you placed your confidence in things of a perishing nature, you must not be surprized at finding yourself mistaken. You loved your husband; it was your duty: But how could you, consistent with your knowledge in other respects, imagine he was to live for ever? Let me beg you will consider things in a proper light, and not find fault with that Divine Being, who is all love to poor sinful creatures, and only separates them for a time, that they may be for ever happy in eternity. Your husband lived in the fear of God, and died in the firm persuasion of a blessed immortality. He is waiting for you in a state of everlasting happiness, and the time is but short 'till you shall meet him, unless by your acting in an imprudent manner, you should deprive yourself of the Divine favour. You seem to think that you have done something to offend the Almighty: Alas! have you not done many things to offend him? Can you recollect one single action in the course of your life hitherto, that has not been tinctured with sin? Self-knowledge leads to humility, and to resignation. It teaches us to consider ourselves as what we really are, poor miserable creatures; while the belief of Christianity insures to us the hope of a blessed immortality. Supposing God had taken yourself instead of your husband, would not you have been sorry to leave behind you the pledges of a matrimonial contract, of conjugal fidelity? Supposing God had been pleased to remove you both at the same time, how calamitous

calamitous would have been the caſe? how diſtreſſed the ſituation of your children? Left to the partial care of intereſted relations, their education might have been neglected; they might have been treated with cruelty, expoſed to many hardſhips, and at laſt become peſts of human ſociety. But quite the reverſe has taken place; your huſband was well prepared for a future ſtate, and God took him only a little before you. You muſt, however, reflect, that your duty to your children is now double what it was before. You was lately a mother, but now you come in the place of both father and mother. Spend much of your time in reading the ſacred ſcriptures, and learn to acquire their true and genuine ſpirit. Make uſe of a practical commentary, * but never meddle with religious diſputes. I ſhall, if able, call on you next week; and, in the mean time,

Am, dear Madam, your ſincere friend,

SAMUEL LEIGHTON.

LETTER CXLII.

From a young Gentleman on the Death of his Sweetheart to the Clergyman who attended her.

Reverend Sir,

IT is with a trembling hand, and an affected heart, that I write to you on the preſent melancholy occaſion. Miſs Bates is no more: She died in my arms about three hours after you left us yeſterday, and ſhe has left me a miſerable being indeed. I had promiſed myſelf every thing in her love and friendſhip, but now I am left diſconſolate, and my mind is ſo much agitated, that I am like one deprived of reaſon.

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* The FAMILY BIBLE, in only 60 numbers, printed for ALEX. HOGG, contains a comple ſyſtem of divinity, and may be had of all the bookſellers. The price, elegantly bound, is only thirty-ſix ſhillings. It may alſo be had in numbers, one or two at a time. The notes are ſhort but pious, and replete with goſpel ſimplicity.

I need.

I need not mention to you, who was long acquainted with her, the numerous qualifications she was possessed of, beyond the generality of her sex. Her learning was extensive, in French, musick and all sorts of needle-work; she was a pattern of virtue to all the young persons with whom she was acquainted; and such was her piety and love of religion, that many clergymen thought it an honour to spend some hours in her company. Under many, and great afflictions, she was chearful 'till she left this world; all which being joined to one of the finest figures that ever was seen, must have rendered her an object of love, to every young man with whom she was acquainted. But all was exceeded by her humility.

Long had she fill'd each youth with love,
  Each maiden with despair;
And tho' by all, a beauty own'd,
  Yet knew not she was fair.

My parents are drowned in tears, on account of my resolution of going abroad; and what can I do? Shall I give my hand to one inferior to her? And is it possible ever to find her equal? No, Sir; I will retire from the place of my nativity, and shut myself up from the society of men. My life is now become a burthen to me, and where I shall find rest, God only knows. Let me beg to hear from you, and in the mean time,

I am, reverend Sir, yours sincerely,
GEORGE FLETCHER.

LETTER CXLIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Am no stranger, as you well know, to the virtues of the young woman whom you mention. I have spent many agreeable hours in her company, and I have

have often bleſſed the Divine goodneſs that ever I became acquainted with her; but it is long ſince I conſidered her as in a dying condition. This, however, ſhould give you much comfort in many reſpects: You placed your affections on a worthy object, which was much to your honour; and ſhe treated you according to your merits. She was all tenderneſs, and yet it does not appear to me, that you have profited by the example which ſhe ſet before you. If ſo, would you repine at the diſpenſations of Providence, and by leaving your native country make your worthy parents miſerable? Suppoſing you had been married to Miſs Bates, God might have taken her from you, and then perhaps you would have been more miſerable than you are at preſent. Let me perſuade you, if poſſible, to attend to your duty in the ſtation in which providence has placed you, and then you will be a comfort to your parents in their old age, and perhaps you may meet with a partner for life, as accompliſhed as Miſs Bates; but if not, ſtill reſign yourſelf to the will of heaven.

I am, Sir, your ſincere friend,

JOHN POWEL.

LETTER CXLIV.

From a Widow Lady, to a worthy aged Gentleman.

Dear Sir,

THE care you took of my morals in my tender years, will ever be remembered with gratitude; and I impute to your tenderneſs, all that happineſs I enjoyed in the marriage ſtate. Your advice and your example diſplayed virtue as an amiable object, and ſhewed religion in her native colours. With reſpect to the loſs of my huſband, it is what I long expected, and I often prayed for that reſignation which I now enjoy, but ſtill I am much at a loſs how to ſpend my time. I ſometimes long for eternity,

nity, and yet I am afraid of death. To consider my body as consigned to be food for worms, is shocking, and yet it must be. Death! how dreadful the thought! and yet it must take place. But what is death when compared to eternity? That unknown world, where we know not in what manner we shall be employed. Shall we once more know our departed friends? I have often wished that God had made these things plainer to us; but here let me be silent, and acknowledge that the judge of all the earth will do right. I should, however, be glad to hear from you as often as you can spare a few minutes, for I am so infirm, that I cannot call on you.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

ARABELLA ACTON.

LETTER CXLV.

The Answer.

Madam,

I Received yours, and shall, with the greatest chearfulness, comply with your request. You seem to be much afraid of death and eternity, and yet it does not appear to me that you have formed a proper notion of either.

Death is no more than a temporary separation of the soul from the body, to be again joined together at the general resurrection; when Christ shall come to judge the world in righteousness. I will admit, that the passage to death and the grave, is often gloomy and dark. Our acquaintance with the world fixes, as it were, our affections on temporal objects, and we are unwilling to part with them. The pains of a death-bed are often so great, that our minds are discomposed, and we are even unable to consider what should be the grand object in view. And let me ask you, Madam, what the consideration of these things should suggest to us? I answer, a proper behaviour

haviour while in this world, that we may at all times be prepared to meet the *king of terrors* (as death is commonly called) not as an enemy, but as a friend, who is to deliver us from mortal concerns, and make us happy for ever.

We are all under the ſentence of death, as the criminal who is confined in the cells of Newgate. As the children of Iſrael were not to take poſſeſſion of the land of Canaan, 'till they had croſſed the river Jordan; ſo we are not to enter into Heaven, 'till we paſs through death. The body, it is true, will lay ſome time in the grave, from whence it will be raiſed in the moſt glorious manner, to join the immortal ſoul; but of this in my next.

I am, Madam,

Yours ſincerely,

EDWARD GOODMAN.

LETTER CXLVI.

From the Same to the Same.

Madam,

THE next ſubject in your letter is eternity, and an aweful ſubject it is. To enter into an unknown world! to dwell in the regions of ſpirits, is ſufficient to fill our minds with ſolemn reverence! But happy for us poor mortals, divine revelation comes to our aſſiſtance, and indeed under the moſt neceſſary circumſtances. The heathens had confuſed notions concerning a future ſtate, nor was it very clearly revealed to the Jews, who believed that all the faithful after death were carried by angels into Abraham's boſom. Chriſt, by his death, reſurrection and aſcenſion, has brought immortality to light; and in the new teſtament we have pointed out to us the enjoyment of an eternal inheritance in the heavens, where we ſhall, to uſe the words of the Apoſtle, "know

"even

"even as we are known." By which I underſtand, that we ſhall know our departed relations, in the ſame manner as we were known by them here below. In eternity we ſhall have no days nor nights, no change of ſeaſons, all will be one uninterrupted ſtate of happineſs. We ſhall then forget our former afflictions; and, to uſe the beautiful language of ſcripture, "God will wipe away all tears from our eyes." And is not this, Madam, a ſtate to be piouſly wiſhed for? Would you chuſe to remain under all the miſeries of a tumultuous world, while the goſpel preſents to you an uninterrupted ſtate of happineſs? You are now, like every human being in the world, in ſome meaſure under the dominion of ſin; but in heaven or eternity, you will be beyond the power of ſin. You will ſee that benign Saviour, whom you worſhipped in this world; the ſmiles of his favour will encircle you around, and you will look down upon ſublunary things as unworthy of your notice. You will then know more than the wiſeſt man that ever yet lived in the world; for *Jehovah* will be your everlaſting light, and your God will be your glory. What a pleaſing thought! what a delightful ſubject is eternity, to a mind properly qualified for it! It contains all that can ſatisfy a rational and immortal ſoul. There our ideas will be enlarged, there our mental faculties will be fixed on the nobleſt objects, and there we ſhall ever be with our God. Let theſe ſentiments, Madam, ſink deep into your mind; and conſider, that although you are in a ſtate of widowhood, yet you have an everlaſting friend in that Being, who will never leave you, and doubt not but you will conſider what I have ſaid as the advice of a friend.

I am, Madam, yours ſincerely,

EDWARD GOODMAN.

FORMS OF CARDS AND NOTES OF COMPLIMENTS.

IN the forms of cards or notes of compliments the difference is merely circumſtantial, reſpecting the characters of the parties; and they ſhould be plain, eaſy and ſhort, but comprehenſive.

MISS DALE preſents her compliments to Miſs White, and would be glad of her company this evening at Sadler's-Wells.

Tueſday 5 o'clock.

MISS WHITE's compliments to Miſs Dale, and will meet her this evening, according to her invitation.

Tueſday 6 o'clock.

MRS. FERMOR's compliments to Miſs Davis, and hopes ſhe is better of her cold.

Monday 9 o'clock.

MISS DAVIS's reſpectful compliments to Mrs. Fermor, and has the pleaſure to inform her that ſhe is quite recovered.

Monday 11 o'clock.

MISS

MISS JOHNSON's compliments to Miſs Howard, and would be glad of her company this evening at a private concert.

Saturday 2 o'clock.

MISS HOWARD's compliments to Miſs Johnſon, and will wait on her this evening with pleaſure.

Saturday 4 o'clock.

LORD WILDFIRE's compliments wait on Miſs Vaughan, would be glad to meet her this evening at the opera.

Thurſday 10 o'clock.

MISS VAUGHAN's compliments to Lord Wildfire, but cannot do herſelf the honour to meet him this evening, being previouſly engaged.

Thurſday 12 o'clock.

N. B. All other complimental cards and notes may be written in the ſame manner, taking care always to remember the ſtations of the perſons to whom they are addreſſed, and to vary the circumſtances as occaſion may require.

THE UNIVERSAL PETITIONER.

PETITIONS ſhould contain a ſtate of the petitioner's caſe in the moſt modeſt terms, and then the requeſt muſt be made in humility. All petitions to the King ſhould be ſigned by ſome nobleman or gentleman at Court, and if a Privy-Counſellor the better. In petitions to all other perſons, they ſhould be ſigned by ſome perſons acquainted with thoſe to whom they are addreſſed. The addreſſes of theſe petitions ſhould be plain, ſhort and expreſſive, according to the rank of the perſons, viz.

To His Moſt Sacred Majeſty;

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty; *May it pleaſe your Majeſty.*

To His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; *May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs.*

All the other branches of the Royal Family muſt be addreſſed by the title of Royal Highneſs.

The nobility are addreſſed in the following manner:

To his Grace the Duke of R. *May it pleaſe your Grace.*

To the moſt Noble the Marquis of B. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable the Earl of M. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viſcount W. *My Lord.*

To the Right Honourable Lord L. *My Lord.*

All the Ladies of Noblemen are addreſſed according to the titles of their huſbands.

The ſon of a Duke; *Lord J. C.*

The

The ſon of a Marquis; *Lord John C.* But the Marquis muſt be ſo in his own Right.

The eldeſt ſon of an Earl takes his father's ſecond title; the younger ones are called, *The Honourable John C.*

The ſon of a Viſcount takes his father's ſecond title; and the younger ones are ſtiled, *Honourable.*

All the ſons of Barons, are ſtiled *Honourable.*

The daughters of Dukes, Marquiſſes, in their own right, are called, *Lady Mary B. &c.*

The daughters of Barons are called, *The Honourable Miſs B. &c.*

The title of *Right Honourable* is given to all Privy-Counſellors, although they may happen to be Commoners; and the ſame title is given to the Lord Mayors of London, York and Dublin, and to the Lord Provoſts of Edinburgh and Glaſgow; to the Lord Preſident of all the Judges of the Court of Seſſion in Scotland, and to the Lord Advocate.

Archbiſhops are called, *Moſt Reverend*; and Biſhops, *Right Reverend.*

The reſt of the Clergy, *The Reverend.*

Generals and Colonels in the Army, and Admirals at Sea, *Honourable*; unleſs they are Noblemen, and then according to their rank.

All Ambaſſadors, and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, *Excellency.*

Juſtices of the Peace, *Worſhip.*

Chancellors of Univerſities, *Worſhipful.*

In all other inſtances, ſuch as Knight, Baronet and Eſquire, the different addreſſes are well known.

☞ Theſe addreſſes may alſo be obſerved in ſuperſcriptions of Letters, &c. making the circumſtantial variations.

From the Widow of an Officer, to obtain the Pension.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. H.

Sheweth,

THAT the husband of your Majesty's petitioner, had the misfortune to be mortally wounded in battle, of which wounds he died, leaving your Majesty's petitioner a disconsolate widow, with four young children. With respect and humility, your petitioner presumes to approach the throne, to obtain the pension generally bestowed on the widows of military officers, that she may be enabled to bring up her children useful members of society.

And your Majesty's petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. H.

Recommended by

From a Man condemned to work on the River Thames, to the King.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your Majesty's petitioner had the misfortune to get into bad company, and by the evil example and advice of my wicked companions, committed felony, for which I was justly condemned by the laws of my country, to work on the River Thames. Here I have been confined near two years, and during the whole of that time I have not so much as given offence: I am sincerely penitent for the crimes

crimes I have committed, and if your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend your royal mercy,

Your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a Naval Officer, to be admitted a Clerk in the Office at Chatham.

To the Right Honourable, the first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner has served on board one of his Majesty's ships upwards of six years, and continued in the faithful discharge of his duty, 'till he was wounded in an engagement at sea. As the half pay is not sufficient to support a wife and three children, with an aged mother, and there being at present a vacancy in the office at Chatham, he has presumed to solicit your lordship's assistance to get him admitted into it.

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

Recommended by

From a young Man to be admitted into the Excise.

To the right Honourable, the first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your lordship's petitioner, by the death of his parents, is left destitute of every friend, only that he has had the benefit of a liberal education.

He

He has been advised by a worthy friend, to apply to your lordship for a small place in the excise, in the London department, or any where else where your lordship shall think proper. Your lordship's petitioner will give security for the trust reposed in him,

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions for places in the Customs, Stamp-Office, Post-Office, &c. may be all written in the same manner.

From a young Man, to be admitted a Clerk of the Bank.

To the Governor and Directors of the Bank of England.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's father had the honour to be many years conversant in the mercantile world, but by losses at sea, he died insolvent, leaving your petitioner little better than destitute of the necessaries of life: Under these unhappy circumstances he has presumed to trouble you with this petition, soliciting your assistance and interest to get him admitted as one of your junior clerks: I am willing to give whatever security is required, and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions to the East-India, South-Sea-House, &c. may be written in the same style.

From a decayed Tradesman to the Governors of Christ's-Hospital.

To the Worshipful the Governors of Christ's-Hospital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has carried on trade as a shoemaker in the city of London, upwards of twenty years; but having a numerous family of children all unprovided for, he has presumed to apply in behalf of a promising son, to be admitted into your most excellent charity, and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

N. B. Petitions for the governors of other foundations of a similar nature, may be written after the same precedent.

From a reduced Tradesman, to be admitted a Letter-Carrier in the Post-Office.

To the Right Honourable the Post Master General.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up to a trade which has so much decayed of late, that it will not support him, and besides he is almost lame in one of his hands. Reduced to the utmost state of distress, he has presumed to present this to your lordship, humbly begging to be admitted as one of the letter carriers, and if so happy to succeed,

Your petitioner as in duty bound, will ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From

From an honest Working-man to be admitted an East-India Porter.

To the Chairman and Directors of the Honourable United East-India Company.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived honestly as a porter, but his master dying lately, he is now out of all manner of employment, and his wife with three young children are almost starving. Under these circumstances of distress, he has presumed to address himself to you, to be admitted as a labourer in one of your warehouses, which joined to his wife's industry, who takes in washing, would be the means of procuring them an honest subsistence.

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

Recommended by

From a decayed Citizen to be admitted an Under-Marshal's Man.

To the Worshipful Sir Thomas Bale, Knight and Alderman of London.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is a freeman of the city of London, where he carried on business many years, but by sicknesses in his family, he is reduced to the lowest state of distress. One of the places of Deputy Martial-Men being vacant, he has presumed

to

to intercede with your worſhip for your vote, and if ſo happy as to ſucceed.

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a poor Man, to get his daughter admitted into the Aſylum.

To the Right Honourable the Counteſs of B——.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your ladyſhip's petitioner has been long unable to follow his buſineſs, occaſioned by a fall he received from a ſcaffold, while he was repairing a houſe; and during that time, he has had little more to ſupport himſelf, and ſix young children, beſide what his poor wife earned by taking in waſhing. It was intimated to me, that you have a preſentation to the Aſylum; and if you could get my youngeſt girl admitted on that charitable foundation, it might be the means of bringing her up a uſeful member of ſociety.

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

Recommended by

From a Soldier lately diſcharged, to be admitted a Chelſea Penſioner.

To the Honourable Major General.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner ſerved ſixteen years in your regiment, and about four years ago was diſcharged with a fair character. Since that time your

your petitioner has worked as a labourer; but a wound which he received at the battle of B——, has broke out afresh, and he is now rendered unable to procure a subsistence. He is now in a manner starving, and all he has to beg is, that your honour would get him admitted either as an in or out pensioner of Chelsea Hospital.

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

Recommended by

From a Sailor lately discharged to be admitted into Greenwich Hospital.

To the Right Honourable Vice-Admiral B.——

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served eighteen years on board the Royal Navy, in several different ships of war; but having been wounded by a fall from the deck into the hold, he was discharged as incapable of service. To obtain a subsistence, he has for some years sold oranges in the streets; but finding all sorts of infirmities coming upon him, he has presumed to apply to your honour to be admitted to Greenwich Hospital, where he may spend the remainder of his days in peace.

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

Recommended by

From

From a poor Man who had been impressed, praying for a Discharge.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of S——, first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your Lordship's petitioner not being able to procure employment in the country, came to London with a wife and two young children, and next day was impressed on board the Revenge tender, where he is now confined. Your petitioner never was at sea, and he labours under a nervous disorder, which renders hm incapable of serving his Majesty, and therefore he has presumed to apply to your Lordship in humility for his discharge.

And, as in duty bound, he shall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a decayed Citizen of London, to be admitted one of the Bridge Masters.

To the worthy Livery of London.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has lived from his infancy in your city, and has served all the offices of the ward to which he belongs; but by many losses in trade and long sickness in his family, he is reduced so low as to be really destitute of bread, without a friend to assist him in his advanced years. There being a vacancy for the place of one of your Bridge-Masters, he has presumed to apply to you for your votes and interest; and, if so happy as to succeed, will make it his study to discharge his duty with the greatest integrity.

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

Recommended by

From a Sailor, to be admitted on the Chest of Chatham.

To the Honourable the Commissioners of the Navy.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner served as a seaman upwards of twelve years, but was discharged from the hospital as incurable of the rheumatism, which made him incapable of going any more to sea, or indeed of following any employment. Destitute of every comfort of life, and having been a faithful servant to his Majesty, all he begs is to be admitted an out-pensioner on the chest of Chatham.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray. A.B.
Recommended by

From a poor Widow, soliciting for a Pension from the — Parish.

To the Master, Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Parish of

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's husband was an honest industrious Man, and lived many years in credit in the parish, where he served every office, and paid scot and lot; but dying in distressed circumstances, owing to his business having fallen off some years ago, she is left utterly destitute. In this unhappy situation she has presumed to address herself to you; and as she has a little work to do, when able to go through with it, so she submits to you, whether the allowance of two shillings *per* week would not be better than going into the workhouse. Your petitioner

tioner humbly hopes that her cafe will be taken into confideration.

And fhe, as in duty bound, fhall ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

Fron an unfortunate young Proftitute, to be admitted into the Magdalen.

To the Right Honourable the Prefident and Governors of the Magdalen-Hefpital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be feduced by a young gentleman, and having loft her character, fo that no perfon would give her either affiftance or employment, fhe added one fin to another and became a common proftitute. Almoft confumed by a loathfome diforder, and fenfible of her folly, fhe defires to return to the paths of virtue, but has no way of getting cured unlefs you would take her under your protection; and, if you admit her into your hofpital,

She will, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a Perfon afflicted with the Rheumatifm, to be admitted into the Hofpital.

To the Prefident and Governors of the Middlefex Hofpital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is a journeyman carpenter, and has always behaved as an honeft induftrious man, but of late has been fo much afflicted with the rheumatifm that he is rendered incapable of getting his bread. Unfortunately he applied to fome of the advertifing doctors, who have made him much worfe than he was before. Senfible of his folly in

acting so inconsistent with reason, he has presumed to apply to you, to be admitted into your hospital; and if he is so happy as to deserve your notice,

He will, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a young Man afflicted with the Venereal Disease, to the President and Governors of the Miserecordia Hospital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner having one evening got intoxicated, along with some graceless companions, went to bed with a common prostitute, who communicated to him the venereal disease; and, to obtain a cure, he had recourse to some of those persons called *Quacks*, who have almost ruined him. Under these unhappy circumstances he has presumed to beg to be admitted into your hospital, where he hopes to obtain a perfect cure; and if so happy as to succeed,

Shall, as in duty bound, ever pray. A. B.

Recommended by

From a Widow to the Justice at the Quarter Sessions, to procure a Licence to keep a Public-House.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the County of Middlesex.

The humble Petition of A. B. *Widow.*

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's husband lived in credit, and carried on business for some years with good success; but having unfortunately engaged in the building scheme, he ruined himself and died insolvent, leaving your petitioner a helpless widow with four young children all unprovided for. It has been intimated to me, that I might keep a public-house if I could but obtain a licence, which is in your worship's power to grant, and I have such an opinion

opinion of your benevolence, that I do not think you would do any thing to prevent a poor widow from procuring a subsistence. Let me beg you will take the premises into consideration.

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

Recommended by

USEFUL FORMS IN LAW,

Executed by the most eminent Attorneys, and by which our Readers may save those exorbitant Charges usually made for such necessary Instruments. Care, however, must be taken, that the Paper upon which the following Precedents are copied, is stamped agreeable to the Acts of Parliament relative thereto.

Agreement for a Lease of an House.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, indented, made, and agreed upon the 1st day of September, in the year of our Lord 177 Between *John Lawson*, of the one part, and *Stephen Powel*, of the other part, as follows, *viz.*

THE said *J. L.* in consideration of the rent, covenants, and agreements, in the lease hereafter mentioned, to be reserved and contained on the tenant's part to be paid and performed, doth hereby for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said *S. P.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, in manner following (that is to say) that he the said *J. L.* his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall, and will, on or before Midsummer-day next ensuing, by a good and sufficient indenture of lease, grant, demise, and let, unto the said *S. P.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, ALL that messuage, or tenement, and yard behind the same, and other the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying, and being in———, in the parish of———, now, or

late in the poſſeſſion of the ſaid *L. L.* TO HOLD the ſame from Midſummer-day aforeſaid, for the term of——or——years, from thence next enſuing, at the option of the ſaid parties, on his or their giving to, or leaving for each other at leaſt——months notice before the end of the ſaid——years, AT and under the yearly rent, or ſum of——pounds, payable quarterly; the firſt payment whereof is to begin and to be made at or upon Michaelmas-day next enſuing; AND that the ſaid *J. L.* his executors, or aſſigns, ſhall, and will, on or before Midſummer-day aforeſaid, at his and their own proper coſts and charges, repair, or cauſe the aforeſaid premiſes, with their appurtenances to be put into good and ſufficient tenantable repair and condition.

Item, THE ſaid *S. P.* in conſideration thereof, doth hereby for himſelf, his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, covenant, promiſe, and agree, to and with the ſaid *J. L.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, that he the ſaid *S. P.* his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, ſhall, and will, upon the ſaid premiſes being put into ſuch repair as aforeſaid, at or by the time aforeſaid, take, and accept of and from the ſaid *J. L.* his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, the aforeſaid indenture of leaſe, grant, and demiſe of the ſaid premiſes, for the term, and at the rent payable in manner aforeſaid, and alſo execute a counterpart thereof unto the ſaid *J. L.* his executors adminiſtrators, or aſſigns.

AND for the true performance of all and every the covenants and agreements aforeſaid, each and either of the ſaid parties hereto doth bind and oblige himſelf, his heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, unto them, his heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, in the penal ſum of——pounds, of lawful money of Great Britain. In witneſs whereof we have hereunto ſet our hands and ſeals the day and year above written.

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

J. L.
S. P.

J. B.
T. W.

For

For a Covenant Servant, to a Buckle-Maker for four Years.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT, indented, made and agreed upon the 4th day of September, in the year of our Lord 177 Between *Richard Dawson* of, *&c.* of the one part, and *Edward Wild* of, *&c.* for and on the behalf of *Charles Wild* an infant, son of the said *Edward Wild* of the other part, *&c.*

FIRST the said *R. D.* doth for himself his executors, administrators and assigns, hereby covenant and agree to and with the said *E. W.* and *C. W.* agree to take into his service the said *C. W.* and him to teach and instruct in the trade or business of a buckle-maker, which he now useth, for the term of four years, to be computed from the date hereof, during all which time he shall or will find, provide, or cause to be found or provided for the said *C. W.* sufficient meat, drink, washing, cloaths and lodging, fitting and necessary for him. And also pay or cause to be paid unto him, at or after the rate of———a week, weekly, for and during the said———years of the said term, and———a week, weekly for and during the first three years of the said term, and——— a week, weekly, for and during the last year of the said term, if he shall so long live, continue with, and do him the said *R. D.* true, just, and faithful service in his trade or business aforesaid.

Item. The said *E. W.* and *C. W.* for themselves, severally, and each of their several executors, and administrators, do and each of them *doth* hereby for herself, and himself, covenant and agree, to and with the said *R. D.* his executors, administrators, and assigns, that the said *C. W.* shall, during the said term of four years, work, and do the said *R. D.* true, just, and faithful service in his trade or business aforesaid, on his being found or provided with the several necessaries, and paid the several weekly payments

ments in manner herein, before particularly mentioned.

AND for the true performance of the ſeveral covenants, and agreements aforeſaid, each and either of the ſaid parties hereto doth hereby ſeverally bind and oblige himſelf, herſelf, and themſelves, his, her, and their heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators reſpectively in the penal ſum of——pounds, of lawful money of Great-Britain, firmly by theſe preſents. In witneſs, *&c.*

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

A DEED OF GIFT.

TO all people to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, I William Thompſon do ſend greeting. Know ye, that I the ſaid William Thompſon, of the pariſh of St. Mary, Iſlington, in the county of Middleſex, gardner, for and in conſideration of the love, good-will and affection which I have and do bear towards my loving ſiſter Suſannah Wilſon, of the ſame pariſh and county, widow; have given and granted, and by theſe preſents do freely give and grant unto the ſaid Suſannah Wilſon, her heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, all and ſingular my goods and chattels, now being in my preſent houſe, known by the name of the Black Lyon; of which theſe preſents I have delivered here, the ſaid Suſannah Wilſon, an inventory ſigned with my own hand, and bearing date, to have and to hold all the ſaid goods and chattels in the ſaid premiſes or dwelling-houſe, to her the ſaid Suſannah Wilſon, her heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, from henceforth, as her and their proper goods and chattels abſolutely without any manner of condition. In witneſs whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and

ſeal,

ſeal, this —— day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ——

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

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

N. B. *Provided the particulars are ſeverally mentioned, this inſtrument may include the giving away of houſe, land, corn or cattle, if not entail'd.*

A WILL.

In the name of God, Amen. The —— day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ——

I George Parker, of the city of London, watchmaker, being very ſick, and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God: Therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make and ordain this my laſt will and teſtament; that is to ſay, principally and firſt of all, I give and recommend my ſoul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in decent chriſtian burial, at the diſcretion of my executors; nothing doubting but at the general reſurrection I ſhall receive the ſame again, by the Almighty power of God. And as touching ſuch worldly eſtate wherewith it hath pleaſed God to bleſs me in this life, I give, demiſe, and diſpoſe of the ſame in the following manner and form.

Firſt, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my dearly beloved wife, the ſum of three hundred pounds, of lawful money of England, to be raiſed and levied out of my eſtate, together with all my houſhold goods, debts, and moveable effects.

Alſo,

Alſo, I give to my well-beloved daughter Mary Parker the ſum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be raiſed and levied out of my eſtate, and paid to her by my executors hereafter named on the day of her marriage, or when ſhe becomes twenty-one years old. And alſo that my executors ſhall pay her fifty pounds, lawful money of England, on the firſt day of every year, until ſhe claims the above five hundred pounds, according to the intent and meaning of this will.

Alſo, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved ſon Thomas Parker, whom I likewiſe conſtitute, make, and ordain my ſole executor of this my laſt will and teſtament, all and ſingular my lands, meſſuages and tenements, by him freely to be poſſeſſed and enjoyed. And I do hereby utterly diſallow, revoke, and diſannul, all and every other former teſtaments, wills, legacies, bequeſts, and executors, by me in any ways before-named, willed, and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this, and no other, to be my laſt will and teſtament. In witneſs whereof I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal the day and year above-written.

GEORGE PARKER.

Signed, ſealed, publiſhed, pronounced, and declared, by the ſaid George Parker, *as his laſt will and teſtament, in the preſence of us the ſubſcribers.*
William Johnſon.
Samuel Adams.
Thomas Wilſon.

N. B. *There are a variety of circumſtances, by which perſons may be induced to add ſomething in addition to their wills; and when that takes place, the following Codicil, or Schedule, muſt be joined by a ſeal at the bottom, and it will remain in equal force as part of the will.*

A Codicil,

A Codicil, or Schedule to a Will.

BE it known to all men by these presents, That I George Parker, of the city of London, watchmaker, have made and declared by my last will and testament in writing, bearing date the —— day of September, one thousand seven hundred and —— I the said George Parker, by this present *Codicil*, do ratify and confirm my said last will and testament, and do give and bequeath unto my loving godson George Ellison, the sum of forty pounds, of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to him the said George Ellison by my executor, out of my estate: And my will and meaning is, that this *Codicil*, or *Schedule*, be adjudged to be a part and parcel of my last will and testament; and that all things therein mentioned and contained, be faithfully and truly performed, and as fully and amply in every respect, as if the same were so declared and set down in my said last will and testament. Witness my hand this —— day of September, one thousand seven hundred and ——

GEORGE PARKER.

A Letter of Attorney, to receive Houshold Goods.

KNOW all men by these presents, That I *F. G.* of ——, in the county of Middlesex, Gent. for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving, have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint *R. P.* of ——, in the said county, plaisterer, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my proper use and behoof, to ask, demand, take, and receive, of and from *W. H.* of ——, in the said county of Middlesex, Gent. the several goods and chattels herein after particularly

ticularly mentioned; that is to ſay, two large pier looking glaſſes, with gilt frames, a large Turkey carpet, a feather bed and bolſter, two marble ſlabs and brackets, one large mahogany table, &c. And upon receipt of the ſaid goods and chattels, or any of them for me, and in my name, to give and execute to the ſaid *W. H.* proper acquittances or diſcharges for the ſame: And in caſe the ſaid *W. H.* on demand to be made by my ſaid attorney as aforeſaid, ſhall and do refuſe to deliver to my ſaid attorney the ſaid goods and chattels, or any part thereof, I do, in ſuch caſe, hereby authoriſe and impower my ſaid attorney, in my name, and for my uſe, to commence and proſecute one or more action, or actions at law, in trover, and converſion, or otherwiſe, againſt the ſaid *W. H.* as to my ſaid attorney ſhall ſeem meet, or he may be adviſed, for the recovery of the ſaid goods and chattels; giving, and by theſe preſents granting, to my ſaid attorney, my full power and authority, in, about, or concerning the premiſes, and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in or about the premiſes, I do hereby warrant, ratify, and confirm to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever. In witneſs, &c.

Sealed, &c.

A Warrant of Attorney, to receive and pay Debts.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I *H. H.* of ——, in the county of Middleſex, Gent. now one of the factors in the ſervice of the honourable Eaſt-India company at Bengal, have made, conſtituted, and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, conſtitute, and appoint *J. A.* of ——— London, Gent. my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my uſe, to aſk, demand, and receive, of and from all and every perſon or perſons whatſoever, all and ſingular debt and debts, ſum

and

and ſums of money, which now are, or ſhall hereafter, grow due to me; and upon receipt thereof, or of any part thereof, for me, and in my name, to make, give, and execute, proper receipts and diſcharges for the ſame; and on non-payment thereof, or of any part thereof, one or more action or actions, ſuit or ſuits at law or in equity for me, and in my name, to commence and proſecute: And alſo to pay any ſum or ſums of money purſuant to my order, direction and requeſt, and generally to do, perform, and execute all and whatſoever ſhall be neceſſary or requiſite in or about the premiſes, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purpoſes, as I myſelf might or could do, if perſonally preſent; and all and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do or cauſe to be done, by virtue of theſe preſents, I do hereby promiſe and agree to ratify, allow, and confirm. In witneſs, &c.

Sealed, &c.

A general Power to receive Debts.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I *W. W.* of, &c. Gent. have made, ordained, authoriſed, conſtituted and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, ordain, authoriſe, conſtitute, and appoint *T. T.* of, &c. grocer, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my uſe *(if the money or other thing to be received, is for the uſe of the perſon in whoſe favour the letter of attorney is given in diſcharge of a debt,* &c. *then ſay,* "but for the "uſe of him the ſaid *T. T.*") to aſk, demand, ſue for, recover, and receive of *G. G.* &c. *(the perſons names of whom the money is to be received, if more than one)* all ſuch ſum and ſums of money, debts and demands whatſoever, which now are due and owing unto me the ſaid *W. W.* by and from the ſaid *G. G.* &c. and in default of payment thereof, to have, uſe, and take all lawful ways and means, in my name or otherwiſe for the recovery thereof, by

 attachment,

ticularly mentioned; that is to ſay, two large pier looking glaſſes, with gilt frames, a large Turkey carpet, a feather bed and bolſter, two marble ſlabs and brackets, one large mahogany table, *&c.* And upon receipt of the ſaid goods and chattels, or any of them for me, and in my name, to give and execute to the ſaid *W. H.* proper acquittances or diſcharges for the ſame: And in caſe the ſaid *W. H.* on demand to be made by my ſaid attorney as aforeſaid, ſhall and do refuſe to deliver to my ſaid attorney the ſaid goods and chattels, or any part thereof, I do, in ſuch caſe, hereby authoriſe and impower my ſaid attorney, in my name, and for my uſe, to commence and proſecute one or more action, or actions at law, in trover, and converſion, or otherwiſe, againſt the ſaid *W. H.* as to my ſaid attorney ſhall ſeem meet, or he may be adviſed, for the recovery of the ſaid goods and chattels; giving, and by theſe preſents granting, to my ſaid attorney, my full power and authority, in, about, or concerning the premiſes, and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in or about the premiſes, I do hereby warrant, ratify, and confirm to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever. In witneſs, *&c.*

Sealed, *&c.*

A Warrant of Attorney, to receive and pay Debts.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I *H. H.* of ——, in the county of Middleſex, Gent. now one of the factors in the ſervice of the honourable Eaſt-India company at Bengal, have made, conſtituted, and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, conſtitute, and appoint *J. A.* of ——— London, Gent. my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my uſe, to aſk, demand, and receive, of and from all and every perſon or perſons whatſoever, all and ſingular debt and debts, ſum

and

and ſums of money, which now are, or ſhall hereafter, grow due to me; and upon receipt thereof, or of any part thereof, for me, and in my name, to make, give, and execute, proper receipts and diſcharges for the ſame; and on non-payment thereof, or of any part thereof, one or more action or actions, ſuit or ſuits at law or in equity for me, and in my name, to commence and proſecute: And alſo to pay any ſum or ſums of money purſuant to my order, direction and requeſt, and generally to do, perform, and execute all and whatſoever ſhall be neceſſary or requiſite in or about the premiſes, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purpoſes, as I myſelf might or could do, if perſonally preſent; and all and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do or cauſe to be done, by virtue of theſe preſents, I do hereby promiſe and agree to ratify, allow, and confirm. In witneſs, &c.

Sealed, &c.

A general Power to receive Debts.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I *W. W.* of, &c. Gent. have made, ordained, authoriſed, conſtituted and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, ordain, authoriſe, conſtitute, and appoint *T. T.* of, &c. grocer, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and to my uſe *(if the money or other thing to be received, is for the uſe of the perſon in whoſe favour the letter of attorney is given in diſcharge of a debt,* &c. *then ſay,* "but for the "uſe of him the ſaid *T. T.*") to aſk, demand, ſue for, recover, and receive of *G. G.* &c. *(the perſons names of whom the money is to be received, if more than one)* all ſuch ſum and ſums of money, debts and demands whatſoever, which now are due and owing unto me the ſaid *W. W.* by and from the ſaid *G. G.* &c. and in default of payment thereof, to have, uſe, and take all lawful ways and means, in my name or otherwiſe for the recovery thereof, by

 attachment,

attachment, arreſt, &c. or otherwiſe, and to compound and agree for the ſame; and on receipt thereof, or any part thereof, acquittances, or other good and ſufficient diſcharges for the ſame for me, and in my name, to make, ſeal and deliver: And further, to do all lawful acts and things whatſoever concerning the premiſes, as fully in every reſpect as I myſelf might or could do if perſonally preſent, and an attorney or attorneys under him, for the purpoſes aforeſaid to make, and at his pleaſure to revoke, hereby ratifying, allowing and confirming, all and whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall in my name lawfully do, or cauſe to be done in and about the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents. In witneſs whereof, &c.

Sealed, &c.

To receive Wages and all other Debts, from a Seaman to his Wife.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I *C. C.* of, &c. mariner, have made, ordained, authoriſed, conſtituted and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, ordain, authoriſe, conſtitute, and appoint my loving wife *J. C.* my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, but to and for my uſe, to aſk, demand, ſue for, recover, and receive, of and from all and every perſon and perſons whatſoever, as well all ſuch ſum and ſums of money as now are, or which ſhall, or may at any time hereafter become due and owing to me, for wages from any ſhip or ſhips, to whom I now do or may hereafter belong: And alſo all other ſum or ſums of money now due, or which hereafter may become or grow due to me, by any ways or means whatſoever; and on non-payment, to have and uſe all lawful means, in my name, for the recovery thereof, by attachment, arreſt, or otherwiſe. In witneſs whereof I hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal this 1ſt day of September, 177

Signed, ſealed and delivered,
in the preſence of us

To

To receive Money due on a Bond in Part of Discharge of a Debt, due from the Grantor to the Grantee.

KNOW all men by these presents, That I *K. K.* of, *&c.* Esq; have made, ordained, authorised, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make, ordain, authorise, constitute, and appoint *P. P.* of, *&c.* taylor, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, but for the use of him the said *P. P.* (in part of discharge of a debt due from me to him) to ask, demand, sue for, recover, and receive of *A. A.* of, *&c.* Esq; the sum of ——— pounds due unto me, in and by one bond or obligation, bearing date the ——— day of ——— ———, in the penalty of ——— pounds, for payment of the said sum of money; and on non-payment thereof, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means for the recovery thereof, and of every part thereof, in my name or otherwise, by attachment, arrest, or otherwise. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of September, 177

Signed, sealed, *&c.*

From two to one, to receive the Interest of certain South-Sea Annuities.

KNOW all men by these presents, That we *A. B.* of the parish of ———, in the county of ———, mercer, and *B. C.* of the parish of ———, in the same county, grocer, do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint *C. D.* of the said parish of ———, taylor, our true and lawful attorney for us, and in our names, from time to time, to ask, demand, and receive all dividends, interest and produce, now due, or hereafter to grow due or payable to us, for and upon ——— pounds South-Sea annuity stock, lately transferred to us, and standing in our names in the books of the South-Sea Company: And also for us, and in our names, to give receipts and discharges for all such dividends, interest and produce of the afore-

ſaid ———— pounds annuity ſtock on payment thereof, as the ſame ſhall from time to time be received by him the ſaid *C. D.* hereby ratifying and confirming whatſoever our ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do or cauſe to be done, in or about the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents. In witneſs, &c.

Sealed, &c.

To diſcharge a Pariſh of a Baſtard Child, given to the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor.

WHEREAS *M. F.* of, &c. in the county of *D.* Spinſter, before one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid county of *D.* hath ſworn that ſhe is great with child, and that the above named *R. R.* is the father of ſuch child or children ſhe now goes with: Now the condition of this obligation is ſuch, That if the above bound *R. R.* and the ſaid *E. F.* and *G. H.* or either or any of them, their or either, or any of their heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, do and ſhall from time to time, and at all times hereafter, fully and clearly acquit, exonerate and diſcharge, or otherwiſe well and ſufficiently ſave and keep harmleſs, and indemnify as well the above named *W. D.* and *J. S.* churchwardens and overſeers of the poor of the pariſh of *L.* aforeſaid, and their ſucceſſors for the time being, and every of them: As alſo all the inhabitants and pariſhioners of the ſaid pariſh of *L.* which now are, or hereafter ſhall be, for the time being, churchwardens and overſeers of the ſaid pariſh, and every of them, of and from all, and all manner of expences, damages, coſts and charges whatſoever, which ſhall or may, in any manner, at any time hereafter ariſe, happen, come, grow or be impoſed upon them, or either or any of them, for or by reaſon or means of the ſaid *M. F.*'s being now great with child, as aforeſaid, or for or by reaſon or means of the birth, maintenance, education, and bringing up of ſuch child or children, that the ſaid *M. F.* now goes with, and ſhall be delivered

livered of, and of and from all actions, suits, troubles, charges, damages, and demands whatsoever, touching and concerning the same: Then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

Lease of a House in London for seven Years, with the usual Covenants.

THIS Indenture made, &c. Between A. B. of, &c. of the one part, and C. D. of, &c. of the other part; Witnesseth, That for and in consideration of the yearly rent, covenants, and agreements herein after contained on the part and behalf of the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, to be paid, done and performed. He the said A. B. hath demised, set, and to farm let; and by these presents doth demise, set, and to farm let unto the said C. D. All (here insert the premises demised, with a particular description thereof) situate, standing and being in —— street, in the parish of ——, in the county of ——, and adjoining on the south part thereof to the premises lately in the tenure or occupation of H. A. together with all cellars, sollars, chambers, rooms, yards, garpens, lights, easements, ways, passages, waters, watercourses, profits, commodities, and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said messuage or tenement, and premises belonging, or in any-wise appertaining. To Have and to Hold the said messuage or tenement, and premises, herein before-mentioned, or intended to be hereby demised, with their and every of their appurtenances, unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, from the feast day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, now next ensuing the date of these presents, for and during, and unto the full end and term of seven years from thence next ensuing, and fully to be compleat and ended. Yielding and Paying therefore yearly, and every year during the said term of seven years, unto the said A. B. his executors, administrators, and assigns, the yearly rent or

ſum of ——— pounds, of lawful money of Great-Britain, at the four moſt uſual feaſt days, or times of payment of rent in the year; that is to ſay, the feaſt day of St. Michael the Archangel, the birth of our Lord Chriſt, the Annunciation of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptiſt, by even and equal portions, the firſt payment thereof to begin and be made on the feaſt day of St. Michael the Archangel now next enſuing. And the ſaid C. D. for himſelf, his executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns, doth covenant, promiſe and agree, to and with the ſaid A. B. his executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns, by theſe preſents in manner and form following; that is to ſay, That he the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns, or ſome or one of them ſhall and will yearly and every year during the ſaid term of ſeven years, hereby demiſed, well and truly pay, or cauſe to be paid unto the ſaid A. B. his executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, the ſaid yearly rent or ſome of —— pounds, hereby reſerved in the manner and proportions, and on the days and times above limitted and appointed for payment thereof, according to the true intent and meaning of theſe preſents. And alſo ſhall and will, at his, their, or ſome or one of their own proper coſts and charges from time to time, and at all times hereafter during the ſaid term hereby granted, when, where, and as often as need or occaſion ſhall be or require, well and ſufficiently repair, ſupport, uphold, ſuſtain, maintain, pave, purge, empty, cleanſe, ſcour, glaze, amend, and keep the ſaid meſſuage or tenement, and premiſes hereby demiſed, and every part thereof with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, in, by, and with all manner of needful and neceſſary reparations, ſupportations, glazings, pavings, purgings, ſcourings, cleanſings, emptyings and amendments whatſoever; and the ſaid meſſuage or tenements with the appurtenances hereby demiſed, ſo well and ſufficiently upheld, ſuſtained, maintained, repaired, paved, purged, emptied, cleanſed, ſcoured, glazed, amended, and kept at the end, or other ſooner determination

mination of this lease, which shall first happen, shall and will peaceably and quietly leave, surrender and yield up, unto the said A. B. his executors, administrators or assigns, together with all such fixtures and things as are mentioned, or set forth in the schedule or inventory thereof hereunder written, in as good plight and condition as the same now are, (reasonable use and wearing thereof, and all inevitable accidents by fire, which may happen to burn down and consume the premises or any part thereof, in the mean time only excepted.) And further, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said A. B. his executors, administrators and assigns, with workmen and others, or without, twice or oftener in every year during the time hereby granted, at all convenient times in the day time to enter and come into and upon the said demised premises, and every or any part thereof, there to view, search and see, whether the same be well and sufficiently supported, upheld, sustained, maintained, repaired, purged, emptied, cleansed, scoured, glazed, and amended, as the same ought to be according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, and of all the defects, defaults, decays, lacks, and wants of reparations, and amendments, which upon every or any such view or views shall be found, to give or leave notice or warning in writing at the said demised premises, or some part thereof, unto or for the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns, within the time or space of three months from thence next following, within which said time or space of three months after every such notice or warning shall be given or left as aforesaid; the said C. D. for himself, his executors, administrators and assigns, doth covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said A. B. his executors, administrators and assigns, by these presents from time to time during this demise, well and sufficiently to repair and amend the same accordingly. Provided always, that if it shall happen that the said yearly rent of ——— pounds, or any part thereof shall be behind or unpaid for the space of 28 days, next over

or

or after any of the feast days, or times of payment, on which the same ought to be paid as aforesaid, being lawfully demanded; or if the said C. D. his executors, administrators or assigns, and each and every of them, do not in and by all things well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants, grants, articles and agreements in these presents contained, which on his and their parts and behalfs are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, that then, and from thenceforth in any such case, and at all times then after, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said A. B. his executors, administrators or assigns, into the said messuage or tenement and premises hereby demised, or into any part thereof in the name of the whole, wholly to re-enter, and the same to have again, repossess and enjoy as in his and their first and former estate, and the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, and all other the occupiers of the said premises, thereout and from thenceforth utterly to expel, put out, and amove, this indenture or any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And lastly, the said A. B. for himself, his executors, administrators and assigns, doth covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns by these presents, that he the said C. D. his executors, administrators and assigns, paying the said yearly rent herein before reserved at the place, and on the several feast days and times before limited, and appointed for payment thereof, and observing, performing, paying, fulfilling and keeping, all and singular the payments, covenants, grants, articles, provisoes, conditions and agreements, in these presents contained, which on his, and their parts and behalfs, are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, shall and lawfully may, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy the said demised premises, with their and every of their

appurtenances

appurtenances during the ſaid term of ——— years hereby granted, without the lawful let, ſuit, trouble, moleſtation, denial or eviction, of or by the ſaid A. B. his executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, or any of them, or of, or by any other perſon, or perſons whatſoever, lawfully having, or claiming to have, any right, title, or intereſt, in or to the ſaid demiſed premiſes with the appurtenances, or in, or to any part or parcel thereof, by, from, or under the ſaid A. B. his executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, or any of them, or by, or thro' his, their, or any of their means, conſent, or procurement. In witneſs, &c.

INDENTURE FOR AN APPRENTICE.

THIS indenture witneſſeth, That T. H. ſon of R. H. of ——— in the county of ——— hath put himſelf, and by theſe preſents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord put himſelf apprentice to A. B. citizen and ——— of ——— to learn his art, trade or myſtery, after the manner of an apprentice, to ſerve him from the day of the date hereof, for and during the full term of ſeven years next enſuing; during all which time he the ſaid apprentice his ſaid maſter ſhall faithfully ſerve, his ſecrets keep, his lawful commands every where gladly obey. He ſhall do no damage to his ſaid maſter, nor ſee it to be done by others, without letting or giving notice thereof to his ſaid maſter. He ſhall not waſte his ſaid maſter's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to others. He ſhall not commit fornication, nor contract matrimony within the ſaid term. At cards, dice, or any unlawful game, he ſhall not play, whereby his ſaid maſter may be damaged. With his own goods, or goods of others, during the term, without licenſe of his ſaid maſter, he ſhall neither buy nor ſell. He ſhall not abſent himſelf day nor night from his ſaid maſter's ſervice, without his leave, nor haunt alehouſes, taverns, play-houſes: but in all things behave himſelf as a faithful

faithful apprentice ought to do, during the ſaid term. And the ſaid maſter ſhall uſe the utmoſt of his endeavours to teach, or cauſe to be taught, and inſtructed, the ſaid apprentice in the trade and myſtery he now profeſſeth, occupieth or followeth; and procure and provide for him the ſaid apprentice ſufficient meat, drink, apparel, waſhing, and lodging, fitting for an apprentice, during the ſaid term. And for the true performance of all and ever the ſaid covenants, and agreements, either of the ſaid parties bind themſelves unto the other by theſe preſents. In witneſs whereof they have interchangeably put their hands and ſeals, this —— day of — — in the ——— year, &c.

Witneſs T. H.
A. B.

*** *If an apprentice be inrolled and indented, he cannot ſue out his indenture, except upon proof of unmerciful uſuage, want of victuals, and other neceſſaries, or his maſter's being neglectful of teaching him his trade. But if there are no enrollment, and indenting, an indenture may be ſued out, without ſhewing cauſe.*

A BOND.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I John Harriſon, of the pariſh of St. Luke, in the county of Middleſex, Gentleman, am held and firmly bound to Thomas Morgan, of the ſaid county of Middleſex, Eſq; in the penal ſum of four hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, to be paid to the ſaid Thomas Morgan, Eſq; or to his certain attorney, his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns; for the true payment whereof I bind myſelf, my heirs, executors and adminiſtrators, firmly by theſe preſents, ſealed with my ſeal. Dated this firſt day of September, in the ſeventeenth year of the reign of our Sovereign

reign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ———. The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above bounden John Harrison, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the above named Thomas Morgan, his executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of two hundred pounds, of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, on the first day of September next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest: Then this obligation be void, or else to remain in full force.

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

A PROMISSORY NOTE OF HAND.

London, September 1, 177.

SIX months after date I promise to pay to Mr. David Wilson, or order, the sum of sixty-seven pounds five shillings and four-pence, for value received.

THOMAS EASTON.

£.67 5 4

N. B. Mr. Wilson, before this note can be negotiated, must indorse it, as it is only payable to *order*, not to *bearer*.

An INLAND BILL OF EXCHANGE.

S I R, Sheffield, September 3, 177

THREE months after date (ſight, or at ſight) pleaſe to pay to Mr. Churchill, or order, the ſum of ſeventy-ſix pounds three ſhillings and ſixpence (with or without advice) and place the ſame to the account of

Your humble ſervant,

£. 76 3 6 Accepted. C. J. * DAVID BAKER.

To Mr. Charles Johnſon, Merchant,
in Mincing-Lane, London.

N. B. *A Bill of Exchange cannot be negociated, before it is accepted by the party upon whom it is drawn; and, at the ſame time, it muſt be indorſed by the perſon in whoſe favour it is drawn, and alſo by all thoſe who ſhall receive it afterwards.*

* *This is the common mode of acceptance.*

A MEMORANDUM,

Neceſſary to complete a ſudden Agreement.

Mem.] WE *C. D.* and *H. L.* do hereby mutually agree to, &c. *(or abide by the aforeſaid articles of agreement)* and, in witneſs whereof we do hereunto ſet our hands, this 3d day of September, 177

Witneſs *A. B.* *C. D.*
H. L.

N. B. *Each party muſt have a duplicate of the above Memorandum, which ſhould be the caſe, alſo reſpecting moſt other inſtruments in law.*

*** *Care muſt be taken to avoid dating any inſtrument on Sunday, otherwiſe the law will deem it illegal.*

FINIS.