

THE
C O M P L E T E
LETTER-WRITER,
CONTAINING
FAMILIAR LETTERS
ON THE MOST COMMON
OCCASIONS IN LIFE.

ALSO,
A Variety of Elegant LETTERS for the
Direction and Embellishment of Style,

ON
BUSINESS, § COURSHIP,
DUTY, § MARRIAGE,
AMUSEMENT, § FRIENDSHIP, and
LOVE, § OTHER SUBJECTS.

To which is prefixed,
A PLAIN AND COMPENDIOUS GRAMMAR
OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE,
written

DIRECTIONS for Writing LETTERS,
And the proper Forms of ADDRESS.

AT THE END ARE GIVEN,
Forms of MESSAGE CARDS, and a copious
ENGLISH SPELLING DICTIONARY.

F A L K I R K :

PRINTED AND SOLD BY PATRICK MAIR,

M.DCC.XCI.

P R E F A C E.

As a great part of the intercourse of mankind has ever been transacted by letters, it is a just reflection upon any man, especially in this more refined age, not to be able to acquit himself handsomely in this respect. The occasions to do this are so very numerous, and the shame of doing it ill so great, in low as well as in high life, that every endeavour to render them more perfect in this accomplishment, is at least intitled to a candid reception.

There have been many attempts towards a work of this sort; and though it were unkind to detract from the merit of such labours, yet we must observe, that those who have hitherto reached our notice, fall far short of the end proposed. It would be a disagreeable task, to single out the imperfections in other performances of this kind; therefore, we shall only observe, that some of them, however, are here supplied.

In the first place, the persons for whose use this collection is intended, are presented with a very plain and compendious Grammar of the English Language: to which are added, Directions how to address persons of all ranks either in writing or discourse. This, we presume, is laying the foundation of our design well, and as it ought to be. The rudiments of a tongue once obtained, we proceed easily to raise our superstructure; without this we do nothing.

Next is an Introduction, containing directions for inditing proper letters on most occasions, and the sentiments of several eminent authors on epistolary writing.

But the chief branch of this design, and which indeed composes the main body of this work, is a proper Collection of Letters, by eminent authors, upon subjects very various in their nature, and therefore not easily thrown under regular classes. Business, duty, amusement, affection, courtship, friendship, and a multiplicity of other affairs that may require a Letter, are here made the subject of ours; so that on most occasions no person can be at a loss for a pattern to direct him. And it is from this great variety of examples for style and manner, a Grammar for writing true English, and other necessary directions, that we presume to call this performance by the name of THE COMPLETE LETTER-WRITER; such a number of letters being inserted as to answer the purpose almost of every individual, from the boy at school, to the Secretary of State. Nor let it offend the delicacy of any reader, that he will here meet with many epistles of the lower class. These could not be omitted without deviating from the grand point in view, namely, General Utility.

In the end are given a variety of Message-cards, designed for persons of every station: and, to assist the unlearned, a Spelling Dictionary is annexed, containing the greatest number of the most common English words.

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RULES for Reading, and particularly of the Emphasis belonging to some special word, or words, in a sentence.

IN order to read well, observe the following directions,
I. 1. Take pains to acquire a perfect knowledge of the sounds of the letters in general. 2. Do not guess at a word at first sight, if you are not well acquainted with it, lest you get a habit of reading falsely. 3. Pronounce every word clear and distinctly. 4. Let the tone of your voice in reading be the same as in speaking. 5. Do not read in a hurry, for fear of learning to stammer. 6. Read so loud as to be heard by those about you, but not louder. 7. Observe your pauses well, and never make any, where the sense will admit of none. 8. Humour your voice a little, according to the subject. 9. Attend to those who read well, and endeavour to imitate their pronunciation. 10. Read often before good judges, and be thankful when they correct you.
II. Consider well the place of the *emphasis* in a sentence, and pronounce it accordingly. By *emphasis* we mean the stress or force of voice that is laid on some particular word or words in a sentence, whereby the meaning and beauty of the whole may best appear; this, with respect to sentences, is the same as *accent* with regard to syllables.

The emphasis is generally placed upon the accented syllable of a word, but if there be a particular opposition between two words in a sentence, whereby one differs from the other but in part, the accent is sometimes removed from its common place, as in the following instance: *The sun shines upon the just and upon the unjust.* Here the stress of the voice is laid upon the first syllable in *unjust*, because it is opposed to *just* in the same sentence; but without such an opposition, the accent would lie on its usual place, that is, on the last syllable; as, *We must not imitate the unjust practices of others.*

The great and general rule how to know the emphatical word in a sentence, is, to consider the chief design of the article; but particular directions cannot be easily given, except that when words are evidently opposed to one another in a sentence, they are emphatical, and so is oftentimes the word which asks a question, as, *Who*, *What*, *When*, &c. but not always; for the emphasis must be varied according to the principal meaning of the speaker.

A
PLAIN AND COMPENDIOUS

G R A M M A R

OF THE

E N G L I S H T O N G U E.

Of GRAMMAR.

GRAMMAR is the art of speaking and writing any language right and properly; and consists of four parts, *Orthography*, *Etymology*, *Syntax* and *Prosody*.

Orthography teaches how to spell and write every word with proper letters; as nation, not *nashun*; oration, not *orashun*; did, not *dud*; foot, not *fut*; tomb, not *tomb*, &c. *Etymology* teaches the explanation or kinds of words, their derivation, change, analogy, or likeness to one another in any language.

Syntax teaches the right placing or joining of words together in sentences.

Prosody teaches the accent and quantities of syllables, pronunciation, and art of making verses.

Of Orthography and the Power of Letters.

A letter is a mark or character of a single sound in speech. 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*, called vowels and consonants.

A vowel is a letter which makes a full and perfect sound of itself, without adjoining any other letter to it. There are five marks for vowels in the English tongue, they are, *a e i o u*, and *y* at the end of words, for *ie*. *I* is also a vowel in the middle of words, but all such words as have *y*

in the middle are of Greek origin: and each of these vowels have two general sounds, that is, a long and a short sound; the short sound made long by adding final or silent *e* at the end, as *bab*, *babe*; *ber*, *bere*; *fir*, *fire*; *reb*, *robe*; *tun*, *tune*. So when these vowels end a syllable, they are usually long, but generally short in all other positions.

Of the Single Consonants.

A consonant is a letter which cannot make a perfect sound without adding some single or double vowel either before or after it; *ib*, or *be*; *eat*, or *ea*; and therefore derives its name from confounding or sounding together with the vowels. Nevertheless, it may be defined a letter shewing the several motions and configurations of the parts of the mouth, by which the sounds of the vowels are variously determined.

The single consonants are twenty-one in number, *b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z*; and are divided into mutes (by which is meant letters that are not pronounced though wrote) and half vowels; four of the half-vowels are called liquids. A mute is a letter which cannot make a sound without a vowel, as *b c d f g k p q t*. A half-vowel is a letter which makes an imperfect sound without any letter added; as *s* is expressed by hissing, *r* by a quivering of the tongue; these are *l m n r s v x z*. *H* is an aspiration or breathing; and *j* and *w* are neutrals, having both articulate sounds, especially *w*, which sound every where *oo*, and should be so pronounced.

Of the Double Consonants.

When two, or three consonants meet together, we call them double consonants, and of these some are fit to begin words or syllables, others to end only; we call the first initial, or beginning, the second final or ending, double consonants.

They are forty-one in number, and are necessary to be understood, for the better knowledge of the division of syllables; these are, *bl*, *br*, *cl*, *dr*, *dw*, *fl*, *fr*, *gl*, *gn*, *gr*,

gr, kn, ph, pl, pr, rh, sc, sh, sl, sm, su, sp, sl, sh; th, tr, tw, wh, wr, pbr, scr, shr, spl, spr, str, thr, thrw.

Rules for true Spelling and Right Division of the Syllables of long Words.

A syllable is a complete sound uttered in one distinct breath; as “*so, of, in, which, good, earth,*” &c. Letters serve to make syllables, and syllables words, &c. One single or one double vowel only, or any one of the single or double vowels joined to any one of the single or double consonants, will make a syllable. No number of consonants can make a syllable without a vowel: as *st r n g t b* can make no syllable of themselves, but if I put in *e* betwixt *r* and *n* thus, *strength*, it makes a syllable and proper word; and therefore as many vowels, single or double, as are found in a word, of so many syllables does that word consist, which are never above seven or eight, and few words have so many; as *good, one, seem-ly, two, in-form-er, three, per-pe-tu-ate, four, de-po-pu-la-ted, five, so-lem-ni-za-ti-on, six, tran-sub-stan-ti-a-ti-on, seven, in-com-pre-hen-si-bi-ty, eight*.

A Monosyllable is a word of *one* syllable.

A Disyllable is a word of *two* syllables.

A Trisyllable is a word of *three* syllables.

A Polysyllable is a word of *many* syllables.

There are five general rules for the true division of syllables.

Rule 1. When a single consonant comes between two vowels, it goes with the last vowel in dividing the syllables; as “*a-bate, ca-bal, de-cay, glo-ry, e-vent, wo-man, a-bove, a-mong, di-vine,*” &c.

Rule 2. When two consonants meet in the middle of a word, between two vowels which are not proper to begin a word, they are parted in dividing the syllables; as “*wed-ding, ac-cent, vir-gin, mut-ton, but-ter, trum-pet, bar-gain,*” &c.

Rule 3. When two or three consonants meet between two vowels that are proper to begin a word, then they go with the last syllable in the division; as “*de-prive, re-*

" splen-dent, bro-ther, re-prive, a-bridge, ta-bret, re-
" friet," &c.

Rule 4. When three or four consonants meet between two vowels which are not proper to begin a word, the first consonant is always kept with the first syllable in the division; as, 'sub-tract, ag-gravate, af-flic^t, con-gruity, con-struc^t, ' in-scribe,' &c.

Rule 5. When two vowels of different sounds meet in the middle of words, they are parted in the dividing syllables; as, 'li-ar, re-al, ri-ot, tri-al, li-on, be-ing,
" vowel,' &c.

Compound words are always spelt as their simples; thus ' crafts-men, gold smith, gazing-steek, ship-wreck,
" trans-a^ct, dis-unite, un-equal,' &c.

Derivative words are always spelt as their primitive; thus, ' tempt, tempt-ed ; sec^ond, sec^ond-ary ; covet,
" covetous ; form, formed,' &c.

But when the primitive ends with a vowel, and the syllable which is added begins also with a vowel, then the first vowel is always dropt, and the sound of the preceding consonant is softened by the subsequent vowel, as, ' ape, a-pish ; fame, fa-mous ; love, lo-ved ; give, gi-ver ; hate, ha-ting ; dance ; dancing.'

Observe that all derivative words ending in *ing* are active participles, formed of verbs which are their primitives; and where the leaving out *e* in this participle would cause any confusion in the sense, it is better to retain it; as from the verb *singe*, write *singing* and *singe-cib*, to distinguish it from *singⁱng* and *singeth*. But it is to be observed that this *e* is not dropt before *able*, as, ' advise, advise-able ; desire, desire-able ; agree, agree-able,' &c.

If the additional syllable, which makes it a derivative, begins with a consonant, then the vowel in the primitive is always retained, according to the rule of derivative words; as ' like, like-ness ; fine, fine-ly ; time, time-ly,' &c.

And

And when the primitive word ends with *y*, it is changed into *i*, in the derivative; as ‘duty, duti-ful; crafty, crafti-ness; angry, angri-ness; envy, envi-ous,’ &c. But *y*, is retained before the vowel *i*, as testify, testify-ing; multi-ply, multiply-ing; deny, deny-ing; apply, apply-ing,’ &c.

And when a word of one or more syllables ends with a single consonant, and no diphthong goes before it, and the accent lies on the last syllable, then that consonant is always doubled in the derivative; as ‘man, man-ned; pen, pen-ned; fan; fan-ned; stir; stir-red; tin; tin-ned; tun; tun-ned,’ &c.

Of primitive and derivative words.

All words are either primitive or derivative, simple or compound. A primitive or simple word is not formed of any other as *man*, *hope*, *good*, *kind*, &c. A derivative word is a primitive or simple word, with the addition of a syllable or syllables to the same, such as ‘able, al, ance, ary, ate, ed, en, er, es, est, eth, ing, ifh, sm, ize, less, ly, ness, ous, y.’

A compound word is formed of two or more simple words; as ‘wheel-wright, ship-wreck, school-master;’ or of a simple word and syllable, called a preposition, set before it; as *dis-please*, *un-fit*, *con-found*, &c.

Of the prepositions that are used in the composition of English words, their signification and use.

The English preposition used in the composition of English words are ‘*a*, *be*, *for*, *fore*, *mis*, *over*, *out*, *run*, *up*, *with*.’

A Signifies as much as *on* or *in*; as ‘*a-foot*, *a-shore*,’ for ‘*on foot*, *on shore*’

Be Signifies *about*; as ‘*to be-sprinkle*, i.e. to sprinkle about; *to be-stir*, i.e. to stir about.’

For Denies, or deprives, as ‘*forbid*, i.e. bid it not to be done; *forsake*, i.e. not to seek it any more.’

Fore Signifies as much as *before*, as ‘*to foresee*, i.e. ‘*to*

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‘ to see it before it comes to pass; to forebode, i. e. to tell before it happens.’

Mis. Is always used in a bad sense, and denotes defect or error; as ‘ misdeed, i. e. an ill deed; to mistake, i. e. to take wrong; to mis-use, i. e. to use ill.’

Over. Signifies superiority as, ‘ to overcome, to over-rule,’ &c.

Out. Signifies also superiority or excellency in any thing, ‘ to out-do, to out-run, to out-go,’ &c.

Un. Denotes negation, and signifies *not*, as *un-pleasant*, i. e. ‘not pleasant; un-worthy, i. e. not worthy,’ &c.

Up. Always denotes motion upwards, as *up-land*, i. e. ‘the land that is high in respect of some other land; up-side, i. e. the side that is highest.’

With. Signifies *against*, as *with-stand*, i. e. to stand against; it sometimes signifies as much as *from* or *back*, as *with-hold*, i. e. to hold from one; to *with-draw*, i. e. to draw from or back, &c.

The following are Latin prepositions used in the composition of the English words, viz. *Ab* or *abs.* *ad.* *ante.* *circum.* *con* *from* *cum*, *contra.* *de* *dis*, *di*, *c or ex*, *enter.* *extra.* *in.* *inter.* *intro.* *ob.* *per.* *post.* *pre.* *pro.* *pretor.* *re.* *retro.* *se* *sub.* *subter.* *super.* *trans.*

Ab or *abs.* Signifies *from*, and denotes separation or parting; as, to *ab-slain*, to *ab-olish*, to *ab-dicate*. &c.

Ad. Signifies *to* or *at*, as *ad-vocate*, *ad-verb*, *ad-vent*, *ad-jacent*, &c.

Ante. Signifies *before*, as *ante-cedent* i. e. the foregoing word; to *ante-date* i. e. to date it before, &c.

Circum. Signifies *about*, as *circum-locution* i. e. a round about way of speaking; *circum-vallation*, i. e. a ditching about, &c.

Con. from *cum*. Signifies *with* or *together*, as *convocation*, i. e. a calling or meeting together; *col-loquy*, i. e. a talking with or together.

Contra. Denotes opposition and contrariety, and signifies *against*, as to *contra-dict*, i. e. to gainsay or speak against, or contrary to a person &c.

De. Signifies a kind of motion from; as *de-file*, i. e. a filing off or from; to *de-camp*, i. e. to move the camp off, or from, &c.

Dis. Signifies difference, separation, or diversity, and every where gives a signification contrary to the word it is compounded with; as *dis-agree*, that is, not to agree; *dis-believe*, that is, not to believe; *dis-advantage*, that is, no advantage, &c.

Di. Has hardly any other use than the extending or stretching out the sense of the word it is compounded with; as, to *di-rect*, to *di-minish*, &c.

E. or *ex.* Signifies *out*, as *e-vent*, that is, the falling out; to *eject*, that is, to cast out; to *ex-clude*, that is, to shut out; to *extinguish*, that is, to put out, &c.

Enter. Comes from the French *entre*, and that from the Latin *inter*, that is, between.

Extra. Signifies *beyond*, *over* and *above*, as *extra-vagant*, that is beyond bounds; *extra-ordinary*, that is beyond what is ordinary, &c.

Inter. Signifies *between*, as to *inter-vene*, that is, to come between; *inter-val*, that is, the space between.

Intro. Signifies *within*, as to *in-troduce*, that is, to lead, or bring into, &c.

Ob. signifies *against*, as *ob-stacle*, that is, what stands in the way, or against, &c.

Per. Signifies *through*, and denotes excellency or excess, as *per-fect*, that is, thoroughly done; *per-forate*, that is, to pierce through, &c.

Post. Signifies *after*, as *post-script*, that is, written after; a posthumous work, that is, a work published after the author's death;

Pre. Signifies *before*, as to *pre-meditate*, that is, to think of, or meditate before, &c.

Pro. Signifies *for* or *forth*; but it has also a great many other senses; as to *profess*, *protect*, *pronounce*, &c.

Preter. Signifies *against*, as *preter-natural* that is, against nature.

Re. Signifies *again*, and generally implies a repeated action; as to *re-peat*, that is, to lay over again; to *relapse*, that is, to fall ill again; to *re-turn*, that is, to come again, &c.

Retro. Backwards as retro-grade motion, that is, a going backwards.

Se. Signifies *without*, as *secure*, that is without care, &c.

Sub,

Sub. Signifies *under*, as to *sub-scribe*, that is to write under; to *sub-tract*; that is, to draw under, &c.

Subter. Signifies *under*; as *subter-fluous*; that is, flowing under, &c.

Super. Signifies *upon*, *over* or *above*. as *super-scriptio*n that is, the writing upon a letter; *super-fluous*, that is, over and above what it might be.

Trans. Signifies *over* or *beyond*, as to *trans-port*, that is, to carry over; to *trans-gress*, that is, to go beyond. And it signifies in a great many words, the moving from one place to another, as to *trans-plant* to *trans-pose*, *trans-migration*, &c. In other words, it denotes the changing of one thing into another, as, to *trans-form*, to *trans-figure*, *tran-substantiation*, &c.

There are several Greek prepositions used in the composition of English words as *A*, *amphi*, *anti*, *hyper*, *hypo*, *meta*, *peri*, *syn*.

A. Signifies *not*, as *anonymous*, that is, without or not having a name; *anarchy*, that is, without government.

Amphi. Signifies *on every side*.

Anti. Signifies *against*, as *Anti-Christ*, that is, one who is in opposition to or against Christ.; *anta-gonist*, that is, one who is against you.

Hyper. Signifies *over and above*.

Hypo. Signifies *under*.

Meta. Signifies the same, as *trans*, that is, beyond; or else denotes the changing one thing into another; as *meta-phor*; *meta-morphosis* that is, transformation.

Peri. Signifies *under*.

Syn. Signifies *with* or *together*, as *syn-od*, that is, a *convocation*, or meeting together; *syn-tax*, that is, construction, or the right placing of words together in sentences.

N. B. The preposition *con* has often *n* left out, as, *co-ternal* for *con-ternal*; and sometimes the *n* is changed into *l*, as *col-loquy*, for *con-loquy*.

Further rules for true spelling, in which observe there are some letters that must be wrote in words, according to the right spelling, and yet are not pronounced in speaking.

Rule 1. THERE are several letters in words which are not pronounced, and yet must be wrote, be-

because most of these words are of foreign derivation; as,

1. *a* is written, but not pronounced, in Pharaoh, marriage, parliament, 2. *i* is written, but not pronounced, in evil, devil, venison, Salisbury. 3. *o* is written, but not pronounced, in Nicholas, carrion, chariot. 4. *u* is written, but not pronounced, in intituled, guild, guile, guide, guest, disguise, guard, guardian, plague, Iague, catalogue, decalogue, synagogue, epilogue, &c. 5. *b* is written, but not pronounced, in debtor, doubt, dumb, plumb, lamb, thumb, comb, womb, tomb, bomb. 6. *c* is written but not pronounced in victuals, indictment, perfect, schism. 7. *d* is written, but not pronounced, in Wednesday, 8. *g* is written, but not pronounced, in deign, reign, feign, foreign, sign, sovereign, assign, design, resign, consign, ensign, campaign, &c. 9. *h* is written, but not pronounced, in honour, hour, herb, heir, honest, humour, host, asthma, John, Thomas, scholar, school, scholastie, scheine, gherkins, ghost, Rhodes, Rhine, Rhone, rhapsody, rheum, rheumatic, rheumatism, exhaust, exhort, Rhadamanthus, rhetorie, rhetorician, rhetorical, rhetoricate, rhetorians, rhetorizations, rhinoceros, rhyptic, rhy-parographer, sepulchre, character, chemist, chemystry, chemical, Chrysofolum, chryson, chronology, chronologios, chronological, chronologist, chronologer, chronogram, chronicles, chronical, chromatics, chromatism, Christ, Christian, Christians, Christianity, Christendom, Christopher, chimera, chimerical, chirurgeon, chaos, catarrh, catechism, catechize, catechist, and others of Greek origin; as also at the end of all Hebrew words, as Jereciniah, Hezekiah, Nchemiah, &c. 10. *l* is written, but not pronounced, in Bristol, Lincoln, Holborne. 11. *n* is written, but not pronounced, in the words autunn, column, condemn, hymn, damn, contemn, solemn, miln, kiln. 12. *p* is written, but not pronounced, in psalm, receipt, symptom, sumptuous. The word accompt is read account. 13. *s* is written, but not pronounced, in isle, island, Carlisle, viscount.

Rule 2. All words should be spelt according to their original; as complete, replete, extreme, not compleat, &c.

reflexion, connexion, defluxion, complexion, infexion; not reflection, &c.

Rule 3. All words that end with the sound of the half vowel *l*, though they might seem to be expressed by *l*, yet they are always to be marked with *le*, as *damnable*, *stumble*, *humble*, *acceptable*, *pickle*, *fickle*, *idle*, *bridle*, *scuffle*, *truffle*, *bogle*, *ogle*, *inveigle*, *ample*, *trample*, *little*, *bottle*, &c. not *damnabil*, *stumbil*, &c. Except from this rule, *civil*, *devil*, *until*, *instil*, *council*, *anvil*, *peril*, *fulfil*.

Rule 4. All words which end with the hard sound of *g*, have always *u* marked after it, as, *Hague*, *plague*, *rogue*, *league*, *vogue*, *Prague*, *colleague*, *catalogue*, *decalogue*, *prologue*, *fatigue*, *synagogue*, &c. Except a few monosyllables, as, *dig*, *dog*, *dug*, *bag*, *beg*, *big*, *bog*, *bug*, *wig*, *pig*, *twig*, *plug*, *hag*, *hog*, *hug*, *drug*, *stag*, *wag*, *frog*, *tug*, *mug*; all which are easily distinguished; as are also these words which end with the ringing sound of *ang*, *ong*, *ung*; though *g* at the end of such words is not heard, for we pronounce *accordin*, *affirmin*, for *according*, *affirming*, *so*. *dancin*, *playin*, *singin*, *fightin*, for *dancing*, &c. But although *tongue*, and *barangue* end with a ringing sound, they have *ue* after *g*.

Rule 5. When the sound of *j* or soft *g* comes at the end of a word, it is always expressed by *ge*, or *edge*, as, *page*, *rage*, *baggage*, *knowledge*, *pledge*, *wedge*, *hedge*, &c. though the *d* in *pedge*, &c. is superfluous, and seems to have been put in to shorten the sound.

Rule 6. These words marked with *que* at the end, as, *barque*, *pique*, *antique*, *publique*, *oblique*, *relique*, is the French way of writing, who use *q* because they have not *k*, but the genius of our language requires them to be marked with *ck* if monosyllables, as, *buck*, *pick*, and with *c* only, if more than one syllable, as, *antic*, *republic*, *public*, &c. *K* is a very useless and superfluous letter after *c*, and should not be wrote at the end of words exceeding one syllable, *c* being always hard when it ends either a syllable, or word;

as. arithmetic, logic, mathematics, Frederic, physic, schio-
lastic, prophetic, rustic, music, &c.

Rule 7. The letter *l* is always doubled at the end of monosyllables, as ball, bell, bill, boll, bull, sell, tell, well, &c. But if a diphthong goes before it, it is not doubled, as, soul, feel, fool, &c. Nor is it ever doubled in words of more than one syllable, as, faithful, fulfil, plentiful, ex-
cell, &c.

Rule 8. When a word of the single number ends with *y*, it is changed into *ies* in the plural; as, sky, skies; cry, cries; ly, lies; py, pies; heresy, heresies; cherry, cherries; entry, entries; city, cities, &c. and not skys, crys, citys.

Rule 9. When words of the single number end in *f* or *fe*, the *f* or *fe* are changed into *ves* in the plural number; as, calf, calves; half, halves; knife, knives; leaf, leaves; shelf, shelves; self, selves; thief, thieves; wife, wives; wolf, wolves; except hoof, roof, grief, dwarf, mischief, handkerchief, relief, are words which end with *f*, whose plurals are made by adding only *s* to the singular; as hoof, hoofs; roof, roofs; grief, griefs; muff, muffs; ruff, ruffs; &c. But staff, although it ends with *ff*, makes slaves in the plural.

Rule 10. All words which end with the sound of *ance*, *ence*, *ince*, *unce*, though they might seem to be wrote with *nse*, yet are always to be wrote with *nce*; as countenance, abundance, defence, audience, prince, convince, trounce, dance, &c. except only sense, dense, dispense, immense, intense, propense, incense.

Rule 11. The sound of *se* at the end of words is always marked *cy*; as, advertency, contingency, democracy, delicacy, despondency, excellency, exigency, obstinacy, &c. Except from this rule controversy, apostasy, courtesy, thesy, palsy, gipsy, epilepsy, heresy, hypocrisy, jealousy; to prophesy, though the noun is written prophecy.

Rule 12. The sound of *shun*, after the vowels *a, e, i, o, u*, and the consonants, *c, p, r*, is written *tion*, as oration, petition, devotion, dissolution, instruction, subscription, extortion, &c. But after any other consonant it is marked *sion*, except contention, invention, attention, dissention, intention, condescension. But when to write *ti* and *si*, is one of the difficultest tasks to lay down a rule for. Nothing but diligent observation of the above rule and practice can remove it; for most words ending in *tion* and *sion*, are Latin verbals, and are formed of the first supine; which if it ends in *tum*, then we write *ti*, if in *sun*, then *si*.

Observe farther, that the long and short sounds of the vowels are marked with their simple characters, *a, e, i, o, u*, in all the additional beginnings and endings; but that these single vowels never end words with their simple or naked character, *a, e, i, o, u.* As.

1. *A* never ends an *English* word; for when a word ends with its long sound, it is expressed by *ay*, as, day, may, say, delay, &c. And if a word ends with its broad sound it is marked with *aw*, as, saw, law, draw, &c.

2. *E* is never sounded at the end of an *English* word, except in the article *the*, which is written with a single *e*, to distinguish it from the pronoun *thce*; for when its sound comes at the end of a word, it is always expressed by *ea*, as, sea, plea, tea, &c. or by *ee*, as, free, tree, agree, &c.

3. *I* ends no English word, without *e* after it, as, busie, heresie, not busi heresi, &c. But all such words are better spelt with *y*, thus, busy, heresy, &c.

4. *O* never ends an English word, except these few, go, lo, so, to, no, two, who, wo, do, undo, whofo, also; the sound of *o* at the end of words being generally expressed by *ow*, as know, follow, below, snow, &c. except in soe, toe, doe, roe, sroe.

5. No English word ends with *u*, except thou, you, lieu, and adieu; the sound of *u* being generally expressed by *ew*, or *ue*, as nephew, few, due, &c. ague, true, avenue, &c. *Y* as a vowel ends words for *ie*, as, for heresie, busie, &c. write heresy, busy.

Of Diphthongs.

THE diphthongs *ai*, *ei*, *oi*, *ui*, *au*, *eu*, *uw*, observe, are never wrote at the end of words. As,

1. *Ay*, is always wrote at the end of words for *ai*, as, *day*, *pay*, *delay*, &c.

2. *Ey* is always wrote at the end of words for *ei*, as, *ubey*, *grey*, *they*, &c.

3. *Oy* is always wrote for *oi*, as, *bzy*, *tzy*, *Troy*, *jzy*, &c.

4. *Uy* is always wrote for *ui*, as *buy*, *Guy*, &c.

5. *Aw* is always wrote for *au*, as, *saw*, *gnaw*, *withdraw*, &c.

6. *Ew* for *eu*, as, *dew*, *few*, *new*, *knew*, &c.

7. *Ow* for *ou*, as, *know*, *bow*, *flow*, *blow*, &c.

Now as for the consonants, their sounds may be said to be invariable in all words, except *c* and *g*, which are treated of already. All to be observed is, that when the stress of the pronunciation lies on the consonants *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *z*, that they are always to be doubled; as, *scabbard*, where the stress lies upon the *b*; so likewise *committ*, where the stress of the voice lies upon *m*. But another way to know when these consonants should be doubled is to observe if the vowel be short before it; and if so, then it must be doubled; as in *scabbard*, where the *o* before *b* is short, and in *committ*, where the *o* is short before *m*: for if I hear the sound of the vowel to be long, there I put in but one consonant. And this is a general rule, that a vowel before two consonants is short.

I now think, by the above rules, any difficulty in spelling the generality of words that has occurred to me, is removed: for the scholar being truly taught the various sounds of vowels and consonants both single and double, nothing being a greater help to true spelling, will not fail by pronunciation of any number of letters to the ear, to give their proper characters in writing.

Of stops or points, and marks or notes.

AS in speech or discourse there are often several motions made by different parts of the body, in order to excite attention, and transmit a more clear and perfect idea to the hearer, of the meaning and intention of the speaker, so writing being the very image of speech, there are several points or marks made use of in it, not only to mark the distance of time in pronouncing, but also to prevent any confusion or obscurity in the sense of the writer, whereby it may the more readily be distinguished and comprehended by the reader.

There are four points or stops considered as intervals in reading, viz. comma, semicolon, colon, period, or full stop.

The Comma, marked thus (,), is the shortest pause, and distinguishes the conjunct members of sentences, as, “ O sing unto the Lord, for he is merciful, and long-suffering, slow to wrath, abounding in goodness and truth.” It also distinguishes nouns, verbs, and adverbs, as, “ The enemy fought with guns, swords, spears, &c. That rogue swears, lies, steals, &c. Sooner or later he must be hanged.”

A Semicolon, marked thus (;), is a pause somewhat longer than a comma. This point ought to be made in the subdivision of the members of a sentence; “ As the shadow moves, and we do not perceive it;” or, “ as the tree grows, and we do not apprehend it; so man,” &c. It is also used in distinguishing nouns of a contrary signification; as, “ things public; things private; things sacred and profane.”

A Colon, marked thus (:), is used when the sense is perfect, but the sentence not ended; as, “ If the enemy advances, I command you to give battle: If not, march straight to the city.” It is generally used before a comparative conjunction in a similitude; and also if the period runs out pretty long.

A Period, marked thus (.), is the greatest pause, and is made when the sentence is completely ended; as, “ Learning makes life sweet, and produces pleasure, tranquility, glory, and praise.”

An Erotesis, or point of Interrogation, marked thus (?), is made when a question is asked; as, "Does he still continue obstinate? Will he never repent?"

Eophonesis, or Point of Exclamation, Admiration, or Wonder, marked thus (!), is a direction for raising the tone or voice upon some vehement passion being expressed; as, "O that villain! O wretched man!"

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

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

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

3. An Hyphen, thus (-), used in joining the syllables of words, and compounding words together.

4. An accent, thus, (é), being placed over a vowel; notes that the tone or stress of the voice in pronouncing is upon that syllable.

5. Breve, (°), is a crooked mark over a vowel, and denotes that it is sounded quick.

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

7. Parenthesis, thus (), serves to illustrate a sentence; and may be left out, and yet the sense remain perfect.

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

9. A Quotation, thus (""), to signify the words so marked are transcribed from the writings of another in his own words.

10. An Index (INDEX), serves to point out something remarkable.

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

12. An Asterism, thus (*), an Obelisk (†), and Parallel (||), with letters of the alphabet, figures, &c. refer to the margin, or bottom of the page.

Of

Of Capitals, or great letters.

1. LET proper names of persons, places, seas, rivers, ships, winds, months, &c. be distinguished by beginning with capital letters.
2. It is become customary to begin any substantive in a sentence with a capital, if it bears some considerable stress of the author's sense upon it, to make it the more remarkable.
3. Let the first word of every epistle, book, note, verse, bill, &c. begin with a capital.
4. If any notable saying, or passage of an author, be quoted in his own words, it begins with a capital, though it be not immediately after a full stop.
5. Write not a capital in the middle of a word among small letters, except in anagrams.
6. Sometimes capitals are used in whole words and sentences, when something extraordinary great is expressed; as, *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. BABYLON IS FALLEN.*

Of Etymology.

Etymology, as before observed, treats of the kinds of words, also their derivation, change, analogy; or likeness to one another.

Of the eight parts of Speech.

Every word being considered as a part of our speech, or discourse, we reckon up eight sorts of words of different nature, which we call eight parts of speech. Their names are, Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Participle, Adverb, Conjunction, Preposition, Interjection.

Speech is speaking or discourse. By eight parts of speech, are meant eight sorts of words which are used in discourse. And though there are thousands of words in the English language, yet there are but eight sorts; for every word we use in speaking is either a noun, or an adjective; which is a word that signifies the quality or manner of a thing, or

pronoun; or a verb, or a participle, or an adverb, or a conjunction, or a preposition, or an interjection.

The parts of speech are the same in English as in Latin; and in all other languages as well as Latin: for that which is a noun in English, is a noun in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, &c. languages.

Of a Noun.

A noun is the name of a thing that may be perceived either by the senses or understanding; which conveying some certain idea or image to the mind, they want not the help of any other word to make us understand them; and it is either substantive, or adjective. So that whatever can be heard, seen, smelt, tasted, felt, or understood, is a noun. And a noun substantive is the thing itself; as, “a man, a boy, a dog.” And the adjective is a word that expresses the qualities or properties of a thing; as, “rich, poor, wise, foolish, great, small, &c.” For if one says, “I see a rich, I see a poor, I see a wise, I see a foolish,” in these sayings there is no sense, nor do I understand the meaning of them; but it requires that a substantive be added to each adjective to make sense; as, “I see a rich man, I see a poor boy, I see a wise dog, I see a foolish woman.”

Of Numbers.

Number is the distinction of one for many. There are two numbers, the singular, and the plural. The singular number is used when we speak of one single thing; as, “a boy, a dog, a tree.” The plural number is used when we speak of more things than one; “a, boys, dogs, trees.” The plural number is commonly made by adding *s* to the singular; as, “boy, boys; dog, dogs; tree, trees.” But when the singular number ends in *ch*, *sh*, *ss*, or *x*, then the pronunciation requires that *es* be added to the singular; as “church, churches; brush, bushes; witness, witnesses; box, boxes.” But if the singular number ends in *fe*, *se*, *ce*, or in *g*, pronounced soft, then the *s* that is added cannot be heard in the sound, except it makes another entire syllable;

as *horse* in the singular has but one syllable, *hor-ses* in the plural two; *breeze* one, *bree-zes* two; *face* one, *fa-ces* two; *age* one, *a-ges* two. Words that end in *f*, or *fe*, do, for their better sounding, make their plural, by changing *f* and *fe* into *ves*, as,

<i>Sing.</i>	<i>Plur.</i>	<i>Sing.</i>	<i>Plur.</i>
Calf	Calves	Self	Selves
Halt	Halves	Thief	Thieves
Knife	Knives	Wife	Wives
Leaf	Leavcs	Shelf	Shelycs.
Loaf	Loavcs	Wolf	Wolves
Sheat	Sheaves		

Though not always; for these words following, with several others, follow the general rule of *s*, as, “hoof, hoofs; roof, “roofs; grief, griefs; dwarf, dwarfs;” so likewise mischief, “handkerchief, relief,” make their plural by adding *s*; and also words ending in *ff*, as, “muff, ruff, cuff, snuff, stuff, puff; but stall, although it ends in *ff*, makes *staves* in the plural. Some words make their plural by adding *en*, as, “child, children; brother, brethren, or brothers; man, men; woman, “women; ox, oxen;” *chicken* is not plural, for we say *chickens*, not *chicks*; singular *chicken*. Some words form their plural otherwise than by adding *s*, *es*, or *en* to the singular, and are therefore irregular; as,

<i>Sing.</i>	<i>Plur.</i>	<i>Sing.</i>	<i>Plur.</i>
Dice	Dice	Penny	Pence
Mouse	Mice	Tooth	Teeth
Louse	Lice	Foot	Feet
Goose	Geese	Sow	Swine

And some words are used alike in both numbers, as “deer, “horse, sheep, &c.” And some words have no singular number, as “ashes, bowels, bellows, breeches, entrails, lungs, “feathers, snuffers, shanks, tongs, wages.” And many words have no plural number, as the names of men and women, cities, countries, mountains, rivers, &c. The names of virtues, vices, metals, corns, except *bean*, which makes *beans*; and *pea*, *peas*; the names of most herbs; and also the words “ale, beer, bread, butter, honey, milk,” with many others, want the plural number. Note, That the adjectives have no difference of numbers; for as we say *a good man* in the singular, so we say *good men* in the plural. Of

Of the Genitive Case.

THE English have but one case, that is the genitive, which ends in the singular and plural in *s* or *es*, if the pronunciation requires it; as “Virgil’s *Aeneid*, or the *Aeneid* of Virgil; Milton’s poems, or the poems of Milton; Buchanan’s psalms, or the psalms of Buchanan; man’s breath, or the breath of man; the church’s peace, or the peace of the church.

Of Gender.

THE English properly have no genders; and as we have one great advantage above all others, in being freed from the trouble of variety of cases by the reason that the nouns have no variety of endings; so likewise our having no difference of genders is an advantage full as great as the former: all languages, both ancient and modern, admitting of difference in gender, in their nouns, except the English and Chinese languages.

By Gender is meant the distinction of sex, or the difference between male and female. We have four ways of distinguishing two genders of the male and female sex.

1. When we would express the difference of sex, we do it (after the same manner as we distinguish the ages and other accidents) by different words.

So in relation of persons.

<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Bachelor,	Maid, Virgin.	Bridegroom,	Bride.
Boar,	Sow.	Brother,	Sister.
Boy,	Girl.	Buck,	Doe.
Bull,	Cow.	Man,	Woman.
Bullock,	Heifer.	Master,	Dame.
Cock,	Hen.	Miller,	Spawner.
Dog,	Bitch.	Nephew,	Niece.
Drake,	Duck.	Ram,	Ewe.
Drone,	Bee.	Sloven,	Slut.
Father,	Mother.	Son,	Daughter.
Friar,	Nun.	Stag,	hind.
Gander,	Goose.	Uncle,	Aunt.
Horse,	Mare.	Widower,	Widow.
Husband,	Wife.	Wizzard,	Witch.
King,	Queen.	Whore-	Whore, or,
Lad,	Lass.	monger,	Strumpet.
Lord;	Lady.		

2. But when there are two different words to express both sexes, or when both sexes are comprehended under one word, then we add another word to it to distinguish the sex: as, “a male child, a female child, a he-goat,” for the male; “a she-goat,” for the female.

3. We sometimes add another substantive to the word to distinguish the sex; as, “a man-servant, a maid-servant, a ‘cock-sparrow, a hen-sparrow.’”

4. There are likewise several words which distinguish the female from the male sex by adding *ess*; as,

<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Abbot,	Abbess.	Jew,	Jewess.
Actor,	Actress.	Lion,	Lioness.
Adulterer,	Adulteress.	Marquis,	Marchioness.
Ambassador,	Ambassador.	Master,	Mistress.
Baron,	Baroness.	Patron,	Patroness.
Count,	Countess.	Prince,	Princess.
Deacon,	Deaconess.	Prior,	Prioress.
Duke,	Duchess.	Poet,	Poetess.
Elector,	Electress.	Prophet,	Prophetess.
Emperor,	Empress.	Shepherd,	Shepherdess.
Governor,	Governess.	Tutor,	Tutress.
Heir,	Heiress.	Vicount,	Vicomtesse.
Hunter,	Huntress.		

There are two words in *ix*, “administrator, administratrix; executor, executrix.” Note, That the common and ordinary words we use to express the difference of sex by, are *he* and *she*. When we speak of the male sex, we use the word *he*; and when we speak of the female sex, we use the word *she*; but when we speak of a thing that is neither of the male nor female sex, without life, we use the word *it*.

Of the Articles.

A **X** article is a word or syllable set before a substantive **A** for the more particular expressing of it; as *a book*, that is, “some book or other;” *the man*, that is, some certain man spoke of before.” There are only two articles in the English language, *a* and *the*; and these are really adjectives, and are used almost in the same manner as other adjectives. *A* is wrote before a word beginning with a consonant; but when the substantive begins with a vowel, or *b* if the *k* be not sounded, then we write *an* instead of *a*; as, “*an ass*, *an eye*, *an hour*, *an host*, *an heir*;” but “*a hare*, *a hand*,” &c. because the *b* is sounded. *A* is an article of number, and signifies as much as *one*, and is put for it; as, “*a man*, i. e. one man; *an hour*, i. e. one hour;” Or, *an* denotes or signifies the applying a general word to some one particular person or thing in a large sense, not telling what particular person or thing you mean; as, “*Idleness* is a sin; *Diligence* is a praise;” and it is therefore set only before words of the singular number. *The* is a demonstrative article, because it shows what particular person or thing you mean in speaking or writing. *The* is wrote before the singular and plural number; as “*the man*, *the men*; *the ass*, *the asses*.” Note, that the articles are not wrote before the proper names of men, women, kingdoms, cities, nor the particular names of virtues, vices, metals, coins, herbs, except for distinction’s sake; as, “*He* is a Seymour, or *He* is a Sidney; i. e. one whose name is Seymour, or Sidney.” Proper names of ships, rivers, &c. have frequently the article *the* before them, when some substantive is understood, as “*the Rhine*, *the Clyde*, *the Thames*, *the Terrible*; i. e. the ship called Terrible. He was drowned in the Thames, in the Rhine; i. e. in the river Thames, in the river Rhine.”

Of the comparison of Adjectives.

Comparison is the altering the signification of a word into more or less degrees, whereby we see that one thing is *bright*, another *brighter*, and a third is *brightest*. And only adjectives are compared; they being only capable of having their significations increased or diminished. There are three degrees of comparison; the positive, the comparative, and the superlative. The positive degree is the adjective itself simply, without any likeness or comparison, as *soft*, *hard*, *great*. The comparative heightens or lessens the positive in signification. The superlative heightens or lessens the quality to a very high or very low degree. Note, The positive, properly speaking, is no degree of comparison; for it doth not compare things together; however, it is accounted one, because the other two are founded upon, and formed from it. The comparative degree is formed of the positive, by adding the syllable *er*, if it ends with a consonant, or the letter *r* only if the positive ends in *e*; as “*soft* softer; *wife*, *wiser*;” and it is likewise known by the sign *more* before the positive, as *softer* or *more soft*; *wiser* or *more wife*. The superlative degree is formed of the positive, by adding the syllable *est*, if it ends with a consonant, or the letter *s*, if the positive ends with an *e*; as *brightest*, *wisest*. It is likewise known by the sign: *most*, *very* or *exceeding*.

There are some adjectives which are not compared according to the foregoing rules; and therefore irregular; as,

<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Com.</i>	<i>Super.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Com.</i>	<i>Super.</i>
good,	better,	best.	little,	{ less or lesser }	least.
bad or { worse or evil, { worser }	{ worst.		much or { many,	more,	most.
before,	former,	first.			

Note, That some adverbs are also compared; as “*up*, “*upper*, *uppermost*; *above*, *over*, *overmost*; *behind*, *hind*, *hindmost*; *beneath*, *nether*, *nethermost*; *oft*, *oftner*, *oftest*,” &c. All adjectives cannot be compared, because their signification does not admit of increase; as, “*all*, “*every*,

"every, one, any, each, some," &c. And it would not be good English, to say *more wiser*, and *most wisest*; for we ought to say *wiser*, or *more wise*; *wisest*, or *most wise*; for *more wiser* would signify as much as *more more wise*; and *most wisest*, as much as *most most wise*.

Fair, fairer, fairest, are the three degrees of comparison; *fair* is of the positive degree, because it signifies the person to be simply so, without comparing him to any other person: for if I say, *Anne is fair*, that does not gainsay but that Sarah may be as fair: *Fairer* or *more fair*, are of the comparative degree; because when I make a comparison between Anne and Sarah, I find that Anne is fair, but that *Sarah is fairer* or *more fair*; that is *exceeding Anne in beauty*. *Fairest* or *most fair*, are of the superlative; because when I make a comparison between Anne, Sarah and Mary, I perceive that Anne is fair, but that Sarah is fairer, or more fair, and that *Mary is fairest* or *most fair* of either Anne or Sarah; that is, *Mary exceeds them both in the highest degree of beauty*.

Of the Derivation of the Parts of Speech.

ALL words whatsoever are either primitive or derivative, simple or compound. A primitive or simple word is such as is not formed of any other; as *man*, *good*, *hope*, *kind*, &c. A derivative word is a primitive or simple word, with the addition of a syllable or syllables, to the same; such as,

able; agree, agree.able.	ed; love, lov.ed.
al; herb, herba.l.	en; hard, hard.en.
ance; perform, perform.ance.	er; give, giv.er.
ary; tribute, tribu.tary.	ess; count, count.ess.
ate; fortune, fortu.nate.	est; read, read.est.
eth; hear, hear.eth.	lefs; blame, blame.lefs.
ing; spend, spend.ing.	ly; bold, bold.ly.
ish; fool, fool-ish.	ness; cold, cold.ness.
ism; atheist, athe.ism.	ous; fame, fam.ous.
ist; art, art.ist.	ty; craft, craft.y.
ize; civil, civil.ize.	

A compound word is formed of two or more simple words; as *silver-smith*, *wheel-wright*, &c. or of a simple word, and a preposition set before it; as, *dis-please*, *con-form*, *un-fit*, *a-dapt*, &c.

Note 1. From any substantive, or adjective, put for a substantive (in the singular number) is formed the genitive case by adding (*s*).

Note 2. Substantives, and sometimes adjectives, and also the other parts of speech, become verbs; the vowel being always sounded long, and the consonant softened; as from *House* comes *to house*; from *Grafs*, *to graze*; from *Brafs*, *to braise*; from *Breath*, *to Breathe*, &c. Verbs are derived from adjectives by adding *en*, as from *ride* comes *ridden*; from *white*, *whiten*; from *fast*, *fasten*; from *black*, *blacken*, &c.

Note 3. That from verbs are derived the active participle, that ends always in *ing*, and the passive that ends in *ed* or *en*; as *loving*, *loved*; *giving*, *given*; from which verbs, by adding *er* to the present sense, comes a substantive signifying the agent; as from *love*, comes *lover*; from *hear* comes the noun *bearer*; from *play* comes *player*, &c. and these sort of nouns are called verbal nouns.

Note 4. By adding *y* to substantives, are formed adjectives of plenty; as from *wealth*, comes the adjective *wealthy*; from *filth*, comes *filthy*; from *louse*, comes *lousy*; &c. By adding the termination *ful* to substantives, are also formed adjectives denoting fulness; as from *joy*, comes *joyful*; *fruit*, *fruitful*; *health*, *healthful*, &c. So also by adding *some* to substantives are formed adjectives signifying fulness; as, *burden*, *burdensome*; *whole*, *wholesome*, &c. So from substantives come also adjectives denoting likeness, by adding the ending *ly*; as from *earth*, comes *earthly*; *man*, *manly*; *heaven*, *heavenly*, &c.

Note 5. By adding the termination *less* to substantives are formed adjectives signifying want; as *care*, *careless*; *wit*, *witless*; *worth*, *worthless*, &c. Some adjectives, which signify the matter out of which any thing is made are formed by adding *en* to the substantives; as *earth*, *earthen*; *brass*, *brazen*; *gold*, *golden*; *ash*, *ashen*; *oak*, *oaken*, &c.

T H E
I N T R O D U C T I O N:
C O N T A I N I N G

Some GENERAL DIRECTIONS for Writing LETTERS, and how to address Persons of distinction in Writing or Discourse, &c.

EPISTOLARY writing, by which a great part of the commerce of human life is carried on, was esteemed by the Romans a liberal and polite accomplishment; and Cicero, the Father of eloquence, and master of style, speaks with great pleasure in his epistles to Atticus, of his son's genius in this particular. Among them, it was undoubtedly a part of their education: and, in the opinion of Mr Locke, it well deserves a share in ours. "The writing letters (says this great genius) enters so much into all the occasions of life, that no gentleman can avoid shewing himself in compositions of this kind. Occurrences will daily force him to make this use of his pen: which lays open his breeding, his sense, and his abilities, to a severer examination than any oral discourse."

"It was a *quaint* difference (says Mr Howel, in one of his epistles) that the ancients made betwixt a *letter* and an *oration*; the one should be attired like a woman, and the other like a man. The oration is allowed large side-robes, as long *periods*, *parenthesis*, *similes*, *examples*, and other parts of rhetorical flourishes; but a *letter* should be short-coated, and closely couched. In short, we should write as

SS I N T R O D U C T I O N.

we speak; and that's a true familiar letter which expresseth our meaning the same as if we were discoursing with the party to whom we write, in succinct and easy terms. The tongue and pen are both interpreters of the mind; but the pen the most faithful of the two; and as it has all the advantage of premeditation, it is not so apt to err, and leave things behind on a more authentic as well as lasting record."

When you sit down to write a letter, remember that this sort of writing should be like conversation. Observe this, and you will be no more at a loss to write, than you will be to speak to the person were he present; and this is nature without affectation, which, generally speaking, always pleases. As to subjects, you are allowed in writing letters the utmost liberty; whatsoever has been done, or seen, or heard, or thought of, your own observations on what you know, your inquiries about what you do not know, the time, the place, the weather, every thing about you stands ready for a subject: and the more variety you intermix, if not rudely thrown together, the better. Set discourses require a dignity or formality of style suitable to the subject; whereas, letter-writing rejects all pomp of words, and is most agreeable when most familiar. But, though lofty phrases are here improper, the style should not be low and impudent; and, to avoid it, let an easy complaisance, an open sincerity, and unaffected good nature, appear in all you say; for a fine letter does not consist in saying fine things, but in expressing ordinary ones with elegance and propriety; so as to please while it informs, and charm even in giving advice.

It should also wear an honest, cheerful countenance, like one who truly esteems, and is glad to see his friend; and not like a fop, admiring his own dress, and seemingly pleased with nothing but himself.

Express your meaning as freely as possible. Long periods may please the ear, but they perplex the understanding; a short style and plain strikes the mind, and fixes an impression; a tedious one is seldom clearly understood, and never long remembered. But there is still something requisite beyond all this, towards the writing a polite and agree-

agreeable letter, and that is, an air of good breeding and humanity, which ought constantly to appear in every expression, and that will give a beauty to the whole. By this I would not be supposed to mean, overstrained or affected compliments, or any thing that way tending; but an easy, gentle, and obliging manner of address, in a choice of words that bear the most civil meanings, with a thorough generous, and good natured disposition.

But in familiar letters in the common concerns of life, elegance is not required, nor is it the thing we ought to aim at; for, when attempted, the labour is often seen, and the end perverted by the very means. Ease and clearness are the only beauties we need to study.

Never be in pain about familiarity in the style to those with whom you are acquainted; for that very pain will make it awkward and stiff, in spite of all your endeavours to the contrary.

Write freely, but not hastily; let your words drop from your pen, as they would from your tongue when speaking deliberately on a subject of which you are master, and to a person with whom you are intimate.

Accustom yourself to think justly, and you will not be at a loss to write clearly; for while there is confusion at the fountain-head, the brook will never be clear.

Before you begin to write, think what you are going to write. However unnecessary this caution may seem, I will venture to say, that ten appear ridiculous on paper, through hurry and want of thought, for one that is so through want of understanding.

A man that begins a speech before he is determined what to say, will undoubtedly find himself bewildered before he gets to the end; not in sentiment only, but in grammar. To avoid this, before you begin a sentence, have the whole of it in your head, and make use of the first words that offer themselves to express your meaning; for, be assured, they are the most natural, and will, generally speaking, (I cannot say always) best answer your purpose; for, to stand searching after expressions, breaks in upon the natural dictation: and, for a word, that perhaps is not a jot more expressive, you make the whole sentence stiff and awkward.

But, of all things, learn to be correct, and never omit a careful perusal of what you have written, which, whoever neglects, must have many inaccuracies ; and these are not only a reflection on the writer, but a rudeness to the person to whom they are written. Never be ashamed of having found something amiss, which you confess that you did, by incurring it ; for in that confession you cancel the fault, and if you have not time to transcribe it, let it pass ; for a blot is by no means so bad as a blunder ; and, by accustoming yourself to correct what is amiss, you will be less liable to future mistakes.

So much for letters in general ; as for those in trade in particular, I shall quote a reputable author on the subject, who, I think, has said every thing that need be said upon it, and given examples, whereby we cannot err, if we do not excel, viz.

" As plainness, and a free way of expression, is the beauty and excellence of speech, so an easy concise way of writing is the best style for tradesmen. He that affects a rumbling bombast style, and fills his letters with compliments and flourishes, makes a very ridiculous figure in trade ; for instance, of the following letter, which a young tradesman in the country writes up to a wholesale-dealer in London, on his first setting up."

SIR, The destinies having so appointed it, and my dark stars concurring, that I, who by nature was formed for better things, should be put out to a trade ; and the time of my servitude being at length expired, I am now launched forth into the great ocean of business. I thought fit to acquaint you, that last month I received my fortune, which, by my father's will, had been due two years past, at which time I arrived to man's estate, and became major ; whereupon I have taken a house in one of the principal streets of this town, where I am entered upon my business, and hereby let you know that I shall have occasion for the goods hereafter mentioned, which you may send to me by the carrier.

This fine flourish, which the young shopkeeper dressed up with much application, and thought it well done, put his

his correspondent in London into a fit of laughing ; who, instead of sending him directly the goods he wrote for, sent down into the country to inquire his character.

The same tradesman in London, by the next post, received the following letter from another young shop-keeper in the country, on his beginning business for himself.

SIR, — Being obliged, by my late master's decease, to enter immediately upon business, and consequently open my shop without going to town to furnish myself with such goods as at present I want; I have sent you a small order, as underwritten. I hope you will use me well, and let the goods be good of the sorts, though I cannot be in London to look them out myself. I have inclosed a bill of exchange of 75*l.* on Messrs A— and B—, and Company, payable to you or to your order, at one and twenty days sight. Be pleased to get it accepted; and if the goods amount to more than that sum, I shall, when I have your bill of parcels, send you the remainder. I repeat my desire, that you will send me the goods well sorted, and well chosen, and as cheap as possible, that I may be encouraged to a farther correspondence. I am your humble servant, C. K.

This was writing like a man that understood what he was doing, and such a letter could not want its proper effect upon such a correspondent in London.

In short, a tradesman's letter should be plain and concise, and to the purpose; no quaint expressions, no book-phrases, no flourishes; and yet they must be full and sufficient to express what he means, so as not to be doubtful, much less unintelligible. I can by no means approve of studied abbreviations, and leaving out the needful copulatives of speech in trading letters; they are affected to the last degree : For, in a word, 'tis affecting to be thought a man of more than ordinary sense, by writing extraordinary nonsense; affecting to be a man of business, by giving orders and expounding your meaning in terms which a man of business may not think himself bound by.

When a tradesman takes an apprentice, the first thing he does for him, after he lets him into the counting-house and his books, and after trusting him with his more private business, is to let him write letters to his dealers, and correspond with his friends ; and this he does in his master's name, subscribing his letter thus :

I am,

For my master, A. B. and Company,

Your humble servant,

C. D.

And beginning thus :

SIR, I am ordered by my Master; A. B.: to advise you, that—

Or thus :

SIR, These are, by my Master's order, to give you notice —

Orders for goods ought to be very explicit and particular, that the dealer may not mistake ; especially if it be orders from a tradesman to a manufacturer, to make or buy goods, either of such a quality or pattern ; in which case, if the goods are made to the colours, and of a marketable goodness, and within the time limited, the person ordering them cannot refuse to receive them, and to make himself debtor to the maker. On the contrary, if the goods are not of a marketable goodness, or not to the patterns, or not sent within the time, the maker ought not to expect they should be received.

In regard to the form and superscription of letters, especially of the politer sort, it may be necessary to observe,

That when you write to a person of distinction, or gentleman, let it be on gilt paper ; and without sealing the letter itself, inclose it in a cover, which you are to seal over it, and write the superscription thereon.

Begin

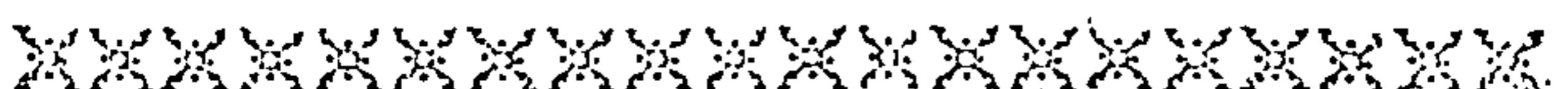
Begin your letter about two inches below the top of your paper, and leave about an inch margin on the left hand; and what compliments, or services, you send in the letter, insert them rather in the body or conclusion of it than by way of postscript, as is too often done; but it is neither so affectionate or polite; for it not only favours of levity to your friends, but has the appearance of your having almost forgot them.

It is usual among the polite, to sign their names at a considerable distance below the conclusion of the letter, and thereby leave a larger vacant space over their names; which, though customary, I would by all means advise you to avoid; because 'tis putting it in the power of any one who has your letter, to write what he pleases over your name, and make you in all appearance to have signed a writing that you would by no means have set your hand to.

In directing your letters to persons who are well known, 'tis best not to be too particular; because 'tis lessening the person you direct to, by supposing him to be obscure, and not easily found.

Whenever you direct to persons who are honourable, either by family or office, 'tis more proper, as well as polite, to direct without the title of Esq; than with it; for instance,

To the Honourable Mr Arundel; not to the Honourable Peter Arundel, Esq; which would be ridiculous.



SOME FARTHER

DIRECTIONS and OBSERVATIONS. -

On EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE.

- i. WHEN you are writing to your superior, be not prolix, but let your letter be as short as the subject, or occasion you write on, will permit; especially such wherein

wherein favours are requested: and be particularly careful in not omitting any letter belonging to the words you write, as *I've*, *can't*, *don't*, *shou'd*, *wou'd*, &c. instead of *I have*, *cannot*, *do not*, *should*, *would*, &c. for such contractions not only appear disrespectful, and too familiar; but discover (those almost inseparable companions) ignorance and impudence. Neither be over pompous in your style, but convey your thoughts with ease and perspicuity, that they may appear as from nature, rather than a vain conceit to show your learning; the former shews your *humility*, the latter your *pride*.

2. When you write to your superiors, never make a postscript: and (if possible) avoid it in letters to your equal's; especially complimentary postscripts to any of the persons family or relations to whom you write, as it shews disrespect in your neglecting such persons in the body of your letter: wherefore it is best to keep up to form, if you write to the ancient, the grave, or the proud; such persons being most commonly jealous of respect, and expect to be treated with deference.

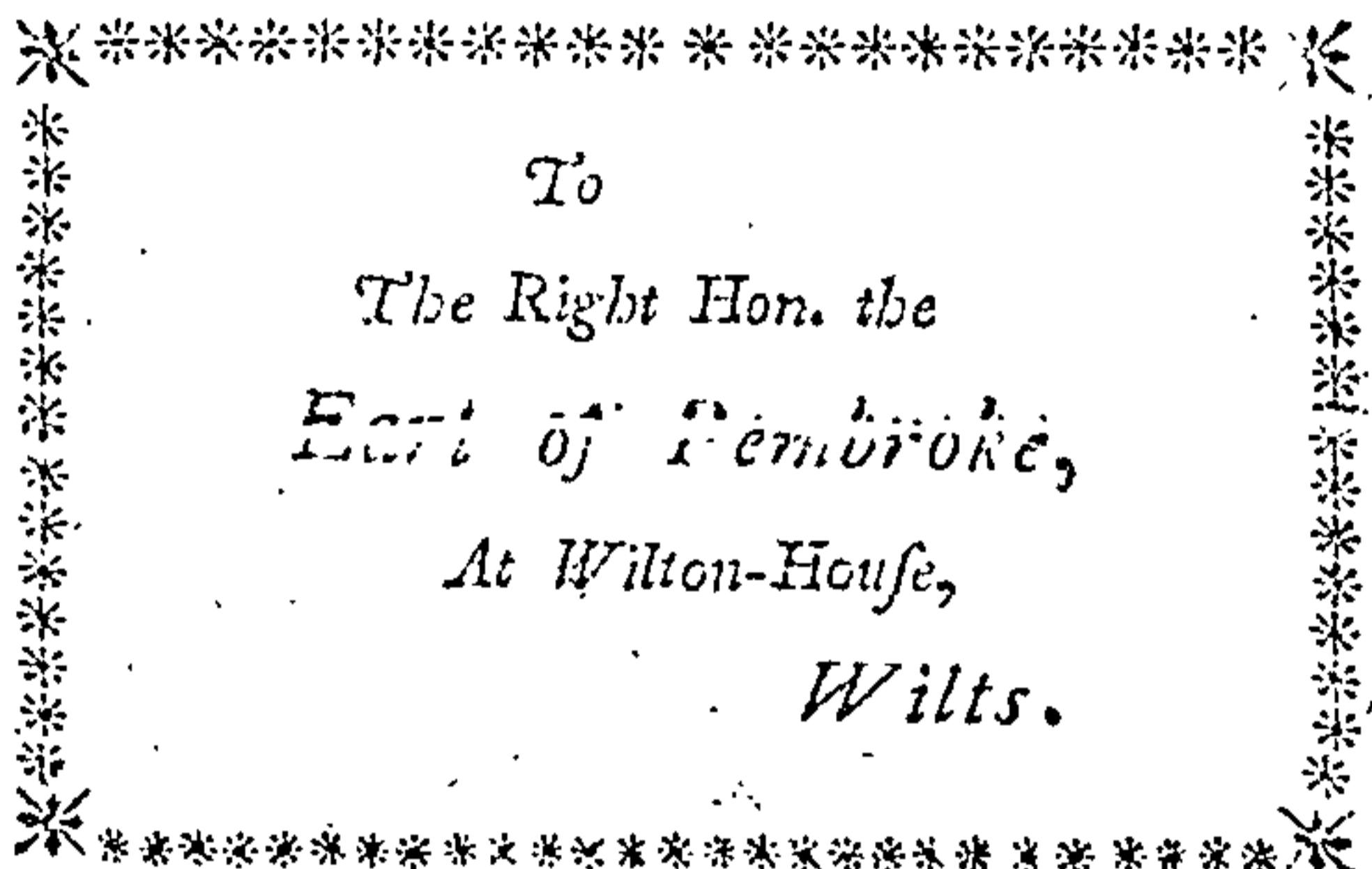
3. When you write to your inferiors, you are at liberty to act as you think proper as to the last caution; and take care that you are not too familiar, or free in your style, lest it should make you contemptible; always having the proverb in your mind, viz. *Too much familiarity commonly breeds contempt*.

4. If your letter consists of several paragraphs, begin every fresh, or new one, at the same distance from the left-hand margin of the paper, as when you began the subject of your letter; always remembering, as you write on, to make your proper stops, otherwise no person will be able to come at the sense or meaning of your letter; which neglect very often causes *mistakes and misunderstandings*; and be careful to put a period or full stop at the end of every paragraph, thus .

5. When the subject of your letter is finished, conclude it with the same address as at first, as *Sir*; *Madam*; or, *May it please your Grace, Lordship, Ladyship, &c. &c.* and always subscribe your name in a larger hand than the body part of your letter.

6. Letters should be wrote on Quarto, fine gilt post paper to superiors; if to your equals or inferiors, you are at your own option to use what sort or size you please; but take care never to seal your letter with a wafer, unless to the latter.

7. When your letter is sealed, you must write the superscription (if it be to your superior, or equal) in the following manner. *viz.* Write the word *To* by itself, as nigh the left hand upper angle, or corner of your letter, as is convenient : then begin the title, or name of the person, about an inch lower, and almost in the middle or centre of it, according to the length of the person's name, or title ; and write the place of his abode in a line by itself at the bottom, thus :



Proper DIRECTIONS for addressing Persons of every rank or denomination, at the begin- ning of Letters, and the Superscriptions.

Beginning of Letters.

To the KING. Sire ; or Sir ; or *Most gracious Sovereign* ;
or *May it please your MAJESTY.*

To the QUEEN, Madam; or Miss; &c.

To the PRINCE of WALES. Sir; or May it pleaye your
Royal Highnes.

To the PRINCESS of WALES. Madam; or May it please your
Royal Highness. To

To the PRINCESS DOWAGER. Ditto.

Note. All Sovereigns' sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters, are entitled to Royal Highness.

And to the rest of the Royal Family. Highness.

To a DUKE. *May it please your Grace.*

To a DUCHESS. Ditto.

To a MARQUIS, EARL, } *My Lord:* or *May it please*
VISCOUNT, LORD. } *your Lordship.*

To a Marchioness; an Earl's } *May it please your*
Wife; Viscountess; or a } *Ladyship.*
Lord's Wife.

To the ArchBishops. *May it please your Grace;* or
My Lord.

To the rest of the bishops. *My Lord;* or *May it please*
your Lordship.

To the rest of the Clergy. *Reverend Sir.*

Note. All younger sons of a Marquis, Earl, Viscount, and Lord's sons, are styled Honourable, and are Esquires.

To either of these. *Sir;* *Honoured Sir;* or *May it please*
your Honour.

Also the title of *Lady* is given to the daughters of Dukes, Marquises, and Earls; *Madam;* or, *May it please*
your Ladyship.

To a member of parliament. *May it please your Honour.*

To the right honourable the Lord Mayor of London.
My Lord; or, *May it please your Lordship.*

Note. That Generals, Admirals, and Colonels, and all Field Officers, are Honourable.

All other officers, either in the army or navy, have only the title of the commission they bear, set first on the superscription of the letters; and at the beginning, *Sir;* or, *Honoured Sir;* or, *May it please your Honour.*

An Ambassador, *May it please your Excellency;* or, *Sir.*

All Privy Counsellors, and Judges that are Privy Counsellors, are Right Honourable; and the whole Privy Council, taken together, are styled, *Most Honourable.*

Baronets are Honourable.

Justices of the Peace, and Mayors, are styled, Right Worshipful.

Likewise Sheriffs of Counties, &c.

All Governors under his Majesty are styled; Excellency.

Superscriptions of Letters.

To his most sacred MAJESTY; or, To the KING's M^t Excellent MAJESTY.

To her most sacred MAJESTY; or, QUEEN's M^t Excellent MAJESTY.

To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

To her Royal Highness the Princess; &c.

To her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales.

Sovereigns' sons; daughters; brothers and sisters, To his or her Royal Highness.

To the rest of the Royal Family. Highness.

To his Grace the Duke of K — n.

To her Grace the Duchess of K — n.

To a Marquis; Earl; Viscount; Lord. } To the Right Honourable the Marquis of — ; Earl of — ; Lord Viscount F.— b; the Lord H— w.

To a Marchioness. To the Right Honourable the Marchioness of — ; &c. An Earl or Viscount's wife. To the Right Honourable the Countess of — ; the Viscountess of — ; &c. To a Lord's wife. To the Right Honourable the Lady — ; &c.

To the daughter of a Duke; Marquis; and Earl. To the Right Honourable the Lady Ann Finch.

Note. The wives of Lieutenant-generals; Major-generals; and Brigadier-generals; are Honourable.

Also the wives of Vice and Real Admirals; Ambassadors; &c.

To the Right Honourable Mrs —

To an Archbishop. To his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

To other bishops. To the Right Reverend Father in God, John Lord Bishop of — ; &c.

Some

Some necessary Orthographical Directions for writing correctly, and when to use Capital Letters, and when not.

1. **L**E T the first word of every book, epistle, note, bill, verse, (whether it be in prose, rhyme, or blank verse,) begin with a capital.
2. Let proper names of persons, places, ships, rivers, mountains, things personified; &c. begin with a capital; also all appellative names of professions, &c.
3. It was formerly understood ornamental to begin every substantive in a sentence with a capital, if it bore some considerable stress of the author's sense upon it, to make it the more remarkable and conspicuous: but now the common practice is, to begin all common substantives with a little letter, which adds to the beauty of writing and printing.
4. None but substantives, whether common, proper, or personal, may begin with a capital, except in the beginning or immediately after a full stop.
5. Qualities, affirmation or participles, must not begin with a capital, unless such words begin, or come immediately after a period; then they never fail to begin with a capital.
6. If any notable saying; or passage of an author, be quoted in his own words, it begins with a capital, though not immediately after a period.
7. Let not a capital be written in the middle of a word among small letters.
8. Where capitals are used in whole words and sentences, something is expressed extraordinary great. They are also used in titles of books for ornament's sake.
9. The pronoun I, and the exclamative O, must be written with a capital.
10. The letter q is never used without the letter u next following.
11. The long f must never be inserted immediately after the short s, nor at the end of a word.

THE
C O M P L E T E
LETTER-WRITER.

P A R T I.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS on the most useful and common occasions.

LETTER I.

From a brother at home, to a sister abroad on a visit, complaining of her not writing.

Dear Sister,
IMUST acquaint you how unkind it is taken by every body here, that we so seldom hear from you; my mother, in particular, is not a little displeased, and says you are a very idle girl; my aunt is of the same opinion; and none but myself endeavours to excuse for you; but I beg you will give me that trouble no more, and, for the future, take care to deserve no rebuke, which you may easily do by writing soon and often. You are very sensible how dear you are to us all: think then with yourself, whether it be right to omit giving us the only satisfaction that absence affords to real friends; which is often to hear from one another.

Our best respects to Mr and Mrs Herbert, and compliments to all friends.

From your very affectionate brother,

E

J. G.

LETTER II.

The sister's answer.

Dear Brother,

I Will not set about finding excuses, but own my fault, and thank you for your kind reproof; and, in return, I promise you never to be guilty of the like again. I write this immediately on the receipt of yours, to beg my mamma's pardon, which you, I know, can procure; as also my aunt's, on this my promise of amendment. I hope you will continue to excuse all my little omissions; and be assured, I am never so forgetful of myself, as to neglect my duty designedly. I shall certainly write to mamma by next post: this is just a-going, which obliges me to conclude, with my duty to my dear mamma, and sincere respects to all friends.

Your ever affectionate sister,

M. C.



LETTER III.

A young gentleman's letter to his pappa, written by a school-fellow.

Dear Pappa,

According to your commands, when you left me at school, I hereby obey them; and, not only inform you, that I am well; but also that I am happy in being placed under the tuition of so good a master, who is the best-natured man in the world; and, I am sure, was I inclinable to be an idle boy, his goodness to me would prompt me to be diligent at my study, that I might please him; besides, I see a great difference made between those that are idle and those that are diligent; idle boys being punished as they deserve, and diligent boys being encouraged: but you I know, pappa, that I always loved my book, for you have often told me, if I intended ever to be a great man, I must learn to be a good scholar, lest, when

I

LETTER - WRITER.

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I am grown up, I should be a laughing-stock or make-game to others, for my ignorance : but I am resolved to be a scholar.

Pray give my duty to my mamma, and my love to my sister.
I am, dear pappa,

Your most dutiful son.



LETTER IV.

Another on the same subject.

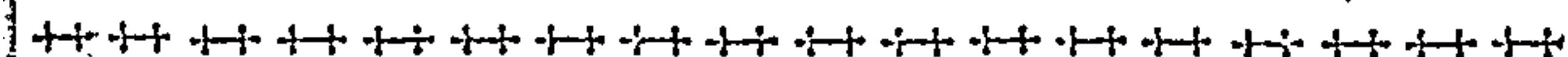
Dear Pappa,

AS I know you will be glad to hear from your little boy; I should be very naughty if I did not acquaint you, that I am in good health, and that I am very well pleased with my master ; for he is very kind to me, and tells me, that he will always love young gentlemen that mind their learning : therefore, I am sure he will still love me ; because you have told me, that boys who do not mind their learning, will never become gentlemen, and will be laughed at for their ignorance, though they have ever so much money ; and as I am sure you always speak truth ; and I would willingly be a gentleman, like you, I am resolved to be a good scholar, which, I know, will be a pleasure to you and my mamma, and gain me the love of every body.

Pray give my duty to mamma, my uncle, and my aunt ; and my love to my sister and cousins.

I am, dear pappa,

Your most dutiful son.



LETTER V.

To a friend, against waste of time.

Dear Sir,

Converse often with yourself, and neither lavish your time, nor suffer others to rob you of it. Many of our hours are stolen from us, and others pass insensibly away :

away: but of both these losses, the most shameful is that which happens through our own neglect. If we take the trouble to observe, we shall find, that one considerable part of our life is spent in doing evil, and the other in doing nothing, or in doing what we should not do. We don't seem to know the value of time, nor how precious a day is; nor do we consider, that every moment brings us nearer to our end. Reflect upon this, I intreat you, and keep a strict account of time. Procrastination is the most dangerous thing in life. Nothing is properly ours but the instant we breathe in, and all the rest is nothing; it is the only good we possess: but then it is fleeting, and the first comer robs us of it. Men are so weak, that they think they oblige by giving of trifles, and yet reckon that time is nothing, for which the most grateful person in the world can never make amends.

I am, &c.

LETTER. VI.

In answer to a friend.

SIR,

To tell you, in answer to yours, what I think of prosperity, is, that I take it to be more dangerous to our virtue than adversity. It is apt to make us vain and insolent, regardless of others, and forgetful of God, ambitions in our pursuits, and intemperate in our enjoyments. Thus it proved to the wisest man on earth, I mean Solomon. But I much admire what you say of silence, and wish I could practise that passive virtue, which is the first step of wisdom, the nurse of peace, and the guardian of virtue. Words do but ruffle and discompose the mind, betraying the soul to a thousand vanities. I hope you will, in our next meeting, find me greatly improved in what you so much recommended to me.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

LETTER VII.

To a young gentleman.

SIR,

I dare venture to affirm, that learning, properly cultivated and applied, is what truly makes the gentleman, and that a wise man is as much superior to an ignorant person, as a man is above the level of a brute. Wherefore you cannot do better than to apply yourself seriously to the cultivation of your mind ; to which purpose nothing will contribute more, than your prescribing to yourself a regular method of study. The morning is undoubtedly more proper for reading than any other part of the day ; because the mind is then free and disengaged, and unclouded by those vapours which we generally find after a full meal. Nevertheless, I would not affect to read over a multitude of volumes, nor read with greediness ; I would rather chuse to read a little and digest it. Neither would I regard the number, so much as the choice, of my books, &c.

(00000000000000000000000000000000)

LETTER VIII.

From a young lady, in answer to a letter she had received from her mamma, advising her to persevere in the Christian duties she had been instructed in.

Most honoured Madam,

I am at a loss for words to express the joy I felt at the receipt of your letter ; wherein you are pleased to acquaint me, that nothing ever gave my dear mamma greater pleasure and satisfaction than the account I have given her of the conduct I observe in my spiritual affairs ; and that I may still add to that comfort (which shall ever be my study,) when an opportunity offers itself, I presume to continue the information.

When I have properly discharged my duty to that Divine Being, to whom I am indebted for my existence, I repair to my toilet ; but not with an intent to clothe my body (which I know must sooner or later fall into corruption) with vain attire, but with such as are decent or innocent ; regarding fine robes as the badges of pride and vanity ; keeping those enemies, to our sex in particular, at too great a distance, ever to dare an attempt upon my mind.

When public prayers and breakfast are over, I apply my thoughts to the duty of the school ; and divide the time appointed for them as equally as possibly I can between the several branches of education I am engaged in, both before and after dinner.

When school is finished for the day, I, accompanied by a young lady who is my bed-fellow, and of a-like disposition, retire to our room, where we improve ourselves by reading. Books of piety are our most common choice. These warm our will, and enlighten our understandings ; they instruct us in the cause of our misconduct, and prescribe to us a remedy : they neither flatter a dignified title, nor insult the peasant who tills the ground ; but, like painted bustos, look upon every one alike. In fine, they refresh the memory, enlarge the understanding, and enflame the will ; and, in a delightful manner, cultivate both virtue and wisdom.

Having finished our reading, either of piety, or history, which we prefer next, (especially such as relates to our own country,) and supper and prayers are over, I retire alone to my room, to take an impartial view of the actions of the day. If my conscience does not accuse me of having committed any thing criminal, I give glory to God ; and with bended knees, and an humble heart, return him unfeigned thanks for protecting me against those temptations which the enemy of mankind is ready to allure us with : for I am persuaded, it was not my strength of virtue that withstood the temptations, but his assisting grace that enabled me to overcome them ; and if I am conscious of having done amiss, I sue for pardon ; and lay not my body to rest, till I have procured peace to my soul.

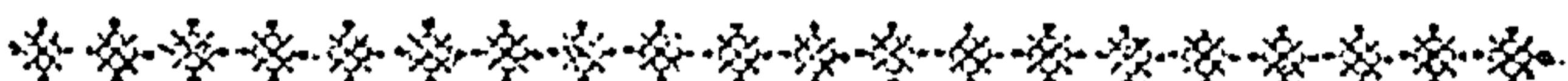
If at any time I am permitted to pay a visit, (which liberty your indulgence has allowed,) I take care to time it properly; for there are certain times when visits become rather troublesome than friendly: wherefore I avoid it when much company is expected, or when I am certain that family affairs will not admit of sufficient leisure to receive them; the former on my own account, the latter ^{on} on my friends: that is, much company assembled together serves rather to confuse our ideas, than enliven them. Wherefore, when I am so unfortunate to ill-time a visit, I withdraw as soon as civility and ceremony will permit me; for in my weak opinion, Madam, long conversations grow dull, as few of our sex are furnished with a sufficient fund of materials for long discourses, unless it be to comment upon the frailties of the absent, and turn their misfortunes into a subject for our most cruel diversion.

This, Madam, is a vice you have often cautioned me against, and I shall be particularly careful to avoid it; being both an unchristian and disingenuous principle, to feast ourselves at another's expence.

This is all I have to offer at present; and am with great humility,

Most honoured Madam,

Your most dutiful daughter.



LETTER IX.

From a young lady to her mamma, requesting a favour.

Dear Mamma,

THE many instances you have given me of your affection leave me no room to believe that the favour I presume to ask will be displeasing. Was I in the least doubtful of it, I hope my dear mamma has too good an opinion of my conduct, to imagine I would ever advance any thing that might give her the least dissatisfaction.

The holidays are now at hand, when all of us young ladies are to pay our several personal respects and duties to

our

our parents, except one ; whose friends (her parents being dead), reside at too great a distance for her to expect their indulgence in sending for her : besides, were they to do so, the expence attending her journey would be placed to her account, and deducted out of the small fortune left her by her parents.

This young lady's affability, sense, and good nature, have gained her the friendship and esteem of the whole school ; each of us contending to render her retirement (as I may justly call it) from her native home and friends, as comfortable and agreeable as we possibly can.

How happy should I think myself above the rest of our young ladies, if you will give me leave to engage her to spend the holidays with me at home ! And I doubt not but her address and behaviour will attract your esteem, among the rest of those she has already acquired.

Your compliance with this request will greatly add to the happiness I already enjoy from the repeated indulgences and favours conferred on her, who will always persevere to merit the continuance of them. I am, with my duty to pappa,

Dear Mainma,

Your most dutiful daughter,



L. E. T T E R. X.

From a young gentleman to his pappa, desiring that he may learn to dance.

Dear Pappa,

YOUR affectionate and paternal behaviour convinces me, that you are absolutely resolved to spare no cost in any branch of education that is essentially necessary in the employment you propose I shall hereafter follow : And though I am certain you intend that dancing shall have its share in my studies ; nevertheless, permit me to put you in mind of it, and also to desire you will no longer on account of the strength of my limbs, (which I am sensible is the

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motive that retards me from beginning,) delay your orders to my master; for I am persuaded, from an instance I am witness of in our school, of a young master, who is much weaker in his limbs than ever I was, that dancing will rather strengthen than weaken my joints.

It is not my inclination for dancing a minuet, that is the motive that induces me to be thus pressing; for, I presume, there are other things more necessary belonging to this qualification than that; such as to walk well, to make a bow, how to come properly into a room, and to go out of it; how to salute a friend or acquaintance in the street, whether a superior, equal, or inferior; and several other points of behaviour, which are more essential than dancing a minuet.

These points of behaviour I often blush to be ignorant of; and have several times been the ridicule of those young chaps who are advanced in the knowledge of this accomplishment: and as I am persuaded you would not chuse I should be a make-gaine to any of my school-fellows, I doubt not but you will send your immediate orders for my beginning; which favour, added to the many others you have already conferred, will greatly oblige,

Dear Pappa,

Your most dutiful son.



LETTER XI.

From a young lady to her pappa, who lately embarked for the East Indies, in the Company's service, but was detained at Portsmouth by contrary winds.

Dear Pappa,

I flatter myself you are too well convinced of my steady adherence to my duty and affection, ever to imagine I will omit the least opportunity that offers to pay you my most humble duty.

I beg my dear pappa may not be offended if I say, that it gives me a secret satisfaction to hear you are still within

the

our parents, except one ; whose friends (her parents being dead), reside at too great a distance for her to expect their indulgence in sending for her : besides, were they to do so, the expence attending her journey would be placed to her account, and deducted out of the small fortune left her by her parents.

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Your compliance with this request will greatly add to the happiness I already enjoy from the repeated indulgences and favours conferred on her, who will always persevere to merit the continuance of them. I am, with my duty to pappa,

Dear Mamma,

Your most dutiful daughter.



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I beg my dear pappa may not be offended if I say, that it gives me a secret satisfaction to hear you are still within

the

the reach of a post-letter; and though I cannot have the pleasure of a paternal embrace, yet I rejoice in the expectation of receiving the wished-for account of your health's continuance, which to me, my dear mamma, and brother, is the greatest blessing that Providence can possibly bestow upon us.

Oh! Sir, tho' short to some, the interval of time since I received your blessing, ere your departure from us, to me it seems an age! And when I reflect how many such I am doomed to bear in the absence of the best of parents, I am inconsolable! And if it were possible that nature could subsist on sleep alone, I could with pleasure renounce every amusement whatever, and make the silent pillow my retreat.

Oh! may the divine Being be your protector, against the many dangers of that boisterous element you are obliged to traverse! May he direct such gentle and favourable breezes that may conduct you to your destined port! May he add to this a happy and successful voyage! and, to crown all my wishes, grant you a speedy and safe return.

I have nothing worthy notice to advise you of, but that we are all (God be praised) in the same good health you left us, and are in great expectation of the same comfortable account in your answer to this, from,

Dear Pappa,

Your most dutiful daughter.



L E T T E R XII.

From a young woman just gone to service, to her mother at home.

Dear Mother,

TIS a fortnight this very day, that I have been at Mr Johnson's; and I thank God, I begin to find myself a little easier than I have been: But, indeed, I have suffered a great deal since I parted from you, and all the rest of my friends. At our first coming hither, I thought every thing looked

looked so strange about me : and when John got upon his horse, and rode out of the yard, methought every thing looked stranger and stranger ; so I got up to the window and looked after him, till he turned into the London road, (for you know we live a quarter of a mile on the farther side of it,) and then I sat down and cried ; and that always gives me some relief. Many a time have I cried since ; but I do my best to dry up my tears, and to appear as cheerful as I can.

Dearest mother, I return you a thousand thanks for all the kind advices you were so good as to give me at parting ; and I think it over often and often. But yet, methinks, it would be better if I had it in writing ; that would be what I would value above all things : but I am afraid to ask for what would give you much trouble. So, with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever

Your most dutiful daughter.

LETTER XIII.

Her mother's answer.

My dear Child,

I AM very sorry that you have suffered so much since we parted, but it is always so at first, and will wear away in time. I have had my share too, but I bear it now pretty well ; and hope you will endeavour to follow my example in this, as you used to say you loved to do in every thing. You must consider, that we never should have parted with you had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. You will get new friends there ; and I think I can assure you, that you will lose no love here, for we all talk of you every evening ; and every body speaks of you as fondly, or rather more fondly, than ever they did. In the mean time, keep yourself employed as much as you can, which is the best way of wearing off any concern. Do all the business of your place, and be always ready to assist your fellow-servants where you can, in their business.

siness. This will both fill up your time, and help to endear you to them ; and then you will soon have as many friends about you there, as you used to have here. I don't caution you against speaking ill of any body living, for I know you never used to do it ; but if you hear a bad story of any body, try to soften it all you can ; and never tell it again, but rather let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you already, from the good character I have heard of them ; but I should be glad to see it confirmed by your next, and the more particular you are in it, the better. If you have any time to spare from your busines, I hope you will give a good share of it to your devotions ; that is an exercise which gives comfort and spirits without tiring one. My prayers you have daily, I might have said hourly ; and there is nothing that I pray for with more earnestness, than that my dearest child may do well. You did not mention any thing of your health in your last, but I had the pleasure of hearing you was well, by Mr Cooper's young man, who said he called upon you in his way from London, and that you looked as fresh as a rose, and as bonny as a blackbird. You know James' way of talking. However, I was glad to hear you was well, and desire you would not forget to mention your health yourself in your next letter. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers their kind love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child ! and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and more particularly to

Your affectionate mother.

consent

L E T T E R X I V.

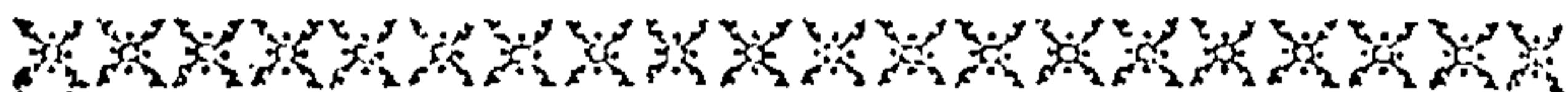
The daughter to the mother.

Dear Mother,

THO' we begin to have such cold weather, I am got up into my chamber to write to you. God be thanked I am grown almost quite easy ; which is owing to my fol-

following your good advice, and the kindness that is already shewn me in the family. Betty and I are bedfellows ; and she, and Robin, and Thomas, are all so kind to me, that I can scarcely say which is the kindest. My master is sixty-five years of age next April ; but by his looks you would hardly take him to be fifty. He has always an easy smiling countenance ; and he is very good to all his servants. When he has happened to pass by me, as I have been dusting out the chambers, or in the passage, he generally says something to encourage me ; and that makes one's work go on more pleasantly. My mistress is as thin as my master is plump : not much short of him in age ; and more apt to be a little peevish. Indeed that may easily be borne ; for I have never heard my master say a single word of any of us, but what was kind and encouraging. My master, they say, is vastly rich ; for he is a prudent man and laid up a great deal of money while he was in business, with which he purchased this estate here, and another in Sussex, some time before he left off. And they have, I find, a very good house in London, as well as this here ; but my master and mistress both love the country best, and so they sometimes stay here for a whole winter, and all the summer constantly ; of which I am very glad, because I am so much the nearer you ; and I have heard so much of the wickedness of London, that I don't at all desire to go there. As to my fellow-servants, it is thought that Betty (who is very good-natured, and as merry as the day is long) is to be married to the jovial landlord over the way ; and, to say the truth, I am apt to believe that they are actually promised to one another. Our coachman, Thomas, seems to be a very good worthy man ; you may see by his eyes that it does his heart good whenever he can do a kind thing for any of the neighbours. He was born in the parish, and his father has a good farm of his own in it, and rents another. Robin, the footman, is good-natured too ; he is always merry, and loves to laugh as much as he loves to eat ; and I'm sure he has a good stomach. But I need not talk of that, for now mine is come again, I eat almost as hearty as he does. With such fellow-servants, and such a master, I think it would be my own fault if I am not happy.

Well in health, I assure you, I am, and begin to be pretty well in spirits ; only my heart will heave a little still every time I look towards the road that goes to your house. Heaven bless you all there ! and make me a deserving daughter of so good a mother !



LETTER XV.

The mother's answer and advice.

Dear Child,

THE next piece of advice that I gave you, was, " To

I think often how much a life of virtue is to be preferred to a life of pleasure ; and how much better, and more lasting, a good name is than beauty."

If we call things by their right names, there is nothing that deserves the name of pleasure so truly as virtue ; but one must talk as people are used to talk, and I think, by a life of pleasure, they generally mean a life of gaiety.

Now, our gaïties, God knows, are at best very trifling, always unsatisfactory, often attended with difficulties in the procuring them, and fatigue in the very enjoyment, and too often followed by regret and self-condemnation. What they call a life of pleasure among the great, must be a very laborious life ; they spend the greatest part of the night in balls and assemblies, and sling away the greatest part of their days in sleep ; their life is too much opposed to nature, to be capable of happiness ; 'tis all hurry of visits, twenty or thirty perhaps in a day, to persons to whom there are not above two or three that they have any real friendship or esteem for (supposing them to be capable of either) ; a perpetual seeking after what they call diversions ; and insipidity, and want of taste when they are engaged in them, and a certain languishing and restlessness when they are without them. This is not living, but a constant endeavour to cheat themselves out of the little time they have to live ; for they generally inherit a bad constitution, make it worse by their absurd way of life, and deliver a still weak

er and weaker thread down to their children. I don't know any thing more ridiculous, than the seeing their wrinkled fallow faces all set off with diamonds. Poor mistaken gentlewomen ! They should endeavour to avoid people's eyes as much as possible, and not to attract them ; for they are really a quite deplorable sight, and their very faces are a standing lesson against the strange lives they lead.

People in a lower life, it is true, do not act so ridiculously as those in a higher ; but even among them too there is a vast difference between the people that live well, and the people that live ill : the former are more healthy, in better spirits, fitter for business, and more attentive to it ; the latter are more negligent, more uneasy, more contemptible, and more diseased.

In truth, either in high or low life, virtue is only another name for happiness, and debauchery is the right road to misery ; and this to me appears just as true and evident, as that moderation is always good for us, and excess always hurtful.

But is it not a charming thing to have youth and beauty, to be followed and admired,—to have presents offered from all sides to one,—to be invited to all diversions, and to be distinguished by the men from all the rest of the company ? Yes, my dear child ; all this would be charming, if we had nothing to do but to dance, and receive presents, and if this distinction of you was to last always. But the mischief of it is, that these things cannot be enjoyed without increasing your vanity every time you enjoy them, and swelling up a passion in you, that must soon be balked and disappointed. How long is this beauty to last ? There are but few faces that can keep it to the other side of five and twenty ; and how would you bear it, after having been used to be thus distinguished and admired for some time, to sink out of the notice of people, and to be neglected, and perhaps affronted, by the very persons who used to pay the greatest adoration to you ?

Do you remember the gentleman that was with us last autumn, and his presenting you with that pretty flower one day, on his coming out of the garden ! I don't know

whether you understood him or not ; but I could read it in his looks, that he meant it for a lesson to you. It is true, the flower was quite a pretty one ; but though you put it in water, you know it faded, and grew disagreeable in four or five days ; and had it not been cropped, but suffered to grow on in the garden, it would have done the same in nine or ten. Now a year is to beauty what a day was to that flower ; and who would value themselves much on the possession of a thing, which they are so sure to lose in so short a time ?

Nine or ten years are what one may call the natural term of life for beauty in a young woman ; but by accidents or misbehaviour, it may die long before its time. The greater part of what people call beauty in your face, for instance, is owing to that air of innocence and modesty that is in it : if once you should suffer yourself to be ruined by any base man, all that will soon vanish, and assurance and ugliness will come in the room of it.

And if other bad consequences should follow, (for other bad ones there are, of more sorts than one,) you would lose your bloom too, and then all is gone ! but keep your reputation, as you have hitherto kept it, and that will be a beauty which shall last to the end of your days ; for it will be only the more confirmed and brightened by time ; that will secure you esteem, when all the present form of your face is vanished away, and will be always mellowing into greater and greater charms. These my sentiments you'll take as a blessing, and remember they come from the heart of a tender and affectionate mother.

E. G.

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L E T T E R XVI.

A son's letter at school to his father.

Honoured Sir,

I AM greatly obliged to you for all your favours ; all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for the same. Gra-

titude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement and your satisfaction, and to shew myself, upon all occasions,

Your most obedient and ever dutiful son,

R — M — .

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* L E T T E R XVII.

A letter of excuse to a father or mother.

Honoured Sir, or Madam,

I AM informed, and it gives me great concern, that you have heard an ill report of me, which, I suppose, was raised by some of my school-fellows, who either envy my esteem, or by aggravating my faults, would endeavour to lessen their own, though, I must own, I have been a little too remiss in my school-business, and am now sensible I have lost in some measure my time and credit thereby; but, by my future diligence, I hope to recover both, and to convince you that I pay a strict regard to all your commands, which I am bound to, as well in gratitude as duty; and hope I shall ever have leave, and with great truth, to subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful son,

P. C.

* * * * *

L E T T E R XVIII.

To Mr. —

Tunbridge, —

I THINK I promised you a letter from this place, yet I have nothing more material to write than that I got safe thither. To any other man I should make an apology for troubling you with an information so trivial; but among true friends there is nothing indifferent; and what would

seem of no consequence to others, has, in intercourses of this nature, its weight and value. A bystander unacquainted with play, may fancy, perhaps, that the counters are of no more worth than they appear; but those who are engaged in the game, know they are to be considered at a higher rate. You see I draw my allusion from the scene before me. A propriety which the critics, I think, upon some occasions, recommend. I have often wondered what odd whim could first induce the healthy to follow the sick into places of this sort, and lay the scene of their diversions amidst the most wretched part of our species. One should imagine an hospital the last spot in the world to which those in pursuit of pleasure would think of resorting. However, so it is; and by this means the company here furnish out a tragi-comedy of the most singular kind. While some are literally dying, others are expiring in a metaphor; and in one scene you are presented with the real, and in another with the fantastical pains of mankind. An ignorant spectator might be apt to suspect that each part was endeavouring to qualify itself for acting in the opposite character; for the infirm cannot labour more earnestly to recover the strength they have lost, than the robust to destroy that which they possess. Thus the diseased pass not mere anxious nights in their beds, than the healthy at the hazard-tables; and I frequently see a game at quadrille occasion as severe disquietudes as a fit of the gout. As for myself, I perform a sort of middle part in the motley drama, and am sometimes disposed to join with the invalids in envying the healthy, and sometimes have spirits enough to mix with the gay in pitying the splenetic.

The truth is, I have found some benefit by the waters; but I shall not be so sanguine as to pronounce with certainty of their effects, till I see how they enable me to pass through the approaching winter. That season, you know, is the time of trial with me; and if I get over the next with more ease than the last, I shall think myself obliged to celebrate the nymph of these springs in grateful sonnets.

But let time and seasons operate as they may, there is one part of me, over which they will have no power; and in all the changes of this uncertain constitution, my heart will ever continue fixed and firmly yours. I am, &c.

LETTER . XIX.

From a young apprentice to his father, to let him know how he likes his place, and goes on.

Honoured Sir,

I KNOW it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business ; and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner, that I have great delight in it ; and hope I shall answer in time your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shewn me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress's part as my master's, that every servant, as well as I, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity, is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man ; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful sweet-tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children after such examples, behave to us all like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family ? I wish, when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does : and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress : and then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are ; and as you, Sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours, and my good mother's prayers, for,

- Honoured Sir,

Your ever dutiful son,

LETTER XX.

From a daughter to her mother, by way of excuse for having neglected to write to her.

Honoured Madam,

THE agreeable news of your health and welfare, which was brought me last night by the hands of my uncle's man Robin, gives me an inexplicable pleasure; yet I am very much concerned that my too long silence should have given you so much uneasiness as I understand it has. I can assure you, Madam, that my neglect in that particular was nowise owing to any want of filial duty or respect, but to hurry of business, (if I may be allowed to call it so,) occasioned by the honour of a visit from my Lady Betty Brilliant, and her pretty nice Miss Charlotte, who are exceeding good company, and whom our family are proud of entertaining in the most elegant manner. I am not insensible, however, that neither this plea, nor any real business, of whatsoever importance, can justly acquit me for not writing oftener to a parent so tender and indulgent as yourself: but, as the case now stands, I know no other way of making atonement, than by a sincere promise of a more strict observance of my duty for the future. If therefore, Madam, you will favour me so far as to forgive this first transgression, you may depend on my word, it shall never more be repeated by, Honourable Madam,

Your most dutiful daughter.

LETTER XXI.

From Robin Redbreast in the garden, to Master Billy CARELESS abroad at school.

Dear Master Billy;

AS I was looking into your pappa's library-window, last Wednesday, I saw a letter lie open signed *William Careless*, which led my curiosity to read it; but was sorry

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to find there was not that duty and respect in it which every good boy should shew to his pappa ; and this I was the more surprised at, when I found it was to ask a favour of him. Give me leave, therefore, dear Billy, to acquaint you, that no one should ever write to his pappa, or mamma, without beginning his letter with *Honoured Sir*, or *Honoured Madam* ; and at the same time, not forget to observe, through his whole epistle, the most perfect obedience, in a very obliging, respectful manner. By these means, you may not only increase your pappa's affection, but obtain almost any thing from him that you can reasonably ask, provided it be proper, and in his power to grant. What can any good boy desire more ? But here you must permit me, dear Billy, to whistle an unpleasing but very useful song in your ear ; which is, " That you will never get so much as an answer to any letter that is not also wrote *handsome, fair, and large*, which, as I know you are very capable of, am surprised you will ever neglect it." And this you may depend on, for I know your pappa extremely well, having frequently sat for hours at his study-window, hearing him deliver his sentiments to your sisters, and advising them, in the most good-natured affectionate manner, always to behave obedient to their parents, and pretty and agreeable to every body else, as well abroad as at home ; and I must say it, his advice and commands, together with your mamma's care and instruction, have had so charming an effect, that they are beloved and admired where-ever they go ; and at home every servant is extremely fond of them, and always ready to oblige and please them in every thing, which I see daily, when I hop down into the court, to breakfast on the crumbs from the kitchen. How easy then is it for you, my dear Billy, who are so much older and wiser than your sisters, to behave and write in the most dutiful and engaging manner. And further let me advise you, never to lose sight of the love and esteem of your mamma, to whom you are all particularly obliged, for her constant care to supply your continual wants, which your pappa, you are sensible, has not leisure even to think of ; besides, her good sense and amiable conduct have so gained the ascendant of your pappa, that he does nothing

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relating to any of you without her consent and approbation, so that in gaining her esteem, you are almost certain of his: But this you are very sensible of already, and I only just chirp it in your ear, to remind you of good conduct, as well as filial duty. But the morning draws on, and my fellow-songsters are abroad to whistle in the day; so I must take my leave on the wing, and for the present bid you farewell; but beg I may never have occasion again to write to you an unpeasing letter of rebuke; and that you will always remember, however distant you are, or however secret you may think yourself from your friends and relations, you will never be able to conceal your faults; for some of our prying tattling tribe will be continually carrying them home, to be whistled in a melancholy strain, in the ears of your pappa, much to your shame and discredit, as well as his dislike, and my great concern, who am dearest Billy, your ever watchful and most affectionate friend,

Robin Red-breast.

From my hole in the wall, at sun-rising, the 1st of June 1776.

P. S. However negligent you may be of your duty, I know you have too much good sense, as well as good nature, to take any thing amiss that I have said in this letter, which is wrote with the freedom and concern of a friend, and to which I was prompted, both by love and gratitude, in return for the plenty of crumbs I have received at your hands, and the kind protection you have always shewn me, both in the court and in the garden, from some of your idle companions, who, with sticks and stones, have often in your absence aimed at my life.

Robin Red-breast.



LETTER XXII.

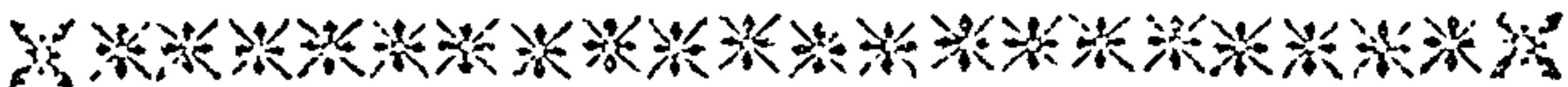
From one sister to another.

Dear Sister,

EVER since you went to London, your favourite acquaintance Mrs Friendly, and myself, have thought our rural amusements dull and insipid, notwithstanding we have

have the players in town, and an assembly once a-week. At your departure, if you remember, you passed your word to return in a month's time; but, instead of that, it is now almost a quarter of a year. How can you serve us so? In short, if you keep us in suspense much longer, we are determined to follow you, and find you out, let the expence and length of the journey be what it will. We live in hopes, however, that, upon the receipt of this notice, you'll return without any farther delay, and prevent our taking such an unmerciful jaunt. Your compliance with this our joint request, will highly oblige, not only your most sincere and affectionate friends, but

Your ever loving sister.



LETTER XXII.

In answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sister,

I RECEIVED your summons, and can assure Mrs Friendly, as well as yourself, that my long stay in town, notwithstanding all the good company I have met with, and all the diversions with which I have been indulged, has been quite contrary to my inclinations; and nothing but my lady Townly's absolute commands not to leave her, should have prevented my return to you within the time proposed. You are sensible I have infinite obligations to her, and it would be ingratitude to the last degree not to comply with her injunctions. In order, however, to make you both ample amends for that uneasiness which my long absence has given you, I shall use my utmost endeavours to prevail with her ladyship to join with me in a visit to you both in the spring, and to stay with you for a month at least, if not longer. I would advise you therefore to save an unnecessary expence, as well as fatigue, and rest contented where you are, till you see

Your ever loving and affectionate sister.

LETTER XXIV.

From Lady Goodford to her daughter, a girl of fourteen years old, then under the care of her grandmother in the country.

My dear Child,

THOUGH I know you want no precepts under my mother's care to instruct you in all moral and religious duties, yet there are some things she may possibly forget to remind you of, which are highly necessary for the forming your mind, so as to make that figure in the world I could wish you to do. I am certain you will be kept up in your music, singing, and dancing, by the best masters the country affords; and need not doubt, but you will very often be told, that good housewifery is a most commendable quality.—I would have you, indeed, neglect none of these branches of education; but my dear, I should be grieved to hear you were so much attached to them, as not to be able to devote two hours, at least, every day to reading.—My father left a collection of very excellent books in all languages behind him, which are yet in being; and as you are tolerably acquainted with the French and Italian, would have you not to be altogether a stranger to their authors. Poetry, if it be good (as in that library you will find none that is not so), very much elevates the ideas, and harmonizes the soul: and well wrote novels are an amusement, in which sometimes you may indulge yourself. But history is what I would chiefly recommend;—without some knowledge of this, you will be accounted at best, but an agreeable trifler.—I would have you gay, lively, and entertaining; but then I would have you able to improve, as well as to divert, the company you may happen to fall into.

But, my dear child, I must warn you to beware with what disposition you sit down to read books of this nature; for if you slightly skim them over, and merely to gratify your own curiosity with the amazing events delivered in them, the research will afford you little advantage. —— You must, therefore, consider what you read;—mark well

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the chain of accidents which bring on any great catastrophe; and this will shew you that nothing happens by chance, but all is entirely governed by the directions of an overruling power. — In distinguishing the true causes of the rise and fall of empires, and those strange revolutions that have happened in most kingdoms of the world, you will admire divine Justice, and be far from accusing Providence of partiality, when you find, as frequently you will, the good dethroned, all rights, both human and divine sacrilegiously trampled upon, a mock authority established in the place of a real one, and lawless usurpation prosper; because, at the same time, you will see that this does not happen, till a people grown bold in iniquity, and ripe for destruction, have drawn down upon themselves the severest vengeance of offended Heaven, which is tyranny and oppression; and though innocent individuals may suffer in the general calamity, yet it is for the good of the whole, in order to bring them to a just sense of their transgressions, and turn them from their evil ways. — This the historical part of the Bible makes manifest in numberless instances; and this the calamities which at different times have befallen every kingdom and commonwealth, evidently confirm.

I am the more particular in giving you these cautions, because, without observing them, you may be liable to imbibe prejudices which will pervert your judgment, and render you guilty of injustice, without knowing you are so. As you regard therefore my commands, which will always be for your improvement and emolument, never be remiss in this point.

Next to history, I should be glad to see you have some smattering in natural philosophy: for which purpose, let me recommend to your perusal a work intituled, *Spectacle de la Nature*; or, *Nature delineated, from the French of Abbé le Pluche*; being very entertaining philosophical conversation, wherein the wonderful works of Providence, in the animal, vegetable, and mineral creation are laid open, in four pocket volumes; in which are interspersed a great variety of useful and explanatory cuts.— Believe me, child, the wide creation presents nothing that affords not infinite

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matter for a delightful speculation ; and the more you examine the works of nature, the more you will learn to love and adore the great God of nature, the fountain of all pleasure.

I expect your next will be filled with no inquiries on new fashions, nor any directions to your milliner ; nor shall I be better satisfied with an account of your having begun or finished such or such a piece of fine work :—This may inform you that it is other kinds of learning I would have you versed in.—I flatter myself with seeing my commands obeyed, and that no part of what I have said will be lost upon you, which a little more time and knowledge of the world will shew you the value of, and prove to you more than any indulgence I could treat you with, how very much

I am

Your affectionate mother,

L E T T E R XXV.

To a young lady, cautioning her against keeping company with a gentleman of a bad character.

Dear Nicce,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, not long since deceased, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you, rather by letter than by word of mouth, that the town rings of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms that you take with Mr Freeclove. You have been seen with him, (if fame lies not) in the side boxes at both theatres ; in St James's park on Sunday night, and afterward at a certain tavern, not a mile from thence, which is a house (as I have been credibly informed) of no good repute. You have both, moreover, been seen at Ranelagh assembly, Vauxhall gardens ; and, what is still more flagrant, at Couper's fire-works. Don't imagine, niece, that I am in the least prejudiced, or speak out

of any private pique ; but let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is none of the best ; and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner by two or three very virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favourable an opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have no great expectancies from your relations, and as he has an income, as 'tis reported, of 200 L. a-year, left him by his uncle, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage. It is much to be questioned, however, whether his intentions are sincere ; for, notwithstanding all the fair promises he may possibly make you, I have heard it whispered, that he is privately engag'd to a rich, old doating lady not far from Hackney. Besides, admitting it to be true, that he is really intitled to the annuity above mentioned ; yet it is too well known, that he is deep in debt ; that he lives beyond his income, and has very little, if any regard for his reputation. In short, not to mince the matter, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his raillery and ridicule.

All things therefore duly considered, let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company as you would a madman : for notwithstanding I still think you a strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. As I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare, I flatter myself you'll put a favourable construction on the liberty I've taken by,

Your sincere friend, and affectionate aunt,

J — N —

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LETTER XXVI.

Letter of Thanks.

SIR,

I Received the favour of yours, with a very kind present ; and know not indeed, at this time, any other way to shew my gratitude, than by my hearty thanks for the same.

Every thing you do, carries a charm with it ; your manner of doing it, is as agreeable as the thing done. In short, Sir, my heart is full, and would overflow with gratitude, did I not stop, and subscribe myself, your most obliged, and

Obedient humble servant.

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L E T T E R XXVII.

From an apprentice to his friends.

Honoured Father and Mother,

BY these I let you know, that by your good care and conduct I am well settled, and pleased with my station, and think it my duty to return you my hearty thanks, and grateful acknowledgment of your love and tender care of me ; I will endeavour to go through my business chearfully. And having begun well, I hope I shall persevere to do so to the end, that I may be a comfort to you hereafter, and in some measure make a return for your love and kindness to me, who am,

Your most dutiful and obedient son and servant.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

From an elder brother to a younger.

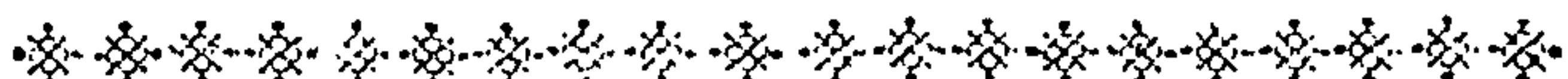
Dear Brother,

AS you are now gone from home, and are arrived at years of some discretion, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that your childish affairs ought now to be entirely laid aside, and instead of them, more serious thoughts, and things of more consequence should take place; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent in life, which is of great value, and ought to be studied

studied beyond any trifling amusements whatsoever : for it will be an ornament in youth, and a comfort in old age.

You have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life, as I do my own. We are all, thank God, very well, and desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit ; and be assured a letter from you will always give great pleasure to all your friends here, but to none more than,

Your most affectionate brother,
And sincere humble servant.



LETTER XXIX.

A letter from a nephew to an uncle, who wrote to him a letter of rebuke.

Honoured Sir,

I received your kind advice, and by the contents of your letter perceive I have been represented to you as one of immoral principles. I dare not write you any excuse for the follies and frailties of youth, because, in some measure I own I have been guilty of them, but not to that degree which you have had them represented : however, your rebuke is not unseasonable, and it shall have the desired effect, as well to frustrate the designs of my enemies (who aim to prejudice you against me), as to please you, and obey all your commands and advice ; which I now sincerely thank you for giving me ; and promise for the future, I will make it my study to reform, and regain, by adhering strictly to your instructions, the good opinion you was once so kind to entertain of me. I beg my duty to my aunt, and am,

Your most obliged, and ever dutiful nephew.

H — M —

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LETTER XXX.

Letter from a niece to her aunt.

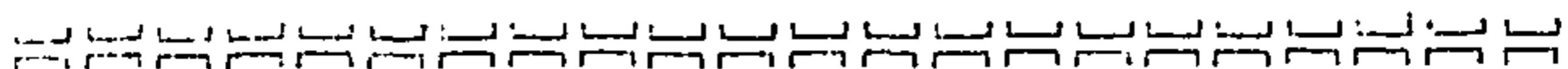
Madam,

THE trouble I have already given you, really concerns me when I think of it, and yet I can't help intruding again upon your goodness; for necessity, that mother of invention, forces us to act contrary to our inclinations; therefore, pray, dear Madam, excuse me, if I once more intreat your assistance in this affair, in any manner that you shall think proper; and I hope, at least one time in my life, to be able to convince you that I have a thorough sense of the many obligations your goodness has conferred upon,

Your most dutiful and truly obliged niece,

And very humble servant,

J——P——



LETTER XXXI.

Letter from a youth at school to his parents.

Honoured Father and Mother,

YOUR kind letter of the 24th inst. I received in due time, and soon after the things you therein mentioned, by the carrier, for which I return you my sincere thanks. They came very opportunely for my occasions. I hope soon to improve myself at school, though I own it seems a little hard and irksome to me as yet, but my master gives me great encouragement, and assures me I shall soon get the better of the little difficulties that almost every boy meets with at first, and then it will be a perfect pleasure instead of a task, and altogether as pleasant and easy as it is now irksome and hard.

My

My humble duty to yourselves, and I beg the favour of you to give my kind love to my brothers and sisters, and remember me to all friends and acquaintance, and you will oblige,

Your ever dutiful and obedient son.



LETTER XXXII.

Letter from an apprentice in town, to his friends in the country.

THE bearer, Henry Jones, came to see me last night, and told he should set out for home the next morning. I was not willing to let slip the opportunity of sending you a letter by him, to let you know that I am very well, and like both my master and mistress ; and, by what I can see of it, the business entirely well, and do intend (please God) to use my utmost endeavours to make myself master of every thing that belongs to it, in which I shall have treble satisfaction ; first, in pleasing my master ; secondly, in pleasing my friends, and thirdly, in benefiting myself. I have but little leisure, nor do I want a great deal ; but will take every opportunity to let you know how I go on, and that I am, with great gratitude,

Your ever dutiful and most obedient son.



LETTER XXXIII.

From Miss R. at S. to her sister at Salisbury.

I HAVE often, I may say very often, proposed writing a long epistle to my dearest Sukey, and have as often been prevented. Miss P. was to have been the bearer of one ; but, to my great surprise she left me without taking leave ; nay, without giving notice of her going, and I never so much

much as saw her since yesterday sc'enight, when I very agreeably spent the day with her and Mrs H —, at Mr W —'s at M —. My uncle, whom I also intended to have wrote by, went away (as you know he always does) in such a hurry, that I had no time to set about writing a long letter, and a short one I knew would by no means atone for such a long silence. You complain in your last of my writing with too much reserve ; for my own part I think I write with too little, when I reflect on some particulars that my uncle rallied me upon before he went hence; which he never could have known, had he not seen my letters, or been acquainted with the contents of them. What say you to that, my dear ? But I forgive. — Well, but what news ? say you : I'll tell you, Last Monday morning, a very agreeable party, among whom was Aunt R —, met us at a sweet pleasant cottage of content on Westphalia Common : they brought with them a little elegant repast, exactly suited to the size of the cottage, which, though but just big enough for us to sit down in, was capable of holding a world of happiness, as we proved ; for the weather was extremely pleasant, the company perfectly harmonious, and we were all excessively agreeable to each other ; but in an instant, for such a day of pleasure seemed but a moment, the still evening came on, and all our joys were hushed. In short, about eight o'clock we broke up from this sweet little rural retreat, which, believe me, dear Sakey, afforded high entertainment for a day to us all. I wished greatly that you could have been a partaker ; but, however, at your return we will attempt the like again. By the help of your company, 'tis possible we may succeed as well a second time ; though that I must own an expectation of this sort is seldom the case. Well, for the present, I will take my leave of the cote ; and now for the news of the town. — The first that occurs to me is the marriage of our old mistress, who thought it better late than never, and last Friday shook hands for life with Mr S. the draper. He is a little advanced as well as she, but no matter ; why may there not be pleasure at the latter time of life, as well as at the beginning ? Though, for my own part, I must confess I am not

for

for putting happiness off till to-morrow, if it may be as well had to-day.

But to be serious, my dear, there is no other news all over the town worth mentioning ; 'tis all as insipid as the last dish of old bachelor's tea. But when are we to see you ? You have long, very long, talked of returning home ; pray talk no more of it, nay write no more, but instead of your agreeable letters, let us have your more agreeable company, and you'll most truly oblige,

Your affectionate sister,

E. R.



LETTER XXXIV.

From an elder brother in the country, to his younger brother put apprentice in London.

Dear Brother,

I AM very glad to hear you are pleased with the new situation into which the care of your friends has put you ; but I would have you pleased, not with the novelty of it, but with the real advantage. It is natural for you to be glad that you are under less restraint than you were ; for a master has neither occasion nor inclination to watch a youth so much as his parents. But if you are not careful, this, although it now gives you a childish satisfaction, may, in the end, betray you into mischief ; nay, to your ruin. Though your father is not in sight, dear brother, act always as if you were in his presence ; and be assured, that what would not offend him, will never displease any body.

You have more sense, I have often told you so, than most persons at your time. Now is the opportunity to make a good use of it ; and take this for certain, every right step you enter upon now will be a comfort to you for your life. I would have your reason as well as your fancy pleased with your new situation, and then you will act as becomes you. Consider, brother, that the state of life that charms you so

at

at this time, will bring you to independence and affluence; that you will, by behaving as you ought now, become master of a house and family, and have every thing about you at your own command, and have apprentices as well as servants to wait upon you. The master, with whom you are placed, was some years ago in your situation; and what should hinder you from being hereafter in his? All that is required is patience and industry; and these, brother, are very cheap articles, with which to purchase so comfortable a condition.

Your master, I am told, had nothing to begin the world withal. In that he was worse than you; for if you behave well, there are those who will set you up in a handsome manner. So you have sufficient inducements to be good, and a reward always follows it. Brother, farewell! Obey your master, and be civil to all persons; keep out of company, for boys have no occasion for it, and most that you will meet with is very bad. Be careful and honest, and God will bless you. If ever you commit a fault, confess it at once; for the lie in denying it is worse than the thing itself. Go to church constantly; and write to us often. I think I need not say any more to so good a lad as you, to induce you to continue so. I am,

Your affectionate brother,

D— A—.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

L E T T E R XXXV.

A letter of excuse for silence, and assurance it was not out of disrespect.

THERE are times, Madam, in which it is failing in care, not to write to one's friends; there are others in which it is prudence. Methinks it better becomes an unhappy man to be silent than to speak; for he tires if he speaks of his misery, or he is ridiculous if he attempts to be di-

diverting. I have not done myself the honour of writing to you since my departure, to avoid one or other of these inconveniences. I have too much respect for you, Madam, to importune you with my griefs; and I am not fool enough to have a mind to laugh. I know very well that there may be a mean between these two extremes; but, after all, the correspondence of the unhappy is seldom pleasing to those who are in prosperity. And yet, Madam, there are duties with which one ought not to dispense; and it is to acquit myself of them that I now assure you that no one can be with more esteem and respect than I am,

Your faithful and affectionate servant, T. U.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

A letter from a servant in London, to his master in the country.

S I R,

AS I find you are detained longer in the country than you expected, I thought it my duty to acquaint you that we are all well at home; and to assure you that your business shall be carried on with the same care and fidelity as as if you were personally present. We all wish for your return as soon as your affairs will permit; and it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of subscribing myself, Sir,

Your most obedient and faithful servant,



L E T T E R XXXVII.

From a father to his son, just beginning the world.

Dear Billy;

AS you are now beginning life, as it were, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business, the frequent occasions you will have for advice from others, will

will make you desirous of singling out amongst your most intimate acquaintance one or two whom you would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of these, your utmost care and caution will be necessary; for, by a mistake here, you can scarcely conceive the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for you to make a judgment of those that are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world. For he who has by his own indiscretions undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a land-mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow.

Old age is generally slow and heavy, youth head-strong and precipitate; but there are old men who are full of vivacity, and young men replete with discretion, which makes me rather point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom you should chuse to associate; though, after all, it is a never-failing good sign to me of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors chuse his company, and he delights in theirs.

Let your endeavours therefore be, at all adventures, to comfort yourself with men of sobriety, good sense, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one, that says, *A man is known by the company he keeps.* If such men you can single out, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice; and be sure remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unreserved in delivering your sentiments, when occasions offer, yet that you be much readier to hear than speak; for to this purpose it has been significantly observed, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therfore, by observation, and a modest silence, such a store of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worse figure than they do, and endeavour to benefit yourself rather by other people's ills than your own. How must those young men expose themselves to the contempt and ridicule of their seniors, who having seen little or nothing of the world, are continually shutting out, by open mouths and closed ears, all posi-

possibility of instruction, and making vain the principal end of conversation, which is improvement? A silent young man makes generally a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When therefore you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments; by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recall, when perhaps a silent genius in company has burst out upon them with such observations, as have struck consciousness and shame into the forward speaker, if he has not been quite insensible of inward reproach.

I have thrown together, as they occurred, a few thoughts, which may suffice for the present, to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I hope you will constantly, from time to time, communicate to me whatever you may think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you; for I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me. And of this you may be assured; for I am, and ever must be

Your affectionate father,

M ----- N -----

[—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—]

LETTER XXXVIII.

To an intimate acquaintance to borrow money.

PRAY favour me, Charles, with twenty guineas, by the bearer, who is my servant. I have immediate occasion; but will repay it again whenever you please to make a demand. This letter will answer all the purposes of a note; from your obliged humble servant,

W ----- D -----

LETTER XXXIX.

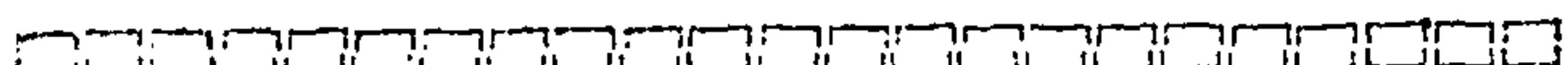
To an acquaintance to borrow a sum of money for a little time.

Dear Sir;

If it be quite convenient and agreeable to you, I'll beg the favour of you to lend me fifty pounds for the space of three months precisely; any security that you shall require, and I can give, you may freely ask. A less time would not suit me, a longer, you may depend on it, I shall not desire. Your answer will oblige, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

J—— R——



LETTER XL.

An answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sir,

ANY thing in my power is always very much at your service; the sum you mention I have now by me, and can very conveniently spare it for the time you fix, and you are most heartily welcome to it. Any hour that you shall appoint to-morrow I'll be ready: and am with the greatest sincerity,

Your affectionate friend and humble servant,

R—— M——

LETTER XLI.

Miss F. in answer to Mrs B. making an apology for not answering her letter sooner.

Madam,

IT is paying you but an ill compliment, to let one of the most entertaining letters I have met with for some years, remain so long unacknowledged. But when I inform you I've had a house full of strangers almost ever since, who have taken up all my time, I'm sure you'll excuse, if not pity me. "Who steals my purse, steals trash ;" "it was mine, it is his, and has been a slave to thousands ;" "but he who filches from me my precious moments, robs me of that which not enriches him, but makes me poor indeed." It is owing to this want, I should not say loss of time, (for the hours have not passed by unimproved or unentertaining) that I have not been able to tell you sooner, how much I envy that leisure and retirement, of which you make such admirable use : there it is the mind unbends and enlarges itself ; drops off the forms and incumbrances of this world, (which, like garments trailed about for state, as some author has it, only hinder our motion,) and seizes and enjoys the liberty it was born to. O when shall I see my little farin ! that calm recess, low in the vale of obscurity, my imagination so often paints to me ! You know I'm always in raptures about the country ; but your description of Richmond is enough to intoxicate the soundest head.

Adieu ! I am interrupted, and in haste, so obliged to conclude.

Yours, &c.

THE COMPLETE
LETTER XLII.

Mrs F. to Miss Lovelace, on the present letter-writers, and her opinion of a well wrote letter.

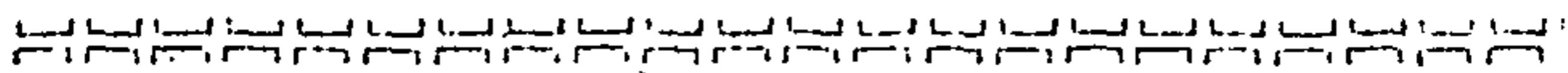
WANT of time is, I think, the general complaint of all letter-writers ; and, your's in haste, includes wit, business, every thing. For my own part, my whole life is little more than a perpetual hurry of doing nothing ; and, I think, I never had more business of that sort upon my hands than now. But as I can generally find time to do any thing I have a mind to do, so can always contrive to be at leisure to pay my respects to Miss L.

But the most universal complaint among scribblers of my rank is want of sense. These generally begin with an apology for their long silence, and end with that moving petition, Excuse this nonsense. This is modest indeed ; but, though I am excessive good natured, I am resolved, for the future, not to pardon it entirely in any one but myself.

I have often thought there never was a letter wrote well, but what was wrote easily ; and, if I had not some private reasons for being of a contrary opinion at this time, should conclude this to be a master-piece of this kind, both in easiness, in thought, and facility of expression. And in this easiness of writing (which Mr Wycherly says is easily wrote), methinks I excel even Mr Pope himself ; who is often too elaborate and ornamental, even in some of his best letters ; though, it must be confessed, he outdoes me in some few trifles of another sort, such as spirit, taste, and sense. But let me tell Mr Pope, that letters, like beauties, may be overdrest. There is a becoming negligence in both ; and if Mr Pope could only contrive to write without a genius, I don't know any one so likely to hit off my manner as himself. But he insists upon it, that genius is as necessary towards writing, as straw towards making bricks ; whereas, it is notorious that the Israelites made bricks without that material as well as with it.

The conclusion of the whole matter is this ; I never had more inclination to write to you, and never fewer materials at hand to write with ; therefore have fled for refuge to my old companion, dulness, who is ever at hand to ail me ; and have made use of all those genuine expressions of herself, which are included under the notion of want of time, want of spirit, and, in short, want of every thing, but the most unfeigned regard for that lady, whose most devoted

I remain, &c.



LETTER XLIII.

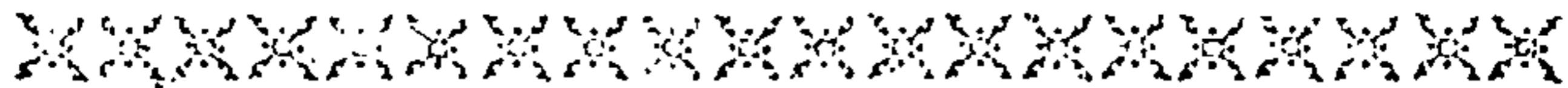
To Miss L. in answer to her description of Windsor.

YOUR account of the shades of Windsor, and your invitation to them, are equally pleasing and poetical. The first puts me in mind of the Elysian groves, where the great souls of antiquity repose themselves on beds of flowers, to the sound of immortal lyres ; and there perhaps the ghosts of departed kings and queens are still regaling themselves with soft music, and gliding about their antient mansions in fresco ; and the latter, of some gentle spirit, the departed genius of some maid of honour, (rather too plump for a ghost,) who beckons me into them. I am impatient till I land in those calm retreats, that asylum from court'sying and compliment which I despaired of arriving at in this sublunary state ; where, if one can but get into the group, all distinctions ceases ; where, you say, I may do any thing I have a mind to do without impeachment of my breeding ; and here, disengaged from all the forms and incumbrances of this nether world, I am like to be in perfect good humour with myself, which, in most other places, would be reckoned excessively by rude.

Little did I expect to meet with you so near the seat of polite education, much less in kings palaces, and among their honourable women. — Tuesday, then I set out for the glorious land, and the genius that presides over it, if nothing very amazing intervenes. Many are my thanks

for your offer of a servant to meet me ; but as I chuse to give you as little trouble as possible, shall take an equipage along with me, to kill the dragons and monsters in Maiden-head thicket. These difficulties being overcome, I shall lay my spoils at your feet, as lady of the enchanted castle, and ever after remain;

Your peaceful servant, &c.



L E T T E R X L I V .

Miss F. to Miss L. from an inn out the road, giving an account of her journey.

Alas ! the transition !—from yesterday, Henrietta-street, Mrs L. and Mrs ——, to a nasty inn, the officious Mrs Mary, damp sheets, and perhaps the itch before morning. Yet say not I want resolution ; never virtue had more. Sick to death from the moment you left me, head-ach beyond description, five men and two women to compliment my way through in the afternoon : yet boldly rushed through them all, and took my place in the stage-coach myself. After all, lost five shillings earnest by a blunder, went in a wrong coach at last, and such a morning !—— But then I had a worshipful society ! all silent and sick as myself ; for which I thanked my stars : for if they had spoke, I had been murdered. Mrs —— had almost talked me into non-existence yesterday morning ; and I had been totally annihilated, if you had not come in and restored me to my identity. Pray tell her this, in revenge for my head-ach.

All our friends that we took up in the morning, we dropt gradually one by one, as we do when we set out upon the journey of life, and now I have only a young student of Oxford to finish the evening of my day with, and prepare for the grand events of to-morrow. I have just been eating a boiled chicken with him, and talking about Hemer and Madam Roland ; and am now retiring with Mrs Mary to my bed-chamber, whom I shall dismiss with her warming-pan in a moment. If you do not permit me

to

to pour out the present set of ideas upon all this paper, I am inconsolable; for I have no book, and was too absent till now to think I should want one.— How sudden, and how capricious are the transitions of this mortal stage! Pleasure and pain are parted but by a single moment. Windfor, Fern-hill, Brook-street, and your gray gown, are no more; nor with Mr. Locke's associations can I associate a single idea of the past with the present. Even Lady —— is defunct. And yet she might— But she is no more? *et de mortuis nil nisi bonum.*

While virtue shines or sinks beneath ——

This effort of poetry, and that scrap of Latin, which I don't understand, has so exhausted all my forces, that I find myself gradually sinking into the arms of sleep, and must now resign to the gentle power of dreams.

*Farewell—and when, like me, oppress with care,
You to your own Aquinum shall repair,
To taste a mouthful of sweet country air,
Be mindful of your friend, and send me word
What joys your fountains and cool streams afford:
Then to assist your rheasies I'll come,
And add new spirit, when we speak of Rome.* Juv.

* * * * *

LETTER XLV.

To Miss L. on the expressions and compliments commonly made use of in letters.

THE money and books came found as a roach. Safe is so common an expression, that I am tired of telling people for ever, things came safe. We geniuses are forced to vary our expressions, and invent new terms, as well to show our surprising compass of thought, as our great command

mand of language. This sometimes appears stiff and affected to the common class of readers, or hearers, who are apt to be out of their element upon hearing any new or unusual sounds ; but our nicer ears cannot always bear the same cadences. There's something peculiar in the make and structure of the auditory nerve, that requires diversification and variety, as well as some skill in the anatomy of language, to make an impression on it, without wounding it. It is for this reason, when I ask a favour, (a thing I seldom chuse to do,) I always select the most delicate phrases I am master of ; but in regard to forms, which most people are sick of, and yet surfeit their friends with, these I vary according as my own humour or inclination preponderates. Of consequence, when I come towards the end, or peroration of a letter, I sometimes communicate my compliments — sometimes desire they may be made known — or, where there is a large family, and of consequence a number of civilities to be paid, the laconic style of — My deferences as usual, has sometimes succeeded beyond my expectation. I am sick of saying for ever, I beg my compliments to such a one.—But as I propose soon to give your Ladyship a particular dissertation upon style, and as I have many flowers of rhetoric yet inexhausted, I shall wind up the words above mentioned into the form of a letter, and communicate all the things I have to say in the postscript.

LETTER XLVI.

From Miss Jones to Lady ——

THE first letter from an absent friend is surely the most agreeable thing to muse over in nature. Yours from Hatfield revived in me those pleasing remembrances which not only enliven, but expand the heart ; that very heart, which but the moment before, felt itself mightily shrunk and contracted at the thoughts of your departure. Lady H. Beauclerk partook of the pleasure. The moment she saw your hand, she cried Half ! — and read it most complacently over my shoulder.

It is to no purpose to tell you how much you were missed by every body that staid in town ; how often I cast my eyes up at your dressing-room windows; or how many people I have run over in contemplating your dining-room shutters. All I have to beg of you is, to write to me very often, to be mindful of your health, and to order John, when I go to town again, to tie up the knocker. I could tell you many stories of the sensible things ; but of all the insensible ones upon this occasion, your lamp provoked me the most. To see that creature, when I have gone by in the evening, burn so prettily and with so much alacrity, has put me out of all patience. To what purpose should he light us, into your house now ; or who would be obliged to him for his poultry rays ;—I took a contemplative turn or two in your dressing-room once or twice ; but it was so like walking over your grave, that I could not bear to stay.—Lady H. departed two days after you ; and in short I lived to see almost every body I loved go before me. So last Saturday I made my own exit with equal decency and dignity ; that is with a thorough resignation of the world I left, and an earnest desire after that I am now enjoying with lady Bower and Miss Peggy Stonehouse. I shall begin verging, towards my last home, after having touched upon the confines of Lady H. B's world, there to subside and be at peace, where I shall have nothing farther to hope for, but to meet with a letter from you.

I have implored St Swithen in your behalf; but he either not hears me, or, to pay you a greater compliment, weeps plentifully for your absence. I fear you have had a terrible journey ; for scarce a day has passed that he has not shed many tears.

LETTER XLVII.

*From a tradesman to a correspondent, requesting the payment
of a sum of money.*

SIR,

A VERY unexpected demand that has been made on me for money, which I was in hopes of keeping longer in my trade, obliges me to apply for your assistance of the balance of the account between us, or as much of it as you can spare. When I have an opportunity to inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it, you will readily excuse the freedom I now take with you; and as it is an affair of such consequence to my family, I know the friendship you bear me will induce you to serve me effectually. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

TIMOTHY JONES.

LETTER XLVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

IT gives me singular satisfaction that I have it in my power to answer your demand, and am able to serve a man I so much esteem. The balance of the account is two hundred pounds; for half of which I have procured a bank note, and for security divided it, and sent one half by the carrier, as you desired, and have here inclosed the other. I wish you may surmount this and every other difficulty that lies in the road to happiness; and am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLIX.

To a lady, inviting her into the country for the summer.

My dear Harriot,

I DO not know whether I flatter myself with an opinion of your speaking to me the other day with an uncommon air of friendship, or whether I am so happy to hold that place, of which I should be so ambitious, in your esteem. I thought you spoke with concern at our parting for the summer, on our family's retiring into the country. For heaven's sake, my dear, what can you do all the dull season in London? —— Vauxhall is not for more than twice; and I think Ranelagh one would not see above half a dozen times in the year. What is it then you find to entertain you in an empty town for four or five months together? I would fain persuade you not to be in love with so disagreeable a place, and I have an interest in it; for I am a petitioner to you to stay this summer with us, at least I beg you will try. We go, my dear, on Monday: Will you go with us? for there is a place in the coach; or will you come when we are settled? I am greatly of opinion that it will please you. I am sure I need not tell you we shall do all we can to render it agreeable, or that you will make us very happy in complying with the invitation.

You have not seen our house; but it is a very pleasant one. There are fine prospects from the park, and a river runs through the garden; nor are we quite out of the way of entertainment. You know there is a great deal of company about the place; and we have an assembly within a mile of us. What shall I say else to tempt you to come? Why, I will tell you, that you will make us all the happiest people in the world; and that when you are tired, you shall not be teased to stay. Dear Harriot, think of it; you will confer an obligation on her, who is, with the truest respect,

Your affectionate friend.

LETTER L.

To a lady, inviting her to a party of pleasure.

Dear Madam,

PEOPLE are interested who invite you to be of their parties, because you are sure to make them happy. This is the reason why you will not perhaps always comply when you are asked to be of them; but it is certainly a cause of your being solicited oftener than any woman in the world. After you was gone yesterday, Mr Bohun propos'd an expedition to Richmond for to-morrow; and he requested me (for he thought he had no title to such a liberty himself) to tell you that we all understood you to be of the party, though you happened to be out of the way when it was proposed.

I hope you are not engaged; the weather promises to be favourable, and your company you know how we value. I need not tell you, that we shall suppose it matter of form if you are absent: what we shall think of it if you go with us, you will know when you remember what every body thinks who has the pleasure of your company. I beg you will not invent an excuse, but let us depend on you.

I am, with the greatest sincerity,

Dear Madam,

Your most obedient humble servant.



LETTER LI.

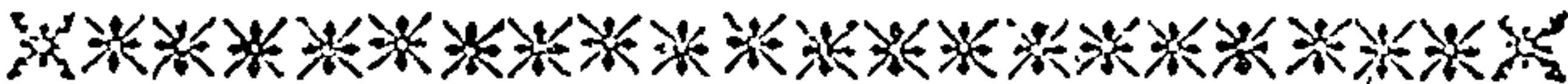
To an acquaintance, to borrow a sum of money.

Dear Sir,

IF you have fifty guineas, which you can, without any inconvenience, spare for about six months, I shall be greatly obliged to you to lend them to me for so long time.

I have been disappointed, and pressed for money at the same time. It is an unlucky, but not an uncommon circumstance. You will believe me, that I would not ask this of you, if I were not certain to give it to you back: but if it be the least inconvenience to spare the money at all, or to be so long without it, pray refuse me.

I am, dear Sir, &c.



LETTER LII.

From a young person in trade to a wholesale-dealer, who had suddenly made a demand on him.

SIR,

YOUR demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article used to be only four months; but as it has been a custom to allow a moderate time beyond this, and as this is only the day of the old time, I had not yet prepared myself. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency more than for the present, that occasions my desiring a little time of you; and I shall not ask any more than is usual among the trade. If you will be pleased to let your servant call for one half of the sum this day three weeks, and the remainder a fortnight afterwards, it shall be ready. However, in the mean time, I beg of you not to let any word slip of this, because a very little hurts a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have mentioned; and if you have any particular cause for insisting on it sooner, be pleased to let me know that I must pay it, and I will endeavour to borrow the money; for if I want credit with you, I cannot suppose that I have lost it with all the world, not knowing what it is that can have given you these distrustful thoughts concerning

Your humble servant.

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LETTER LIII.

The wholesale-dealer's answer.

SIR;

I AM very sorry to press you ; but if I had not reason, I should not have called upon you. It is not out of any disrespect to you that I have made the demand, but we have so many losses, that it is fit we should take care. However, there is so much seeming frankness and sincerity in your letter, that I shall desire leave first to ask you, whether you have any dealings with an usurer in Bread-street ; and, if you please, what is his name ? until you have given me the satisfaction on this head, I shall not any further urge the demand I have made upon you ? but, as this may be done at once, I desire your answer by the bearer, whom you well know ; for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant.

I assure you, Sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have for your honour, that I refer the demand I have made to this question ; for it is not customary, and is supposed not to be fair or prudent, to mention our reasons on these occasions. If this is cleared up to me, Sir, as I wish, but I fear it cannot be, I shall make no scruple of the time you mention. I beg your answer without delay, and am sincerely,

Your friend and well-wisher.



LETTER LIV.

From a young person just out of his apprenticeship to a relation, requesting him to lend him a sum of money.

I CAN remember nothing but kindness from you to our unhappy family ever since my infancy ; and I flatter myself, that I have not been guilty of any thing that ought to exclude me in particular from your favour, provided you retain the same kind thoughts towards me. I may be mis-

mistaken in what I imagine further, that I have always thought you had no small hand in putting me out ; for I think my father could not have commanded such a sum of money, without the assistance of some generous friend, and I can think of none but you. If this be the case, Sir, I may be the more ashamed to write to you upon the present occasion, since it is ingratitude to make one benefit the cause of asking others. But I will venture to say in my own favour, that I think my behaviour in the time I have been with my master, will not make against me in the application. If I ask what to you shall seem improper, all that I further request is, to be pardoned.

Sir, I have at present before me the prospect of being a journeyman for a small salary, and just getting bread, and that of being a master in one of the most advantageous trades that can be thought of : and this is the time of fixing myself in one situation or the other. I am sensible, Sir, you will see the design of this letter, because the becoming a master cannot be done without money, and I have nowhere to apply for such an assistance but to your, favour. A moderate sum, Sir, will answer the purpose, and I think I am so well acquainted with the trade, as to be able soon to repay it ; at least, I am sure I can take care that the value of it shall be always kept in stock, so that there can be no risk to loose any part of it. I have made the computation, and with root. carefully laid out, I can make all the shew that is necessary, and have all conveniencies about me. If you will be so generous, Sir, to complete the goodness you have already begun, by lending me this sum, there is nothing shall tempt me to endanger your losing any part of it ; nor shall any thing ever make me forget the obligation.

I am, Sir, your most obliged, and

most obedient humble servant.

LETTER LV.

To a mother, to thank her for her care and tenderness.

Honoured Madam,

I have written twice to my brother, and not doubting but that he would inform you of my being well, I have taken the liberty to omit writing to you. I beg you will be pleased to hear the reasons that weighed with me against a very earnest inclination, that whether you tell I was right or not, you may acquaint me of the charge of disobedience, or want of respect as well as gratitude.

The pain with which I saw you parted from me on the road, had made an impression on my heart which time will never wear out; and I hope, as it will always keep in my remembrance your tenderness as well as care for me, that beside the natural right all your commands have to obedience from me, I shall, on another principle, avoid every thing that is wrong, lest it should give you disquiet.

I should be unnatural and unpardonable, not to have the most sincere regard for the peace of your mind, and for its composure. God prevent that I should do any thing that should effect the first, and I shall hope my true concern will guard me against every thing that might disturb the latter. Indeed, Madam, the care of this prevented my writing; I feared that a letter from me, be the contents ever so indifferent, might recall my remembrance too fully before you, and that the same pain might attend it as it did your parting with me. This was the only reason of my not writing before; and in the most sincere truth, I have done violence to myself in omitting that testimony of my duty and respect.

As to occasions of writing, I have yet none, more than to tell you that I do not forget to whom I owe my attention; and to say how great an happiness it will be to me to receive your farther thoughts as to things that are about me. I have yet entered into no acquaintance with them, being determined, so far as my youth and scanty judgment may allow of it, to consider them before I mix myself among them: for this purpose I have hitherto kept within

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the house, where, partly from the conversation of my relations, and partly from that of other persons of their acquaintance, who visit them, and some of whom are persons of very respectable talents, I set in myself some characters of the several persons I am likely to meet with, and of the occurrences which may fall in my way; but of all this, having not yet established within myself any firm opinion, I shall take the freedom to write you.

The greatest subjects of my consideration, Madam, are the instructions and the cautions you give me; these will never be out of my remembrance; and although perhaps the tenderness of the parent; or the fears of the mother; may have represented some of these in stronger lights than they are ordinarily seen; yet when I compare them with the observations, I have yet had opportunities of making, I find them almost perfectly just; and all very necessary.

No person, I am sure, ever had the happiness of a mere affectionate mother; and I am fully persuaded, that the great experience you have had of the world, will render you more than most people, able to judge of the course of things. I think it a great happiness that so excellent an adviser is so much concerned in my welfare; and I do promise you, Madam, in the most sincere manner, that I will always prefer to all other considerations in the world, the admonitions which you shall be pleased to give me. I shall also look upon myself as accountable for the least articles of my conduct to you, as well as to God and my own heart; and it will scarce be a greater obligation upon me to do in every thing as I ought, that the eye of that all-seeing Judge is upon me, than that any wrong step in my behaviour will, besides throwing myself into difficulties, make you unhappy.

You cannot know, Madam, how much, and how gratefully, I think of your care in placing me where I now am; where, under the eye of a good and prudent person, I have an opportunity to consider of my future conduct, and to see things before I am placed among them, and to consider this great world before I may be said to make a part of it. I see it is a terrible as well as a profitable scene of action: I have already set down many things which I shall avoid

like death, and which I should else, perhaps, have fallen into heedlessly : I hope my future experience will shew me many more. Indeed, on the little that I see at present, I cannot wonder that of the youths, who at my unthinking and rash time of life, are let loose into that danger, and never consider it till they are in the midst of it, if they consider it at all, the greater part are ruined. I hope I shall profit even by their misfortunes; but whatsoever advantages I have over the rest of the young men I meet withal, I shall always remember with a due gratitude, that I owe them to you.

I pray daily that you may continue in all respects happy. You will let my brother know, Madam, that I shall endeavour to think of all things as he would have me. He has taught me to write long letters; but if it be not tedious to you, I cannot think the time it has taken me could be more worthily employed; nor can I account that a trouble, which, besides that it is a duty and a satisfaction to myself, will give you pleasure. I am, honoured Madam,

With all duty and affection;

Your obedient son.

LETTER LVI.

From a mother to her son, in answer to the former.

Dear Child,

I HAVE this moment read your letter, and am set down to write to you. Where corresponding is a trouble, people may defer it to the latest hour; but why should I deny myself a moment the pleasure of conversing with you? My dear, continue in the thoughts you have at present, and you will add all that can now be thrown into the portion of my happiness. I interrupt myself, by casting my eye over and over your letter, and the fulness of my heart prevents my informing you of its sensations. If you should see more blots than this, which is just now made in my writing, do not wonder, or be uneasy. I will not dissemble to you that they are made by tears; but, dearest son, these are

are tears that flow from transport, which has no other expression. Sure no mother was ever happier in her children. Your brother is esteemed, nay, he is almost adored by every body : your sister is settled to an advantage that was beyond my utmost expectations; and yet she is so good a woman, that her husband thinks himself under everlasting obligations. You, my dear Jack, were my only care; and I had more fear for you than all, as the youngest child; that, as the latest remembrance of your honoured father, you had a larger share of my tenderness than either, and you was destined to a scene of the greatest danger.— Heaven alone can tell what hath been my anxieties and fears about you, and how continual my prayers for your security. They are all granted; and instead of being, as I feared you would, an occasion of continual alarms to me, you are adding more than any of them to my contentment. I know your good heart, and I can see what a joy it is to you to perceive you make me happy: in such a mind as yours, there can be wanting no other motive to be good. Beside the excellency of virtue; but I am sure, that if this were not sufficient, the very thought that your mother's peace depended upon your conduct, would keep you in the way of goodness.

My dear child, regard your brother: no person is so able to advise you, and he loves you with more than the common affection of the relation; he admires your good sense, and he esteems your principles. Dear son, think what an honour it is to have the esteem of so excellent a man; think what a happiness it is to have so fine a character at so tender an age as your's; and as you shew me how much my satisfaction is an object of your concern, remember what a transport it must be at me to hear of you so favourably.

I shall not repeat to you, my dear, the cautions which I gave you, for I see you will not need to be put again in remembrance: only reverence truth, be acquainted with no one till you know that he deserves it, and avoid bad women.

If it can give you any satisfaction, and I am sure it will do so, to hear that every thought of your heart has my

per-

perfect approbation, you hear it truly ; but although there is not any the least part of your conduct that does not give me pleasure, there is, altho' you will be surprised to hear it, something in your brother's with respect to you that gives me pain. He told me of your asking his advice upon an inconsiderable subject, and his giving it to you rather honestly than elegantly. Dear child, take care of your heart, and you may be less uneasy about your expression ; let your thoughts be good, and never be uneasy about the words you put them in. The books recommended to you may be good for nothing, but you have no occasion for any ; nor is a pin-matter in the affairs of life, whether you put every one word where it should be. But this is all a trifle, nor shall I pretend to enter into the matter ; of it be worth any consideration, he is the best judge, so pray mind him ; but what I speak of is the manner in which he says he wrote of your cousin.

My dear, always respect your elders, and do not let any little school-boy's lesson put you above them in your own opinion, because they have forgotten it : nor because your cousin is a plain man, do you suppose he is less capable to advise you. He is a person of undoubted probity and uprightness of heart, and that is worth all the Greek and Latin of Westminster and Eton : he has made his way to a plentiful fortune, and he has the respect and esteem of all that he ever was concerned with. Would you wish for a better character or better fortune ! God send you may conduct yourself through the world just as he has done : I, that would weary heaven with prayers for you, wish you nothing better. I do not pretend to say your brother is wrong in his judgment about this matter, for I do not understand the nature of it ; all that I know is, you will never write a letter that will please me more than this you have sent already ; and I think, had I been in his place I would not have put any thing into your mind upon an occasion of such little consequence, that should have abated your regard for a person whose advice will be of service to you. But I know you will not do so. Preserve, I desire you, that respect for him which his years, and his integrity, and his success in the world require : and whatsoever you may think about

this

this trifle, do not let it lessen your esteem for one whom your mother recommends to you.

My dear, I have said the more upon this subject, because it seems the only one in which you are in danger to err ; and I have thought it the more necessary to say so, because the regard I desired you to pay to your brother might have rendered it a kind of duty to go into his error. I have spoke to him about it, and he desires me to say that he is perfectly of my opinion.

Farewell, my dearest boy ; you have a very easy task before you ; seeing you are already so good, that you need only to go on in the same path, to make all that love you happy.

Your affectionate mother,

J—— P——

T H E

THE
C O M P L E T E
L E T T E R - W R I T E R.

P A R T II.

LETTERS of Courtship and Marriage.

L E T T E R I.

From a young person in business, to a gentleman, desiring leave to wait on his daughter.

S I R,

I hope the justness of my intentions will excuse the freedom of this letter, wherin I am to acquaint you of the affection and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, Sir, offer my indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honourable views to her ; chusing, by your influence, if I may approve myself to you worthy of that honour, to commend myself to her approbation. You are not insensible, Sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved in the world, of my ability, by God's blessing, to make her happy ; and this the rather emboldens me to request the favour of an evening's conversation with you at your first convenience ; when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement, or discouragement, from your own mouth. I am Sir, in the mean time, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R— M—

LET-

LETTER II.

From a young lady to her father, acquainting him with a proposal of marriage made to her.

Honoured Sir,

A young Mr Lovewell, whose father, I am sensible, is one of your intimate acquaintance, has, during your absence in the country, made an open declaration of his passion for me, and pressed me closely to comply with his overtures of marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of that nature, however advantageous they may seem to be, till I had your thoughts on so important an affair; and I am absolutely determined either to discourage his addresses, or keep him at least in suspense, till your return; as I shall be directed by your superior judgment. I beg leave, however, with due submission, to acquaint you of the idea I have entertained of him, and hope I am not too blind; or partial in his favour. He seems to me to be perfectly honourable in his intentions, and to be no wise inferior to any gentleman of my acquaintance hitherto, in regard to good sense or good manners.—I frankly own, Sir, I could admit of his addresses with pleasure, were they attended with your consent and approbation. Be assured, however, that I am not so far engaged, as to act with precipitation, or comply with any offers inconsistent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude to your paternal indulgence, I shall ever owe you. Your speedy instruction, therefore, in so momentuous an article, will prove the greatest satisfaction imaginable to,

Honoured Sir, your most dutiful daughter.

LET-

LETTER III.

From a daughter to her mother upon the same occasion.

Honoured Madam;

SOON after I left you and my friends in the country, I happily engaged with one Mrs Prudence, a governess of a noted young lady's boarding-school at the court-end of the town, to act as her assistant. She has treated me, ever since I have been with her, with the utmost good nature and condescension, and has all along endeavoured to make my service more easy and advantageous to me than I could reasonably expect. On the other hand, as a grateful acknowledgment of her favours. I have made her interest my whole study and delight. My courteous deportment towards the young ladies, and my constant care to oblige my governess, have not only gained me the love and esteem of the whole house, but young Mr Byron, the dancing-master, who attends our school weekly, has cast a favourable eye upon me some time, and has lately made me such overtures of marriage, as are, in my own opinion, worthy of my attention. However, notwithstanding he is a great favourite of Mrs Prudence, a man of unblemished character and very extensive in business, I thought it would be an act of the highest ingratitude, to so indulgent a parent as you have been to me, to conceal from you an affair whereon my future happiness or misery must so greatly depend. As to his person, age and temper, I must own, Madam, with a blush, that they are all perfectly agreeable; and I should think myself very happy, should you countenance his addresses. I flatter myself, however, that I have so much command of my own passions, as in duty to be directed in so momentous an affair by your superior judgment. Your speedy answer therefore will be looked upon as an additional act of indulgence shewn to

Your most dutiful daughter.

LET-

LETTER IV.

The mother's answer to the foregoing.

Dear Daughter,

I RECEIVED yours in regard to the overtures of marriage made you by Mr Byron; and as that is a very weighty affair, I shall return to London as soon as possible, in order to make all due inquiries. And in case I find no just grounds for exceptions to the man, I have none to his occupation; since it is suitable enough to that slate of life for which you seem to have a peculiar taste. However, tho' I should rejoice to see you settled to your satisfaction and advantage, and tho' you seem to entertain a very favourable opinion of his honour, and abilities to maintain you in a very decent manner; yet I would have you weigh well the momentous matter in debate. Don't be too hasty, my dear; consider, all is not gold that glitters. Men are too often false and perfidious; promise fair, and yet, at the same time, aim at nothing more than the gratification of their unruly desires. I don't say that Mr Byron has any such dishonourable intentions, and I hope he has not; for which reason I would only have you act with discretion and reserve; give him neither too great hopes of success, nor an absolute denial to put him in despair. All that you have to say till you see me is this, that you have no aversion to his person; but that you are determined to be wholly directed by your mother in an affair of so serious a concern. This will naturally induce him to make his application to me on my first arrival; and you may depend upon it, no care shall be wanting on my side to promote your future happiness and advantage. I am, dear daughter,

Your truly affectionate mother.

LETTER V.

A young lady's answer to a gentleman's letter, who professes an aversion to the tedious modes of courtship.

SIR,

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

There is something so peculiar and whimsical in your manner of expressions, that I am absolutely at a loss to determine whether you are really serious, or only write for your own amusement. When you explain yourself in more intelligible terms, I shall be better able to form a judgment of your passion, and more capable of returning you a proper answer. What influence your future addresses may have over me, I cannot say; but to be free with you, your first attempt has made no impression on the heart of

M——— A R ——.

(XOXOXOXOXOX(X)OXOXOX)

LETTER VI.

The lady's reply to another letter from the same gentleman, wherein he more explicitly avows his passion.

SIR,

SINCE neither of us, I perceive, is over fond of squandering our time away in idle, unmeaning compliments, I think proper to inform you, in direct terms, that the disposal of my person is not altogether in my own power; and that notwithstanding my father and my mother are both deceased, yet I transact no single affair of any moment, without consulting Sir Orlando Wiseman, of Lincoln's inn, who is my counsel upon all occasions, and is a gentleman, as I conceive, of the strictest honour and honesty, and one on whose judgment I can safely rely. I will be so fair and just to you, as freely to acknowledge, that I have

no

no objection to your person. If therefore you think proper to wait on him with your proposals, and I find that he approves them. I shall act without any mental reservation, and be very apt to encourage a passion that I imagine to be both honourable and sincere, I am,

Sir, your most humble servant.

M — A R —.



LETTER VII.

From an aunt to her nephew, who had complained of ill success in his addresses.

Dear Nephew,

I RECEIVED your doleful ditty, in regard to your ill success in your late love-adventure with Miss Snow. No marble monument was ever half so cold, or vernal virgin half so coy ! she turns a deaf ear, it seems to your most ardent vows ! And what of all that ? By your own account it appears, she has given you no flat denial ; neither has she peremptorily forbid your visits. Really, nephew, I thought a young gentleman of your good sense and penetration, should be better versed in the arts of love, than to be cast down all at once, and quit the field upon the first repulse. You should consider, that she is not only a beauty, but a very accomplished lady. You must surely be very vain to imagine, that one of her education, good sense, and real merit, should fall an easy victim into your arms. Her affections must be gradually engaged ; she looks upon matrimony as a very serious affair, and will never give way, I am fully persuaded, to the violence of an ill-grounded passion. For shame, nephew, shake off that unbecoming bashfulness, and shew yourself a man. Lovers, like soldiers, should endure fatigues. Be advised : Renew the attack with double vigour ; for she is a lady worth your conquest. The revolution of a day (as the ingenious Mr Rowe has it) may bring such turns as Heaven itself could scarce have promised. Cheer up, dear nephew, under that thought. When I hear from you again, a few weeks hence, I am

not without hopes, if you will follow my advice, of your carrying the siege, and making her comply with your own terms of accommodation. In the mean time, depend upon it, no stone shall be left unturned on my part, that may any wise contribute towards your good success, as I cannot, without injustice to the lady, but approve your choice.

I am your affectionate aunt.



LETTER VIII.

From a daughter to her father, wherein she dutifully expostulates against a match he had proposed to her, with a gentleman much older than herself.

Honoured Sir,

Though your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible, that the duty which I owe you binds me to comply with them. Besides, I should be very ungrateful; should I presume, in any point whatever, considering your numberless acts of parental indulgence towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the consequences thereof should prove never so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in my own defence should have no influence over you, or be thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which, unhappily for me, you seem to approve of. It is very possible, Sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice, may be possessed of all that substance, and all those good qualities, that bias you so strongly in his favour; but be not angry, dear Sir, when I remind you, that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady, of more experience, and of a more advanced age, would, in my humble opinion, be a much fitter help-mate for him. To be ingenuous, (permit me, good Sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve for once,) a man, almost in his grand climacteric, can never be an agreeable companion for me; nor can the natural gaiety of my temper, which has hitherto been

been indulged by yourself in every innocent amusement, be over-agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take ; yet as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he'll grow jealous, and for ever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though never so harmless and inoffensive ; permitted to see no company ; hurried down perhaps to some melancholy rural recess : and there, like my lady Grace in the play, sit pen-sive and alone, under a green tree. Your long-experienced goodness, and that tender regard which you have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate with you on an affair of so great importance. If, however, after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favour, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is a large fortune and a coach and six to throw into the scale ; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory commands upon me to resign up my real happiness and peace of mind, for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgment. Give me leave, however, to observe, that it is impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown : and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never made the least attempt before to thwart the inclinations of

His ever obedient daughter.

LETTER IX.

From a young lady to a gentleman that courted her, who she could not like, but was forced by her parents to receive his visits and think of none else for her husband.

S I R,

IT is a very ill return which I make to the respect you have for me, when I acknowledge to you, that though the day of our marriage is appointed, I am incapable of

loving you. You may have observed, in the long conversations we have had at those times that we were left together, that some secret hung upon my mind. I was obliged to an ambiguous behaviour, and durst not reveal myself further, because my mother, from a closet near the place where we sat, could both hear and see our conversation. I have strict commands from both my parents to receive you, and am undone for ever, except you will be so kind and generous as to refuse me. Consider, Sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made perhaps with an offensive sincerity; but that conduct is much to be preferred to a secret dislike, which could not but pall all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion that dotes and languishes for another. I will not go so far as to say my passion for the gentleman, whose wife I am by promise, would lead me to any thing criminal against your honour. I know it is dreadful to a man of your sense to expect nothing but forced civilities in return for tender endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. If you will on this occasion let reason take place of passion, I doubt not but fate has in store for you some worthier object of your affection, in recompence of your goodness to the only woman that could be insensible of your merit. I am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

M. H.



LETTER X.

From a young lady to a gentleman who courts her, and whom she suspects of infidelity.

SIR,

THE freedom and sincerity with which I have at all times laid open my heart to you, ought to have some weight in my claim to a return of the same confidence: but

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I have reason to fear, that the best of men do not act always as they ought. I write to you what it would be impossible to speak: but, before I see you, I desire you will either explain your conduct last night, or confess that you have used me not as I have deserved of you.

It is in vain to deny that you took pains to recommend yourself to Miss Peacock; your earnestness of discourse also shewed me that you were no stranger to her. I desire to know, Sir, what sort of acquaintance you can wish to have with another person of character, after making me believe that you wished to be married to me. I write very plainly to you, because I expect a plain answer. I am not apt to be suspicious, but this was too particular; and I must be either blind or indifferent to overlook it. Sir, I am neither; though perhaps it would be better for me if I were one or the other.

I am, yours, &c.

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LETTER XI.

From a gentleman engaged to a lady, who had been seen talking to another, in answer to the foregoing.

My dearest Jenny,

WHAT can have put it into your thoughts to be suspicious of me, whose heart and soul you know are truly yours, and whose whole thoughts and wishes are but on you? Sweet quarreller, you know this. What afternoon have I spent from you? Or whom did you ever see me speak to without distaste, when it prevented my talking with you?

You know how often you have cautioned me not to speak to you before your uncle; and you know he was there. But you do well to abuse me for being too obedient to your commands; for, I promise you, you shall never get any other cause. I thought it most prudent to be seen talking with another, when it was my business not so much as to look at you. Miss Peacock is a very old acquaintance: she knows my perfect devotion to you, and she very well knew

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all that civility and earnestness of discourse about nothing, was pretended. I write to you before I come, because you commanded me ; but I will make you ask my pardon in a few minutes for robbing me of those few, which might have been passed with you, and which it has taken to write this letter. My sweetest quarreller, I am coming to you. After this never doubt but that I am,

Yours most truly.

L E T T E R XII.

From a gentleman to a lady, whom he accuses of infidelity.

Madam,

YOU must not be surprised of a letter in the place of a visit, from one who cannot but have reason to believe it may easily be as welcome as his company.

You should not suppose, if lovers have lost their sight, that their senses are all banished : and if I refuse to believe my eyes, when they shew me your infidelity, you must not wonder that I cannot stop my ears against the accounts of it. Pray let us understand one another properly ; for I am afraid we are deceiving ourselves all this while. Am I a person whom you esteem, whose fortune you do not despise, and whose pretensions you encourage ; or am I a troublesome coxcomb, who fancies myself particularly received by a woman who only laughs at me ? If I am the latter, you treat me as I deserve ; and I ought to join with you in saying I deserve it : but if it be otherwise, and you receive me, as I think you do, as a person you intend to marry, for it is best to be plain on those occasions, for heaven's sake what is the meaning of that universal coquetry in publick, where every fool flatters you, and you are pleased with the meanest of them ? and what can be the meaning that I am told, you last night in particular was an hour with Mr Marlow, and are so wherever you meet him, if I am not

in company? Both of us, Madam, you cannot think of; and I should be sorry to imagine, that when I had given you my heart so entirely, I shared yours with any body.

I have said a great deal too much to you, and yet I am tempted to say more: but I shall be silent. I beg you will answer this, and I think I have a right to expect that you do it generously and fairly. Do not mistake what is the effect of the distraction of my heart, for want of respect to you. While I write this, I dote upon you, but I cannot bear to be deceived where all my happiness is concerned.

Your most unhappy.

LETTER XIII.

From a lady to her lover, who suspected her of receiving the address of another. In answer to the above.

SIR,

IF I did not make all the allowances you desire in the end of your letter, I should not answer you at all. But although I am really unhappy to find you are so, and the more to find myself to be the occasion, I can hardly impute the unkindness and incivility of your letter to the single cause you would have me. However, as I would not be suspected of any thing that should justify such treatment from you, I think it necessary to inform you, that what you have heard has no more foundation than what you have seen: However, I wonder that other eyes should not be as easily alarmed as yours; for, instead of being blind, believe me, Sir, you see more than there is. Perhaps, however, their sight may be as much sharpened by unprovoked malice, as yours by undeserved suspicion.

Whatever may be the end of this dispute, for I do not think so lightly of lovers quarrels as many do, I think it proper to inform you, that I never have thought favourably of any one but yourself; and I shall add, that if the fault

of your temper, which I once little suspected, should make me fear you too much to marry, you will not see me in that state with any other, nor courted by any man in the world.

I did not know that the gaiety of my temper gave you uneasiness, and you ought to have told me of it with less severity. If I am particular in it, I am afraid it is a fault of my natural disposition; but I would have taken some pains to get the better of that, if I had known it was disagreeable to you. I ought to resent this treatment more than I do, but do not insult my weakness on that head; for a fault of that kind would want the excuse this has for my pardon, and might not be so easily overlooked, though I should wish to do it. I should say, I will not see you to-day, but you have an advocate that pleads for you much better than you do for yourself. I desire you will first look carefully over this letter, for my whole heart is in it, and then come to me.

Your's, &c.

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LETTER XIV.

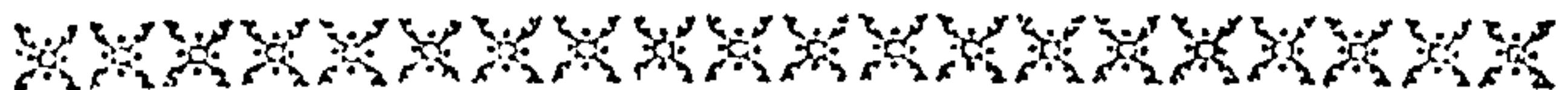
From a young tradesman to a lady he had seen in public.

Madam,
PERHAPS you'll not be surprised to receive a letter
from a person who is unknown to you, when you re-
flect how little so charming a face may be to create impo-
tence; and I persuade myself, that when you remember
where you sat last night at the play-house, you will not
need to be told this comes from the person who was just
before you.

In the first place, Madam, I ask pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing to you. But, after this, I beg leave to say that my thoughts are honourable, and to inform you who I am: I shall not pretend to be any better. I keep a shop, Madam, in Henrietta-street, and, though but two years in trade, I have a tolerable custom. I do not doubt

but it will increase, and I shall be able to do something for a family. If your inclinations are not engaged, I should be very proud of the honour of waiting on you; and in the mean time, if you please to desire any friend to ask my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not prejudice you against, Madam,

Your most humble servant.



LETTER XV.

From a relation of the lady, in answer to the above.

SIR,

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

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

Your humble servant,

A. H.

LETTER XVI.

From a lover who had cause of displeasure, and determines never to see the lady again.

Madam,

THERE was a time when if any one should have told me that I should never have written to you such a letter as I am now writing, I would as soon have believed that the earth would have burst asunder, or that I should see stars falling to the ground, or trees and mountains rising to the heavens. But there is nothing too strange to happen. One thing would have appeared yet more impossible than my writing it, which is, that you should have given me the cause to have written it, and yet that has happened.

The purpose of this is to tell you, Madam, that I shall never wait on you again. You will truly know what I make myself suffer when I impose this command upon my own heart; but I would not tell you of it, if it were not too much determined for me to have a possibility of changing my resolution.

It gives me some pleasure, that you will feel no uneasiness for this; though I should also have been very averse some time ago even to have imagined that; but you know where to employ that attention, of which I am not worthy the whole, and with a part I shall not be contented. I was a witness, Madam, yesterday, of your behaviour to Mr Henry. I had been often told of this, but I have refused to listen to it. I supposed your heart no more capable of deceit than my own: But I cannot disbelieve what I have been told on such authority, when my own eyes confirm it. Madam, I take my leave of you, and beg you will forget there ever was such a man as

Your humble servant.

L.F.T.-

LETTER XVII.

From a young lady to her father, acquainting him with the addresses of a young tradesman.

Honoured Sir,

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

Your most dutiful daughter.

My humble duty to my honoured mother ; love to my brother and sister ; and respects to all friends. Cousin Hartcourt, and his wife and sister, desire their kind respects. I cannot write enough of their civility to me.

L

LETTER XVIII.

Her father's answer, on a supposition that he does not approve of the young man's address.

Dear Polly,

I have received your letter, dated the 4th instant, wherein you acquaint me of the proposals made to you, thro' your cousin Hartcourt's recommendation, by one Mr Willis. I hope, as you assure me, that you have given no encouragement to him; for I by no means approve of him for your husband. I have inquired of one of his townsmen, who knows him and his circumstances very well, and I am neither pleased with them, nor with his character; and wonder your cousin would so inconsiderately recommend him to you. Indeed I doubt not of Mr Hartcourt's good intentions; but I insist upon it, that you think nothing of the matter, if you would oblige

Your indulgent father.

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



LETTER XIX.

The father's answer, on a supposition that he does approve of the young man's address.

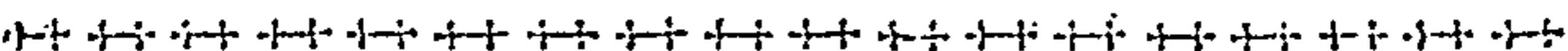
My dear Daughter,

In answer to yours of the 4th inst. relating to the addresses of Mr Willis, I would have you neither wholly encourage nor discourage his suit; for if, on inquiry into his character and circumstances, I shall find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them, and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. But, my dear, consider that men are deceitful, and always put the best side outwards; and it may possibly,

sibly, on the strictest inquiry; which the nature and importance of the case demands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me advise you, therefore, to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap; for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. Your cousin will give him hope enough, while you don't absolutely deny him; and in the mean time he may be told, that you are not at your own disposal, but entirely resolved to abide by my determination and direction, in an affair of this great importance, and this will put him upon applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will, in this case, as in all others, study your good, as becomes

Your indulgent father.

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



LETTER XX.

A modest lover desiring an aunt's favour to him for her niece.

Good Madam,

I have several times, when I have been happy in the company of your good niece, thought to have spoken my mind, and to declare to her the true value and affection I have for her; but just as I have been about to speak, my fears have vanquished my hopes, and I have been obliged to suspend my design. I have thrown out several hints, that I thought would have led the way to a fuller disclosing of the secret that is too big for my breast; and yet, when I am near her, it is too important for utterance. Will you be so good, Madam, to break the way for me, if I am not wholly disapproved of by you, and prepare her dear mind for a declaration that I must make, and yet I know not how to begin.—My fortune and expectations make me hope that I may not on those accounts be deemed unworthy. And could I, by half a line from your hand, hope

that there is no other bar, I should be enabled to build on so desirable a foundation, and to let your niece know how much my happiness depends upon her favour. Excuse, good Madam, I beseech you, this trouble, and this presumptuous request, from

Your obliged humble servant.

* * * * *

LETTER XXI.

The aunt's answer, supposing the gentleman deserves encouragement.

SIR,

I Cannot say I have any dislike, as to my own part, to your proposal, or your manner of making it, whatever my niece may have; because diffidence is generally the companion of merit, and a token of respect. She is a person of prudence, and all her friends are so thoroughly convinced of it, that her choice will have the weight it deserves with us all; so I cannot say what will be the event of your declaration to her; yet so far as I may take upon myself to do, I will not deny your request, but on her return to-morrow will break the ice, as you desire, not doubting your honour, and the sincerity of your professions. And I shall tell her, moreover, what I think of the advances you make. I believe she has had the prudence to keep her heart entirely disengaged, because she would otherwise have told me; and is not so mean spirited as to be able to return tyranny and insult for true value, when she is properly convinced of it. Whoever has the happiness (permit me, though her relation, to call it so) to meet with her favour, will find this her character; and it is not owing to the fond partiality of, Sir,

Your friend and servant.

LETTER XXII.

From a respectful lover to his mistress.

Dear Madam,

I have long struggled with the most honourable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man. I have often tried to reveal it personally, and as often in this way, but never till now could prevail upon my fears and doubts. I can no longer struggle with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more when I have endeavoured to reveal it. I never entertain the hope of seeing you without rapture; but when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated, as I ought, I am utterly confounded. What can this be owing to, but a diffidence in myself, and an exalted opinion of your worthiness? and is not this a strong token of ardent love? Yet if it be, how various is the tormenting passion in its operations? since some it inspires with courage, while others it deprives of all necessary confidence. I can only assure you, Madam, that the heart of man never conceived a stronger or sincerer passion than mine for you. If my reverence for you is my crime, I am sure it has been my sufficient punishment. I need not say my designs and motives are honourable. Who dare approach so much virtuous excellence, with a supposition that such an assurance is necessary? What my fortune is, is well known, and I am ready to stand the test of the strictest inquiry. Condescend, Madam, to embolden my respectful passion by one favourable line, that if what I here profess, and hope further to have an opportunity to assure you of, be found to be unquestionably true, then, I hope, my humble addresses will not quite be unacceptable to you; and thus you will for ever oblige, dear Madam,

Your affectionate admirer, and devoted servant.

J—— R——.

LETTER XXIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

IF modesty be the greatest glory in our sex, surely it can not be blame-worthy in yours. For my own part, I must think it the most amiable quality either man or woman can possess. Nor can there be, in my opinion, a true respect where there is not a disdence of one's own merit, and an high opinion of the persons we esteem.

To say more on this occasion would little become me. To say less, would look as if I knew not how to pay that regard to modest merit, which modest merit only deserves.

You, Sir, best know your own heart; and if you are sincere and generous, will receive as you ought this frankness from, Sir,

Your humble servant.



LETTER XXIV.

A gentleman to a lady, professing an aversion to the tedious formality in courtship.

Dear Madam,

I Remember that one of the ancients in describing a youth in love, says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak, nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute: and whenever in your company I behave like a fool, forget not that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare this much, I must presume to say, that a favourable reception of this, will, I am certain, make me more worthy of your notice; but your disdain would be what I believe myself incapable ever to surmount. To try by idle fallacies, and airy compliments, to prevail on your judgment,

iment, is a folly for any man to attempt who knows you. No, Madam, your good sense and endowments have raised you far above the necessity of practising the mean artifices which prevail upon the less deserving of your sex: you are not to be so lightly deceived; and, if you were, give me leave to say, I should not think you deserving of the trouble that would attend such an attempt.

This, I must own, is no fashionable letter from one who, I am sure, loves up to the greatest hero of romance; but as I would hope, that the happiness I sue for, should be lasting, it is certainly most eligible to take no step to procure it but what will bear reflection; for I should be happy to see you mine, even when we both have outlived the taste of every thing that has not virtue and reason to support it. I am, Madam, notwithstanding this unpolished address,

Your most respectable admirer;

And obedient humble servant,



LETTER XXV.

The lady's answer, encouraging a further declaration.

SIR,

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

Your humble servant,

LETTER XXVI.

The gentleman's reply, more openly declaring his passion.

Dear Madam,

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

Your most obliged and faithful admirer.

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



LETTER XXVII.

The lady's answer to his reply, putting the matter on a sudden issue.

SIR,

AS we are both so well inclined to avoid unnecessary trouble, as well as unnecessary compliments, I think proper to acquaint you, that Mr Dunford, of Winchester, has the management of all my affairs ; and is a man of such probity and honour, that I do nothing in any matters of

consequence without him. I have no dislike to your person; and if you approve of what Mr Dunsford can acquaint you with in relation to me, and I approve of his report in your favour, I shall be far from shewing any gentleman that I have either an insolent or a sordid spirit, especially to such as do me the honour of their good opinion.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

LETTER XXVIII.

A factious young lady to her aunt, ridiculing her serious lover.

Dear Aunt,

I AM much obliged to you for the kindness you intended me, in recommending Mr Richards to me for a husband. But I must be so free to tell you, he is a man nowise suited to my inclination. I despise, it is true, the idle rants of romance; but I am inclinable to think there may be an extreme on the other side of the question.

The first time the honest man came to see me, in the way you was pleased to put in his head, was one Sunday after Sermon-time. He began with telling me, what I found at my finger-ends, that it was very cold, and politely blowed upon his. I immediately perceived that his passion for me could not keep him warm; and in complaisance to your recommendation, conducted him to your fire-side. After he had pretty well rubbed heat into his hands, he stood up with his back to the fire, and, with his hands behind him, held up his coat, that he might be warm all over; and looking about him, asked, with the tranquility of a man a twelvemonth married, and just come off a journey, how all friends did in the country? I said, I hoped very well; but would be glad to warm my fingers. Cry mercy, Madam! And then he shuffled a little further from the fire; and after two or three hemms, and a long pause —

I have heard, says he, a most excellent sermon just now: Dr Thomas is a fine man truly: Did you ever hear him, Madam? No, Sir, I generally go to my own parish-church. That is right, Madam, to be sure. What was your subject to-day? The Pharisee and the Publican, Sir. A very good one truly: Dr Thomas would have made fine work upon that subject. His text to-day was, Evil communications corrupt good manners. A good subject, Sir; I doubt not but the doctor made a fine discourse upon it. O, ay, Madam, he cannot make a bad one upon any subject.

I rung for the tea-kettle; for, thought I, we shall have all the heads of the sermon immediately.

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

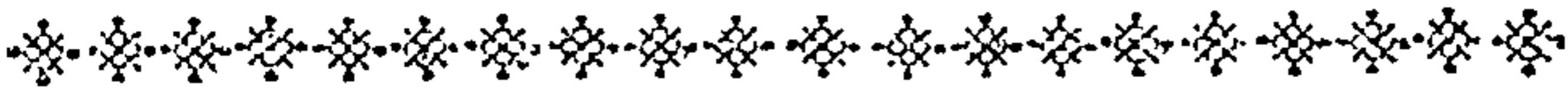
O, my good aunt, what a man is here for a husband! At last came the happy moment of his taking leave; for I would not ask him to stay supper: and, moreover, he talked of going to a lecture at St Helen's. And then (though I had an opportunity of saying little more than Yes, and No, all the time; for he took the vapours he had put me into for devotion or gravity; (at least I believe so) he pressed my hand, looked frightfully kind, and gave me to understand, as a mark of his favour, that if, upon further conversation, and inquiry into my character, he should happen to like me as well as he did from my behaviour and person:

why,

why, truly, I need not fear in time, being blessed with him for my husband.

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

Your greatly obliged kinswoman.



LETTER XXIX.

Her aunt's answer, rebuking her ludicrous turn of mind.

Dear Nicce,

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

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

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

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

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

I think, dear niece, this is not only a mighty safe way, as you call it, of travelling towards the land of matrimony, but to the land of happiness, with respect as well to the next world as to this. And it is to be hoped, that the better entertainment you so much wish for on your journey, may not lead you too much out of your way, and divert your mind from the principal view which you ought to have at your journey's end.

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

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

Your truly affectionate aunt.

LET.

LETTER XXX.

A sailor to his sweetheart.

My dear Peggy,

If you think of me half so often as I do of you, it will be every hour; for you are never out of my thoughts; and when I am asleep, I constantly dream of my dear Peggy. I wear my half bit of gold always at my heart, tied to a blue ribbon round my neck; for true blue, my dearest love, is a colour of colours to me. Where, my dearest, do you put yours? I hope you are careful of it: for it would be a bad omen to lose it.

I hope you hold in the same mind still, my dearest dear; for God will never bless you if you break the vows you have made to me. As to your ever faithful William, I would sooner have my heart torn from my breast than it should harbour a wish for any other woman besides my Peggy. O, my dearest love! you are the joy of my life! my thoughts are all of you; you are with me in all I do; and my hopes and my wishes are only to be yours. God send it may be so.

Our captain talks of sailing soon for England: and then, and then, my dearest Peggy!—O how I rejoice, how my heart beats with delight that makes me I cannot tell how, when I think of arriving in England, and joining bands with my Peggy, as we have our hearts before, I hope! I am sure I speak for one.

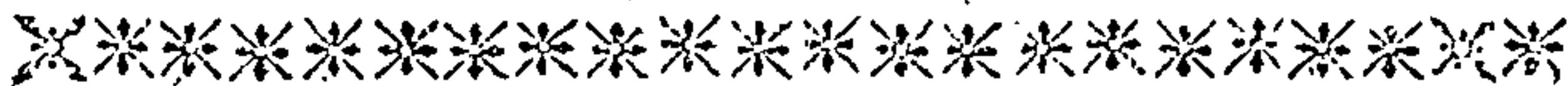
John Arthur, in the good ship Elisabeth, Captain Witterton, which is returning to England, as I hope we shall soon, promises to deliver this into your own dear hand; and I c will bring you, too, six bottles of citron-water, as a token of my love. It is fit for the finest lady's taste, it is so good; and is, what they say, ladies drink when they can get it. John says he will have one sweet kiss of my dearest Peggy, for his care and pains. So let him, my best love; for I am not of a jealous temper. I have a better opinion of my dearest than so.—But oh! that I was in his place!—One kiss should not serve my turn, though I hope it may his.—

M

Yet

Yet if he takes two, I will forgive him ; one for me and one for himself. For I love John dearly ; and so you may well think. Well, what shall I say more ?—or rather what shall I say next ? For I have an hundred things crowding in upon me, when I write to my dearest ; and alas, one has so few opportunities ! but yet I must leave off ; for I have written to the bottom of my paper. Love then to all friends, and duty to both our mothers, conclude me

Your faithful lover till death.



LETTER XXXI.

Her answer.

Dear William,

FOR so I may call you, now we are sure ; and so my mother says, this is to let you know, that nothing shall prevail upon me to alter my promise made to you when we parted ; with heavy hearts enough, that is true : And yet I had a little inkling given me, that Mr Alford's son, the carpenter, would be glad to make love to me : but do you think I would suffer it ? No, indeed ! for I doubt not your loyalty to me ; and do you think I will not be as loyal to you ?—To be sure I will. These sailors run such sad chances, said one that you and I both know ; they may return, and they may not. Well, I will trust in God for that, who has returned safe to his friends, their dear Billy so many a time, and often. They will have a mistress in every land they come to, said they. All are not such naughty men, said I ; and I will trust Billy Oliver all the world over. For why cannot men be as faithful as women, tro' ? And for me, I am sure no love shall ever touch my heart but yours.

God send us a happy meeting ; let who will speak against sailors, they are the glory and the safeguard of the land. And what would have become of Old England long ago but for them ; I am sure, the lazy good-for nothing land-lubbers would never have protected us from our cruel foes.

So

So sailors are and ever shall be, esteemed by me? and of all sailors, my dear Billy Oliver. Believe this truth from,

Your faithful, &c.

P. S. I had this letter writ in readiness to send you, as I had opportunity. And the captain's lady undertakes to send it with hers. That is very kind and condescending: is it not?

[—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—]

LETTER XXXII.

Miss Molly Smith to her cousin, giving her an account of a very remarkable instance of envy, in one of her acquaintance who lived in the city of York.

Dear Cousin;

I Promised, you know, to write to you when I had any thing to tell you; and as I think the following story very extraordinary, I was willing to keep my word.

Some time ago, there came to settle in this city, a lady named Dison. We all visited her: but she had so deep a melancholy, arising, as it appeared, from a settled state of ill health that nothing we could do could afford her the least relief, or make her chearful. In this condition she languished amongst us five years, still continuing to grow worse and worse.

We all grieved at her fate. Her flesh was withered away; her appetite decayed by degrees, till all food became nauseous to her sight; her strength failed her; her feet could not support her tottering body, lean and worn away as it was; and we hourly expected her death. When at last, she one day called her most intimate friends to her bedside, and, as well as she could, spoke to the following purpose: ‘I know you all pity me: But alas! I am not so much the object of your pity, as your contempt; for all my misery is of my own seeking, and owing to the wickedness of my own mind, I had two sisters, with whom I was bred up; and I have all my life time been unhappy, for no other cause but for their success in the

' world. When we were young, I could neither eat nor sleep in peace, when they had either praise or pleasure. When we grew up to be women, they were both soon married, much to their advantage and satisfaction. This galled me to the heart; and though I had several good offers, yet, as I did not think them in all respects equal to my sisters, I would not accept them: and yet was inwardly vexed to refuse them, for fear I should get no better. I generally deliberated so long that I lost my lovers, and then pined for that loss. I never wanted for any thing; and was in a situation in which I might have been happy if I pleased. My sisters loved me very well; for I concealed, as much as possible, from them my odious envy; and yet never did any poor wretch lead so miserable a life as I have done; for every blessing they enjoyed was a dagger to my heart. It is this envy that has caused all my ill health, has preyed upon my very vitals, and will now bring me to my grave.'

In a few days after this confession she died; and her words and death made such a strong impression on my mind, that I could not help sending you this relation; and begging you, my dear Suky, to remember how careful we ought to be to curb in our minds the very first rising of so detestable, and so fatal, as this proved to poor Mrs Dison. I know I have no particular reason for giving you this caution; for I never saw any thing in you but what deserved the love and esteem of,

Your ever affectionate cousin,

M. S—— H.

LETTER XXXIII.

The following letter is from an unknown lady, to a young gentleman, on whom she had unfortunately fixed her affections : but as she never had it in her power to make any proper impressions on him, or a better opportunity of having her inclinations signified to him, she wrote as follows.

SIR,

I RELY on your goodness to redress and conceal the misfortunes I now labour under ; but oh ! with what words shall I declare a passion which I blush to own. It is now a year and a half since first I saw, and (must I say) loved you, and so long have I strove to forget you ; but frequent sights of what I could not but admire, have made my endeavours prove vain. I dare not subscribe to this letter, lest it should fall into hands that may possibly expose it ; But if you, Sir, have any curiosity or desire to know who I am, I shall be in the park to-morrow exactly at two o'clock. I cannot but be under apprehensions, lest you should come more out of curiosity than compassion ; but however, that you may have some notion of me, if you do come, I will give you a short description of my person, which is tall and slender, my eyes and hair dark ; perhaps you will think me vain, when I tell you that my person altogether is, what the flattering world calls handsome ; and as to my fortune, I believe you will have no reason to find fault with it. I doubt you will think such a declaration as this, from a woman, ridiculous ; but you will consider it is custom, not nature, that makes it so. My hand trembles so while I write, that I believe you can hardly read it.

LET.

M. 3^c

THE C O M P L E T E
L E T T E R XXXIV.

The gentleman did not give himself the trouble to meet the lady, but took great pains to expose and ridicule her letter, though reprobated for it by his acquaintance : which coming to the lady's knowledge, she sent him the following.

SIR,

YOU will the more easily pardon this second trouble from a slighted correspondent, when I assure you it shall be the last.

A passion like mine, violent enough to break through customary decorums, cannot be supposed to grow calm at once ; but I hope I shall undergo no severer trials, or censures, than what I have done by taking this opportunity of discharging the remains of a tenderness, which I have so unfortunately and imprudently indulged. I would not complain of your unkindness and want of generosity in exposing my letter, because the man that is so unworthy of a woman's love, is too insconsiderable for her resentment ; but I can't forbear asking you, What could induce you to publish my letter, and so cruelly to sport with the misery of a person whom you know nothing worse of than that she had entertained too good too fond an opinion of you ?

For your own sake I am loth to speak it, but such conduct cannot be accounted for, but from cruelty of mind, a vanity of temper, and an incurable defect of understanding. But whatsoever be the reason amidst all my disappointments, I cannot but think myself happy in not subscribing my name ; for you might perhaps have thought my name a fine trophy to grace your triumph after the conquest : and how great my confusion must have been, to be exposed to the scorn, or, at least, to the pity of the world, I may guess from the mortifications I now feel from seeing my declarations and professions returned without success. and in being convinced by the rash experience I have made, that my affections have been placed without discretion. How ungenerous your behaviour hath been, I had rather you were told by the gentlemen, (who I hear universally con-

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(demit it) than force myself to say any thing severe. But although their kind sense of the affair must yield me some satisfaction under my present uneasiness, yet it furnishes me with a fresh evidence of my own weakness, in lavishing my esteem upon the person that least deserved it.

I hope the event will give me reason not only to forgive, but to thank you for this ill usage. That pretty face, which I have so often viewed with a mistaken admiration; I believe I shall be able to look on with in absolute indifference; and time, I am sensible, will abundantly convince me, that your features are all the poor amends which nature hath made you for want of understanding, and teach me to consider them only as a decent cover for the emptiness and deformity within. To cut off all hopes of your discovering who I am, if you do not yet know, I have taken care to convey this by a different hand from the former letter; for which I am obliged to a friend, one whose goodness and fidelity I can safely rely. And it is my last request, that you would make this letter as publick as you have done the former. If you don't, there are other copies ready to be dispersed; for though I utterly despair of ever shewing it to yourself, yet I am very sure of making it plain to every one else, that you are a coxcomb. Adieu.



L E T T E R XXXV.

Lydia to Harriet, a lady newly married.

My dear Harriet,

If thou art she, but oh, how fallen, how changed, what an apostate! How lost to all that's gay and agreeable! To be married, I find is to be buried alive; I can't conceive it more dismal to be shut up in a vault to converse with the shades of my ancestors, than to be carried down to an old manor house in the country, and confined to the conversation of a sober husband, and an awkward chamber-maid. For variety, I suppose you may entertain yourself with Madam in the grogram gown, the spouse of your parish

parish vicar who has, by this time, I am sure, well furnished you with receipts for making salves and poifts, distilling cordial waters, making syrups, and applying poultices.

Blessed solitude ! I wish thee joy, my dear, of thy loved retirement, which indeed you would persuade me is very agreeable, and different enough from what I have here described. But, child, I am afraid thy brains are a little disordered with romances and novels. After six months marriage to hear thee talk of love, and paint the country scenes so softly, is a little extravagant ; one would think you lived the lives of the Sylvan deities, or roved among the walls of paradise, like the first happy pair. But prithee leave these whimsies, and come to town in order to live and talk like other mortals. However, as I am extremely interested in your reputation, I would willingly give you a little good advice at your first appearance under the character of a married woman. 'Tis a little insolent in me, perhaps, to advise a matron ; but I am so afraid you'll make so silly a figure as a fond wife, that I cannot help warning you not to appear in any public place with your husband, and never to saunter about St James's park together. If you presume to enter the Ring at Hyde Park together, you are ruined for ever : nor must you take the least notice of one another at the play-house, or opera, unless you would be laughed at as a very loving couple, most happily paired to the yoke of wedlock. I would recommend the example of an acquaintance of ours to your imitation ; she is the most negligent and fashionable wife in the world ; she is hardly ever seen in the same place with her husband, and if they happen to meet, they would think them perfect strangers. She never was heard to name him in his absence, and take care he shall not be the subject of any discourse that she has a share in. I hope you will propose this lady as pattern, though I am very much afraid you will be so silly to think Portia, Sabina, &c. Roman wives, much brighter examples, I wish it may never come into your hand to imitate those antiquated creatures so far, as to come into public in the habit, as well as the air, of a Roman matron. You make already the entertainment at Mrs Modish's tea-table ; she says, she always thought you a discreet person,

and

and qualified to manage a family with admirable prudence. She dies to see what demure and serious airs wedlock has given to you ; but she says she shall never forgive your choice of so gallant a man as Bellamour, to transform him to a mere sober husband ; it was unpardonable. You see, my dear, we all envy your happiness, and no person more than —

Your humble servant,

LYDIA,



LETTER XXXVI.

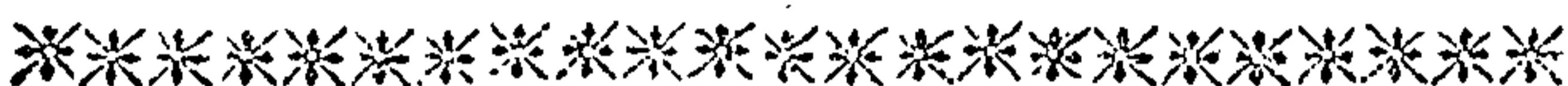
Harriot's answer to the above.

BE not in pain, good Madam, for my appearance in town ; I shall frequent no public places, or make any visits, where the character of a modest wife is ridiculous. As for your wild raillery on matrimony, it is all hypocrisy. You and all the handsome young women of your acquaintance, shew yourselves to no other purpose, than to gain a conquest over some man of worth, in order to bestow your charms and fortune on him. There is no indecency in the confession, the design is modest and honourable, and all your affectation cannot disguise it.

I am married, and have no other concern but to please the man I love. He is the end of every care I have. If I dress, it is for him ; if I read a poem or a play, it is to qualify myself for a conversation agreeable to his taste. He is almost the end of my devotion ; half my prayers are for his happiness. I love to talk of him, and never hear him named but with pleasure and emotion. I am your friend, and wish your happiness ; but am sorry to see, by the air of your letter, that there are a set of women who are got into the common-place raillery of every thing that is sober, decent, and proper. Matrimony, and the clergy, are the topics of people of little wit, and no understanding. I own to you, I have learned of the vicar's wife all you tax me with.

She.

She is a discreet, ingenuous, pleasant, pious woman. I wish she had the handling of you and Mrs Modish; you would find, if you were too free with her, she would make you blush as much as if you had never been fine ladies. The vicar, Madam, is so kind as to visit my husband, and his agreeable conversation has brought him to enjoy many sober happy hours, when even I am shut out, and my dear husband is entertained only with his own thoughts. These things, dear Madam, will be lasting satisfaction, when the fine ladies, and the coxcombs, by whom they form themselves, are entirely ridiculous, ridiculous even in old age. I am, Madam, your most humble servant, HARRIOT.



LETTER XXXVII.

The following pretty entertaining letter was written by our poet Waller, to the Lady Sidney, on the marriage of her sister.

To my Lady Lucy Sidney, upon the marriage of my Lady Dorothy to my Lord Spencer.

Madam,

IN the common joy at Penshurst *, I know none to whom complaints may come less unseasonable than to your Ladyship; the loss of a bed-fellow being almost equal to that of a mistress; and therefore you ought at least to pardon, if you consent not to the imprecation of the deserted, which just heaven no doubt will hear!

May my Lady Dorothy (if we may yet call her so) suffer as much, and have the like passion for this young lord, whom she has preferred to the rest of mankind, as others have had for her; and may this love, before the year goes about, make her taste of the first curse imposed on woman-kind, the pains of becoming a mother! May her first-born be none of her own sex! nor so like her, but that he may resemble her lord as much as herself!

May she that always affected silence and retiredness, have

* They were married, as we are informed, at Penshurst, July 11. 1739.

have the house filled with the noise and number of her children, and hereafter of her grandchildren! and then may she arrive at that great curse so much declined by fair ladies,—old age! May she live to be very old, and yet seem young; be told so by her glass, and have no achis to inform her of the truth! And when she shall appear to be mortal may her lord not mourn for her, but go, hand in hand, with her to that place where, we are told, there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage; that being there divorced, we may have all an equal interest in her again! My revenge being immortal, I wish all this may also befall their posterity to the world's end, and afterwards.

To you, Madam, I wish all good things; and that this loss may in good time be happily supplied with a more constant bedfellow of the other sex.

Madam, I humbly kiss your hand, and beg pardon for this trouble, from your Ladyship's most humble

EDMUND WALLER.

LETTER XXXVIII.

The wit and spirit that gave Lady Mary Wortley Montague, during her life, such rank in the polite world, was in no instance more happily displayed than in the following letter. We think the polite reader will be of opinion with us, that there is no letter in the collection lately published, and supposed to have been wrote by the same lady, where the life and spirit of the writer is to be more admired, or the sentiments more approved.

A letter from Lady Wortley Montague, against a maxim of Mons. Rochefoucault's, “That marriages are convenient, but never delightful.”

IT appears very bold in me to attempt to destroy a maxim established by so celebrated a genius as Mons. de Rochefoucault, and implicitly received by a nation which calls itself the only perfectly polite in the world, and which has, for so long a time, given laws of gallantry to all Europe. But,

But, full of the ardour which the truth inspires, I dare to advance the contrary; and to assert, boldly, that it is marriage-love only which can be delightful to a good mind.

We cannot taste the sweets of perfect love but in a well-suited marriage. Nothing so much distinguishes a little mind as to stop at words. What signifies that custom (for which we see very good reasons) of making the name of husband and wife ridiculous? A husband signifies, in the general interpretation, a jealous mortal, a quarrelsome tyrant, or a good sort of fool, on whom we may impose anything; a wife is a domestic dæmon, given to this poor man to deceive and torment him. The conduct of the generality of people sufficiently justifies these two characters. But I say, again, What signify words? A well-regulated marriage is not like those of ambition and interest. It is two lovers who live together. Let a priest pronounce certain words, let an attorney sign certain papers, I look upon these preparations as a lover does on a ladder of cords, that he fixes to the window of his mistress.

I know there are some people of false delicacy, who maintain that the pleasures of love are only due to difficulties and dangers. They say, very wittily, the rose would not be the rose without thorns, and a thousand other trifles of that nature, which makes so little impression on my mind that I am persualed, was I a lover, the fear of hurting her I loved would make me unhappy, if the possession was accompanied with dangers to her. The life of married lovers is very different; they pass it in a chain of mutual obligations and marks of benevolence, and have the pleasure of forming the entire happiness of the object beloved; in which point I place perfect enjoyment.

The most trifling cares of oeconomy become noble and delicate, when they are heightened by sentiments of tenderness. To furnish a room is no longer furnishing a room, it is ornamenting the place where I expect my lover, to order a supper is not simply giving orders to a cook, it is amusing myself in regaling him I love. These necessary occupations regarded in this light by a lover, are pleasures infinitely more sensible and lively than cards and public

pla-

places, which make the happiness of the multitude incapable of true pleasure.—A passion happy and contended, softens every movement of the soul, and gilds each object that we look on.

To a happy lover (I mean one married to his mistress) if he has any employment, the fatigues of the camp, the embarrassments of a court, everything becomes agreeable when he can say to himself, It is to serve her I love. If fortune is favourable, (for that does not depend on merit,) and gives success to his undertaking, all the advantages he receives are offerings due to her charms ; and he finds, in the success of his ambition, pleasure much more lively and worthy a noble mind, than that of raising his fortune, or of being applauded by the public. He enjoys his glory, his rank, his riches, but as they regard her he loves ; and it is her lover she hears praised when he gains the approbation of the parliament, the praises of the army, or the favour of his prince. In misfortune, it is his consolation to retire to a person who feels his sorrow, and to say to himself in her arms, " My happiness does not depend on the caprice of fortune ; here is my assured asylum against all grief ; your esteem makes me insensible to the injustice of a court, or the ingratitude of a master. I feel a sort of pleasure in the loss of my estate, as that misfortune gives me new proofs of your virtue and tenderness. How little desirable is grandeur to persons already happy ! We have no need of flatterers or equipage ; I reign in your heart, and I possess in your person all the delights of nature." In short, there is no situation of which the melancholy may not be soothed by the company of the person we love. Even an illness is not without its pleasures, when we are attended by one we love : I should never have done, was I to give you a detail of all the charms of an union in which we find, at once, all that flatters the senses in the most delicate and most extended pleasure ; but I cannot conclude without mentioning the satisfaction of seeing each day increase the amiable pledges of our tender friendship, and the occupations of improving them according to their different sexes. We abandon ourselves to the tender instinct of nature roused by love. We admire in the daughter the beauty of the mother, and re-

spect in the son the appearances of understanding and natural probity which we esteem in the father. It is a pleasure, of which God himself (according to Moses) was sensible, when seeing what he had done, he found it good.

A propos of Moses, the first plan of happiness infinitely surpassed all others ; and I cannot form to myself an idea of paradise more delightful than that state in which our first parents were placed. That did not last, because they did not know the world ; (which is the true reason that there are so few love-matches happy.) Eve may be considered as a foolish child, and Adam as a man very little enlightened. When people of that sort meet, they may, perhaps, be amorous at first, but that cannot last. They form to themselves, in the violence of their passion, ideas above nature ; a man thinks his mistress an angel, because she is handsome ; a woman is enchanted with the merit of her lover, because he adores her. The first change of her complexion takes from him his adoration, and the husband, ceasing to adore her, becomes hateful to her, who had no other foundation for her love ; by degrees they are disgusted with one another, and, after the example of our first parents, they throw on each other the crime of their mutual weakness ; afterwards coldness and contempt follow a great pace, and they believe they must hate each other because they are married ; their smallest faults are magnified in each other's sight, and they are blinded to their mutual perfections. A commerce established upon passion can have no other attendants. A man when he marries his mistress, ought to forget that she then appears adorable to him ; to consider that she is but a simple mortal, subject to diseases, caprice, and ill-humour. He must prepare his constancy to support the loss of her beauty, and collect a fund of complacency, which is necessary for the continual conversation of the person who is most agreeable, and the least unequal. The woman, in her side, must not expect a continuance of flatteries and obedience. She must dispose herself to obey agreeably ; a science very difficult, and of consequence, of great merit to a man capable of feeling. She must strive to heighten the charms of a mistress by the good sense and solidity of a friend. When two persons,

prepossessed with sentiments so reasonable, are united by eternal ties, all nature smiles upon them, and the common objects become charming.

I esteem much the morals of the Turks, an ignorant people, but very polite, in my opinion. A gallant, convicted of having debauched a married woman, is looked upon by them with the same horror as an abandoned woman by us; he is sure never to make his fortune, and every one would be ashamed to give a considerable employment to a man suspected of being guilty of so enormous a crime.—What would they say in that moral nation, were they to see one of our anti-knights-errants, who are always in pursuit of adventures to put innocent young women in distress, and to ruin the honour of women of fashion ; who regard beauty, youth, rank, and virtue, but as so many spurs to incite their desire to ruin, and who place all their glory in appearing artful seducers ; forgetting, that with all their care, they can never attain but to the second rank, the devils having been long since in possession of the first !

I own, that our barbarous manners are so well calculated for the establishment of vice and misery, (which is inseparable from it,) that they must have hearts and heads infinitely above the common, to enjoy the felicity of a marriage such as I have described. Nature is so weak, and so given to change, that it is difficult to support the best founded constancy, amidst those many dissipations that our ridiculous customs have rendered inevitable. A husband, who loves his wife, is in pain to see her take the liberties which fashion allows ; it appears hard to refuse them to her, and he finds himself obliged to conform himself to the polite manners of Europe ; to see every day, her hands a prey to every one who will take them : to hear her display, to the whole world, the charms of her wit ; to shew her neck in full day ; to dress for balls and shows, to attract admirers, and to listen to the idle flattery of a thousand sops. Can any man support his esteem for a creature so public, or, at least, does not she lose much of her merit.

To return to the oriental maxims, where the most beautiful women content themselves with limiting the power of their charms to him who has a right to enjoy them ; they

have too much honour to wish to make other men miserable, and are too sincere not to own they think themselves capable of exciting a passion.

I remember a conversation I had with a lady of great quality at Constantinople, the most amiable woman I ever knew in my life, and for whom I had afterwards the most tender friendship ; she owned ingenuously to me, that she was content with her husband. What libertines you Christian people are ! (she said;) it is permitted to you to receive visits from as many men as you please ; and your laws permit you, without limitation, the use of wine. I assured her she was very much misinformed ; that it was true, we received visits, but these visits were full of form and respect ; and that it was a crime to hear a man talk of love, or for us to love any other than our husbands. Your husbands are very good (said she, laughing) to content themselves with so limited a fidelity. Your eyes, your hands, your conversation, are for the public, and what do you pretend to reserve for them ? Pardon me, my beautiful Sultana, (added she, embracing me,) I have all possible inclination to believe what you say, but you would impose upon me impossibilities. I know the amorous complexion of your infidels, I see you are ashamed of them, and I will never mention them to you more.

I found so much good sense and truth in all she said, that I could scarcely contradict her ; and I owned at first, that she had reasons to prefer the morals of the Mussulmen, to our ridiculous customs, which are surprisingly opposite to the severe maxims of Christianity. And notwithstanding our foolish manners, I am of opinion, that a woman, determined to find her happiness in the love of her husband, must give up the extravagant desire of being admired by the publick ; and that a husband who loves his wife, must deprive himself of the reputation of being a gallant at court. You see that I suppose two persons very extraordinary ; it is not, then, very surprising such an union should be rare in a country where it is necessary, in order to be happy, to despise the established maxims.

I am, &c.

LET.

LETTER XXXIX.

From a lady, to a gentleman who had obtained all her friends' consent, urging him to decline his suit to her.

SIR,

YOU have often importuned me to return marks of that consideration for you which you profess for me. As my parents, to whom I owe all duty, encourage your address I wish I could. I am hardly treated by them, because I cannot. What shall I do? Let me apply to you, Sir, for my relief, who has much good sense, and I hope, generosity. Yes, Sir, let me bespeak your humanity to me, and justice to yourself, in this point; and that shall be all I will ask in my favour. I own you deserve a much better wife than I shall ever make; but yet as love is not in one's own power, if I have the misfortune to know I cannot love you, will not justice to yourself, if not pity to me, oblige you to abandon your present purpose;

But as to myself, Sir, why should you make a poor creature unhappy in the displeasure of all her friends at present, and still more unhappy, if, to avoid that, she gives up her person, where she cannot bestow her heart? If you love me, as you profess, let me ask you, Sir, Is it for my sake, or is it your own?—If, for mine, how can it be, when I must be miserable, if I am forced to marry where I cannot love? If for your own, reflect, Sir, on the selfishness of your love, and judge if it deserves from me the return you wish.

How sadly does this love already operate! You love me so well, that you make me miserable in the anger of my dearest friends!—Your love has already made them think me undutiful; and instead of the fondness and endearment I used to be treated with by them, I meet with nothing but chidings, frowns, slights, and displeasure.

And what is this love of yours to do for me hereafter!—Why, hereafter, Sir, it will be turned into hatred or indifference at least: for, then, though I cannot give you my heart, I shall have given you a title to it, and you will

have a lawful claim to its allegiance. May it not then, nay, ought it not be treated on the foot of a rebel, and expect punishment as such, instead of tenderness? Even were I to be treated with mercy, with goodness, with kindness by you, and could not deserve or return it, what a wretch would your love make me! How would it involve me in the crying sin of ingratitude! How would it destroy my reputation in the world's eye, that the best of husbands had the worst of wives!—the kindest of men the unkindest of women?

Cease then, I beseech you, this hopeless, this cruel pursuit!—Make some worthier person happier in your addresses, that can be happy in them!—By this means you will restore me (if you decline as for your own motion) to the condition you found me in; the love of my parents, and the esteem of my friends. If you really love me, this may be a hard task, but it will be a most generous one.—And there is some reason to expect it; for who that truly loves, wishes to make the object of his love miserable? This must I be, if you persist in your addresses: and I shall know by your conduct, on occasions of this uncommon request, how to consider it, and in what light to place you either as the most generous or the most ungenerous of men. Mean time, I am, Sir, most heartily, though I cannot be what you would have me,

Your well-wisher, and humble servant.

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L E T T E R X L .

Gentleman's answer to the Lady's uncommon request.

Dear Madam,

I Am exceedingly concerned, that I cannot be as acceptable to you as I have the good fortune to find myself to your honoured parents. If, Madam, I had reason to think it was owing to your prepossession in some happier man's favour, I should utterly despair of it, and should really think it would be unjust to myself, and ungenerous to you, to

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continue my address. As therefore you have, by your own appeal to me, in so uncommon a way, endeavoured to make me a party against myself, and I have shewn so much regard to you, as to be willing to oblige you, as far as I can, may I not hope the favour of you to declare generously whether I owe my happiness to such a prepossession, and whether your heart is given to some other? If this be the case you shall find all you wish on my part; and I shall take a pride to plead against myself, let me suffer ever so much by it, to your father and mother; but if not, and you have taken any other disgust to my person or behaviour, there may be hope that my utmost affection and fidelity, or a contrary conduct, may in time get the better of, let me implore you to permit me still to continue my zealous respects to you; for this I will say, that there is not a man in the world who can address you with a sincerer and more ardent flame, than,

dear Madam,

Your affectionate admirer, and humble servant.

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LETTER XLI.

The Lady's reply, in case of a profession.

SIR,

I thank you for your kind assurance, that you will befriend me in the manner I wish; and I think I owe it to your generosity to declare, there is a person in the world, that, n^ought I be left to my own choice, I should prefer to all other men. To this, Sir, it is owing that your address cannot meet with the return it might otherwise deserve from me. Yet are things so circumstanced, that while my friends prefer you, and know nothing of the other, I should find it very difficult to obtain their consents. But your generous discontinuance, without giving them the true reason of it, will lay an obligation, greater than I can express, on

Your most humble servant,

LETTER XLII.

The lady's reply, in case of no prepossession, or that she chuses not to avow it.

SIR,

I AM sorry to say that my disapprobation of your address is insuperable. Yet I cannot but think myself beholden to you for the generosity of your answer to my earnest request. I must beg you, Sir, to give over your application; but how can I say, while I cannot help being of this mind, that it is, or is not owing to a prepossession, when you declare, that in the one instance, (and that is very generous too) you will oblige me; but in the other you will not? If I cannot return love for love, be the motive what it will, pray, Sir, for your own sake as well as mine, discontinue your address. In case of prepossession you say you can, and you will oblige me. Let my unworthiness, Sir, have the same effect upon you, as if that prepossession were to be avowed. This will inspire me with a gratitude that will always make me

Your obliged servant.

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THE
C O M P L E T E
L E T T E R - W R I T E R.

P A R T III.

Familiar Letters of Advice and Instructions, &c.
in many Concerns of Life.

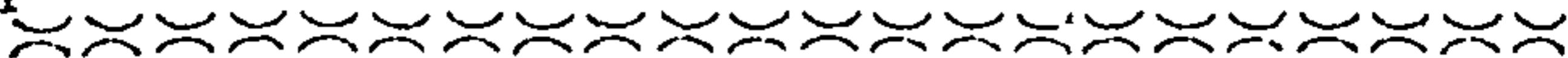
L E T T E R I.

A letter from Judge Hale, Lord Chief Justice of England, to his children, on the serious observance of the Lord's day, (commonly called Sunday), when he was on a journey; which well deserves our attention.

I AM now come well to ——, from whence I intend to write something to you on the observance of the Lord's day, and this I do for these reasons: 1st, Because it has pleased God to cast my lot so, that I am at rest at this place on that day, and the consideration therefore of that duty is proper for me and you, viz. the work fit for that day. 2dly, Because I have, by long and sound experience, found, that the due observance of that day, and the duties of it, has been of singular comfort and advantage to me; and I doubt not but it will be so to you. God Almighty is the Lord of our time, and lends it us; and it is but just we should consecrate this part of that time to him; for I have found, by a strict and diligent observation, that a due observance of the duty of this day, has ever had joined to it a blessing on the rest of my time; and the week that hath been so begun, has

has been blessed and prosperous to me. On the other side, when I have been negligent of the duty of this day, the rest of the week has been unsuccessful, and unhappy to my own secular employement; so that I could easily make an estimate of my successes the week following, by the manner of my passing this day; and this I do not write lightly or inconsiderately, but upon a long and sound observation and experience.

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L E T T E R II.

The Earl of Stafford to his son, just before his Lordship's execution.

My dear Will,

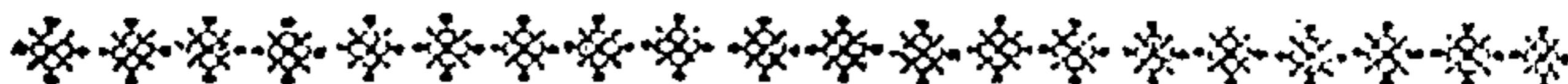
THESE are the last lines that you are to receive from a father that tenderly loves you. I wish there was a greater leisure to impart my mind unto you; but our merciful God will supply all things by his grace, and will guide and protect you in all your ways, to whose infinite goodness I bequeath you; and therefore be not discouraged, but serve him and trust in him, and he will preserve and prosper you in all things. Be sure you give all respects to my wife, that hath ever had a great love unto you, and therefore will it be well becoming you. Never be wanting in your love and care to your sisters, but let them ever be most dear unto you; for this will give others cause to esteem and respect you for it, and is a duty that you owe them in the memory of your excellent mother and myself. Therefore your care and affection to them must be the very same that you are to have of yourself; and the like regard must you have to your youngest sister, for indeed you owe it her also, both for her father and mother's sake. Sweet Will, be careful to take the advice of those friends who are, by me, desired to advise you for your education. Serve God diligently morning and evening, and recommend yourself unto him, and have him before your eyes in all your ways. With patience hear the instructions of those friends

I leave with you, and diligently follow their counsel. For, till you come by time to have experience in the world, it will be far more safe to trust to their judgment than your own. Lose not the time of your youth, but gather those seeds of virtue and knowledge which may be of use to yourself, and comfort to your friends for the rest of your life. And that this may be the better effected, attend thereto with patience, and be sure to correct and refrain yourself from anger. Suffer not sorrow to cast you down, but with cheerfulness and good courage go on the race you have to run in all sobriety and truth. Be sure with an hallowed care to have respect to all the commandments of God, and give not yourself to neglect them in the least thing, lest, by degrees, you come to forget them in the greatest; for the heart of man is deceitful above all things. And in all your duties and devotions towards God, rather perform them joyfully than pensively; for God loves a cheerful giver. For your religion, let it be directed according to that which shall be taught by those who are in God's church, the proper teachers thereof, rather than that you either fancy one to yourself, or be led by men that are singular in their own opinion, and delight to go in ways of their own finding out; for you will certainly find soberness and truth in the one, and much unsteadiness and vanity in the other. The king, I trust, will deal graciously with you; restore you those honours, and that fortune, which a distempered time hath deprived you of, together with the life of your father; which I rather advise might be by a new gift and creation from himself, than by any other means, to the end you may pay the thanks to him, without having obligations to any other. Be sure to avoid, as much as you can, to inquire after those that have been sharp in their judgments towards me, and I charge you never to suffer thoughts of revenge to enter into your heart; but be careful to be informed who were my friends in this prosecution, and to them apply yourself to make them your friends also; and on such you may rely, and bestow much of your conversation among them. And God Almighty, of his infinite goodness, bless you and your children's children; and his same goodness bless your sisters in like manner; perfect you in every good work,

work, and give you right understanding in all things;
Amen.

Your most loving father,

T. WENTWORTH.



LETTER III.

From a gentleman at Lisbon, immediately after the earthquake, to his son in London.

My dear Son,

HERE you receive this from your unhappy father, you will have heard of the destruction of this place, and of the calamitous situation of its few remaining miserable inhabitants. God, in his infinite mercy protect us! All that you have heard will fall short of what I have seen; for no words have energy sufficient to convey an idea of a scene so amazingly dreadful.—Your poor mother is no more? Ask me not for your sisters!—And as for myself, I am a vagabond, and condemned to seek my bread from those who can ill afford to feed me. But *the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away*.—I am satisfied.—All may be for the best; and our friends are, I doubt not, removed to a more permanent city, whose foundations are not to be shaken, and where sorrow is no more. Let us, my dear child, prepare to follow them; and that we may do so, let us live here that we may fear no dissolution, nor dread what may happen hereafter. Let us always be prepared for the worst, and not depend on a death-bed repentance; for you see we have not a moment that we can call our own. St Austin says, *We read of one man who was saved at the last hour, that none may despair; and of but one, that none may presume.* How unsafe, how foolish, therefore is it to put off that until to-morrow, which is so essentially necessary to be done to-day? To morrow may never come!—Oh think of that! You may be snatched away in an instant, as thousands here have been, for there is no withstanding the arms of the Al-

Almighty: No! the attempt would be vain, would be presumptuous, would be impious; and you will find, my dear son, (I hope not too late) that the only security against accidents of this sort, is the leading a religious and good life.

I am your truly affectionate father.

LETTER IV.

To Amelia, with a gold thimble.

April 25. 1778.

CAN you believe me, my little friend, when I say that the present I now make you may be of more service to you in the course of your life, than the ring of Gyges; and that I deserve your thanks as much as if I had given you the cap of Fortunatus. Perhaps you may have heard only of the latter, I will explain to you the virtues of the ring. This, my little fair, would render you invisible whenever you choose to be so; you might then range thro' the apartments of your play fellows unseen, play ten thousand little tricks which at present it is not in your power to do; but, indeed, the greatest advantages of the ring are reserved for another age; when you may be present with your lover, and discover the true sentiments of his heart, perplex your rival, hide her Brussels and her jewels the night before a ball, and torment her with all the arts of ingenious mischief. These are advantages which at present, perhaps, may not tempt you; the cap, as I can easily imagine, to be rather the object of your wishes. But tell me, you say, how this thimble can be of such infinite service?

At your age, my little friend, employment is of the utmost use: to be busy, if not to be learning to be virtuous, will at least protect you from the contrary impressions, whilst your imagination is employed how best to shade a rose, or your fancy determines the colours of the various

parts of your work, vanity will scarce have time to whisper in your ear, that you have more beauty than another, or inspire you with too early a love of gaiety and pleasure.

When you have lived to that age in which your reason shall be ripened, you will, perhaps, perceive that those little follies which your sex are guilty of, proceed from a fault in their education, and that idleness is the parent of vice. Thus then in the early years of life, whilst you place the thimble on your finger, you are guarding your bosom against the approach of foibles which might banish those from your society who are attracted by the charms of your person.

Another of its virtues, which, in all probability you can never want to experience, is, that, if properly applied, it contains a charm against the calamities of poverty. I have known many a female, who, by its assistance, has supported herself with decency, and felt the pleasure of living, without depending on the beneficence of others.

A few years hence, when the youth whom your eyes have wounded, shall beg your acceptance of some trifle in the warmest terms imaginable, he will intreat you to preserve it; but I, on the contrary, shall desire you to be frequent in the use of this, and to wear it out for my sake.

I am, &c.

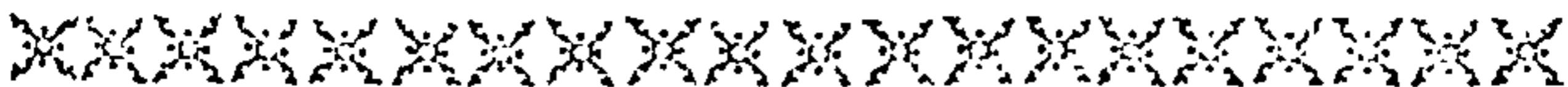
LETTER V.

On the vicissitudes of human life.

Remeber, my son, that human life is the journey of a day. We rise in the morning of youth, full of vigour, and full of expectation; we set forward with spirit and hope, with gaiety and with diligence, and travel on a while, in the straight road of piety, towards the mansions of rest. In a short time we remit our fervour, and endeavour to find some mitigation of our duty, and sonic more easy means of obtaining the same end. We then relax our vigour, and resolve no longer to be terrified with crimes at a

dis-

distance, but rely upon our own constancy, and venture to approach what we resolve never to touch. We thus enter the bowers of ease, and repose in the shades of security. Here the heart softens, and vigilance subsides; we are then willing to inquire, whether another advance cannot be made, and whether we may not at least, turn our eyes upon the gardens of pleasure. We approach them with scruple and hesitation; we enter them, but enter timorous and trembling, and always hope to pass thro' them without losing the road of virtue, which we for a while keep in our sight, and to which we propose to return. But temptation succeeds temptation, and one compliance prepares us for another; we, in time, lose the happiness of innocence, and solace our disquiet with sensual gratifications. By degrees we let fall the remembrance of our original intention, and quit the only adequate object of rational desire. We entangle ourselves in business, immerse ourselves in luxury, and rove thro' the labyrinths of inconstancy, till the darkness of old age begins to invade us, and disease and anxiety obstruct our way. We then look back upon our lives with horror, with sorrow, with repentance; and wish, but too often vainly wish, that we had not forsaken the ways of virtue. Happy are they, my son, who learn not to despair, but shall remember, that though the day is past, and their strength is wasted, there yet remains one effort to be made; that reformation is never hopeless, nor sincere endeavours ever unassisted; that the wanderer may at length return after all his errors; and that he who implores strength and courage from above, shall find danger and difficulty give way before him.



LETTER VI.

From a father to his son, on his admission to the university.

My dear Son,

YOU are now going into the wide world. Every step you take is attended with danger, and requires caution. My eye is upon you no longer, and the vigilance of

governors, and the care of tutors, cannot follow you every where. Few will have concern or affection enough to advise you faithfully. Your conduct must be a good deal regulated by your own reflections. The only secure paths are those of religion and virtue, in which it will not be difficult for you to walk, if you live agreeably to that simplicity of life which the rules of academical societies prescribe. Mix not intemperance with your growing years, nor treasure up infirmities against an age the fittest for employment. You have received health from your parents, and you owe it to your children. Be careful in the choice of your company; pay civility to all; have friendship with few; not too quickly with any. An idle companion will corrupt and disgrace you while you associate with him, and asperse and expose you when you shall shake him off. In this, be advised by those whom I trust to do all good offices for you. Whenever you find yourself with persons of superior age, or quality, or station, or endowment; pay a deference to them; so much is due to their experience and character. Modesty is the most amiable virtue, especially in a young man who professes himself a learner. Possibly, in a large society, you may meet with some bold young men who will think to arrogate to themselves a value amongst their ill-bred companions, by daring to say and do abusive things to their governors: but do not you imitate such examples; for prudence is true magnanimity. A brave mind is seen in persevering through the difficulties of a virtuous course; in the conquest of irregular appetites and passions, and in scorning to do any thing that is mean or base. Have nothing to do with politics; which, when you shall have studied all your life, you will not have found out what will hereafter be the humours or resentments, or private interests, or public views of men in power: A study, which, as it is generally directed, rather leads from virtue, is foreign to your present purpose, and in which, if you could really have any skill, at your age, it would seem to be affected. Take the proper advantage of living in a society. Observe the different tempers and dispositions of men; shun their vices, imitate their virtues, make use of their learning, and let the many eyes that are upon you, the consciousness of your duty,

duty, and the indignation to be insignificant, raise an emulation in you to excel in some kind of art or knowledge, that may hereafter be of use to the public. From the moment of your entrance take care of your reputation. Let not one exercise go out of your hands that hath not employed your utmost diligence. Notwithstanding the affection I have for you, I shall not be able to do you the service I desire, unless you assist me with your character. And, in all doubtful cases, let not your father, who loves you best, and your governors, who are well able to direct you, be the only friends that you will not consult, I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

To Demetrius, with a present of fruit, on early rising.

June 28. 1776.

YOU would have received a much larger quantity of fruit, but, to say the truth, my band of musicians have made bold with more of it this summer than usual ; however, when I consider it is the only wages I pay them, I am no otherwise displeased with it, than as it prevents me from obliging my friends in town as I could wish.

My Lucinda, you know, is extremely fond of birds, and she says it would be cruel to deprive them of their liberty; when we can be entertained with their songs without it; to encourage then their residence amongst us, they are not denied a great share of the productions of my garden.

We were this morning at six o'clock in our garden ; an hour which you are totally unacquainted with, and which, notwithstanding, affords the noblest scene which a human creature can be present at.

The sun, my Demetrius, was just risen above the horizon, and all the eastern sky was tinged with blushes; the zephyrs as they passed were fraught with fragrance from the opening flowers, and the feathered songsters were waked to their

respective parts, in their morning hymn to the Author of nature.

Whilst my Lucinda, and I were walking, like a fond old fashioned couple, arm in arm, I could not but recollect that part of the Paradise lost, where Milton has described our first parents as rising to their labours, and addressing their grateful orisons to the bounteous Father of every mercy.

There is indeed something which at this time inspires us with gratitude to our Maker, and produces sentiments in almost every bosom, like that which are given to Adam.

*These are thy glorious works Parent of good,
Almighty, thine this universal frame ;
Thus wondrous fair, thyself how wondrous then !
Unspeakable, who first above these heavens
To us invisible or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works, yet these declare
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine.*

There is likewise something which must create a grateful sense of our obligation to heaven, when we wake again to life, with the blessing of health, and recollect that many have passed the night in all the anguish of pain or disease. As for myself, I should retire to sleep with no little anxiety, if I were not assured that we were protected in those hours by our Maker, when we are not conscious of our own existence. There cannot surely be a more comfortable reflection, than being convinced that a power who commands and directs all nature is our guard, without whose knowledge no action is committed, nor even the most secret thought can arise.

With this confidence of security, the good man commits himself to the arms of sleep, where all besides must fear it; and feels serenity, where every other breast must be composed.

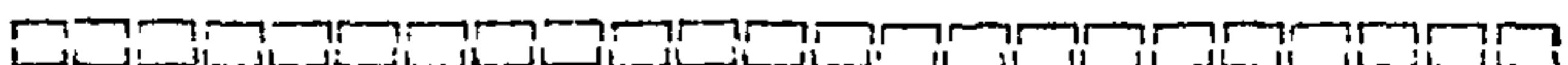
The usual serenity of the morning, which inspires every warbler with cheerfulness, detain us in the garden till our little boy came running to inform us that the breakfast waited.

' Is it not extremely absurd,' said Lucinda, as we returned, ' for mankind to complain of the short duration of their lives, when they even refuse to live a number of hours which Providence has bestowed on them? How many can we recollect amongst our acquaintance who have been lost to every joy this morning has afforded us; and who may, notwithstanding, before night, assert, that the age which men in general attain to, serves only to conduct them to a superficial knowledge of the sciences, or that old age approaches almost as soon as we begin to live.'

Such indeed is frequently the language of human creatures; who lose the most valuable parts of every day. Such too I have heard from your mouth, but then indeed you rise — by eleven.

Lucinda and myself, who are great advocates for early hours, want much to try whether we cannot reform you, as we have already done Leontes: and should therefore rejoice to see you amongst us, there is then some probability of your seeing the sun rise, which I sincerely believe you have not done for many years, and which is one of the most pleasing scenes upon the theatre of nature.

I am, &c.



LETTER VIII.

To Lucinda, on the happiness of a domestic matrimonial life.

July 5. 1774.

AFTER so many years which we have passed, my Lucinda, almost without separation, one would naturally imagine, that the few days absence I have known should not be displeasing; and yet, believe me, I am already tired of the town, and I am preparing to leave it with the utmost expedition, to return to domestic joys.

When I reflect on my disposition, I am greatly thankful to Providence, that the same dislike for public pleasures has always prevailed on Lucinda as myself, and that we have

been

been actuated by the same inclinations during the tenor of our lives.

Though I own myself in general but little fond of the town, yet I never fail of seeing objects in it which remind me of my own felicity, and increasè the love I bear you. Alas ! my dear, the fashionable tenor of matrimonial lives is so little suited to my turn of mind, that I must have been wretched with what is now called a good wife. I could by no means have endured to see the heart of the woman I loved entirely devoted to pleasure, nor have ever been content to share it with the king of trumps.

It is, however, happy for mankind, that the same delicacy does not universally prevail, as there are now many couples who are thought to be happy, because the wife has never transgressed the bounds of virtue, nor the husband treated her with language which he would be ashamed to use to a stranger. Their amusements are distinct from each other, they know nothing of that heart-felt joy which arises from being with those they love, secluded from every eye, and breathing the sweets of the balmy evening. Their only care is refining those pleasures which repetition has rendered dull, and inventing new arts to pass the tedious day, which, notwithstanding their endeavours, afford some hours in which that most impertinent of all companions, called *Self*, never fails of intrusion.

There are many women in the world, I believe, to whom I might have made a good husband, but I do not recollect any one but my Lucinda, who could have made me a happy one. How greatly then am I indebted to thy amiable disposition and virtues, since indifference and contempt are to be incompatible in the marriage state ? To heaven, likewise, my sincerest thanks are due, for preserving its best and most valuable gift to bless my life. For, as Milton elegantly expresses it,

With the conversing I forgot all time,
All seasons and their change, all please alike.

Sweet is the breath of morn; her rising sweet,
With charms of earliest birds; pleasant the sun;

When

When first on this delightful land he spreads
His orient beams, on herbs, trees, fruit, and flower,
Glist'ring with dew ; fragrant the fertile earth
After soft showers; and sweet the coming on
Of grateful evening mild ; then silent night,
With this her solemn bird, and this fair moon,
And these the gems of heav'n, her starry train :
But neither breath of morn, when she ascends
With charm of earliest birds, nor rising sun
On this delightful land ; nor herb, fruit, flower ;
Glist'ring with dew, nor fragrance after showers ;
Nor grateful evening mild ; nor silent night,
With this her solemn bird, nor walk by moon
Or glittering star-light ; without thee is sweet.

Having once begun these beautiful lines of my Lucinda's favourite poet, I found it impossible to break off sooner ; nay, I was pleased to be able to express so elegantly the language of my heart.

Aranthes, who has just come in, and has looked over my shoulder, upon seeing so much poetry, cried out, Very fine, truly, I shall take the first opportunity to inform Lucinda of this, I assure you. — If you have any thing, I replied, to acquaint Lucinda with, you may make use of me, for I am now writing to her. How is this? says Aranthes, what jarding your letters with poetry after more than twenty years marriage? I concluded you were addressing some other fair one, and endeavouring to soften her inexorable heart by the Muses's assistance. But come with me to Lady—'s. Not a word however of Lucinda all night ; to be seen with such an old fashioned creature as you, would spoil my reputation entirely, if your character should once be known.

You know Aranthes, my Lucinda, extremely well, and will perceive by this that he is still the same man as ever. He desires me to apologize for his taking me from you, as he calls it, and at the same time to send you his compliments. My blessing to the children, whom I shall make happy by some little presents at my return ; to thee, my love, I shall bring a heart more truly than ever, more in-

timately acquainted with thy virtues, and more perfectly convinced of its own felicity. Believe me, &c.

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LETTER IX.

To Cleanthes, on friendship, age, and death.

Nov. 15. 1785.

IT is no small alleviation to that anxiety which the loss of a friend produces, to reflect that the same virtues which procured him our esteem, will likewise entitle him to eternal happiness. This consolation I received upon closing the eyes of Aristus, the last and most melancholy office which friendship can perform.

At length, my Cleanthes, that friendship, which we once divided, is now confined to ourselves. We have seen those who advanced with us along the vale of life sink into the grave, and have lived to be the only links of the chain of friendship which we helped to constitute at our entrance on the world. We have together, in the hours of youth, looked back and despised the toys of infancy; in our manhood we have smiled at the pleasures of our youth, and are now come to that age in which we look back on all alike, and consider every prospect that terminates on this side the grave, as beneath our notice or regard.

At this season of life, one of the most considerable platures which remain to human nature, is the recollection of the moments which are past. Now, whilst I write to my Cleanthes, I recal with satisfaction the time in which we were induced, by a party of sentiments, to form the social connection, and the steady union in which we have passed from that hour to the present. The time approaches which must put a period to our friendship; none hope that Providence will extend their lives to an unusual length, but those who fear to die; as for ourselves, we have reached the age which few are born to attain, and which, in the language of an admired writer, requires a great deal of providence to produce. I flatter myself that our days have been so spent that

that we have no reason to tremble at the thought of our last, nor embitter the remaining part of our life with apprehension for the inevitable hour to come.

We have lent the tear of pity to distress, and alleviated the misfortune of our fellow-creatures; we have neither indulged our passions, nor neglected the praise we owe the Author of our mercies. Why therefore, should we tremble? We leave a world, whose pleasures we are no longer capable of possessing; we have passed through its enjoyments, and have found them vain; we leave it for the happiest of states, and yet the tender tie of parents holds us; we must leave those whom Nature obliges us to love, yet let us remember, that we leave them to the care of a divine Providence, and be thankful that we were not called whilst their minds were yet unformed, or we had conducted them from the budding to the bloom of reason.

If at any time a kind of wish arises which would defer the hour which Heaven has allotted for my last, it is when I am surrounded by my family, and observe the looks of tenderness which they gratefully bestow on me; yet sometimes their being present has the opposite effect, and I am apprehensive lest the moment should not arrive till I mourn the loss of a child.

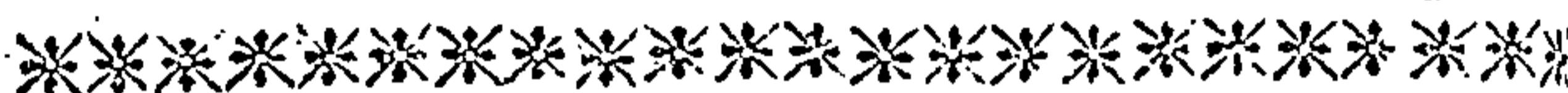
I know not that any thing would give more considerable amusement than our reviewing together our past lives, and recollecting the dangers we have passed from the storms of our passions, when now time has lulled them to rest. It would not be uninteresting, I imagine, to collect the various opinions and ideas we have had of the same object, and mark the progress of the human mind through the different stages of life. Cleantus, therefore, who enjoys the blessing of health in a more eminent degree than his friend, will hasten to see and give him the greatest satisfaction he can possibly know.

I write this from the grotto which Lucinda's fancy decorated, and where we have passed so many happy hours. Providence has taken care to wean us from the love of life by degrees. Scarce have we reached the ripened age of manhood before we have more friends in the grave than surviving; and from that moment, which is almost the first of

serious reflection, we begin to perceive the vanity of human happiness. It was the will of Heaven that I should mourn the loss of my Lucinda, and feel the pang of separation, yet not till we had grown old in love, and sweetened the greatest part of our lives with connubial happiness. Since the retrospect part of our lives present us with nothing which should terrify our imagination, let us pass the remaining days which Heaven shall allot us in calm serenity, and in resignation to the divine will.

Whenever the destined hour shall come, my Cleanthes may we sink contented from the world, and in the perfect assurance of eternal happiness.

I am, &c.



LETTER X.

A letter from Bishop Atterbury to his son Obadiah, at Christ church College in Oxford.

(Containing some useful hints in regard to writing letters.)

Dear Obby,

I thank you for your letter, because there are manifest signs in it of your endeavouring to excel yourself, and, of consequence, to please me. You have succeeded in both respects, and will always succeed, if you think it worth your while to consider what you write, and to whom, and let nothing, though of a trifling nature, pass through your pen negligently; get but the way of writing correctly and justly, time and use will teach you to write readily afterwards; not but too much care may give a stiffness to your style, which ought, in all letters, by all means to be avoided; the turn of them should be always natural and easy, for they are an image of private and familiar conversation. I mention this with respect to the four or five lines of yours which have an air of poetry, and do therefore naturally resolve themselves into blank verses. I send you your letter again, that yourself may now make the same observation. But

you

you took the hint of that thought from a poem, and it is no wonder, therefore, that you heightened the phrase a little when you were expressing it. The rest is as it should be; and particularly, there is an air of duty and sincerity, which, if it comes from your heart, is the most acceptable present you can make me. With these good qualities, an incorrect letter would please me, and without them, the finest thoughts and language will make no lasting impression upon me. The great Being says, you know, *My son, give me thine heart;* implying, that without it all other gifts signify nothing. Let me conjure you, therefore, never to say anything, either in a letter or common conversation, that you do not think; but always to let your mind and your words go together on the most trivial occasions. Shelter not the least degree of insincerity under the notion of a compliment, which, as far as it deserves to be practised by a man of probity, is only the most civil and obliging way of saying what you really mean; and whoever employs it otherwise, throws away truth for breeding. I need not tell you how little this character gets by such an exchange.

I say not this as if I suspected that in any part of your letter you intended to write what was proper, without any regard to what was true: for I am resolved to believe that you were in earnest from the beginning to the end of it, as much as I am, when I tell you that I am,

Your loving father, &c.



LETTER XI.

From a young lady in one of the Canary Islands, to her sister in England, whom she had never seen; containing a pressing invitation to her to come over, and describing the beauties of the place to her.

MUST we for ever, my dear sister, converse only at this unhappy distance? Are we born of the same parents, to be eternal aliens to each other? —— I have been told wonders of your wit, ingenuity, and good nature.—

Must strangers or at least very distant kindred, reap all the benefit of these amiable qualities, whilst those that are nearest, and ought methinks to be dearest, mourn the want of it? —— They say there is a secret sympathy between persons of the same blood, and I am sure I feel it; how is it then with you? — Have you never any of those yearnings, those longings, to see the daughter of your father and mother, which so powerfully agitate me in my daily musings, and nightly dreams? If no affection, pity should make you wish to be with a sister who stands so much in need of your assistance. You know, my father's great affairs suffer him seldom to be with his family. — Death has deprived me of my mother, and devotion of her sister; but she forsakes me only to join herself to her Creator; you have no such plea. And as you are six years older than myself, and of a much superior understanding, it is a kind of duty in you to be with me, to correct the errors of my unexperienced youth, and form my mind by the model of your own. — Believe me, I would be most obedient to your instructions, and love the precepts for the teacher's sake. — What can withhold you from coming to a place where your presence is so ardently desired? — What can you find so pleasing to you in a kingdom rent with internal divisions? where father against son, and brother against brother maintaining an unnatural contest. — A kingdom, where pride, injustice, luxury, and profaneness, are almost universal, and religion become a reproach to the profession! — A kingdom, sinking by swift degrees into misery and contempt, yet infatuated so far as to dote on the cause of their undoing. — At least this is the account we have of it. — Can this be agreeable to a person of your nice and distinguished taste! — O, my dearest sister, listen to the dictates of reason, of duty, and of nature. All join to call you from that worse than Egypt into the land of Canaan. — Here peace and innocence go hand in hand, and all the graces, all the pleasures, wait upon their steps. No foreign wars, no home-bred jars, no envy, no distrust, disturb the sweet serenity of these blissful seats, but all is harmony and love. Eternal zephyrs watch our morning walks, bringing ten thousand odours on their wings, and tempt us to the groves

from whence they spring. —— In troops they wander through the jessamine lanes, or sit in orange bowers, where fruits, ripe and in blossom, charm our smell and taste. Sometimes on mules we take short journeys to Tenerife, and on the foot of that stupendous mount, recline on banks of roses umbrall'd over with spreading myrtles. Then change the scene, and view the spacious vineyards, where huge alcoves of clustering grapes hung pendant over our heads. Sometimes we roam thro' a long gallery of stately pines, whose loaded boughs present us every kind of fruit in one. But there is no describing half the various sweets which nature, with a lavish hand, pours on these isles, which justly have the name of *Fortunate!* nor (I flatter myself) will there be need of further arguments to bring you to us. — My father has just now informed me, that Captain —— carries his positive orders for your coming, and I may rest in an assured hope of enjoying the happiness I so long, and so earnestly have wished; yet I am craving still more. I would fain, methinks, imagine, if I could, that with your obedience to our father, some little share of love for me was mingled, and that you will embark with the more readiness, by the thoughts that you will embrace one who has so tender an affection for you, and thinks it the greatest blessing to subscribe herself,

My dear sister,
Your most affectionate and most obedient servant,
M A R I A B O Y L E.



LETTER XII.

From Miss Middleton to Miss Pemberton, giving her the melancholy account of her sister's death.

Dear Miss Pemberton,
JUST as I was setting out for Worcestershire, in order to follow my sister, who, you know, has been some time there, I received a letter from my aunt, acquainting me that she was taken ill last Friday and died in two days after. —

Yes, that lately so much admired, that splendid beauty, is now reduced to a cold lump of clay,—for ever closed are those once sparkling eyes;—hushed is that voice that gave so much delight;—those limbs which art had ransacked to adorn, have now no other covering than a simple shroud, and in a few days will be confined within the narrow compass of a tomb.—Ah! what is life?—what all the gaudy pride of youth, of pomp, of grandeur! what the vain adoration of a flattering world!—Delusive pleasures,— fleeting nothings; how unworthy are you of the attention of a reasonable being!—You know the gay manner in which we have always lived, and will, no doubt, be surprised to find expressions of this kind fall from my pen;—but, my dear Pemberton, hitherto my life has been a dream; but I am now, thank Heaven, awake.—My sister's fate has roused me from my lethargy of mind, made me see the ends for which I was created, and reflect that there is no time to be lost for their accomplishment.—Who can assure me, that in an hour, a moment, I may not be as she is!—And if so, oh! how unfit, how unprepared to make my audit at the great tribunal!—In what a strange stupidity have I passed fourteen or fifteen years; (for those of my childhood are not to be reckoned).—I always knew that death was the portion of mortality, yet never took the least care to aim against the terrors of it.—Whenever I went a little journey, I provided myself with all things necessary, yet have I got nothing ready for that long, last voyage, I must one day take into another wor'd.—What an infatuation, to be anxious for the minutest requisites for ease and pleasure, and in dwelling where I proposed to stay a few weeks, or months perhaps, yet wholly regardless of what was wanting for making my felicity in an internal situation? Reason, just kindled, shudders at the recollection of that endless train of follies I have been guilty of.—Well might the poor Bertha feel all their force; vain, gay, unthinking as myself, I tremble at the bare imagination of those ideas, which her last moments must inspire; for I now faithfully believe with, Mr Waller, that,

*Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view,
Who stand upon the threshold of the new.*

Whether it was the suddenness of her fate, or a letter she wrote to me not two hours before her death, I know not, that has made the alteration in me; but of this I am certain, that I can never enough acknowledge the goodness of that divine Power, without whose assistance it could not have been brought about.

I shall make no apology for this melancholy epistle, because I am very sensible that whatever concern you may feel for my sister, it will be greatly alleviated by finding I am become at last a reasonable creature. I inclose you the letter she sent, to the end you may judge with what kind of sentiments she left this world. — Heaven has, I hope, accepted her contrition, and will enable me, as you will find she desires, to be more early in mine.

I am, dear Miss,
Your most afflicted humble servant,
MIDDLETON.

(XOXOXOXOXO(X)XOXOXOXOX)

LETTER XIII.

Inclosed in the foregoing.

Miss Middleton's letter to her sister, wrote a few hours before her death, advising her not to defer making the necessary preparations for futurity.

My dear Sister,

Before this can possibly reach you, the unchanging fate will be passed upon me, and I shall be either happy or miserable for ever.—None about me pretend to flatter me with the hopes of seeing another morning.—Short space to accomplish the mighty work of eternal salvation!— Yet I cannot leave the world without admonishing,—without conjuring you to be more early in preparing for that dreadful hour, you are sure not to escape, and know not how shortly it may arrive.—We have had the same sort

of education,—have lived in the same manner; and tho' accounted very like, have resembled each other more in our follies than our faces.—Oh! what a waste of time have we not both been guilty of! To dress well has been our study.—Parade, equipage, and admiration our ambition,—pleasure our avocation, and the mode our god.—How often, alas! have I profaned, in idle chat, that sacred name, by whose merits alone I have hopes to be forgiven! How often have I sat and heard his miracles and sufferings ridiculed by the false wits of the age, without feeling the least emotion at the blasphemy!—Nay, how often have I myself, because I heard others do so, called in question that futurity I now go to prove, and am already convinced of! One moment, methinks, I see the blissful seats of Paradise unveiled;—I hear ten thousand myriads of myriads of celestial forms tuning their golden harps to songs of praise to the unutterable name,—The next a scene all black and gloomy, spreads itself before me, whence issue nought but sobs, and groans, and horrid shrieks.—My fluctuating imagination varies the prospect, and involves me in a sad uncertainty of my eternal doom:—On one hand beckoning angels smile upon me, while, on the other, the Furies stand prepared to seize my fleeting soul.—Methinks I dare not hope, nor will the Rev. Dr. G.—succour me to despair!—he comforts me with the promises in holy writ, which, to my shame, I was unacquainted with before; but now I feel them balm to my tormented conscience.—Dear, dear sister, I must bid you eternally adieu;—I have discharged my duty in giving you this warning. O! may my death, which you will shortly hear of, give it that weight I wish and pray for; you are the last object of my earthly cares:—I have done with all below.—Shall retire into myself, and devote the few moments allowed me, to the penitence which alone can entitle me to a glorious immortality. I die,

Your sincere friend,

and most affectionate and despairing sister,

BERINTHIA

LET.

LETTER XIV.

A letter to Miss W.———, advising her to take care of her house, &c.

AS you are a tenant at will in a very handsome genteel house, and are now capable of furnishing it in the politest manner, ruling it by the strictest maxims of economy and decorum, permit a friend to give a few cursory hints in an affair of so much importance..

Your building is composed of some of the finest materials I ever saw, and is so much the more liable to discover any flaw or spot that may accidentally touch it. It is erected to a proper height, a just size, reared on a regular plan, and finished with the most accurate proportion. — On the top stands an eminent turret furnished with a room of a globular form, which I observe has two crystal windows in the front; these are so constructed as to be exceeding useful, as they command an extensive prospect, and, if always kept clean and bright, will prove a very great ornament to the house. I advise you not to look through them at every object that passes by; be sure to shut them soon at night, and you may open them as early as you please in the morning. On each side I discover a small portal to receive company; take care they don't always stand open, for then you will be crowded with visitors, and perhaps with many such as you do not like; let them never be shut against the instructive parent, the advising friend, or the supplicating orphan. — — — I took notice of one gate in the front, at which all your company goes out, let that generally be barred close; be cautious what visitors you let out publicly, lest, if any bad characters be seen coming from it, you draw a scandal upon your house; it will be necessary, therefore, to lay a strict injunction of vigilance on your two porters, who stand sentinels in liveries of the deepest scarlet, just without the ivory pallisadoes. — — — I have seen some people paint the two pannels just below the windows; but I would advise you to the contrary, for your natural colours far exceed all the decorations of art. — — — This part of the

edifice is supported by a pillar of Corinthian marble, whose base is ornamented with two alabaster semi-globes, over which is generally drawn a fine lawn curtain of admirable needle-work.

Beneath is the great hall, in which you have a small closet of exquisite workmanship. This, I suppose, is the place of your secret retirement open to none but yourself, or some faithful intimate friend. —— I advise you to keep this always clean, furnish it well, make it a little library of the best practical authors, and visit it frequently, especially when you return home from church, or leave a circle of acquaintance, which you have met at the tea-table. Let the out-side of the hall not appear like a hearse, hung round with escutcheon's, nor like a coach of state, debauched with gilt and colourings; but let it be plain, neat and clean, to convince the world that it is kept more for use than ornament.

You are sensible, Miss, time effaces the beauty, and demolishes the strength of the noblest structure, and therefore will not be surprised to find your little tenement subject to the same change. Doubtless, it has often wanted repairs, though you have lived in it no longer, which are plain intimations that the house will one day fall. —— You may soon be turned out—the landlord may give you warning, or may not—this is all uncertain—be ever ready to go when called upon, and then you will not be afraid to leave it at the shortest notice. —— One thing I would observe too, is, that when you quit the house, no other tenant will inhabit it, but it will lie waste and in ruins; yet the proprietor will some time or other rebuild it for your reception, in a more durable manner, with the same materials, but so refined and modified, that it will be liable to no accident or decay; and as it is absolutely necessary that your habitation be now reared in the other place, I heartily wish it may be in a finer country, under a milder climate, and well sheltered from all storms; then will your situation be happy and honourable, and your lease never expire.

Yours, &c.

ROBERT N.

LETTER XV.

From a sensible lady, with a never failing receipt for a beauty wash.

AS you seem so intent on improving the personal charms of your already-amiable daughter, I can no longer delay answering your letter.—You would be glad, you say, of a receipt to make a wash; but it must be perfectly innocent. What I recommend, Madam, is truly so, and will greatly illustrate and preserve her complexion.

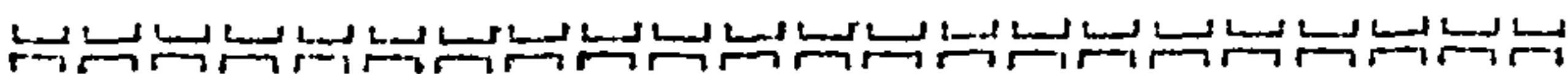
Pray let her observe the following rules.

In the morning, fair water is to be used as a preparatory; after which she must abstain from all sudden gusts of passion, particularly envy, as that gives the skin a sallow paleness. It may seem trifling to talk of temperance: yet must this be attended to, both in eating and drinking, if she would avoid those pimples, for which the advertised washes are a boasted cure. Instead of rouge, let her use moderate exercise, which will excite a natural bloom in her cheeks not to be imitated by arts. Ingenious candour, and unaffected good humour, will give an openness to her countenance that will make her universally agreeable. A desire of pleasing will add fire to her eyes, and breathing the morning air at sun-rise will give her lips a vermilion hue. That amiable vivacity, which she now possesses, may be happily heightened and preserved, if she avoids late hours and card-playing, but not otherwise: for the first gives the face a drowsy disagreeable aspect, and the last is the mother of wrinkles.—A white hand is a very desirable ornament; and a hand can never be white unless it be kept clean. Nor is this all; for if the young lady will excel her companions in this respect, she must keep her hands in constant motion, which will occasion the blood to circulate freely, and have a wonderful effect. The motion I would recommend, is working at her needle, brushing up the house, or twirling the distaff. It was this industry in our grandmothers which gave Kneller an opportunity of gratifying posterity with the view of so many fine hands and arms in his incomparable

por-

portraits.—A few words more, and I have done.—Let her preserve an unaffected neatness in her apparel : her fortune will permit her to dress elegantly ; but her good sense should always prevent her from descending to gaudiness, which strikes the eyes of the ignorant, but disgusts those of true taste and discernment ; besides, Madam, your daughter has so many natural charms, that she can have no occasion to wear cloaths that will attract all the attention of the multitude. She possesses more beauties than she is acquainted with, which is no small addition to her merit ; but how can it be otherwise, when she is your daughter, and has you for an example.

I am, &c.



L E T T E R XVI.

Domestic rule the province of the wife.

Madam,

I Must assert that the right of directing domestic affairs is, by the law of nature, in the woman : and that we are perfectly qualified for the exercise of dominion, notwithstanding what has often been said by male-coats to the contrary. Those who pretend to direct our bringing up, seem to have destined us to that power which they would afterwards dispute. We are employed in our samplers, or diverting ourselves with our babies ; we pass from our mother's nursery to our own, and from imaginary visits to real ones, without fatiguing ourselves with a variety of unnecessary acquirements, on which the men must value themselves. Indeed, which I would, condemn too eager a pursuit of, we are taught singing and dancing ; but what are these to the drudgery of schools and universities ! The business of a family, when thoroughly performed, takes in the whole circle of our time, and affords no room for any thing except innocent relaxations. We are certainly then more likely to understand domestic policy than the men, who have twenty other things to mind. A mere housewife, like

a mere scholar, is fit for nothing else, I admit, and will make a man a very unsociable companion. But as some men of great application to their respective professions have, notwithstanding, a very polite behaviour; so a woman may make the government of her house the principal care, without suffering it to become the principal theme of her discourse; nor do I think it at all necessary, that to establish a character as a manager, her husband should twice or thrice a week hear her scolding the servants. This is one of the great objections to female government, and our adversaries would fain present it as a thing as necessary to us, as a standing army to the administration. But both may be calumnies, and the mere effects of a desire to get into other folks places. Experience is wholly on our side; for, wherever the master exceeds his proper sphere, and pretends to give law to the cook-maid as well as the coachman, we observe a great deal of discord and confusion. When a man, who is always a better judge when things are wrong, than of the method of setting them to rights, entrenches on the woman's province, it is the ready way to make the rest of the family despise them both. But a woman of tolerable good sense is allowed to direct her house without controul, all things go well; she prevents even her husband's wishes, the servant's know their business, and the whole family live easy and happy. It is with great concern that I perceive our sex, of late, inclined to mind any thing rather than their families, which inclination must have fatal consequences. Can there be any thing more honourable for a woman than the right management of her family? And it may be observed to them, that they must take their choice either to manage their children or servants, or to be managed by them. If liberty is the thing they aim at, they certainly mistake the road. A woman's freedom consists in power, and not in a licence to gad about, which is scandalous even in a girl, and bespeaks a giddiness of soul below comparison. The conduct of the estate or business ought surely to be in the husband, and if he parts with it, it is an act of weakness. The conduct of the house belongs as justly to the wife; and no man ought to marry a woman whom he would not trust with the management of such concern. Adieu, dear friend!

imbroach not on the province of your husband, but continue to be mistress in your own. I am,

Your affectionate friend.

LETTER XVII.

From a lady to her acquaintance, on growing old.

My dear Lucy,

I have been thinking that human understanding is no less liable to be unhinged, than the mechanism of the human frame. The least jar of surprise puts it out of tune, and one cannot presently get into order again.—We have certainly passion of the mind, as well as diseases of the body, which we are not aware of, till some sudden accident calls them forth; and the one are no less capable of suspending the faculties of reason for a time, than the other are of obstructing the animal fluid, to the proper circulation of which we owe our health and vigour.

I was led into this reflection by catching myself in a folly which I shall not be much ashamed of confessing, since, on contemplating some passages my observation supplies me with, I find the foible inherent in a more or less degree, in the whole species of human kind, though few are ingenious enough to acknowledge it.

I was sitting yesterday in my parlour window, looking carelessly on the people as they passed; when all at once, a fellow abruptly presented himself before me, and cried in a hoarse voice, *Spectacles, Madam, fine spectacles;* and at the same time thrust a pair of those nose-saddles within the sash. You cannot imagine, dear Lucy, how I was shocked; I gave the man a short answer, and immediately drew down the window.—*Good God!* said I to myself, *do I look old enough to be supposed to want spectacles?* not considering that it was the fellow's trade to offer them to every body, and that many people younger than myself were obliged to make use of them.—I ran however to my glass, and fancied

cied I perceived what they call the crow's feet appearing at the corners of my eyes.—I looked, and looked again, and the more I did so, the more I thought these cruel marks of time were visible; and now, recollecting that my last birthday brought me into my one and thirtieth year, and that a very few more of them would rank me among the number of the aged, I fell into such a fit of the vapours as I had never before known. Is not this unaccountable? — Where now was my understanding? — Where my reason? The little share I have is sufficient to make me know, that whoever lives a great while in this world must grow old, and few of us there are who desire to die young. Why was not this knowledge at hand to make me easy under the common course of nature?

I do assure you, I had grown two or three hours older before I could bring myself to be reconciled with the apprehensions that every moment brought me nearer to that so much dreaded stage of life; but, thank Heaven, I got the better of it at last, and laughed at the foolish part my imagination had been acting.

That we all, however, have a natural aversion to grey hairs, and wrinkles, cannot be denied; and that to overcome the uneasiness their approach inflicts, requires the utmost exertion of our reason; yet is not this an inconsistency, a kind of absurdity, in our habit of thinking? — We ridicule a thousand lesser follies of mankind, yet pass over that which more than all deserves censure, the being ashamed, or afraid of attaining what all the world, as well as ourselves, would wish to arrive at.—But we would live for ever if we could, and yet be always young; we would annihilate the depredations of time from fifteen to sixty; and even then not be content perhaps to be thought on our decline.

Were old age terrible to us merely as it is the forerunner of death, or as it is generally attended with infirmities which render life a burden, I should not be so much surprised; but, alas! we see death and diseases seize on youth and strength; no time of life is a security against either. Nor is it altogether the apprehension of being deprived of what share of beauty nature may have bestowed upon us, that

renders it so alarming, since that also may be lost by the small pox, and a thousand other accidents.—No, it is only the name, not the effects, we so much dread; and I believe most people would rather chuse deformity with youth, than comeliness with old age.

This, and some other propensities of the mind, in my opinion, are sufficient to convince any thinking person of the importance of human understanding, and oblige us all to own, with the poet, that

*Reason in man is but a twinkling lamp
Of wand'ring life, that wakes and winks by turns,
Fooling the follower betwixt shade and shining.*

You will imagine, by my being so serious, that I have not yet got over the fright the man put me into, and indeed I am not sure whether I have or not; but, be that as it will, I have resolution enough to wish, from the very bottom of my heart, that you and I may grow old in friendship, and that, whatever effect time may have upon our persons, our minds may remain as now united; which will be a balance against the mortifications in the power of the old gentleman with the hour-glass, to

My dear Lucy,

Yours, with the most perfect amity.



L E T T E R XVIII.

To a lady who had lost her beauty by the small pox.

My dear Ophelia,

I Received yours, and rejoice too much on your recovery to be able to condole with you on any alteration your late illness has made on you; and indeed, how great soever it may be, am far from thinking it deserves to be mentioned with that concern you express.—You have encountered death, and foiled him at one of his sharpest weapons; and if you have received some scars, ought to look upon

upon them rather as trophies of victory, than blemishes.—What if your complexion has lost some part of its fair enamel, and your features are not altogether so delicate; the less charms your glass presents you with, the more you will find in your closet; and deprived of vain pleasure in contemplating the graces of your outward form, you will have the greater leisure to improve and embellish those which are not so easily impaired.

Let us pretend what we will, it is the ambition of attracting admirers, that renders beauty of so much value to all the young and gay; but if we consider seriously, we shall find that it is virtue, good sense, sweetness of disposition, and complaisance, of which the girdle of Cytherea should be composed. —— The finest face in the world without them, will not long maintain its empire over the heart of a man of understanding, as the poet truly says,

Beauty soon grows familiar to the eye:
Virtue alone has charms that never die.

Do not think, however, that I am glad to find you are more on a level, than before this accident, with the greatest part of our sex. I confess, the beauties of the *person* greatly contribute to set off and render those of the *mind* conspicuous, and for that reason should lament extremely any defect in the *one*, if I were not certain you had enough of the *other* to engross the whole attention of as many as know you; and that they may every day increase in the lustre of true dignity, is the sincere wish of, my dear Ophelia,

Yours,

SOPHRONIA.

Q 2

T H E

C O M P L E T E

L E T T E R - W R I T E R.

P A R T IV.

Elegant LETTERS on various Subjects,
to improve the style and entertain the mind,
from eminent authors.

L E T T E R I.

*The following letter, written by Mr Gay, giving an account
of two lovers who were struck dead by the same flash of
lightening, is reckoned a master-piece in epistolary descriptive writing.*

Stanton-Flarcourt, Aug. 9. 1187.

THE only news you can expect to have from me here,
T is news from Heaven: for I am quite out of the
world, and there is scarce any thing can reach me, except
the noise of thunder, which undoubtedly you have heard
too. We have read in old authors, of high towers levelled
by it to the ground, while the humble valleys have escaped.
The only thing that is proof against it is the laurel, which
however I take to be no great security to the brains of
modern authors. But to let you see that the contrary to
this often happens, I must acquaint you, that the highest
and most extravagant heap of towers in the universe,
which is in this neighbourhood, stands still undefaced,
while

while a cock of barley in our next field has been consumed to ashes. Would to God that this heasp of barley had been all that had perished! But unhappily beneath this little shelter sat two much more constant lovers than ever were found in romance, under the shade of a beech tree. John Hewit was a well-set man, of about five and twenty. Sarah Drew might rather be called comely than beautiful; and was about the same age. They had passed thro' the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction; if she milked, it was his morning and evening care to bring the cows to her hand. It was but last fair that he bought her a present of green silk for her straw hat, and the possey on her silver ring was of his chusing. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood; for scandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that he had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week that they were to wait to be happy. Perhaps, in the interval of their work, they were now talking of their wedding-cleathes, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field-flowers to her complexion, to chuse her a knot for the wedding-day. While they were thus busied; (it was about two or three in the afternoon,) the clouds grew black; and such a storm of lightening and thunder ensued, that all the labourers made the best of their way to the best shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened, and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley. John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps, the better to secure her from the storm. Immediately there was heard so leud a crack, as if heaven had split asunder. Every one was solicitous for the safety of his neighbour, and called to one another throughout the field. No answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay. They perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then espiced this faithful pair. John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her, as if to screen her from the lightening. They were both struck in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye-brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast.

breast. Her lover was all over black, but not the least signs of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions, they were conveyed to the town, and the next day interred in Stanton Harcourt church-yard. My Lord Harcourt, at Mr Pope's and my request, has caused a stone to be placed over them, upon condition that we should furnish the epitaph, which is as follows:

When eastern lovers feed the funeral fire,
On the same pile the faithful pair expire;
Here pitying heaven, that virtue mutual found,
And blasted both, that it might neither wound.
Hearts so sincere th' Almighty saw well pleas'd,
Sent his own lightening, and the vi^rtuous seiz'd.

But my Lord is apprehensive the country-people will not understand this, and Mr Pope says he will make one with something of scripture in it, and with as little poetry as Hopkins and Sternhold. I am, &c.

LETTER II.

The three following letters were wrote by a young lady of a good family, and very genteelly bred, (but afterwards reduced.) to a gentleman going abroad, under whose care and protection she was desirous of retiring in the capacity of a housekeeper, from the froins of the world.

S I R,

NO circumstance is more shocking than that of being obliged to strangers for relief; and however conscious I may be of my own innocence and well-meaning, the presumption of addressing a gentleman in this manner, may be a sufficient reason to prevent my receiving such a share of credit, as were I known to you, I might with justice pretend to. I have had the misfortune to receive an education greatly above the rank that heaven has allotted me, and I now, too soon, at the

age of eighteen, have struggled through more difficulties than you would choose to be acquainted with ; and it would but ill become me to shock the man to whom I wish to be obliged. It is now some time since I formed the design to leave England, and withdraw myself from the acquaintance of those that have known me in a higher state. I can be content in a decent retirement, and shall endeavour to do my duty in the station I pretend to. Chance has directed me to you, and it is without a blush (and surely no one should be ashamed of so innocent a boldness) that I offer myself to attend you abroad in the quality of a housekeeper. My character and story you shall be acquainted with ; the first will be no discredit to me, and the latter perhaps may raise a compassion in you, that may be serviceable to me. If you approve my design or have any curiosity to hear more, I would beg the favour of you to advertise that the letter directed to Tom's was received, and I will then venture to trouble you again.

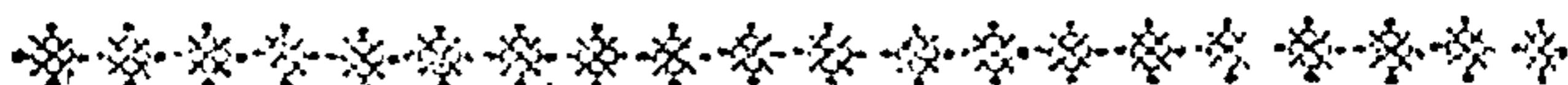


LETTER III.

SIR,

I have so few obligations to the world, that I am at times surprised at myself, to find that the idea of gratitude shall be known to me, and yet I feel a thankfulness in me, for the notice you have taken of my (perhaps indiscreet) application. A thousand distracting thoughts have got the better of my judgment ; and though I know where you live, and am fully convinced that you would scorn to mean me an injury, yet a certain prejudice of education forbids me to pursue what I designed, and I shall now solicit nothing more from you than a pardon for having raised your expectation, and engaged your curiosity to be acquainted with a story that a woman's pride will perhaps for ever prevent being known. I flatter'd myself, when I wrote before, that I had been mistress of more resolution ; but my fears startle me, and I am so convinced of the ill method I have taken to be acquainted with you, (and your knowledge of the world

world must necessarily encourage such suspicions of me,) that no temptation can now be sufficient to make me discover myself. I am ashamed of what has happened, and I feel a resentment to myself, for having dared to alarm your good nature wit fears for an unfortunate young woman. I will flatter myself you feel for me; and the tenderness and humanity that I believe you master of, shall at least be this far satisfied, that I will hereafter, if fortune has any favours to bestow on me, give you the satisfaction of knowing who I am, and by what accident I thought of applying to you. Adieu ! *Je me flatte que le bon Dieu aura pitié de mon innocence car je n'ais beaucoup fait de mal.*



LETTER IV.

SIR,

WERE I in the least inclined to discover myself, so immediate an answer to your advertisement might in justice be esteemed a forwardness ; but as my resolution is fixed, it will bear a better interpretation, and ought to be looked on as a decent regard for the person that seems to bear a share in my misfortunes. You may with great reason reproach me for having drawn you into so idle a correspondence ; and the persuasion I have of your goodness and humanity, are to me strong testimonials that your inquiry is not the effect of a giddy or ill meaning curiosity, but proceeds from the true principles of virtue, and from a design of giving me all the assistance I can wish. I must own that necessity first tempted me to apply ; and though I am determined to stop short, and give a check to my ill-judged scheme, yet I will ever encourage myself in a thankfulness to you, and compliment my own judgment for having so easily discovered the perfections of so amiable a character. My pen seems pleased with the office of writing to you, and I am now prepared to run greater lengths than patience might excuse. We are all fond of doing what is most pleasing to us, and it is a flattering of my vanity, in the supposition of my having engaged your good wishes.

My

My story, which is full of a variety of shocking circumstances and distresses, added to a too sensible feeling, has so furnished me with expressions, that I should conceive a hatred to myself, were I capable of a further attempt to make an impression on you. Adieu ! I shall for ever love and honour your generous design, and will always have this share of merit with you ; and no necessity, nor other unfortunate circumstance, shall again force me to give an alarm to your humanity, or expose me to myself for having dared to raise your curiosity to the knowledge of that, which charity for every well-meaning person commands me to conceal.

Vous allez vers la reputation vers le credit, et moi j'en reviens.



LETTER V.

The following most affectionate letter, universally admired, was written by Mr Pope to the Bishop of Rochester, about a month before his banishment.

ONCE more I write to you, as I promised, and this once I fear will be the last ; the curtain will soon be drawn between my friend and me, and nothing left but to wish you a long good night. May you enjoy a state of repose in this life, not unlike that sleep of the soul which some have believed is to succeed it, where we lie utterly forgetful of that world from which we are gone, and repining for that to which we are to go. If you retain any memory of the past, let it only imagine to you what has pleased you best ; sometimes present a dream of an absent friend, or bring you back an agreeable conversation. But, upon the whole, I hope you will think less of the time past than of the future ; as the former has been less kind to you than the latter infallibly will be. Do not envy the world your studies ; they will tend to the benefit of man, against whom you can have no complaint, I mean of all posterity : And perhaps at your time of life nothing else is worth your care.

care. What is every year of a wise man's life but a censure or critic on the past : Those whose date is the shortest, live long enough to laugh at one half of it. The boy despises the infant, the man the boy, the philosopher both, and the Christian all. You may now begin to think your manhood was too much a puerility ; and you will never suffer your age to be but a second infancy. The toys and baubles of your childhood are hardly now more below you, than those toys of our riper and our declining years, the drums and rattles of ambition, and the dirt and bubbles of avarice. At this time, when you are cut off from a little society, and made a citizen of the world at large, you should bend your talents not to serve a party, or a few, but all mankind. Your genius should mount above that mist, in which its participation and neighbourhood with earth hath long involved it. To shine abroad and to heaven, ought to be the business and the glory of your present situation. Remember it was at such a time, that the greatest lights of antiquity dazzled and blazed the most; in their retreat, in their exile, or in their death. But why do I talk of dazzling or blazing? It was then that they did good, that they gave light, and that they became guides to mankind.

Those aims alone are worthy of spirits truly great, and such I therefore hope will be yours. Resentment indeed may remain, perhaps cannot be quite extinguished, in the noblest mind; but revenge will never harbour there. Higher principles than those of the first, and better principles than those of the latter, will infallibly influence men whose thoughts and whose hearts are enlarged, and cause them to prefer the whole to any part of mankind, especially to so small a part as one's sing'c self.

Believe me, my Lord, I look upon you as a spirit entered into another life, as one just upon the edge of immortality, where the passions and affections must be much more exalted, and where you ought to despise all little views, and all mean retrospects. Nothing is worth your looking back; and therefore look forward, and make (as you can,) the world look after you; but take care that it be not with pity, but with esteem and admiration.

I am, with the greatest sincerity, and passion for your frame as well as happiness,

Yours, &c.

LETTER VI.

To Lady ——— from Mr Pope, on witty and serious letters.

Madam,

I AM not at all concerned to think that this letter may be less entertaining than some I have sent: I know you are a friend that will think a kind letter as good as a diverting one. He that gives you his mirth, makes a much less present than he that gives you his heart; and true friends would rather see such thoughts as they communicate only to one another, than what they squander about to all the world. They who can set a right value on any thing, will prize one tender, well-meant word, above all that ever made them laugh in their lives. If I did not think so of you, I should never have taken much pains to endeavour to please you, by writing, or any thing else. Wit, I am sure, I want, at least in the degree that I see others have it, who would at all seasons alike be entertaining; but I would willingly have some qualities that may be (at some seasons) of more comfort to myself, and of more service to my friends. I would cut off my own head, if it had nothing better than wit in it; and tear out my own heart, if it had no better disposition than to laugh only myself, and laugh at all my neighbours.

I know you will think it an agreeable thing to hear that I have done a great deal of Homer. If it be tolerable, the world may thank you for it; for if I could have seen you every day, and imagined my company could have every day pleased you, I should scarce have thought it worth my while to please the world. How many verses could I gladly have left unfinished, and turned into it, for people to say what they would of, had I been permitted to pass all those hours more pleasing? Whatever some may think, fame is a thing I am much less covetous of than your friendship; for that, I hope, will last all my life; the other I cannot answer for. What if they would both grow greater after my death? Alas! they would both be of no advantage

tage to me. Therefore think upon it, and love me as well as ever you can, while I live.

Now I talk of fame, I send you my Temple of Fame, which is just come out: but my sentiments about it you will see better by this epigram.

What's fame with men, by custom of the nation,
Is call'd in women only reputation;
About them both why make you such a pother?
Part you with one, and I'll renounce the other.

[—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—]

L E T T E R VII.

To the Hon. Mrs H——, from Mr Pope.

Madam,

ALL the pleasure or use of familiar letters, is, to give us the assurance of a friend's welfare; at least it is all I know, who am a mortal enemy and despiser of what they call fine letters. In this view, I promise you, it will always be a satisfaction to me to write letters and to receive them from you: because I unfeignedly have your good at my heart, and am that thing which many people make only a subject to display their fine sentiments upon, a friend; which is a character that admits of little to be said, till something may be done. Now let me fairly tell you, I do not like your style: it is very, pretty therefore I don't like it; and if you write as well as Voiture, I would not give a farthing for such letters, unless I were to sell them to be printed. Methinks I have lost the Mrs L*** I formerly knew, who writ and talked like other people, (and sometimes better.) You must allow me to say, you have not said a sensible thing in all your letter, except where you speak of shewing kindness, and expecting it in return; but the addition you make about your being but two and twenty, is again in the style of wit and abomination. To shew you how very unsatisfactorily you wrote, in all your letters you have never told me how you do. Indeed I see

it

it was absolutely necessary for me to write to you, before you continue to take more notice of me, for I ought to tell you what you are to expect; that is to say, kindness, which I never failed (I hope) to return; and not wit, which, if I want, I am not much concerned, because judgment is a better thing; and if I had, I would make use of it, rather to play upon those I despised, than to trifle with those I loved. You see in short, after what manner you may most agreeably write to me. Tell me you are my friend, and you can be no more at a loss about that article. As I have opened my mind upon this to you, it may also serve for Mr H——, who will see by it what manner of letters he must expect if he corresponds with me. As I am too seriously your's and his servant, to put turns upon you instead of good wishes, so in return I should have nothing but honest plain How-do-yo's, and Pray-remember-me's; which not being fit to be shown to any body for wit, may be a proof we correspond only for ourselves, in mere friendliness; as doth, God is my witness,

Your very, &c.

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LETTER VIII.

From Mr Pope to Mr Steele, on sickness and dying young.

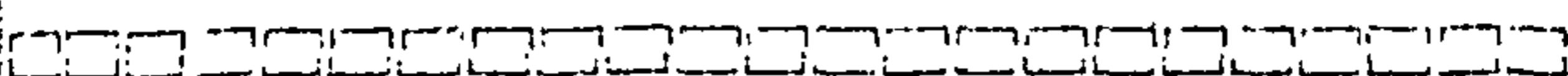
YOU formerly observed to me, that nothing made a more ridiculous figure in a man's life than the disparity we often find in him sick and well: thus one of an unfortunate constitution is perpetually exhibiting a miserable example of the weakness of his mind, and of his body in their turn. I have had frequent opportunities of late to consider myself in these different views, and I hope have received some advantage by it, if what Waller says be true, that

'The soul's dark cottage batter'd and decay'd,
Lets in new light thro' chinks that time has made.'

'Then, surely, sickness contributing no less than old age to the shaking down this scaffolding of the body, may discover the inward structure more plainly. Sickness is a sort of early old age; it teaches us a diffidence in our earthly state, and inspires us with the thoughts of a future, better than thousand volumes of philosophers and divines; it gives warning a concussion to those props of our vanity, of strength, and youth, that we then think of fortifying ourselves within, when there is so little dependence upon our out-works. Youth, at the very best, is but a betrayer of human life in a gentler and smoother manner than age; it is like a stream that nourishes a plant upon a bank, and causes it to flourish and blossom to the sight, but at the same time it is undermining it at the root in secret. My youth has dealt more fairly and openly with me; it has afforded several prospects of my danger, and given me an advantage not very common to young men, that the attractions of the world have not dazzled me very much; and I begin where most people end, with a full conviction of the emptiness of all sorts of ambition, and the unsatisfactory nature of all human pleasure. When a smart fit of sickness tells me this scurvy tenement of my body will fall in a little time, I am even as unconcerned as was that honest Hibernian who being in bed in the great storm some years ago, and told the house would tumble over his head, made answer "What care I for the house? I am only a lodger."—I fancy it is the best time to die when one is in the best humour; and so excessively weak as I now am. I may sleep with conscience, that I am not at all uneasy at the thought that many men, whom I had never any esteem for, are likely to enjoy this world after me. When I reflect what an inconsiderable little atom every single man is, with respect to the whole creation, methinks it is a shame to be concerned at the removal of such a trivial animal as I am. The morning after my exit the sun will rise as bright as ever, the flowers smell as sweet, the plants spring as green, the world will proceed in its old course, people will laugh as heartily, and marry as fast as they used to do. The memory of man (as it is elegantly expressed in the book of Wisdom) passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that

barrieth but one day. There are reasons enough in the fourth chapter of the same book to make any young man contented with the prospect of death. *For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, or is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the grey hair to men, and an unspotted life is old age.* He was taken away suddenly, lest wickedness should enter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul, &c.

I am yours, &c.



LETTER IX.

From her LOOKING-GLASS,

To the beautiful Angelica.

Madam,

I have enjoyed the honour of serving your Ladyship some 2 years; during which time, as you have been pleased to favour me with evident marks of your esteem, and a familiarity that none of your other utensils can boast of, tho' many of them my betters by far; as therefore I have shown you to yourself so often, and been so happy always to have my fidelity approved of by your Ladyship, I hope you will pardon my boldness, in taking this method to discover to you some failings in yourself, which my surface cannot properly represent. If I may presume to say so, Madam, you consult me much too often; and I am confident it would be better for you, if you was to be a greater stranger to me. How many thousand times must you be told that you are handsome?—I assure you of it every day, but you will not be satisfied unless I tell you so every hour, nay, almost every moment.—I cannot lie; your person is exceeding amiable; but I must, at the same time, inform your Ladyship with my usual sincerity, that you would be infinitely more agreeable, if you did not think so. Consider, Madam, I beseech you, that if you come to me ten thousand times a-day, I cannot make you a bit the better, or the

handsomer ; but shall certainly destroy one of the finest ornaments of beauty, by rendering you too well acquainted with your own perfections. Whenever you stand before me, with all your charms set forth to the best advantage, I perceive you are apt to view yourself with too great pleasure, and grow proud and conceited of your own beauty ; which, in time, will make other people despise and ridicule you ; and therefore I honestly and ingeniously entreat you, to avoid my company ; for, Madam, I must confess, that the worst enemy the fair ones have, cannot do them so much prejudice as I their chief favourite. It grieves me to the heart to find it so, and often puzzles me extremely to account for their fondness of me, when I so continually do them mischief.—Whether it be, as a witty gentleman once said of me, from my talent of casting reflections ;—or whether it be from the large quantity of quicksilver which belongs to me, and without which I am useless as well as innocent ; for, as the learned observe, Madam, mercury is highly prejudicial to your sex, either where there is too much of it in the composition of a fair lady, or when it is used externally as an help to beauty : As, in the former case, it is generally the cause of excessive levity, so in the latter it is always observed to hurt the eyes, and deface those charms which is designed to assist and improve :—Or whether my gaily gilded frame is too apt to infect the mind of the beholder with vanity :—Or, lastly, whether it be from the brittleness of my other materials, which, by a kind of sympathy, affect people who are too frequently conversant with me.—From whatever cause it proceeds, a lady who has a fine face, might almost as well fall into the small-pox, as to be often in my company. How many charming creatures have I spoiled, and made beauty the greatest misfortune that could beset them !—I cannot think on it without concern ;—why am I fated to be thus unlucky, and injure those the most that love me best ?—Alas ! why was I made a looking-glass ? Was it my desire to be covered with silver, and inclosed in a frame of gold ?—Did I aspire to be fixed in this honourable place, and become a lady's favourite ;—Oh ! that I had been some meaner piece of furniture, less respected, and less mischievous. Keep off, dear

Ma-

Madam, I beseech you, from an unhappy thing, which destiny makes pernicious to the loveliest creature under heaven, or I shall soon infect you with the worst disease incident to beauty, and that is vanity.—I am, it is true, an useful servant, if employed only when I ought to be, which is seldom; but if a lady grows so fond of me, that she runs to ask my opinion of every look, if she consults me forty times for once that she goes to her Prayer-Book or Bible, I shall certainly prove much more hurtful to her than age or ugliness. I beg, Madam, that you will interpret what your poor servant says, to proceed wholly from respect and love for you.—The tender regard I have for your Ladyship, together with some symptom I lately have discovered, make me fearful for you.—I dread the apprehension of being contempt on so good a mistress, and would not for the world be the occasion of your losing any one grace of so fine a woman:—No! rather let me be broken into a thousand pieces! I am not without fear of giving offence by the freedom I have taken; but though you banish me your presence, I cannot forbear speaking in a case where you Ladyship's good seems so much concerned; and, indeed, if what I dread shou'd come to pass, it would be better for us to part for ever. — Better for you to be without my service, than suffer by it; and better for me to lose my lady, and be thrown into a corner, than remain where I am, and be necessary and instrumental in spoiling as much sweetness and beauty as ever looking glass had the happiness to show.

I am, Madam, with the most dutiful respect,
Your most faithful and devoted humble servant,

PARLOUR LOOKING-GLASS.

LETTER X.

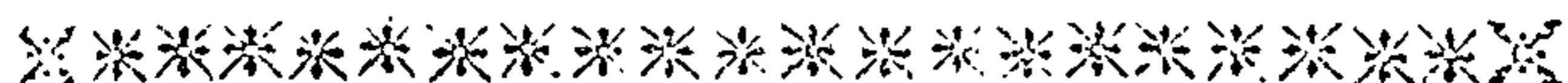
From Hortensius, to his friend Palamon, giving him an account of his happiness in retirement.

Write this while Cleora is angling by my side, under
the shade of a spreading elm that hangs over the banks
of the river. A nightingale, more harmonious even than
Strada's, is serenading us from a hawthorn bush, which
smiles with all the gaiety of youth and beauty; while

Gentle gales,
Fanning their odoriferous wings, disperse
Native perfumes, and whisper thence they stole
These balmy spoils. Milton.

While I am thus enjoying the innocent luxury of this vernal delight, I look back upon these scenes of turbulence wherein I was engaged, with more than ordinary diffusie, and despise myself for ever having entertained so mean a thought as to be rich and great. One of our monarchs used to say, "That he looked upon those to be the happiest men in the nation, whose fortune had placed them in the country above a high constable, and below the trouble of a justice of peace." It is in a mediocrity of this happy kind that I here pass my life, with a fortune far above the necessity of engaging in the drudgery of business, and with desires much too humble to have any relish for the splendid baits of ambition. You must n't, however, imagine that I affect the Stoic, or pretend to have eradicated all my passions. The sum of my philosophy amounts to no more than to cherish none but such as I may easily and innocently gratify, and to banish all the rest as so many bold intruders of upon my repose. I endeavour to practise the maxim of a French poet, by considering every thing that is not within my possession as not worth having. Is it impossible, Palamon, to reconcile you to these unaspiring sentiments, and to lower your flight to the humble level of genuine happiness? Let me, at least, prevail with you to spare a day or two from the *tamisq;*

tamina d'vitiarum, (as Horas, I think, calls them,) from those splendid contests in which you are engaged, just to take a view of the sort of life we lead in the country. If there is any thing wanted to complete the happiness I here find, it is, that you are so seldom a witness to it. Adieu !



LETTER XI.

From a gentleman to his son just arrived from Paris, against servile complaisance and talkativeness; with some directions how to behave politely in company.

Dear Tom,

HERE is something in your behaviour since your return from Paris that displeases me, and I must frankly tell you, that I don't think you are at all benefited by travelling. You have, by keeping company with coxcombs, or by mistaking ceremony for politeness, contracted a habit of not only talking much, and in a very irothy trifling manner, but of sacrificing every thing to compliment. Even your sincerity is offered up to ceremony ; and you think yourself obliged, in point of good manners, to agree, like Polonius in the play, with every thing that is said, whether right or wrong. You don't want understanding, Tom ; nor are you without a good share of learning : and yet that eternal simper, that cringe and obsequiousness, render both suspected, and tire all your acquaintance, who (I am told) laugh at your behaviour, and speak of this behind your back, though they have not friendship enough to confess it to your face. But your father, who loves you sincerely, and who considers you as a part of himself, can never see you do any thing that may tend to your disadvantage, without warning you of the consequence ; for that father must have a very bad heart, or a very bad head indeed, who does not inform his son of his faults. Yours is not an error of disposition, but of judgment, and therefore it may be easily rectified. You, I know, my dear Tom, intend it for civility and politeness ; but you are mistaken.

For-

Forced and affected compliments are the reverse. Politeness is ever attended with ease and freedom, and despises every thing that is unnatural. Besides, this cringing and fawning render your sincerity suspected. Those who make large professions to every body are esteemed by no body. It is all considered as froth, and their friendship is supposed to be as troublesome as their conversation. Cast off, therefore, my dear Tom, this sort of behaviour, and put on one that is more manly, and consistent with the character of your family, who were always esteemed for their openness, freedom, and sincerity, which intitles a man to more respect than all the fine speeches and low bows in the world. Note that I would have you entirely disregard what you brought from the dancing-school. A proper deportment is necessary, and even a little ceremony may be consistent with politeness and good manners; it is the excess that makes it blameable. Look at Mr Montague, for in his case one example is better than ten precepts; he is esteemed an accomplished gentleman, every one is pleased with his behaviour, all are charmed with his conversation; and the means he pursued to attain this art of pleasing universally are these:

He takes care to keep none but good company, (for by his company he is sensible that he shall be known and distinguished;) among such his ears are ever open to receive instruction, for he considers, that a silent young man generally makes a wise old one. He attends to every body, and speaks but little, and that not till he has heard and collected the opinions of the whole company; well knowing, that he shall profit more by hearing, than speaking on any subject; and that, by this means, he not only fathoms the capacities of the company, but also gratifies, as it were, and obliges each person, by giving him an opportunity to talk; and especially when with proper questions he introduces such subjects as each man can speak to with propriety and judgment. This he does with wonderful dexterity, and offers every one an occasion of displaying his talents; for he knows, that, in order to keep up an universal good humour, every man should be pleased with himself as well as with his company. And pray, what pleases a man more than

than to have an opportunity of letting the circle know that he is somebody? How unlike him are those, who, having seen nothing of the world, expose themselves to contempt and ridicule, by impertinently giving their opinion of things they do not understand? What Mr Montague says, is always to the purpose, is properly addressed, and every body hears him with satisfaction; for, though he is young in years, he is old in experience and understanding. When he speaks, it is always with a becoming ease and freedom. He has resolution enough to defend and support the truth; but always delivers his sentiments in such a manner, that it may not appear like dictating to the company; and when he has done, he hears (let them differ from him ever so much) with patience, complacency and temper. In short, Tom, excuses of ceremony will never gain a man friends, but impudent babbling will undoubtedly create him enemies: for conversation is a banquet, which every man is entitled to a share of, who is present; and why should any one expect to have the whole feast to himself? Besides, the very end of conversation, which is improvement, is thereby destroyed; for he who always talks has no time to hear; and consequently, can reap no benefit from what is said in company. Another vice in conversation (if I may be allowed that expression) I would caution you against, and that is talking obscenely; which is not only a mark of a depraved mind, but of low breeding, and is never encouraged but in the company of fools; since, as my Lord Roilecommon justly observes,

Immodest words admit of no defence.

For want of decency is want of sense.

I am, dear son,

Your truly affectionate father.

LET-

LETTER XII.

The following letter was written to the Dean of Waterford by a widower, the father of six children, under the fictitious name of Elzevir. — The design of it was to invite the Dean and his company to supper, particularly Miss Elizabeth Marshal, a young lady about 18, — and whose fortune was 30,000*l.* who was lodged in the Dean's study, keeping much company at that time.

Rev. SIR,

I AM told there is a book which lies in your study, in sheets, and all who have seen it admire that it should remain so long unbound: I think it is called Marshal's Epithalamium, or some such name; but lest I should be mistaken in the title, I will describe it as well as I can.

It is a fair and beautiful manuscript, the ink very black, and shining on the whitest virgin vellum that can be imagined; the characters are so nice and delicate, as to discover it to be the work of some masterly hand; and there is such a symmetry and exact proportion in all its parts, and the features (if I may so call them,) are so just and true, that it puts the reader often to a stand in admiring the beauties of them.

The book has an additional ornament, which it did not want, all the margin being flourished with gold; but that which commends it more is, that tho' it has been written full eighteen years, as I have been informed, yet it is not sullied nor stained; insomuch that one would think it was never once turned over by any man.

The volume of itself does not appear to be of any great bulk, and yet I understand it has been valued at 30,000*l.*

It is a pity so valuable a piece should ever be lost; and the way to prevent this, is by increasing the copies of it. If the author will give consent, and you will license it, I will immediately put it into the press. I have all the necessary apparatus for the purpose, and a curious set of letters, that were never used but in the impression of one book,

book, and of this too, no more than half a dozen copies: so that you must imagine they are never the worse for wearing. For my part, I will spare no pains to embellish and adorn the whole with the most natural and lively figures; and I shall not despair of producing an edition as beautiful in the eyes of men as the dear original is at present in mine.— Methinks I could read it with pleasure night and day.

If therefore you will do me the favour to let me have your company this evening, and bring this incomparable piece along with you, it will add to the entertainment of every one, but particularly of him who is always with great respect,

Reverend SIR,

Your most obedient servant, and faithful friend,

ELZEVIR.



LETTER XIII.

A letter of consolation on the death of a friend.

I should never have believed, Madam, that one of your letters could have afflicted me, how bad news soever it had brought me. The bare sight of your writing seemed to me a remedy against every evil that I could imagine; but I acknowledge to you, it is an extreme grief to me that I have been informed of the loss we have had. Our friend was valuable in every respect; she was beautiful, tender, generous, witty, and of so just a judgment, that she valued you above every thing in the world. She had over and above in dying, the only good quality which she wanted during her life; that is, she bore with resolution a thing, the bare name of which had made her tremble. She accompanied this greatness of soul with so truly a Christian piety, that I think we ought not to mourn for her. It is loving her with too selfish an affection to be sorrowful when she leaves us in order to be better, and when she goes to enjoy in the other world a repose which she could never find in this. I shall endeavour to make advantage of the ex-

exhortation you gave me to follow so good an example, and it will not be the first time that you have made me a better man. The troubles I have hitherto had will not ill assist your admonitions; for, I think, few things contribute more to make us die without reluctance, than to have no pleasure in life: Not that I should be very glad to finish my career too hastily, seeing that you must return soon. You may guess whether it be easy for me to renounce the advantage of seeing you again, and of protesting to you to what a degree I am, &c.



LETTER XIV.

*From *** to Cleora, on the pleasures of retirement.*

Madam,

IT is certainly better for yourself, and more for the security of mankind, that you should live in some rural abode, than appear in the world; such persons as you are fatal to the public tranquillity, and do mischief without ever designing it: but I must own, when belles and beaux retire to country-shades for the sake of heavenly contemplation, the world will be reformed. A hermit's life might be tolerable, while the serious hours are divided between Hyde-Park and the Opera: but a more distant retreat, in the full pride of your charms and youth, would be very extraordinary. To be convinced by so early experience, that mankind are only amused with dreams and fantastic appearances, must proceed from a superior degree of virtue and good sense. After a thousand convictions of the vanity of other pursuits, how few know the emphasis of these few lines:

- ‘ Sweet solitude! when life’s gay hours are past,
- ‘ Howe’er we range, in thee we fix at last.
- ‘ Toss’d thro’ tempestuous seas, (the voyage o’er,) .
- ‘ Pale we look back, and bless the friendly shore.
- ‘ Our own strict judges our past life we scan,
- ‘ And ask if virtue has enlarg’d the span;

' If bright the prospect, we the grave defy,
 ' Trust future ages, and contented die.'

TICKLE.

Nothing, perhaps, is more terrible to the imagination than an absolute solitude; yet I must own such a retreat as disengages the mind from those interests and passions which mankind generally pursue, appears to me the most certain way to happiness: quietly to withdraw from the crowd, and leave the gay and ambitious to divide the honours and pleasures of the world, without being a rival or competitor in any of these advantages, must leave a person in perfect and unenvied repose.

Without any apology, I am going to talk to myself; and what follows may be properly called a digression.

Let me lose the remembrance of this busy world, and hear no more of its distracting tumults! Ye vain grandeurs of the earth! Ye perishing riches and fantastic pleasures! What are your proudest boasts? Can you yield undecaying delights, joys becoming the dignity of reason, and the capacities of an immortal mind! Ask the happy spirits above, at what price they value their enjoyments? Ask them, if the whole creation should purchase one moment's interval of their bliss? No:—one beam of celestial light obscures, and casts a reproach on all the beauty this world can boast.

This is talking in buskins, you will think; and, indeed, I may resign crowns and sceptres, and give up the grandeurs of the world, with as much imaginary triumph, as a hero might fight battles, and conquer armics, in a dream.

In the height of this romantic insult, I am,

Madam,

Your most obliged humble servant.

LETTER XV.

In the style of a lady, by Mr Pope.

PRAY, what is your opinion of fate? for I must confess I am one of those that believe in fate and predestination.—No, I cannot go so far as that; but I own, I am of opinion one's stars may incline, though not compel one; and that is a sort of free-will; for we may be able to resist inclination, but not compulsion.

Do not you think they have got into the most preposterous fashion this winter that ever was, of flouncing the petticoat so very deep, that it looks like an entire coat of fletstring?

It is a little cool indeed for this time of the year, but then, my dear, you will allow it has an extreme clean pretty look.

Ay, so has my musline apron; but I would not chuse to make it a winter-suit of cloaths.

Well, now I will swear, child you have put me in mind of a very pretty dress; let me die if I do not think a musline flounce made very full, would give one a very agreeable flirtation air.

Well, I swear it would be charming! and I should like it of all things.—Do you think there are any such things as spirits?

Do you believe there is any such place as the Elysian fields! O gad, that would be charming! I wish I were to go to the Elysian fields when I die, and then I should not care if I were to leave the world to-morrow: but is one to meet there with what one has lov'd most in the world?

Now, you must tell me this positively. To be sure you can, or what do I correspond with you for, if you will not tell me all? you know I abominate reserve.

LET.

LETTER XVI.

To Mrs Rowe, on the vanity of all sublunary enjoyments.

People seem at present more busily employed in preparing for the king's birth-day, than for their own last; and appear to be in greater anxiety for a seat in the dancing-room, than for a seat in paradise.

I was last night with—; a barge of music followed us; but in the midst of this gaiety your letter was not the only thing that put me in mind of mortality; I had such a violent pain in my head, that neither the wit of the company, the softness of the music, nor the beauty of the evening, could give me any sincere delight. —— If pleasure be the lot of man, it must be in something beyond the grave; for on this side constant experience tells us all is vanity.

But this confession has hardly any influence on human conduct; for people in a high rank must often act against their reason, to avoid being thought unfashionable; and, for fear of being thought mad by the modish world, must act in a manner which they are sensible is being truly so, to be in vogue with their polite contemporaries.

I cannot forbear thinking with myself, that if a being, endued with reason and a capacity of judging, (an inhabitant of another planet, and an utter stranger to our nature) could take a view of our actions, he would be at a loss what to imagine we were; and, had he no informer, but was to judge by our conduct, he would certainly either imagine that we were a species who were insured always to live in the world we now inhabit, or else, that after enjoying ourselves here as long as we could, we were to be insensible for ever, without the least expectation of a future judgment, punishment, or reward.

You would hardly make an apology for desiring me to write to you, if you knew how much pleasure the injunction gives.

Your's unalterably,

GLEORA.

LETTER XVII.

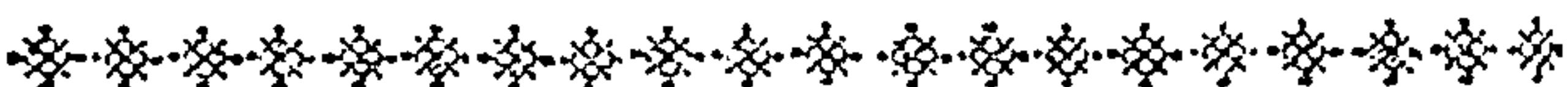
*From Mr Locke, directed thus :
From Anthony Collins, Esq ; to be delivered to him after my
decease.*

Dear Sir,

BY my will you will see that I had some kindness for ***,
And I know no better way to take care of him than to put him, and what I designed for him, into your hands and management. The knowledge I have of your virtue of all kinds, secures the trust which, by your permission, I have placed in you : and the peculiar love and esteem I have observed in the young man for you, will dispose him to be ruled and influenced by you ; so that of that I need say nothing. But there is one thing, which it is necessary for me to recommend to your special care and memory.—

May you live long and happy, in the enjoyment of health, freedom, content, and all those blessings which Providence has bestowed on you, and your virtue intitles you to. I know you loved me living, and will preserve my memory, now I am dead. All the use to be made of it is, that this life is a scene of vanity, that soon passes away ; and affords no solid satisfaction, but in the consciousness of doing well, and in the hopes of another life. This is what I can say upon experience, and what you will find to be true, when you come to make up the account. Adieu : I leave my best wishes with you.

JOHN LOCKE.



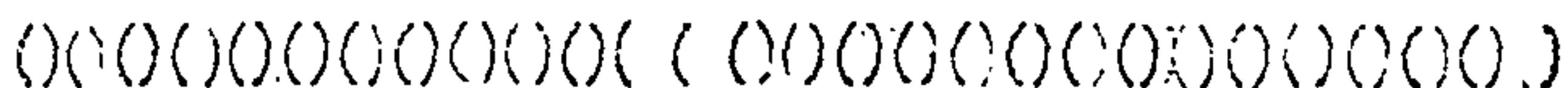
LETTER XVIII.

To CLEORA.

Aug. 11. 1776.

THO' it is but a few hours since I parted from my Cleora, yet I have already, you see, taken up my pen to write to you. You must not expect, however, in this

this, or in any of my future letters, that I say fine things to you, since I only intend to tell you true ones. My heart is too full to be regular, and too sincere to be ceremonious. I have changed the manner, not the style, of my former conversation ; and I write to you, as I used to talk to you, without form or art. Tell me then, with the same undismayed sincerity, what effect this absence has upon your usual chearfulness ? As I will honestly confess, on my own part, that I am too interested to wish a circumstance, so little consistent with my repose, should be altogether reconcileable to yours. I have attempted, however, to pursue your advice, and divert myself by the subject you recommended to my thoughts : but it is impossible, I perceive, to turn off the mind at once from an object which it has long dwelt upon with pleasure. My heart, like a poor bird which is hunted from her nest, is still returning to the place of her affections, and, after some vain efforts to fly off, settles again where all its cares and all its tenderneſs are centered. Adieu.



LETTER XIX.

To Colonel R.—, in Spain, from his lady in England.

BEFORE this can reach the best of husbands, and the fondest lover, those tender names will be of no more concern to me. The indisposition in which you, to obey the dictates of your honour and duty, left me, has increased upon me ; and I am acquainted, by my physicians, I cannot live a week longer. At this time, my spirits fail me, and it is the ardent love I have for you that carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you, the most painful thing in the prospect of death is, that I must part with you : but let it be a comfort to you, that I have no guilt that hangs upon me, no unrepented folly retards me ; but I pass away, my last hours in reflection upon the happiness we have lived in together, and in sorrow that it is so soon to have an end. This is a frailty, which, I hope, is so far from being criminal,

that, methinks there is a kind of piety in being so unwilling to be separated from a state which is the institution of Heaven, and in which we have lived according to its laws. As we know no more of the next life, but that it will be an happy one to the good, and miserable to the wicked, why may we not please ourselves, at least, to alleviate the difficulty of resigning this being, in imagining that we shall have a sense of what passes below, and may possibly be employed in guiding the steps of those with whom we walked with innocence when mortal? Why may not I hope to go on in my usual work, and, though unknown to you, be assistant in all the conflicts of your mind? Give me leave to say to you, O best of men! that I cannot figure to myself a greater happiness than in such an employment; to be present at all the adventures to which human life is exposed; to administer slumber to thy eye-lids in the agonies of a fever: to cover thy beloved face in the day of battle; to go with thee a guardian angel, incapable of wound or pain, where I have longed to attend thee when a weak, a fearful woman. These, my dear, are the thoughts with which I warm my poor languid heart; but indeed I am not capable, under my present weakness, of bearing the strong agonies of mind I fall into, when I form to myself the grief you must be in upon your first hearing of my departure. I will not dwell upon this, because your kind and generous heart will be but the more afflicted, the more the person for whom you lament offers you consolation. My last breath will, if I am myself, expire in a prayer for you. I shall never see your face again. Farewell for ever.



L E T T E R XX.

LAURA to AURELIA.

Could your importunity have prevailed with my brother to have left me in London, you had been free from the vexation that I shall certainly give you, by making you the confident of all my country adventures; and I hope you

you will relieve my chagrin, by telling me what the dear-bewitching busy world is doing, while I am idly sauntering away my time in the rural shades. How happy are you, my dear Aurelia! how I envy you the enjoyment of dust, of crouds and noise, with all the polite hurry of the beau-monde!

My brother brought me hither to see a country-seat he has lately purchased; he would fain persuade me it is finely situated in the Mall, or even in Cheapside, than here. Indeed I hardly know where we are, only that it is at a dreadful distance from the Theatre-Royal, from the Opera, from the Masquerade, and every thing in this world that is worth living for. I can scarce tell you whither to direct your letters; we are certainly at the end of the earth, on the borders of the continent, the limits of the habitable globe; under the polar-star, among wild people and savages. I thought we should never have come to the end of our pilgrimage; nor could I forbear asking my brother, if we were to travel by dry land to the antipodes; not a mile but seemed ten, that carried me from London, the centre of all my joys. The country is my aversion, I hate trees and hedges, steep hills and silent vallies. The satyrs may laugh, but to me

*Green fields, and shady groves, and crystal springs,
And larks, and nightingales, are odious things.*

I had rather hear London cries, with the rattle of coaches, than sit listening to the melancholy murmur of purling-brooks, or all the wild music of the woods. The smell of violets gives me the hysterics; fresh air murders me; my constitution is not robust enough to bear it; the cooling zephyrs will fan me into a catarrh, if I stay here much longer. If these are the seat of the Muses, let them unenvied enjoy their glittering whimsies, and converse with the visionary beings of their own forming. I have no fancy for dryads and fairies, nor the least prejudice to human society; a mere earthly beau, with an embroider'd coat, suits my taste better than an airy lover, with his shining tresses and rainbow-wings.

The sober twilight, which has employed so many soft descriptions, is with me a very dull period: nor does the moon (on which the poets dote) with all her starry train, delight me half so much as an assembly-room illuminated with wax candles; this is what I should prefer to the glaring sun in his meridian splendor. Day-light makes me sick; it has something in it so common and vulgar, that it seems fitter for peasants to make hay in, or country-lasses to spin by, than for the use of people of distinction. You pity me, I know, dear Aurelia, in this deplorable state; the whole creation is a blank to me, it is all joyless and desolate. In whatever gay images the Muses have dressed these rustic bodies, I have not penetration enough to discover them. Not the flowery field, nor spangled sky, the rosy morn, or balmy evening, can recreate my thoughts, I am neither a religious or poetical enthusiast; and without either of their qualifications, what should I do in silent retreats and penive shades? I find myself but little at ease in this absence of the noisy diversions of the town; and it is hard for me to keep up my spirits in leisure and retirement; it makes me anxiously inquisitive what will become of me when my breath flies away. Death, that ghastly phantom, perpetually intrudes on my solitude, and some doleful knell from a neighbouring steeple, often calls upon me to ruminate on coffins and funerals, graves, and gloomy sepulchres. As these dismal subjects put me in the vapours, and make me start at my own shadow, the sooner I come to town the better; and wish, my dear Aurelia, you would oblige me so far as to lay a scheme for my escape. Adieu.

[—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—][—]

L E T T E R XXI.

From Polydore to Alonzo giving an account of his accidentally meeting Aurelia, and of her falsehood to him, &c.

YOU have spent so many hours at the Earl of ——'s fine seat in the country, that it is unnecessary to describe those beautiful scenes with which you are so well acquainted.

quainted. Here have I passed a great part of the summer season, in a manner suitable to my contemplative humour. Having no taste for country-diversions, or any kind of rural sports, my pleasures were confined to the charming shades in gardens, with which the house is surrounded.

Here I enjoyed an unmolested tranquillity, till a fit of curiosity led me to make an excursion into the wide champaign that opened before me from the borders of the park.

If I begin with the rosy dawn, you will pardon my romantic style, relating to the surprising adventure: but, without telling a lie, the morning was yet dusky; the balmy dew, and fragrant gales, perfumed the air with their untainted sweets; while, with thoughts free as the airy songsters that warble on the branches, I wandered from rising hills to winding vales, through flowery lawns to lofty woods, till I found myself under the shade of a venerable row of elms, which put me in mind of Sir Roger de Coverley's rookery; the aged trees shot their heads so high, that, to one who passed under them, the crows and rooks, which rested on their tops, seemed to be cawing in another region. I was delighted with the noise, white, with the Spectator, I considered it as a kind of natural prayer to that Being who supplies the wants of his whole creation; my thoughts were inspired with a pleasing gratitude to the beneficent Father of the universe, till the sequel of my devotion was interrupted by the sight of a beautiful girl, about four or five years old, sitting on the grass, with a basket of flowers in her lap, which she was sticking in the snowy fleece of a little lamb that stood by her.

I began to hope it was one of the fairy race, or some pretty phantom that haunted the grove; for the adjacent house belonging to this reverend avenue looked more like a dormitory for the dead, than an habitation for the living; every thing about it appeared ruinous and desolate. I could neither hear the voice, nor trace the steps of mortal man in this obsolete solitude; nor had any hopes of knowing in what wild region I was got, unless the pretty figure fitting on the grass could give me some intelligence.

I made my approaches very respectfully: but what was my surprise, in drawing near, to find the air, the complexion, every feature in miniature, of the ungrateful Aurelia, on whom I once so passionately doated! A thousand tormenting ideas rushed into my mind at the sight of this lovely creature, who smiled on me with the most enchanting innocence. Whilst I stood eagerly gazing at her, which was not long, Aurelia herself entered the walk, and confirmed the suspicion, that this child was a living proof of her infamy.

It is about six years since she eloped from the public view, regardless of her own illustrious family, or the obligations she was under to the generous Cleone, who treated her with the utmost confidence, and was the last that suspected her husband's criminal affair with her.—Be my own wrongs forgot, and all the contempt with which she treated whatever proposals honour and disinterested passions could make.

I found her now an object of pity rather than resentment; the dejection of her mind was visible in her pale, haggard looks, and the wretched negligence of her habit. I could hardly persuade myself this was the celebrated lady that once appeared in all public places with such a parade of equipage and vanity.

She was in the utmost confusion at this interview, till, excusing myself, I told her this intrusion was undesigned, and purely the effect of chance, as I was taking a morning's ramble from the Earl of —'s, where I had spent some time; and that she might depend upon my word not to discover her abode to any one in that family.

By this time she was a little composed, and invited me to rest myself after my walk. I followed her into the house, which looked more like the mansions of despair, than a retreat for a lady of pleasure: an awful silence reigned in every room, through which I made a shift to find my way by a dim twilight that glimmered through some windows of as antique a figure as those of an old abbey. The furniture, I fancy, has not been displaced from time immemorial; it looks more like unwieldy lumber, than any thing designed for

for use or ornament: there was nothing of a modern date but a tea-table, and that in ruinous circumstances.

It was now about ten o'clock. Aurelia ordered tea and chocolate to be brought. All her attendance was a fresh coloured country lass, who withdrew as soon as we had breakfasted.

I was impatient to hear a relation of Aurelia's misfortunes, but durst not ask any question, for fear it would look like insulting her distress; so only renewed my excuses for interrupting her privacy. To which she replied, that tho' I was the last person in the world she would have chose to be a witness of her infamy, yet she thought herself happy in having an opportunity to make some apology for her injustice to me, in refusing those terms of honour I once offered, and complying with such reproachful conditions, as had made her the most miserable creature on earth.

" It was my criminal inclination, (continued she) for Cassander, that made me inflexible to your intreaties, and my father's commands to marry you. But whatever wrong this was to your merit, my guilt, with regard to the generous Cleone, is of a higher nature. The intrigue I had with her husband was attended with circumstances of the blackest treachery. I have broke through the tenderest engagements of friendship, and granted all that my dissolute lover could ask; when finding myself with child, to hide my infamy, he brought me to this desolate place, an old mansion-house belonging to his family, where I am cut off from human society; except two or three stupid peafants, his tenants, who reside in some part of this Gothic structure. It is now six years since I have breathed and slept (for I cannot call it living) in this melancholy confinement, without hopes of a release, being entirely dependent on Cassander's allowance and caprice, who but too well knows his own power and my folly; which makes him, instead of the humble lover, act the imperious tyrant: his visits are seldom, his stay short, and I am left whole months to languish alone in a detested solitude.

" This child, (continued she, weeping, and taking the lovely creature in her arms,) this child, which might have been my joy, provcs my greatest affliction. Should I die,

she

she is immediately abandoned to hardship and necessity; should I live, it distracts me to think she may follow my scandalous example. How can I give her instructions to avoid those vices which my practice approves? or recommend that virtue whose sacred rules I have so openly violated? And still I love this worthless man. Were I penitent, could I resolve on a reformation, this leisure and retirement would be a blessing and advantage to me; but I am obstinate in guilt, while I despair of happiness in this world, or the next. Until I came hither, my hours were spent in frolic and gaiety; a constant series of diversions shortened the days, and gave wings to the jovial hours, which now have leaden feet, and burdened with grief, lag heavily along. No sort of reflection gives me joy; whether I look backward or forward, all is darkness and confusion: I am no way qualified for retirement: books are an aversion, thinking is my horror; I am weary of living, and afraid to die."

I heard this account with a heart full of compassion, and said what I could to persuade her to break off this criminal commerce with Cassander, and throw herself on the care of Providence, and the generosity of her friends: but I had too much value for my own peace, and too great a contempt for a woman of Aurelia's character, to make any particular proposals for her freedom: and bidding her adieu, hastened back to the Earl's without saying one word of my adventure, which I commit to your secrecy, and subscribe

Your most humble servant, POLYDOR.



L E T T E R XXII.

A letter from Arifus, giving his friend a relation of the sudden death of his bride, who was seized in the chapel while the sacred rites were performing.

MY fate will furnish you with a full evidence of the vanity of human happiness. My last letter was wrote in the height of success, with the most arrogant expectations and

and boast of a lasting felicity ; now it is all changed, and the shadows of night come over me.

The lovely Ermina, whom I had so long pursued, and at last persuaded to crown my wishes, the very morning she gave me her hand, before the sacred ceremony was finished, was surprised with the fatal message of death ; and carried in a swoon from the chapel to her chamber, where she soon expired in her mother's arms. This hour she appeared with all the cost and splendor of a youthful bride ; the next she is pale and senseless, muffled in a ghastly shroud : those charms, that in the morning promised an eternal bloom, before the evening have dropt their smiling pride ; the sparkling eyes are sunk in darkness ; the soft and tuneful voice is for ever silent ; while a livid hue sits on the late rosy lips.

*This airy pleasure dances in our eyes,
And spreads false images in fair disguise,
T' allure our souls ; till just within thy arms
The vision dies, and all the painted charms
Flee quick away from the pursuing sight,
Till they are lost in shades, and mingle with the night.*

O death ! how cruel was thy triumph ! Youth and beauty, joy and blooming hope, lie here a victim to thy rage : the darksome prison of the grave must now confine the gentle captive ; instead of the pomp of a bridal-bed, the cold earth must be her lodging, dust and corruption her covering.

You will now expect I should practise the principles I have so often asserted, in exercising my boasted reason and moderation ; or leave you to insult me, with the arguments I lately produced, to allay your grief, under the pressure of an uncommon misfortune. This reproof would be but just at a period when Heaven has given me a full evidence of the truths I confessed ; and set the vanity of human hopes in the clearest demonstration before me. One would think I should now, if ever, find it easy to mortalise on these subjects, and act the philosopher from mere necessity, if not from virtue.

T

Were

Were the case yours, or any body's but my own, how many wise things should I repeat! How fluently could I talk! So much more easy is it to dictate than to practise. And yet I am reasonable by intervals; I am in more than name, a Christian; in some bright periods, I feel the force of that profession, and pay homage to its sacred rules: a heavenly ray scatters my grief, and cheers my soul with divine consolations: the gay and the gloomy appearances of mortal things vanish before the gleams of celestial light: immortal pleasures, with gentle invitations, call me to the skies, and all my thoughts ascend.

But how short my triumph! how easy the transition from reason to madness! of what surprising variety is a human mind capable! Light and darkness, heaven and hell, seemed blended within; it is all chaos, and wild disorder: that reason which one moment relieves me, the next seems, with a just train of ideas, to torment me.

See there, all pale and dead she lies:

For ever flow my streaming eyes:

Fly Hymen, with extinguish'd fires:

Fly nuptial bless, and chaste desires:

Ermina's fled, the loveli'st mind,

Faith, sweetness, wit, together join'd.

Dwell faith, and wit, and sweetness there?

Oh! view the change, and drop a tear.

Adieu.



L E T T E R XXIII.

From Mr Pope to Mr Addison.

I Have been lying in wait for my own imagination this week and more, and watching what thoughts came up in the whirl of fancy, that were worth communicating to you in a letter: But I am at length convinced that my rambling head can produce nothing of this sort; so I must even be contented with telling you the old story, that I love you heartily. I have often found by experience, that

nature and truth, though ever so low and vulgar, are yet pleasing when openly and artlessly represented. It would be diverting to me to read the very letters of an infant, could it write its innocent inconsistencies and tautologies, just as it thought them. This makes me hope a letter from me will not be unwelcome to you, when I am conscious I write with more unreservedness than ever man wrote, or perhaps talked to another. I trust your good nature with the whole range of my follies, and really love you so well, that I would rather you should pardon me than esteem me; since one is an act of goodness and benevolence, the other a kind of constrained deference.

You can't wonder my thoughts are scarce consistent, when I tell you how they are distracted. Every hour of my life, my mind is strangely divided; this minute perhaps I am above the stars, with a thousand systems round about me, looking forward into a vast abyss, and losing my whole comprehension in the boundless space of creation, in dialogues with Whiston and the astronomers; the next moment I am below all trifles, grovelling with T. in the very centre of nonsense: Now I am recreated with the brisk jollies and quick turns of wit, which Mr Steele in his lively and fresh humour darts about him; and now levelling my application to the insignificant observations and quirks of grammar of C. and D.

Good God! what an incongruous animal is man! how unsettled in his best part, his soul; and how changing and variable in his frame of body! The constancy of the one shook by every notion, the temperament of the other affected by every blast of wind! What is he altogether, but one mighty inconsistency? sickness and pain is the lot of one half of him; doubt and fear the portion of the other! What a bustle we make about passing our time, when all our space is but a point? What aims and ambitions are crowded into this little instant of our life, which (as Shakespeare finely words it) is rounded with a sleep! Our whole extent of being is no more in the eye of Him who gave it, than a scarce perceptible moment of duration. Those animals, whose circle of living is limited to three or four hours, as the naturalists tell us, are yet as long lived, and possesses

as wide a scene of action as man, if we consider him with a view to all space, and all eternity. Who knows what plots, what achievements a mite may perform in his kingdom of a grain of dust, within his life of some minutes? And of how much less consideration even than this, is the life of man in the sight of God, who is for ever, and for ever?

Who, that thinks in this strain, but must see the world and its contemptible grandeur lessen before him at every thought; it is enough to make one remain stupefied in a poise of inaction, void of all desires, of all designs, of all friendships.

But we must return (through our very condition of being) to our narrow selves, and those things that affect ourselves: our passions, our interests, flow in upon us, and unphilosophize us into mere mortals. For my part, I never return so much into myself as when I think of you, whose friendship is one of the best comforts I have for the insignificancy of myself.

I am yours, &c.



LETTER XXIV.

From Miss ——, to her brother, to acquaint him with the death of their mother.

My dear Brother,

WHAT shall I tell you? how will you be able to bear the fatal news of the death of our much honoured mother, whose loss is to me more bitter than death, and will plunge you, I fear, into the deepest sorrow? But the other night she called me to her bed-side, and taking me by the hand, said, "My dear child, I am just going to leave you; a few hours will bear me to the world of spirits. I willingly resign you, my dear charge, and your brothers, if they are yet alive, to the care of a good God, who will always befriend the virtuous. I rejoice you are of that number: if you continue as you have set out, you cannot fail of being happy. When you have an opportunity to write to your brothers, or shall see them, tell them I died

with

with them on my heart, lest them a mother's blessing, and had no higher wish on earth, than to hear they were wise and good. Alas, poor Pamphilus! would to God he was so: were I sure of this, I should die perfectly easy. I hope Eoulus will return to you, and heaven make you happy in each other. Farewell, my dearest child! may heaven preserve you wise and good; and when you drop a tear to the memory of a loving mother, be excited thereby to imitate whatever you thought good in her. Oh! farewell." With these words, the dear woman resigned her soul into her Maker's hands, and smiled in the agony of death. Oh! my dear brother, grief overwhelms me; I can add no more, but that I long exceedingly to see you; that will be my only cordial, to alleviate the heavy loss of your affectionate sister,

ELIZA ROWE.



LETTER XXV.

Mrs Rowe to the Countess of Hertford.

Madam,

WHEN I begin a friendship, it is for immortality. This confession, I own, is enough to put you in some terror that you are never like to drop my conversation in this world, nor the next; but I hope I shall improve in the realms of light, and get a new set of thoughts to entertain you with at your arrival there; which, for the public interest, I wish may be long after I am sleeping in the dust; but perhaps I will be the first joyful spirit that will welcome you to the immaterial coasts, and entertain you with one of the softest songs of paradise at your arrival.—Mr Rolle would think these all gay chimeras and gay visions, but how much more so are all the charming scenes on earth?

As the fantastic images of night,
Before the op'ning morning take their flight;
So vanish all the hopes of men; their pride,
And vain designs, the laughing skies deride.

You will think, Madam, I am resolved you shall remember your latter end, whocver forgets it. I suppose you will expect the next picture I send you will be Time, with a scythe and an hour glass; but really these mementos of mortality are necessary to people like you in the height of greatness, and the full bloom of youth and beauty.—If I go on, you will think me in the height of the vapours, and the perfection of the spleen; but, in all the variety of my temper,

I am your Ladyship's most humble servant,

ELIZ. ROWE.

I admire the verses you inclosed, and am surprised at the author.



L E T T E R XXVI.

*From Mrs Rowe to the Countess of Hereford.
Written the day before her death.*

Madam,

This is the last letter you will ever receive from me; the last assurance I shall give you, on earth, of a sincere and steadfast friendship; but when we meet again, I hope it will be in the heights of immortal love and ecstasy. Mine, perhaps, may be the glad spirit to congratulate your safe arrival to the happy shores. Heaven can witness how sincere my concern for your happiness is: thither I have sent my ardent wishes, that you may be secured from the flattering delusions of the world; and, after your pious example has been long a blessing to mankind, may calmly resign your breath, and enter the confines of unmolested joy. — I am now taking my farewell of you here; but it is a short adieu, with full persuasion that we shall soon meet again. — But, oh! in what elevation of happiness! — In what enlargement of mind, and what perfection of every faculty! — What transporting reflections shall we make on the advantages of which we shall be eternally possessed! —

To him that loved us, and washed us in his blood, shall we ascribe immortal glory, dominion, and praise for ever; this is all my salvation, all my hope. That name on whom the Gentiles trust, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed, is now my glorious, my unfailing confidence. In his worth alone I expect to stand justified before infinite purity and justice. How poor were my hopes, if I depended on those works, which my vanity, or the partiality of men have called good; and which, if examined by divine purity, would prove, perhaps, but specious sins! The best actions of my life would be found defective, if brought to the test of that unblemished holiness, in whose sight the heavens are not clean. Where were my hopes, but for a Redeemer's merit and atonement? — how desperate, how undone, my condition! — With the utmost advantages I could boast, I should step back and tremble at the thoughts of appearing before the unblemished Majesty? Oh JESUS! what harmony dwells in thy name! celestial joy and immortal life are in the sound. Let angels set to thee their golden harps, let the ransomed nations for ever magnify thee. What a dream is mortal life! What shadows are all the objects of mortal sense! all the glories of mortality (my much-beloved friend) will be nothing in your view at the awful hour of death, when you must be separated from this lower creation, and enter on the borders of the immortal world.

Something persuades me this will be the last farewell in this world; Heaven forbid it should be an everlasting parting: may that divine protection, whose care I implore, keep you steadfast in the faith of Christianity, and guide your steps in the strictest paths of virtue. Adieu, my most dear friend, until we meet in the paradise of God.

LETTER XXVII.

From a person in town, to his brother in the country, describing a public execution at Tyburn.

Dear Brother,

I have this day been satisfying a curiosity, I believe natural to most people, by seeing an execution at Tyburn. This sight has had an extraordinary effect upon me, which is more owing to the unexpected oddness of the scene than the affecting concern, which is unavoidable in a thinking person at a spectacle so awful and so interesting, to all who consider themselves of the same species with the unhappy sufferers.

That I might the better view the prisoners, and escape the pressure of the mob, which is prodigious, nay, almost incredible, if we consider the frequency of these executions in London, which is once a month, I mounted my horse, and accompanied the melancholy cavalcade from Newgate to the fatal tree. The criminals were five in number. I was much disappointed at the unconcern and carelessness that appeared in the faces of three of the unhappy wretches. The countenances of the other two were spread with that horror and despair, which is not to be wondered at in men whose period is so near, hastened by their own voluntary indiscretion and misdeeds. The exhortation spoken by the bell-man, from the wall of St Sepulchre's church-yard, is well intended; but the noise of the officers, and the mob, was so great, and the silly curiosity of people climbing into the cart to take leave of the criminals, made such a confused noise, that I could not hear the words of the exhortation when spoken, tho' they are as follow:

" All good people, pray heartily to God for these poor sinners, who are now going to their deaths, for whom this great bell doth toll.

" You that are condemned to die, repent with lamentable tears. Ask mercy of the Lord for the salvation of your own souls, through the merit, death, and passion of Jesus Christ, who now sits at the right hand of God, to make

"make intercession for as many of you as penitently return
"unto him.

"*Lord have mercy upon you! Christ have mercy upon
you!*"

Which last words the bellman repeats three times.

All the way up Holburn the crowd was so great, as, at every twenty or thirty yards to obstruct the passage; and wine, notwithstanding a late good order against that practice, was brought the malefactors, who drank greedily of it, which I think did not suit well with their deplorable circumstances. After this, the three thoughtless young men, who at first seemed not enough concerned, grew more shamefully, daring and wanton; behaving themselves in a manner that would have been ridiculous in men in any circumstance whatever: they swore, laughed, and talked obscenely; and wished their wicked companions good luck, with as much assurance as if their employment had been the most lawful.

At the place of execution, the scene grew still more shocking; and the clergyman who attended was more the subject of ridicule than their serious attention. The psalm was sung amidst the curses and quarrelling of hundreds of the most abandoned and profligate of mankind; upon whom (so stupid are they to any sense of decency) all the preparations of the unhappy wretches seem to serve only for the subject of a barbarous kind of mirth, altogether inconsistent with humanity. And as soon as the poor creatures were half dead, I was much surprised, before such a number of peace-officers, to see the populace fall to pulling and hauling the carcases with so much earnestness as to occasion several warm encounters and broken heads. These, I was told, were the friends of the persons executed, or such as, for the sake of tumult, chose to appear so, and some persons sent by private surgeons to obtain bodies for dissection. The contests between these were fierce and bloody, and frightful to look at: so that I made the best of my way out of the crowd, and, with some difficulty, rode back among a large number of people, who had been upon the same errand with myself. The face of every one spoke a kind of mirth, as if the spectacle they beheld had afforded pleasure

sure instead of pain, which I am wholly unable to account for.

In other nations, common criminal executions are said to be little attended by any besides the necessary officers, and the mournful friends; but here, all was hurry and confusion, racket and noise, praying and cursing, swearing, and singing of psalms. I am unwilling to impute this difference in our own, from the practice of other nations, to the cruelty of our natures; to which foreigners, however, to our dishonour, ascribe it. In most instances, let them say what they will, we are humane beyond what other nations can boast; but in this, the behaviour of my countrymen is past my accounting for; every street and lane I passed through bearing rather the face of a holiday, than of that sorrow which I expected to see, for the untimely deaths of five members of the community.

One of their bodies was carried to the lodging of his wife; who not being in the way to receive it, they immediately hawked it about to every surgeon they could think of; and when none would buy it, they rubbed tar all over it, and left it in a field hardly covered with earth.

This is the best description I can give you of a scene that was no way entertaining for me, and which I shall not again take so much pains to behold.

I am, dear brother, yours affectionately,

J. E. T.

LETTER XXVIII.

The following letter was written by a gentlewoman to her husband who was condemned to suffer death. The unfortunate catastrophe happened at Exeter, in the time of Oliver's usurpation. A gentleman whose name was Penruddock, to whom the letter was written, was barbarously sentenced to die without the least appearance of justice. He asserted the illegality of his enemies proceeding, with a spirit worthy his innocence; and the night before his death his lady wrote to him this letter, which is so much admired, and is as follows.

Mrs Penruddock's last letter to her husband.

My dear Heart,

MY sad parting was so far from making me forget you, that I scarce thought upon myself since, but wholly upon you. Those dear embraces which I yet feel, and shall never lose, being the faithful testimonies of an indulgent husband, have charmed my soul to such a reverence of your remembrance, that, were it possible, I would with my own blood, cement your dear limbs to life again; and (with reverence) think it no sin to rob heaven a little while longer of a martyr. O, my dear, you must now pardon my passion, this being my last (O fatal word!) that ever you will receive from me; and know, that until the last minute that I can imagine you alive, I will sacrifice the prayers of a Christian, and the groans of an afflicted wife. And when you are not, (which since by sympathy I shall know) I shall wish my own dissolution with you, that so we may go hand in hand to heaven. 'Tis too late to tell you what I have, or rather have not done for you; how turned out of doors because I came to beg mercy; the Lord lay not your blood to their charge. I would fain discourse longer with you, but dare not; passion begins to drown my reason, and will rob me of my devoir, which is all I have left to serve you. Adieu, therefore, ten thousand times, my dearest dear; and since I must never see you more, take this prayer;

May

May your faith be so strengthened, that your constancy may continue ! and then I know heaven will receive you ; whether grief and love will, in a short time, (I hope), translate,

My dear, your sad, but constant wife,
even to love your ashes when dead,

ARUNDEL PENRUDDOCK.

May the 3d, 1655, 11 o'clock at night.

P. S. Your children beg your blessing, and present their duties to you.

I do not know that I have ever read any thing so affectionate as that line, “ those dear embraces, which I yet feel.”

Mr Penruddock's answer has an equal tenderness, which I shall recite also, that you may see whether the man or the woman expressed themselves the more kindly, and strive to imitate them in less circumstances of distress ; for, from all, no couple upon earth are exempt.



LETTER XXIX.

Mr Penruddock's last letter to his lady.

Dearest and best of creatures,

I Had taken leave of the world when I received yours ; it did at once recall my fondness for life and enable me to resign it. As I am sure I shall leave none behind me like you, which weakens my resolution to part from you ; so when I reflect I am going to a place where there is none but such as you, I recover my courage. But fondness breaks in upon me ; and I would not have your tears flow to-morrow, when your husband, and the father of the dear babes, is a public spectacle. Do not think meanly of me, that I give way to grief now in private, when I see my sand run so fast. I, within a few hours, am to leave you helpless and exposed to the merciless and insolent, that have wrongfully

fully put me to a shameful death, and will object that shame to my poor children. I thank you for all your goodness to me, and will endeavour so to die, as to do nothing unworthy that virtue in which we have mutually supported each other, and for which I desire you not to repine that I am first to be rewarded; since you ever preferred me to yourself in all other things, afford me, with chearfulness, the precedence in this.

I desire your prayers in the article of death, for my own will then be offered for you and yours.

J. PENRUDDOCK.

A few short and intelligible Forms of Messages for Cards or Billets, which may be varied at pleasure, so as to serve all Occasions.

M E S S A G E I.

MR and Mrs Cecil's compliments to Mr and Mrs Heward, and desire the favour of their company Wednesday next, to drink tea, and spend the evening.

Monday morning.

II. Mr and Mrs Howard return their compliments to Mr and Mrs Cecil, and will certainly do themselves the pleasure to wait on them.

Monday noon.

III. Mr and Mrs Howard return their compliments, and are sorry it happens that a pre-engagement will not permit them the pleasure of waiting on Mr and Mrs Cecil, which they would otherwise have readily done.

Monday afternoon.

IV. Mr and Mrs Compton's compliments to Mr and Mrs Stanely; and if they are disengaged this afternoon, will take the pleasure of waiting on them.

Tuesday noon.

V. Mr and Mrs Stanely are perfectly disengaged, beg their compliments, and will be extremely glad of Mr and Mrs Compton's agreeable company.

Tuesday noon.

VI. Mr and Mrs Stanely are very sorry it so happens that they are engaged this afternoon and evening; but beg their compliments, and any other time that shall be agreeable to Mr and Mrs Compton, will be proud of the pleasure of their company.

Tuesday noon.

VII. Miss Willis sends her compliments to Miss Byron, and desires to know how she does; and if well enough to see company, and it be agreeable, will wait on her this afternoon in the coach, and give her an airing for an hour before tea.

Wednesday morn.

VIII. Miss Byron, without a compliment, is very agreeably obliged to Miss Willis, whom she would be extremely glad to see, and accepts of her kind salutary offer of an airing in the coach at the time proposed.

Wednesday morn.

IX. Miss Byron, instead of compliments, begs leave to return Miss Willis her best thanks for her very obliging card, and is extremely sorry she is not well enough to have the pleasure of her company; which, however, she hopes very soon for a full enjoyment of, and to be able to accept of her kind offer of an airing in the coach.

Wednesday noon, and not up.

X. Mrs Wyndham presents her compliments to Mrs Penberton; hopes she is well, and to have the favour of her

her company to-morrow evening, with a small but agreeable party at friendly whist.

Thursday afternoon.

XI. Mrs Pemberton is not so well as she could wish, but much at Mrs Wyndham's service, and will endeavour to wait on her.

Thursday even.

XII. Mr Lambers compliments wait on Miss Norris, to beg the very great favour of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

Friday morn.

XIII. Miss Norris's compliments to Mr Lambert, and she is engaged.

Friday.

XIV. Miss Norris's compliments: she is not certain of being at the assembly, and undetermined about dancing; so Mr Lambert must not absolutely depend on her for a partner.

Friday morn.

XV. Miss Wansey is sorry to trouble Miss Cooper on so trifling an occasion, as how to direct to her aunt Waterland; begs her compliments and a line of information by the bearer.

Sunday evening.

XVI. Mrs Chedworth's respects (compliments she has done with) to Mrs Charleton, and if not engaged, her company, as it will be extremely agreeable, is desired this evening at a party of quadrille, about four tables in the whole.

Monday morn.

XVII. Miss Charleton's best services; she has the pleasure of Mrs Chedworth's respectful message, and it is much against her inclination that she is obliged to say she cannot

possibly wait on her, having this evening a previous engagement that cannot be dispensed with.

Tuesday morn.

XVIII. If Miss Romney be well enough, Lady Bathurst's compliments, and she proposes a visit this afternoon to Miss Arran, and will be very glad of her company; the coach is ordered exactly at four, and an airing will not be amiss.

Wednesday, eleven o'clock.

XIX. Miss Romney has the honour of Lady Bathurst's card; she begs leave to return her compliments, and is very much at her Ladyship's service, and will certainly wait on her.

Wednesday.

XX. Mrs Legg has a party at cards next Wednesday evening of eight tables; she presents her compliments to Mr Strong, and desires the favour of his company.

Thursday, Dec. 5.

XXI. Mr Strong has the honour of Mrs Legg's card, thinks himself extremely obliged in being of the party, and will certainly do himself the pleasure of waiting on her.

Thursday, Dec. 5.

XXII. Mr Bedford, after the honour of dancing last night with Miss Hammond, is concerned that he is prevented waiting on her this morning by a sudden call to town; begs his compliments may be acceptable; hopes this message will find her in perfect health, and that she took no cold.

Friday morn. eight o'clock.

English Spelling Dictionary.

A B

A Bandon
A abase
 abasement
 abashment
 abate
 abatement
 abbacy
 abbey
 abbot
 abbreviate
 abbreviation
 abdicate
 abdication
 abdomen
 abet
 abettor
 abhor
 abhorrence
 abide
 abject
 abjection
 ability
 abjuration
 able
 abroad
 abolition
 abominable
 abomination
 abortion
 abound

A C

abridgment
 abroad
 abrupt
 abscess
 abscond
 absence
 absolve
 absolute
 abstain
 abstemious
 abstinen^ce
 abstract
 abstraction
 abstruse
 absurd
 abundance
 abuse
 abusive
 accede
 academy
 accelerate
 acceleration
 accept
 acceptableness
 accessory
 accident
 accidental
 acclamation
 accommodate
 accommodation
 accompany

A D

accomplice
 accomplish
 accomplishment
 accord
 accost
 account
 accountant
 accoutrement
 accumulation
 accuracy
 accursed
 accusation
 accuser
 acid
 acknowledgment
 acquaint
 acquiesce
 action
 actor
 acre
 actual
 acute
 adapt
 adder
 addition
 address
 adequate
 adhere
 adjacent
 adieu
 adjoin

A F

adjournment
adjure
admeasurement
administer
administration
administratorship
admirableness
admiralty
admire
admit
admonish
adopt
adorable
adornment
advancement
advantageous
adventitious
adventure
adventurous
adversary
advertisement
advise
adult
adulteration
advocate
advowson
affability
affair
affect
affectation
affection
affiance
affidavit
affinity
affirm
affirmatively
affix
affliction
affluence

A L

afford
afforded
affray
affront
aforchaud
afraid
agent
aggrandize
aggravation
aggression
agile
agility
agitate
agonize
agreeableness
agreement
agriculture
agrimony
aground
ague
alabaster
alarm
albeit
alchymist
alcove
alderman
algebra
alien
aliment
allay
allegation
allegiance
allegorical
alleviate
alliance
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alligator
allowance
alloy

A N

almanac
Almighty
aloes
alphabetically
already
altercation
alternate
ainain
ainass
amaze
ambiguity
amer cement
ambition
amicableness
amusement
anabaptist
analogy
analysis
anarchy
anathema
anatomy
ancestors
anchor
anchovy
anecdote
animadversion
animacule
animosity
anniversary
annihilate
annoy
antechamber
antimonarchial
antichristianism
antidote
antipathy
Antipodes
antiquity
anxiety

A Z

Apocrypha
apoplectic
apostacy
apparatus
apparel
apparition
appear
appetite
applicable
arbitrary
archdeacon
archbishopric
archetype
argumentation
armada
armour
arraignment
arrogance
arrogate
arsenal
artery
artificer
asparagus
aspiration
assistant
associate
assuage
astonish
astrologer
astronomy
atrocious
attribute
avail
avarice
auctioneer
authority
authentic
axle-tree
azure

B A

B
Bachelor
backslide
backward
baggage
bagpipe
baillif
bailliwick
balance
balcony
balderdash
baldness
baleful
ballad
ballast
balsamic
balustrade
banditti
baneful
banishment
banker
bankrupt
barbarian
Barbadoes
barbed
barber
bargain
barometer
barrack
barricado
barrier
barrister
barter
base
bashful
basil
basilisk
basset
bafoon

B E

bas-relief
bastinado
bastion
batoon
battalia
beacon
beadle
beard
beastly
beatific
beau
beaver
beautify
beaux
bedaub
beech
behaviour
besom
beggary
belabour
beldam
boleaguer
belfry
bellow
Belvidere
bcmire
bemoan
benevolence
bergamot
Berlin
besought
bespeckle
besprinkle
bespridden
bethought
betony
betroth
bevel
beverage

B O

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bewitch
bidder
bigot
bilander
bilboes
bilious
billet-doux
binder
biographer
bird-call
bird-lime
bishopric
biscextile
bittern
bitumen
bladder
blackmoor
blackness
blacksmith
blameable
Blandford
blanket
blasphemic
blazon
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blemish
blindfold
blister
blithe
blockhead
bloodshed
bloodshot
blossom
blunder
bluster
bluntness
boaster

B R

boatswain
bobtail
bodice
boggle
boggy
boiler
boisterous
boldness
bolster
bombardier
bombast
bombasine
bondage
bonefire
boniegrace
bonnet
booby
bookbinder
book-keeping
bookseller
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Bosphorus
boffes
botanical
botcher
botching
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bounce
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braggadocio

B U

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brandish
brandy
Brasil
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brawler
brawn
brawny
breach
breakfast
breast-plate
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breviary
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bridle
brigade
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brilliant
brow-beaten
brutality
buckler
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Bucolic
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budge
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buff
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B U

builder
building
built
bulb
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bulk
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bulky
bull
bull-beating
bullet
bull-head
bullion
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bulrush
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bumper
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buoy
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bur
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burrough
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burgh
burgher
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burglary

B U

burgo-master
burial
burlesque
burly
burn
burning
burning-glass
burning-iron
burnish
burnisher
burnt
burr
burrow
burse
burser
burst
bursten
bury
bush
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busily
business
buskin
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bust
bustle
busy
but
butcher
butcherly
butchery
butler
butlership
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buttress
buy
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bz
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.by-laws
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by-way
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Cabinet
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Calvinist
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camphire
Canary-bird
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Candlemas
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Canticles
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cardinal
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carnival
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cartel
Cartesian
Carthusian
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cashier
Cassiope
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castrate
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catchpole
cathetical
catechism
categorical
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Catharine
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C H

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causeless
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centaur
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Corberus
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certificate
cessation
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chagrin
chaife
chalcedon
Chaldee
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chambér
chamberlain
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champagin
champion
chace
chance
chancellor

C H

chancemedley
chancery
chandler
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channel
chaos
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chapman
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chariot
charitable
charity
charmer
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character
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chattels
cheap
chequered
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cheese
cherish
cherry
chesnut
cherubim
chevalier
chicanery
chicken
chidingly
chief
chiftain
chilblain
child-bearing
chimerical
chimney-piece

C I

China
chirurgeon
chissel
chocolate
choice
choler
chopin
Christian
Christendom
Christinas
chronologer
chubbiness
church-warden
churlish
chymical
chymist
chymistry
cinnamon
cinders
circulate
circumcise
circumference
circumflex
circumfusion
circumjacent
circumlocution
circumrotation
circumscription
circumspection
circumstantial
circumvallation
circumvent
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citadel
citation
cite
citron
civet

C L

civility
civilian
clark
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clamour
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claret
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clarion
clasp
clash
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clave
clause
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clean
cleansc
clearness
cleft
clemency
Clement
clenchers
clergymen
cleverly
clew
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climacteric
cling
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clock-maker
clog
cloister
closeness
clothier
cloudiness
cloven
clownishness

C O

cluster
clutter
coach
coadjutor
coalesce
coarseness
cockatrice
co-efficient
coffeehouse
cohabit
co-heir
coherence
coition
collection
collision
collusion
colloquy
colonel
columbine
combat
comber
combination
comedian
comfortable
comical
comeliness
command
commandant
commemoration
commencement
commensurate
commentary
commission
commotion
commodious
comparative
complaint
complexion
compliment

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comprehension
compression
concealment
conceited
concise
conclusion
concoction
concubine
condemnation
confabulation
confession
confirmation
conformable
congenial
congratulate
conjecture
conjunction
connection
conquer
conscience
consignation
consubstantial
consumption
contemplation
contradiction
controversy
contumacy
contumely
convent
conviction
convulsion
cook
copious
coquet
cordial
corner
coronation
corpulence

C U

corruption
cosmography
cottage
cover
counsellor
courtship
coward
coxcomb
coy
cozen
crab
crack
cradle
craft
crag
craggy
crambo
crane
crape
cravate
crawl
crayon
crew
crimson
criticism
crocodile
crooked
croud
crucifix
cruel
crumb
crystal
cub
cuckold
cudgel
culpable
cultivation
cumbersome
cunning

D A

cupboard
cur
curable
curate
curb
curdle
curiosity
curlew
currents
curry
curse
curtain
custody
custom
customary
cut
cycle
Cyclops
cygnet
cylinder
cymbal
cynic
cynical
cyon
cypress
czar
czarina

D

Dagon
dainties
Dalmatia
damageable
damnable
dampishness
dandelion
dangerous
daughter
dauntless
Dauphin

D E

dazzling
deaconship
deal
deanship
death-watch
debauchee
debenture
debonah
decampment
deceitfulness
deceiver
December
decemvirate
deception
decimation
decipher
decisive
claimer
declarative
decoction
decorate
decorum
decrease
decrepit
dedicate
dedication
deducible
defamation
defective
definition
deformation
degenerate
dejection
delegation
delegate
deliberation
delicacy
delicious
delightful

X

D I

delineate
delincitation
delinquent
delirious
deliverer
demi-god
democracy
demolish
denunciation
dependence
deplorable
deposition
depravation
depravative
deputation
derivation
derogate
description
designation
desirable
desolation
desparado
despicable
despise
despitesul
despondency
despotic
destruiction
detect
determinate
detestable
dethrone
detractor
diabetes
diabolical
diagnosie
dialling
dialogue
diamond

D I

diametrical
dictator
dictionary
difference
difficult
diffuse
digestion
dignity
digression
dilemma
diligence
dilucitate
dimension
diminution
diocesan
diploma
direction
disadvantage
disagreeable
disappoint
disaster
disband
disburden
discipline
discomfiture
discommode
discompose
disconsolate
discontent
discourage
discountenance
discredit
discreet
discriminate
disdain
disencumber
disfranchise
disgraceful
dishonesty

D I

disingenious
dislocate
disloyal
dismember
disobedient
disoblige
disparage
dispatch
dispenser
display
displeasure
disposess
disprove
dispute
disquiet
disrepute
disrespectful
dissatisfactory
dissemble
dissention
dissimulation
dissolvable
dissolute
disusage
distasteful
distemper
distiller
distinction
distinguish
distraction
distress
distributor
distressful
disturbance
diverify
divertisement
dividend
divination
divinity

D U

divorcement
divulge
dizziness
docibility
doctorship
document
dolefully
dolphin
domestic
domineer
dominical
donation
dormitory
doubtful
doughty
downward
doxology
drapery
drawback
draw-bridge
dreadful
dreamer
dripping-pain
driveller
drollery
dromedary
dropsical
drudgery
druggist
Druids
drum-major
dubiousness
ducatoon
dudgeon
dukedom
dulcimer
dumbness
dunghill
dungeon

E D

dusky
dusty
duteous
dutifully
dutifulness
duty
dwarf
dwarfish
dweller
dwelling
dwindle
dyer
dyer-weed
dynasty
dysentery

E

Earl
earnest
car-ring
earth
earthquake
earwig
easiness
eaves-dropper
ebony
ebullition
Ecclesiastes
ecclesiastic
echo
eclipse
ecliptic
eclogue
ecstasy
eddy
Eden
edit
edification
edifice
edition

E D

education
efface
effectual
effeminate
efficacious
efficient
effigies
efflation
efflavium
efflux
effort
effrontery
effulgence
effusion
egregious
Egypt
ejaculation
ejection
elaborate
elaps'd
elasticity
elbow
elder
election
estuary
elegance
elegy
elemental
elephant
elevate
eleven
eligible
elixer
ellipsis
elogy
elopement
eloquence
eloquent
elucidate

E N

elucidation
elves
Elysian
emaciate
emasculate
embalm
embargo
embark
embarrass
embassy
embattle
embellish
embezzle
embllem
emboss
embowel
embrace
embolden
embroider
embroil
embryo
emerge
emesods
emigration
eminent
emolument
emotion
empannel
emperor
emphasis
empire
employ
employment
empress
emulate
emulgent
enamel
encamp
enchantment

E N

enclosure
encounter
encourage
encroach
encumber
endear
endeavormt
endeavour
endive
endow
endure
enemy
energy
enervate
enfeeble
enfranchise
engagement
engine
engineer
engrave
England
engross
enhance
enigma
enjoy
enlarge
enlighten
enmity
ennoble
enormity
enrich
enrol
ensample
enthrine
ensign
entablature
entail
entangle
entendre

E Q

enterprize
entertain
enthral
enthronc
enthusiasim
entice
entille
entity
entrails
entrap
envious
environ
enumerate
enunciation
envoy
envy
epact
emphcris
ephod
epicure
epicurean
epidemical
epigrain
epileptic
epilogue
episcopacy
episode
epistle
epitaph
epithet
epitome
epitomise
equal
equator
equilateral
equinox
equipage
equity
equivocal

E X

eradicate
crestor
erroneous
escheat
eschew
escorial
escutcheon
espousals
esquire
essences
establish
estimate
estrangement
eternal
Ethiopean
etymological
evacuate
eucharist
evangelical
event
evermore
evitable
evidence
Europe
evulsion
exactor
examine
exasperate
exchequer
exclaim
exclude
execute
exemplary
exercise
Exodus
exonerate
exorbitant
exorcise
expand

E X

expatriate
expectation
expedient
expedition
expel
expensive
experiment
expertly
expiration
expire
explain
explanation
explication
explicit
explod
exploit
expound
express
expulsion
expunge
extend
extent
exterminate
external
extinguish
extirpate
extol
extort
extract
extraordinary
extravagant
extremely
extricate
extrude
extrusion
exuberance
exuberant
exulcerate
exult

F A

exultation
eye
eye-bright
eye-brow
eye-sight
eye-sore
eye-teeth
Ezekiel

F
Fabulous
facetious
facilitate
faction
factor
faculty
faint-hearted
fairy
faithful
falcon
fallacious
fallible
falcifier
familiar
familist
famine
famous
famously
fanatical
fantastic
fancy
fardingale
farennaceous
farin
farrier
farthing
fascinate
fashionable
fastidious
fastness

F I

fastening
fatality
fatherless
fatigue
fatuate
faulchion
favourable
fawning
fearfully
feather
feature
February
fecundity
federal
feebleness
felicitate
fell-monger
fellowship
felonious
female
feminine
fermentation
ferocity
fertile
s fervent
fervency
festival
fetlock
feudal
feverish
feuel
fibre
fibrous
fickleness
fictitious
fiddle
fidelity
fierceness
fifteenth

F L	F O	F O
figurative	flegmatic	forcible
filament	Flemish	fordable
filation	fleshly	fore-appoint
filter	flexibility	fore-armed
filthiness	flexible	fore-cast
filtrate	fimfy	fore-close
filtration.	flinchers	fore-door
finable	flippant	fore-fault
finance	floatage	fore-fathers.
fineness	Flora	fore-finger
finery	Florence	fore-front
finger's-breadth	Florentine	foreigner
finical	fiorid	fore-judge
finisher	flounce	foreknowledge
finite	flounder	fore-ordain
firmament	flourish	forerunner
firmly	flour-de-luce	forespeaker
firstling	fluctuate	forest
fiscal	fluctuation	fore-teeth
fishermen	fluently	forethought
fistula	fluidity	forfeit
fixedness.	flummery	forgetful
slabby	flustered	forgery
flaccid	fluxibility	forlorn
flaglet	fodder	formality
flagging	foggy	fortification
flagitious	foible	forsake
flagrance	foldage	forthcoming
flagrant	foliage	fornication
flambeau	follower	fortitude
Flanders	fomentation	fortunate
flanker	fondling	forward
flash	fool-hardiness	foul
flatly	foolishness	foundation
flatterer	footmen	foundling
flatulent	foppery	fourteenth
flaunting	forgbearance	fowling-piece
flaxen	forbidden	fractious
flect	forceps	fragrant