

Frontispiece



N E W B E R Y's
FAMILIAR LETTER WRITER:
CONTAINING A VARIETY OF
USEFUL LETTERS,
CALCULATED FOR THE
MOST COMMON OCCURRENCES,
AND ADAPTED TO THE
CAPACITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE,

From an early Age to the Time of their
engaging in the most material Concerns
of Life.

L O N D O N:

Printed for E. NEWBERY, the Corner of
St. Paul's Church-Yard.

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P R E F A C E.

IT has with too much propriety been objected, that the generality of books of this kind are calculated more for the amusement of people advanced in years, than for the instruction and improvement of young minds. Letters collected from Cicero, Pliny, Voltaire, Locke, Bolingbroke, and other philosophical writers, can help but little to conduct the youthful mind through the leading stages of epistolary writing.

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In this work, we have endeavoured to adapt each letter to the particular periods of life, beginning at the infantile state, and gradually

gradually raising them till they reach the age of maturity and reflection.

To furnish every class of readers, whether parents or children, masters or servants, with letters written in the most plain and familiar manner, and adapted to all occasions and circumstances, is the intention of this little work, which, small as it is, we flatter ourselves, will be found much better to answer the general intention of a book of this nature, than many more voluminous works ; and as such, we submit it to a candid perusal of the public.

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N E W B E R Y'S
FAMILIAR LETTER WRITER

P A R T I.

Letters to and from Children in their infantile Years.

Letter from a little Master to his Brother.

YOUR letter, my dear brother, came safe to my hands. I am happy to hear that you pass your time so agreeably in the country; and, as our holidays are approaching, I hope soon to partake of that pleasure with you. I wait, with some degree of impatience, to have the happiness of embracing you, and remain,

Your most affectionate brother.

Letter from the same to his Sister.

MY dear sister will receive from the bearer a toy, which I bought at the fair, and which, I hope, will prove worthy of her acceptance. Miss Aviary desires me to convey to you her most respectful compliments. I hope you will sometimes remember me, but always believe me to be,

Your most affectionate brother.

Letter from the same to his little Friend.

IT has given me no small uneasiness, my dear friend, that my sudden departure prevented me taking my leave of you, which was occasioned by the very short notice I received from my papa; but we shall soon return to London, when I shall embrace the first opportunity to tell you in person how sincerely I am,

Your most faithful and sincere friend.

Letter

Letter from a young Lady to her Parents.

I DOUBT not but that my dear papa and mama will excuse the badness of the writing of this letter, when they shall be pleased to recollect, that this is my first attempt, since I have learned to join my letters together. I have long been anxious to have the pleasure of being able to write to you, and beg you will be pleased to accept of this my first humble offering. As my constant study ever has been, so shall it continue to be, to convince you how much I am, my dearest parents,

Your most affectionate and dutiful daughter.

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

MY dear papa and mama will be pleased to accept of my most respectful compliments, on the close of the old, and commencement of the new year. As it has pleased God to give you good health during the course of the last year, I beseech him to grant you the same to the end of the present,

Newbery's Familiar Letter Writer.

and many more. This is a happiness your family have most earnestly to wish for, and in particular,

Your most humble and dutiful daughter.

Letter from the same to her Mama.

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

Your dutiful and affectionate daughter.

Letter from a young Gentleman to his Uncle.

WE intend, Sir, in a very few days, to pay you a visit. We cannot fix the time, as that must depend on the weather; but to you,

you, I presume, it will be no inconvenience, come when we will, so that we do not stay till your fruit be all gone. I long to see and ramble over your delightful grounds and garden, and to assure you how much I am, my dear uncle,

Your most humble servant and nephew.

From the same to his Playfellow.

I HAVE been, my dear Harry, at Windsor, where I saw the king, queen, and all the royal family, walk on the Terrace. To be sure, this was a pretty sight enough, and the country about Windsor is most charming and delightful. However, after all, I must own, that I find myself equally happy at home with my books. The pleasure I enjoyed was mixed with some kind of fatigue; but I will tell you more about it, when you call and see

Your old friend and companion.

*Letter from the same to his Companion, recovered
from a Fit of Sickness.*

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

Your sincere friend and playfellow.

Answer to the preceding Letter.

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

Your sincere friend and playfellow.

Letter

Letter from a young Gentleman to another going abroad.

MY dear Jemmy, I find you are to accompany your papa in his voyage to Italy. You have my earnest prayers that it may please God to give you a favourable wind, and enable you to surmount all difficulties. The dangers of the seas are many; but while Heaven is your guardian, you will have nothing to fear. Do not forget me, nor the many days of fun we have had together.

Adieu, my dear Jemmy.

Letter from a little Miss, on her setting off for School, to her intimate Companion.

THOUGH I am now busy, my pretty Charlotte, in packing up my clothes and other matters, yet I cannot avoid stealing a moment to take another farewell of my dear friend. Though I must soon be separated from you and my dear parents, to pass an age among strangers, where I must not hope to meet with a Charlotte, yet I will stick close to my books and my needle, as the only

probable and advantageous means of shortening the time of my exile. I hope I shall often hear from you ; and you must always fill your paper as much as possible, since news from you will be the only consolation of

Your faithful little friend.

Answer to the preceding Letter.

I SHALL be exceedingly unhappy, should not this reach my Nancy before she sets off for her boarding-school. You may be assured, that I am no less unfortunate than yourself on our approaching separation ; but I will try all the little arts I am mistress of, to persuade my parents to let me follow you to the same school ; and they do say, that we little ones have great powers of reasoning. Should I succeed, we shall be happy together, and be in no want of other company. At any rate, you shall often hear from me, and I flatter myself you will not forget to answer me. Adieu, my sweet Nancy, till I shall have more to say to you.

Letter

Letter from a young Gentleman to his afflicted Friend.

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

Your disconsolate friend.

Answer to the preceding Letter.

I KNOW of nothing in this world but a letter from my dear Billy, that could have so soon awakened me from the deep and melancholy gloom, with which I was

overwhelmed. Your letter forced from my eyes a flood of tears; and since that my heart is much easier. Am I not wicked in thus repining at my hard fate, when it is undoubtedly the work, the pleasure of that great God, to whose will, my dear father has often told me, we ought at all times to submit? Others, perhaps better children than myself, have experienced the like loss, and more must hereafter submit to the same dreadful misfortune. How contentedly should I have died in his stead! but then I should have prevented him going so soon to heaven. My poor mama is almost distracted, and my grief adds to her's. I will, therefore, endeavour to conceal it. Let me see you to-day, or to-morrow at furthest, which is all I can say at present, but—what a father have I lost!

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

YOU seem, my dear Billy, to make good the old proverb, “Out of sight, out of mind.” It is now two months since I received a letter from you, and you appear to forget, that we little maids do not like to be treated

treated with neglect. You must not pretend to tell me, that, however fond you may be of your books, you could not find leisure to write to me in all this time. They tell me, that you spend a great part of your leisure time with a little miss, of about eight years of age, with whom you are very fond of reading and conversing. Take care, if I find that to be true, that I do not come down and pull her cap for her. As for yourself, if you were within the reach of my little tongue, I would give you such a peal as should make you remember it for some time to come. However, if you will write to me soon, I may possibly forgive all that is past, and still consider myself as

Your most affectionate sister.

Answer to the preceding.

I AM verry sorry, my dear sister, that I have given you so much reason to complain of my neglect of writing to you; but be assured, that my affections for you are the same they ever were. I readily confess, that the young lady you complain of has, in some measure, been the cause of it. She is as fond of reading as I am, and I believe

loves you on my account. I did not tell her what you threatened her with; but I am sure, were you to come here on that errand, instead of pulling her cap, you would embrace and love her. As to what you say, respecting your little tongue, I promise you, I do not wish to come within reach of the sound of it, when anger sets it in motion. But, as it is the only weapon you little maids have to make use of in your own defence, that must not be refused you. However, as the holidays are now approaching, and consequently I shall soon see you, I will do what I can in future to avoid setting your little alarum in motion, and especially when I shall pay you a visit. I bought you, at our fair, a most brilliant doll, which I shall bring up with me when I come to London. Till then believe me

Your most affectionate brother.

Letter from a little Gentleman in Tribulation.

YOU very well know, my dear Theophilus, that I always take your advice in matters of consequence, and I never wanted it more than on the present occasion. You must know, that I was lately concerned in hunting

hunting a cat, which afforded us fine sport. The cat, it since appears, belongs to Justice Quorum, who, finding out that I was concerned in the business, made his complaint to my papa. I was called up before them, and, being closely charged with the crime, I could not deny it; for, you know, we neither of us can bear to tell a lye, be the consequence what it will. My father having promised the justice I should be properly punished, his worship went away perfectly contented; but certain I am, that I would rather have been soundly beaten, than receive those just reproaches my dear father made use of. "Tom (said he to me, with a stern air, and a fixed countenance) I thought I had taught you to believe, that he who can be cruel and inhuman to brutes, will not scruple occasionally to be so to human creatures. Amidst the shameful pleasure you took in tormenting an innocent cat, did not your heart once tell you, that such sport was inhuman? that those who could take delight in wanton cruelty, were worse than the brutes they hunted; and that one of the noblest perfections of human nature, was the feelings of humanity, even to the most insignificant animals; I may say, from the horse down to the fly. If you do not blush for yourself, I cannot help blushing

ing for you. This, indeed, is the first charge of such a nature that has been laid against you, and I hope it will be the last; but, as you have raised my anger, get from my sight, and confine yourself closely to your chamber for three days. By that time, perhaps, my resentment may be abated, and I may forgive you." I was so ashamed and confused, that, instead of making any reply, I dared not to look him in the face; but, after making the most respectful bow, I retired to my chamber drowned in tears. Now, my dear Theophilus, as I know my father is fond of you, and will listen to what you shall say, come and tell him that I am truly sensible of my error, that I promise most faithfully never to be again guilty of such a crime, and that I cannot live three days banished from his sight in anger. I am sensible, that you are more sedate than I am, and do not suffer wicked boys to tempt you to do what you know is wrong; but pity me, and do not desert me in the day of tribulation. Your restoring me to my father's favour, will encrease, if possible, that esteem I always had for you, and which I hope we shall continue to cultivate when we shall become men.

Answer

Answer to the preceding Letter.

I AM quite unhappy, my dear Tom, to hear of the disgrace into which you are fallen ; but, as you seem sensible of your crime, I will not encrease your affliction by reproaches. I will certainly call at your house this evening ; and, if I can find the means of restoring you to your father's favour, I shall consider it as one of the most pleasing circumstances of my life. Should I unfortunately fail in that attempt, I will then become the companion of your disgrace, and never quit your company till the expiration of your imprisonment.

Letter from a young Lady to her Acquaintance, concerning an unfortunate Christening.

I HAVE hardly patience, my dear Maria, to tell you what a scene of distress last night presented. That beautiful doll, which my brother bought at the fair, and sent me to London with so much care, is irrecoverably ruined. You very well know, from the invitation I sent you, and which you could not conveniently comply with,

that last night was fixed for the christening. I had a most brilliant company of little ladies, dressed in their best frocks and caps, and my poor doll received the name of Charlotte, with all the pomp and ceremony so important an occasion required. Charlotte was the admiration of the whole company ; and indeed well she might, for never was a doll more elegantly dressed. Miss Careless took her in her arms, danced her about, and talked to her a great deal ; but, in one of her speeches to Charlotte, she held her so far backwards over the table, that her gauze cap caught the flame of the candle. This in a moment was in a blaze, and the flame instantly descended to her cambrick handkerchief, and from thence to her muslin gown. In short, this dismal accident was so sudden, that my poor doll was in a blaze from head to foot, before we had a moment's leisure to consider what was best to be done. Luckily, at this instant, the footman entered with a large bowl of negus, which he directly threw over my poor Charlotte, and thereby extinguished the flames. Miss Careless was so much ashamed of herself, that she got away amidst the bustle ; and the rest of the ladies were so greatly terrified, that in less than ten minutes I was left by myself, to cry over the sad remains of my poor

poor Charlotte. Not a rag was left upon her, that could ever be used again; her once pretty face is now as black as a cinder, her legs and body are miserably scorched, and one of her arms is off. Alas, poor Charlotte, how sudden has been thy fate! Since you could not come to this unfortunate christening, do, my dear Maria, come to me this evening, and attend her untimely funeral.

P A R T II.

*Letters to and from young Persons during
their schoolastic Age.**Letter from a Father to his Son at School.*

I COULD not, my dear child, give a more convincing proof of my affection for you, than in submitting to send you to so great a distance from me. I preferred your advantage to my own pleasure, and sacrificed fondness to duty. I should have done this sooner, but I waited till my enquiries had found out a person whose character might be responsible for your education; and Mr. Lily was at length my choice for that important trust. He will be a fitter parent for you at present, than either of those you have left at home, since he will see you as you are, without the dangerous bias of natural affection. His approbation must be earned by merit, ours might be but the partiality of tender connection. He is now the substitute of our authority; and you are to consider

consider, that the duty and submission, which we had a claim to, are for a time transferred to him. Your obedience, therefore, must be without murmuring or reluctance; especially when you reflect, that a strict attention to his appointments, and an implicit compliance with his commands, are not only to form the rule of your safe conduct in this life; but to be preparatory to your happiness in the next. With regard to your school connections, it is impossible for me to give you any instructions at present. Your affections will form general attachments at first, till experience and ripening sense shall point out to you the possessors of superior merit, virtue and abilities. All that I shall at present say to you on this subject is, quarrel with no one, avoid meddling with the disputes of others, unless with a view to promote an accommodation; and, though I would wish you to support the dignity of a youth, be neither mean nor arrogant. I have nothing more now to add, than to pray God to give you grace and abilities, and that your own endeavours may second the views of

An affectionate father.



Letter

Letter from a Youth at School to his Father.

I AM infinitely obliged to you, honoured Sir, for the many favours you have bestowed on me; all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be considered as some proof how sensible I am of your kindness. Gratitude, duty, and a view to my own future advantages, equally contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement and your satisfaction. The liberal allowance of money you have been pleased to make me, shall be applied in the best manner I am able. A small part of it I shall devote to little indulgences on myself, and the rest I shall distribute among my tutors, or expend on such of my schoolfellows, whose friendship I wish to cultivate. I am sure, my dear father will not censure me, should I devote a part of it towards the relief of the wretched and unfortunate. Pray give my most dutiful respects to my mother, my kindest love to my brothers and sisters, and believe me, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful and affectionate son.

From

From a Brother at Home to his Sister at School.

I CANNOT avoid telling you, my dear sister, how unkind it is taken by every one here, that we seldom receive any news from you. My mother, in particular, is very much displeased with you, and says you are a very idle girl. My aunt is of the same opinion, and none but myself endeavours to find excuses 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 more frequently. You are very sensible how dear you are to us all; think then, whether it be right to omit giving us the only satisfaction that absence affords to real friends, which is often to hear from each other. When you write, do not attempt idle excuses; but either give a substantial reason for not writing sooner, or candidly confess your fault, ask pardon, and avoid the necessity of doing so any more. I remain

Your tender and loving brother.

Answer

Answer to the preceding Letter.

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

Your tender and affectionate sister,

Letter

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

AS you are now, my dear brother, gone from home, and placed in a very capital seminary of learning, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that childish amusements should be laid aside, and, instead of them, more serious thoughts imbibed, and things of more consequence made the objects of your attention ; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent in life, which are things of great value, and ought to be studied beyond any trifling amusements whatever, as they will be an ornament in youth, and a comfort in old age. I know very well how tedious and fatiguing are the paths that lead to science, and how many give up the business long before they have finished their journey ; but this, I flatter myself, will not be the case with my dear brother, who will manfully struggle with every difficulty, and never lose sight of the grand object he has in view. You may judge, in some measure, of the value of a good education, from the unavailing lamentations you daily hear those make, who foolishly shrunk from the difficulties

culties

culties attending the various branches of scholastic education. What a difference there is between an aged man of learning, and one who totally neglected his education in his youth ! The former, in the evening of his life, finds a perpetual source of amusements in the knowledge he acquired in his early days, and his company is admired and sought by all those, who wish to derive understanding from the knowledge of others, improved by a long life of philosophical experience; but the ignorant old man is no company for himself, nor any one else, unless over a pitcher or a bottle, when the assistance of a pipe will be necessary to excuse his silence. I know you have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life as I do my own. We are all very well, thank God, and your friends desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit ; and be assured, that a letter from you will always give great satisfaction to your parents, but to none more than to

Your most affectionate brother,

Letter from a young Gentleman at School in the Country to his Sister in London.

I AM now about to trouble you, my dear Maria, with a longer letter than any I have ever yet sent you; but, should it prove tedious, it is yourself you must thank for it, as you frequently complain how short my epistles are. I have been some time busied in reading the ancient historians, and I think, my dear sister, it will not be a matter unworthy of your curiosity, to know at what time monarchies commenced, and how long it is since men first gave up their freedom, and submitted to be governed by others. From the time of Adam to the deluge, which includes a space of more than sixteen hundred years, men lived in perfect liberty and independence. Every family resembled a little state, over whom they acknowledged no superior but their father, who was their chief. As these people were wholly unacquainted with what is now called *the knowledge of the world*, they lived without ambition, and their desires were bounded by the limits of their possessions; they had no other riches than their flocks and herds, which served to clothe and feed them.

them. You must not suppose, however, that men even then lived in a state of perfect innocence ; on the contrary, the crimes they committed were so heinous, that God destroyed them by an universal deluge. From that time the three children of Noah, whom God had preserved with their wives to re-people the earth, divided the world among them, and each became the chief of a different people, who in time spread over every part of the universe. It was about this time that men lost their liberty. Nimrod, a restless man, and an enemy to repose, not contented with his own patrimony, usurped his neighbours lands, and having by force taken possession of them, he erected a kind of empire at Babylon. It was not by choice that men first submitted to the will of others, but by force, and the violence of the first conquerors. The bad example of Nimrod, encouraged others, who made themselves kings, at the expence of public liberty. Those arms, which men invented to protect themselves against the beasts of the forest, were turned against men, and made use of to enslave them. Ninus, the son of Belus, founded the first empire of the Assyrians, and established himself at Nineve, an ancient and celebrated city. The famous empire of the first Assyrians lasted thirteen hundred years,

years, and fell at last by the effeminacy of their king Sardanapalus, who burnt himself and his palace at the same time. Three kingdoms arose from the wrecks of this empire, of which Medea was the most flourishing. Soon after the death of Sardanapalus began the second empire of the Assyrians, of which Nineveh was the capital. The kingdom of Babylon is very famous in sacred history, on account of the use God frequently made of their arms, to chastise the idolatry and crimes of his own people. Achaz, king of Judea, being pressed by his enemies, called the Assyrians to his assistance, and thereby taught them the way to Judea, which they frequently plundered, and at last completely conquered. They pillaged the temple of Solomon, where they found immense riches, and an amazing number of gold and silver vessels, which were designed for sacred purposes. They then led the Jews to Nineveh and Babylon, and Salmanazar at last laid the whole kingdom of Israel in ruins. Romulus and Remus founded the city of Rome, the capital of the Roman empire, about 753 years before Christ. Cyrus, the son of Mandane and Cambyses, king of Persia, after having obtained many great victories, and united the kingdoms of Persia and Medea, became master of all the east, and

and founded the most extensive empire that ever had till then been known. This great prince, no sooner saw himself in possession of this vast empire, than he permitted the Jews, who had been many years captives, to return into Judea, under the conduct of Zorobabel, and to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem. The family of Cyrus becoming extinct, Darius was raised to the throne; and about this time, the Romans and Athenians became republicans, after having expelled their tyrants. Xerxes, the son of Darius, raised an army of twelve hundred thousand men, in order to chastise the Greeks; but his army was stopped by a handful of men, his fleet defeated, and Xerxes himself was at last killed by the captain of his own guard. The Macedonians, however, destined to overturn the empire of the Persians, began to signalize themselves under Philip, father of Alexander the Great. After twenty years victories, he made himself master of all Greece. He was preparing to go against the Persians, when he was killed at a feast, and succeeded by his son, Alexander the Great, who, having no less courage and ambition than his father, put himself at the head of his Macedonians, and the other Greeks in his interest. He attacked Darius, king of Persia, and beat him

him in three pitched battles; and after he had carried his victorious arms as far as the Indies, he returned to Babylon, where he died in the flower of his age, and in the midst of his triumphs. Thus you see, my dear sister, how rapidly monarchies have succeeded each other, and how fluctuating are human powers and possessions! The Assyrians, Medes, Persians, Greeks, and Romans, all had their day of power, wealth, and victories, but now they are no more. I remain,

Your most affectionate brother.

Letter from a young Gentleman at School in the Country, to his Father in London.

BEING ever ready to oblige my dear father, I here send, agreeably to your request, the substance of the advice our master gave us on his opening the school. You may be assured I shall treasure it up in my mind, and frequently bring it back to my recollection. As soon as we were all seated, he thus began,—My dear pupils, I entreat you never to forget this certain truth, that time lost is never to be recovered; and that, if

if you neglect to improve your minds in your early days, you will in vain lament it when you enter on the commerce of the world. If you look around you, young as you are, you will see how much to be pitied is an old age of ignorance. Be thankful, be grateful to your parents or friends, who are now giving you that, which even the revolutions of states and empires cannot take from you. This is your harvest of literature, which will be fruitful or scanty, in proportion to your own industry. Your friends are now supplying you with the means, your will only is wanted to ripen them to perfection. However difficult, intricate, or perplexing, may be the business you are now engaged in, never suffer yourselves to despair; but take courage as difficulties arise, and push forward to certain conquest. There is nothing however difficult, which time and industry cannot conquer, and the acquisitions which arise from the conquest of literature, are greater than can be conceived by unexperienced minds. Spend no time in the academy in useless conversation; for there nothing must be heard but the voice of science, and the language of knowledge and improvement. In your hours of retirement from the course of your general business, let me advise you to devote some small portion

of

of that time in the improvement of epistolatory writing. It would be almost an insult even on your youthful understandings, to employ many words to convince you, how much every one applauds a letter written with propriety, good sense, and spirit. Be not disheartened at the first attempt; for, however, unpromising your first essays may appear, be assured, that a fine genius, like good fortune, often comes forward and yields to unremitting importunities. Your preceptor, who is feelingly sensible of the arduous and important task reposed in him, will, like a faithful guide, conduct you with temper, caution, and attention, through every surrounding maze, till you have finished your intended literary career, when he will leave you to the enjoyment of the fruits of your labour—not without a hope that you may have occasion hereafter, in the cool moments of retirement from the bustle of the world, to recollect his memory with gratitude, long after he shall be no more your preceptor.

P A R T III.

Letters on the most familiar and important Concerns of human Life.

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

Dear Sir,

I AM thoroughly sensible of the compliment you pay me, in desiring my advice respecting the manner in which you shall dispose of your son, whom you seem inclined to bring up to the bar. Should it so happen, that you cannot entirely approve of my advice, you will please to remember, that you will not have so much room to blame me, as your own wrong choice of an adviser. You very well know that I have a good opinion of your son, and think him a modest, grave, and sober youth. For this reason, I hardly think him qualified for the

the profession you seem inclinable to choose for him ; for I much doubt, whether he has talents for the law, or ever will have that presence of mind, which is indispensably necessary in order to make a figure at the bar. In any smooth and easy business, he will probably succeed, and be an useful member of the community. As he is not your eldest son, I should, were I to judge for myself in the same case, put him to a merchant ; or, as we live in an island, where trade and navigation are both our riches and glory, I should not even scruple to put a second son to a creditable wholesale dealer, if he himself be not averse to a profession. I must confess to you, and I hope you will excuse the freedom, that I have some doubts, whether your son's genius may be equal to that of an universal merchant. The various springs of commerce, the seasons for choosing proper commodities, and numberless incidents that make a necessary return of gain precarious, are full employments for the strongest judgments, since a man, by one ill-chosen venture, often loses more than he has gained by successful voyages. This opinion, which I have entertained of your son, should you think it just, will be no obstacle to his succeeding in the world, in some creditable and easy business. Though I think

I think him unequal to the profession you seem inclinable to allot him, yet I by no means think him destitute of common sense; and experience teaches us, that, in some sorts of business, ample advantages may be made by very moderate talents, with much reputation. These are principally such employments as merely consist in buying with prudence, and in selling at a market profit. Hence we see several wholesale dealers gain large fortunes with ease and credit, and without any other secret than the plain practice of buying at the best hand, paying for their goods punctually, and vending them always for what they really are. In dealings of this kind, the fatigues are few, and clear, well-kept books are sufficient to shew, at any time, a man's loss or gain; for which, generally speaking, less than one forenoon in a week is sufficient. By a constant attention in this easy manner, as good a character, and very often more money is to be gained, than in professions that require an extraordinary genius, a perpetual attention, and a close and intense study, which we find do not always succeed. Look at the whole tribe of lawyers, and see how few of them make a figure, or acquire easy fortunes! How many, for want of courage to appear at the bar, though in all

other

other respects properly qualified, are forced to confine themselves to chamber practice, in which it is a long time before they grow noted enough to make a tolerable livelihood! As to what you hint of placing him in the physical tribe, I like that no better than the other. Consider only this one thing, how long it will be, before he will be capable of entering into business, or acquiring reputation as a physician, if he ever does it at all; for who chooses to trust his health to a raw and unexperienced young man? The law requires a sprightly impudence, if I may so say, and the physician a solemn one. Do you think, though your son is grave enough indeed, that he ever can come up to that important deportment, that unblushing parade, which is the very essence of an English physician? It is from hence easy to foresee, that he may, in the profession of either physic or law, live over all his days, and remain at last quite unknown; for as practice in both faculties is the best teacher, and theory a most uncertain guide, he may live to forty or fifty years of age, and not come into any business that shall improve himself, or benefit his consulters. Whereas, in the way I propose, no sooner shall he become of age, and fit to be trusted with the management of any affairs at all,

but

but his seven years will be expired ; and if he has not been inattentive to his business, he will be enabled, with the fortune you can bestow upon him, to enter upon the stage of the world with great advantage, and become directly a necessary and an useful member of the community. My good friend, when you and I recollect, that most of the noble families in the kingdom, as well as the genteel ones, had the foundation of their grandeur laid in trade, I expect not, in such a country as ours especially, that any objection to my advice will be formed, either by your or your lady, on this score, if you have not more significant reasons, proceeding from the youth's turn of mind and inclination, which I think should always be consulted on these occasions. Nothing has been more common, though I hope it will never be so in your case, than that of two sons, the eldest brought up to the estate, the other to trade, in the revolution of twenty or thirty years, the latter, through the extravagance of the former, has made himself eldest, if I may be allowed that expression ; for, by saving, while the other has been spending, he has found means to keep the estate in the family, though it has been transferred upon the youngest, and, as it has then proved,

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the worthier branch. This, I think, deserves your consideration; and by viewing your son in the same light I do, that of a well-inclined lad, of moderate passions, great natural modesty, and no soaring genius, I believe you will think it best to dispose of him in such manner as may require no greater talents than he is possessed of, and may, in due time, make him appear in the face of the world fully qualified for what he undertakes.

I am, Sir, &c.

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

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

of most young men seems to have seized you in a violent degree, which, I hope, a little reflection will remove. The art of rendering yourself agreeable in conversation is a matter worthy of your most serious study. It is an advantage which few can boast of, though all put in their claim for it; and nothing is so constant an enemy to success, in those who would excel in this art, as their harbouring an opinion of their own proficiency, before they have attained to any tolerable degree of knowledge in what they imagine themselves possessed of. Conversation, when rightly managed, will admit every member of the company to have a share in the pleasure and applause it affords. If the company consist of six, after you have told your story, or made your remark, which gives a general satisfaction, you must consider it as the right of any other individual to call your attention in his turn; and, unless particularly requested, it betrays a great share of vanity and weakness to renew a fresh discourse, till others have had their turn. You undoubtedly love to be admired, and have not others a right to the same satisfaction? You may consider your own wit as more brilliant than theirs; but are you sure that others are of the same opinion? If a man speak little, you must

not

not from thence conclude, that he is willing to give up every claim to conversable merit. Perhaps he cannot sing; but he certainly is as desirous of having his peculiar humour, or his dry joke, applauded, as you may be for being called on for another song. Though he may be no mathematician, perhaps he is versed in religious disputation; if he despise plays, he may admire history; though he understand not geography, he may know how to describe the humours of mankind; and though he pretends not to politics, he may have a turn for some more useful science. When these things are considered, if his modesty be great, you cannot oblige him more than by throwing an opportunity in his way, to display his capacity on the subject he believes himself most able to handle with advantage; for, in order to support a thorough good humour, a man must be pleased with himself as well as with others. When this is properly managed, conversation seldom fails to prove entertaining; and to the neglect of this are owing many of the yawning hours spent in companies composed of men not incapable of behaving agreeably. The manner of telling a story is also worth your notice; and you have known the pleasure of hearing a long one well told. Mr. Jackson has an

admirable talent in that way; but then you must observe, that half the pleasure he gives, arises from his happily avoiding any of the silly digressions which are the great cause of a story seeming tedious. You never hear him mingle his relations with, "I remember very well it was the same day that 'Squire Thompson's son came of age—I bought my bay nag the very day before at the fair—I can scarce think of it without laughing—But, however, as I was saying," and a hundred more such dead-weights to attention. Nor does he ever praise a story before he relates it; a fatal rock to many a good tale. When a story wants a preparatory recommendation, it is not worth telling; and even when the relation is tolerable, the generality of auditors are apt to persuade themselves, "the mountain's labour has produced only a mouse." These are loose and general hints; but, by a due improvement of them, you will find yourself very sensibly grow more and more agreeable, wherever you converse. An ease and becoming freedom you have already, and by the addition of discretion in the use of them, and complaisance to others, you will probably succeed in your wish of becoming amiable in the opinion of men of sense and judgment,

judgment, which, should you accomplish it, will add much to the pleasure of,

Your affectionate father.

Letter from a Father to his Son, concerning his keeping a Horse.

NOTHING, my dear Ben, can give me greater pleasure than to hear of your welfare, and of every thing that tends to promote your comfort and felicity. But give me leave to tell you, that I am sorry to hear you have so early begun to keep a horse, especially as your business is entirely in your shop, and you have no end to serve in riding out. Besides, as you are young and healthy, and are capable of walking, you cannot plead the necessity of keeping a horse merely for the sake of exercise. Do you think it can be worth your while to keep a horse the whole week, that you may have him at hand on a Sunday morning, if if the day prove fair, and you have nothing to keep you in town? You must consider, that though in the country many common tradesmen keep horses, the expence is but

small to them, and the distance of one customer from another, in some measure, obliges them to it. But this can be no plea for you; and if you do not want a horse for exercise, you can only alledge the worst reason in the world for your maintaining one, that your neighbours all round you do the same. Consider who they are, and what are their motives, and you will soon find the difference between them and you. Mr. Wilson, for instance, who lives next door to you, is nearly sixty years of age, of a pretty gross constitution, and incapable of taking any other exercise; but he did not allow himself this diversion, till he had acquired an ample fortune by length of time and industry. Mr. Allen has an estate fallen to him, which places him above the want of trade, and he now continues it rather as an amusement than as an employment. Several others of your neighbours are men of established fortunes; and when you shall be as old as the youngest of them, and can as well afford it, I would be far from dissuading you from keeping a horse. At present, however, you may depend upon it, you rather incur their contempt, than gain their esteem, by offering to appear their equal, when they and you well know, in what relates to expences, you ought not to be

be so, nor have you had a time for it. The lower part of the world, perhaps, may shew you more respect for their marks of parade ; but should a time come, and who is exempt from misfortunes ? when they must know your embarrassments were the effects of unthinking levity, how despicable must you then appear in their eyes ! Let me tell you, that the esteem of persons of credit and understanding, must be gained by very different means from shew or equipage ; for with these, modesty, prudence, and good sense, will ever prevail. The expence of the horse is not the least thing to be considered : it will in time, very probably, lead you into a more dangerous one, that of bestowing too much of your time in the use of it. It will unhinge your mind from business, and give your servants an opportunity to be remiss in your absence. As you are a young man, it is proper you should lay up by your industry against an advanced age, when the exercise an horse affords will seem not only more suitable, but perhaps indispensably necessary to your health ; whereas, at this time, it may rather pass for wantonness and affectation. Let me prevail upon you to use that tolerable share of sense you naturally possess. Sell your horse, and fear not being laughed at on that account. It will be a

credit to you, moreways than one, to say, that your business would not allow you time to use it ; on the contrary, it would argue great perverseness to continue in an error, for no other reason than to support a wrong judgment at first setting out. Your reducing an unnecessary expence in good time, will more than recover any good opinion you may have lost by running into it ; and your prudent use of this advice will add much to the pleasure of

Your affectionate father,

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

Dear Nephew,

IT cannot fail to give me great concern and anxiety, to hear that you are lately fallen into bad company, keep late hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, by breaking the rules of his family. When he expostulates with you on this occasion, I am told, you return pert and bold answers ; and, instead of promising, or endeavouring to amend, you repeat the offence.

fence. You have entered, it seems, into clubs and societies of young fellows, who despise all good examples, and make such persons as would do their duty the subject of their ridicule, as persons of narrow minds, who have not the courage to act with the spirit they do. On this occasion, however, I must expostulate with you, and set before you the evil consequences attending your present conduct. In the first place, what can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you have bound yourself by contract to observe? Do you think it honest to break through engagements, into which you have so solemnly entered, and which are no less the rules of the corporation you are to be one day free of, than those of a private family? Seven years, some of which are already elapsed, are not so long a time, but that you may see it determined before you will be fit to be trusted with your own conduct. Twenty-one or twenty-two years of age is full early enough for a young man to be his own master, whatever you may think of the matter; and you may surely stay till then, at least, to choose your own hours, and your own company. I fear, however, as you now go on, if you do not alter your conduct, your discretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember

you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of the contract: and must you abuse your master in a double sense, rob him of his time, especially if any of it be hours of business; rob him of his rest, break the peace of his family, and give a bad example to others? And all for what? Why to riot in the company of a set of persons, who despise, as they are teaching you to do, all order and discipline, and who, in all likelihood, will lead you into gaming, drinking, swearing, and even more dangerous vices, to the unhinging of your mind from business, on which alone you must depend hereafter. I advise you to consider, before it be too late, to what these courses may lead you. Lay together the substance of the conversation that passes in a whole evening, with your frothy companions, after you be come from them; reflect what solid truth, what useful lesson, worthy to be inculcated in your future life, that whole evening has afforded you, and consider whether it is worth breaking through all rule and order for. Whether your present conduct is such as you would allow in a servant of your own; whether you are so capable to pursue your business with that ardour and delight next morning, as if you had not drank, or kept bad hours over night;

night; if not, whether your master has not a double loss and damage from your mispent evenings; whether the taking of smaller liberties, as you may think them, leads you not on to greater; for, let me tell you, you will not find it in your power to stop them when you will; and then, I doubt whether any restraint at all will not become irksome to you. I have gone through the same servitude with pleasure and credit, and I found myself my own master full soon enough for my discretion. What you think of yourself I know not; but I wish you may do as well for your own interest and reputation as I have done for mine; and I assure you I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to act as you do. I could have stood the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you choose, for being too narrow-minded to break through all moral obligation to my master, in order to shew the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandoned mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending; and if you were assured that you could stop when you came for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and good conscience, that you will not do so for your master? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in for-

bearing to do an injury, than in giving offence. You are now at an age, when you should study to improve and divert your faculties; you should now lay in a fund of knowledge, which, ripened by time and experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you apprehend you have nothing to learn, either as to your business, or as to the forming of your mind? Would it not be much better to choose the silent, the sober conversation of books, than of such companions as never read nor think? An author never commits any but his best thoughts to paper; but what can you expect from the laughing noisy company you keep, but frothy prattle, indigested notions, and thoughts so unworthy of being remembered, that it is the greatest service to forget them? Let me entreat you, my dear kinsman, for your family's sake, as well as on your own account, before it be too late, to reflect, as you ought, upon the course you are entered into. By applying yourself to books, instead of such vain company, you will in time be qualified for the best sort of society, and be respected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unnecessary expences, will employ all your leisure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and open

open and enlarge your notions of men and things, and finally set you above that wretched company, with which you now seem so much delighted. One thing let me recommend to you, and that is, to keep a list of the young men whom you at present consider as your companions, or of whom you have any knowledge, and, during the next seven years. observe what fate will attend them. See if those who follow not the course you are so lately entered into, will not appear in a very different light from those who do; and from the industry and prosperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other, (if their vain ways do not destroy them before or as soon as they begin the world) you will find reason enough daily to justify the truth of the observations I have here thrown together. As nothing but my affection for you could possibly influence me to these expostulations, so I shall soon hope to receive from your master a pleasing account of your reformation.

I remain, &c.

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

YOU are now, my dear Joseph, entering on the busy stage of the world, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business; consequently, the frequent occasions you will have for advice from others, will make you desirous of singling out, among your most intimate acquaintance, one or two, whom you would wish to consider as your friends. Nothing requires so much care and attention as the choice of our friends ; for, by a mistake in that point, you cannot conceive how fatal may be the effects of it. It will therefore be proper for you to form a judgment of those, who are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world ; for the man who has ruined himself by his own indiscretion, is much fitter to be set up as a land-mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than as an example to follow. Old age is generally slow and heavy, while youth is headstrong and precipitate ; but there are some old men who are full of vivacity, and some young men replete with discretion. This induces me rather to point out

out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom we should choose to associate ; but, after all, I consider it as a never-failing good sign of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors choose his company, and he delights in theirs. Let your endeavours therefore be, by all means, to associate yourself with men of sobriety, good sense and virtue ; for that proverb is an unerring one which says, “A man is known by the company he keeps.” If you can single out such men, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice. Be sure to remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unreserved in delivering your sentiments, when occasions require it, yet you must be much readier to hear than to speak ; and it is for this reason, perhaps, that nature has given us two ears and but one tongue. Observation and modest silence will furnish you with such a store of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worse figure than they do. 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 excluding, by open mouths and closed ears, all possibility of instruction, and thereby destroying the principal end of conversation,

which is improvement! A silent young man generally makes a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When, therefore, you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments; and by those means you will judge of the merits and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recall, 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 had not been quite insensible of inward reproach. Thus have I thrown together a few thoughts, as they occurred to my mind, which may be sufficient 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 shall think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you. I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me; and of this you may be assured, as also that I am,

Your ever affectionate father,

Letter

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

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

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

Your ever affectionate mother,



. Letter.

*Letter from an Uncle to the same Youth, on the
foregoing Occasion.*

IT is a matter, Cousin Sam, of much concern to me, that there should be any misunderstanding between you and your master, of whom I have a very great opinion; and, at the same time, am unwilling to entertain a bad one of you. It is so much a master's interest to use his apprentices well, that I am inclined to think, that when they are badly treated, it is more frequently the effect of provocation than choice. Therefore, before I give myself the trouble of interposing in your behalf, I desire you will strictly enquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration of your master's behaviour, of which you so much complain. If, after having diligently complied with this request, you shall assure me, that you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my best endeavours to reconcile you to your master, or procure you another. If you find yourself blameable, it will be better for you to remove, by your own amendment, the occasion of your master's displeasure, than to hear me, or any other friend,

friend, offer to plead your excuse when you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be the case, all your friends, it is true, might promise for your better behaviour; but, as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much to your character to pass through your apprenticeship without any interposition of your friends. Consider properly what I have said, and remember that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behaviour. I remain,

Your loving uncle.

Letter to a Youth against forming Intimacies too suddenly.

Cousin William,

AS I am now preparing to set out for the country, I have not time to say every thing I could wish on the present subject. I am told that Mr. Jackson and you have lately contracted such an intimacy, that you are hardly ever asunder; and, as I know his morals are not the best, nor his circumstances the most happy, I fear he will, if he has

has not already done it, let you see, that he knows better what he does in seeking your acquaintance, than you do in cultivating his. I by no means wish to abridge you in any necessary or innocent liberty, or to prescribe too much to your choice of a friend. Friendships hastily contracted promise the least duration or satisfaction, as they commonly arise from design on one side, and weakness on the other. This gentleman's acquaintance is not yet a month old with you ; and you must not think every man, whose conversation is agreeable, fit to be immediately treated as a friend. True friendship must be the effect of long and mutual esteem and knowledge, and ought to have for its cement an equality of years, a similitude of manners, and, as nearly as possible, a parity in circumstance and degree. Generally speaking, an openness to a stranger carries with it strong marks of indiscretion, and frequently ends in repentance. For these reasons, I wish you would be upon your guard, and proceed cautiously in this new alliance. Mr. Jackson has vivacity and good humour enough to please any man of a light turn ; but, were I to give my judgment of him, I should pronounce him fitter for the tea-table than the cabinet. He is smart, but very superficial,

ficial, and treats all serious subjects with a contempt too natural to bad minds. The caution here given you is the pure effects of my experience in life, some knowledge of your new associate, and my affection for you. The use you make of it will determine whether you merit this concern from

Your affectionate kinsman,

Letter from a Father to his Son, on the dangerous Effects of excessive Drinking.

My dear William,

THE more tenderly a parent loves his child, the greater must be his affliction when that child forsakes the paths of prudence, and wanders into those that lead to disgrace and ruin. I am told you have of late neglected your studies, and given yourself up to the odious vice of drinking. What shall I say, what shall I do, to engage you to quit this pernicious practice, before it becomes such an habit, that it will be impossible, or at least very difficult, for you to cast it off? Let me require, let me intreat

intreat you, to give a suitable attention to what I have to say on this subject, which I shall offer rather as a warm friend, than as an angry father; and, as I address myself to your reason, I will leave it to yourself to judge of the truth of the observations I have to make to you. In the first place, with respect to health, the greatest jewel of this life, drinking is one of the most destructive in the long catalogue of vices : asthmas, vertigoes, palsies, apoplexies, gouts, cholics, fevers, dropsies, consumptions, stone, and hypochondriac diseases, are naturally introduced by excessive drinking. All the other vices put together are not so often punished with sudden death as this one. What fatal accidents, what quarrels, what breaches between friend and friend, are owing to it ! In the second place, how does it deface reason, destroy all the tender impulses of nature, make a wise man a fool, and subject persons of the brightest parts to the contempt of the weakest, and even, in time, extinguish those shining qualities, which constitute the difference between a man of sense and a blockhead ! An ancient author very justly observes, that fools, having generally stronger nerves, and less volatile spirits, than men of fine understandings, that which will rouse the one, will make the other stupid or frantic;

tic; and, though it sometimes, while the fit continues, strengthens the imagination, yet it always depresses the judgment; and, after the fit is over, both those faculties languish together, till in time it quenches the imagination, impairs the memory, and drowns the judgment. A great drinker can hardly be either a good husband, a good father, a good son, a good brother, or a good friend. It lays him open to the worst company, and frequently introduces him to gaining, quarrels, riots, and even sometimes murders. Other vices, indeed, make men worse, but this alters men from themselves to that degree, that they resemble more the brutal species of the creation than their own. The use of hard drinking will make the prudent inconsiderate, the ambitious indolent, the active idle, and the industrious slothful: so that their affairs are ruined for want of application, or by being entrusted in the hands of those, who turn them wholly to their own advantage, and, in the end, to the ruin of those who employ them. I have already made this letter longer than I intended, and yet I have still more to say, which I shall defer till the next post, when you may expect to hear further from

Your affectionate father,
Letter

Letter from a Father to his Son, on the same Subject.

My dear son,

HARD drinking is a vice that breaks a man's rest, impairs the understanding, extinguishes the memory, inflames the passions, corrupts the will, lays the foundation of the worst and most dangerous distempers, incapacitates a person from pursuing his studies, and from applying to the duties of his calling, be it what it will. It meets with contempt from the world, and, even if a man's circumstances were above feeling the expence, which is seldom the case, it alters and changes the practiser of it from himself; but, should his fortune be but moderate, it is a great wonder indeed, if want and beggary be not its consequences. If he has a family, his children, who by their father's industry and sobriety, might have made a creditable figure in life, are left to the mercy of the world, and often exposed to shame, misery, and an unhappy end. Consider, my son, how a man can answer this conduct to God, to his parents and other relations, to his wife, to his children, to himself, and persist in an

an unnatural and barbarous vice, which not only makes himself miserable and contemptible, but transmits the mischief to his unhappy and innocent children, if he has any. Add to all this, that it is a vice a man cannot easily master and subdue, or which, like some others, may be caused by age; but it is a vice that feeds and nourishes itself by practice, and grows upon a man as he lives longer in the world, till at last, if it cut him not off in the flower of his days, it at least renders the evening of his life miserable and unhappy. Consider all these things, my dear son, and, before it be too late, get the better of a vice, which you will find difficult to subdue when it be grown to a head, and which will otherwise creep upon you more and more every day, till it shuts up your life in misery, as to yourself, and contempt as to the world. Instead of giving cause, even to your nearest and best friends, to remember you with pleasure, it will make it a kindness in them to forget they ever had in the world, if a parent, such a son; if a tutor, such a pupil; if a brother or sister, such an unhappy near relation; if a wife, such an husband; if a child, such a father; and if a friend, such a wretched one, that cannot be thought of without pity and regret

gret, for having shortened his days, and ruined his affairs, by so pernicious a habit. What a joy, on the contrary, will that noblest of conquests, over yourself yield to all your dear relations! and what pleasure in particular will you give to the aged heart, and declining days, of

Your most affectionat father.

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

Kind Sir,

AFTER my repeated promises of amendment, I cannot but be ashamed of myself, that I should so soon give you fresh cause for complaint; and this consideration has induced me to apply to you by writing, rather than presume to speak to you in person. I hope what is past will be forgiven; and let this letter testify against me, if ever I knowingly or wilfully offend again for the future. You have children of your own; they may possibly offend, though I hope

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hope they never will as I have done ; yet, Sir, would you not wish they might meet with pardon, if they should, rather than reprobation ? My making, or my ruin, I am sensible, lies in your breast. If you will not forgive me, sad will be the consequences to me, I doubt. If you do, you may save a soul, as well as a body from misery ; and I hope, Sir, you will weigh this with your usual goodness and consideration. What is past, I cannot help ; but for what is to come, I do promise, if God give me health and power, that my actions shall testify for me, how much I am, good Sir,

Your repentant humble servant.

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

William,

SUCH has been the influence your letter has had over me, that I have resolved to pass over all you have done. Surely I may at last depend on these your solemn assurances, and, as I hope, deep contrition !

If

If not, be it as you say, and let your letter testify against you for your ungrateful baseness; and for me, in my readiness, which, however, shall be the last time, to forgive one that has been so much used to promise, and so little to perform. But I hope for better, because I yet wish you well, being, as you use me,

Your's, or otherwise.

Letter from an Apprentice to his Father, in Commendation of the Family he lives in.

Dear Sir,

I AM sensible how great will be the pleasure to you and my dear mother, to hear that every thing goes on with me smoothly and happily. My master, who seems pleased with my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner, that I have great delight in it, and I hope I shall, in time, answer your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence you have always shewn me. There is such good order in the family, as well on the part

part of my mistress, as on that of my master, that every servant, as well as I, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity, are observed in every thing they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man, and every one speaks well of him. My mistress is a sweet-tempered and cheerful woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. The children, having such excellent examples before them, behave to us like 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. I shall then, by God's blessing, be as happy as they are, and as you, Sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me still happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of your's and my good mother's prayers for

Your ever dutiful son.

*Letter from an Apprentice to his Parents,
informing them of his Master's Misconduct.*

Honoured Parents,

IN the last letter you favoured me with, you desired me to inform you how I go on in my business. To this I answer, very well, every thing considered; for my master, in a manner, leaves all to me; though I wish he did not, for his own sake. However, I hope he will never suffer on account of my wilful remissness or negligence, much less want of fidelity in me; yet his affairs do not go on so well as if he were more in them and less at the tavern. It becomes not me to reflect on my master, especially as what I may write or say on this head, will rather expose his failings than do him service; for as they must be his equals who should reprove him, so all a servant can observe to others will do more harm than good to him. One thing is at present in my own power, and that is, to double my diligence, that his family may suffer as little as possible by his remissness; and another, I hope, by God's blessing will be, and that is, to avoid in myself, when my time shall come, those failings which I see so blameable

in

in him. As this will be benefitting properly by the example, (for that bee must be worse than a drone, that cannot draw honey from a bitter as well as a sweet flower) so it will give you the pleasure of knowing, that your good instructions are not thrown away upon

Your most dutiful son,

*Letter from an indiscreet Son to his Father,
requesting his Advice.*

Honoured Sir,

NOTWITHSTANDING the many occasions I have given for your displeasure, permit me to ask your advice in an affair, which must influence the remainder of my life materially for the better or worse. You know, Sir, to what a low ebb my folly and extravagance have reduced me. Your generous indulgence has made you stretch a power, to my shame I speak it, even beyond the bounds which wisdom, and a necessary regard to the rest of your family, would permit; I therefore cannot hope for further assistance from you. Some-
thing

thing, however, I must resolve upon, to gain a maintenance, and an accident happened lately, which offers me, at least, present bread. A gentleman, who is a manager of one of the theatres, happened to dine at my uncle's the last time I was there. The conversation, after dinner, turned on the art of a comedian; on which my uncle took occasion to mention the little flights in that way, with which I have diverted myself in my gayer moments, and partly compelled me to give a specimen of my abilities. The gentleman was pleased to declare his approbation of my manner and voice; and, on being told my circumstances, offered at once to take me into his company, with an allowance sufficient for present subsistence, and additional encouragement, as I should be found to deserve it. Half a benefit he promised me the first season, which, by my too-numerous acquaintance, might, I believe, be turned to pretty good account. I am not fond of that life, but I see no other means of supporting myself like a gentleman. Your speedy answer will be ever gratefully acknowledged by, Sir,

Your unfortunate son.

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

Dear Harry,

To see you in any reputable situation, that would afford you a comfortable subsistence, would give me great pleasure; but I cannot think the life of a stage-player proper to answer that purpose. You must consider, that though in the gay trappings of that employment, a man may represent a gentleman, yet none can be further from that character, if a perpetual dependence be the worst kind of servility. In the first place, the company you will be obliged to keep, will be such as will tend little to the improvement of your mind, or amendment of your morals. To the master of the company you enlist in, you must be obsequious to a degree of slavery. Not one of an audience that is able to hiss but you must fear; and each single man you come to know personally, you must oblige, on every occasion that offers, to engage their interest at your benefit. A thought the most shocking & a free and generous mind! If to this you add, the little profit that will attend making a low figure on the stage,
and,

and, besides the qualifications necessary, the incredible fatigue attending the support of a good figure upon it, you will clearly see, that more credit, satisfaction, ease, and profit, may be got in many other stations, without the mortifying sense of being deemed a vagrant by the laws of your country. I hope this will be enough to dissuade you from farther thoughts of the stage; and, in any other employment, you may yet expect some small assistance from

Your indulgent father.

Letter from an indulgent Father to a profligate Son.

Son Thomas,

IT is a matter of no small concern to me, that your continued ill courses should oblige me to write this letter to you. I was in hopes that your solemn promise of amendment might have been better depended on; but I see, to my great mortification, that all I have done for you, and all I have said to you, are thrown away.

What

What can I say more than I have said? Yet, once more, I am desirous to try what the force of a letter will do with one, who has not suffered mere words to have any effect upon him. Perhaps this remaining with you, if you will now and then seriously peruse it, may, in some happy moment, give you reflection, and, by God's grace, bring on your repentance and amendment. Consider then, I beseech you, in time, the evil of your ways. Make my case your own, and think, if you were to be the father of such a son, how his actions would grieve and afflict you. But if my comfort has no weight with you, consider how your present courses must impair a good constitution, destroy your health, and undoubtedly shorten your life. Consider that your reputation is wounded, though I hope not mortally as yet; that you will be ranked among the profligate and outcasts of the world, that no virtuous man will keep you company, that every one who has a regard for his own credit will shun you, and that you will be given up to the society of the worst and most abandoned of men, when you might be improved by the examples of the best. No family which values their own honour, and the welfare of their child, will suffer your addresses to a daughter worthy

worthy of being sought after for a wife, should you incline to marry. In that case, the worst of their sex only will accept of you as a companion for life, which will make you completely miserable, when you had it in your power to be as happy. As to another world, beyond this transitory one, my heart trembles for what most probably will be the consequence to your poor soul; for the human mind is seldom at a stop. If you do not grow better, you will undoubtedly grow worse, and you may run into those sins and evils, which you now perhaps think yourself incapable of, as already you have arrived at a height of folly and wickedness, which once you thought you should never be capable of being guilty of. Do not, my dear son, let your poor mother and me have the mortification to think, that we have been the unhappy means of giving life to a child of perdition, instead of a child of glory; that our beloved son, with all the pains we have taken to instil good principles into his mind, in hopes he would one day prove a credit and comfort to his family, should, instead of answering our longing wishes, when at age, take such contrary courses, as will make us join to wish he had never been born. Consider, my dear son, we do

not want any thing of you but your own good. You have been a great expence to us, to bring you up to these years. You cannot even now live without us; but we can live without you. We hope God will continue your life to be still a further expence to us; for all we live for is our childrens good. Let then the disinterestedness of our plan have some weight with you, and be but good to yourself, which is all we require of you. Let us but have reason to hope, that when we shall be dead and gone, you will support our name with credit, and be no burthen to your poor sisters, nor disgrace to our memories. Shew us that you are of a generous, not of a sordid nature, and will probably set yourself above future misfortunes by reclaiming in time; and then we shall be happy. As God has done his part by you, and given you talents superior to many, let me beg you to consider only, how much more noble it is to be in such a situation as shall enable you to confer benefits, than such an one as shall lay you under the poor necessity to receive them from others, and perhaps where they ought to be least expected. This is a long letter, but the subject is near my heart, and God grant that it may have the effect to make

make you sensible of the errors of your ways, before you get such an habit as you cannot alter if you would. Let your poor mother and sisters look upon you with pleasure, rather than apprehension, in case I should be called from this world. Let them think of you as a protector in my stead, rather than as an ungrateful spoiler among them. My dear son, I conjure you by all our past tenderness and affection for you, by our hopes and fears from infancy to manhood, to think of all these things; reflect on the instability of all worldly enjoyments, even when better chosen than yours are. Judge of the pleasures you expect in your present course by the vanity of the past; of your next assignations, by the aching head, and undelighted heart, which followed the last, and you will find, that no satisfaction, which is not founded on virtue and sobriety, can be durable, or worthy of a rational creature. Your good mother, whomingles her tears so often with mine, to deplore the sad prospect your ill courses give us, joins also her prayers to mine, that this, my last effort, may be attended with success, and that you will at last listen to the advice of

Your indulgent and afflicted father.

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

Honoured Father,

IT is with no small share of shame and confusion that I have perused your indulgent letter. I am exceedingly sorry, that all your good advice before has been so thrown away upon me, as to render this further instance of your paternal affection necessary. I am resolved instantly to set about a reformation, and to conform myself entirely to your good pleasure for the future. I beg, Sir, the continuance of your's and my good mother's prayers to God, to enable me to adhere to my present good resolutions. I have so often promised, and so often broken my word, rather indeed through the strength of my passions, than a design of non-performance, that I think I ought now to give you some proof that I am in earnest; and what better can I give, than to assure you, that I will henceforth break myself from the frothy companions I used to take too much delight in, and whose lewd banters and

and temptations have so frequently set aside my good purposes? You, Sir, for the future, shall recommend the company proper for me to keep, and I beg you will chalk out for me the paths in which you would have me tread, and as much as possible, I will walk in them. When I shall have convinced you of the sincerity of my reformation, I hope you and my honoured mother will restore me to your good opinion, which it shall be my constant study to deserve. I have already broken with one of my companions, who attempted to laugh me out of my good resolutions. I beg leave to wait upon you for such a space of time as you shall think proper, in order to break myself from the rest of my profligate companions, and that I may have the benefit of your advice and direction for my future conduct. May God continue long, for the benefit of us all, your life and health, and make me happy in contributing as much to your future comfort, as I have, by my past excesses, to your trouble of mind, which shall be the constant prayers of

Your truly penitent and dutiful son,

Letter to a young Man, on his too strong Attachment to Singing and Music.

Dear Cousin.

YOUR natural good sense will lead you to take kindly what I am going to mention to you, in which I can have no possible view but your benefit. When you were last with me in the country, you much obliged us all with the instances you gave us of your skill in music, and your good voice. But as you are so young a man, and seem yourself to be so very much pleased with these acquirements, I must give you a caution or two on this score, because of the consequences that may follow from too much delight in these amusements, which, while they are pursued as amusements only, may be safe and innocent; but, when they take up too much of a man's time, may be not a little pernicious. In the first place, my dear cousin, these pleasures of sound may take you off from the more desirable ones of sense, and make your delight stop at the ear, which should go deeper, and be placed in the understanding; for, whenever a good finger is in company,

adieu

adieu to all conversation of an improving or intellectual nature. In the second place, it may expose you to company, and that perhaps not the best or most eligible. Hence your business and your other more useful studies may be greatly, if not wholly neglected, and very possibly your health itself be impaired. In the third place, it may tend, which it naturally does, to enervate the mind, and make you haunt musical societies, operas, and concerts; and what glory is it to a gentleman, if he were even a fine performer, that he can strike a string, touch a key, or sing a song, with the grace and command of an *bired* musician? Fourthly, music, to arrive at any tolerable proficiency in it, takes up much time, and requires so much application, as leaves but little room, and what is worse, when delighted in, little inclination for other improvements. As life is a short stage, where longest, surely the most precious moments of it ought to be better employed than in so light and airy an amusement. The time of youth will be soon over, and that is the time of laying the foundation of more solid studies. The mind, as well as the body, will become stiff by years, and unsusceptible of those improvements, that cannot be attained but in particular periods of

So Newbery's Familiar Letter Writer.

it. When once an airy delight engages the faculties, an habit is formed, and nothing but great struggles, and absolute necessity, if that will do it, can shake it off. One part of life is for improvement, and that is youth ; another part is for turning that improvement to solid benefit to ourselves, our family, or friends, and that is the middle part of life. Old age carries a retrospect to a future state. Shall we then lose the time of improvement which can never come again, forfeit all the benefits of it in our middle life, and embitter our future prospects, as well temporal as eternal, with reflections on our past neglect of opportunities that can never be recalled ? And all for what ? Why only to be deemed, for eight or ten empty years of life, *a good companion*, as the phrase is, though a bad husband, father, friend, and consequently a bad man ! Some there are, who divide life into four stages or opportunities. He, say they, who is not handsome by twenty, strong by thirty, wise by forty, and rich by fifty, will never be either handsome, strong, wise, or rich. This, generally speaking, is a good and improving observation, which should teach us, as we go along, to make a right use of those periods of life, which may be proper entrances for us into a still more important

important one than that behind it. I have but lightly touched on these weighty points, because I know you have good sense enough to improve as much from hints, as another can from tedious lectures. I am far from dissuading you from these amusements, so long as you consider them only as such. I know you will think me, what I always wish to be thought, and really am,

Your affectionate uncle and sincere friend

*Letter of Advice to a young Lady, on her
affecting manly Airs.*

Dear Polly,

IT is with singular pleasure, I view the alteration and improvement in your person, so visible within the space of a few months. The dawning of fine sense, and a good judgment, which discovers itself in your conversation, leads me to hope I shall see every perfection of my sister, your late excellent mother, revived in you. Yet ~~one~~ thing, the duty of a tender uncle obliges

me to blame in you, and that is a certain affectation that has lately stolen in on your behaviour, of imitating the manners of the other sex, and appearing more masculine than the amiable softness of a woman can justify. I have been particularly offended, permit me to tell you, my dear, at your new riding-habit, which is made so extravagantly in the mode, that one cannot easily distinguish your sex by it; for you look in it neither like a modest girl, nor an agreeable boy. Some conformity to fashion is allowable; but a cocked hat, a laced jacket, and a fop's peruke, strangely disfigure you. I would have you remember, my dear, that as sure as any thing intrepid, free, and, in a prudent degree, bold, becomes a man; so whatever is soft, tender, and modest, renders your sex amiable. In this one instance we do not prefer our own likeness, and the less you resemble us, the more sure you are to charm; for a masculine woman is a character as little creditable as becoming. I am no enemy to a proper presence of mind in company; but I would never have you appear bold, talkative, or assumed. Modesty in the outward behaviour is a strong prepossession in a lady's favour; and, without it, all your perfections will be of little service, either as to reputation

or preferment. You want not sense, and I hope you will kindly receive these well-intended hints from

Your affectionate uncle.

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

Sir,

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

Your most obedient humble servant.

Letter from a Country Tenant, on a similar Occasion.

Honoured Sir,

TO the misfortunes of an unfavourable season, it has pleased God to add great sicknesses in my family, loss of cattle, and several other unhappy incidents, so that I am obliged to trespass on your patience a month or two longer. I hope the wheat harvest will enable me to answer your just expectations, which will afford infinite satisfaction to, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Mr. Mason,

I HAVE received your letter, and I hope you will be as good as your word at the expiration of the time you have fixed. I would by no means wish to distress any honest man, and I hope I shall not meet with

with the worse usage for thus shewing my tenderness. Lenity abused, even in generous tempers, provokes returns, which some people would call severe, but should not be deemed such if just.

I am, your's, &c.

Letter from a Steward to a Tenant, on Delay of Payment.

Mr. Wilson,

AGREEABLY to your request, I have taken the earliest opportunity to mention your case to Sir John. He is exceedingly angry at your conduct, and protests he will seize on your goods, and throw you into jail, if he have not twenty pounds at least paid him by quarter-day, which is now at hand. So you know what you have to trust to, and I would have you avoid the consequence at any rate; for he is resolved otherwise to put his threats in execution. Of this I assure you, and am,

Your's, &c.

Letter from a poor Tenant, in Answer to the preceding.

Good Mr. Jackson.

THE letter I have received from you almost deprives me of my senses. But if I am to be ruined, with my numerous family, and a poor and industrious, but ailing wife, it will not be my fault; for I cannot raise twenty pounds, any manner of way, by the time you mention. I hope Sir John will not be hard-hearted; for if God Almighty, our common landlord, should be equally hard upon us, what would become of us all? Forgive my boldness, in talking of God Almighty to his honour in this free manner. I would cheerfully pay the money by the time demanded, if it were to be done; but you know, Sir, what a season we have had. An honest tenant, his honour will never have, I am sure of; but if money does not come in, what can I do? Should I sell my team, and my utensils for labour, there will be an end of all. I shall then have no means left me wherewith to pay his honour, nor any body else. If Sir John will not be moved, but will seize, pray,

good

good Mr. Jackson, prevail on him not to throw me in jail, since a pris'on pays no debts; but let my poor wife and six small children lie in the barn, till I can get a little day labour; that must be all I can have to trust to, should his honour make a seizure. I hear my late servant, William, has just taken a farm, and he will perhaps employ his poor ruined master, if I be not imprisoned; but if I be, why then the parish must do something for my poor family, though I hoped they would never trouble it. Lay these things before his honour, good Sir, and forgive this trouble from

Your unfortunate humble servant.

Letter from the Steward in Answer to the foregoing.

Mr. Wilson,

YOUR letter and case I have laid before Sir John, who read them with much concern, and says he will have patience another quarter, to see what you

will do. Consider, however, that gentlemen live at a great expence; are obliged to keep up their appearance, and if their tenants fail them, why they must disappoint their tradesmen, and suffer in their credit. You have good crops of all kinds on the ground, and surely you may, by next quarter, raise forty or fifty pounds, though you could not twenty in a fortnight. This Sir John will expect at least, I can tell you, and surely you may comply with it, from the produce of so good a farm.

I am, your's, &c,

The poor Man's grateful Letter in Return.

Mr. Jackson,

THAT God may bless you and his honour is all I can say. We will now set our hands to the plough, as the saying is, with cheerful hearts, and try what can be done. I am sure, I and my wife and children too, though three of them can but lisp their prayers, shall, morning, noon and

and night, pray to God for his honour's health and prosperity, as well as for you and your's, and to enable me to be just to his expectations. I am sure it would be the pride of my heart to pay every body, his honour especially. I have not run behind hand for want of industry, which all my neighbours know; but losses and sicknesses I could not help, and nobody could live more sparing and frugal than both my wife and I. Indeed, we have hardly allowed ourselves clothes to our backs, nor have our children fared much better, though few children appear more tight and clean than they do. We shall continue to allow ourselves nothing more than necessary to enable us to support our labour, until we shall get beforehand, which God grant. But all this I told you before, and so will say no more, but do all I can, and God give a blessing to my labours, as I mean honestly. So no more, but that

I am, Sir,

Your ever obliged servant.

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

Dear Sir,

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

Dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

Letter

Letter in Answer to the preceding Offer.

My dear Friend,

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

Your faithful and obliged servant,

Letter in Answer to an Offer on a similar Occasion

Dear Sir,

I SHALL ever gratefully remember the kind offer you have made me, and
the

the prudent advice you have given me. I have not been a little affected at the unexpected failure of a man, whom all the world thought as good as the Bank. At present, however, I have no occasion for the friendly assistance you offer me. If I should, I know no one in the world I would sooner choose to be obliged to; for I am, dear, kind Sir,



Your most obliged humble servant.

Letter of Acknowledgment for great Favour received.

Honoured Sir,

GIVE me leave to approach you with the most thankful acknowledgments of a grateful heart, on the favour and benefit your goodness has conferred upon me. It shall be the busines of my whole life, to the utmost of my power, to deserve it; and my whole family, which you have made happy by your bounty, will every day join with me in prayers to God, to blefs you with the continuance of your valuable

valuable health, a long life, and all worldly honour; for so it will become us to do, for the unmerited favours conferred upon,

Honoured Sir;

Your most dutiful servant.

Another Letter on the same Subject.

Worthy Sir,

IF I did not add this further trouble to those I have already given you, of acknowledging your goodness to me in the last instance of it, I should appear very ungrateful May God Almighty return to you an hundred-fold the benefit you have conferred upon me, and give me an opportunity, by my future services, to shew my grateful heart, and how much I am,

Worthy Sir,

Your obliged and dutiful servant.

Letter of Refusal to lend Money.

Sir,

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

Your most humble servant,

Another Letter on the same Subject.

Sir,

AS I have myself been under the necessity of lately borrowing a large sum of money, which I must return in a few days, you will judge of my want of capacity, rather than inclination, to comply with your request.

I am, Sir,

Your sincere friend.

Another

Another Letter on the same Subject.

Sir,

IT is to me a matter of some pain, that I am obliged to lay open to you, on occasion of the loan you request of me, my own inability. I shall find no small difficulty to answer some necessary demands, which must be complied with by a certain time; and therefore can only say, I am sorry I have it not in my power to shew you how sincerely I am,

Your most humble servant.

Letter in Compliance with a Request to borrow Money.

Sir,

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

Your faithful friend and servant.

Another

Another Letter on the same Occasion.

Sir,

I HAVE received your letter, in which you intimate to me, that the sum of fifty pounds will be of great use to you, and that you shall be able to repay it in four months. Though it puts me to some difficulties to oblige you, I enclose a bank-note to that amount; but I must, in the name of friendship, beg of you to return it me unused, if you cannot keep your word in the repayment. My accommodating you with this sum is rather, at present, a testimony of my inclination than ability to serve you. For I am



Your real friend and servant.

Letter to a Friend, on his not making good his Promise of repaying Money lent.

Sir,

I CANNOT help acquainting you, that when you applied to me in your difficulties

difficulties for assistance, and made such strong promises of returning in four months what I advanced, little did I think you would give me the disagreeable occasion, either of reminding you of your promise, or of acquainting you with the difficulties, in which my friendship for you has involved me. I have always endeavoured to manage my affairs with so much prudence, as to keep within myself the power of answering demands upon me, without troubling my friends, and I told you, I must expect you would keep your word exactly to the four months, or else I should be distressed as bad as you were when you applied to me. Six months passed, and you took no manner of notice of the matter, when I was forced to remind you of it, having been put to it, as I told you I should. You took a fortnight longer, under still stronger promises of performance; and three weeks are now expired, while your second promises are still as much to be performed as your first. Is this kind, is this friendly, is it grateful, Sir, let me ask you? I will only add, that if any consideration remains with you for one so truly your friend, let me immediately be paid, and take from me the cruel

cruel necessity of reproaching you for ingratitude, and myself for folly. I am, Sir,

Your unkindly-treated friend.

Letter to a Friend, who neglected to fulfil his Promise in proper Time.

Sir,

ABOUT a fortnight ago, you were so kind as to tell me, that you would lend me one hundred pounds on my bond, to answer a demand that my credit would otherwise be a sufferer by; and you were pleased to say, that you would have me look no further, as I should certainly have it in time. I have looked no further, Sir, and the day of payment approaching, you cannot imagine how my mind has suffered by being not absolutely sure of having the money to answer the demand. I hope, Sir, nothing has happened to make you alter your mind; for, at this short notice, I shall not know to whom to apply to raise it. In the utmost perturbation of mind, for fear of the worst,

my

my credit being wholly at stake, I beg your answer, which I hope will be to the satisfaction of, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant.

Answer to the preceding Letter.

Dear Sir,

I WILL this afternoon wait upon you with the money, which I had always great pleasure in the thoughts of supplying you with; and I am most heartily vexed with myself, for giving you the pain and uneasiness that must have attended a mind so punctual as your's, and in a case so critically circumstanced. I hope you will forgive me, though I can hardly forgive myself. I am, Sir, as well on this, as on any other occasion in my power,

Your sincere friend and servant.

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

Sir,

WHILE I was out of town, I find you did me the favour of enquiring two or three times for me; and among my letters I find one from you, desiring the loan of fifty guineas. You must certainly have mistaken me or yourself very much, to think we were enough known to each other for such a transaction. I was twice in your company; I was delighted with your conversation, and you seemed as much pleased with mine. If we, therefore, both acted with honour, the obligation is mutual, and there can be no reason to suppose me your debtor. I have not a churlish or avaricious heart, I will venture to say; but there must be bounds to every thing, and discretion is as necessary in conferring, as in receiving a kindness. To a friend my helping hand ought to be lent, when his necessities require it; but you cannot think our intimacy enough to commence that relation. Should I answer the demands

of

of every new acquaintance, I should soon want power to oblige my old friends, and even to serve myself. Surely, Sir, a gentleman of your merit cannot be so little beloved, as to be forced to seek to new acquaintance, and to have no better friend than one of yesterday. I will not do you the injury to suppose, that you have not many, who have the best reasons, from long knowledge, to oblige you ; and, by your application to me, I cannot think bashfulness should stand in your way to them. Be this as it may, it does not at all suit my convenience to comply with your request, and therefore I must beg you to excuse

Your's, &c.

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

Dear Sir,

IT is with no small regret I hear, that the difference between you and Mr. Bond is at last likely to terminate in a law-suit. I wish you would take it into your serious

rious consideration before you begin, because it will hardly be in your power to end it when you please ; for you immediately put the matter out of your own hands, into the hands of those, whose interest it is to protract the suit from term to term, and who will as absolutely prescribe to you in it, as your physician in a dangerous illness. The law, my good friend, I look upon, more than any one thing, as the proper punishment of an over-hasty and perverse spirit, as it is a punishment that follows an act of a man's own seeking and choosing. You will not consent, perhaps, now to submit the matter in dispute to reference ; but let me tell you, that after you have expended large sums of money, and squandered away a deal of time in attendance on your lawyers, and preparations for hearing, one term after another, you will probably be of a different mind, and be glad seven years hence to leave it to that arbitration which now you refuse. He is happy who learns wisdom from other mens misfortunes ; and why, when you have heard from all your acquaintance, who have tried the experiment, what a grievous thing the law is, will you, notwithstanding, pay for that wisdom, which you may have at the cost of others ? The representation that was once

once hung up as a sign in the Rolls Liberty, on one side, of a man all in rags wringing his hands, with a label importing, *that he had lost his suit*; and, on the other side, a man that had not a rag left, but capering and triumphing, that *he had carried his cause*, was a fine emblem of going to law, and the infatuating madness of a litigious spirit. How excellent to this purpose is the advice of our blessed Saviour, rather than seek this redress against any one who would even take one's coat, to give them his cloak also! Besides the Christian doctrine inculcated by this precept, it will be found, as the law is managed, and the uncertainty that attends it, even the best grounded litigations, that such a pacific spirit may be deemed the only way to preserve the rest of our garments, and to prevent being stripped to the skin. Indeed, what wise man would rush upon a proceeding, where the principal men of the profession (though the oath they take, if serjeants, obliges them not to sign a sham plea, nor plead in a cause against their own opinion) are not ashamed under the specious but shameful notion of doing the best they can for their clients, to undertake, for the sake of a paltry fee, to whitewash over the blackest cause, and to defeat the most just?

Where

Where your property may depend altogether upon the impudence of an eloquent pleader asserting any thing, and a perjured evidence swearing whatever will do for his suitor's purpose—where the tricks and mistakes of practitioners, and want of trifling forms, may nonsuit you—where deaths of persons made parties to the suit may cause all to begin again—what wise man, I say, would subject himself to these vexations and common incidents in the law, if he could any ways avoid it, together with the intolerable expences and attendances consequent on a law-suit? Besides, how great are the fears, the cares, the anxieties, that revolve with every term, and engross all a man's thoughts! You may be plunged into the bottomless gulf of Chancery, where you begin with bills and answers, containing hundreds of sheets at exorbitant prices, fifteen lines in a sheet, and six words in a line, (and a stamp to every sheet) barefacedly so contrived to pick your pocket. Then follow all the train of examinations, interrogatories, exceptions, bills amended, replies, rejoinders, &c. &c. till, at last, when you have danced through the blessed round of preparation, the hearing before the Chancellor comes next, then from the Chancellor to the

House

House of Lords, and sometimes the parties are sent down from thence for a new trial in the courts below. What wise man, permit me to repeat, would enter himself into this destructive labyrinth of the law ! I hope, dear Sir, you will think of this matter deliberately, before you proceed in your present angry purpose ; and if you should judge it proper to take my advice, and avoid a law-suit, I am sure you will have reason to thank me for it, and for the zeal with which I am,

Your sincere friend and servant.

Letter from a Gentleman to his Friend, concerning the different Consequences of being Rich or Poor.

Dear Sir,

IN order to make room for an account you little expect, I must for once postpone every thing else I have to say to you. Will you believe me when I tell you, that a current report of my being immensely rich is the greatest misfortune I at present labour under ? I do not find it so supportable

portable as you may be apt to imagine. The occasion was owing to the frequent flights I had received from the gentlewoman with whom I lodge, and from others of my friends, who, believing that I lived up to my scanty fortune, (as in truth I do, though I take care to be beholden to nobody, and pay ready money for every thing) could not treat me negligently enough. I complained of this to that arch wag Tony Richards, who told me he would change every ones behaviour to me in a few days, which he has done effectually. By way of secret, he acquainted my landlady, that besides my poor little estate, which you know to be my all, he had lately discovered, that I had twenty thousand pounds stock in one of our great companies. Such was the force of this whimsical delusion, that, the very next morning, I had a clean towel hung over my water-bottle, though I never before had more than one a week during the twenty years I have lodged here. About a week after this, my cousin Tom, who, for the two years he has been in the Temple, has let me see him but three times, came, in a most complaisant manner, plainer dressed than I ever had before seen him, and begged, if the length of the evening were in any degree burthensome,
I would

I would permit him to wait upon me with such pieces of wit, humour, or entertainment, as the town afforded, the reading of which, under my ear, he was sure, would be a great advantage to him ; and assured me that, for a beginning, he had presumed to bring the last new tragedy in his pocket. I thanked my young spark, who is so much in earnest in his observances, that three nights in a week he thus entertains me. This will, at least, be of so much service to him, as to keep him out of more expensive company. You cannot think what pains the rogue takes to read with the cadence he knows I admire, and fits till his teeth chatter before he offers to look towards the fire. What you will still more wonder at, Sir John Hookhim called upon me before Christmas ; and, though I have not had a visit from him these five years, was so obliging as to run away with me in his chariot into Hertfordshire, to keep the holidays in his family. Here his lady treated me with the utmost respect, and her daughters paid me their morning devoirs, with the same deference as if I had been their grand-papa. No dinner was concluded upon without consulting my palate ; and the young gentlemen, his sons, are as ambitious of my hearing them their exercises,

cises, as if their fortunes depended upon my approbation. Sir John acquainted me with every improvement he had made in his estate, and assured me, that his second son Will, my namesake, has a genius singularly turned for managing country business, had he not the misfortune of having a brother born before him ; and he gave me several reasons to believe, that a fine estate which lay in the neighbourhood, and was then to be sold, would be a great penny-worth. I took the hint, but said I had no inclination to purchase it. He shook his head at my thousands, and told me, that, in his opinion, a land estate was preferable to the best stock in the kingdom. When I came to town, the fourth of January, I was no sooner out of Sir John's chariot, but my landlady in person informed me, that since I had been absent, I had had so many presents sent me, that she had been in an hundred fears for their spoiling. I asked her the particulars, and found there were five turkies, three chines, three hampers of Madeira for the gout, three collars of brawn, geese, chickens, hares, and wild-fowl, to a large amount. At night, I was welcomed to town by almost all my old acquaintance, and about twenty almost new ones. I was a little tired with

my

my journey, and had a slight cold besides ; which being observed, one was running for a physician, and another for a surgeon to bleed me ; one thought an emetic not improper, and another recommended a gentle sweat, or composing draught. Amidst this general officiousness, I heard it whispered, that if my will was not made, delays might prove dangerous ; and in the morning, before day, five messengers arrived to inquire after my health. Thus, Sir, you see my peace is gone, and my tongue is of no use ; for no one believes me when I declare my real circumstances. Under the happiness of a very small fortune, I suffer all the afflictions attending a man immoderately rich ; and, if you keep not your usual behaviour, I shall not know myself, nor any man else, since all my companions are become flatterers, and all around me are so obsequious, that it is impossible for me to know when I do right or wrong. I am, dear Sir, though thus whimsically situated,

Your real friend.

Letter to a Father on the Loss of his Son, who died before he came of Age.

My dear Friend,

I MUST confess that your lot is exceedingly hard, to lose so promising and so hopeful a child as that dear boy was, who so much engrossed the affections of yourself and your spouse. A suitable grief on so trying an occasion ought to be indulged ; but yet not so as if you were bereft of all comfort, and insensible to other great mercies, which God has bestowed upon you. This, my dear friend, would be a sinful rejection of those blessings which remain to you ; as if, like froward children, you would have nothing, because you could not have every thing you wished. Look upon all the great families of the earth, upon all your neighbours round you, and see if they have not almost every one shed tears on this very occasion: From thence judge of the unreasonableness of too great a grief, and what pretensions you have to be exempted from those accidents, to which royalty itself is liable. I will not, to alleviate your grief, remind you of a topic, which is, however, no less important,

ant, than too frequently the case, that he might not always have been so hopeful, but might, as he grew up, many ways have administered bitterness to you. I think it surpasses all other comforts, even those you hoped for from him, that he is taken away at an age, at which God's mercy renders his eternal happiness unquestionably certain; and you, and your mourning spouse, have the pleasure to reflect, that you have been the happy means of adding one to the number of the blessed above; that he is gone before you but a little while, to that place, where all tears shall be wiped away, and whither, through the same infinite mercy, you will in time follow him, and enjoy him for ever. You have this comfort, that he died a natural death; that the work was God Almighty's, who gave him to you, and has but taken back what he lent you; that you saw every thing done for his recovery that could be done; and that it pleased God not to grant him to your prayers. Why should you repine at the dispensation, when you know the dispenser? Let it therefore be your duty, on this trying occasion, to shew an entire acquiescence to the Divine Will, as it will be exemplary to your good spouse, whose weaker sex and mind wants all the

consolation your stronger reason can give her. At the same time, it behoves you to shew a thankful spirit for the mercies yet continued to you, (mercies that thousands have not to rejoice in !) lest God should, as a punishment, deprive you of those you have still left. I beg you will take in good part these few lines, which my affection for you has drawn from my pen, and that you will believe me to be, dear Sir,

Your sincere friend and humble servant.

Letter to a Friend, on the Loss of a promising Son, who died at Man's Estate.

Dear Sir,

IT is with the utmost concern I hear of your loss. So promising a youth, just arrived at man's estate, and who was so great a comfort and assistance to you, to be snatched away, is what must administer to you the greatest grief of any thing that could possibly befall you. But, alas ! yours is no new case. The greatest families have been thus afflicted, and with the aggravation

tion to some of them, that perhaps they have been deprived of their heirs, and have not a son left to continue their name and honours. The late Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark, lost her beloved Duke of Gloucester, not only her hopes, but the hopes of the nation ; and the crown, to which he seemed not only born, but fashioned, was obliged to be settled, on that occasion, upon a distant branch of the royal line. The great Duke of Marlborough, who by his merit and his victories had raised a princely estate as well as titles, had but one son, the Marquis of Blandford, on whom he and his Duchess built all their hopes, for the perpetuating of those new honours in their family, and he was snatched away by death, when he was at the University, training up to become the dignities to which he was entitled. Still more recent was the unhappy fate of a lady of the first quality in England. Her lord had a son left to his advanced years. This son was the last of that noble family, and on his life depended all his parents hopes, and on his living till of age, a valuable part of the estate itself, which otherwise was to fall to an illegitimate offspring. What care was used to preserve the noble youth ! An eminent physician

physician was taken into the family, to be made a constant watchman, as it were, over his health and exercises. The young nobleman himself was hopeful, dutiful, and as distinguished in the graces of his mind, as by his birth. He travelled, his indulgent mother travelled with him ; he made a campaign under his uncle, the greatest general then surviving in an age of generals. He again travelled to restore and confirm his health, and all the noble mother's hopes and views were employed in finding for her beloved son, on his return, a wife suitable to his quality, and who might be a means to preserve one of the first families in the kingdom from utter extinction. What was the end of all her cares, her hopes, her vows, her prospects ? Why, just as the young nobleman had, within a few months, arrived at age, and could have made those family settlements which were most desirable should be made, and the want of which involved his noble mother in perplexing law-suits, which also turned against her, it pleased God to deprive her of him, and he died in a foreign land, far distant from his fond mother, who, for reasons of state, as was said, had been denied to accompany and attend him. Thus ended all her hopes of above twenty years standing,

standing, and in him his family likewise. A still more recent calamity to a great family I might mention, in the death of two hopeful children, the only sons of their father, and the only heirs male of one of the first families in the kingdom, both snatched away in the space of a few hours of one another, from healthy constitutions, and no ailments previous to the sudden one that carried them off, which was believed to be only a sore throat. In vain were the consultations of the most eminent physicians and surgeons, who gave attendance all night, minutely to watch every change of the distemper ; and the assurance of the skilful to the fond parents, that there was no danger, proved wrongly founded. Death mocked all their hopes ; and when the first died, in vain was he opened, to find out, if possible, the cause of the fatal malady, in order to administer, with greater hopes of success, remedies against it, to preserve the other. That other hopeful youth followed his brother, and their fate deeply wounded the hearts of half a dozen noble families, whose intimate relationship gave them a very near interest in the awful event. Like instances of the loss of hopeful sons, and of the only male heirs, might be produced in other families of prime distinction.

stinction in the list of the British nobility ; but I need not enumerate more to a mind considerate as yours, which will reflect, that death is a common lot, from which no rank or degree is exempted. I hope these reflections, and such as you will be able to add to them by your own reason and piety, will serve to rebuke the overflowings of your grief, and to confine it to the natural channels, into which both God and nature will indulge it to flow. I mention not to your enlightened mind, the motives that might be insisted on with great propriety, on so grievous an occasion, such as the uncertainty of life ; the gratitude you ought to shew for having had your son so long continued to you as he was ; the great probability of his being happy in God's mercies, by reason of his hopefulness and duty ; the early release he has met with from the troubles and chances of a changeable and transitory life ; his escape from the dangers and temptations which his virtue might have been tried with, had he lived to maturer years ; that this loss to you is the work of God ; that he died not in a distant land, and by an untimely death, but that you had the satisfaction of knowing that every thing was done for him that could be done ; that his morals were stilluntainted,

untainted, and he was not cut off in the pursuit of some capital sin, as hath too often been the case with bold and daring spirits in the heat of their youthful passions ; and that he escaped the snares usually laid for young men by idle companions and vicious women, who too often entangle and catch the unthinking mind—all these considerations your own reason will suggest to you, and clearly convince you, how necessary it is for us to submit to the will of that great Director of all things, who does every thing for the best. I am, dear Sir,

Your most affectionate friend.

Letter to a Widow on the Death of her Husband.

Dear Madam,

PERMIT me the liberty of condoling with you on the truly great and heavy loss you have sustained of an excellent husband. Every one of us, who had the pleasure of his friendship, mourn with you the irretrievable misfortune to us, as well

well as to you ; but as there is no recalling it, and as it is God's will, we must not repine at the dispensation, but acquiesce in it. To say, that neither you nor we ought to grieve at it, would be absurd and unnatural. Inordinate grief, however, we are commanded to avoid ; and we ought to bless God, that he was graciously pleased to continue him with us so long, instead of inmourning too heavily, that we had not longer the pleasure of his agreeable conversation. We were not born together, and some of us must go first. I am often lead to think, besides the life of glory, which through God's mercy awaits the good, that he is far happier than those he leaves behind him, in this point, that he is saved from the regret, which fills the wounded hearts of his surviving friends, of seeing them go before him, as they have seen him go before them. Had he not died now, a few years would have determined his useful life, for the longest life is but a span ; and then the matter, had he gone before us, would have been as it is now. We may make our own lives miserable in bewailing his loss ; but we cannot do him good. You, in particular, Madam, who are now called upon to be both father and mother to the dear pledges of your mutual affection,

affection, ought to take double care, how you suffer immoderate grief to incapacitate you from this new and more arduous and necessary task ; for by these means, you would not only do yourself hurt, but double the loss which his dear children have already sustained in that of their father. Would you, Madam, wish to make them motherless as well as fatherless ? God forbid ! Consider, though this is an heavy case, yet it is a common case ; and we must not repine, that God thought him ripe for heaven, and put an end to his probationary state. With melancholy pleasure have I often, on the lols of friends, contemplated the excellent advice of the son of Sirach, who tells us how we ought to mourn on these occasions, and how we ought to govern our mourning ; he reminds us most excellently, that while we are grieving for our departed friends, our own lives pass away, and we *are not*. You will permit me to transcribe his own excellent words, as most suitable to the subject before us. " My son, (says he) let tears fall down over the dead, and begin to lament, and then cover his body, according to the custom, and neglect not his burial. Weep bitterly, and make great moan, and use lamentations as he is worthy.

Then comfort thyself for thy heaviness ; for of heaviness cometh death, and the heaviness of the heart breaketh strength. Therefore, drive it away, and remember thy own last end. Thou willt not do him good, but hurt thyself. When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest ; and be comforted for him when his spirit is departed from him."—To add any thing to this excellent advice, would be, in some measure, to deprecate it. I will therefore conclude with my prayers, that God will enable you to bear as you ought, and all your friends wish and expect it from you, this truly heavy dispensation, and that most particularly for the sake of your dear children by him. I am, Madam, with my sincerest wish for your peace and tranquillity,

Your faithful friend and servant.

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

My dear Girl,

Y O U are now embarking on the dangerous commerce of the world at the early

early age of eighteen—an age the most dangerous in the life of a female. Do not, therefore, treat with indifference the advice of a parent, who has bought wisdom by experience, and who has no other view in the trouble he is now taking, but to teach you how to shun those dangers, which have proved the destruction of thousands, and will of many more yet unborn.

In the first place, remember how young you are, and how easily your youthful mind may be led astray, if you be not exceedingly cautious in your conduct. For this reason, never be too confident of your own resolutions, but religiously avoid even the appearance of temptation. Do not let the consideration, that you are now in some measure your own mistress, throw you off your guard; but consider it rather as a dangerous acquisition to one of your age, since your father, old as he is, has frequent occasions to take the advice of others in matters of much concern; and how much more must you have occasion for that advice, which your father will always be ready to give you, with candour and tenderness, if you be not above asking for it!

Attend divine service on Sundays as often as the nature of your connections will admit, and do not neglect the perusal of

the sacred writings. By these means you will retain the character of a good Christian, and you will thereby find yourself strengthened in the love of virtue.

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

At all times punctually speak the truth, and do not endeavour to hide a fault by the use of a lie. At your age, allowances must be made for little errors, and such you need not be afraid of confessing, when you happen undesignedly to commit them ; but the person, who is once detected in a lie, is never more to be believed. As I trust you have high notions of honour, let me ardently entreat you not to forfeit any part of that honour by the use of a lie, which belongs only to little, mean, and narrow souls. The vice of lying is caught by degrees, like most other vices. A trifling fallacy is at first thought nothing of, and then by degrees the mind becomes hardened against an adherence to truth, and the uttering of the grossest falsehoods becomes

familiar

familiar in the end. My dear girl, cautiously avoid a lie even on the most trifling occasions, if you wish to preserve your honour untainted.

Be affable and civil to every one, however low their stations in life may be, and never look with contempt on any one, merely because they may not dress so well as yourself. Pride is a contemptible thing, when it leads us to despise others only because they may not have been so fortunate in the world as ourselves. The day will come, when the queen and the beggar will be on a level.

In the commerce of this world you will meet with variety of tempers, and some of them no ways pleasing to you ; but if your fortune or hopes, or your present bread, depends upon them, give them their way, and do not contend with your superiors about trifles, since many a good friend has been lost by servants endeavouring to be wiser than their masters, mistresses, or superior connections. A wise servant will always endeavour to discover the bent and inclinations of those they serve ; and, when they have once discovered them, it will be no difficult matter to give satisfaction. The servant, who observes this rule, will frequently be much happier than those they

serve, since servants have often only two or three persons to please, while those they serve may be obliged to study the dispositions and tempers of an hundred.

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

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

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

Never accompany any man singly, to walk with him in the fields, to ride with him

him in a coach, or to go to any of the public places of amusement; for I have heard some assassins of female virtue declare, that, if they could once persuade any incautious girl to keep them company from home, they never failed of at last accomplishing their base designs. Girls too easily persuade themselves, that every young fellow who dangles after them, fawns over them, and flatters them, wishes to make wives of them; but no mistake can be more fatal to their reputation and character; for there are an infinite number of those coxcombs, who endeavour to captivate the hearts of girls, only that they may have an opportunity of boasting in company how great are their conquests.

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

When

When a young girl sees her pretended lover constantly casting languishing looks at her, when he is continually reminding her of her beauty, but complaining of the severity of her heart, she may then be assured that nothing honourable is intended, and that the sacrifice of virtue is the only object of his attention, which nothing but her own prudence can prevent.

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

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

that day, in which they quitted service to embark in a state of married slavery.

The married state, though by some compared to the bed of roses, yet it is not always the couch of unmixed delight, since thorns and briars twine around it. Let a young woman look about her among her married female acquaintances, and she will soon see enough to convince her, how dangerous it is for her peace and happiness to become a wife too hastily and too early in life. What is the general conversation among most married women, but the cares, pains, and anxieties, ^{they} feel in that state? And what little enjoyment can a woman have, who is perpetually involved in the cares of her family, and the cries of her little children around her?

I mention not these matters with a view to set you against all thoughts of matrimony; I only wish to caution you against entering into that state till you shall have reached a mature age of strength and prudence, and till some experience in the world shall have ripened your judgement, and given you fortitude and solidity.

There is another and a very important consideration, which ought to be constantly uppermost in your mind before you venture to take a husband. Ask yourself these plain questions:

questions : How are we to live after we shall be married ? As I have no fortune myself, will my husband's income support us, suitably at least to my present condition, and will he be able to take care of me in sickness, and enable me to bring up our children in a decent manner ? If your heart tells you, that his circumstances cannot probably do all this, even when assisted by your own endeavours, then be assured that marriage will make you completely miserable ; for, however tenderly you may love each other, if want of any kind stare you in the face, there will be no means whatever of retaining happiness in your house, and terrible indeed is that situation which affords no hope but in death. Such must be the situation of the generality of those who embark inconsiderately in the married state.

Thus, my dear girl, have I finished the few hints I thought it necessary to give you on your first launching into the dangerous commerce of the world. I could have said a thousand things more to you ; but I am sensible how irksome too long a detail of admonitions are to young minds. I know very well, that, if you attend properly to these few hints, your own good sense and judgment will supply the place of every thing

thing I have left unsaid ; but, if these are disregarded by you, it would be to no purpose had I given you a thousand more.

I shall conclude with admonishing you, to remember how unexperienced a girl of your age must be, and how much you stand in need of the advice of a father. Let prudence be your guide, and let it be the study of your life by day, and on your pillow by night, never to deviate a step from the thorny path of virtue. Let me but live to see you confirmed in these maxims, and I shall then chearfully resign my breath to him who gave it me, in the pleasing hope that you will live an amiable and valuable woman long after I shall be laid in my peaceful grave, and mouldered into dust.

Your affectionate father,

R. J.

*Letter from an elder Brother to a younger one,
who was extravagant.*

Dear Sam,

THAT your misfortunes are to me matter of a very serious nature, you cannot

cannot have the least doubt. You are my only brother, and consequently your misfortunes must affect me nearly as if they were my own ; but there is this difference in what I feel for you and for myself, I am sure, every misfortune I have met with has been occasioned by unavoidable accidents. This consideration has supported me under the many afflictions I have myself endured ; but for those I have shared with you, I cannot boast the same alleviations. While our father lived, he was your constant and unwearied support, even after your patrimony was squandered away. While our mother remained, she was every week afflicting your necessities, but what might more properly be called your levities or extravagancies. She is now, by the Divine Will, taken from us both ; her jointure, as well as the estate my father independently left, has devolved upon me. Of these both nature and Providence require I should make the best use ; and to serve you, I readily confess, is my greatest care. But, my dear brother, how is this to be done ? The generous and bountiful assistance of our parents procured you no substantial good ; what then am I to do to screen you from want and misery ? That you are not already happy, is not owing

to the backwardness of your friends to serve you, but, allow me to speak plainly, to your own indiscretion. Your own fortune did not maintain you three years. Were I able to give you as much more, what reason have you given me to suppose you will be a better œconomist than you have been? My whole estate, let me tell you, brother, at your rate of expence, would scarcely maintain you for seven years; and, think as you will, I must believe it my duty to leave enough to support my offspring, with prudent conduct, to the end of time. If I send you, as you desire, fifty guineas, what good will that sum procure you? It will but serve to lengthen your credit, and make you run deeper into debt. I have assisted you before; and has not this always been the case? Have not people given you credit, because they think I will support you? It is time then, my dear brother, to hold my hands. Yet be assured, that when I shall be convinced you have thoroughly abandoned your present courses, you shall find in me

A truly affectionate brother.

Letter

Letter from a Country Chapman, beginning Business, to a City Trader.

Sir,

HAVING finished my apprenticeship with Mr. Johnson in this town, I am now going to begin for myself in Chesterfield, having taken a shop there for that purpose. I know the satisfaction you always gave to my master in your dealings, I therefore make an offer to you of my correspondence, in expectation that you will use me as well as you have him, in whatever I may write to you for. This I the rather expect, as you cannot disoblige Mr. Johnson by it, because of the distance I shall be from him; and I shall endeavour to give you equal content with regard to my payments, &c. Your speedy answer, whether or not you are disposed to accept of my offer, will oblige

Your humble servant.

Letter

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Sir,

YOUR letter has come safe to my hands, and I very cheerfully accept the favour you offer me. I will take care to serve you in the best manner I am able, and on the same footing with Mr. Johnson, not doubting that you will be as punctual in your returns as he is, which entitles him to a more favourable usage than could otherwise be afforded. I wish you success with all my heart; nor can I much doubt of it, from the situation you have chosen, provided you do but prudently improve it. I am

Your obliged servant.

Letter to a Country Dealer, requesting a Settlement on their Affairs.

Sir,

PRIVATE exigencies oblige me to beg the favour of you to balance the account

count between us. Though matters have run into some length, yet I should not have applied to you, had I known so well how to answer my pressing occasions any other way. Should it not suit you to pay the whole, I beg, Sir, you will remit me as much towards it as you can, without prejudice to your own affairs, and it will extremely oblige

Your most humble servant.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Sir,

IT is with great pleasure I have it in my power to send you directly one hundred pounds on account between us, which I do by our carrier, who will pay you in specie. I will soon remit you the balance of your whole demand, and am only sorry, that I gave occasion for this application for what is so justly your due. When I send you the rest, which will be in a few days, if I be not greatly disappointed, I will accompany it with an order, which will begin

gin a new debt, but which I hope to be more punctual in discharging, than I have been in the last. I am, very sincerely,

Your friend and servant.

An angry and pressing Letter from a City Dealer to his Country Correspondent.

Mr. Pote,

I CANNOT but lament, that your ill-usage should compel me to write to you in the most pressing manner. Can you think it possible to carry on business after the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made me, and how from time to time you have broken them. Can I depend on any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? If you do not, what must I think of a man who deals worse with me than he does with any body else? If you think you can trespass more on me than on others, that is a very bad compliment to my prudence, or your own

own gratitude; for surely good usage should be entitled to a similar return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so dependent a thing, you know, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me, for those very goods I send you? And can I make a return to him, without receiving it from you? What end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have not six months credit for myself? Indeed, Sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others; and what then must be the consequence? In short, Sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder. I shall be very loth to take any harsh methods to procure this justice to myself, my family, and my creditors; for I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful friend and servant.

Letter

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Sir,

IT is incumbent on me to acknowledge, that I have not used you well, and can give no better answer to your just expostulations, than to send you the inclosed draft for fifty pounds, which you will be pleased to carry to my credit, and to assure you of more punctual treatment for the future. Your letter is no bad lesson to me; I have perused it often, and I hope I shall improve by it. I am ready to give my bond for the remainder, of which I will keep paying something every month, till it be all discharged; and what I write to you for in the interim shall be paid for on the receipt of the goods. This, I hope, Sir, will satisfy you for the present. If I could do better, I would; but I shall be straitened to do this. I think, however, in return for your patience, I cannot do less, to convince you, that I am now, at last, in earnest. I beg you will continue to me the same good usage and service I have met with from you hitherto, and that you will believe me to be unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble servant.

Letter

Letter to a young Tradesman, advising him to Diligence and Regularity.

Dear Nephew,

THE particular esteem I have always had for you, as well for your own sake, as for your late father and mother's, makes me give you the trouble of these lines, which I hope you will receive as kindly as I intend them. I have lately called upon you several times, and have as often found you in a violent hurry, which I well know cannot be sometimes avoided; but I think it need not be always the case, if your business was put into a proper, and regular channel. I have had frequent reason to believe, that more than half the flutter, which appears among traders in general, is rather the effect of their indolence than their industry, however willing they may be to have it thought otherwise; and I will give you one instance in confirmation of this opinion in a neighbour of mine. This gentleman carried on for some years a profitable business; but, indulging himself every evening, in a tavern-society or club, which the promotion of business, as is usually the case, gave the first

first pretence for, he looked upon those engagements as the natural consequence of the approach of night; and drove on his business with precipitation in the day, that he might "get thither" with the earliest. He seldom kept any late hours, though he never "came home soon." The night being gone, and the bottles emptied, the morning was always wanted to dispel the fumes of the wine. Whoever therefore came to him before nine, were desired to call again; and when he rose, so many matters waited for him, as directly threw him into a flutter; and hence, from his rising to dinner-time, he seemed in one continued ferment. He always allowed himself a long dinner-time, in order to recover the fatigues he had undergone, and all his table talk was, how heavy his business lay upon him, and what pains he took in it! The hearty meal, and the time he indulged himself at table, made business very disagreeable to him the rest of the afternoon; so that all that could be deferred was put off till the next morning, and longed-for evening approaching, he flies to his usual solace, empties his bottle by eleven, comes home, gets to bed, and is invisible till next morning at nine, and then rising, enters upon his usual

hurry

hurry and confusion. Thus did his life seem, to those who saw him in his business, one constant scene of fatigue, though he scarce ever applied to it four regular hours in any one day: whereas, had he risen only at seven in the morning, he would have got all his business under by noon; and those two hours, from seven to nine, being before many people go abroad, he would have met with no interruption in his affairs. He might have improved his servants by his own example, directed them in the business of the day, have inspected his books, written to his dealers, and put every thing in so regular a train for the rest of the day, that whatever had occurred afterwards would rather have served to divert than fatigue him. And what, to cut my story short, was the upshot of the matter? Why, meeting with some disappointments and losses, as all traders must expect, and ought to provide for, and his customers not seeing him so much in the shop as they expected, and when there, always in a disobliging and pecculant hurry; besides, mistakes frequently happening, through the flurry into which he put himself and every one about him--by these means his business dwindled away insensibly; and not being able to

go

go out of his usual course, which helped to impair both his capacity and ardour to business, his creditors began to look about them. He was then compelled to enter into the state of his affairs, when he had the mortification to find the balance of two thousand pounds against him. This was a shocking case to himself, but more so to his family; for his wife had lived, and his children had been educated, in such a manner, as induced them to hope their fortunes would be sufficient to place them in a state of independence. In short, being obliged to quit a business he had managed with so little prudence, his friends got him upon a charitable foundation, which afforded him subsistence for himself; his children were dispersed some one way, and some another, into low scenes of life; and his wife went home to her friends, to be snubbed at and reflected on by her own family, for faults not her own. This example will afford several useful hints to a young tradesman, which are too obvious to require an explanation. I dare say, your prudence will keep you from the like fault, and you never will have reason to reproach yourself on this score; but yet, as I always found you in a hurry, when I called upon

upon you, I could not but give you this hint, for fear you should not properly proportion your time to your business, and unless you should suspend to the next hour, what you could and ought to do in the present, and so did not keep your business properly under. Method is every thing in business, next to diligence; and you will, by falling into a regular one, always be calm, and unruffled, and have time to bestow in your shop with your customers, the female ones especially, who always love to make a great many words in their bargainings; and expect to be humoured and persuaded. How can any man find time for this, if he prefer the tavern to his shop, and his bed to his business? I know you will take in good part what I have written, because you are sensible how much I am,

Your affectionate uncle.

Letter

Letter to a Friend on his Recovery from an Illness.

Dear Sir,

PERMIT me to mingle my joy with that of all your friends and relations, in the recovery of your health, and to join with them to bless God for continuing to your numerous well-wishers the benefit of your useful and valuable life. May God Almighty long preserve you in health, and prosper all your undertakings, for the good of your worthy family, and the pleasure of all your friends and acquaintance, is the hearty prayer of

Your faithful friend and servant.

Another Letter on the same Occasion.

Good Sir,

IT is with great satisfaction I have received the news of your recovery from the dangerous

dangerous illness with which it pleased God to afflict you. I most heartily congratulate you and your good lady and family upon it, and make it my prayer, that your late indisposition may be succeeded by such a renewal of health and strength, both of body and mind, as may make your life equally happy to yourself, as it must be to all who have the pleasure to know you. I could not avoid giving you this trouble, to testify the joy that affected my heart on the occasion, and to assure you that I am, with the greatest affection and respect, Sir,

Your faithful humble servant.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

I AM infinitely obliged to you for your kind congratulations. My return of health will be the greatest pleasure to me, if I can in any measure contribute to the happiness of my many good friends, and in

in particular to that of you and your's ;
for I assure you, Sir, that nobody can be
more than I am,

Your obliged humble servant.

*Letter to a Friend, on his neglecting to answer
his Letter.*

Dear Sir,

YOUR remaining so long silent
in your expected answer to my letters,
gives me great alarms respecting your
health and welfare. I beg you, Sir, to
renew to me the pleasure you used to give
me in your correspondence, for I have
written three letters to you before this,
to which I have had no answer, and am
not conscious of having any way disengaged
you. If I have, I will most willingly ask
your pardon ; for nobody can be more than
I am,

Your faithful friend and servant.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

YOU neither have nor can disoblige me; but I have greatly disobliged myself in my own great remissness, and I cannot account for it as I ought. To say I had business one time, company another, was distant from home a third, will be but poor excuses for not answering one of your kind letters in four long months. I therefore ingenuously take shame to myself, and promise future amendment, and that nothing shall ever, while I am able to hold a pen, make me guilty of a like neglect to a friend I love so well, and have so much reason to love. Forgive me then, my good, my kind, my generous friend, and believe me ever

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Your most obliged humble servant,

*Letter from a Father to his Son, advising him
to be more careful in his Affairs.*

Dear Billy.

IT is impossible for you to conceive the great concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Neglect is inexcusable in all men, but in none so much as in a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality. Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted, quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreations, and apply to your counting-house with diligence. It may not be yet too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expences; and then see which of the latter you can, and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backwards in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry to retrieve him, and again put him forward. Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverished trader is put to for the

remainder of his life, and which may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is like to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered; the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how, on the contrary, from being born to a creditable expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to the most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction beyond the present hour, if even in that, and which must be attended with deep remorse, when the hour of reflection shall arrive. Think seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your own mind, comfort to your family, and which will give, at the same time, the highest satisfaction to

Your tender and affectionate father.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

MY sincerest thanks are due to you, for your seasonable reproof and advice. I have indeed too much indulged myself in an idle careless habit, and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. I must confess they wanted nothing more than their own; so I could only blame myself, who had brought their rough usage upon me. Your letter came so seasonably upon this, that I hope it will not fail of the desired effect; and as, I thank God, it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course with myself and my affairs, that I may avoid the ill consequences, of which you so judiciously forewarn me, and give to my family and friends the pleasure they so well deserve at my hands; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is owing to him by

His most obedient and dutiful son.

Letter from an elderly Gentleman to a young Man, reminding him of his Duty to his Father.

Mr. Simmons,

PARDON the freedom I am now taking, of expostulating with you on your behaviour to your father, and I hope you will receive it from me with the same good will that I mean it. His former indulgences certainly claim better returns on your part, although it should be allowed, as you seem to imagine, that his affection to you is alienated. There may be something of petulance in him, which you ought to bear with; for one time or other you may be convinced by experience, that age itself has its insuperable afflictions, which require the allowance of every one, and more particularly of such who hope to live a long life themselves, and still more particularly of a son, whose high passions, perhaps, require at least as much allowance. He may be petulant, but are not you fiery and impetuous? I would wish to know, whether you ought to bear with him, or he with you. It is a very groundless surmise,

surmise to think his affections are alienated from you; for a father must love his son, he cannot help it. Is it creditable, even to yourself, on cool reflection, that the same good man, who used to be delighted with your childish vanities and follies, (for we have all had them, more or less) and even indulged, and perhaps cherished those youthful forwardnesses, that might be called the seeds of those passions, which now, being sprung up, give him so much uneasiness, and make you so impatient of contradiction; can you, I say, believe, that this same good man, without reason, without provocation, can change that love into hatred? You are grown to man's estate, and, though you are far from being one of those ungracious sons we have seen in the world, yet you ought not to be so partial to yourself, as to believe you are wholly faultless. Examine your own conduct, and although you should not be able to charge your intention with any blame, yet you may leave your behaviour to be judged by others; and it will, perhaps, be given against you, that some slight, some negligence, some inattention, if not worse, too cutting for a father's care and fondness to support, has escaped you. Then consider what a grievous thing it

must be to him to reflect, that this behaviour of your's may be but the gradual consequence of his former indulgence to you; and that he is deservedly punished, for not rooting up in your childish days, those weeds which now spread to his uneasiness. Let me tell you, Sir, it ought to be a more sad reflection to a considerate young gentleman, that he is to be the instrument to punish his fond father's faulty indulgence to him. I have been a diligent observer of the dispensations of Providence in this respect, and have always seen the sin of undutifulness to parents, punished in the same kind, more than any other sin. You will say, that your behaviour to your father is not, you hope, of such an atrocious nature, as to be attended with such terrible consequences; and you will perhaps add, that you do not wish for a better behaviour from your son, than you shew to your father. But, if this be not partiality to yourself, pray consider, that while your father takes your present conduct in so ill part, and you use so little circumspection to avoid giving him disgust, and have so little complaisance as not to set him right, the thing is full as tormenting to him from the appearance, as if it were real; nay, it

it is real to him, if he believes so. He thinks, and let me tell you he thinks justly, that he ought to expect as much deference to his will and pleasure now, as he has heretofore shewn you indulgence, even in those things that now perhaps you are so unkind to suffer to turn severest upon him. I would not recriminate; but it was with very little reverence, and indeed with an air as censurable as the words, that you told him, in my hearing, that he knew not what he would have; that he expected you to be more accountable at this age than when you were a child, &c. Pray, Sir, does your being of age lessen your duty to your father? Are not his cares for you allowably doubled? And ought he not now to expect from your good sense and more mature understanding, (improved, as it is to be hoped, by the education he has at a great expence given you) greater proofs of your duty? He may forget, perhaps, what he was at your age, as you irreverently told him; but how much more laudable would it be, for you, at yours, to enter into what you would naturally expect from your son, were you in the place and at the age of your father! A generous mind will do its duty, though it were

not to meet with suitable rewards or returns; for even should your father not do his by you, you are not absolved of your's to him: much less should the natural, the consequential infirmities of age, dissolve the duties of a son to an indulgent parent. Be convinced, my dear Sir, of your wrong conduct, and do not think it beneath the high spirit of a brave young gentleman, to submit to the will of his father. By your dutifulness and circumspection you may, in all probability, add to the number, as well as the comfort of his days, to whom you owe your being. What a woe does that young man bring upon himself, who robs his aged parent in both respects! It is the duty of all children to think upon this timely, and with awe. On how many occasions has he heretofore rejoiced to me, on even the smallest openings and dawnings of your mind and genius! How has he extenuated your failings, connived at your faults, and extolled and brought forward into strong light, even the remotest appearance of virtue in you! Such were always, and such, notwithstanding the intermixtures of age and infirmity, and even of your continued flights and impatience,

tience, always will be, the instances of his paternal affection for you. I will venture to say, that even this petulance, as you think it, is a demonstration of his regard for you, however disagreeable it may be to you, since he loves you too well to be insensible to those parts of your behaviour, which he thinks are owing to slight or negligence. I have exceeded the bounds I intended when I began, and would rather leave to your natural good sense, and cooler reflection, what I have already urged, than tire you too much with what might be still further added on this occasion. But the affection and friendship I have for all your family, and the long intimacy I have had with your good father, (who, however, knows nothing of my writing) and the evil consequences that may follow a wider breach between you, will answer for my intention in thus troubling you at present.

I remain

Your sincere friend and well-wisher.

*Letter of Consolation to a Friend imprisoned
for Debt.*

Dear Sir,

THERE are few things that could give me more real concern and uneasiness, than to hear, that the severity of your creditors has laid you under confinement. One comfort, however, results from it, that the utmost stretch of their revenge cannot carry them further; and that, when a man has got to the undermost part of fortune's wheel, he may rise, but cannot sink lower. You know the worst, and have nothing to do, but to support your misfortune with that true magnanimity which becomes a noble mind. Long, very long, you have looked forward, with such anxiety and pain, to the hard lot that has now befallen you, that it is impossible the bearing of it can be equal to the apprehensions you had of it. You see all around you, too many unhappy objects reduced to the same distress; and you see them either extricating themselves from their difficulties, as I hope you soon will; or learning to bear them with a true christian resignation.

Well

Well does the Wise Man observe, that “the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor riches to a man of understanding.” It will yield you some consolation, when you reflect, that this life is but a state of probation; and he that meets with misfortunes here, may, by a proper use of them, and by God’s grace, be intitled to a blessed hope; whereas a prosperous state may make a man forgetful of his duty, and so meet no other good but what he finds in this transitory life. Remember, my friend, that the school of affliction is the school of wisdom. I think myself, however, not a little unhappy, that my circumstances will not permit me to assist you on this grievous occasion, in the way a friend would choose to do if he were able; but if, by my personal attendance on any of your creditors or friends, I can do you pleasure or service, I beg you to command me; for, in whatever is in my power, I am, and ever shall be,

Your faithful friend and servant.

F:

Letter

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Kind Sir,

THE old English proverb, "A friend in need, is a friend indeed," is verified in your generous conduct towards me. You have filled me with such unspeakable comfort to find that I am not abandoned by all my old acquaintance, that, in a great measure, your seasonable kindness will enable me to pursue the advice you give me. It is too late to look back now on the steps that have brought me to this abject condition. No doubt, were I to live my life over again, I could do much better for myself than I have done, and should hardly run into some of those failings that have helped to bring such heavy misfortunes upon me. My comfort is, however, that I ever had an honest intention, and never was a sot or spendthrift; but yet, who knows, if I had avoided some mistakes, that I might not have fallen into as bad another way? So I must submit to the dispensation, and pray to God, in his own good time, to deliver me from it. What is most grievous to me in this matter is, my poor

poor wife and children, who have deserved a happier fate, had it been in my power to have done better for them, than now I am ever likely to do. As to your kind offer, my dear friend, I will beg to see you as often as may not be detrimental to your own affairs. I care not how seldom I see my dear wife. Neither her heart nor mine can bear the grief that oppresses us, when we think of our happier days and prospects, and see them all concluded within these bolts and bars, and lattices, so that we sink one another still lower every doleful visit the dear good woman makes me. Your visits, my friend, will be of singular use and comfort to me, as your presence and kind advice will be to her, as often as you can, to save us both the mortification of seeing one another, so often as my affairs will otherwise require her to come to this dismal place, for I cannot ope'n my mind to any body but you and her. I will also get you to go to Mr. Mason, who is my principal creditor, and one or two more. I will hereafter tell you about what; but I am afraid of being too troublesome to you. You are so kind as to offer your service in this way, and I

am reduced to the sad necessity of pushing myself upon you, without the least hope of having it in my power to convince you, as I wish to do, how much I am,

Your grateful, though unhappy servant.

Letter from an elder to a younger Brother, concerning a Matter of Love.

Dear William,

YOUR interest is more the object of my thoughts than you perhaps imagine. Though you are younger than I, yet my duty requires my care for your good, and particularly in a point that may be so material to your whole life, as is that of love. Beauty has as great an influence over my senses, as it can over yours. I am near thirty years of age, you are not more than twenty. Your passions are strong; mine, brother, are far from subsiding, and I admire, I love, with as much force of nature as you can do. My reason ought to be stronger, and it is well if my passion is not so likewise. Miss Howard is amiable

amiable on many accounts ; her features are regular, her wit sprightly, her deportment genteel, and her voice, I had almost said, ravishing. Her dress is easy and unaffected, and her manner of conversation has a freedom that captivates more hearts than yours ; yet I greatly fear with all these endowments, she will not make the wife you ought to wish for. Her airy flights and gay behaviour are pleasing as a partner in conversation ; but will they be equally agreeable in a partner for life ? What now charms you, charms also others. You are now content with thinking yourself one among many that admire her, and are admitted to share the brilliancy of her conversation ; but will a share of her wit and humour, her freedom and gaiety, please hereafter as a wife ? Though she is delightful in company, are you satisfied she will be as agreeable when alone with you, or when she has not an opportunity of shewing away in company what you perhaps may not approve ? She now sees nobody but whom she chooses to see ; if she should be a wife, it is more than probable she may dislike restraints ; and can you approve of a diffuse conversation in one you desire to yourself ? Think not, brother, that I have any interested motive for this

advice ; for I assure you I have not. I am not your rival, nor desire the lady you seem too fond of. All I mean (for I say nothing, at present, with regard to your own youth, which ought not, however, to be wholly forgotten, as very few prudent matches are made by young gentlemen at your age) is, to caution you against thinking of a gentlewoman who may, and I am willing to believe will, be a suitable companion to a gentleman, whose station and choice lead him into much company and gay life ; but to men whose circumstances, if not their inclinations, require a more retired way of life, it is obvious, a woman, whose talents lie principally in conversation, can never, for that reason only, justify a young gentleman for choosing her for a wife. I hope this will come time enough to put you upon guarding against the inconveniences that threaten the indulgence of your present passion. Shut not your ears to reason, forget not yourself, and be sure to remember, that the pleasure of an hour or two, and of twenty, thirty, or forty years, or a whole life, must arise from very different sources. I am, dear brother,

Your's most affectionately.

Letter.

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

Sir,

I FLATTER myself, that the integrity of my intention will excuse the freedom of these few lines, whereby I am to acquaint you of the great regard and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, Sir, attempt any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honourable views to her, choosing, 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. 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 and esteem,

Your most obedient humble servant.

Letter

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

Miss,

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

Your most devoted humble servant.

Letter

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

Manchester, May 1.

Honoured Father,

I CONSIDER it as my duty to acquaint you, that a gentleman of this town, whose name is Lovewell, and by business a linen-draper, has made some overtures to my cousin Arnold, 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 an 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, and a likely man enough. He seems not to want sense nor manners, and is come of a good family. He has broken his mind to me, and boasts how well he can maintain me; but I assure you, Sir, I have given him no encouragement, and told him, that I had no thoughts of changing my condition at present, and should never think of it but in obedience to my parents, and I desired him to

to talk to me no more on that subject. Yet he resolves to persevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and esteem. I would not, Sir, by any means, omit to acquaint you with the beginning of an affair that would be want of duty in me to conceal from you, and shew a guilt and disobedience unworthy of your kind indulgence and affection. Pray give my humble duty to my honoured mother, love to my brother and sister, and respects to all friends. I remain,

Your ever dutiful daughter.

Letter in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Polly,

YOUR letter of the first instant has come safe to hand, wherein you acquaint me of the proposals made to you, through your cousin's recommendation, by one Mr. Lovewell. I hope, as you assure me, that you have given no encouragement to him; for I by no means approve of him for your husband. I have enquired of one of his townsmen, who knows him and his circumstances very well, and I am neither

neither pleased with them nor his character. I wonder my cousin shonld so inconsiderately recommend him to you, though I doubt not his good intentions. I intit. upon it, that you think nothing more of this matter, and your mother joins with me in the same advice. Adieu, my dear girl, and believe me

Your affectionate father.

Another Answer on the same Occasion.

Dear Polly,

I HAVE received your letter of the first instant, relating to the addresses of Mr. Lovewell. I would advise you neither to encourage nor discourage his suit; for if on enquiry into his character and circumstances, I shall find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them, and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. However, my dear girl, consider that men are deceitful, and always put the best side outwards. It may possibly, on the strict enquiry, which the nature and importance of the case demands,

mands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me therefore advise you to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap; for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. Your cousin will give him hope enough while you do not 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. This will put him upon applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will in this case, as in all others, study your good. Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins in the advice you here receive from

Your most affectionate father.

Letter from Mr. Lovewell to the young Lady's Father.

Sir,

THOUGH personally unknown to you, I take the liberty to declare the great

great value and affection I have for your amiable daughter, whom I have had the honour to see at my friend's house. I should think myself entirely unworthy of her favour, and of your approbation, if I could have a thought of influencing her resolution but in obedience to your pleasure, as I should, on such a supposition, offer an injury likewise to that prudence in herself, which, I flatter myself, is not the least of her amiable perfections. If I might have the honour of your countenance, Sir, on this occasion, I would open myself and circumstances to you, in that frank and honest manner, which should convince you of the sincerity of my affection for your daughter, and at the same time of the honourableness of my intentions. In the mean time I will in general say, that I have been set up in my business, in the linen-drapery way, upwards of three years; that I have a very good trade for the time; that I had a thousand pounds to begin with, which I have improved to fifteen hundred, as I am ready to make appear to your satisfaction; that I am descended of a creditable family, have done nothing to stain my character, and that my trade is still further improvable, as I shall, I hope, enlarge my bottom. This, Sir, I thought but honest and fair

to acquaint you with, that you might know something of a person, who sues to you for your countenance, and that of your good lady, in an affair that I hope may one day prove the greatest happiness of my life, as it must be, if I can be blessed with that and your daughter's approbation. In hopes of which, and the favour of a line, I take the liberty to subscribe myself, good Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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

Dear Cousins,

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

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

Your affectionate Cousin,

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

Sir,

I AM much obliged to you for the favour of your letter, as also for the good opinion you express in behalf of my daughter; but I think she is yet full young enough to alter her condition, and embark in the cares of a family. I cannot but say, that the account you give of yourself, and your application to me, rather than first to try to engage the affections of my daughter, carry a y honourable appearance, and such as must be to the advantage of your character.

As

As to your beginning, Sir, that is not to be so much looked upon as the improvement, and I doubt not but you can make proof of what you assert on this occasion. Still I must needs say, that I think, and so does her mother, that it is too early to encumber her with the cares of the world. As I am sure she will do nothing in so important an affair without our advice, so I would not for the world, in a case so nearly concerning her, and her future welfare, constrain her in the least. I intend shortly to send for her home, for she has been longer absent from us than we intended, and then I shall consult her inclinations. You will excuse me when I say, (for she is my daughter, and a very good child) that I shall then determine myself by that, and by what shall appear to offer most for her good. I am, Sir,

Your friend and humble servant.

*Letter from Mr. Lovewell to the young Lady,
after her Return Home.*

Dear Miss,

IT is with great pleasure I hear of your safe arrival at your father's house, of which

which I take the liberty to congratulate your good parents as well as your dear self. I will not, Miss, fill this letter with the regret I had to part with you, because I have no reason nor merit, at present, to expect that you should be concerned for me on that account. However, I am not, Miss, without hope, from the sincery of my affection for you, and the honesty of my intentions, to deserve, in time, those regards which I cannot at present flatter myself with. As your good father, in his kind letter to me, assured me, that he should consult your inclinations, and determine by them, and by what should offer most for your good, how happy should I be, if I could find my humble suit not quite indifferent to your dear self, and not rejected by him ! If what I have already opened to him, as to my circumstances, be not unacceptable, I should humbly hope to pay you and him a visit; or, if that be too great a favour, till he has made further enquiry, that he would be pleased to give himself that trouble, and put it in my power, as soon as possible, to convince him of the truth of my assertions, upon which I desire to stand or fall in my hope of your favour or his. I think, far different from many in the world, that a deception in an affair of this weighty nature should be less

less forgiven than in any other. Since then, dearest Miss, I build my hopes more on the truth of my affection for you, and the honour of my intentions, than on any other merit or pretensions, I hope you will descend, if not to become an advocate for me, which would be too great a presumption to expect, yet to let your good parents know, that you have no aversion to the person and address of, dearest Miss,

Your most affectionate humble servant.

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

Sir,

I HAVE shewn the letter you favoured me with to my parents, who, I am happy to find, are no less satisfied with it than myself. Reserve, which is always disagreeable to generous minds, seems now unnecessary between us. My father is perfectly satisfied with the truth of every thing you have advanced, and I shall be obedient to his will. As soon as your business will permit of your absence from home, you will be

be welcomely received by my parents; as well as by

Your Friend for Life.

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

Dear Father and Mother,

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

Your most dutiful daughter.

Letter from her Parents, in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Betsey,

YOUR dutiful letter has come safe to our hands. We can only pray to God to bless and direct you in all your engagements. Our distance from you must make us leave every thing to your own discretion; and, as you are so well satisfied in Mr. Ward's character, as well as all friends, and your master and mistress, we give you our blessings and consent with all our hearts; we are only sorry we can do no more for you. Let us know when it is done, and we will do some little matters, as far as we are able, towards house-keeping. Our respects to Mr. Ward. Every body joins with us in wishes for your happiness; and that God may bless you, is all that can be said by

Your affectionate father and mother.

Letter from the same to her Parents.

Dear Father and Mother,

I HAVE the pleasure to acquaint you, that last Saturday I was married to Mr. Ward, and am to go home to him in a fortnight. My master and mistress have been very kind, and have made me a present, towards house-keeping, of three guineas. I had saved twenty pounds in service, and that is all. I told him the real truth of every thing, and indeed I did not intend to marry so soon ; but when I received your letter, and shewed it him, he would not let me rest till it was done. Pray do not straighten yourselves out of love to me. He joins with me in saying so, and bids me present his duty to you, and tell you, that he fears not to maintain me very well. I have no reason to doubt of being very happy ; and your prayers for a blessing on both our industry will, I hope, be a means to make us more so. We are, and ever shall be, with respect to all friends,

Your most dutiful son and daughter,

*Letter of Advice to a Daughter in the Country,
against receiving the Addresses of a Sub-
altern.*

Dear Nancy,

IT is with the deepest sorrow I hear of your encouraging the addresses of a soldier, whether serjeant or corporal, I know not, who happens to quarter next door to your uncle. What, my dear child, can you propose by such a match? Is his pay sufficient to maintain himself? If it be, will it be sufficient for the support of a family? Consider, there will be no opportunity for you to increase his poor income, but by such means as will be very grating for you to submit to. Will your hands be capable of enduring the fatigues of a wash-tub for your maintenance? Will following a camp suit your inclinations? Think well of the certain misery that must attend your making such a choice. Look round at the wives of all his fellow-soldiers, and mark their appearance at their homes and in public. Is their abject condition to be coveted? Do you see anything desirable in poverty and rags? As to the man, for whom you must endure all this, he may possibly indeed be

be possessed of honesty, and a desire to do his best for you, at least you may think so ; but is it probable he will ? If he be wise and industrious, how came he to prefer a life so mean and contemptible ? If he were bred to any trade, why did he desert it ? Be cautious of pushing yourself into ruin ; and, as I am not able to maintain you, and a young family, do not throw yourself upon the uncertain charity of well-disposed people, who are already vastly incumbered by the miserable. I hope you will not thus rashly encrease the unhappy number of such, but will give due attention to what I have said ; for I can have no view but that of discharging the duty of

A loving and affectionate mother.

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

Dear Sir,

EMBOLDENED by the most tender regard you have always shewn to your children, I presume to become an advocate for my sister, though not for her fault.

She

She is very sensible of the crime of marrying without your consent, and she is sorry she has offended you; but she has great hopes, that Mr. Bladon will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for his past wildness, and engage your forgiveness. All your children are sensible of your paternal kindness, and that you wish their good more for their sakes than for your own. This makes it the more wicked to offend so good a father; but, dear Sir, be pleased to consider that it now cannot be helped, and that she may be made, by your displeasure, very miserable in her own choice. As his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth, or otherwise it would not have been a very indiscreditable match, had it had your approbation, I could humbly hope, for my poor sister's sake, that you will be pleased rather to encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favour, than make him despair of a reconciliation, and so perhaps treat her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not apprehensive of; for he is really very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. She is dejected for her fault to you, and wishes, yet dreads, to have your leave to throw herself at your feet, to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would

would make the poor dear offender quite happy. Pardon, Sir; my interposing in her favour, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister; she is your daughter, though she has not done so worthily as I wish to become that character. However, Sir, be pleased to forgive her, and let me have the happiness of having contributed to that good event. I am, dear Sir,

Your ever dutiful daughter.

Letter from the Father in Answer.

My dear Sally;

YOU cannot but suppose, that your sister's imprudent marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet, I will assure you, that it arises more from my affection for her, than from any other consideration. In her education, I took all the pains and care my circumstances would admit, and often flattered myself with the hope, that the happy fruits of it would be made appear in her prudent conduct. What she has now

done is not vicious, but indiscreet; for you remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the wild assertion of a rake making a good husband, was the most dangerous opinion a young woman could imbibe. I will not, however, in pity to her, point out the many ills I am afraid will attend her rashness, because it is done and cannot be helped; but I wish she may be happier than I ever saw a woman who leaped so fatal a precipice. Her husband has been with me this morning for her fortune, and it was with much temper I told him, that as all she could hope for was wholly at my disposal, I should disburse it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage; and that, as he was a stranger to me, I should choose to know he deserved it, before he had power over what I intended to do for her. He bit his lip, and with a hasty step was my humble servant. Tell the rash girl, that I would not have her to be afflicted at this behaviour in me; for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other. If he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behaviour from this disappointment; but, if he married her only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession rather than his

his. Your interposition in her behalf is very sisterly, and you see I have not the resentment she might expect; but would to God she had acted with your prudence! For her own sake I wish it. I am

Your affectionate father.

Letter from a modest Lover, requesting an Aunt's Recommendation to her Niece.

Good Madam,

I HAVE several times had the happiness of being in the company of your beloved niece, when I have intended to speak my mind, and 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 purpose. I have thrown out several hints, which I thought would have led the way to a fuller disclosing of a 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 way for me, if I
be not wholly disapproved of by you, and
prepare her dear mind for a declaration that
I must make, and yet know not how to
begin. My fortune and expectations make
me hope, that I may not on those accounts
be deemed unworthy. 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 de-
pends on her favour. Excuse, dear Ma-
dam, I beseech you, this trouble, and this
presumptuous request, from

Your obliged and obedient servant

*Letter from the Aunt, in Answer to the pre-
ceding.*

Sir,

I CERTAINLY can have no
dislike, as to my own part, to your propo-
sal, or your manner of making it, whatever
my niece may have; because diffidence is
generally the companion of merit, and a
token

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 me to-morrow, I 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. She 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 shall have the happiness (permit me, though her relation, to call it so) to meet with her favour, will find that to be her character, and that it is not owing to the fond partiality of, Sir,

Your friend and servant,

*Letter from a Nephew to his Aunt, concerning
a Matter of Courtship.*

Dear Aunt,

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

laid, and complaisantly hoped I would stay supper, when I had no more opportunity of speaking that time. Two days after, I repeated my visit. She received me at first politely ; but when I began to resume the subject I came upon, she rang for the maid, and bid her put on the tea-kettle. About six visits passed before I could obtain one word to my business ; and the first thing she answered upon that head was, that length of time was necessary to the making of an acquaintance that must not be either blushed at or repented of. This she spoke with such an air of gravity, as put what I would have replied quite out of my head. Yet next visit I began again, I told her how happy I should think myself, if I could be encouraged to hope for the smallest share of her favour ; but she made me such an odd answer, as plainly demonstrated to me, that I had more of her contempt than approbation. This made me as earnest as her to wave the subject, and so we went on upon the weather for a whole week before. When we had done that, we talked politics ; and, in short, after two months study how to accomplish the happiness you pointed out to me, I find myself not one single step advanced ; for when I see her now, we both talk with seeming satis-

faction on any subject where love has no part; but, when that is introduced, all her easy eloquence sinks into reserve. I could not think of relinquishing my addresses before I had your further advice. In hopes of which I am, honoured Madam,

Your dutiful nephew.

Letter from the Aunt, in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Nephew,

I EXPECTED to have found you better acquainted with the art of love, than to be so easily out of heart. That such a lady as Miss Johnson has not forbidden your visits, let me tell you is encouragement as much as you ought to expect. She is a lady of good sense, and has the advantage of a fine education. You must not expect a lady of her prudence and merit will be won by general compliments, or that her affection will be moved by the notion of a sudden and precipitate passion.

Her

Her judgment must be first touched, for she views marriage as a serious thing. By marriage her mother was made happy, and her sister undone. I enjoin the continuance of your addresses; for a more deserving lady than Miss does not live; and be sure, at least, to be more ambitious of appearing a man of sense, than a lover. When the latter is accepted on account of the former, the lady does credit to her choice. You young fellows have such a notion of a nine-day's courtship, that, if it were indulged by all women, none would, in a short time, be thought obliging, who did not make modesty submit to passion, and discretion to compliment. I desire to hear from you again a month hence. I remain,

Your affectionate aunt.

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

Dear Sally,

THREE several proposals have been made me on your account, and they
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are so particularly circumstanced, that I cannot approve of one of them.—The first is by Mr. Adams, for his son Thomas, who, you know, is very weak in his intellects, and so apt to be misled, that he wants a guardian for him in a wife, and so does you the reputation to think you a proper person for that office. I think the first weakness in the world in a husband is that of intellect, and I should suffer much to have you joined to a man who has no head, and is, for that reason, highly unworthy to be your's. A foolish wife is much more tolerable, because she can be kept up; but a foolish husband will go where he pleases, and do what he pleases; and, although he knows nothing else, will think he knows too much to be controlled by his wife. He will have this lesson taught him by rakes and libertines, when he is capable of no other. So I did not think it necessary so much as to consult you about him.—The second is from Mr. Gresham, for his son William, who has run through such a course of libertinism, that he has hardly his fellow, and has neither a sound head, nor a sound heart. He is so far from being reclaimed, that his father proposes a wife, as the last hope for him; and yet

yet knows not whether he will accept of one, if one can be found that would accept of him. So I could not think of suffering my daughter to lie at the mercy of so profligate a rake. Though it seems he condescends to like you better, as his father says, than any one he ever saw, which was the reason of the old man's application to me.—The third was from Mr. Tomlinson, whose nephew is as bad a sot, as the other is a rake, but who promises to reform, if his uncle can procure my consent and your's; but as you had refused his overtures when he made them to yourself, without consulting me, and for the very reasons I should have rejected him, I would not trouble you about him. I gave a total denial to the request of the uncle, who desired that the matter might be brought on again, by my authority and interposition. So my dear girl, has had bad fortune, as one may say, in the offers, of three persons, not one of them being worthy of her choice:—the one a very fool, the second a profligate rake, and the third a vile sot.—But I have a fourth affair to mention to you, against which there can lie but one objection, and that is, some disparity in years. This is my good friend Mr. Ruff,

as honest a man as ever lived, a man of prudence, a man of fortune and easy circumstances, master of a genteel house and business, well respected by all the world, and most by those who know him best; a good-natured man, humane, compassionate, and though frugal, not a niggard. Now, my dear daughter, what think you of Mr. Ruff? He has an high opinion of your prudence and discretion; but wishes himself, that you were either ten years older, or he ten years younger.

Yet he thinks, if you can get over that point, he could make you one of the fondest of husbands, and that there is not any thing but he could and would oblige you in. I wish with him, my dear, that your ages had been more suitable; yet, considering the hazards a young woman runs, as the world goes, from rakes, fots, and fools of every degree; considering that in this matter independence is much to be wished for, and that all the grand desirables of life will be so well supplied; considering too that he is a fightly, a neat, a personable man, and has good health, good spirits, and good humour, and is not yet got quite to the top of the hill of life; considering all these things, I say, I think that one consideration might be given

given up for the many other more material ones, which would be so well supplied in this match. Say, my dear daughter, say freely, what you think. You will much oblige me if you can get this matter over; but if you cannot, and be so happy as I wish you—why then—I do not know what to say—but I must—I think—acquiesce. But yet I could once more wish—but I will say no more till I have your answer, but that I am

Your affectionate father.

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

Honoured Sir,

I CANNOT be so forgetful of myself, as to be insensible of the obligations, which both nature and gratitude lay me under to obey your commands; and I am willing to do so at all events, if what I have to offer be not thought sufficient to excuse my compliance. Mr. Ruff is, I believe,

I believe, possessed of all the merit you ascribe to him; but be not displeased, dear Sir, when I say, he seems not so proper an husband for me, as for a woman of more years and experience. His advanced years, give me leave to say, will be far from being agreeable to me; and will not my youth, at least the effects of it, in some particulars, be distasteful to him? Will not that innocent levity, which is almost inseparable from my time of life, appear to him in a more disagreeable light than perhaps it deserves? For, Sir, is not a likeness of years attended with likeness of humours, an agreement in diversions and pleasures, and thinking too? And can such likenesses, such agreements, be naturally expected, where the years on one side double the number of the other? Besides, Sir, is not this defect, if I may so call it, a defect that will be far from mending by time? Your great goodness, and the tenderness I have always experienced from you, have emboldened me to speak thus freely upon a concern that is of the highest importance to my future welfare, which I know you have in view from more solid motives than I am capable of entertaining. If you still insist upon my obedience, I will only take the liberty to observe, that if I

do

do marry Mr. Ruff, it will be entirely the effect of my duty to the best of fathers, and not of an affection for a gentleman that I respect in every light but that in which you propose him. And, dear, good Sir, consider then, what misunderstandings and evil consequences may possibly arise from hence, and render unhappy the future life of

Your most dutiful daughter.

Letter from a young Woman to her deceitful Lover.

Mr. William,

I AM now taking up my pen to write, though perhaps you will only scoff at me for so doing; but when I have fully explained myself, then I shall have eased my mind, and will endeavour to forget you for ever. I have had so many cautions given me against the false hearts of men, and was so often told how they will vow and forswear themselves, that I ought to have been upon my guard, certainly, and,

and, indeed, so I was a great while; you know it well. But you courted me so long, vowed so earnestly, and seemed so much in love with me, that it was first pity in me, that made me listen to you. Oh! that nasty pity, how soon did it bring—but I will not say *love* neither. I thought, if all the young men in the world besides proved false, yet it was impossible you should. Poor silly creature as I was, to think, though every body flatters me with being slightly enough, I could hold a heart so sordidly bent on interest, as I always saw your's to be!. But that, thought I, though it is a meanness I do not like, yet it will be a security of his making a frugal husband, in an age so fruitful of spendthrifts. But at length it has proved, that you can prefer Polly Bambridge, and leave poor me, only because she has a greater portion than I have. I say nothing against Polly, for I wish her well: indeed I do, and I wish you no harm neither. But as you knew Polly before, why could you not have made to yourself a merit with her without going so far with me? What need you have so often begged and prayed, sighed and vowed, never leaving me day nor night, till you had got me foolishly to believe and pity you? And so, after your courtship to me was made

made a town-talk, then you could leave me to be laughed at by every one I had slighted for you! Was this just, was this well done think you? Here I cannot go out of doors but I have some one or other simpering and sneering at me; and I have had two willow garlands sent me. But what poor stuff, in some of my own sex too, is this, to laugh at and deride me for your baseness! I can call my heart to witness to my virtue in thought, in word, and indeed; and must I be ridiculed for a false one, who gives himself airs at my expence, and at the expence of his own truth and honour? Indeed, you cannot say the least ill of me, that is my comfort. I defy the world to say any thing to injure my character. Why then should I suffer in the world's eye for your baseness? I seek not to move you to return to the fidelity you have vowed; for by this time, mayhap, you would be as base to Polly as you have been to me, and if you did, I wish her no willow garlands, I assure you. But yet let me desire you to speak of me with decency; for that is no more than I well deserve, you know. Do not, to brave through the perfidy you have been guilty of, mention me with such fleers as I hear you have done to several; and pray call me

none

none of your poor dear girls! and, I hope she won't take it to heart, poor thing!—with that insolence that I have so little deserved, and so little becomes you. I thought to have appealed to your conscience, on what has passed between us, when I began. I thought to have put the matter home to you; but I have run into this length, and now do not think it worth while to write much more; for what is conscience to a man who could vow as you have done, and act as you have done? Go then, Mr. William, naughty man as you are! I will try to forget you for ever. Rejoice in the smiles of your Polly Bambridge, and glad your heart with the possession of an hundred or two of pounds more than I have, and see what you will be the happier or richer a few years hence. I wish no harm to you. Your conscience will be a greater trouble to you, than I wish it to be, if you be capable of reflection. And for your sake, I will henceforth set myself up to be an adviser to all my sex, never to give ear to a man, unless they can be sure that his interest will be a security for his pretended affection to them. I am, though greatly injured and deceived, naughty Mr. William,

Your well-wisher.
Letter

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

Madam,

ONE of the ancients, describing a youth in love, says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak, nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute ; and whenever I shall be in your company, and behave like a fool, do not forget that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare thus much, I must presume to say, that a 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, 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

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

Your most respectful admirer,

And humble servant,

Letter from a Mother to her high-spirited Daughter, respecting her married Condition.

Dear Polly,

IT most heartily vexes me, to hear of the frequent bickerings between you and

and your husband. I hoped much better things from your prudence. "From my prudence!" you will perhaps say, as if I thought all the fault was your's. But, my dear, I do not think so; I cannot think so; and yet I may find fault with your want of prudence. Prudence will oblige a good wife to bear a little contradiction from her husband; though perhaps not always just. Suppose he is peevish, petulant, uneasy in his temper, and on flight, or no occasion, as you may think; must you be peevish and petulant because he is so? How do you know what things may have happened to him abroad; in the way of his business, to make him so? Or, if it be only humour, why must you be as bad as he with whom you find fault? Is an ill temper in a husband so taking a thing, that his wife, who finds it intolerable to her, must nevertheless imitate or assume it. The reason why you will not allow him to be oftner in the right; and while you condemn as caufelets his petulance and waspishness, must proceed, in a great measure, from a slender opinion; if not contempt of his judgment. If you think him a man of sense, it is impossible but you should allow that there may be some cause, though you do not immediately penetrate

it, why he should be disturbed. It would be kind in you to suppose the best, and conclude, that his tenderness for you will not let him communicate it to you, rather than to imagine he is always in the wrong, and always angry without reason. But were it actually to be so, are you commissioned to punish him with provocations and resentments? If you love him as you ought, you will extenuate his failings, and draw into an advantageous light those actions which may be interpreted in his favour. If, as I heard you once say, you will give him as good as he brings, that you will not bear his unaccountable humours, and such like vulgar and provoking expressions, it must come to this point: Either he or you must give way, one of your tempers must be subdued, and overawed by the other. If it be his case, tired out by your resolute and sturdy behaviour, to submit, do you think this will be a credit either to him or to you? What an abject wretch will he be deemed! What a tyrannical you! This I aver, that meekness, condescension, and forbearance, are so far from being despicable characters in our sex, that they are the glory of it. What is meekness, my dear, if you are not to be tried by provocation? What is condescension,

descension, if you must always have your own way? What is forbearance, if you are to return injury for injury, with the hostile spirit of a fierce enemy, rather than to act with the sweet complacency of a tender wife, who has vowed obedience and duty? So long as you can have your way in every thing, you will be a mirror of condescension; but when once you come to be contradicted, why then you are at liberty to contradict again. If he be out of the way in his humour, you will never be in the way in yours. If he gives you one unkind word, he shall have two in return; for you will give him as good as he brings. If he be passionate, you will be so too. You will return provoking answers for reflecting words, and so make your house a constant scene of confusion, and your life uncomfortable. And for what? Why to shew how bravely you can return injury for injury; how nobly you can contend for victory over your husband, and how you can make him despised in his family, as well by children as servants, and yourself discredited by the poor victory, supposing you were to win it by breaking his spirit! Is this, my dear, the part of a tender wife to an husband? And do we not vow reverence to an husband as our head? How can this be, if you are to return evil for evil.

Widder's Familiar English Writers

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

With contributions from another