THE YOUNG SECRETARY'S POLITE GUIDE

TO AN

EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE

IN

BUSINESS, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE and MARRIAGE.

To which is added,

Forms of Bonds, Mortgages, Letters of Licence, Indentures, &c. &c.

LIKEWISE

Several PETITIONS, from Persons in low or middling States of Life, to those in higher Stations.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:

Printed by T. SAINT, for W. Charnley, and Vesey and Whitaker.

MDCCLXXVIII.

419

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THE

Young Secretary's Guide.

LETTER I.

Introductory LETTER.

A Letter from Bishop Atterbury to his Son Obadiah, at Christchurch College, in Oxford.

(Containing some useful Hints in regard to writing Letters.)

Dear Obby,

I Thank you for your letter, because there are manifest signs in it of your endeavouring to excel yourself, and of consequence to please me. You have succeeded in both respects, and will always succeed, if you think it worth your while to consider what you write, and to whom, and let nothing, though of a trifling nature, pass through your pen negligently; get but the way of writing correctly and justly, time and use will teach you to write readily afterwards; not but that too much care may give a stiffness to your style, which ought in all letters, by all means, to be avoided. The turn of them should be always natural and easy, for they are an image of private and familiar conversation. I mention this with respect to the four or five first lines of yours, which have an air of poetry, and do therefore naturally resolve themselves into blank verses. I send you your letter again, that yourself may now make the same observation. But you took the hint of that thought from a poem, and it is no wonder, therefore, that you heightened the phrase a little when you were expressing it. The rest is as it should be; and particularly there is an air of duty and sincerity, which, if it comes from your heart, is the most acceptable present you can make me. With these

good qualities an incorrect letter would please me, and without them the finest thoughts and language will make no lasting impression on me. The Great Being says, you know——'My son, give me thy heart,' implying, that without it all other gifts signify nothing. Let me conjure you, therefore, never to say any thing, either in a letter, or common conversation, that you do not think; but always to let your mind and words go together on the most trivial occasions. Shelter not the least degree of insincerity under the notion of a compliment, which, as far as it deserves to be practised by a man of probity, is only the most civil and obliging way of saying what you really mean; and whoever imploys it otherwise, throws away truth for breeding: I need not tell you how little his character gets by such an exchange.

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

Your loving Father, &c.

LETTER II.

From a young gentleman at school to his father, expressing his duty and thankfulness.

Dear Papa,

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

ed

ed at for my ignorance. I am resolved, therefore, to be a scholar.

Pray give my duty to my mama, and my love to my brothers and sisters. I am, dear papa,

Your most dutiful son, &c.

LETTER III.

From another young gentleman at school to his mother, on the same subject.

Honoured Madam,

I AM greatly obliged to you for all favours. All I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for your extraordinary goodness. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement, and your satisfaction, and to shew myself upon all occasions,

Your most obedient and ever dutiful son, &c.

LETTER IV.

From another young gentleman at school to his father or mother, apologizing for his idleness.

Honoured Sir, or Madam,

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

Your most dutiful son, &c.

LETTER V.

From a young lady to her mama, apologizing for her neglect in not writing to her.

Honoured Madam,

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

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER VI.

From an Uncle to a Nephew, on his keeping bad Company, bad Hours, &c. in his Apprenticeship.

Dear Nephew,

I AM very much concerned to hear, that you are of late fallen into bad company; that you keep bad hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, and break the rules of his family: that when he expostulates with you on this occasion, you return pert and bold answers; and, instead of promising or endeavouring to amend, repeat the offence; and have enter'd

into

into clubs and ſocieties of young fellows, who ſet at nought all good example, and make ſuch perſons who would do their duty, the ſubject of their ridicule, as perſons of narrow minds, and who want the courage to do as they do.

Let me, on this occaſion, expoſtulate with you, and ſet before you the evil of the way you are in.

In the firſt place: what can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you had 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, ſeveral of which are elapſed, are not ſo long a term, but that you may ſee it determined before you are over-fit to be truſted with your own conduct: twenty one or twenty-two years of age, is full early for a young man to be his own maſter, whatever you may think; and you may ſurely ſtay till then, at leaſt, to chuſe your own hours, and your own company; and, I fear as you go on, if you do not mend your ways, your diſcretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember, you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of your 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 and give a bad example to others? and all for what? Why to riot in the company of a ſet of perſons, who contemn, as they teach you to do, all order and diſcipline; who, in all likelihood, will lead you into gaming, drinking, ſwearing, and even more dangerous vices, to the unhinging of your mind from your buſineſs, which muſt be your future ſupport.

Conſider, I exhort you, in time, to what theſe courſes may lead you. Conſider the affliction you will give to all your friends, by your continuance in them. Lay together the ſubſtance of the converſation that paſſes in a whole evening, with your frothy companions, after you are come from them, and reflect what ſolid truth, what uſeful leſſon, worthy of being 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 ardor and delight next morning, as if you had not drank, or kept bad hours over night? If not, whether your master has not a double loss and damage from your mis-spent evenings? whether the taking of small 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 when you will: and then, whether any restraint at all will not in time be irksome to you.

I have gone through the like servitude with pleasure and credit. I found myself my own master full soon 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 too, as I have done for mine: and I'll assure you, I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to do as you do. I could have stood the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you chuse, for being too narrow-minded to break through all moral obligations to my master, in order to shew the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandon'd mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending, and if you were assured that you could stop when you come for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and good conscience, that you will not do so for your master? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in forbearing to do an injury, than in giving offence.

You are now at an age, when you should study to improve, not divert your faculties. You should now lay in a fund of knowledge, that in time, when ripened by experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you think 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 chuse the silent, the sober conversation of books, than of such companions as never read or 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 prate, indigested notions, and thoughts so unworthy of being remember'd, that it is the greatest kindness to forget them?

Let

Let me intreat you then, my dear Kinſman, for your family's ſake, for your own ſake, before it be too late, to reflect as you ought upon the courſe you are enter'd into. By applying yourſelf to books, inſtead of ſuch vain company, you will be qualified in time for the beſt of company, and to be reſpected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unneceſſary expences, will employ all your leiſure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and open and inlarge your notions of men and things, and, finally, ſet you above that wretched company which now you ſeem ſo much delighted with. And one thing let me recommend to you, that you keep a liſt of the young men of your ſtanding within the compaſs of your knowledge, and for the next ſeven years obſerve what fate will attend them: ſee, if thoſe who follow not the courſe you are ſo lately enter'd into, will not appear in a very different light from thoſe who do; and for the induſtry and proſperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other, (if their vain ways do not blaſt them before, or as ſoon as they begin the world) you'll find abundant reaſon every day to juſtify the truth of the obſervations I have thrown together As nothing but my affection for you could poſſibly influence me to theſe expoſtulations, I hope for a proper effect from them, if you would be thought well of by, or expect any favour from, Your loving Uncle, &c.

Your maſter will, at my requeſt, ſend me word of the ſucceſs of my remonſtrances.

LETTER VII.

An Uncle in Anſwer to a Nephew's complaining of hardſhips in his Apprenticeſhip.

Dear Nephew,

I AM ſorry you ſhould have any miſunderſtanding with your maſter: I have a good opinion of him, and 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 inclinable to think that when they are badly treated, it is oftner the effect of provocation than choice. Wherefore, before I give myſelf the trouble of interpoſing in your behalf, I deſire you will ſtrictly inquire

inquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration in your master's behaviour of which you so much complain. If after having diligently complied with this request, you assure me that you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my endeavours to reconcile you to your master, or procure you another. But 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 have me, or any other friend, offer to plead your excuse, where you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be your case, all your friends together could promise your better behaviour, indeed; but as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much more to your character to pass thro' your whole term without any interposition between you. Weigh what I have here said; and remember, that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behaviour I am

Your Loving Kinsman, &c.

LETTER VIII.

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

Honoured Sir,

WITH shame, arising from a consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters: filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I know not of a more powerful advocate to intercede for me, than my honoured, tho', justly offended parent. It was the allurements of vicious company, that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was treated with the greatest tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make any reparation in my power, but know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former

mer conduct. Let me beg of you, sir, to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my whole future life shall be one continued act of gratitude;

——I am, Sir, your affectionate,
Though undutiful Son, &c.

LETTER IX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

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

LETTER X.

The Father's Letter to the Master.

My worthy Friend,

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

ceive the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promises; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

The Master's Answer.

LETTER XI.

Sir,

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

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

I am, sir, your affectionate friend, &c.

LETTER XII.

From a young gentleman in his apprenticeship to his father, requesting advice how to proceed in a critical situation.

Dear Sir,

I AM under greater uneasiness than I am able to express. My fellow-apprentice, for whom I had great regard, and from whom I have received many civilities, has involved me in the deepest affliction. I am unwilling to tell you, and yet I must not conceal it, that he has forfeited the confidence reposed in him, by a breach of trust, to which he ungenerously gained

my

my consent, by a pretence I did not in the least suspect. What must I do? My master is defrauded: if I discover the injury, I am sure to ruin a young man I would fain think possessed of some merit; if I conceal the injustice, I must at present share the guilt, and hereafter be partaker in the punishment. I am in the greatest agony of mind, and beg your instant advice, as you value the peace of

Your dutiful, tho' unfortunate son, &c.

LETTER XIII.

From the Father in answer.

My dear Boy,

YOUR letter, which I just now received, gives me great uneasiness: and as any delay in the discovery may be attended with consequences which will probably be dangerous to yourself, and disagreeable to all who belong to you; I charge you, if you value your own happiness, and my peace, to acquaint your master instantly with the injustice that has been done to him; which is the only means of vindicating your own innocence, and preventing your being looked upon as an accomplice in the fact, to which I wish you may not be found to have been too far consenting. As to the unhappy young man who has been guilty of so fatal an indiscretion, I wish, if the known clemency and good-nature of your master may pardon this offence, he may let his forgiveness teach him the ingratitude and inhumanity of injuring a man, who is not only the proper guardian of his youth, but whose goodness deserves the best behaviour, tho' he be generous enough to excuse the worst. Let not a minute pass after you receive this, before you reveal the matter to your master. For I am in hopes, that your application to me, and your following my advice, will greatly plead in your behalf. I will very speedily call on your master; and am, as far as an honest regard for you can make me,

Your affectionate father, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

From an apprentice to his maſter, begging pardon for an offence.

Sir,

I AM ſo aſhamed of myſelf for the laſt occaſion I had given you to be angry with me, after my repeated promiſes of amendment, that I have not the courage to ſpeak to you. I therefore take this method of begging you to forgive what is paſt; and let this letter teſtify againſt me, if ever I wilfully or knowingly offend againſt you for the future. You have children of your own. They may poſſibly offend; tho' I hope they never will as I have done. Yet, Sir, would you not wiſh they might meet with pardon, if they ſhould, rather than reprobation?—My making, or my ruin, I am ſenſible, lies in your breaſt. If you will not forgive me, ſad will be the conſequence to me, I doubt. If you do, you may ſave a ſoul, as well as a body, from miſery; and I hope, Sir, you will weigh this with your uſual goodneſs and conſideration. What is paſt, I cannot help; but for what is to come, I do promiſe, if God gives me health and power, that my actions ſhall teſtify for me, how much I am, good Sir,

Your repentant and obliged ſervant, &c.

LETTER XV.

From the maſter in anſwer.

YOUR letter has affected me ſo much, that I am willing once more to paſs over all you have done. Surely I may at laſt depend on theſe your ſolemn aſſurances, and, as I hope, deep contrition. If not, be it as you ſay, and let your letter teſtify againſt you for your ungrateful baſeneſs; and for me, in my readineſs (which, however, ſhall be the laſt time) to forgive one that has been always ſo ready to promiſe, and ſo backward to perform. If by your future conduct you ſhall deſerve it, you may alaways depend on the ſincere friendſhip of, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

From an Apprentice to his Friends, in praiſe of his Maſter and Family.

Honoured Sir,

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

LETTER XVII.

From a young Lady at boarding-ſchool to her Mama, requeſting a favour.

Dear Mama,

THE many inſtances you have given me of your affection, leave me no room to believe that the favour I preſume to aſk will be diſpleaſing: was I in the leaſt

doubtful of it, I hope my dear Mama has too good an opinion of my conduct, to imagine I would ever advance any thing that might give her the least dissatisfaction.

The holidays are nigh at hand, when all of us young ladies are to pay our several personal respects and duties to our parents, except one, whose friends (her parents being dead) reside at two great a distance for her to expect their indulgence in sending for her: besides, were they to do so, the expence attending her journey would be placed to her accompt, and deducted out of the small fortune left her by her parents.

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

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

Your compliance to this request, will greatly add to the happiness I already enjoy from the repeated indulgences and favours conferred on,

Dear Mama,

Your most dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

From a Mother, in Town, to her Daughter, at a Boarding-school in the Country, recommending the Practice of Virtue.

Dear Child,

ALthough we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts, and it is my continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being, whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open: but I have been lately somewhat alarmed, because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as for-

formerly. What, my dear, is this owing to? Does virtue appear to you as unpleasant? Is your beneficent Creator a hard master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of a gay unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear, I am a mother, and a concern for your happiness is inseparably connected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and, what I have considered as a fault, may be only the effusions of youthful gaiety—I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad, yea happy, to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and, therefore, give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty, the performance of which alone can make you happy, both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is a dedication of the whole man to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth, which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct: Its consequencs are equally beneficial as its promises. "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, "and all her paths are peace."

Whilst the gay unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy should I be to hear, that my child was religious without hypocritical austerity, and even gay with innocence. Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day in perusing your Bible, and some of our best English writers; and don't imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented: no, it indulges you in every rational amusement, so far as it is consistent with morality; —it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

Let me beg you will consider attentively what I have written, and send me an answer as soon as you can. I am your affectionate Mother, &c.

LETTER XIX.

The Answer.

Honoured Madam,

I Am so much affected by the perusal of your really parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer; but duty to the best of parents, obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity so conspicuous

in my former letters is too true to be denied, nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, Madam, I freely confess it; but, with the greatest sincerity, I must, at the same time declare, that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed: I am fully sensible of my error, and, on all future occasions, shall endeavour to avoid giving the least offence. The advice you sent me in your valuable letter, wants no encomium, all that I desire is, to have them engraven on my heart. My dear madam, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties, in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me beg to hear from you often, and I hope that my whole future conduct will convince the best of parents, that I am what she wishes me to be. I am,

Honoured madam, your dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XX.

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

Dear Mother,

IT is now a month that I have been at Mr Wilson's, and thank God, that I like my place so well. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbours. At my first coming there I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is the remembrance of your's and my father's kindness, but I begin to be more reconciled to my state, as I know you were not able to support me at home. I return you a thousand thanks for the kind advice you were so good to give me at parting, and I shall endeavour to practice it as long as I live: let me hear from you as often as you have an opportunity: so with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever,

Your most dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XXI.

The Mother's Answer.

My dear Child,

I Am glad to hear you have got into so worthy a family. You know that we never should have parted with you, had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of any body, but when you hear a bad story, try to soften it as much as you can; don't repeat it again, but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you, from the good character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible, and the whole duty of man. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Remember that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their kind love to you. Heaven bless you my dear child! And continue you to be a comfort to us all, and particularly to, Your affectionate Mother, &c.

LETTER XXII.

From an affectionate Parent to a Daughter in service, on hearing that her master had made attempts upon her virtue.

My dearest Betsy,

WITH great grief of heart I have just received intimation, that, though your master has actually offered violence to your virtue, you nevertheless continue in his service. God grant that you may not have already yielded to his base desires; for when once a person has so far forgotten what belongs to himself, or his character, as to make such an attempt, the very continuance under the same roof with him,

is an encouragement to him to profecute his defigns. And if he carries it better, and more civil, at prefent, it is only the more certainly to undo you when he attacks you next. Confider, my dear child, your reputation is all you have to truft to. And if you have not already, which God forbid! facrificed your honour to him, leave it not to the hazard of another temptation; but come away directly (as you ought to have done of your own accord) at the command of Your grieved and indulgent father, &c.

LETTER XXIII.

From the Daughter to the Father, in Anfwer.

Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter yefterday, and am forry I ftayed a moment in my mafter's houfe after his vile attempt: but he was fo full of his promifes of never offering the like again, that I hoped I might believe him; nor have I yet feen any thing to the contrary. However, I am fo much convinced now, that I ought to have done as you fay, that I have this day left the houfe; and hope to be with you almoft as foon as you fhall have received this letter.

I am

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

From a Merchant's Widow, to a Lady, a diftant Relation, in Behalf of her two Orphans.

Madam,

WHEN you look at the fubfcription of this letter, I doubt not of your being much furprifed with its contents; but it is more on account of your amiable character, than that I have the honour of being your relation, that I have prefumed to trouble you with this.

My late hufband, whom you know was reputed to be in affluent circumftances, has been dead about fix months; his whole accompts have been fettled with his creditors, and becaufe of many loffes and bad debts,

debts, there is not above one hundred pounds left for myſelf: I have a ſon juſt turned of fourteen, whom I want to bind apprentice to a reputable trade, and a daughter near ſeventeen, whoſe education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial ſervant, although ſhe would willingly be the companion of ſome young lady, where ſhe might be treated with familiarity and tenderneſs. In circumſtances ſo diſtreſſing, I have preſumed to addreſs myſelf to you: your long acquaintance with the world will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not but your unbounded generoſity will induce you to comply with a requeſt dictated by the ſeverity of affliction.

LETTER XXV.

The Lady's Anſwer.

Madam,

I Know not whether I am more affected with the modeſt repreſentation of your affliction, or pleaſed that I have it in my power to aſſiſt you. You ſee, Madam, that all human expectations are vain, and often attended with deception: when we think our circumſtances are independent, there is generally ſome latent miſchief hidden under the ſpecious appearance; and this ſhould teach us continually to look to that providence, who ſuperintends the affairs of this lower world; and orders all for the good of his creatures. With reſpect to your two children, I have propoſed the following ſcheme for their benefit:

Let the boy think of ſome trade, to which his inclinations lead him, and I will provide him with every neceſſary, during his apprenticeſhip, and at the expiration of that term (if his behaviour is agreeable) advance ſomething to ſet him up in buſineſs. As for the girl, let her be immediately ſent to my houſe, where ſhe ſhall be brought up along with my daughters, and every thing in my power done to ſerve her.

I expect that, from time to time, you will communicate to me an account of your circumſtances, that I may be happy in alleviating every calamity.

I am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

From an aged Lady in the Country, to her Niece in London, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of a bad Character.

Dear Niece,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother when she was alive, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you rather by letter than by word of mouth, concerning what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms you take with Mr Lovelace. You have been seen with him at both the Play-houses, in St James's Park, Ranelagh, and Vauxhall. Don't imagine, Niece, that I write this from a principle of ill-nature, it is on purpose to save you from ruin; for, let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is extremely bad, and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner to two or three virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favourable an opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have no great fortune to expect, and he has an uncle from whom he expects a considerable estate, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage; but that is greatly to be questioned; for I have heard that he is deep in debt, as also that he is privately engaged to a rich old widow at Chelsea. In short, my dear, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his railing and ridicule.

Let me prevail on you, dear Niece, to avoid his company, as you would that of a madman; for, notwithstanding I still hope you are strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare: I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere Friend, and
Affectionate Aunt, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Honoured Madam,

I Received your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, I thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true I have been at those public places you mention, along with Mr Lovelace, but was utterly ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of marriage, but I told him I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him that a regard for my reputation obliged me never to see him any more, nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend on my adhering to that resolution. In the mean time, I return you a thousand thanks for your friendly advice. I am sensible every young woman ought to be careful of her reputation, and constantly avoid the company of libertines. To convince you of my sincerity, I shall leave London in about six weeks, and will call to see you after I have been at my father's, I am, honoured Madam,

Your affectionate Niece, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents, desiring their consent to marry.

Honoured Father and Mother,

I Have sent this to inform you, that one Mr Wood, a young man, a cabinet-maker, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage: I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore have sent this by William Jones, your neighbour, who called on me, and will inform you particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been set up in business about two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but don't choose to give him my promise

mise until I have first heard from you: whatever answer you send shall be obeyed, by

Your affectionate Daughter, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

The Parent's Answer.

Dear Child,

WE received your letter by Mr Jones, and the character he gives of the young Man is so agreeable, that we have no objection to your marrying him: begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state, before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each other, you must be either happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life in which the best of men's tempers may be much ruffled, on account of losses or disappointments; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping; and never affect to appear superior to your station; for although your circumstances may be easy, yet whilst in trade, you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbours may despise you for a while, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge, that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all, remember your duty to God, and then you may chearfully look for a blessing on your honest endeavours. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of,

Your loving Father and Mother, &c.

LETTER XXX.

From a young Tradesman lately entered into Business, to his Father, asking his Consent to marry.

Honoured Sir,

YOU know that it is now above a year since I entered into business for myself, and finding it daily increasing, I am obliged to look out for an agreeable part-

partner, I mean a wife: there is a very worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted. They are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, an amiable young woman, greatly esteemed by all who know her: I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained her parents consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent; but I hope that upon the strictest enquiry you will find her such a person, that you will not have any objection to a match so advantageous. I on every occasion endeavour to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct. Her parents are to pay me five hundred pounds on the day of marriage, if the event shall happen to take place, and as they have no more children, the whole of their property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer in the mean time is impatiently expected.

By your dutiful Son, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Son,

I Received your letter, and my reason for not sending sooner is, that it being an affair of great importance, I was willing to proceed therein with the utmost caution. I wrote to Mr Johnson, my attorney, in New Inn, desiring him to enquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with; and I am glad to hear that his account does not differ from your own. I hope you don't think that I would desire to see you one moment unhappy. Your reasons for entering into the marriage state, are every way satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that the person on whom you have placed your affections is so deserving. When you have fixed the wedding day I will come to London to be present at the ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend your business with the same diligence you have hitherto done, and if you should live to an old age,

you

you will then be able to retire from trade, with honour, both to yourself and family.

I am, dear Son,

Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

From a Brother to a Sister in the Country, upbraiding her for being negligent in writing.

My dear Sister,

I Write to you to acquaint you how unkindly we all take it here, that you do not write oftener to us, in relation to your health, diversions, and employment in the country. You cannot be insensible how much you are beloved by us all; judge then if you do well to omit giving us the satisfaction absence affords to true friends, which is, often to hear from one another. My mother is highly disobliged with you, and says you are a very idle girl; my aunt is of the same opinion; and I would fain, like a loving brother, excuse you if I could. Pray, for the future, take care to deserve a better character, and by writing soon, and often, put it in my power to say what a good sister I have: for you shall always find me

Your most affectionate Brother, &c.

Due respects of every one here to my aunt, and all friends in the country.

LETTER XXXIII

From the Daughter to her Mother, in Excuse for her neglect.

Honoured Madam,

I Am ashamed I staid to be reminded of my duty by my brother's kind letter. I will offer no excuse for myself, for not writing oftener, tho' I have been strangely taken up by the kindness and favour of your good friends here, particularly my aunt Windus: for well do I know, that my duty to my honoured mother ought to take place of all other considerations. All I beg therefore is, that you will be so good to forgive me, on promise of amendment, and to procure forgiveness

giveneſs alſo of my aunt Talbot, and all friends. Believe me, madam, when I ſay that no diverſions here or elſewhere [illegible] make me forget the duty I owe to ſo good a mother, and ſuch [illegible] relations; and that I ſhall ever be,

Your gratefully dutiful Daughter, &c.

My aunt and couſins deſire their kind love to you, and due reſpects to all friends. Brother John has great reputation with every one for his kind letter to me.

LETTER XXXIV.

From a Father to a Son, juſt beginning the World.

Dear Billy,

AS you are now beginning life, as it were, and will probably have conſiderable dealings in your buſineſs, the frequent occaſions you will have for advice from others, will make you deſirous of ſingling out among your moſt intimate acquaintance one or two, whom you would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of theſe, your utmoſt care and caution will be neceſſary; for by a miſtake here, you can ſcarcely conceive the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for you to make a judgment of thoſe 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 he who has by his own indiſcretions undone himſelf, is much fitter to be ſet up as a landmark for a prudent mariner to ſhun his courſes, than an example to follow.

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

Let your endeavours therefore be, at all adventures, to conſort yourſelf with men of ſobriety, good

ſenſe, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one, that ſays, *A man is known by the company he keeps.* If ſuch men you can ſingle out, which you improve by their converſation, you will benefit by their advice; and be ſure remember one thing, that tho' you muſt be frank and unreſerved in delivering your ſentiments, when occaſions offer, yet that you be much readier to hear than ſpeak; for to this purpoſe it has been ſignificantly obſerved, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therefore by obſervation, and a modeſt ſilence, ſuch a ſtore of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worſe figure than they do; and endeavour to benefit yourſelf rather by other people's ills than your own. How muſt thoſe young men expoſe themſelves to the contempt and ridicule of their ſeniors, who, having ſeen little or nothing of the world, are continually ſhutting out by open mouths and cloſed ears all poſſibility of inſtruction, and making vain the principal end of converſation, which is improvement! A ſilent doung man makes generally a wiſe old one, and never fails of being reſpected by the beſt and moſt prudent men. When therefore you come among ſtrangers, hear every one ſpeak before you deliver your own ſentiments; by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid expoſing yourſelf, as I have known many do, by ſhooting out haſty and inconſiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recal; when perhaps a ſilent genius in company has burſt out upon them with ſuch obſervations as have ſtruck conſciouſneſs and ſhame into the forward ſpeaker, if he has not been quite inſenſible of inward reproach.

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

Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

To a young Trader generally in a Hurry in Business, advising Method as well as Diligence.

Dear Nephew,

THE affection I have always borne you, as well for your own sake, as for your late father's 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 an extraordinary hurry; which I well know cannot be sometimes avoided; but, methinks, need not be always the case, if your time were disposed in regular and proper proportions to your business. I have frequently had 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 are 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 pretence for, he looked upon those engagements as the natural consequences of the approach of night; and drove on his business in the day with precipitation, that he might get thither with the earliest. He seldom kept very late hours, tho' he never came home soon. The night being gone, and his bottle empty'd, the morning was always wanted to dispel the fumes of the wine. Whoever, therefore, came to him before nine, was desired to call again; and when he arose, so many matters waited for him, as directly threw him into a flutter; so that from his rising till dinner-time, he seem'd in one continued ferment. A long dinner-time he always allow'd himself, in order to recover the fatigues he had undergone; and all his 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, begot an inappetency for any more business for

that ſhort afternoon; ſo all that could be deferr'd was put off to the next morning; and long'd 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 and confuſion.

Thus did his life ſeem to thoſe who ſaw him in his buſineſs, one conſtant ſcene of fatigue, tho' he ſcarce ever apply'd 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; but 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 occur'd 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 in his ſhop ſo much as they expected, and when there, always in a diſobliging petulent hurry; and moreover, 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 out of his uſual courſe, which helped to impair both his capacity and ardour to his buſineſs, his creditors began to look about them, and he was compelled to enter into the ſtate of his affairs and then had the mortification to find the balance of 2000l. againſt him.

This was a ſhocking caſe to himſelf; but more 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 bare ſubſiſtence for himſelf; his children were diſperſed ſome one way and ſome another, into low ſcenes of life:

life; and his wife went home to her friends, to be snubb'd and reflected on by her own family, for faults not her own.

This example will afford several good hints to a young tradesman, which are too obvious to need expatiating upon. And as I dare say, your prudence will keep you from the like fault, you will never have reason to reproach yourself on this score. But yet, as I always found you in a hurry, when I called upon you, I could not but give you this hint, for fear you should not rightly proportion your time to your business, and lest 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 humour'd and persuaded: and how can any man find time for this, if he prefers 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 truly affectionate, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

From a Father to a Son, on his Negligence in his Affairs.

Dear Jemmy,

YOU cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Remissness 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 compting-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

you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverish'd trader is put to, for the remainder of his life; which, too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squander'd; 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 in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he comes to reflect. 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 careful and loving Father, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Son's grateful Answer.

Honoured Sir,

I Return you my sincere thanks 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. But indeed they wanted but 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 want the desired effect; and as, I thank

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 you so judiciously forewarn me of, 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 dutiful Son, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII.

From a young Gentleman, Clerk to a Merchant in Town, to his Father in the Country, soliciting Pocket-money.

Honoured Sir,

I Wrote to you by master Bale the linen-draper, but not having received any answer, makes me very uneasy: although I have been as good an œconomist as possible, yet, I find, the pocket-money you allowed me to take monthly from Mr Willis, the grocer, is not sufficient to support my necessary expences, although it was so at first. London is such a place, that unless one maintains something of a character, they are sure to be treated with contempt, and pointed at as objects of ridicule. I assure you, sir, that I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can desire, and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you, that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit it to your judgment what you think proper to order me. I did not chuse to mention my want of money to Mr Willis, and, for that reason, have not taken any thing more than what you ordered: I hope you will not be offended with what I have written; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my honoured parents.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your affectionate Son, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

MY reason for not sending to you sooner was, that I had been on a journey to your uncle at Manchester, where I was detained longer than I expected; and, consequently did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced that it is altogether reasonable: you are greatly mistaken if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small matter paid by Mr Willis; no: it was indeed inadvertency; but my constant residence in the country makes me little acquainted with the customs of London. I don't desire to confine you to any particular sum; you are now arrived at an age, when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to be well acquainted with the value of money, your profession likewise requires it; and it is well known, that prudence and sobriety in youth, naturally leads to regularity of conduct in more advanced years. Virtue insures respect, and, as I well know, that all manner of precepts are useless where the inclinations are vicious; I have left the affair, mentioned in you letter, intirely to your own discretion, and, as the inclosed order is unlimited, I doubt not but prudence will direct you how to proceed.

I am, dear Child,
Your affectionate Father, &c.

LETTER XL.

From a Daughter to her Father, pleading for her Sister, who had married without his consent.

Honoured Sir,

THE kind indulgence you have always shewn to your children, makes me presume to become an advocate for my sister, tho' not for her fault. She is very sensible of that, and sorry she has offended you; but has great hopes, that Mr Robinson will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for his past wildness, and engage your forgiveness. For

and

all your children are ſenſible of your paternal kindneſs, and that you wiſh their good more for their ſakes than 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; and as his faults are owing to the inconſideration of youth, or otherwiſe it would not have been a very diſcreditable 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 to 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. Yet is ſhe dejected for her fault to you, and wiſhes, yet dreads, to have your leave to throw herſelf at your feet, to beg your forgiveneſs and bleſſing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy.

Pardon, ſir, my interpoſing in her favour, in which my huſband alſo joins. She is my ſiſter. She is your daughter; tho' ſhe has not done ſo worthily as I wiſh, to become that character. Be pleaſed, ſir, to forgive her, however; and alſo forgive me, pleading for her: who am, Your ever-dutiful Daughter, &c.

LETTER XLI.

The Father's Anſwer.

My dear Nanny,

YOU muſt believe that your ſiſter's unadviſed 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 for my affection for her, than 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 indifferent; for, you muſt remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the

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 wiſh ſhe may be happier than I ever ſaw a woman who leaped ſo fatal a precipice.

Her huſband has this morning been with me 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 chuſe to know how he deſerved it, before he had the 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 only for her money, ſhe will ſoon be glad to find it in my poſſeſſion, rather than his.

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

Your loving Father, &c.

LETTERS ON BUSINESS.

LETTER XLII.

From a young Man in the Country to a Merchant in London, offering Correspondence.

Sir, *Coventry, Jan.* 1, 1777.

MY apprenticeship with Mr Wilson being expired, during which I had proofs of your integrity in all your dealings with my worthy master. My parents have given me two hundred pounds to begin the world, but you know that is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage; that I might be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would chuse to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr Wilson, and you may depend on my punctuality with regard to payments.

My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order as soon and cheap as possible, and am, sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLIII.

The Merchant's Answer.

London, Jan. 5, 1777.

YOURS I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a shop for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such, that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent you the goods by the Stafford waggon, in twelve parcels, marked X I; and I doubt not

not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will always enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I heartily wish you success in business, and doubt not but you well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it, and am,

Your obliged Servant, &c.

LETTER XLIV.

From a young Man whose Master had lately died.

York, June, 3, 1777.

I Doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as apprentice and journeyman above twelve years; and as my mistress does not chuse to carry on the business, I have taken the shop and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the inclosed order for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt. Please to send the inclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will oblige Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLV.

London, June 6, 1777.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my good friend your late master; but, at the same time, pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which by his dealings with me, appears to be very extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales marked O P, by the Speedwell of Hull, John Thompson, master, and you will find them as good and cheap as any that are to be had in London. I heartily

that

thank you for the offered correſpondence, and ſhall, on all occaſions, uſe you with honour. I wiſh you all manner of ſucceſs, and am,

Your obliged Servant, &c.

LETTER XLVI.

To a Correſpondent, requeſting the payment of a ſum of Money.

Sir, *Newcaſtle, Jan. 6, 1777.*

ALthough the balance of the account between us has been of long ſtanding in my favour, yet would I not have applied to you at preſent, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a a conſiderable ſum, which without your aſſiſtance, is not in my power to anſwer. When I have an opportunity of ſeeing you, I ſhall then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the neceſſity of my diſcharging it. I hope you will excuſe me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not ſuit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLVII.

The Anſwer.

Sir, *Berwick, Jan. 9, 1777.*

I Have juſt received yours, and am ſorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not ſooner ſettled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have juſt received a remittance from London, and am greatly pleaſed that it is in my power to anſwer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty pounds, for which I have ſent incloſed an order on Mr Caſh the banker. I hope you will ſurmount this and every other difficulty, and am,

Your ſincere well-wiſher, &c.

LETTER XLVIII.

From a Merchant at Leghorn, to a Brother in London, desiring him to sell some Goods and purchase others.

Sir,

ACcording to the agreement settled between us when I left England, I have sent by the Charming Sally, Captain Johnson, twelve bales of raw silk, marked A Z, desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage; they are warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately, before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for several different articles of British manufactures, to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port. Let them be as good and cheap as possible you can procure, as they are much wanted at present.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XLIX.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and the twelve bales marked A Z, were delivered at the Custom-house. I immediately advertised them for sale at Garraway's, in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent manufacturer in Spital-fields, for nine hundred and forty pounds, which I have lodged in the Bank in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Dispatch, Captain Hervey, the different articles which you ordered. They are in twenty bales marked B M. I am told they are the best that can be had in London, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER L.

An urgent Demand of Payment.

Mr Thompson,

THE exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay peremptorily to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how, from time to time, you have broken them. Can I therefore depend upon 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 the man, who deals worse by me, than he does by others? If you think you can trespass more upon me, than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment to your prudence, or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be intitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so independent a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me for these 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 only 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 then what must be the consequence? In short, Sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder; as I am very loath to take any harsh measures, to procure justice to myself, my family, and creditors. For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful Friend and Servant, &c.

LETTER LI.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Acknowledge with gratitude the lenity you have at all times shewn, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often has given me much uneasiness. I

do assure you, Sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for seventy pounds, and next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a very short time. I am determined, for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter a guide, in my dealing with those people, whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble Servant.

LETTER LII.

From a young Person in Trade to a wholesale Dealer, who had suddenly made a demand on him.

Sir,

YOUR demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article, used to be only four months; as it has been always a custom to allow at least two months more, I did not think you would have sent for it 'till that time, and consequently trusted to a practice so long established in trade. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency which hinders me from complying with your request, nor shall I ask any more than is usual. If you will be pleased to let your servant call this day three weeks for the one half of the sum, it shall be ready, and the remainder in a fortnight after. In the mean time, I beg that you will not let any word slip concerning this, as very little will hurt a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have promised; and if you have

any

any reason to demand the money sooner, be pleased to let me know, that if I have it not I may borrow it; for if I have lost credit with you, I hope I have not done so with all the world.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

THERE is no person in the world, who would more willingly shew every sort of indulgence to a young beginner than myself, and I am extremely sorry to press you on the present occasion; but I have reasons; and although it is not always either fair, or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question: Whether you have any dealings with an usurer near Moorfields, and what is his name? If you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you sooner than the time you mention, but as it may be done at once, I expect your answer by the bearer, whom you well know, for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant.

I assure you Sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have of your integrity, that I refer the payment of my demand to a simple answer to this question; but I fear that cannot be done.

I am your Friend and Well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LIV.

Soliciting the loan of Money from a Friend.

Dear Sir,

I Believe that ever since you first knew me, you will be ready to acknowledge, that no person was ever more bashful in asking favours than myself. Indeed I have always considered it as most pleasing to an honest mind, to confer, than receive a favour; but an unexpected affliction in my family, oblige s me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about forty pounds for

ſix months; but on this condition, that you can ſpare it without hurting yourſelf; for I would by no means chuſe that my friend ſhould ſuffer in his preſent circumſtances in order to oblige me. Indeed Sir, I was ſome days engaged amongſt my acquaintances to raiſe the money, before I could prevail with myſelf to aſk it from you; and that I have now done it, is from a principle far more noble than any lucrative motive: nor indeed would I have aſked it at all, were I not morally certain of paying it at the time promiſed. I hope this will not give any offence, and, as I ſaid before, if it is any way inconvenient, let me beg that you will refuſe it. I am, dear Sir,

Yours with the greateſt ſincerity, &c.

LETTER LV.

The Anſwer.

Dear Sir,

I Could not heſitate one moment in anſwering your letter, and had I known that my worthy friend had been in want of the ſum mentioned, I ſhould never have put his unaffected modeſty to the bluſh, by ſuffering him to aſk it: no Sir, the offer ſhould have come from myſelf. However the ſum is ſent by the bearer, but let me beg, that if you conſider me really as your friend, that you will ſuit the payment to your own circumſtances, without being confined to a particular time; and not only ſo, but that you will likewiſe command my aſſiſtance in every thing elſe wherein I can ſerve you. But leaſt you ſhould think me ſtrictly formal, I have hereby given you leave to draw on me to the amount of two hundred pounds, or for any leſs ſum, to be paid as is moſt ſuitable to your circumſtances. I am, Sir, your ſincere friend, &c.

LETTER LVI.

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

Sir,

I have been your tenant above ten years in the houſe where I now live, and you know that I have never aſked to pay my rent quarterly when due. At preſent

I am

I am extremely ſorry to inform you, that from a variety of loſſes and diſapointments, I am under the neceſſity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to anſwer your juſt demand, and the favour ſhall be ever gratefully acknowledged by your

Obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LVII.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

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

I am yours ſincerely, &c.

LETTER LVIII.

From a Country Farmer on the ſame Occaſion.

Honoured Sir,

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

I am, Sir, your honeſt tenant,

And humble ſervant, &c.

LETTER LIX.

The Anſwer.

Mr Clover,

I Hope that from the whole of my conduct, ever ſince you firſt became my tenant, that you cannot have reaſon to alledge any thing againſt me. I never

treated

treated you with rigour, as I always considered you as an industrious honest man. Make yourself perfectly easy concerning the payment of your rent, till I come to the country in summer, and if things are as you have represented them (and I doubt not but they are) you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence. I am yours, &c.

LETTER LX.

From an insolvent Debtor, to his principal Creditor, requesting the acceptance of a Composition.

Sir,

WHEN I first entered upon business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this; but experience convinces me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expence of taken out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, therefore, Sir, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge that my affairs are very much perplexed. I have been these ten years past endeavouring to acquire something for myself, but in vain. The variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of honesty; and if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept of it, as it is not in my power to do any more, and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant, &c.

LET-

LETTER LXI.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT is with the greatest concern that I have perused your affecting letter; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as one of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay down a plan for your future support. In the mean time, I have sent a trifle to defray your expences, till the other affairs are settled, and am, Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXII.

From a Tradesman to a wholesale Dealer, to delay Payment of a sum of Money.

Sir,

MY note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favour I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent incloted three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LET-

LETTER LXIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

IT was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time proposed, which will greatly oblige

Your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXIV.

From a young Man who had an Opportunity to set up in Business, but destitute of Money, to a Gentleman of reputed Benevolence.

Honoured Sir,

WHEN you look at the subscription, you will remember my serving you with goods when I was apprentice to Mr Hopkins, Grocer, in the Strand. I have been a little above two years out of my time, which has been spent in Mr. Hopkin's service, and the greatest part of my wages have been given to support an aged mother confined on a sick bed. Mr. Hopkins died about ten days ago, and having no family, his executors, who are almost strangers to me, are going to let the shop. My worthy master has left me one hundred pounds in his will, but that is no way sufficient to purchase the stock in trade; nor will they give any longer credit than twelve months. Being well acquainted with the trade, as also the customers, and having such a fair prospect of settling in business, I have presumed to lay it before you. I have often heard of your willingness to serve those under difficulties,

ties, especially young people beginning the world. If you approve of this, and will advance so much on my bond payable in a limited time, it shall be as safe as if in the hands of your banker. I shall be as frugal and industrious as possible, and the whole of my time shall be employed in the closest attendance to the duties of my station, and shall acknowledge your kindness with gratitude as long as I live in this world. I hope this will not give any offence, and if you give me leave I will wait on you along with one of the executors, that you may hear their proposals. My character as to honesty and fidelity will bear the strictest enquiry, as is testified in my late master's will, and also by all with whom I have any dealings.

I am,

Honoured and worthy Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXV.

The Gentleman's Answer.

Sir,

I Have just received your's, and although I am much indisposed with the gout, yet could not hesitate one moment in sending an answer. There is such an appearance of honesty, together with such an unaffected simplicity runs through the whole of your letter, that I am strongly inclined to comply with your request, and happy shall I think myself if your honest endeavours are attended with the desired success. You need not give yourself the trouble of calling on me, lest it should interfere with your business. I will either call on you to-morrow, or send a friend to enquire into the particulars. In the mean time, it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that you have not been wanting in filial duty to an aged parent, and while you continue to act consistently with these principles, and regulate your conduct by the practice of virtue, you will have great reason to expect the divine blessing on whatever you undertake. Trade is of a very precarious nature, and if not attended to with assiduity and regularity, generally involves those engaged, in the greatest difficulty, if not ruin. Let me

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beg, therefore, that when you become a master, you will avoid mixing in company with those who spend their time and substance in the fashionable follies of the present age. Such practices are inconsistent with the business of a tradesman: and I am afraid it is greatly owing to such that we see the Gazette so often filled with the names of bankrupts, who, if they had attended with assiduity to the duties of that station in which Providence had placed them, might have been a comfort to their families, and an honour to their different professions. But although I have no fears concerning your integrity, yet the best of men cannot be too often reminded of their duty.

I am, Sir, your sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXVI.

From the Servant of a wholesale Dealer to his Master in London, giving an account of his Customers in the Country.

Sir, *Manchester, Feb.* 6, 1777.

I Have visited the several towns between this and London, where any of your customers reside; and although they complain much of the decay of trade, yet their payments and orders have been as well as could reasonably be expected; and indeed I think trade is beginning to revive. I have the pleasure to inform you, that in the places where I have been, there is not any appearance of failing; and the people have been so well pleased with your goods and fair dealing, that I have obtained many new orders. I have likewise received a dividend of twelve shillings in the pound of the effects of Mr. Cambrick, the Linen Draper, at Derby, who failed last year, and there is still something remaining, so that upon the whole, your loss will not be so great as was at first expected. I have finished your business in this town, and set off to-morrow for Liverpool, where I shall expect to hear from you if you have any thing particular to transact before I return, and am, Sir, with duty and respect,

Your obedient and faithful Servant, &c.

LET-

LETTER LXVII.

The Master's Answer.

Mr Trueman,

I Received yours dated the second instant at Manchester, and am extremely glad to hear of your success. Indeed it has, as you observed, been greater than I expected. I am much pleased with your honest fidelity in transacting my business with so much care and industry: and as you are now at Liverpool, I shall take this opportunity of intrusting you with an affair of importance. There is daily expected at that port, the ship Nightingale, Captain Roberts, laden with sugar and indigo from Jamaica; and as I am informed the proprietors are desirous of disposing of the whole cargo by private contract; when you have examined the goods, I leave it to your own discretion to purchase the whole, as I think it must be an exceeding good bargain. If you have not money sufficient, give them an order on me for the remainder, payable at sight. I leave the whole to yourself, and shall expect to hear from you soon,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXVIII.

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

Sir,

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

be re-eſtabliſhed, although we long to ſee you every day. All the family are well, and, am,

Your obedient faithful Servant, &c.

LETTER LXIX.

The Merchant's Anſwer.

Mr. Thompſon,

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

Your affectionate maſter, &c.

LETTER LXX.

Recommending a man Servant.

Sir,

THE bearer has ſerved me with integrity and fidelity theſe three years, but having a deſire to ſettle in London, he left my houſe about a week ago, and by a letter received from him this day, I find you are willing to employ him on my recommendation; and it is with the greateſt pleaſure that I comply with his requeſt. His behaviour while with me was ſtrictly honeſt, ſober, and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the ſame with you. I have ſent this incloſed

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in one to himſelf and if you employ him I hope he will give ſatisfaction. I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXI.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

I Received your obliging letter in recommendation of the young man, and in conſequence of that have taken him into my family. I doubt not from what you ſay of his giving ſatisfaction, and you may be aſſured of his being treated with humanity, and rewarded according to his merit. I am,

Your humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXII.

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

Sir,

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

the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and dispatch. I am, Sir,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

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

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXIV.

From a Country Shopkeeper to a Dealer in London, complaining of the badness of his Goods.

Sir,

WHEN I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixt resolution to act with integrity and honour, expecting the same in return. I must, indeed, confess that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now the case is quite different. The two last parcels you sent me are so bad, that I dare not offer them to my customers. From what, Sir, does this proceed? have I ever been deficient in my payments? no, you dare not accuse me with any thing of that nature. However

ever, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence or shut up my shop. You may chuse which you please, and let me beg to have your answer per return of post, as I am in immediate want of these goods, and in danger of losing my customers by a delay. In so doing, you will oblige

Your well-wisher, &c.

LETTER LXXV.

The Answer.

Sir,

I Received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear that the goods sent you were so bad. I know I had some such in my warehouse, but was determined to sell them at a low rate, without ever thinking of their being sent to any of my customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. By some mistake my servants have inadvertently sent them, for which I am extremely sorry; but in order to make you amends I have sent by this day's waggon those which I had originally intended for you, at my own expence. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future. I am, Sir, Your humble servant, &c.

LETTER LXXVI.

From a Tradesman in distressed Circumstances, desiring a Letter of Licence.

Sir,

IT is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you, and during that time you well know that I always paid you regularly: but at present am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled: For that reason, Sir, I have sent to you, desiring a letter of licence for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my

affairs to their satisfaction; but if they will not comply with this I am utterly ruined. Your answer is impatiently expected by

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXVII.

The Answer.

Sir,

YOURS I received, and am extremely sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I have called a meeting of the creditors, and I doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable, of which I shall give you notice. I am, Sir,

Your real Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXVIII.

To an intimate friend to borrow money.

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

Your obliged humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXIX.

To a friend, in apology for not granting his request to lend him a sum of money.

Sir,

I AM very sorry that your request comes to me at a time when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot with any conveniency comply with it. I hope, Sir, you will therefore excuse

Your most humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXX.

An Answer, in compliance with his request to borrow a sum of money.

Sir,

YOU have highly obliged me in the request you make me. I most chearfully 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 much I am,

Your faithful friend and servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXI.

To a friend on the same occasion, limiting the repayment to a certain time.

Sir,

THE intimation you give me, that the sum of twenty guineas will be of great use to you, and that you shall be able to repay it in four months, makes me resolve to put myself to some difficulty to oblige you. Accordingly, I inclose a bank-note to that amount. But I must, in the *name of friendship*, beg of you to return it to me *unused*, if you cannot keep your word in the repayment; for my accommodating you with this sum is rather, at present, a testimony of my *inclination*, than *ability* to serve you. For I am

Your affectionate friend and servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXII.

To a friend, on a breach of promise, in not returning money lent in his exigence.

Sir,

WHEN you applied to me in your straits for assistance, and made such strong promises of returning in four months what I advanced; little did I think you would give me the irksome occasion, either of reminding you of your promise, or of acquainting you with the straits in which my friendship for you has involved myself. I have always endeavoured to manage

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, and 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? And ought I to be made to suffer in *my* credit, who was so ready to save *yours*?—When, too, mine had been in no danger, had I not put out of my own power what was then actually in it? I will only say, that if any consideration remains with you for one so truly your friend, let me immediately be paid, and take from me the cruel necessity of reproaching *you* for ingratitude, and *myself* for folly. I am, Sir,

Your unkindly used, &c.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To a friend, who had promised to lend a sum of money to answer a critical exigence, and put it off to the last.

Dear Sir,

YOU were so kind as to tell me, a fortnight ago, 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, you would have me look no further, and that 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

utmoſt perturbation of mind, for fear of the worſt, my credit being wholly at ſtake, I beg your anſwer, which I hope will be to the ſatisfaction of, Sir,

Your obliged humble Servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXIV.

The Anſwer, apologizing for his remiſſneſs.

Dear Sir,

I Will attend you this afternoon with the money, which I had always great pleaſure in the thought 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 yours, and in a caſe ſo critically circumſtanced. But I hope you will forgive me, tho' 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, &c.

LETTER LXXXV.

To a gentleman, who, on the ſtrength of a ſlight acquaintance, wants to borrow money.

Sir,

YOU did me the favour of inquiring for me two or three times while I was out of town; and among my letters I find one from you, deſiring the loan of 50 guineas. You muſt certainly have miſtaken *yourſelf* or *me* 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; you ſeemed as much pleaſed with mine: and if we both acted with honour, the obligation is mutual, and there can be no room to ſuppoſe me your debtor. I have no churliſh nor 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: you cannot think our intimacy enough to commence that relation; and ſhould I anſwer the demands of every *new acquaintance*, I ſhould ſoon want power to oblige my *old friends*, and even to ſerve *myſelf*. Surely, Sir, a gentleman of your merit cannot be ſo little beloved,

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as to be forced to seek a 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 conveniency to comply with your request; and so I must beg you to excuse Yours, &c.

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LETTERS ON LOVE *and* MARRIAGE.

LETTER LXXXVI.

On Marriage, in an Epiſtle from a Father to his Daughters.

Dear Daughters,

YOU may perhaps imagine, that the reſerved behaviour which I recommend to you, and your appearing ſeldom at public places, muſt cut off all opportunities of your being acquainted with gentlemen. I am very far from intending this; I adviſe you to no reſerve but what will render you more reſpected and beloved by our ſex. I do not think public places ſuited to make people acquainted together. They can only be diſtinguiſhed there by their looks and external behaviour. But it is in private companies alone where you can expect eaſy and agreeable converſation, which I ſhall never wiſh you to decline. If you do not allow gentlemen to become acquainted with you, you can never expect to marry with attachment on either ſide.—Love is very ſeldom produced at firſt ſight; at leaſt it muſt have, in that caſe, a very unjuſtifiable foundation. True love is founded on eſteem in a correſpondence of taſtes and ſentiments, and ſteals on the heart imperceptibly.

There is one advice I ſhall leave you, to which I beg your particular attention. Before your affections come to be in the leaſt engaged to any man, examine your tempers, your taſtes, and your hearts, very ſeverely; and ſettle in your own minds what are the requiſites to your happineſs in a married ſtate; and, as it is almoſt impoſſible that you ſhould get every thing you wiſh, come to a ſteady determination what you are to conſider as eſſential, and what may be ſacrificed.

If,

If you have hearts difpofed by nature for love and friendfhip, and poffefs thofe feelings which enable you to enter into all the refinements and delicacies of thefe attachments, confider well, for Heaven's fake, and as you value your future happinefs, before you give them any indulgence. If you have the misfortune (for a very great misfortune it commonly is to your fex) to have fuch a temper and fuch fentiments deeply rooted in you; if you have fpirit and refolution to refift the folicitations of vanity, the perfecution of friends (for you will have loft the only friend that would never perfecute you) and can fupport the profpect of the many inconveniences attending the ftate of an old maid, which I formerly pointed out; then you may indulge yourfelves in that kind of fentimental reading and converfation which is moft correfpondent to your feelings.

But, if you find, on a ftrict felf-examination, that marriage is abfolutely effential to your happinefs, keep the fecret inviolable in your own bofoms, for the reafon I formerly mentioned; but fhun, as you would do the moft fatal poifon, all that fpecies of reading and converfation which warms the imagination, which engages and foftens the heart, and raifes the tafte above the level of common life. If you do otherwife, confider the terrible conflicts of paffions this may afterwards raife in your breafts.

If this refinement once takes deep root in your minds, and you do not obey its dictates, but marry from vulgar and mercenary views, you may never be able to eradicate it entirely, and then it will imbitter all your married days. Inftead of meeting with fenfe, delicacy, tendernefs, a lover, a friend, an equal companion, in a hufband, you may be tired with infipidity and dulnefs; fhocked with indelicacy, or mortified by indifference. You will find none to compaffionate or even underftand your fufferings; for your hufbands may not ufe you cruelly, and may give you as much money for your cloaths, perfonal expence, and domeftic neceffaries, as is fuitable to their fortunes; the world would therefore look upon you as unreafonable women, that did not deferve to be happy, if you were not fo.—To avoid thefe complicated evils, if you are determined at all events to marry, I would advife you to make all your reading

and

and amusements of such a kind as do not affect the heart, nor the imagination, except in the way of wit or humour.

I have no view, by these advices, to lead your tastes; I only want to persuade you of the necessity of knowing your own minds, which, though seemingly very easy, is what your sex seldom attain on many important occasions in life, but particularly on this of which I am speaking. There is not a quality I more anxiously wish you to possess than that collected decisive spirit which rests on itself, which enables you to see where your true happiness lies, and to pursue it with the most determined resolution. In matters of business, follow the advice of those who know them better than yourselves, and in whose integrity you can confide; but, in matters of taste, that depends on your own feelings: Consult no one friend whatever, but consult your own hearts.

If a gentleman makes his addresses to you, or gives you a reason to believe he will do so, before you allow your affections to be engaged, endeavour, in the most prudent and secret manner, to procure from your friends every necessary piece of information concerning him; such as his character for sense, his morals, his temper, fortune, and family; whether it is distinguished for parts and worth, or their folly, knavery, and loathsome hereditary diseases. When your friends inform you of these, they have fulfilled their duty. If they go further, they have not that deference for you which a becoming dignity on your part would effectually command. Whatever your views are in marrying, take every possible precaution to prevent their being disappointed. If fortune and the pleasures it brings are your aim, it is not sufficient that the settlements of a jointure and children's provisions be amply and properly secured; it is necessary that you should enjoy the fortune during your own life. The principal security you can have for this will depend on your marrying a good-natured generous man, who despises money, and who will let you live where you can best enjoy that pleasure, that pomp, and parade of life, for which you married him.

LETTER LXXXVII.

On the same Subject, in Continuation.

Dear Daughters,

FROM what I wrote in my last, you will easily see, that I could never pretend to advise whom you should marry; but I can with great confidence advise whom you should not marry.

Avoid a companion that may entail any hereditary disease on your posterity, particularly (that most dreadful of all human calamities) madness. It is the height of imprudence to run into such a danger, and, in my opinion, highly criminal.

Do not marry a fool; he is the most intractable of all animals; he is led by his passions and caprices, and is incapable of hearing the voice of reason. It may probably too hurt your vanity to have husbands for whom you have reason to blush and tremble, every time they open their lips in company. But the worst circumstance that attends a fool is his constant jealousy of his wife's being thought to govern him. This renders it impossible to lead him, and he is continually doing absurd and disagreeable things, for no other reason but to shew he dares do them.

A rake is always a suspicious husband, because he has only known the most worthless of your sex. He likewise entails the worst diseases on his wife and children, if he has the misfortune to have any.

If you have a sense of religion yourselves, do not think of husbands who have none. If they have tolerable understandings, they will be glad that you have religion, for their own sakes, and for the sakes of their families; but it will sink you in their esteem. If they are weak men, they will be continually teazing and shocking you about your principles.—If you have children, you will suffer the most bitter distress, in seeing all your endeavours to form their minds to virtue and piety, all your endeavours to secure their present and eternal happiness, frustrated and turned into ridicule.

As I look on your choice of a husband to be of the greatest consequence to your happiness, I hope you will make it with the utmost circumspection. Do not give

give way to a ſudden ſally of paſſion, and dignify it with the name of love.—Genuine love is not founded in caprice; it is founded in nature,—on honourable views, on virtue, on ſimilarity of taſte, and ſympathy of ſouls. If you have theſe ſentiments, you will never marry any one, when you are not in that ſituation, in point of fortune, which is neceſſary to the happineſs of either of you. What that competency may be, can only be determined by your own taſtes. It would be ungenerous in you to take advantage of a lover's attachment, to plunge him into diſtreſs; and, if he has any honour, no perſonal gratification will ever tempt him to enter into any connection, which will render you unhappy. If you have as much between you as to ſatisfy all your demands, it is ſufficient. I ſhall conclude with endeavouring to remove a difficulty which muſt occur to any woman of reflection, on the ſubject of marriage. What is to become of all theſe refinements of delicacy, that dignity of manner which checked all familiarities, and ſuſpended deſire in reſpectful and awful admiration? In anſwer to this, I ſhall only obſerve, that, if motives of intereſt or vanity have had any ſhare in your reſolutions to marry, none of theſe chimerical notions will give you any pain; nay, they will very quickly appear as ridiculous in your own eyes, as they probably always did in the eyes of your huſband. They have been ſentiments which have floated in your imaginations, but have never reached your hearts. But, if theſe ſentiments have been truly genuine, and if you have had the ſingular happy fate to attach thoſe who underſtand them, you have no reaſon to be afraid.

Marriage, indeed, will not at once diſpel the enchantment raiſed by external beauty; but the virtues and graces that firſt warmed the heart, that reſerve and delicacy which always left the lover ſomething farther to wiſh, and often made him doubtful of your ſenſibility or attachment, may and ought ever to remain. The tumult of paſſion will neceſſarily ſubſide; but it will be ſucceeded by an endearment that affects the heart in a more equal, more ſenſible, and tender manner.—But I muſt check myſelf, and not indulge in deſcriptions that may miſlead you, and that too ſenſibly awake the remembrance of my happier days,

which perhaps it were better for me to forget for ever.

I have thus given you my opinion, on ſome of the moſt important articles of your future life, chiefly calculated for that period, when you are juſt entering the world. I have endeavoured to avoid ſome peculiarities of opinion, which, from their contradiction to the general practice of the world, I might reaſonably have ſuſpected were not ſo well founded. But, in writing to you, I am afraid my heart has been too full and too warmly intereſted to allow me to keep this reſolution. This may have produced ſome embarraſſment, and ſome ſeeming contradiction. What I have written has been the amuſement of ſome ſolitary hours, and has ſerved to divert ſome melancholy reflections.—I am conſcious I undertook a taſk to which I was very unequal; but I have diſcharged a part of my duty.—You will at leaſt be pleaſed with it, as the laſt mark of your father's love and attention.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

On Love and Friendſhip, from a Father to his Daughters.

Dear Daughters,

THE luxury and diſſipation that prevails in genteel life, as it corrupts the heart in many reſpects, ſo it renders it incapable of warm, ſincere, and ſteady friendſhip. A happy choice of friends will be of the utmoſt conſequence to you, as they may aſſiſt you by their advice and good offices. But the immediate gratification, which friendſhip affords to a warm, open, and ingenuous heart, is of itſelf a ſufficient motive to court it. In the choice of your friends, have your principal regard to goodneſs of heart and fidelity. If they alſo poſſeſs taſte and genius, that will ſtill make them more agreeable and uſeful companions. You have particular reaſon to place confidence in thoſe who have ſhewn affection for you in your early days, when you were incapable of making them any return. This is an obligation for which you cannot be too grateful. If you have the good

good fortune to meet with any who deſerve the name of friends, unboſom yourſelf with the utmoſt confidence. It is one of the world's maxims, never to truſt any perſon with a ſecret, the diſcovery of which could give you any pain; but it is the maxim of a little mind and a cold heart, unleſs where it is the effect of frequent diſappointments and bad uſage. An open temper, if reſtrained but by tolerable prudence, will make you, on the whole, much happier, than a reſerved ſuſpicious one, although you may ſometimes ſuffer by it. Coldneſs and diſtruſt are the two certain conſequences of age and experience; but they are unpleaſant feelings, and need not be anticipated before their time.

But, however open you may be in talking of your own affairs, never diſcover the ſecrets of one friend to another. Theſe are ſacred depoſits, which do not belong to you, nor have you any right to make uſe of them.

There is another caſe in which I ſuſpect it is proper to be ſecret, not ſo much from motives of prudence as delicacy; I mean in love-matters. Though a woman has no reaſon to be aſhamed of an attachment to a man of merit, yet nature, whoſe authority is ſuperior to philoſophy, has annexed a ſenſe of ſhame to it. It is even long before a woman of delicacy dares avow to her own heart that ſhe loves; and, when all the ſubterfuges of ingenuity to conceal it from herſelf fail, ſhe feels violence done to both her pride and to her modeſty. This, I ſhould imagine, muſt always be the caſe where ſhe is not ſure of a return to her attachment. In ſuch a ſituation to lay the heart open to any perſon whatever, does not appear to me conſiſtent with the perfection of female delicacy. But, perhaps, I am in the wrong—At the ſame time I muſt tell you, that, in point of prudence, it concerns you to attend well to the conſequences of ſuch a diſcovery. Theſe ſecrets, however important in your own eſtimation, may appear very trifling to your friend, who poſſibly will not enter into your feelings, but may rather conſider them as a ſubject of pleaſantry. For this reaſon, love-ſecrets are of all others the worſt kept. But the conſequences to you may be very ſerious, as no man of ſpirit and delicacy ever

valued a heart much hackneyed in the ways of love. If, therefore, you muſt have a friend to pour out your heart to, be ſure of her honour and ſecrecy. Let her not be a married woman, eſpecially if ſhe lives happily with her huſband. There are certain unguarded moments, in which ſuch a woman, though the beſt and worthieſt of her ſex, may let hints eſcape, which at other times, or to any other perſon than her huſband, ſhe would be incapable of; nor will a huſband, in this caſe, feel himſelf under the ſame obligations of ſecrecy and honour, as if you had put your confidence originally in himſelf, eſpecially on a ſubject which the world is apt to treat ſo lightly.

If all other circumſtances are equal, there are obvious advantages in your making friends of your brothers and ſiſters.—The ties of blood, and your being ſo much united in one common intereſt, form an additional bond of union to your friendſhip. If your brothers ſhould have the good fortune to have hearts ſuſceptible of friendſhip, to poſſeſs truth, honour, ſenſe and delicacy of ſentiment, they are the fitteſt and moſt unexceptionable confidents. By placing confidence in them, you will receive every advantage which you could hope for from the friendſhip of men, without any of the inconveniencies that attend ſuch connections with our ſex.

Beware of making confidents of your ſervants. Dignity, not properly underſtood, very readily degenerates into pride, which enters into no friendſhips, becauſe it cannot bear an equal; and is ſo fond of flattery as to graſp at it even from ſervants and dependants. The moſt intimate confidents, therefore, of proud people, are valets-de-chambres and waiting-women. Shew the utmoſt humanity to your ſervants; make their ſituation as comfortable to them as poſſible: But, if you make them your confidents, you ſpoil them, and debaſe yourſelves.

Never allow any perſon, under the pretended function of friendſhip, to be ſo familiar as to loſe a proper reſpect for you. Never allow them to teaze you on any ſubject that is diſagreeable, or where you have once taken your reſolution. Mr. [illegible] will tell you that this reſerve is inconſiſtent with the [illegible] which friendſhip allows; but a certain reſpect is neceſſary in friendſhip

friendſhip as in love: Without it, you may be liked as a child, but will never be loved as an equal. The temper and diſpoſition of the heart, in your ſex, make you enter more readily into friendſhips than men. Your natural propenſity to it is ſo ſtrong, that you often run into intimacies which you ſoon have ſufficient cauſe to repent of; and this makes your friendſhips ſo very fluctuating.

Another great obſtacle to the ſincerity, as well as ſteadineſs of your friendſhips, is the great claſhing of your intereſts in the purſuits of love, ambition, or vanity. For theſe reaſons it would appear at firſt ſight more eligible for you to contract your friendſhips with the men. Among other obvious advantages of an eaſy intercourſe between the two ſexes, it occaſions an emulation and exertion in each to excel and be agreeable: Hence their reſpective excellencies are mutually communicated and blended. As their intereſts in no degree interfere, there can be no foundation for jealouſy or ſuſpicion of rivalſhip. The friendſhip of a man for a woman is always blended with a tenderneſs, which he never feels for one of his own ſex, even where love is in no degree concerned. Beſides, we are conſcious of a natural title you have to our protection and good offices, and therefore we feel an additional obligation of honour to ſerve you, and to obſerve an inviolable ſecrecy, whenever you confide in us. But apply theſe obſervations with great caution. Thouſands of women of the beſt hearts and fineſt talents have been ruined by men who approach them under the ſpecious name of friendſhip. But, ſuppoſing a man to have the moſt undoubted honour, yet his friendſhip to a woman is ſo near a-kin to love, that, if ſhe be very agreeable in her perſon, ſhe will probably very ſoon find a lover, where ſhe only wiſhed to meet a friend.—Let me here, however, warn you againſt that weakneſs ſo common among vain women, the imagination that every man who takes particular notice of you is a lover. Nothing can expoſe you more to ridicule, than the taking up a man on the ſuſpicion of being your lover, who, perhaps, never once thought of you in that view, and giving yourſelves thoſe airs ſo common among ſilly women on ſuch occaſions. I am, &c.

L E T-

LETTER LXXXIX.

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

Madam,

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

Your real Admirer, &c.

LETTER XC.

The Lady's Reply.

Sir,

I Received your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surprized. Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had not the least distant thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. Those of your sex have often affected that we are fond of flattery, and naturally pleased to be praised: I shall therefore suppose it true, and excuse you for those fulsome encomiums

miums beſtowed upon me in your letter; but I am afraid was I to comply with your propoſals, you would ſoon be convinced, that the charms you mention, and ſeem to value ſo much, are merely exterior appearances, which, like the ſummer's flower, will very ſoon fade, and all thoſe mighty profeſſions of love, will end at laſt either in indifference, or what is worſe, diſguſt. You deſire me to enquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You muſt excuſe me when I tell you that I am obliged to decline making any ſuch enquiry. However, as your behaviour when in my company was always agreeable, I ſhall treat you with as much reſpect as is conſiſtent with common decorum. My worthy guardian, Mr. Melvill, is now at his ſeat in Devonſhire, and his conduct to me has been ſo much like that of a parent, that I don't chuſe to take one ſtep in an affair of ſuch importance without both his conſent and approbation. There is an appearance of ſincerity runs through your letter; but there is one particular to which I have a very ſtrong objection, which is this: You ſay that you live along with your mother, yet you don't ſay that you have either communicated your ſentiments to her or your other relations. I muſt freely and honeſtly tell you, that as I would not diſoblige my own relations, ſo neither would I, on any conſideration, admit of any addreſſes contrary to the inclinations of yours. If you can clear up this to my ſatisfaction, I ſhall ſend you a more explicit anſwer, and am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER XCI.

The Gentleman's Anſwer to the above.

Dear Madam,

I Return you a thouſand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greateſt pleaſure that I can clear up to your ſatisfaction, that matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you, I communicated the affair to my two couſins; but had not courage ſufficient to mention it to my mother; however, that is now over, and nothing ſhe ſays would give her greater pleaſure

than

than to ſee me married to a young lady of your amiable character: nay, ſo far is ſhe from having any objections, that ſhe would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not perſuaded her againſt it, as ſhe has been theſe three days afflicted with a ſevere cold, and I was afraid, that if ſhe had ventured abroad ſo ſoon, it might be attended with dangerous conſequences. But to convince you of my ſincerity, ſhe has ſent the incloſed written with her own hand, and what ever may be the contents, I ſolemnly aſſure you that I am totally ignorant, except that ſhe told me, it was in approbation of my ſuit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I ſhall then be able to explain things more particularly. I am, dear Madam,

Your real Lover, &c.

LETTER XCII.

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

Dear Miſs,

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

My dear Charles has told me that you have made ſuch an impreſſion on him, that he knows not how to be happy in any one elſe, and it gives me great happineſs to find that he has placed his affections on ſo worthy an object. Indeed it has been my principal ſtudy to inſtruct him in the principles of our holy religion; well knowing that thoſe who do not fear God, will never pay any regard to domeſtic duties. His dear father died when his ſon was only ten months old, and being deprived of the parent, all my conſolation was that I had his image left in the ſon. I nurſed him with all the tenderneſs poſſible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age I ſent him to a boarding-ſchool, and afterwards to the univerſity. While he was proſecuting his ſtudies, I was conſtantly employed in recommending him to the care of that God whoſe eyes behold all his creatures, and will reward and puniſh according to their merit. Ever ſince his return from Oxford,

ſord, he has reſided conſtantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connections, has been equal to my utmoſt wiſhes. At preſent, my dear Miſs, I am in a very ſickly condition, and although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuſe the indulgent partiality of a mother, when I tell you, that it is my real opinion you can never place your affection on a more worthy young man than my ſon. He is endowed with more real worth than thouſands of others whom I have known; and I have been told of inſtances of his benevolence, which he has induſtriouſly concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly conſideration now upon my mind is to ſee him happily married, and then my whole attention ſhall be fixed on that place where I hope to enjoy eternal felicity. I am, dear Miſs,

Your ſincere Well-wiſher, &c.

LETTER XCIII.

The young Lady's Anſwer.

Madam,

I Will excuſe the fondneſs of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours, I had heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your ſon, that I was no ways ſurprized at what you ſay concerning him. I do aſſure you, Madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you, before even nobility itſelf, and I think it muſt be my own fault if ever I repent calling you mother. I was going to ſay that you had known but few pleaſures in this life; to be deprived of your huſband ſo ſoon, and the reſt of your life ſpent under ſo many infirmities. But your letter convinceth me that you have felt more real pleaſure in the practice of virtue and reſignation to the divine will, than ever can be had in any, nay, even the greateſt temporal enjoyments. I have ſent incloſed a few lines to your ſon, to which I refer you for a more explicit anſwer, and am,

Madam, your ſincere Well-wiſher, &c.

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LETTER XCIV.

The young Lady's Answer to her Lover.

Sir,

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

Your sincere Well-wisher, &c.

LETTER XCV.

From the same.

Sir,

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

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

And now, Sir, have I not told you enough? some might think too much; but I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practise if standing in the presence of my maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable; I look for it, and shall

ſhall be very unhappy if diſappointed. But I will hope the beſt, and doubt not but the religious education beſtowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate on the whole of your future conduct in life. You may, therefore, lay aſide the tedious formality of courtſhip, and write to me as one with whom you intend to ſpend your time in this world.

Ever ſince my arrival here, my time has been ſpent in viſiting, *ſolus*, the woods, the fields, the cottages, meditating on the unbounded goodneſs of the Almighty Creator. How infinite is his wiſdom! how unbounded his liberality! Every thing in nature conſpires to exalt his praiſe, and acknowledge with gratitude their dependence on him. But I will not tire you with ſuch dull deſcriptions of real beauties. Preſent my ſincere reſpects to your worthy mother, I hope ſhe gets the better of her diſorder, and be aſſured that I am,

Your's and her's with the greateſt affection, &c.

LETTER XCVI.

The young Gentleman's Anſwer.

My dear angel,

IS there any medium between pleaſure and pain? Can mourning and mirth be reconciled? Will my dear charmer believe, that whilſt I was reading her letter with the greateſt pleaſure, I was ſhedding tears for an affectionate parent. Thus Divine Providence ſees proper to mix ſome gall with our portion in life. It is impoſſible for me to deſcribe the variety of paſſions now ſtruggling in my breaſt. Ten thouſand bleſſings to my charmer on the one hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of impoſſibilities: one of which I am obliged to ſtruggle with, the other thanks to you is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honoured mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort unleſs I could call you mine; but I am now obliged to ſubmit to the one, whilſt I have the pleaſing proſpect of being in poſſeſſion of the other. Will my dear ſympathize with me, or will ſhe bear with human paſſions; and although all my hope of temporal happineſs is

 ſcattered

centered in you, yet I doubt not but you will excuſe my ſhedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent, which I am now going to commit to the tomb. How beautiful are my charmer's deſcriptions of the material world! how elevated her ſentiments concerning the divine beneficence! My dear creature, were it poſſible for me to deſcribe the many virtues of that worthy woman who is now no more, you would draw a veil over the partiality of filial duty. Her laſt words were theſe: " My dear child, I am now going to pay " that debt impoſed on the whole human race in con- " ſequence of our firſt parents diſobedience. You " know what inſtructions I have given you from time " to time; and let me beg of you to adhere to them " ſo far as they are conſiſtent with the will of God " revealed in his word. May you be happy in the " poſſeſſion of that young lady on whom you have " placed your affections; but may both you and ſhe " remember, that, real happineſs is not to be found " in this world; and you muſt conſider your life in " this world as merely a ſtate of probation. To the " Almighty God I recommend you."—She was going on when the thread of life was broken, and ſhe ceaſed to be any more. Such was the laſt end of my dear mother; but let me ſhift the ſcene, and look to her on whom I have placed all my affections under God, and whom I hope will make a ſufficient recompenſe for all my loſſes. My mother is to be buried this evening, and as ſoon as I can ſettle every thing with her executors, I will (as it were) fly to meet you. God grant that our happineſs in this life may be conducive towards promoting our everlaſting felicity hereafter. And I am, as before, yours while life remains, &c.

LETTER XCVII.

From the Lady after Marriage to her Couſin unmarried.

Dear Couſin,

I Have now changed my name, and inſtead of liberty, muſt ſubſcribe wife. What an awkward expreſſion ſay ſome? How pleaſing ſay others? But let that be as it may, I have been married to my dear Charles

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

I am your affectionate Cousin, &c.

J. E T.

LETTER XCVIII.

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

Madam,

EVER since I saw you at the wells when I was on a journey to *Bristol*, my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. And although it is possible this may be rejected, yet I can no longer conceal a passion which has preyed on my spirits these six weeks. I have been settled in business about three years, my success has been equal to my expectations, and is likewise increasing. My family is respectable though not rich, and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference, where the affections are placed on so lovely an object. I can only say, Madam, that I prefer you to all the young ladies I have seen, and if business continues to increase, I shall be greatly in want of one of your prudence, to manage my domestic affairs. Be assured, Madam, that whatever time I can spare from the necessary duties of my profession, shall be devoted to your company, and every endeavour used to make your life both agreeable and happy. As you have relations in London, they will give you every necessary information concerning my character and circumstances, although I have not the pleasure of being known to them. If you will favour me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed as a particular favour, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect, by your real admirer, &c.

King-street, London.

LETTER XCIX.

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

Dear Brother,

YOU know that in all affairs of importance I have constantly acted by your advice, as I am still determined to do; and therefore have sent you inclosed the

the copy of a letter which I received by the poſt, from a young gentleman in London, whom I have ſeen at the Wells. His behaviour here was polite without affectation, and an air of ſincerity appeared in all he ſaid. With reſpect to the ſubject he writes of I will give you my own thoughts, and delay ſending an anſwer until I have had your opinion.

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

I am your affectionate Siſter, &c.

LETTER C.

Dear Siſter,

I Am glad to hear of your prudence in not being over haſty in an affair of ſo great importance, and upon which your happineſs or miſery in this world will inevitably depend. Your reaſons againſt remaining any longer in a ſtate of widowhood are what I much approve of, and it will give me great pleaſure to promote your intereſts and happineſs as far as I am able. I have enquired concerning Mr Moreton, and every one gives him an excellent character. I have likewiſe converſed with him, and find he is a very ſenſible young man. As to your objection concerning diſparity of age, I do not think it has any great

weight, and upon the whole I have but one reason against your union, and that is, that there is nothing more precarious than commerce, and the merchant who to-day has unlimited credit, may be to-morrow in the Gazette. I do not urge this in order to prevent your happiness; but only that whilst you are free, you may take such measures as to secure a sufficiency against the worst. I would by no means dissuade you from complying with his request, as he seems every way worthy of your choice, and I really think it may be for your mutual happiness. These, (dear sister) are my sentiments concerning this affair; but remember I leave it intirely to yourself, not doubting but you will proceed with the same prudence you have begun.

I am your affectionate Brother, &c.

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

LETTER CI.

From the Lady to Mr. Moreton.

Sir,

I Received your letter, and my reason for delaying the answer so long was, that I wanted first to consult my brother, whose answer I had by the post yesterday. I freely acknowledge that you are far from being disagreeable, and the advantage on your part with respect to accomplishments are, I think, superior to those on mine. But these are but small matters when compared with what is absolutely necessary to make the marriage state happy. I mean an union of minds. Neither of us have had many opportunities of converting together, and at that time you had not mentioned any thing of this. I have no objection against marrying, were I assured of being no worse than at present; but there are such a variety of unforeseen accidents daily happening in the world, and all conspiring together to promote dissensions in families, that we can never be too careful how to fix our choice. I shall not, Sir, from what I have seen of your behaviour, and heard of your character, have any objection against your request; but I confess I am

am afraid you have been rather too precipitate in your choice, and although my perſon may have engaged your attention, yet I am afraid, all thoſe charms you ſo much extol, are not ſufficient to keep you loyal to the marriage vow. But I will hope the beſt, and believe you as virtuous as you are repreſented; nor give my hand to any other but you. In the mean time, I ſhall be glad to hear that you continue your viſits to my brother, you will find him one of the moſt worthy perſons you ever converſed with, and much eſteemed for his knowledge in the law. I have now given you leave to write as often as you pleaſe, as I hope all your letters will be agreeable; and as for the time fixed for any thing elſe, I ſhall leave it intirely to be ſettled by yourſelf and my brother, and am, dear Sir, Yours ſincerely, &c.

LETTER CII.

From a young Gentleman in expectation of an Eſtate from his penurious Uncle, to a young Lady of ſmall Fortune, deſiring her to elope with him to Scotland.

My dear Maria,

MY Uncle's laying his injunctions upon me not to ſee you more, has only ſerved to add fewel to my paſſion. I cannot live without you, and if you perſiſt in refuſing to comply, I am miſerable for ever. I pay no regard to his threatenings, when put in competition with the love I have for you. Don't be afraid of poverty; if he ſhould continue inexorable I have ſtill education ſufficient to procure a genteel employment in one of the public offices, where I may riſe to preferment. Therefore, if ever you loved me, let me beg that you will not make me any longer unhappy. Let me intreat you by all that's dear, that you will comply with my requeſt, and meet me at ſix on Sunday evening, at the back-door of the garden, where a chaiſe and four will be ready. I will fly on the wings of love to meet my charmer, and be happy in her embraces for ever. I am your dear Lover, &c.

LETTER CIII.

The Lady's prudent Answer.

Sir,

THOUGH thoroughly conscious in this act, I make a breach of those laws said to be laid down for lovers, especially such of our sex as would rather be celebrated for a romantic turn of mind, than for what is far more preferable, a prudent decorum, yet, I cannot but be persuaded, there may occur such a crisis, as may make it consistent with the strictest rules of honour and justice; which at least ought to be put in the balance, if not outweigh whatever custom may have prescribed. That such a crisis now exists, your letter and former concurring testimonies make manifest. For I have too high an opinion of your integrity, to doubt their truth; and believe me, when I assure you most solemnly, I place their validity to that account, and not to a mistaken notion or consciousness of my own merit. No, Sir, 'tis from a too sensible conviction of your own injurious error of your passion, I have been induced to commit this violence to my sex—I had almost said to my sentiments, in conjuring you to desist, ere it be too late, in the pursuit of a passion, that cannot but bring with it a train of inevitable miseries, since it must be attended with the violation of your duty to that relation to whom you are bound to pay implicit obedience, by the laws of nature, gratitude, and heaven. I will not offend your delicacy, in urging those of interest and dependency, though each consideration ought to have its prevalence, against making a sacrifice of it to an impetuous passion for one, whose single desert is, that she dreads your indigence more than the regrets that of the

Unfortunate, &c.

LETTER CIV.

From a young Officer in the army to a Gentleman's Daughter with whom he is in love.

Dear Sophia, *Manchester, Feb. 8, 1777.*

WHEN our regiment received orders to march from Salisbury, I was almost in a state of distraction.

traction. To be forced to leave her who is already in possession of my heart, and separated to such a distance, had almost induced me to give up my commission; nor have I any resource left but that of the pen. After a long and tedious march we arrived here, where we are to remain 'till next summer. But alas! how insignificant are all the allurements of the place, and the gaiety of fellow officers, when compared with the pleasing moments spent in your company. How long my dear must I be unhappy! will not your sympathizing nature pity my distracted mind? How lamenting the thought, that whilst I am writing this, some more fortunate lover may be making his addresses to my charmer, and even obtaining a place in her heart: but what am I saying? Whither does my delirium drive me? No, my angel, I know the generosity of your nature; I dare not suspect your sincerity, and will still believe you mine. The principal gentlemen in Manchester invited the officers of our regiment to a ball, and all but my myself considered the entertainment as a very great honour, each danced with his partner as I was told. In order to avoid the company, without giving offence, I mounted guard for the day, and enjoyed myself, either thinking of you, or conversing with the soldiers.

According to my promise, I have sent the inclosed to your father, and I doubt not of his being surprized, unless you have mentioned it to him. I am impatient for his answer as well as yours. My uncle has promised to procure me preferment as soon the parliament meets. Adieu, my charmer, let me hear from you immediately. I am yours for ever, &c.

LETTER CVI.

The Officer's Letter to the Lady's Father.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR generosity to me whilst our regiment lay at Salisbury, will ever lay me under the highest obligations; but at present I have something of a more important nature to communicate, upon which all my happiness or misery in this world depends, and your answer will either secure the one, or hasten the other.

The

The many amiable accomplishments of your beloved Sophia, stole insensibly on my heart, and I found myself passionately in love, before I was able to make a declaration of my sentiments, nor did I do it until the day we were ordered to march. I hope you will forgive my not mentioning it to you; I was really so much agitated, as scarce to be able to attend my duty. I doubt not but one of your sensibility knows what it is to be in love. Your daughter I freely acknowledge is adorned with so many virtues, that she is entitled to the best husband in England; and although I dare not hope to merit that appellation, yet I will make it my constant study to promote her happiness.

I have often told you that my parents died whilst I was young, and left me to the care of an uncle lately returned from the East Indies, where he had acquired a considerable fortune. My inclinations led me to the army, and my uncle procured me a commission. Ever since he has treated me as his own son, and being a batchelor has made a will in my favour. He is now member of parliament for T——, and has given me leave to chuse a wife for myself, without any other qualification besides virtue. I have written to him concerning your daughter, and his answer is, that he shall consider me as extremely happy in being connected with so worthy a family as yours. I hope you will not have any objection against my being in the army. It was originally my own choice, and I doubt not of rising in time to the command of a regiment. There is a sort of reverential fear upon my mind, whilst I am writing to so worthy a person as the father of my beloved Sophia. Dear Sir, excuse my youth, and the violence of my passion. Let me beg your answer, and O! let it contain your approbation.

I am, honoured Sir,

Yours with the greatest respect, &c.

LETTER CVI.

The young Lady's Letter to her Lover.

Dear Billy,

NOT more welcome is the appearance of an inn to a weary traveller, than your kind letter was to me.

me. But how is it poſſible that you ſhould harbour the leaſt ſuſpicion of my infidelity? Does my Billy imagine that I would ſuffer the addreſſes of any fop or coxcomb after I was bound in the moſt ſolemn manner, I mean by promiſe, and be aſſured, I pay the ſame regard to my word as my oath. If there is ever an obſtruction to our love, it muſt ariſe from yourſelf. My affections are too permanently fixed ever to be removed from the beloved object; and my happineſs or miſery will be in proportion to your conduct. The incloſed from my father will I hope be agreeable, I have not ſeen it, and therefore can only judge of its contents by the converſation laſt night at ſupper. When your letter was delivered, my honoured father was extremely ill of a cold, ſo that I did not deliver it to him 'till next morning at breakfaſt. He retired to his cloſet to read it, and at dinner told me he would deliver me an anſwer in the evening. Accordingly after ſupper; and the ſervants being retired, the beſt of parents ſpake as follows. My dear child, from the principles of that education which you have received, I doubt not but you muſt be convinced that it is my duty to promote your intereſt as far as I am able, and how far my conduct as a father has been conſiſtent with that rule I appeal to yourſelf; your own conſcience will witneſs, whether I have not at all times ſtudied to promote your intereſt, and it is with pleaſure that I now ſay, that your filial duty was equal to my higheſt wiſhes.——With reſpect to the ſubject of the letter you gave me this morning, I can only ſay, that I have no objection to your complying with the young gentleman's requeſt, as I think it may be for your mutual happineſs. Indeed I had ſome ſuſpicion of it before he left this place; but being well convinced of his merit, I was almoſt aſſured no ſtep of that nature would be taken without my conſent. That conſent you now have, and even my approbation. May you both be as happy as I wiſh. I deſire no more. Here the good man ſtopped, tears hindered him from proceeding, and me from making a reply. A ſcene of tenderneſs enſued which you may feel, although I cannot deſcribe it. His own letter will convince you, and you may make what uſe of it you pleaſe.

I can-

I cannot conclude without mentioning your conduct at the Manchester ball. Was there none among so many beauties able to attract my Billy's notice; and will he at all times prefer my company to that of the gay and the beautiful? I will hope so, and happy shall I be if not disappointed. In hopes of hearing from you soon, I shall subscribe myself.

Yours for ever, &c.

LETTER CVII.

The Father's answer to the young Gentleman.

My dear young Friend,

EVER since I first had the pleasure of your company, I considered you as a young gentleman of real merit, who would not be guilty of an ungenerous action; and to that was owing not only the respect I always treated you with, but, also the common indulgence to converse freely with my daughter. I can freely excuse your not communicating your sentiments to me before you left this place. Your ardour was somewhat precipitate, and as you well observe, I know what it is to be in love. The account of your uncle and family I know to be true, for I met with that worthy person who is your benefactor a few days ago at the Red Lion in this city, and he confirms the truth of all you have written. My dear Sir, if ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel on the present occasion: A willingness to give her to you, from a firm persuation of your merit; and anxiety for her preservation from a conviction in my own mind, that there is nothing permanent in this world. However, Sir, you have my free consent to marry my child, and may the Divine Providence be your guide in the whole of your progress through this life. My ill state of health serves as a monitor to inform me, that my time in this world will be but short: and there is nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see my dear Sophia happily settled, before I retire to the land of forgetfulness, *where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest.* How great, Sir, is the charge which I commit to your care; the image of a beloved wife long since dead, and the hope

hope of my declining years. Her education has been consistent with her rank in life, and her conduct truly virtuous. I have not the least doubt of her conjugal duty, and your felicity in acting conformable to the character of a husband. Upon that supposition I leave her entirely to you; and as soon as you can obtain leave from the Colonel, I shall expect to see you at this place, to receive from my hands, all that is dear to me in the world. Your uncle has likewise promised to be here, so that all things are according to your professed wishes.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely, &c.

LETTER CVIII.

From a young Man just out of his Apprenticeship to his Sweetheart, a Servant in the Neighbourhood.

Dear Sally,

I Have been long in love with you, but was afraid to tell you. When I go with you to Dobney's, or Sadler's-Wells, I am almost like a fool, and altogether unfit for company. I think of you all day, and at night I dream of my dear Sally. I am well settled in work, and my wages are eighteen shillings every week. You and I can live on that, and I shall bring it untouched on Saturday evening. I will not go to any ale-house, but as soon as my work is done, return home to my dearly beloved Sally. I hope my dear you will not be angry, for I am really in love. I cannot be happy unless you are mine. I was afraid to mention this to you, but if you will leave an answer at my lodgings, I will meet you next Sunday after dinner at the Shepherd and Shepherdess, when we will take a walk to Hornsey-house to drink tea. How happy shall I be to hear from my charmer; but a thousand times more to think she will be mine.

I am, my Dear, your real Lover, &c.

LETTER CIX.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,

I Received your very kind letter, but I don't know what to say in answer. Although I would be glad to marry, yet you men are so deceiving that there is no such thing as trusting you. There is Tom Timber the carpenter, and Jack Hammer the smith, who have not been married above six months, and every night come home drunk, and beat their wives. What a miserable life is that Jack, and how do I know but you might be as bad to me? How do I know but you, like them, may get drunk every night, and beat me black and blue before morning! I do assure you Jack, if I thought that would be the case, I would scrub floors, and scour saucepans as long as I live. But possibly you may not be so bad, for there is Will Cooper the brazier, and Jack Trotter the ass-man, both are very happy with their wives; they are both home bringing husbands, and have every day a hot joint of meat and a pot of beer. I know not yet what I shall do, but as I like a walk to Hornsey, I will meet you at the Shepherd and Sheperdess on Sunday after dinner, and then we will talk more of the matter.

I am, dear Jack,

Your most humble Servant, &c.

LETTER CX.

From a Gentleman.

Madam,

IT was a question among the stoicks, whether the whole of human life afforded most pleasure or pain? For my own part, I have always wished to consider things in the fairest light, but I often find my resolution weakened, and when I think to act the philosopher, I feel myself nothing but a man. When my

late

late wife died about two years ago, I proposed making the tour of England, that by mixing with strangers, my thoughts might be led from fruitless reflections on the loss I had sustained; a loss which none but myself knew. It is true it has been so far successful, that it has taught me two things; first, resignation to the will of heaven, and secondly, that I am still unhappy in the want of a female partner. The agreeable company at the house of your worthy brother, obliged me to spend more time at York than I at first intended, nor did I know until I had proceeded some miles, that I should be obliged once more to return. In short, madam, I am a second time in love; and although you may be disposed to laugh, yet I assure you that I am in real earnest, your own dear self is the object. But perhaps you will ask, How happens all this? I answer that I cannot tell how it happens. But I am really fond of domestic life, and am once more resolved to alter my condition. I cannot flatter, and I think both you and I have lived long enough to judge for ourselves. There was something pleased me much in the prudent manner you conduct the affairs of your brother's house; but as he is on the point of being married, that employment will cease when the other event takes place. I did not hear that you was engaged by promise to any other, and as you have heard something concerning my family, character, and circumstances, you are more able to judge whether my present proposal is for your interest. In case you have any objections to my having children, I can only say, that they will be easily answered. I have told you before that I have only two young daughters now at a boarding school, and I have settled each of their marriage portions, and the remainder is entirely for myself, and without being any real prejudice to my children, is more than sufficient for us both. As to the common objection against being a step-mother, I think it may be easily answered when I tell you that my children will treat you with all manner of respect. I do not imagine you can esteem me the worse for loving my children; I have too good an opinion of you to think so; and as for the odious appellations usually thrown out against step-mothers, they can only be considered by a lady

of your ſenſibility, as the effect of prejudice, operating upon vulgar minds, occaſioned by the conduct of ſome inhuman wretches who are a diſgrace to ſociety, and who would have acted in the ſame manner had they been placed in any other ſtation in life. Your own good ſenſe will point out the propriety of what I ſay. From what I have written, you will be able to judge whether or not the propoſals I have now made are apparently for your real advantage. All that I deſire is to live in amity, and friendſhip with the woman on whom I have placed my affections as long as I am in the world. Every thing in my power ſhall be exerted to make you as happy as poſſible, as I think, if I am not miſtaken, every part of your conduct will entitle you to it. I hope you will not defer ſending me an anſwer, as I ſhall wait for it with the utmoſt patience. I am, Madam,

Yours ſincerely and affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXI.

The Anſwer.

Sir,

I Have juſt received your letter, and for my own part muſt ſay, that you have acted the Philoſopher extremely well. I thought that love letters had not uſually been extracted from Seneca or Epictetus; but why do I wonder, when even a lady now alive went through the drudgery of learning the Greek language, in order to acquire the honour of being the tranſlator of the latter. However, ſhe has got far enough, and I have not any intention of following her, but ſhall conſider my lover's philoſophical letter.

Whilſt you remained at our houſe I muſt acknowledge that your company was agreeable; and your aſſiduity to pleaſe aroſe from a conſciouſneſs of your merit as a gentleman, although at that time neither my brother nor myſelf had the moſt diſtant thoughts of ever hearing ſuch a propoſal as your letter contains. It is our common practice to entertain ſtrangers in the ſame manner we did you, which is conſiſtent with Old Engliſh hoſpitality, and ſomething like the conduct of the ancient Patriarchs.

The

The propoſal which you have ſent me is of too ſerious a nature to be treated lightly, it requires to be conſidered with the greateſt attention; eſpecially as a wrong ſtep of that ſort not only deſtroys all hopes of temporal happineſs, but what is infinitely worſe, often endangers that which is eternal. I doubt not but you have ſeen many fatal inſtances of this melancholy truth, viz. That thoſe who were bound by the moſt ſolemn engagements to go hand in hand, through affluence and poverty, have often prevented the one, and haſtened thoſe afflictions, inſeparably connected with the other. The conſideration of thoſe things preſents us with a glaring proof of the corruption of human nature in general, and particularly its moſt deſirable ſtate, pretended Conjugal Felicity. The cauſes from which unhappineſs ariſes in families are various; and although I never was a wife, yet I have ſeen many fatal inſtances of their pernicious effects. You yourſelf ſeem to be aware of this in the objections ſtated in your letter; and although I have convincing proofs that your circumſtances are conſiſtent with your repreſentation of them, yet the ſecond objection is not ſo eaſily anſwered, nor indeed have you done it to my ſatisfaction. Your anſwers to the common objections made againſt ſtep mothers are altogether rational: they are what reaſon will at all times dictate, and prudence on every occaſion require; but you will excuſe me if I tell you ſincerely, that even in the opinion of the thinking part of the world, the life of a ſtep mother is far more diſagreeable than you endeavour to perſuade me. All eyes are upon them, and even their virtues are often conſtrued into faults. I acknowledge that it could never enter into the mind of a rational creature (I mean one who is really ſo) that a woman ſhould tyrannize over two or three orphans, for no other reaſon ſave only that their mother was their father's former wife. This would prove her guilty of three of the moſt odious crimes, capable of being committed in the conjugal ſtate. Firſt inhumanity to the deceaſed mother; Secondly, cruelty to the ſurviving children; and laſtly, a total diſreſpect for her huſband: for what woman would eſteem the man, or what regard could ſhe think he would have for her children, if he did not treat,

or cauſe to be treated with tenderneſs, thoſe who were born of a woman equally dear to him as herſelf. But you know, Sir, that we live in the world, and few I believe would chuſe to have their lives rendered unhappy, if they could poſſibly avoid it. Your character, circumſtances, and accompliſhments, might entitle you to a much better wife than me; but I confeſs the above reaſons weigh ſtrongly in my mind againſt ſuch a connection, and unleſs they were anſwered more to my ſatisfaction than what you have already done, I ſhould chuſe ſtill to remain as I am. In the mean time, I ſhall be glad at all times to hear from you, and am Your ſincere Well-wiſher, &c.

LETTER CXII.

The Gentleman's Reply.

Madam,

I Have always thought, that there are none more ready to condemn the conduct of others than thoſe who are moſt guilty themſelves, and of this your letter is a convincing proof. Do not be ſurprized, for I am really in earneſt. You have accuſed me of acting the Philoſopher, whilſt you ſeem much better acquainted with thoſe ſages than myſelf. But pray, Madam, is it any great fault to write a love-letter in a ſerious ſtrain? Or, ſhould every thing on that ſubject be only a jumble of incoherent nonſenſe? Should the lover diveſt himſelf of the man, and becauſe he prefers a woman to the reſt of her ſex, muſt he act the part of a fool to obtain her? I dare venture to ſay you will anſwer in the negative. Your letter contains ſo many prudential reaſons for refuſing my offers, that I ſhould be ſtupid indeed, if I did not conſider them as the reſult of a well informed judgment. All the objection I have againſt them is, that they appear too much grounded on popular cenſure. I believe you are well acquainted with the world, and you know that the beſt actions have been miſrepreſented, and the moſt amiable characters traduced. Nor has this been confined to any one ſingle ſtation in life, it has diffuſed itſelf through them all; and although its baleful influence has often rendered innocence miſerable,

able, yet the prudent will despise it, with that contempt it so justly merits. Virtue is its own reward; and happiness

——Deaf to folly's call,
Attends the music of the mind

Whilst a woman of your great good sense has the answers of a good conscience in approbation of your conduct, how insignificant must the envious censures of malice appear, when compared with real peace of mind. Indeed I think you have carried your objections against being a step-mother rather too far, and I think I shall not be guilty of blasphemy when I call your refinement of sentiment *False Delicacy*. However, as I said before, I am really in earnest; and if I have not formed an erroneous judgment, you are the only person I have yet conversed with since I became a widower, with whom I think I can live happy. And will you, Madam, be so cruel as to remain obstinate in rejecting my suit. I do not think it is consistent with your good nature; and although I think it is beneath a generous mind to purchase a wife, yet I shall be willing to make you a settlement equal to your wishes, besides a sufficiency for your children if we should be blessed with any. Your answer to this is impatiently expected by Your real Admirer, &c.

LETTER CXIII.

From the Lady in Answer.

Sir,

I Perused your letter, and begin to be afraid that I have tampered with you too long to conceal the real sentiments of my mind from one so justly intitled to know them as you are. My objections (I assure you Sir) were not the effect of levity, but arose from the most mature deliberation; nor would I on any account impose on the man to whom I intended to give my hand, and consequently my heart. This would have been a crime attended with more aggravating circumstances than any which you have mentioned, and less intitled to an excuse. Hypocrisy is the same under what-

whatever character it appears, and the person who is guilty of it in the smallest matters, will be equally so in the greatest. Your answer to my objections are altogether satisfactory, and I am now convinced that I may be your wife, and at the same time, at least a nominal mother to your children: I say nominal, for although I should on all occasions consider myself obliged to act with humanity to your children, as well as my own, yet I may still be named by the above appellation. However, as your person, company, and conversation were agreeable; and as your character stands unimpeached, I am almost inclined to try that life to which I have been hitherto a stranger. It is I assure you with diffidence, and if attended with any unfavourable circumstances, may possibly be more my fault than yours. We cannot foresee future events, and are therefore obliged to leave them to the direction of an unerring Providence. I shall therefore not detain you any longer, but only to inform you that my brother was married yesterday to Miss Bright, may every happiness attend them both in time and in eternity. You will receive a letter enclosed from him, and you may be assured that I have not now any objections against being connected with you for life. The time fixed for that period depends entirely on your own choice and appointment, and I think you cannot reasonably desire more. All that I expect, nay all that I desire is only to be treated consistently with the professions you have already made. If so, I think I cannot fail of being as happy as is consistent with the state of affairs in this world, and I do not look for miracles. As you will doubtless be much hurried before you set out for London, one letter more will be sufficient until I see you; in the mean time (as the Jews say) may you

Rest content and happy.

LETTER CXIV.

The Brother's letter.

Sir,

I Know not of any gentleman who ever yet honoured me with their company for whom I have a greater regard than yourself, and the agreeable hours we have spent

ſpent together, cannot be equalled unleſs they are repeated. When I read your firſt letter to my ſiſter, I conſidered your propoſal of marriage as the higheſt honour that poſſibly could be conferred on our family; and yet without partiality I firmly believe that the woman to whom you have paid your addreſſes, has merit equal to any in the world. She returned from the boarding-ſchool about ten years ago,—During which time ſhe has ſuperintended the affairs of my family, and conducted them with ſuch prudence, as is ſeldom met with in one of her years. Many offers have been made to her by fox-hunters in our neighbourhood, but their characters were ſo totally oppoſite to her ſentiments, that ſhe rejected them with the utmoſt diſdain, although apparently beneficial. My ſiſter, Sir, has much more refined notions, than to pay any more regard to affluence, than what would procure her an independent ſubſiſtence, and too great a regard to her conſcience than to ſacrifice her peace of mind to enjoy the greateſt earthly grandeur. To uſe her own words, ſhe conſiders riches as laying her under an additional obligation to act for the good of her fellow-creatures, as a faithful ſteward of that Almighty Being who has declared that he will exact a ſtrict account from his creatures in what manner they have uſed thoſe gifts, which his unbounded liberality has beſtowed. Her leiſure hours have been ſpent in reading, and when I have met her in the garden, or the fields, ſhe had conſtantly in her hand either Milton, Thompſon, or Young, but moſt frequently her BIBLE. It may poſſibly occur to your thoughts, that what I have ſaid in commendation of a beloved ſiſter ariſes from a fraternal affection. But I do aſſure you, Sir, that I could not help repeating her many accomplishments, were you an utter ſtranger, and even a married man. A perſon deſtitute of virtue and ſenſibility might remain ignorant for ever of my ſiſter's merits; but by one of your worth, I doubt not but they will be eſtimated according to their real value. Light and darkneſs cannot dwell together; nor can thoſe of oppoſite tempers ever be happy: but where there is an intellectual, as well as a corporeal union, nothing in this life can interfere with their rational enjoyments. But I had almoſt forgot that I am wri-

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ting to one who is well acquainted with these things; nor should I have enlarged so much had not I regarded your friendship and interest on the one hand, and my sister's happiness on the other. But not to detain you longer, my consent for a happy union, is not only at your service, but as I said before, I shall consider it as a very happy event: and I have not the least doubt of your ever repenting of your choice. I have heard that your secular affairs calls for your attendance in London; when those are settled I shall be glad to hear from you, and likewise of my sister and you being happily joined in marriage. In the mean time she is at my house, where you may freely correspond, and I am

Your sincere Well-wisher, &c.

LETTER CXV.

From the Gentleman after his arrival in London, to the Lady in the Country.

My Dear,

FOR so I must now call you: I arrived here last night, and embrace this first opportunity of writing.

What a busy place is London! What a variety of strange faces, and continual hurry of business; the citizens acquiring fortunes by trade, whilst the nobility and gentry are squandering away those estates left them by their ancestors: but such has always been the conduct of mankind in trading nations. One sows, another reaps, whilst a third enjoys the fruits of their labour. For my own part, I am neither fond of gaiety nor solitude. In all things there is a medium which ought to be preferred to extremes. A sudden elevation to affluence or grandeur, and a sudden fall from either, are equally dangerous; the one too often plunges the person into all sorts of immorality, whilst the effects of the other is most commonly despair. I would chuse to spend three months every year in London, and the remainder in the country. This, in my opinion is a more rational scheme than the present mode of continually hurrying from place to place, without ever relishing the pleasures of any. But I had almost forgot to whom I am writing. As soon as I have

have settled my affairs here, which will take up about three weeks, I intend going to Windsor to visit my daughters at the boarding-school; and from thence hasten to your brother's; when I hope that union will take place that must terminate only with our lives. I have employed my attorney to draw up articles of a jointure for you, and which I will bring along with me, to be signed in the presence of your friends. I hope your brother and his spouse are well. I received his excellent letter, and heartily thank him for the contents. I am, my Dear,

Yours sincerely and affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXVI.

From a Lover to his Mistress lately recovered from Sickness.

My Dear,

THIS day's post has just brought me the joyful news of your happy recovery. The indispensible necessity I was under of attending my business at this place, hindered me from beholding on a sick bed, all all that is dear to me in the world; but I need not persuade you to believe this; as I hope you have had sufficient proofs of my fidelity, and what I have suffered on account of your illness, may be felt but not expressed. When I took the letter in my hand, I trembled, and possibly should have been deprived of courage to open it, had not the seal been red. To one oppressed with fear, the smallest matter yields a glympse of hope.——I opened the letter, and you may easily imagine what was my joy, when instead of reading an account of your death, it contained the delightful news of your recovery, written by your father. Ah! thought I, my charmer is still weak, or she would not have employed another hand. This led me to fear a relapse; but I hope that God, whose great mercy has preserved you hitherto, will perfect your recovery. You are constantly in my thoughts, and I pray for you every day. That I may once more be happy in seeing you, I have sent for my brother to manage my business during my absence. I expect him here in about ten days, when nothing but sick-

ness

neſs ſhall prevent my coming. You will receive by the coach a ſmall parcel, containing ſome of the newest patterns both of ſilk and laces, together with ſome other things. Such trifles are ſcarce worth mentioning; but I hope you will accept them as a teſtimony of my ſincere love, to her whom in a few months I hope to call my own. Preſent my duty to your honoured parents, and believe me to be with the greateſt ſincerity Your ever affectionate Lover, &c.

LETTER CXVII.

From a rich young Gentleman to a beautiful young Lady with no Fortune.

Miſs Sophia,

IT is a general reflection againſt the manners of the preſent age, that marriage is only conſidered as one of thoſe methods by which avarice may be ſatisfied, and poverty increaſed; that neither the character nor accompliſhments of the woman are much regarded; her merit being eſtimated by the thouſands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accuſation is too true, and to that may be aſcribed many unhappy matches we daily meet with; for how is it poſſible that thoſe ſhould ever have the ſame affection for each other who were forced to comply with terms to which they had the utmoſt averſion, as if they had been allowed to conſult their own inclinations, and give their hands where they have engaged their hearts? For my own part, I have been always determined to conſult my inclinations where there is the leaſt appearance of happineſs; and having an eaſy independency, am not anxious about increaſing it, being well convinced, that in all ſtates the middle one is beſt, I mean neither poverty nor riches; which leads me to the diſcovery of a paſſion which I have long endeavoured to conceal.

The opportunities which I have had of converſing with you at Lady B's, has at laſt convinced me, that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have thoſe qualifications, neceſſary to adorn her ſex, although adverſe fortune has denied her money. I am ſure that all thoſe virtues neceſſary

to

to make me happy in the marriage state, are centered in you, and whatever objection you may have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and under the endearing character of husband endeavour to supply your early loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possible, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am your affectionate Lover, &c.

LETTER CXVIII.

The young Lady's Answer.

Sir,

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

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

You well know (at least I imagine so) that the proposal you have made to me is a secret both to your relations and friends; and would you desire me to rush precipitately into the marriage-state, where I have the greatest reason to fear that I should be looked upon with contempt, by those whom nature had connected me with? I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution? You know that I was left an orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of lady B. must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune; and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Suppose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine unless I had brought you

ſomething as an equivalent? Or, have I not great reaſon to fear that you yourſelf may conſider me as under obligations, inconſiſtent with the character of a wife? I acknowledge the great generoſity of your offer, and would conſider myſelf highly honoured could I prevail with myſelf to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very ſincere in my anſwer, ſo let me beg, that you will endeavour to eradicate a paſſion, which, if nouriſhed longer, may prove fatal to us both.

I am, Sir, with the greateſt reſpect,

Your ſincere Well-wiſher, &c.

LETTER CXIX.

The Gentleman's Reply.

My dear Sophia,

WAS it not cruel to ſtart ſo many objections? or could you ſuppoſe me capable of ſo baſe an action, as to deſtroy your freedom and peace of mind. Or do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another? For God's ſake do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues intitle you to much more than I am able to give; but all that I have ſhall be yours. With reſpect to my relations, I have none to conſult beſides my mother and my uncle, and their conſent and even approbation is already obtained. You have often heard my mother declare, that ſhe preferred my happineſs with a woman of virtue to the poſſeſſion of the greateſt fortune, and though I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my ſentiments to her before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg that you will lay aſide all thoſe unneceſſary ſcruples which only ſerve to make one unhappy, who is already ſtruggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love. It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none elſe can. I cannot enjoy one moments reſt 'till I have your anſwer, and then the happy day ſhall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not ſtart any more objections, unleſs you are my real enemy; but your tender nature cannot ſuffer you to be cruel. Be mine, my dear, and I am yours for ever.

ever. My ſervant ſhall wait for the anſwer to your ever ſincere lover, whoſe ſole happineſs is centered in you.

LETTER CXX.

The Lady's Anſwer.

Sir,

I Find that when one of your ſex forms a reſolution, you are determined to go through let the event be what it will. Your anſwer to my firſt objection I muſt confeſs is ſatisfactory. I wiſh I could ſay ſo of the others; but I find that if I muſt comply I ſhall be obliged to truſt the remainder to yourſelf. Perhaps this is always the caſe, and even the moſt cautious have been deceived. However, Sir, I have communicated the contents of your letters to her ladyſhip, as you know ſhe has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at laſt reſolved to comply. I muſt give myſelf up to you as a poor friendleſs orphan, and ſhall endeavour to act conſiſtent with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion; and if you ſhould ſo far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friends to complain to, but that God who is *the father of the fatherleſs*. But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any ſuch fears. I have left the time to your own appointment, and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and diſſipation.

I am yours ſincerely, &c.

LETTER CXXI.

From a Lady to a Gentleman, complaining of indifference.

Sir,

HOWEVER light you may make of promiſes, yet I am fooliſh enough to conſider them as ſomething more than trifles, and am likewiſe induced to

 believe,

believe, that the man who voluntary breaks a promise, will not pay much regard to an oath; and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct? Did I give you my promise to be yours, and had you no other reason for soliciting than merely to gratify your vanity? A brutal gratification indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman whose greatest fault was, that she loved you. I say loved you, for it was in consequence of that passion, I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct, Sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your own solemn professions? Is it consistent with the character of a gentleman first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterwards brag that he had discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes! Do not equivocate, I have too convincing proofs of your insincerity; I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benson, and am informed that you have proposed marriage to her. Whatever you may think, Sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even resentment equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benson may be your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband, nor can ever the superstructure be lasting, which is built on such a foundation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience.

LETTER CXXII.

The Gentleman's Answer.

My dear Angel,

FOR by that name I must still call you; has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity? My dear, I am not what you have represented, I am neither false nor perjured; I never proposed marriage to Miss Benson, I never designed it, and my sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, whom you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to walk into the fields along with him and his sister? Surely prejudice itself cannot say so; but I am afraid you have been imposed on by

some

ſome deſigning wretch, who had private views, and private ends to anſwer by ſuch baſeneſs. But whatever may have been the cauſe I am entirely innocent, and to convince you of my ſincerity, beg that the day of marriage may be next week. My affections never ſo much as wandered from the dear object of my love; in you is centered all my hopes of felicity, with you only can I be happy. Keep me not in miſery one moment longer by entertaining groundleſs jealouſies againſt one who loves you in a manner ſuperior to the whole of your ſex; and I can ſet at defiance even malice itſelf. Let me beg your anſwer by my ſervant, which will either make me happy or miſerable. I have ſent a ſmall parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept as a convincing proof of my integrity; and am

Yours for ever, &c.

LETTER CXXIII.

From a young Officer ordered to his regiment in Minorca, to a young Lady whom he courted.

My Dear,

I AM ſcarce able to hold the pen. An order has juſt now arrived from the war-office, by which I am obliged to ſet ſail to-morrow for Minorca, without having the happineſs of ſeeing my angel. What unhappineſs to us, and devaſtation among the human race has the ambition of princes, and the perfidiouſneſs of miniſters occaſioned! Huſbands obliged to leave their beloved wives and dear little children; every relation is broken, and we may well ſay with Addiſon,

What havock has ambition made! But what is this to my preſent purpoſe? Like all others in a ſtate of diſtraction, I am obliged to write nonſenſe, if any thing can be ſo called where the name of my charmer is found. Did you know, my dear, what a ſtruggle I have between love and duty, you would conſider me as an object of compaſſion. I am bound by the moſt ſolemn oaths to be yours, and at the ſame time duty obliges me to draw my ſword, in defence of the juſt rights of my lawful prince and injured country; and whatever dangers may wait for me, I would meet

them with the greateſt cheatfulneſs, were I ſure of poſſeſſing one place in your heart. But why do I ſay one, I muſt have all or none; I cannot bear the moſt diſtant thought that you would place your affections on another. No, my dear, were that to happen, I would act the part of general Campbell at the fatal battle of Fontenoy, by ruſhing on the ſword of the enemy, to put an end to a weary exiſtence. I ſhould chearfully lay down my life, which would be of ſmall value, were I to be ſeparated for ever from you. But why do I doubt? I know my charmer is as virtuous as ſhe is beautiful, and that nothing but my own conduct can ever make her diſcard me, but

Is not abſence death to thoſe who love? However, I have the pleaſing reflection yet left, that whilſt I am in a diſtant part of the world attending my duty, I ſhall be remembered by her, whoſe prayers for my preſervation will be acceptable to that God who loves virtue, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Nothing in this world can ever be ſo dear to me as you are. Believe all I ſay and I am happy. If I do any thing that may appear wrong inform me of it, and it ſhall be my firſt care to confeſs my fault and amend, I deſire your advice in every thing; but alas! ſeparation will render it difficult, though not impoſſible. Not having had time to ſettle with our agent, I have left an order with my mother for that purpoſe.—Let me beg you will honour her with a viſit, ſhe will eſteem it as a reſpect ſhewn to me. I have often told you what an excellent woman ſhe is, and I am fully perſuaded you will find her ſo? yea more ſo than I have ever mentioned. We are to ſtop at Gibraltar, where I hope to have a letter from you. If it comes too late, the governor will forward it to Minorca. Once more, my dear, farewel, continue to be mine, and all the viciſſitudes and dangers of war will appear as trifles; and when peace ſhall again bleſs the nations, I will fly on the wings of love to the arms of my deareſt angel, and ſpend with her the remainder of my days,

I am your ſincere Lover, &c.

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LETTER CXXIV.

The Lady's Answer.

Dear Charles,

IF your hand could scarcely hold the pen, I am afraid this will appear unintelligible, being wet with tears from beginning to end. When your letter arrived we were drinking tea, and my father reading the news-paper, wherein it was said that all the officers in the army were ordered to join their regiments, I was a good deal alarmed, but some hopes remained, till the fatal letter convinced me that my suspicions were but too well founded. Alas! How vain are human expectations. In the morning we dream of happiness, and before evening are really miserable. I was promising to myself that one month would have joined our hands, and now we are separated perhaps for years; if not for ever. For how do I know but the next post may bring me an account of your being killed in battle, and then farewel every thing in this world. My pleasing prospects will then vanish, and although unmarried, will remain a widow till death. And is it possible you can doubt one moment of my sincerity, or do you think, that those affections can ever be placed on another which were first fixed on you, from a convincing proof of your accomplishments and merit? No, my dear, my fidelity to you shall remain as unspotted as this paper before it was blotted with ink and bedewed with tears. I know not how others love, but my engagements are for eternity. You desire me to put you in mind of your duty. I know not of any faults, nor am I disposed to look for them. I doubt not but the religious education you have received in your youth, will enable you to resist the strongest temptations; and like that everlasting honour to the army, colonel Gardner, although not afraid to fight, yet you will be afraid to sin. However terrifying it may be to meet death in the field, yet it is far more awful to appear before a just God whom we have offended by our iniquities. I have been reading *Montague's History of England*, and that elegant author says, that at the battle of

Hastings

Haſtings which overthrew the Saxon monarchy, the Normans, although under arms all night, were yet fervent in their devotions, whilſt the Engliſh, who thought themſelves ſecure of victory, were ſpending the time in riot and drunkenneſs. But alas! the next day exhibited a different ſcene. The Normans became conquerors, after killing many thouſands of the enemy; and ſuch are commonly the fatal effects of debauchery. There is not one body of people in the world accuſed of irreligion more than the military, and from the very nature of their employment, none are more obliged to practice every chriſtian duty. They ſee thouſands of their fellow creatures hurried into eternity, nor do they know but the next may be themſelves. My dear Charles, never be aſhamed of religion. A conſciouſneſs of your integrity will inſpire you with a real courage in the day of battle; and if you ſhould at laſt die in defence of the juſt rights of your country, the divine favour will be your comfort through eternity. In the mean time my prayers ſhall conſtantly be for your ſafety and preſervation, and my earneſt hopes fixed on your happy return.

I have obtained leave of my parents to reſide with your mother during the ſummer, which will at leaſt be ſome conſolation to me in your abſence. Let me hear from you as often as poſſible, but never doubt of my fidelity. Conſider me as already yours and I am happy. Farewel, my dear, and may the wiſdom of God direct you, and his providence be your guard, is the ſincere prayer of her who prefers you before all the world.

LET-

LETTERS ON FRIENDSHIP, &c.

LETTER CXXV.

The following Letter on Friendship was written by a Gentleman lately deceased, and found amongst his papers.

My dear Friend,

IT was a strange notion of Paschal, that he would never admit any man to a share of his friendship. Had that great man been a Misanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow creatures, I should not have been much surprized; but as his love to mankind extended as far as either his knowledge or influence, it is necessary to consider his reasons, for a conduct apparently so strange. Paschal had such elevated notions of the deity on the one hand, and so low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought, if he placed his affections on any created being, it would be a sort of insult to the Creator, and a robbing him of that worship which was due to him alone. But whatever were the notions of that great man, yet there is such a thing as a real friendship, and there is also a necessity for it. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed. But those who are acquainted with human nature, well know that we are such a composition of flesh and spirit, that however we may wish to keep up an intercourse with the deity, yet our inclinations are such that we are more desirous of being conversant with those of our own species, to whom at all times we can be able to unbosom ourselves.

Friendship is as old as the first formation of society, and there is scarce one ancient writer now extant, who has not said something in praise of it. Of this

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we have a fine example in the ſtory of David and Jonathan, as recorded in the ſecond book of Samuel. In the ſame ſacred oracles we are told, that love is ſtronger than death; and even the great Redeemer of the world had a beloved diſciple.

The pious and ingenious Dr *Watts* has finely deſcribed friendſhip in one of his poems, which I doubt not but you have read.

Friendſhip thou charmer of the mind,
  Thou ſweet deluding ill;
The brighteſt moments mortals know,
  And ſharpeſt pains we feel.
Fate has divided all our ſhares
  Of pleaſure, and of pain;
In love the friendſhip and the cares
  Are mix'd and join'd again.

The ſame ingenious author in another place ſays,

'Tis dangerous to let looſe our love
  Beneath the eternal ſair.

But whatever the wiſeſt or learned may ſay, yet we know that a man is a ſocial being, and conſequently has a capacity, and even a deſire for friendſhip. Friendſhip is in its own nature ſo neceſſary, that I know not how a ſocial being can exiſt without it. Are we by any providential occurrence raiſed from poverty to affluence, to whom can we communicate the delightful news but our friend? On the other hand, are we reduced from the higheſt pinacle of grandeur to the moſt abject ſtate of poverty, to whom can we look for conſolation but God and our friend? Indeed there is not one ſtate or condition in life where friendſhip is not neceſſary. What wretched mortals would men be were they not endowed with ſo noble a principle?

Friendſhip is of a very delicate nature, and either the happineſs or miſery of both parties may, in ſome ſenſe, be ſaid to depend on it. Friendſhip is ſomewhat like marriage, it is made for life; or as Cæſar ſaid, The dye is caſt. Mrs Rowe in one of her letters to the counteſs of Hertford ſays, "When I contract a friendſhip it is for eternity?" Her notions were

were always elevated, and the chief business of her life seems to have been the promoting the interest of her fellow-creatures. Friendship obliges the parties engaged, to lay open their minds to each other, there must not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the deity, nor an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the word Friendship. Benevolence, mercy, pity, compassion, &c. are only parts of it.

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

In the course of my experience, I remember two instances of the breach of friendship, which were attended with very different effects. Two gentlemen contracted a friendship for each other, which lasted some years; at last one of them unhappily revealed a secret to his wife, who told it to the wife of the other, in consequence of which an unhappy division took place in the family of the latter. The injured person upbraided his friend with infidelity, told him of the fatal effects occasioned by this imprudence; but (says he) although I cannot be your friend any longer, yet I will never be your enemy. My heart will pity you whilst my hand shall be open to relieve your necessities. Such a declaration was consistent with the prudence of a man, and the piety of a christian; but that of the other was of a nature totally opposite, and (in my opinion) truly diabolical. A difference of a similar nature happened, attended with the like circumstances, but the injured person instead of sympathizing with the weakness of his friend, pursued him with unrelenting cruelty, nor ever ceased until he had accomplished his ruin, and even triumphed over it. You may make what comments you please, I can only assure you that both are facts.—How different my friend has our conduct to each other been? During these thirty years, no breach has ever happened; and it seems as new this day as at the beginning. As this is probaby the last letter ever you will see in my hand-writing, accept of my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have received from your faithful admonitions,

monitions, and your benevolent consolations; and when we meet in the regions of bliss, our happiness will then remain uninterrupted.

I am yours sincerely, &c.

LETTER CXXVI.

To Cleanthes, on Friendship, Age and Death.

Nov. 15, 1768.

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

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

At this season of life, one of the most considerable pleasures which remains to human nature, is the recollection of the moments which are past. Now, whilst I write, my Cleanthes, I recal with satisfaction the time in which we were induced, by a parity of sentiments, to form the social connection, and the steady union in which we have passed from that hour to the present. The time approaches which must put a period to our friendship; none hope that Providence will extend their lives to an unusual length but those who fear to die; as for ourselves, we have reached that age which few are born to attain, and which, in the language of an admired writer, requires a great deal of Providence to produce. I flatter myself, that our days have been so spent, that we have no reason to tremble at the thought of our last, nor imbitter the remain-

remainining part of our life with apprehenſions for the inevitable hour to come.

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

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

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

I write this from the grotto which Lucinda's fancy decorated, and where we have paſſed ſo many happy hours. Providence has taken care to wean us from the love of life by degrees. Scarce have we reached the ripened age of manhood before we have more friends in the grave than ſurviving, and from that moment, which is almoſt the firſt of ſerious reflection, we begin to perceive the vanity of human happineſs. It was the will of heaven that I ſhould mourn the loſs

of my Lucinda, and feel the pang of ſeparation, yet not till we had grown old in love, and ſweetened the greateſt part of our lives with connubial happineſs. Since the retroſpect part of our lives preſents us with nothing which ſhould terrify our imagination, let us paſs the remaining days which heaven ſhall allot us in calm ſerenity, and in reſignation to the divine will.

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

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXVII.

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

Rev. Sir,

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

My Dear,

I am now going the way of all fleſh, but God, the everlaſting God will be your comfort. When I firſt became yours, I looked for all the happineſs conſiſtent with the ſtate of human nature in this vale of miſery; and I muſt confeſs that my higheſt wiſhes have been gratified, and your tenderneſs has been even more than I could expect. You may have ſeen faults

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in my conduct, but I do assure you (and this is not a time to dissemble) they were altogether involuntary. My principal study was to obtain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God have been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer. Here she fainted——looked wishfully at me, and shed a tear over her dear children, who were crying by her bed. ——She attempted to speak, but in vain. At last, fixing her eyes towards heaven she repeated those beautiful words, "Into thy hands I commit my soul, "for thou hast redeemed me, O! thou God of my "salvation," and then closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk for some time in the greatest distress, looking on the dear departed remains of my beloved spouse, and endeavouring to silence by persuasion the cries of her orphan children.——At last I recollected that I had still a friend left in you, to whom I might with a view of consolation, lay open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may hinder you from visiting me, and if so let me beg that you will in the mean time favour me with a few lines. At present every sort of consolation will be acceptable, but whatever comes from you will be doubly so. I know not what to write; excuse incoherence and impropriety, from him whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.

LETTER CXXVIII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

My dear Friend,

I Sincerely commiserate your variegated calamity, and wish there was any thing in my power that could alleviate your distress. You well know that all affliction of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God. ——"I create light and make darkness, I make war "and peace, I the Lord do all these things." This, Sir, should be your first consideration, and this should regulate the whole of your conduct.

It was this consideration which reconciled old Eli to the severest doom that perhaps was ever denounced. Though contrary to human nature, and much more so to natural affection, yet it is the Lord, let him do what shall seem good.

This reconciled Job to all his unparallelled sufferings, "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away," rapacious hands, and waving elements were only instruments of his power, therefore I bless and adore his holy name.

This consolation fortified the man Christ Jesus on the approach of his inconceivable bitter agony. But it is my father's pleasure, and not the malice of my enemies, therefore not my will but his be done.

If your father (dear Sir) your heavenly father, who loves you with an everlasting love, has thought proper to mix some gall with your portion of life, sensible of the beneficent hand from which your visitation comes, may you bow your head in awful silence; and say with the afflicted Hezekiah of old, "Good is the word of the Lord concerning me."

Afflictions are often accompanied with many valuable benefits; as David said, "It is good for me that "I have been afflicted, for before that I went astray."

Afflictions serve to wean us from the world. When every thing goes smoothly on, and nothing interrupts the present enjoyments, we are apt to forget the God that made us, and say with unparallelled assurance, Who is the Almighty that I should serve him?

Afflictions serve to lead us to value the blessings of Christianity, and to hold in the lowest estimation our own unworthiness. When sorrows harass our circumstances, and trouble oppresses our minds, we are glad, we are earnest to find rest in Christ. The severe affliction under which I have so long laboured, hinders me from seeing you, although I shall take the first opportunity of doing so, when it pleases God to restore me again to health. In the mean time, I have sent you a copy of Fleetwood's Life of Christ. A careful perusal of that valuable work will reconcile you to the various dispensations of Providence, especially when you consider the character of the Redeemer, who suffered so much for us. He bore our griefs

griefs and carried our sorrows. He was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief.

From these considerations (my dear friend) endeavour to reconcile yourself to this awful dispensation of Providence: I am sensible of your loss, but you know not what God may yet have in store for you. Perhaps he has only deprived you of one mercy, in order to bestow another. I doubt not, but the Almighty has thousands of mercies yet in store for you, both in time and eternity, and that period is fast approaching when you yourself must put off this earthly tabernacle, and pay that debt to nature which your beloved spouse has already done. Let your care at present be, to attend the education of your children. Your duty is now doubly increased, and all that was incumbent on your beloved spouse, is now transferred to yourself; but the blessings of the Almighty will be bestowed in proportion to your chearful obedience. It is a great comfort that your beloved spouse died in the faith and fear of the dear Redeemer, and it will be the greatest honour ever you can acquire, to instruct your children in those principles which made the prospect of death agreeable, and even welcome to their mother. So that when the great God shall appear to judge the world, you may be able to stand before him and say, Here I am, and the children which thou hast given me. Thus (Sir) I have said all that I can think on the present melancholy occasion. But how comfortable are those words of St. Paul. "Our light affliction which is but for a moment, shall work out for us a far more exceeding "and eternal weight of glory."

The things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal. There is nothing permanent or lasting in this world, and the tall oak is as easily cut down by the hands of omnipotence, as the plant is plucked up. I feel myself growing weak, and must therefore conclude. May that gracious God who has thought proper to afflict you, continue to support you under this and every other trial, till you arrive at last in the kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest, is the sincere prayer of

Your most affectionate Friend, &c.

LETTER CXXIX.

To a Lady, condoling with her on the death of her Husband,

Dear Madam,

I Sincerely sympathise in your affliction, and I don't wonder that the death of a person so dear to you should damp all your spirits. To be forced to take a final leave of that form we love; to bid a long adieu to the spirit with whom we daily conversed with pleasing intercourse. is very hard: the sensible heart-strings must feel the dreadful rent, the distressful mind is torn with anguish. But oh! madam, why do you say for ever! The separation is not surely for ever;—soon you will see him in a more lovely form;—soon the well-known mind, clothed with heavenly radiance, will congratulate your arrival on the blissful shore.—Why do you complain that now he is a lifeless lump of clay; Mistake not; he is all bliss and active spirit. Those shining virtues, which, while you enumerate them, seem to add to your grief, and which you tell me will ever renew your sorrow, ought to be the pleasing source of joy. Though you lament his loss, lament not his exaltation, nor drive your tears from the very subject of his felicity; he is in the land of virtue, its native clime. How often do you repeat the words "Poor dear man," and dwell on sounds expressive only of pity! Pity, madam, is not for angels; it is you alone who are the sufferer. O could you but be sensible of his happiness, extasy and transporting rapture would dry up your tears. Would you wish him back? Would you have him, to please you, leave the seats of bliss, and exchange the regions of unfading felicity, for a world of sin, transient happiness, intermingled with pain and trouble? No; this you cannot wish.

O my dear Madam! recollect yourself, and, filled with a generous and refined devotion, repose your mind on God; and endeavour to lose the sense of your own private apparent loss in the delightful contemplation of his transcendent goodness. Repose yourself on his sovereign will, whose determinations are always safest, wisest, best: Let every dewy tear be

be wiped away, by the happineſs of him you loved: love him ſtill, but be diſintereſted in your affection; imitate, and rejoice in his virtues; and while you dwell with pleaſure on his felicity, anticipate your own. With the moſt tender ſympathy and commiſeration, believe me to be, dear Madam,

Your moſt affectionate friend, &c.

LETTER CXXX.

The following Letter, written by Mr Gay, giving an Account of two Lovers who were ſtruck dead by the ſame Flaſh of Lightning, is reckoned a maſter piece in epiſtolary deſcriptive Writing.

Sir,

THE only news you can expect to have from me here, is news from Heaven; for I am quite out of the world, and there is ſcarce any thing can reach me, except the noiſe of thunder, which undoubtedly you have heard too. We have read in old authors of high towers levelled by it to the ground, while the humble vallies have eſcaped: The only thing that is proof againſt it is the laurel, which, however, I take to be no ſecurity to the brains of modern authors. But to let you ſee that the contrary to this often happens, I muſt acquaint you, that the higheſt and moſt extravagant heap of towers in the univerſe, which is in this neighbourhood, ſtands ſtill undefaced, while a cock of barley in our next field has been conſumed to aſhes. Would to God that this heap of barley had been all which periſhed! But unhappily beneath this little ſhelter ſat two much more conſtant lovers than ever were found in romance under the ſhade of a beech tree. John Hewit was a well-ſet man, of about five and twenty: Sarah Dew might be rather called comely than beautiful, and was about the ſame age: They had paſſed through the various labours of the year together, with the greateſt ſatisfaction; if ſhe milked, 'twas his morning and evening care to bring the cows to her hand. It was but laſt fair that he bought her a preſent of green ſilk for her ſtraw hat; and the poeſy on her ſilver ring was of his chuſing. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood;

for

for ſcandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful poſſeſſion of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that he had obtained the conſent of her parents, and it was but till the next week that they were to wait to be happy. Perhaps in the intervals of their work they were now talking of their wedding cloaths, and John was ſuiting ſeveral ſorts of poppies and field flowers to her complexion, to chooſe her a knot for the wedding-day. While they were thus buſied (it was on the laſt of July, between two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black, and ſuch a ſtorm of lightning and thunder enſued, that all the labourers made the beſt of their way to what ſhelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened, and fell down in a ſwoon on a heap of barley: John who never ſeparated from her, ſat down by her ſide, having raked together two or three heaps the better to ſecure her from the ſtorm. Immediately there was heard ſo loud a crack, as if Heaven had ſplit aſunder; every one was ſolicitous for the ſafety of his neighbour, and called to one another throughout the field. No anſwer being returned to thoſe who called to our lovers, they ſtepped to the place where they lay; they perceived the barley all in a ſmoke, and then ſpied this faithful pair. John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her, as if to ſkreen her from the lightning. They were both ſtruck in this tender poſture. Sarah's left eyebrow was ſinged, and there appeared a black ſpot on her breaſt; her lover was all over black, but not the leaſt ſigns of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions, they were conveyed to the town, and the next day interred in Stanton-Harcourt church-yard. My Lord Harcourt, at Mr Pope's and my requeſt, has cauſed a ſtone to be placed over them, upon condition that we ſhould furniſh the epitaph, which is as follows:

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

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

I am, &c.

LETTER CXXXI.

To a widow Lady, diſſuading her from a ſecond Marriage. Written by a Relation.

Dear Couſin,

I WAS accidentally in company, the other day, where you was mentioned with great reſpect; but it was ſaid that you were about to marry again. I may be impertinent in what I have to ſay on this ſubject, becauſe the obſervations may come too late: Yet I think that can hardly be the caſe, becauſe this is the firſt time I have heard of your deſigning it, and then but caſually. I know how ready the world is to intrepret the ſlighteſt acquaintances into courtſhips; and I think, had this been any thing more, I ſhould have heard of it earlier, and with more certainty; nay, I will not believe but you would have written to me of it yourſelf.

As I will perſuade myſelf from theſe reaſons that you have not gone ſo far in this matter, if you have made any ſtep in it, as to have made it too late to go back, I ſhall, with all that freedom which our acquaintance and affinity ſupport me in uſing, give you my reaſons why I think you do wrong. You are very happy at preſent, and thoſe who do not know when they are well, commonly change for the worſe. It is a maxim among the gameſters, that nobody ought to play, but thoſe who have nothing to loſe; and I think it ought to hold as good with thoſe who marry after they are thirty. When there is a bloom of youth upon a face, a man may be tempted to do a great many things to purchaſe it; but when that is gone, I ſhould be always afraid that the deſire of winning the bet might go farther than the love of play. If that is the matter, wretched is he who is caught, for the winner will be as ready in this caſe, as the loſers in the other, to break the tables.

But

But to talk in plain words, and argue the matter like people of this world: I ſhould imagine that any woman that had been married a dozen years, let it have been ever ſo happily, would have ſeen enough of the condition not to be in humour to enter upon it again when the beſt ſeaſon of it was over. I talk very freely to you, couſin; but I love you, and you know it: You will therefore excuſe me; nay, I believe you will thank me. I adviſe you againſt marriage, but I do not know whom you are going to marry. There is one teſt of affection, and there is but one, and if your lover's affairs will bear that, why I ſhall give up half of my objections. The man who has nothing, may deceive you when he ſays he loves you, whether you have nothing, or have a fortune; for in the one caſe he may juſt like you have enough for a month's living together, and, as it is all one to him where he lives, he may reſolve upon bidding goodbye to you afterwards: In the other, he may very reaſonably be in love with your fortune, and may think no incumbrance of your perſon too much for the advantage: But if the lover have a fortune more than equal to your own, take it for granted he is in carneſt, and give yourſelf no trouble but about his conſtancy. It would not be worth while to marry a man you was ſure liked you to-day, but who, it was fifty to one, might change his mind to-morrow: and as to him, who it was impoſſible to know whether he liked you or no, you, who will be too wiſe to fall into abſolute green ſickneſs love, would be diſtracted to venture upon.

Which of theſe, or whether either of theſe deſcriptions, belongs to your preſent admirer, I am entirely ignorant. You ſee I am a great enemy to marrying at all; but I have told you there is a ſort of man that I think you may venture upon: She will have good luck, however, that finds him.

It would be eaſy to be grave upon this ſubject; but, dear couſin, it is not eaſy to be grave without being dull; and I have not a mind you ſhall throw away my letter without reading it. You have a great many years probably to come, and you have a right to be happy in them. You have the means in your own hands, and in the name of wiſdom keep them there.

You

You have relations who will want your money, when you can make no more use of it; and why should you rob them of it in favour of a stranger? Besides, I have that true affection for you, that I should be unhappy to see you in difficulties.

Consider all these things, for you have gratitude and generosity; and consider yourself, for you have prudence. You may be happy in yourself, and a blessing to others, these forty years; or you may be miserable and a burthen to your relations. This is the chance; and, I protest, believe the choice is now before you. Dear Cousin, farewel; I only repeat it to you, consider.

Yours most affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXXXII.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, on Happiness.

Dear Sir,

IT seems to be the fate of man to seek all his consolations in futurity. The time present is very seldom able to fill desire or imagination with immediate enjoyment, and we are therefore forced to supply the deficiencies by recollection or anticipation.

Every one so often experiences the fallaciousness of hope, and the inconveniences of teaching himself to expect what a thousand accidents may preclude, that, when time has abated the confidence with which youth rushes out to take possession of the world, we naturally endeavour, or wish at least, to find entertainment in the review of life, and to repose upon real facts, and certain experience.

But so full is the world of calamity, that every source of pleasure is polluted, and tranquillity disturbed. When time has supplied us with events sufficient to employ our thoughts, it has mingled them with so many disasters and afflictions, that we shrink from the remembrance of them, dread their intrusion on our minds, and fly from them to company and diversion.

No man that has past the middle point of life, can sit down to feast upon the pleasures of youth, without finding the banquet imbittered by the cup of sorrow.

Many

Many days of harmleſs frolic, and many nights of honeſt feſtivity will recur; he may revive the memory of many lucky accidents, or pleaſing extravagancies; or, if he has engaged in ſcenes of action, and acquainted with affairs of difficulty and viciſſitudes of fortune, may enjoy the nobler pleaſure of looking back upon diſtreſs firmly ſupported, upon danger reſolutely encountered, and upon oppreſſion artfully defeated. Æneas very properly comforts his companions, when, after the horrors of a ſtorm, they have landed on an unknown and deſolate country, with the hope that their miſeries, will, at ſome diſtant period, be recounted with delight. There are, perhaps, few higher gratifications than that of reflection on evils ſurmounted, when they were not incurred by our own fault, and neither reproach us with cowardice or guilt.

But this kind of felicity is always abated by the reflection, that they with whom we ſhould be moſt pleaſed to ſhare it, are now in the grave. A few years make ſuch havock amongſt the human race, that we ſoon ſee ourſelves deprived of thoſe with whom we entered the world. The man of enterprize, when he has recounted his adventures, is forced, at the cloſe of the narration, to pay a ſigh to the memory of thoſe who contributed to his ſucceſs; and he that has ſpent his life among the gayer part of mankind, has quickly his remembrance ſtored with the remarks and repartees of wits, whoſe ſprightlineſs and merriment are now loſt in perpetual ſilence. The trader, whoſe induſtry has ſupplied the want of inheritance, when he ſits down to enjoy his fortune, repines in ſolitary plenty, and laments the abſence of thoſe companions with whom he had planned out amuſements for his latter years; and the ſcholar, whoſe merit, after a long ſeries of efforts, raiſes him from obſcurity, looks round in vain from his exalted ſtate, for his old friends, to be witneſſes of his long-ſought-for affluence, and to partake of his bounty.

Such is the imperfection of all human happineſs and every period of life is obliged to borrow its enjoyments from the time to come. In youth we have nothing paſt to entertain us; and in age we derive nothing from the retroſpect but fruitleſs ſorrow. The

loſs

loſs of our friends and companions impreſſes hourly upon us the neceſſity of our own departure. We find that all our ſchemes are quickly at an end, and that we muſt lie down in the grave with the forgotten multitude of former ages, and yield our places to others, who, like us, ſhall be driven a while by hope or fear about the ſurface of the earth, and then, like us, be loſt in the ſhade of death.

Beyond this termination of our corporeal exiſtence, we are therefore obliged to extend our hopes, and every man indulges his imagination with ſomething which is not to happen till he has loſt the power of perceiving it. Some amuſe themſelves with entails and ſettlements, provide for the increaſe and perpetuation of families and honours, and contrive to obviate the diſſipation of fortunes, which it has been the whole buſineſs of their lives to accumulate. Others more refined and exalted, congratulate their own hearts upon the future extent of their reputation, the laſting fame of their performances, the reverence of diſtant nations, and the gratitude of unprejudiced poſterity.

It is not, therefore, from this world that any ray of comfort can proceed to chear the gloom of the laſt hour. But futurity has ſtill its proſpects; there is yet happineſs in reſerve ſufficient to ſupport us under every affliction. Hope is the chief bleſſing of man, and that hope only is rational, of which we are certain it cannot deceive. I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER CXXXIII.

To a Friend, deſcribing the Happineſs of rural Life.

Sir,

BEfore my departure from London, I contracted the fondeſt attachment to that ſcene of noiſe and variety; but ſince I ſat down in this ſweet retirement, the overflowings of my heart in thankfulneſs and praiſe to my Creator have never ceaſed; my tongue has had no other theme but his wonders; nor have I reſted for the wiſh of leading others to ſhare the pleaſures with me.

Here, Sir, freed from every embarraſſment of form, and every concern of buſineſs, I riſe healthful, ſit down at eaſe, and trace the ſtrokes of nature's pencil, till the ſenſe aches to comprehend them. The teizing calls of clients, the inſufferable folly of unmeaning viſitants are over; and, I hope, will never return. I am waked by the fierce rays breaking in at the eaſtern window to ſee the riſing ſun, the nobleſt object in the world: And after the gentle pleaſures of the day, retire at night to my turfy ſeat, recline againſt the leaning oak that points full weſt, and fix my eyes upon the parting luminary, now a few minutes high; view his even progreſs to the horizon, and ſee him cut the verge of that great circle; then follow him deſcending till leſs and leſs remains, and ſay, with an involuntary ſigh, farewel, when the laſt ſpot of of fire is ſunk beneath the plain.

Then glows the ſcene which painters have copied faintly: The purple cloud, the golden edge, the flaming luſtre, in the juſt point where the great globe of fire deſcended, and thence the change that, through innumerable tincts, colours the whole extent of that vaſt quarter; the different ſhades from the reſemblance of a town on fire, to the light amber hue that loſes its faint glare upon the diſtant mountain.

The ſeaſons, as they change, will bring variety enough, and every period will be crouded with its peculiar pleaſure: But, of all others, this, the youth of the juſt ripening year, carries delight in every object, and in every inſtance. To trace the firſt buds of the leafy ſpring, to ſee the hawthorn ſwell with its vernal treaſures; the rough elm next burſt into floods of verdure, the yellow oak then thruſt out its vaſt bud; and, laſt, the ſlow aſh puſh its winged leaves to fill the ſcene of beauty!—Theſe are the objects every hedge affords, and every field its humbler elegancies. To mark the opening of the lively daiſy, to ſee the yellow crowfoot ſpread its gilded coat over whole acres of the higher grounds, or trace the bluſhing ladyſmock that fill its thick tufts the lower! To follow in the hedge the wild herbs as they ſpring, and mark their wonderful and various forms; the hyacinth bending its naked ſtalk with fragrance; the arum ſhrouded in his leafy tabernacle,

and

and the young fruit in every opening flower! How various in their ſeveral forms, and how amazing in the whole!

Full of theſe wonders and theſe charms, this luſty health and ſpringed vigor in mild natures, how ſweet the change to look into the quarters made by art, there to indulge that

——————————Retired leiſure,
That in trim gardens takes its pleaſure!

And as one treads the ſmooth pavement of the gravel, or velvet carpet of the graſs-walk, to watch the produce of luxuriant culture, day brings after day new tranſports; flower opens after flower, and every morning diſcloſes ſome new beauty, dearer to the poſſeſſor, becauſe his own toil helped its colours.

How raviſhing to tread the ſmooth alley, ſeparating one painted border from another! To trace the progreſs of the full anemonies, or watch the colours of the painted tulip! To follow in the former kinds, the violet, the crimſon and the purple, whoſe colours ſingly recommend them to admiration; and, when the eye has been feaſted whole days with theſe, to ſee the peacock ſpread his double leaves, varying his ruby with emerald, to admire the bluſhing luſtre of the roſe, or trace the changes of the ever new camelion! with what amazing ſatisfaction!

Thence to another quarter glowing with the vivid tulips, to view with diſtinguiſhing and raptured eye, the mixed tincts ſeparated by the ſtrongeſt lines, no one intrenching on the other's boundaries; to read them opening, and to ſee them fade, preſerving ſtill the ſame clear character! To count the colours in the varied marquetrine; to view the clouds that paint the wanton jaſper, elegant without regularity, and glorious in confuſion; to mark the ſtains of the moriſion, or ſee the ſaphire of the ſky mimicked in the round bottom of the painted perſian; the delight is not, nor can be known, but to the few, whoſe innocent leiſure has employed ſome hours in the ſweet ſtudy.

My paintings are from nature; from what I ſee before me as I write to you. My own field, and my hedges, give the originals, of my heart-felt deſcriptions; and my little gardens, thanks to the friendly

hands that have supplied, furnishes the beauties I have celebrated: My heart joins the great chorus with sincerity, relating only what it feels.

Thus pass the hours of one who wishes every man to rival him in satisfaction. Believe me, there is something in these soft delights that surpasseth all the sensualists call pleasure. Quiet and health accompany every step; and the path is open to every virtue. Happy shall I account myself even in this labour of writing, which, indeed, has taken from me some hours of these amusements, if, among all who read, I may but make one convert: I shall, I am assured, have then done good to him and to the world. This is the life of innocence, and that the sole path to every act in virtue. I am, &c.

LETTER CXXXIV.

From Mr POPE *to a Lady, on the separation of friends, and the satisfaction of integrity and virtue.*

THE weather is too fine for any one that loves the country to leave it at this season; when every smile of the sun, like the smile of a coy lady, is as dear as it is uncommon; and I am so much in the taste of rural pleasures, I had rather see the sun than any thing he can shew me, except yourself. I despise every fine thing in town, not excepting your new gown, till I see you dressed in it, which, by the way, I don't like the better for the red; the leaves, I think, are very pretty. I am growing fit, I hope, for a better world, of which the light of the sun is but a shadow: For I doubt not but God's works here are what comes nearest to his works there; and that a true relish of the beauties of nature is the most easy preparation and gentlest transition to an enjoyment of those of Heaven: As, on the contrary, a true town-life of hurry, confusion, noise, slander and dissention, is a sort of apprenticeship to Hell and its furies. I am endeavouring to put my mind into as quiet a situation as I can, to be ready to receive that stroke which I believe is coming upon me, and have fully resigned myself to yield to it. The separation of my soul and body, is what I could think of with less pain; for I am

am very ſure he that made it will take care of it, and in whatever ſtate he pleaſes it ſhall be, that ſtate muſt be right: But I cannot think without tears of being ſeparated from my friends, when their condition is ſo doubtful, that they may want even ſuch aſſiſtance as mine. Sure it is more merciful to take from us after death all memory of what we loved or purſued here; for elſe what a torment would it be to a ſpirit, ſtill to love thoſe creatures it is quite divided from? Unleſs we ſuppoſe, that, in a more exalted life, all that we eſteemed in this imperfect ſtate will effect us no more than what we loved in our infancy concerns us now.

This is an odd way of writing to a lady, and I am ſenſible would throw me under a great deal of ridicule, were you to ſhew this letter among your acquaintance. But perhaps you may not yourſelf be quite a ſtranger to this way of thinking. I heartily wiſh your life may be ſo long and ſo happy, as never to let you think quite ſo far as I am now led to do; but to think a little towards it, is what will make you the happier and the eaſier at all times.

There are no pleaſures or amuſements that I don't wiſh you; and therefore 'tis no ſmall grief to me, that I ſhall for the future be leſs able to partake with you in them. But let fortune do her worſt, whatever ſhe makes us loſe, as long as ſhe never makes us loſe our honeſty and our independence: I deſpiſe from my heart whoever parts with the firſt, and I pity from my ſoul whoever quits the latter.

LETTER CXXXV.

From an Uncle to his Nephew on the pernicious habit of drinking to exceſs.

Dear Nephew,

WHEN I conſider your age, inexperience, and ſituation, and how often you will, unavoidably, be led into company, I think I cannot employ a vacant hour better than in laying before you a few thoughts on the deteſtable practice of drinking to exceſs; and I enter on this buſineſs the more chearfully,

because, I am confident you have hitherto been careful to follow my advice.

There is no vice carries a greater shame and odium in it than drunkenness. There is no spectacle we behold with greater aversion and contempt. It sinks a man infinitely below the beasts that perish.—The brutes are guilty of no excess—this is the prerogative of man. This shameful vice throws the mind into universal confusion and uproar—lays the understanding and reason in sad and deplorable ruins—effaces every thing that can be called the image of God—extinguishes reason and inflames the passions—dethrones the judgment and exalts our worst desires into its place. The world has not in it a more contemptible sight than a rational creature in this condition. A famous republic of old, used to make their slaves drunk, and expose them in that condition to their children, that, by seeing their ridiculous actions, hearing their ridiculous expressions, and beholding that deplorable alienation of reason which this vice occasions, they might be effectually deterred from it. They thought, says an useful writer, that, were they to apply wholly to the reason of their youths, it might prove to little purpose, as the force of the arguments which they now employed, might not be sufficiently apprehended, or the impression might soon be effaced: But when they made them frequently eye-witnesses of all the madness and absurdities, and at length of the perfect senselessness which the immoderate draught occasioned, the idea of the vile change would be so fixed in the minds of its beholders, as to render them utterly averse from its cause.

And may we not justly conclude it to be from hence, that the offsprings of the persons, who are accustomed thus to disguise themselves, often prove remarkably sober. They avoid in their riper years their parent's crime, from that detestation of it which they contracted in their earlier. As to most other vices, their debasing circumstances are not fully known to us 'till we have attained a maturity of age; nor can be then, 'till they have been duly attended to: But in our very childhood, at our first beholding the effects of drunkenness, we are stricken with astonishment, that a rational being should be thus changed—

should

ſhould be induced to make himſelf the object of ſcorn and contempt. And indeed we muſt hold the man in the utmoſt contempt, whom we hear and ſee in his progreſs to exceſs; at firſt, teazing you with his contentiouſneſs and impertinence—miſtaking your meaning and hardly knowing his own—then, faltering in his ſpeech—unable to get through an entire ſentence—his hands trembling—his eyes ſwimming—his legs too feeble to ſupport him; 'till at length you only know the human creature by his ſhape.

I cannot but add, that, were a perſon of ſenſe to have a juſt notion of all the ſilly things he ſays or does, of the wretched appearance he makes in a drunken fit, he could not want a more powerful argument againſt repeating the crime.

But, as none of us are inclined to think ill of ourſelves, none of us will know how far our vices expoſe us: We allow them excuſes which they meet not with from any but ourſelves.

This is the caſe of all; it is particularly ſo with drunkards: Many of whom from ſhame would undoubtedly reform, could they be brought to conceive how much they do of which they ought to be aſhamed.

Nor is it improbable that it is this very conſideration, how much drunkenneſs contributes to make a man the contempt of his wife, his children, his ſervants, of all ſober ſpectators, which hath proved the cauſe that it hath never been the reigning vice of any people poſſeſſed of refinement of manners. Nay, drunkenneſs has only prevailed among the ſavage and uncivilized, among thoſe of ruder underſtandings and leſs delicacy of ſentiment. Crimes, as there are in men, there muſt be in all nations; but the more civilized have perceived drunkenneſs to be ſuch an offence againſt common decency, ſuch a proſtitution of one's ſelf to the ridicule and ſcoffs of the meaneſt, that, in whatever elſe they might tranſgreſs, they would not do it in this particular; but leave a vice of ſuch a degrading nature to the wild and uncultivated—to the ſtupid and undiſtinguiſhed part of mankind—to thoſe who had no notion of propriety of character, and decency of conduct. How late this vice became the reproach of our countrymen we find in Camden's annals. Under the year 1581 he has this obſervation:

'The

'The English, who hitherto had, of all the northern nations, shewn themselves the least addicted to immoderate drinking, and been commended for their sobriety, first learned, in these wars in the Netherlands, to swallow a large quantity of intoxicating liquor, and to destroy their own health by drinking that of others.'

There is hardly any vice which entails more complicated miseries upon the unhappy wretch that is a slave to it than drunkenness. It gradually undermines the strength and vigour both of body and mind. We every day see the most deplorable effects of this most shameful vice in the ruined health, constitution, and fortune of vast numbers of our fellow-creatures. How many ingenious and industrious persons has this rendered useless and worthless! How many happy families doth this daily reduce to indigence and beggary! How many innocent sufferers doth it involve in its deplorable consequences! How many have I known who began life creditably and reputably, with a basis, on which, through industry and virtue, to rear the structure of an ample fortune, by contracting these fatal and cursed habits have ruined themselves and their families for ever! For, of all vices, there is none so incurable as this, when it is once contracted. Other vices leave us with age: This fixes its root deeper, and acquires strength and firmness with revolving years. It kindles an infernal spark which is absolutely inextinguishable.

Besides, drunkenness is an inlet to all wickedness. For, when a man has no reason to direct him, he is prepared for any enormity. It gives every species of temptation power over us, by disqualifying us for consideration, and by extinguishing in us all regard to prudence and caution.

It stimulates us to follow the rashest advice of our companions, because not allowing us to reason upon it, and incapacitating us for self-government, it of course abandons us to the guidance of those with whom we are most pleased, of those who give into all our excesses.

It certainly lays us open to the greatest crimes; because, when we are thoroughly heated by the inebriating draught, we then are inamoured with what is daring

daring and extravagant—we then aſpire to bold and deſperate undertakings, and that which is moſt licentious then carries with it the appearance of a great and glorious enterpriſe, adapted to a courageous and intrepid mind. Hence rapes, adulteries, murders, acts of the laſt inhumanity and barbarity, have been perpetrated—actions, for which, if the very thoughts of them could have entered their minds in their ſober moments, they would juſtly have abhorred themſelves. Alexander the great, at the inſtigation of a drunken harlot, iſſued from his cups with torches, and burnt Perſepolis, the metropolis of the Perſian empire, one of the moſt ſtately and magnificent cities in the whole world.

The moſt fatal miſchief, from which one branch of the medical profeſſion derives its principal ſupport, very frequently reſults from a ſtate of intoxication. Young perſons, when inflamed with wine, heſitate not to throw themſelves, in this ſtate of inebriaty, into the arms of the very loweſt claſs of proſtitutes, with whom all great cities ſwarm in the midnight hours—creatures, covered with filth, itch, and rags, putrid with diſeaſe, and devoured with vermin, whom, in their ſenſes and ſober hours, they would have regarded with the utmoſt deteſtation and horror.

I am,

Your affectionate Uncle, &c.

LETTER CXXXVI.

On Affectation and Simplicity.

IF I was aſked which of all the qualities that conſtitute an amiable character would ſingly go fartheſt in gaining my love and admiration, I ſhould anſwer, without heſitation, ſimplicity. I cannot ſuppoſe myſelf peculiar in this preference: for I have obſerved the general attraction of this quality, which operates even on thoſe who are themſelves moſt deficient in it. How comes it then to paſs that an exceſſive deſire of admiration always ſhews itſelf in affectation of ſome kind or other? That every one ſhould, in proportion to the ſtrength of this deſire, act in a manner which moſt effectually defeats the accompliſhment of it, is ſurely

ſurely a phenomenon in the moral world, not unworthy the enquiry of philoſophers.

Affectation is ſo univerſally acknowledged to be diſguſting, that it is among the faults which the moſt intimate friends cannot venture gravely to reprove in each other; for, to tell your friends that they are habitually affected, is to tell them that they are habitually diſagreeable; which nobody can bear to hear. I beg leave, therefore, as a general friend, without offending any one, to whiſper to all thoſe whoſe hearts confeſs that vanity has inſpired them with any ſort of affectation, that it never does, nor ever can ſucceed as a means of pleaſing.

I have a thouſand times wiſhed to tell Flirtilla, that the efforts ſhe makes to be conſtantly in motion, and perpetually giggling, do not paſs upon me for the vivacity of youth: I ſee they coſt her a great deal of trouble, and it gives me an irritation of nerves to look at her; ſo that it would have been much for her eaſe and mine, could I have ventured to beg that ſhe would always in my preſence give way to her natural langour and dulneſs, which would be far more agreeable to me.

Glorioſa, whenever a remarkable inſtance of generoſity or goodneſs is mentioned, takes infinite pains, with the moſt pompous eloquence, to convince me that the action ſeems poor to the greatneſs of her ſoul —that ſhe ſhould think half her fortune a trifling gift to a worthy friend—that ſhe would rather ſuffer the moſt exquiſite pain herſelf, than ſee a fellow-creature, tho' a ſtranger to her, endure it—and that it is a nobler effort in her to refrain from the moſt generous actions, than it would be in the greateſt miſer to perform them.—I long to let her know, that the only effect theſe declarations produce in my mind is, a doubt, which I ſhould otherwiſe never have entertained, whether ſhe really poſſeſſes even the common portion of good nature and benevolence.

Humanus, on the other hand, need not be ſo much aſhamed of his tenderneſs and goodneſs of heart—which is the only agreeable part of his character, and which all his affected roughneſs and inſenſibility cannot hide. Be content, good Humanus; you never can attain the reputation to which you aſpire, of a ſtern unfeel-

unfeeling heart; we all know you are good-natured and affectionate; and it is for the sake of these qualities alone that we endure all the disgusting airs of brutality you give yourself.

Poor young Saunter, having observed that the few men of fashion and fortune who admit him into their company are gamesters and debauchees, thinks nothing more is necessary to make him appear like a man of fashion and fortune than to be thought a gamester and debauchee. To this end he really practises some vices, and professes many more. He will entertain you for hours with boasting of ruinous betts which he never made, and riotous debauches of which he never was guilty. But nobody believes him: every body knows that the poor young man would be sober enough, if he thought it genteel; and, notwithstanding the great spirit with which he professes to despise his too indulgent father, and to wish him dead, there are strong suspicions that he is not absolutely without natural affection, and that he really does not behave ill to the good old man, except in the article of spending too much of his money. Let me persuade you, Saunter, to make an experiment, whether the world would not receive you as well with a few good qualities, as with all the bad ones you assume. If you find it does not succeed, you may more easily return to the ways of vice, than you could to those of virtue should you delay much longer, and should you ever have sense enough to perceive what a despicable animal vanity has made you

The important airs and insolence of a rich mechanic just setting up for a gentleman, is not a more decisive mark of a low-lived man, than the over-strained humility of Superbia is of an immeasureable pride. Whilst she depreciates herself in every sentence, and affects to exalt her companions so far above her, that she will scarcely allow herself to converse with them, she makes them feel her proud condescension in a manner that is more offensive than the most openly assumed superiority. Her aim is, to place in the strongest point of view the advantages she has, or thinks she has over them, and then to be supposed superior in herself to all those advantages, and adorned with such humility as must heighten their respect

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and admiration. Poor woman! ſhe fails in both theſe aims. Her affected humility renders her contemptibly ridiculous; and her real pride arms every body's ſelf-love againſt her, and diſpoſes them to undervalue thoſe circumſtances on which they ſee ſhe founds her conſequence.

As liars often preſume ſo far on the politeneſs of the company—which forbids the flat contradiction of a matter of fact—as to utter the moſt palpable falſehoods; ſo the perſons I have deſcribed preſume, on the ſame grounds, that every one they converſe with is the dupe of their affectation. A little better opinion of the ſagacity of others would ſave both the affected and the cunning a world of unneceſſary trouble. Cunning does indeed ſometimes ſucceed in deceiving the particular perſon to whom it is applied; but a man characteriſtically artful is almoſt always ſeen through by the generality of the world. Affected geſtures, manner, or ſentiments in converſation are obvious to every underſtanding: every one joins in pronouncing them ridiculous.—One of the moſt affected women I ever knew, ſaid to me once, in a tone of the utmoſt langour, "You know one had better be dead than be affected!"—Thus, all condemn what they expect to be admired for; and hope, againſt all reaſon and probability, to impoſe on the world by the ſame arts which they can themſelves ſo eaſily diſcern in others, and ſo readily join to deride.

Whilſt the vain man is painfully ſtriving to outſhine all the company, and to attract their admiration, by falſe wit, forced compliments, and ſtudied graces, he muſt ſurely be mortified to obſerve how conſtantly Simplicius engages their attention, reſpect, and complacency, without having once thought of himſelf as a perſon of any conſequence amongſt them. Simplicius imparts his ſuperior knowledge, when called upon, as eaſily and naturally as he would tell you what it is o'clock; and with the ſame readineſs and good will informs the moſt ignorant, or confers with the moſt learned. He is as willing to receive information as to give it, and to join the company, as far as he is able, in the moſt trifling converſation into which they happen to fall, as in the moſt ſerious or ſublime. If he diſputes, it is with as much candour on the moſt important

portant and interesting, as on the most insignificant subjects, and he is not less patient in hearing than in answering his antagonist. If you talk to him of himself, or his works, he accepts praise, or acknowledges defects, with equal meekness. and it is impossible to suspect him of affectation in either. We are more obliged and gratified by the plain unexaggerated expressions of his regard, than by the compliments and attentions of the most accomplished pattern of high breeding; because his benevolence and sincerity are so strongly marked in every look, word, and action, that we are convinced his civilities are offered for our sakes, not for his own; and are the natural effects of real kindness not the studied ornaments of behaviour. Every one is desirous to shew him kindness in return, which we know will be accepted just as it is meant. All are ready to pay him that deference which he does not desire, and to give him credit for more than he assumes, or even for more than he possesses. With a person ungraceful, and with manners unpolished by the world, his behaviour is always proper, easy, and espectable; as free from constraint and servility in he highest company as from haughtiness and insolence in the lowest. His dignity arises from his humility; and the sweetness, gentleness, and frankness of his manners from the real goodness and rectitude of his heart, which lies open to inspection in all the fearlessness of truth, without any need of disguise or ornament.

Where this foundation of real virtue is wanting, every art of pleasing is but the thin superficial covering of deformity, which becomes the more disgusting by the pains taken to dress it in false colours. No wonder then that simplicity is so sure of attracting love and approbation, since it implies almost every other virtue. No wonder that the heart, where envy, pride, and vanity reside, will not venture to trust itself to the lips or eyes. "Dare to be what you are," is a good maxim; but it will only be put in practice by those who are what they ought to be. Every one may however rest assured, that they are generally known for what they are, and that falsehood, like Cain, has a mark set upon it by heaven. This mark may not be discerned on a superficial view, nor by the

foolish, the young, and inexperienced; but in a short course of years it will be discovered by so many eyes, that the world cannot be kept ignorant of it, and it will then be punished by the scorn it deserves.

Whoever, therefore, desires to please, to be respected and beloved, let him first give his attention to the inward state of his mind. When all is right there, outward elegancies may be easily attained, or the want of them easily excused. But if nature and the heart have not a share in dictating his behaviour, his looks, and his sentiments, he may be a sop, a dancing master, a coutier, or a spy; but he can never be an amiable man.

LETTER CXXXVII.

On the Government of the Temper. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

ONE very great point of importance to your future happiness, my dear, is what your parents have, doubtless, been continually attentive to from your infancy, as it is impossible to undertake it too early—I mean the due regulation of your temper. Though you are in a great measure indebted to their forming hands for whatever is good in it, you are sensible, no doubt, as every human creature is, of propensities to some infirmity of temper, which it must now be your own care to correct and to subdue; otherwise the pains that have hitherto been taken with you may all become fruitless: and, when you are your own mistress, you may relapse into those faults, which were originally in your nature, and which will require to be diligently watched and kept under, through the whole course of your life.

If you consider, that the constant tenor of the gospel precepts is to promote love, peace, and good-will amongst men, you will not doubt that the cultivation of an amiable disposition is a great part of your religious duty; since nothing leads more directly to the breach of charity, and to the injury and molestation of our fellow-creatures, than the indulgence of an ill temper. Do not therefore think lightly of the offences you may commit, for want of a due command

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over it, or ſuppoſe yourſelf reſponſible for them to your fellow-creatures only; but, be aſſured, you muſt give a ſtrict account of them all to the ſupreme Governor of the world, who has made this a great part of your appointed trial upon earth.

A woman, bred up in a religious manner, placed above the reach of want and out of the way of ſordid or ſcandalous vices, can have but few temptations to the flagrant breach of the divine laws. It particularly concerns her therefore to underſtand them in their full import, and to conſider how far ſhe treſpaſſes againſt them, by ſuch actions as appear trivial, when compared with murder, adultery, and theft, but which become of very great importance, by being frequently repeated, and occurring in the daily tranſactions of life.

The principal virtues or vices of a woman muſt be of a private and domeſtic kind. Within the circle of her own family and dependants lies her ſphere of action—the ſcene of almoſt all thoſe taſks and trials, which muſt determine her character, and her fate, here, and hereafter. Reflect, for a moment, how much the happineſs of her huſband, children, and ſervants, muſt depend on her temper, and you will ſee that the greateſt good, or evil, which ſhe ever may have in her power to do, may ariſe from her correcting or indulging its infirmities.

Though I with the principle of duty towards God to be your ruling motive in the exerciſe of every virtue, yet, as human nature ſtands in need of all poſſible helps, let us not forget how eſſential it is to preſent happineſs, and to the enjoyment of this life, to cultivate ſuch a temper as is likewiſe indiſpenſibly requiſite to the attainment of higher felicity in the life to come. The greateſt outward bleſſings cannot afford enjoyment to a mind ruffled and uneaſy within itſelf. A fit of ill humour will ſpoil the fineſt entertainment, and is as real a torment as the moſt painful diſeaſe. Another unavoidable conſequence of ill temper is the diſlike and averſion of all who are witneſſes to it, and, perhaps, the deep and laſting reſentment of thoſe, who ſuffer from its effects. We all, from ſocial or ſelf-love, earneſtly deſire the eſteem and affection of our fellow-creatures; and indeed our

condition makes them so necessary to us, that the wretch who has forfeited them, must feel desolate and undone, deprived of all the best enjoyments, and comforts the world can afford, and given up to his inward misery, unpitied and scorned. But this never can be the fate of a good-natured person: whatever faults he may have, they will generally be treated with lenity; he will find an advocate in every human heart; his errors will be lamented rather than abhorred; and his virtues will be viewed in the fairest point of light: His good humour, without the help of great talents or acquirements, will make his company preferable to that of the most brilliant genius, in whom this quality is wanting: In short, it is almost impossible that you can be sincerely beloved by any body, without this engaging property, whatever other excellencies you may possess; but, with it, you will scarcely fail of finding some friends and favourers, even though you should be destitute of almost every other advantage.

Perhaps you will say, "all this is very true, but "our tempers are not in our power—we are made "with different dispositions, and, if mine is not ami-"able, it is rather my unhappiness than my fault." This, my dear, is commonly said by those who will not take the trouble to correct themselves. Yet, be assured, it is a delusion, and will not avail in our justification before him, "who knoweth whereof we are made," and of what we are capable. It is true, we are not all equally happy in our dispositions; but human virtue consists in cherishing and cultivating every good inclination, and in checking and subduing every propensity to evil. If you had been born with a bad temper, it might have been made a good one, at least with regard to its outward effects, by education, reason, and principle: and, though you are so happy as to have a good one while young, do not suppose it will always continue so, if you neglect to maintain a proper command over it. Power, sickness, disappointments, or worldly cares, may corrupt and imbitter the finest disposition, if they are not counteracted by reason and religion.

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LETTER CXXXVIII.

On the first Principles of Religion. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

THOUGH you are so happy as to have parents, who are both capable and desirous of giving you all proper instruction, yet I, who love you so tenderly, cannot help fondly wishing to contribute something, if possible, to your improvement and welfare: And, as I am so far separated from you, that it is only by pen and ink I can offer you my sentiments, I will hope that your attention may be engaged, by seeing on paper, from the hand of one of your warmest friends, truths of the highest importance, which, though you may not find new, can never be too deeply engraven on your mind.

You are now in your fifteenth year, and must soon act for yourself; therefore it is high time to store your mind with those principles, which must direct your conduct, and fix your character. If you desire to live in peace and honour, in favour with God and man, and to die in the glorious hope of rising from the grave to a life of endless happiness—if these things appear worthy your ambition, you must set out in earnest in the pursuit of them. Consider, that good and evil are now before you, that, if you do not heartily choose and love the one, you must undoubtedly be the wretched victim of the other. Your trial is now begun; you must either become one of the glorious children of God, who are to rejoice in his love for ever, or a child of destruction—miserable in this life, and punished with eternal death hereafter.

The first step must be to awaken your mind to a sense of the importance of the task before you. To this end, you must inform your understanding what you ought to believe, and to do.—You must correct and purify your heart; cherish and improve all its good affections; and continually mortify and subdue those that are evil.—You must form and govern your temper and manners, according to the laws of benevolence and justice; and qualify yourself, by all means in your power, for an useful and agreeable member of society. When once you consider life,

and the duties of life, in this manner, you will listen eagerly to the voice of instruction and admonition, and seize every opportunity of improvement; every useful hint will be laid up in your heart, and your chief delight will be in those persons, and those books, from which you can learn true wisdom.

The only sure foundation of human virtue is religion, and the foundation and first principle of religion is the belief of the one only God, and a just sense of his attributes. This you will think you have learned long since, and possess in common with almost every human creature in this enlightened age and nation; but, believe me, it is less common than you imagine, to believe in the true God—that is, to form such a notion of the Deity as is agreeable to truth, consistent with those infinite perfections, which all profess to ascribe to him. The kindest and best of Beings, who made all creatures in bountiful goodness, who condescends to stile himself our father! and, who pitieth us, as a father pitieth his own children!—Let your devotion then be the language of filial love and gratitude; confide to this kindest of fathers every want, and every wish of your heart;—but submit them all to his will, and freely offer him the disposal of yourself, and of all your affairs. Thank him for his benefits, and even for his punishments—convinced that these also are benefits, and mercifully designed for your good. Implore his direction in all difficulties; his assistance in all trials; his comfort and support in sickness or affliction; his restraining grace in the time of prosperity and joy. Do not persist in desiring what his providence denies you; but be assured it is not good for you. Refuse not any thing he allots you, but embrace it as the best and propereſt for you. Forget not to dedicate yourself to his service every day; to implore his forgiveness of your faults, and his protection from evil every night: And this not merely in formal words, unaccompanied by any act of the mind, but "in spirit and in truth;" in grateful love and humble adoration. Nor let these stated periods of worship be your only communication with him; accustom yourself to think often of him, in all your waking hours;—to contemplate his wisdom and power, in the works of his hands—to acknowledge his goodness in

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every object of use or of pleasure—to delight in giving him praise in your inmost heart, in the midst of every innocent gratification—in the liveliest hour of social enjoyment. You cannot conceive if you have not experienced, how much silent acts of gratitude and love will enhance every pleasure; nor what sweet serenity and chearfulness such reflections will diffuse over your mind. On the other hand, when you are suffering pain or sorrow, when you are confined to an unpleasant situation, or engaged in a painful duty, how will it support and animate you, to refer yourself to your Almighty Father!—to be assured that he knows your state and your intentions; that no effort of virtue is lost in his sight, nor the least of your actions or sufferings disregarded or forgotten!—that his hand is ever over you, to ward off every real evil, which is not the effect of your own ill conduct, and to relieve every suffering that is not useful to your future well-being!

Do not, therefore, think it too soon to turn your mind to God; but offer him the first fruits of your understanding and affections: And be assured, that the more you increase in love to him, and delight in his laws, the more you will increase in happiness, in excellence, and honour:—That, in proportion as you improve in true piety, you will become dear and amiable to your fellow-creatures; contented and peaceful in yourself; and qualified to enjoy the best blessings of this life, as well as to inherit the glorious promise of immortality.

Thus far I have spoken of the first principles of all religion: namely, belief in God, worthy notions of his attributes, and suitable affections towards him—which will naturally excite a sincere desire of obedience. But, before you can obey his will, you must know what that will is; you must enquire in what manner he has declared it, and where you may find those laws, which must be the rule of your actions. Therefore, God has vouchsafed to grant a particular revelation of his will—If he has been so unspeakably gracious, as to send his son into the world to reclaim mankind from error and wickedness—to die for our sins—and to teach us the way of eternal life—surely it becomes us to receive his precepts with the deepest reve-

reverence; to love and prize them above all things; and to ſtudy them conſtantly, with an earneſt deſire to conform our thoughts, our words, and actions to them.

As you advance in years and underſtanding, I hope you will be able to examine for yourſelf the evidences of the chriſtian religion, and be convinced, on rational grounds, of its divine authority. It is your duty to believe that the holy ſcriptures are writings inſpired by God, containing a true hiſtory of facts, in which we are deeply concerned—a true recital of the laws given by God to Moſes, and of the precepts of our bleſſed Lord and Saviour, delivered from his own mouth to his diſciples, and repeated and enlarged upon in the edifying epiſtles of his apoſtles—who were men choſen from amongſt thoſe, who had the advantage of converſing with our Lord, to bear witneſs of his miracles and reſurrection—and who, after his aſcenſion, were aſſiſted and inſpired by the Holy Ghoſt. This ſacred volume muſt be the rule of your life. In it you will find all truths neceſſary to be believed; and plain and eaſy directions, for the practice of every duty: Your bible then muſt be your chief ſtudy and delight. Our Saviour's precepts were ſpoken to the common people amongſt the jews; and were therefore given in a manner eaſy to be underſtood, and equally ſtriking and inſtructive to the learned and unlearned: For the moſt ignorant may comprehend them, whilſt the wiſeſt muſt be charmed and awed, by the beautiful and majeſtic ſimplicity with which they are expreſſed. Of the ſame kind are the Ten Commandments, delivered by God to Moſes; which, as they were deſigned for univerſal laws, are worded in the moſt conciſe and ſimple manner, yet with a Majeſty, which commands our utmoſt reverence. May you be enabled to make the beſt uſe of this moſt precious gift of God—this ſacred treaſury of knowledge! May you read the bible, not as a taſk, nor as the dull employment of that day only in which you are forbidden more lively entertainments—but, with a ſincere and ardent deſire of inſtruction; with that love and delight in God's word, which the holy Pſalmiſt ſo pathetically felt and deſcribed, and which is the natural conſequence of loving God and virtue!

Adieu,

Adieu, my beloved niece! If the feelings of your heart, whilst you read my letters, correspond with those of mine, whilst I write them, I shall not be without the advantage of your partial affection, to give weight to my advice; for believe me, my own dear girl, my heart and eyes overflow with tenderness, while I tell you, with how warm and earnest prayers for your happiness here, and hereafter, I subscribe myself.

Your faithful Friend,

And most affectionate Aunt, &c.

LETTER CXXXIX.

On Occonomy. By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

OEconomy is so important a part of a woman's character, so necessary to her own happiness, and so essential to her performing properly the duties of a wife and of a mother, that it ought to have the precedence of all other accomplishments, and take its rank next to the first duties of life. It is, moreover, an art as well as a virtue—and, many well-meaning persons, from ignorance, or from inconsideration, are strangely deficient in it. I would, therefore, earnestly advise you to make use of every opportunity you can find, for the laying in some store of knowledge on this subject, before you are called upon to the practice; by observing what passes before you—by consulting prudent and experienced mistresses of families—and by entering in a book a memorandum of every new piece of intelligence you acquire: You may afterwards compare these with more mature observations, and you can make additions and corrections as you see occasion.

The first and greatest point is to lay out your general plan of living in a just proportion to your fortune and rank: If these two will not coincide, the last must certainly give way; for, if you have right principles, you cannot fail of being wretched under the sense of the injustice as well as danger of spending beyond your income, and your distress will be continually in-

increaſing. No mortifications, which you can ſuffer from retrenching in your appearance, can be comparable to this unhappineſs. If you would enjoy the real comforts of affluence, you ſhould lay your plan conſiderably within your income; not for the pleaſure of amaſſing wealth—though, where there is a growing family, it is an abſolute duty to lay by ſomething every year—but to provide for contingencies, and to have the power of indulging your choice in the diſpoſal of the overplus—either in innocent pleaſures, or to increaſe your funds for charity and generoſity, which are in fact the true funds of pleaſure.

Perhaps it may be ſaid, that the ſettling the general ſcheme of expences is ſeldom the wife's province, and that many men do not chooſe even to acquaint her with the real ſtate of their affairs. Where this is the caſe, a woman can be anſwerable for no more than is entruſted to her. But I think it a very ill-ſign, for one or both of the parties, where there is ſuch a want of openneſs, in what equally concerns them. As I truſt you will deſerve the confidence of your buſband, ſo I hope you will be allowed free conſultation with him on your mutual intereſts; and, I believe, there are few men, who would not hearken to reaſon on their own affairs, when they ſaw a wife ready and deſirous to give up her ſhare of vanities and indulgences, and only earneſt to promote the common good of the family.

Your own expences of clothes and pocket-money, ſhould be ſettled and circumſcribed, that you may be ſure not to exceed the juſt proportion. I think it an admirable method to appropriate ſuch a portion of your income, as you judge proper to beſtow in charity, to be ſacredly kept for that purpoſe, and no longer conſidered as your own. By which means, you will avoid the temptation of giving leſs than you ought, through ſelfiſhneſs, or more than you ought, through good-nature or weakneſs. If your circumſtances allow of it, you might ſet apart another fund for acts of liberality or friendſhip, which do not come under the head of charity. The having ſuch funds ready at hand, makes it eaſy and pleaſant to give; and, when acts of bounty are performed without effort, they are generally done more kind and effectually.

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Regularity of payments and accounts is essential to economy:—your house-keeping should be settled at least once a week, and all the bills paid. You must endeavour to acquire skill in purchasing: in order to this, you should begin now to attend to the prices of things, and take every proper opportunity of learning the real value of every thing, as well as the marks whereby you are to distinguish the good from the bad.

In your table, as in your dress, and in all other things, I wish you to aim at propriety and neatness, or, if your state demands it, elegance, rather than superfluous figure. To go beyond your sphere, either in dress, or in the appearance of your table, indicates a greater fault in your character than to be too much within it. It is impossible to enter into the minutiæ of the table: Good sense and observation on the best models must form your taste, and a due regard to what you can afford must restrain it.

LETTER CXL.

On the Regulation of the Heart and Affections.
By a Lady.

My dear Niece,

THE attachments of the heart, on which almost all the happiness or misery of life depends, are most interesting objects of our consideration. I shall give my dear niece the observations which experience has enabled me to draw from real life, and not from what others have said or written, however great their authority.

The first attachment of young hearts is friendship—the noblest and happiest of affections, when real and built on a solid foundation. Do not you, my dear, be too ready to profess a friendship with any of your young companions. Love them, and be always ready to serve and oblige them, and to promote all their innocent gratifications: but, be very careful how you enter into confidences with girls of your own age. Rather choose some person of riper years and judgment, whose good-nature and worthy principles may assure you of her readiness to do you service, and of her candour and condescension towards you. She will

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be able to advise and to improve you—and, your desire of this assistance will recommend you to her taste, as much as superior abilities will recommend her to you. Such a connection will afford you more pleasure, as well as more profit, than you can expect from a girl like yourself, equally unprovided with knowledge, prudence, or any of those qualifications, which are necessary to make society delightful. Whenever you find yourself in real want of advice, or seek the relief of unburdening your heart, such a friend will be able to judge of the feelings you describe, or of the circumstances you are in—perhaps from her own experience—or at least from the knowledge she will have gained of human nature; she will be able to point out your dangers, and to guide you into the right path—or, if she finds herself incapable, she will have the prudence to direct you to some abler adviser. She will have more materials for entertaining conversation, and her livelinefs will shew itself more agreeably than in one of your own age.

I hope, my dear, you in your turn will be this useful and engaging friend to your younger companions, particularly to your sisters and brothers, who ought ever—unless they should prove unworthy—to be your nearest and dearest friends, whose interest and welfare you are bound to desire as much as your own. A real friend will venture to displease you, rather than indulge your faulty inclinations, or increase your natural frailties; she will endeavour to make you acquainted with yourself, and will put you upon guarding the weak parts of your character.

Friendship, in the highest sense of the word, can only subsist between persons of strict integrity, and true generosity. Before you fancy yourself possessed of such a treasure, you should examine the value of your own heart, and see how well it is qualified for so sacred a connection: And then, a harder task remains—to find out whether the object of your affection is also endued with the same virtuous disposition. If you should give any weight to my observations, it may not be quite useless to mention to you some of the essential requisites in a friend; and to exhort you never to choose one in whom they are wanting.

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The first of these is a deep and sincere regard for religion. If your friend draws her principles from the same source with yourself, if the gospel precepts are the rule of her life, as well as of yours, you will always know what to expect from her, and have one common standard of right and wrong to refer to, by which to regulate all material points of conduct. The woman who thinks lightly of sacred things, or who is ever heard to speak of them with levity or indifference, cannot reasonably be expected to pay a more serious regard to the laws of friendship, or to be uniformly punctual in the performance of any of the duties of society: Take no such person to your bosom, however recommended by good humour, wit, or any other qualification; nor let gaiety or thoughtlessness be deemed an excuse for offending in this important point: A person, habituated to the love and reverence of religion and virtue, no more wants the guard of serious consideration to restrain her from speaking disrespectfully of them than to prevent her speaking ill of her dearest friend. Watch for these symptoms of innocence and goodness, and admit no one to your entire affection, who would ever persuade you to make light of any sort of offence, or who can treat, with levity or contempt, any person or thing that bears a relation to religion.

A due regard to reputation is the next indispensable qualification.—The young person who is careless of blame, and indifferent to the wise and prudent part of the world, is not only a most dangerous companion, but gives a certain proof of the want of rectitude in her own mind. Discretion is the guardian of all the virtues; and, when she forsakes them, they cannot longer resist the attacks of an enemy. There is a profligacy of spirit in defying the rules of decorum, and despising censure, which seldom ends otherwise than in extreme corruption and utter ruin. Modesty and prudence are qualities that early display themselves, and are easily discerned: Where these do not appear, you should avoid not only friendship, but every step towards intimacy, lest your own character should suffer with that of your companion; but, where they shine forth in any eminent degree, you may safely cultivate an acquaintance, in the reasonable

hope of finding the ſolid fruits of virtue beneath ſuch ſweet and promiſing bloſſoms.

A good temper is the next qualification, the value of which in a friend, you will want no arguments to prove, when you are truly convinced of the neceſſity of it in yourſelf. But, as this is a quality in which you may be deceived, without a long and intimate acquaintance, you muſt not be haſty in forming connections, before you have had ſufficient opportunity for making obſervations on this head. A young perſon, when pleaſed and enlivened by the preſence of her youthful companions, ſeldom ſhews ill-temper; which muſt be extreme indeed, if it is not at leaſt controlable in ſuch ſituations. But, you muſt watch her behaviour to her own family, and the degree of eſtimation ſhe ſtands in with them. Obſerve her manner to ſervants and inferiors—to children—and even to animals. See in what manner ſhe bears diſappointments, contradiction, and reſtraint; and what degree of vexation ſhe expreſſes on any accident of loſs or trouble. If in ſuch little trials ſhe ſhews a meek, reſigned, and chearful temper, ſhe will probably preſerve it on greater occaſions; but if ſhe is impatient and diſcontented under theſe, how will ſhe ſupport the far greater evils which may await her in her progreſs through life?—If you ſhould have an opportunity of ſeeing her in ſickneſs, obſerve whether her complaints are of a mild and gentle kind—forced from her by pain, and reſtrained as much as poſſible—or whether they are expreſſions of a turbulent, rebellious mind, that hardly ſubmits to the divine hand. See whether ſhe is tractable, conſiderate, kind, and grateful to thoſe about her; or whether ſhe takes the opportunity, which their compaſſion gives her, to tyrannize over, and torment them.

I am your affectionate Aunt, &c.

LETTER CXLI.

From a young Merchant to an aged Gentleman, formerly of the same Profession, but now retired from Business.

Honoured Sir,

YOUR generosity in sending me instructions during my apprenticeship, will ever remain a lasting proof of that innate goodness for which you have been long justly celebrated, and likewise encourages me to trouble you for advice how to conduct myself, so as to support my credit in the world, now I am entered upon business. Your long and extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs gives a sanction to every thing you say, and your goodness of heart encourages the unexperienced to address themselves to you with chearfulness. I have been now about two years in business, and although my success has been equal to my expectations, yet there are such a variety of failures daily in this city, that I am every day thinking my own name may be that week in the Gazette. I should not be much surprized, were none to become bankrupts save those of abandoned characters, as I do not see how any thing less can be expected. You know, Sir, that assiduity and regularity are qualifications indispensably necessary to the merchant; so that it must appear morally impossible for the man to prosper in trade, whose time is spent in dissipation and idleness, if not (which too often happens) in debauchery. When I hear of such failing in their payments, I am no ways surprized; but when great numbers of those apparently in affluent circumstances, and the fairest characters, daily fail, I am justly alarmed, and my fears continue to increase in proportion to their numbers.

I would not chuse to judge rashly, much less uncharitably of any man; although I must confess I am very much shocked when I hear, that a commission of bankruptcy is awarded against one supposed worth thousands, and not sufficient left to pay five shillings in the pound. I am filled with horror on account of my own situation, and led to believe, that there is a latent curse attending mercantile affairs, which the

 greatest

greatest prudence can neither foresee nor prevent. I am sensible that the person to whom I am writing, knows the above to be true. Your long acquaintance with the fluctuating state of merchandize, procures respect, and gives a sanction to every thing you say. But as far as I am able to learn, those failings in the mercantile world are more frequent now than when you was engaged in trade. I am not ambitious of acquiring riches, my whole desire is, to obtain a peaceable possession of the comforts of life, to do justice to every one with whom I have any dealings, and to live and die an honest man. Such, Sir, is the plan I have laid down for my future conduct in life; but alas! it will require the assistance of all my friends to enable me to execute it with a becoming propriety. Let me therefore beg your advice on an affair of so much importance, and whatever you dictate shall be the invariable rule of my conduct, whilst the thanks of a grateful heart shall be continually returned for so benevolent an action:

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant, &c.

LETTER CXLII.

The Answer.

Sir,

IF I can form any judgment of the integrity of your actions, and the purity of your intentions from the contents of the letter now before me, I should not hesitate one moment in declaring, that it is almost impossible your name will ever appear in the Gazette under the disagreeable circumstances you have mentioned: for how is it possible to suppose that the man who keeps a regular account of his proceedings, his loss and gain, should not know whether his circumstances are affluent or distressed? And whatever you may think of those merchants who have often failed, although reputed affluent, yet if you had attended to their examination before the commissioners, I believe you would have great reason to alter your opinion. I speak concerning bankruptcies in general; for there are some unforeseen accidents, which even the greatest pru-

prudence cannot prevent. But these are extraordinary cases, and seldom happen. If you examine minutely into the nature of those causes which generally occasion bankruptcies, you will find them arising from something with which you are still unacquainted. I shall endeavour to point out a few, and submit to your own judgment, whether I am mistaken or not. And the first is generally a careless attention to business, the not keeping regular accounts, and a more earnest desire after public entertainments, than assiduity to business on the change. Mercantile affairs require a clear and solid judgment, and it is morally impossible for that man to prosper in trade, whose mind is continually engaged in the pursuit of things foreign to, and wholly unconnected with that station in which providence has placed him. It is a contradiction in terms. Assiduity always procures respect, and generally insures success. Another cause of the many failures in the mercantile world, is the vanity of those in trade, living above their circumstances. This vice is at present so predominant among the citizens, and its consequences so fatal, that one would almost imagine the people were labouring under some penal infatuation. Formerly the citizens of London were distinguished in a peculiar manner for their gravity; the change and the custom-house were the only places they frequented, when they went from home. But now the face of affairs is changed, and those places where their predecessors acquired fortunes, are considered as too low and vulgar for them to be seen at. Nay, so far have they carried their extravagance, that all distinctions are in a manner confounded, and the wife of a tradesman is hardly known from the lady of a peer. Dissipation, extravagance, and even debauchery have taken place of activity, prudence, and frugality, that instead of acquiring independent fortunes, and retiring from business with credit and honour in their advanced years, we first see their names in the Gazette, and the remainder of their lives is either spent in prison, or they are left to struggle through the world without credit, under the odious appellation of a bankrupt. The last cause I would mention, is naturally the effect of the others, I mean, a desperate attempt to repair a broken for-

tune, by engaging too deeply at gaming in the alley. This practice has been attended with ſuch pernicious conſequences, that the children unborn will become real ſufferers through the madneſs of their infatuated parents. When thoſe who have waſted their ſubſtance in riotous living, are wakened by a feeling ſenſe of their approaching ſhame and miſery, they generally muſter up all they can procure, and at one ſtroke venture it all in the alley, where, if one is ſucceſsful, moſt commonly twenty are ruined. What I have now told you, is the reſult of long experience, and I doubt not but you will find too glaring proofs of it. It now remains, that I ſhould in compliance with your requeſt, point out ſome rules to be obſerved, in order to carry on buſineſs, both with credit, honour, and profit. But I know of no method more proper than to act diametrically oppoſite to the conduct of thoſe already mentioned.

Learn to be wiſe by others harm,
And you ſhall do full well.

Never leave that undone till to-morrow that can be performed to-day.

Never truſt that to either a friend or a ſervant which can be done by yourſelf.

Keep an account of every day's expence, and once at leaſt every week compare your debt with your credit.

Be not over anxious in acquiring riches. Trade is ſolid but ſlow, and experience has long ſince convinced me, that thoſe who are over haſty in acquiring riches, moſt commonly fail in their attempts, and ſoon find themſelves real beggars: But above all, remember, that, "in vain do we riſe ſoon or ſit up late, "unleſs our labours are crowned with divine bleſ-"ſings." I leave theſe things to your conſideration, and am with Great ſincerity,

Your well-wiſher, &c.

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LETTER CXLIII.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, concerning Prejudice.

Sir,

I Was lately in company with ſeveral gentlemen, and as the converſation turned upon a variery of ſubjects, I was much ſurprized to find every one prejudiced to his own favourite opinion, without being able to aſſign a reaſon why they could ſo haſtily take upon themſelves to dogmatiſe with ſo much aſſurance.

Among the various errors, into which human nature is liable to fall, there are ſome which people of a true underſtanding are perfectly ſenſible of in themſelves, yet either wanting a ſtrength of reſolution to break through what by long cuſtom has become habitual, or being of too indolent a temper to endeavour an alteration, ſtill perſiſt to act in contradiction to the dictates of even their own reaſon and judgment. What we call prejudice, or prepoſſeſſion, is certainly that which ſtands foremoſt in the rank of ſervility. It is the great ringleader of almoſt all the miſtakes we are guilty of, whether in the ſentiments of our hearts, or the conduct of our actions. As milk is the firſt nouriſhment of the body, ſo prejudice is the firſt thing given to the mind to feed upon.——No ſooner does the thinking faculty begin to ſhew itſelf, than prejudice mingles with it, and ſpoil its operations; whatever we are either taught, or happen of ourſelves to like or diſlike, we for the moſt part, continue to applaud or condemn to our life's end. So difficult it is to eradicate, in age, thoſe ſentiments imbibed in our youth.

It is this fatal propenſity which binds, as it were, our reaſon in chains, and will not ſuffer it to look abroad, or exert any of its powers: hence are our conceptions bounded;——our notions meanly narrow;—or ideas, for the moſt part unjuſt; and our judgment ſhamefully led aſtray. The brighteſt rays of truth in vain ſhine upon our minds, when prejudice has ſhut our eyes againſt it. We are even rendered by it wholly incapable of examining any thing, and take all upon truſt that it preſents us. This not only makes us liable to be guilty of injuſtice, ill-

nature,

nature, and ill-manners to others, but alſo inſenſible of what is owing to ourſelves; we run with all our might from a real and ſubſtantial good, and court an empty name, a mere nothing. We miſtake infamy for renown, and ruin for advantage; in ſhort, wherever a ſtrong prejudice prevails, all is ſure to go amiſs.

What I would be underſtood to mean, by the word prejudice, is not that liking, or diſliking, which naturally ariſes on the ſight of any new object preſented to us. As, for example, we may happen to fall into the company of two perſons equally deſerving, and equally ſtrangers to us, and with neither of whom we either have, or expect to have, the leaſt concern; yet ſhall we have, in ſpite of us, and without being able to give any reaſon for it, greater good wiſhes for the one than the other. But this is occaſioned by that ſympathy which nature has implanted in all created beings.

This, therefore, is what we call fancy, and verymuch different from prejudice, which indeed enters chiefly through the ears. When our notions of perſons or things, which we of ourſelves know nothing of, are guided, and our approbation, or diſapprobation of them excited merely by what we are told, and which afterwards we refuſe to be convinced is falſe, then it is that we may be ſaid to be governed by that ſettled prepoſſeſſion ſo dangerous to the world, and to our characters, intereſt, and happineſs; for the other is light, volatile, and of little conſequence.

To avoid being led away by ſuch a dangerous error, we ſhould take nothing upon truſt, but all upon trial. Whether in the ſtudy of the arts, or in our enquiries concerning religion, politics, or any thing elſe, we ſhould ſit down with a determined reſolution to hear impartially both ſides, and to be directed by that which our reaſon moſt approves. Had not ſome great perſons diveſted themſelves of prejudices, we had never been favoured with all thoſe valuable improvements in experimental philoſophy made of late years in different parts of Europe. After all it is no eaſy matter to diveſt ourſelves of acquired prejudices; and it is a melancholy reflection, that part

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of our years are ſpent in acquiring ſuch fatal notions, that there is ſcarce time left to eradicate them.

So from the time we firſt begin to know,
We live and learn, but not the wiſer grow;
But he who truth from falſehood wou'd diſcern,
Muſt firſt diſrobe the mind and all unlearn;
To diſpoſſeſs the child the mortal lives,
And death approaches e'er the man arrives;
Thus truth lies hid, and e'er we can explore
The glittering gem, our fleeting life is o'er. *Prior.*

I am, Sir,

Your ſincere friend, &c.

LETTER CXLIV.

From a Gentleman lately entered upon Houſekeeping, to a Friend.

IF we reflect on the nature of the human ſpecies, we ſhall be convinced that all mankind were originally deſigned by the Great Creator for ſocial creatures; for can we imagine that man, above all other animals, is born the moſt indigent, helpleſs, and abject? Our mutual dependence on each other is, therefore, one of the firſt things we ſhould know, and be convinced of; and, conſequently, we ought to aſſiſt and relieve one another, and promote the happineſs of every individual, as far as is conſiſtent with truth, and the dictates of right reaſon. Can we ſuppoſe, that the Supreme Being beſtowed upon us the wonderful faculty of expreſſing and communicating to others our ideas by ſounds, for no purpoſe? Is it reaſonable to think that man ought to live in ſolitude, and expect happineſs only from himſelf? In other parts of the creation, the wiſdom of providence has done nothing in vain. The uſe of words was not given us to converſe with brutes, for they neither underſtand nor return them. It is therefore evident, they were deſigned for the mutual intercourſe of the human ſpecies; beſides, the ſame paſſions are common to all men; love and hatred, hope and fear, pleaſure and pain, are the ſame in every individual, who acts

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conformable to his nature. This likeneſs in our deſires muſt neceſſarily attract us, and create in us ſuch an eſteem for each other, that nothing but unnatural diſpoſitions, or the greateſt corruption, can diſſolve. Let us ſuppoſe a man baniſhed into the remoteſt wilderneſs, without the commerce, the company, or the friendſhip of his fellow-beings; how diſmal muſt his condition be! He may, perhaps, find means to continue his exiſtence by taking ſuch animals as the deſert affords, and by gathering ſuch fruits and vegetables, as the earth ſpontaneouſly yields; but his life muſt be a continual ſcene of horror and deſpair; no friend to converſe with; no mortal to defend him from the ravenous jaws of the ſavage inhabitants of the foreſt; no phyſician to adminiſter the ſalutary productions of nature, when pain and ſickneſs make their approach. In ſhort, he would be ſo far from arriving at happineſs, that he would ſcarce deſire to ſupport his exiſtence, and even court the king of terrors, to terminate at once, his ſorrows with his life.

Since choice, as well as neceſſity and conveniency, ſhould induce all men to unite and form ſocieties, it is the indiſpenſable duty of every individual to become a uſeful member, and contribute all in his power to promote the happineſs of the whole. In order to this, before we embark in any action, we ſhould reflect on the conſequences which muſt naturally flow from it, by imagining it to have been already done by another; and we ſhall immediately be able to judge of the modes of pleaſures or pain it will be to others, from the manner of its affecting ourſelves. To a reaſonable being nothing brings pain but vice, or pleaſure but virtue. This precaution muſt tend to promote benevolence, friendſhip, and honeſty among mankind; whereas the not obſerving it, ſubjects us to the tyranny of our paſſions, to gratify which, men frequently become faithleſs, cruel, diſhoneſt, and traiterous. We are convinced that men muſt live in ſocieties, and, in order to live happy, it is evident, they muſt be virtuous, ſince nothing elſe in our power can mutually ſecure us: human beings are ſo circumſtanced, that they ſhould love, aſſiſt, and protect each other. The great end of our being is happineſs; it cannot be ſuppoſed, that the omnipotent author of

nature

nature intended any being ſhould inevitably be miſerable. Human happineſs is always proportional to the perception we have of ideas or things: that is, the ſame object may give a higher degree of happineſs to one perſon than to another; but no degree of human happineſs can ſubſiſt without ſociety: men, therefore, enter into ſocieties for the mutual happineſs of each other, and that every individual ſhould enjoy the advantages reſulting from ſuch an union, by regulating all human actions by ſome ſtandard of law. In childhood the laws of action naturally flow from the modes of pleaſure and pain, which ſenſible objects impreſs on their tender organs. Thoſe of men fundamentally ariſe from the former, but with this difference, that the reaſoning faculty, now grown ſtrong by experience, determines theſe things to be good or evil, in the ſame manner, in which we before affirmed this, or that, to be pleaſure or pain. Hence it is evident, that the ſpring of action is the ſame both in the mind and in the body; for that which is evil to the mind, is, by the ſame rule, painful to the body; and that which is truly pleaſing to the body, is alſo good to the mind. It is therefore evident, that the ideas of good and evil are naturally evident to the mind, by the aſſiſtance of reaſon. The very laws of property may be examined by theſe firſt principles of pleaſure and pain. While we are infants, we are ſubject to the law of our ſenſes; when we are men, to that of our reaſon. And, therefore, unleſs we abandon reaſon, the very characteriſtic of our nature, we muſt regulate our actions by her precepts.

Though man has a freedom of will, he is not, on that account, lawleſs, and at liberty to commit what outrages or violence his vicious appetites ſuggeſt. The will, as well as the appetites, are the ſervants of reaſon, and ſhould be governed by her, as ſhe is by her own laws; we may, therefore, rationally conclude, that men ſhould live in perpetual obedience to ſome law; and, as the law of reaſon is the moſt ſuitable to human nature, it is, conſequently, the moſt eligible. The immutable will of the Supreme Being is a kind of law which he has impoſed upon himſelf: thoſe immenſe orbs, which regularly move through the ſyſtem of the univerſe, have motion and gravitation,

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attraction and repulsion, assigned for their laws: and man has reason. And it is reasonable to think that the same œconomy runs through all the beings in nature.

From what has been said, it evidently appears, that societies are not only the source of happiness, but also absolutely necessary; and that they cannot subsist without some law. Nor should man, notwithstanding the loud demands of his passions, think himself enslaved for living under the dominion of reason, since the Great Creator himself regulates his conduct by a law, which, from the unchangeableness of his nature, has subsisted from, and will continue to, all eternity. Why then should not we strictly conform ourselves to the principles of reason? If pleasure be desirable, as most surely it is, we can only hope to obtain it by following her dictates. Those pleasures we enjoy, contrary to her precepts, always leave a sting behind them, infinitely superior to the joys we find in their possession. We should, therefore, always let reason direct our actions, and remember the golden rule of doing to others what we ourselves, in their circumstances, should desire from another. This is alone sufficient to conduct a man innocently and safely, through the journey of life, till death draws the veil, which separates this from the world of spirits.

I am, Sir,
Yours affectionately, &c.

LETTER CXLV.

From a Lady to her Friend, whose Lover had basely left her and married another.

My dear Friend,

OUR expectation of happiness is generally so ill placed, that it is no wonder we meet with perpetual disappointments. When our choice arises from passion, we have so very blind a guide as will inevitably lead us to destruction; for though love appears, then gentlest, yet our affections are so much the right of our almighty Creator, that as often as we fix them immoderately upon any of the fading objects here below, we are certainly guilty of sacrilege to the divine

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Goodneſs, which fault is commonly punished by the very thing we doat on. This I doubt not has been your caſe, and not yours alone; for ſoon or late few eſcape that miſchief, eſpecially amongſt our weaker ſex, whoſe tender nature leaves them moſt expoſed to ruin; and though they ſee others ſhipwrecked before their eyes, will yet venture out to ſea on the ſame bottom, inſenſible of danger, till they periſh, and often fall unpitied.

Men have a thouſand advantages over us, but in the affair of courtſhip they add cunning to all their other accompliſhments, and are as zealous to deceive, as if their lives would be made happy by the cheat. However, they will find it a ſad miſtake at laſt if perjury is to be accounted for, although your falſe traitor, like many others, may look on that time at a great diſtance. But I ſuppoſe he thinks himſelf excuſed as being more knave than fool, which title indeed is ſo highly due to him, that I believe none will do him ſuch manifeſt wrong as to diſpute it; and I am ſure, the blacker he appears, the greater reaſon you have to bleſs that providence, which permitted him to break the contract; for without doubt, he that proved ſo ill a lover to the beſt of miſtreſſes, would have made an intolerable huſband to the beſt of wives; and ill uſage would have coſt you more than his infidelity. I am ſenſible a heart ſo generous and conſtant as yours, cannot eaſily efface the deep impreſſion he has made in it, that muſt be the work of time with God's aſſiſtance, which I hope will never fail you. I do aſſure you, I am deeply touched with every thing that concerns you, nor is it without great regret, that I ſubmit to my unhappy circumſtances detaining me from being the companion of your melancholy hours, which I ſhould endeavour with all my power to divert.

You ſay it is a daily aggravation to your trouble, to think you ſuffered yourſelf to be ſo eaſily impoſed on; but that as I told you before, is our common fate, although all impoſtors are not equally induſtrious to be wicked; and you ought not to condemn your own judgment, for want of ſagacity to diſcover a cheat

a cheat, as it would be to arraign the conduct of almost all the human race.

Pardon me, dear madam, for troubling you so far. Indeed I might have told you at first what I must mention now, and what you know already, that he only can give us comfort whom we seldom regard but when we are driven to it by necessity. Solomon, who had tried all the alluring charms of love and beauty, whose quality and riches gave him an opportunity to gratify every inclination, without any bounds to his wishes, could call them all, "Vanity and vexation of spirit." It is no wonder, then, if every one of us discover the same truth to our own cost. Let us therefore resolve as much as we can to submit our wills to the will of our heavenly father, who sees all our actions, and has so decreed, that our way to everlasting happiness, should be through the wilderness of affliction. I am, dear Madam,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER CXLVI.

On Sickness, from a Lady to her Friend lately recovered from a dangerous Illness.

Madam,

AFTER so long, so strict a friendship as has been inviolably preserved betwixt us, I hope it is not necessary for me to assure you how eagerly I wished to spend the summer at your house; but wherever I am my heart is entirely yours, that heart which by a thousand obligations is tied for ever to you. I know your husband and mother's tenderness would render my care almost unnecessary, and indeed my present desire to see you since your recovery, is to know the state of your health from my own observation, rather than from the reports of others, lest they should flatter me in pity to my trembling expectations.

Whilst we continue in this world, we are subject to a variety of afflictions, and when God sees fit to lay us under severer afflictions either of body or mind, we are obliged to submit with a becoming resignation; but alas! in cases of that nature we are but miserable com-

comforters to each other. Riches and honours, as tempting as they appear to the greateſt votaries when well, yet in ſickneſs, if they are accompanied with their uſual train of viſitors, inſtead of doing us good by gratifying our ambition, they help to foment the diſorder without ever producing a cure. As crowned heads are no more exempt from the ſword of the deſtroying angel, than the pooreſt beggars, how little ought we to value grandeur, which can give us no aſſiſtance in our extremities. A down bed is not a better inſurer of ſleep in ſuch a caſe, than a heap of ſtraw; and a king that groans under the agonies of an incurable diſeaſe, is ſoon made ſenſible that it takes its commiſſion from a higher power than his.

Sickneſs multiplies all our grievances, and the weakneſs of the body has ſuch effect upon the mind, that it ſinks under thoſe troubles that would not move it at another time; but our judgment decaying with us, we ſhall too ſoon find its place occupied by wild chimeras of our own fancy, and ſtartle every moment at giants of our own invention; every haſty word affrights, and every whiſper gives us an alarm; nay ſometimes we are ſo unjuſt as to charge our beſt friends with want of love and reſpect, when they have toiled about us, to a degree that we cannot mention without bluſhing at our own ingratitude; and when the want of ability to help ourſelves, forces us to become burthenſome to others, inſtead of excuſing the trouble, we are too apt to increaſe their uneaſineſs by continual fretting. This is the common method which the ſick uſes to afflict and confuſe their brains. Mourning over our miſery is indeed ſo very natural, that of ourſelves we cannot forbear it, though we know it leads us to doubt of the goodneſs of that God, whoſe mercies are daily new unto us.

A diſturbed conſcience is certainly the worſt circumſtance that can befal a ſick perſon, and I heartily beg of God to keep you and all others from falling into it: that we may never have the leaſt diſtruſt of our ſalvation through Jeſus Chriſt, nor preſume groundleſsly upon his merits, without lamenting and forſaking our ſins. But your life hitherto has been ſo ſtrictly pious, that I do not in the leaſt apprehend you want a ſummons from me to look up to him who

is the author and finisher of your faith, and to call on him in all your distresses. But it is with the greatest pleasure I hear of your unfeigned devotion, even in the midst of your severe afflictions, and that you have retained your usual serenity of mind under all your grievous tortures, without repining at the will of your heavenly father, who has so ordered that the road to Canaan should be through the wilderness.

All this sedate frame of yours being considered, it may seem impertinent in me to trouble you, but I have been insensibly led into it from the remembrance of unhappy events to which I was lately witness; I mean some who instead of submitting patiently to the hand of God, were so totally lost to all sense of duty as to call the Almighty unjust. I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you, and am

Your sincere Friend, &c.

LETTER CXLVII.

From a Gentleman to his Friend in distressed Circumstances, who had endeavoured to conceal his Poverty.

Dear Sir,

I AM extremely concerned to find you have so ill an opinion of me, as to hide your misfortunes, and let me hear of them from another hand. I know not how to interpret your conduct, as it makes me fear you never esteemed my friendship, if you could imagine that any alteration in your circumstances should ever be able to change my love. I had a different opinion of our mutual obligations to each other, and should have thought it an injury to your generous nature had I concealed any thing concerning myself from you, though it might have lessened me in your esteem. I hoped till now you had put the same confidence in me, who had nothing to recommend me to your favour, but plain sincerity of soul, and whose sole design was, to promote the happiness of my friend.

I dare not quarrel with you now lest you should consider me as taking the advantage of you in your present distress, and induce you to break off a correspondence as dear to me as ever; and this leads me to say

ſay ſomething of real friendſhip in general. Real friendſhip is not confined to any ſtation in life; it is common in the meaneſt cottage, and has even ſometimes been found in the palace. Simplicity of manners and integrity in all our actions, naturally leads us to expect ſincerity in the conduct of thoſe with whom we are any way connected. The imperfections incident to human nature are ſo numerous, that we are ſollicitous of finding ſome perſon to whom we can unboſom our minds, and lay open the inmoſt receſſes of our hearts. A real friend, in order to preſerve the character he has aſſumed, will, in the firſt place, endeavour to diſcharge every duty incumbent upon him to all his fellow-creatures. But ſtill there is ſomething wanting, and although we may be philanthroports in general, yet we like to place our affections on one particular object.

Why my friend any ſuſpicion of my ſincerity? Why did you conceal your diſtreſs from me? Friendſhip is of too ſacred a nature to be trifled with, and the man who does not act conſiſtent with his profeſſions, proſtitutes that amiable appellation. No mental reſervation can be uſed in friendſhip, for wherever that happens there is ſome doubt of ſincerity, which for the moſt part ends either in a total indifference, or which is infinitely worſe, an abſolute hatred. I am ſorry to ſay that there are few people who either know or value the bleſſings of friendſhip: if they did, they would not upon every frivolous occaſion find fault with the conduct of their fellow-creatures.

At preſent, my dear Friend, let my purſe (however empty) be at your ſervice, but let it never be more open than my heart. Conceal nothing from me, and all I have is yours. We were once friends, let us only remain ſo. Let me hear an account from you of your preſent circumſtances, and my laſt ſhilling ſhall be ſpent in your ſervice. Let the ſincerity of my friendſhip be eſtimated only according to my actions and if it ſhall appear that I have acted inconſiſtent with the ſacred name of friendſhip, let me be ever blotted out of your memory. I am, Sir,

Your ſincere Well-wiſher, &c.

LETTER CXLVIII.

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

ONCE more I write to you, as I promised, and this once I fear will be the last; the curtain will soon be drawn between my friend and me, and nothing left but to wish you a long good night; may you enjoy a state of repose in this life, not unlike that sleep of the soul which some have believed is to succeed it, where we lie utterly forgetful of that world from which we are gone, and ripening for that to which we are to go. If you retain any memory of the past, let it only imagine to you what has pleased you best; sometimes present a dream of an absent friend, or bring you back an agreeable conversation. But upon the whole, I hope you will think less of the time past than of the future; as the former has been less kind to you than the latter infallibly will be. Do not envy the world in your studies; they will tend to the benefit of men, against whom you can have no complaint, I mean of all posterity: And perhaps at your time of life, nothing else is worth your care. What is every year of a wise man's life, but a censure or critic on the past? Those whose date is the shortest, live long enough to laugh at one half of it: The boy despises the infant, the man the boy, the philosopher both, and the christian all. You may now begin to think your manhood was too much a Puerility; and you will never suffer your age to be but a second infancy. The toys and baubles of your childhood, are hardly now more below you, than those toys of our riper and our declining years, the drums and rattles of ambition, and the dirt and bubbles of avarice. At this time, when you are cut off from a little society, and made a citizen of the world at large, you should bend your talents not to serve a party, or a few, but all mankind. Your genius should mount above that mist, in which its participation and neighbourhood with earth hath long involved it: To shine abroad and to Heaven, ought to be the

buſineſs and the glory of your preſent ſituation. Remember it was at ſuch a time that the greateſt lights of antiquity dazzled and blazed the moſt; in their retreat, in their exile, or in their death: But why do I talk of dazzling or blazing? it was then that they did good, that they gave light, and that they became guiders to mankind.

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

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

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

Yours, &c.

COMMON FORMS AND PETITIONS.

A Letter of License.

TO all whom these presents shall come. We whose hands and seals are hereunder set, creditors of George Wilson, of the parish of Saint Luke Old-street, in the county of Middlesex, gentlemen, send greeting. Whereas the said George Wilson on the day of the date hereof is indebted to us the said creditors in several sums of money, and not having wherewithal to satisfy us at present, we and every one of us are willing to grant unto him the said George Wilson time for the payment of the same. Now know ye that we the said creditors, and every one of us for his own proper debt, part and portion, severally have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said George Wilson free licence, liberty and leave, as in us severally lies, sure and safe conduct to come, go, and resort about his business and affairs at his free will and pleasure from the day of the date hereof, unto the full end and term of six months next ensuing, without any lett, suit, trouble, arrest, attachment, or other disturbance whatsoever, to be offered or done unto him the said George Wilson, his wares, goods, money, or merchandizes whatsoever, by us or any of us, the executors, administrators, partners or assigns of us, or any of us, by our or any of our means or procurement. And we the said creditors, severally and respectively, each for himself and herself, his and her executors and administrators, severally and apart, and not jointly, covenant, grant, and agree to and with the said George Wilson, that if any trouble, vexation, wrong, damage or hindrance shall be done unto him the said George Wilson, either in his body, goods or chattels, within the said term of six months from the date of these presents, by us, or any of us, con-

contrary to the tenor and effect of this our licence, that then he the ſaid George Wilſon, his executors and adminiſtrators, ſhall be, by virtue of theſe preſents, acquitted and diſcharged againſt him, or any of us, by whom and by whoſe means he ſhall, contrary to the true meaning of theſe preſents, be arreſted, troubled, impriſoned, attached, grieved, or damniſied, of all manner of actions, ſuits, quarrels, debts, duties and demands, either in law or in equity whatſoever, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of theſe preſents. In witneſs whereof we the ſaid creditors have hereunto ſet our hands and ſeals the twenty-ſixth day of December, one thouſand ſeven hundred and———

Sealed and delivered, being firſt duly ſtampt, in the preſence of us }

A Letter of Attorney.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I Charles Johnſon of Yarmouth, in the county of Norfolk, weaver, (for divers conſiderations and good cauſes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, conſtituted, and appointed, and by theſe preſents do make, ordain, conſtitute, and appoint, my truſty friend David Williams, of Norwich in the county aforeſaid, gentleman, my true and lawful attorney, for me, in my name, and to my uſe, to aſk, demand, recover, or receive, of and from A. B. of Thetford in the ſaid county, the ſum of ſixty pounds; giving, and by theſe preſents granting to my ſaid attorney, my ſole and full power and authority, to take, purſue, and follow ſuch legal courſes, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining of the ſame, as I myſelf might or could do, were I perſonally preſent; and upon the receipt of the ſame, acquittances and other ſufficient diſcharges, for me, and in my name, to make, ſign, ſeal, and deliver; as alſo, one more attorney or attornies under him to ſubſtitute or appoint, and again at his pleaſure to revoke; and further to do, perform, and finiſh for me, and in my name, all and ſingular thing and things, which ſhall or may be neceſſary, and entirely as I the ſaid Charles Johnſon, in my own perſon, ought or could do in and about the ſame: ratify-

ratifying, allowing, and confirming, whatſoever my ſaid attorney ſhall lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in and about the execution of the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents: In witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal, the firſt day of November, in the year of the reign of our ſovereign lord George III. by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thouſand ſeven hundred and——

CHARLES JOHNSON.

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

A letter of attorney by a ſeaman; or a will and power.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I John Forecaſtle, mariner, now belonging to his majeſty's ſhip the Terrible, for divers good cauſes and conſiderations me thereunto moving, have, and by theſe preſents do make my truſty friend (or beloved wife) Thomas Truſty, citizen and baker of London, my true and lawful attorney, for me, and in my name, and for my uſe, to aſk, demand, and receive, of and from the right honourable the treaſurer, or pay-maſter of his majeſty's navy, and commiſſioners of prize-money, and whom elſe it may concern, as well all ſuch wages, and pay, bounty-money, prize-money, and all other ſum and ſums of money whatſoever, as now are, and which hereafter ſhall and may be due or payable unto me; alſo all ſuch penſions, ſalaries, ſmart money, or all other money or things whatſoever, which now are, or at any time hereafter ſhall or may be due unto me, for my ſervice, or otherwiſe, in any one of his majeſty's ſhip or ſhips of war, frigates or veſſels: Giving and hereby granting, unto my ſaid attorney, full and whole power, to take, purſue, and follow, ſuch legal ways and courſes, for the recovery receiving, and obtaining and diſcharging upon the ſaid ſum or ſums of money, or any of them, as I myſelf might or could do, were I perſonally preſent; and I do herby ratify, allow, and confirm, all and whatever my ſaid attorney ſhall law-

lawfully do, or cauſe to be done, in and about the execution of the premiſes, by virtue of theſe preſents. In witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal this ſecond day of November, one thouſand ſeven hundred and——

JOHN FORECASTLE.

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

A BOND.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that I William Thompſon, in the pariſh of St. Giles, in the county of Middleſex, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to George Wilſon, of the ſaid county of Middleſex, Eſq; in the penal ſum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the ſaid George Wilſon, Eſq; or to his certain attorney, his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns; for the true payment whereof I bind myſelf, my heirs, executors and adminiſtrators, firmly by theſe preſents, ſealed with my ſeal. Dated this ſecond day of December, in the year of the reign of our ſovereign lord George the third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, and ſo forth, and in the year of our lord, one thouſand ſeven hundred and——— The condition of this obligation is ſuch, that if the above bounden William Thompſon, his heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, do well and truly pay, or cauſe to paid to the above-named George Wilſon, his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, the full ſum of two hundred pounds, of good and lawful money of Great Britain, on the firſt day of September next enſuing the date hereof, with lawful intereſt: then this obligation to be void, or elſe to remain in full force.

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

A common mortgage of an eſtate.

THIS indenture made between A. B. of, &c. of the one part, and C. D. &c. of the other part, witneſſeth, that the ſaid A. B. for and in conſideration of

of the ſum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, to him in hand paid by the ſaid C. D. the receipt whereof the ſaid A. B. doth hereby confeſs and acknowledge; he the ſaid A. B. hath granted, bargained, and ſold, and by theſe preſents doth grant, &c. unto the ſaid C. D. all that meſſuage or tenement, &c. and all thoſe lands, &c. ſituate, &c. and alſo the reverſion and reverſions, remainder and remainders, rents and ſervices of all and ſingular the ſaid premiſes above-mentioned, and of every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances; to have and to hold the ſaid meſſuage or tenement, lands and premiſes above-mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, unto the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns, for and during the term of five hundred years, next and immediately enſuing and following, and fully to be complete and ended: yielding and paying therefore yearly, during the ſaid term, one pepper-corn, in and upon the feaſt of St. Michael the archangel, if demanded. Provided always, and upon condition, that if the ſaid A. B. his heirs or aſſigns, do and ſhall well and truly pay or cauſe to be paid unto the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, the full ſum of one hundred and five pounds of lawful Britiſh money in and upon the day, &c. without any deduction or abatement for taxes, aſſeſſments, or any other impoſitions whatſoever, either ordinary or extraordinary; that then and from thenceforth theſe preſents, and every thing herein contained, ſhall ceaſe, determine, and be void; any thing herein contained o the contrary notwithſtanding: and the ſaid A B. tor himſelf, his heirs, and aſſigns, doth covenant and frant to and with the ſaid C. D. his executors, admigiſtrators, and aſſigns, that he the ſaid A. B. his heirs nr aſſigns, ſhall and will well and truly pay or cauſe oo be paid unto the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, the ſaid full ſum of one hundred and five pounds, in and upon the ſaid day, &c. which will be in the ſaid year, &c. without any deduction as aforeſaid, according to the true intent and meaning of theſe preſents: and alſo, that he the ſaid C. D. his

ex-

executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, ſhall and may at all times, after default ſhall be made in performance of the proviſo or condition herein contained, peaceably and quietly enter into, have, hold, occupy, poſſeſs and enjoy all and ſingular the ſaid meſſuage or tenement, lands and premiſes above-mentioned, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, for and during the reſidue and remainder of the ſaid term of five hundred years hereby granted, which ſhall be then to come and unexpired, without the let, trouble, hindrance, moleſtation, interruption, and denial of him the ſaid A. B. his heirs and aſſigns, and of all and every other perſon or perſons, whatſoever: and further, that he the ſaid A. B. and his heirs, and all and every other perſon or perſons, and his and their heirs, any thing having or claiming in the ſaid meſſuage or tenement and premiſes above-mentioned, or any part thereof, ſhall and will at any time or times, after default ſhall be made in performance of the proviſo or condition herein contained, make, do and execute, or cauſe or procure to be made, done and executed, all and every ſuch further and other lawful and reaſonable grants, acts, and aſſurances in the law whatſover, for the further, better, and more perfect granting and aſſuring of all and ſingular the ſaid premiſes above-mentioned, with the appurtenances unto the ſaid C. D. to hold to him the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, for and during all the reſt and reſidue of the ſaid term of five hundred years above-granted, which ſhall be then to come and unexpired, as by the ſaid C. D. his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, or his or their counſel learned in the law ſhall be reaſonably deviſed, or adviſed and required. And laſtly, it is covenanted, granted, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the ſaid parties of theſe preſents, and the true meaning hereof alſo is, and it is hereby ſo declared, that until default ſhall be made in performance of the proviſo or condition, herein contained, he the ſaid A. B. his heirs and aſſigns, ſhall and may hold and enjoy all and ſingular the ſaid premiſes above-mentioned, and receive and take the rents, iſſues and profits thereof, to his and their own proper uſe and benefit; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof, notwith-

 ſtanding:

ſtanding: In witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal, this third day of June, in the——— year of the reign of our ſovereign Lord George III. by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thouſand ſeven hundred and———

A. B.

Signed, ſealed, and delivered, (being firſt duly ſtamped) in the preſence of us. }

A Deed of Gift.

TO all people to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, I George Howard do ſend greeting. Know ye, that I the ſaid George Howard, of the pariſh of St Leonard, Shoreditch, in the county of Middleſex, gardener, for and in conſideration of the love, good-will and affection which I have and do bear towards my loving ſiſter, Mary Page, of the ſame pariſh and county, widow, have given and granted, and by theſe preſents do freely give and grant unto the ſaid Mary Page, her heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, all and ſingular my goods and chattels, now being in my preſent houſe, known by the name of the White Swan; of which theſe preſents I have delivered her, the ſaid Mary Page, an inventory ſigned with my own hand, and bearing date, to have and to hold all the ſaid goods and chattels in the ſaid premiſes or dwelling-houſe to her the ſaid Mary Page, her heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, from henceforth, as her and their proper goods and chattels abſolutely without any manner of condition. In witneſs whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and ſeal, this tenth day of November, one thouſand ſeven hundred and———

GEORGE HOWARD.

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

Note This precedent may be extended to the giving away of cattle, corn, houſe or land, if not entailed, &c. but the particulars muſt be named.

A Gene-

A General Release.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I George Austin, of London, in the county of Middlesex, grocer, have remised, released, and for ever quit claim to Richard Austin, of Brentford in the county aforesaid, mercer, his heirs, executors, administrators, of all and all manner of action and actions, suits, bills, bonds, writings, debts, dues, duties, accompts, sum and sums of money, leases, mortgages, judgments by confession or otherwise obtained, executions, extents, quarrels, controversies, trespasses, damages and demands whatsoever, which by law or equity, or otherwise soever, I the said George Austin, against the said Richard Austin ever had, and which I, my heirs, executors, administrators, shall or may claim, challenge or demand, for or by reason, means, or colour of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of these presents: In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this fifth day of February in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and

GEORGE AUSTIN.

Signed, sealed and delivered,
(being first legally stamp'd)
in the presence of us,

*** All the foregoing precedents must be written upon stamped paper, otherwise they will be of no effect.

A Bill of Sale of Goods.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I, A. B. of for, and in consideration of the sum of to me in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, by C. D. of the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said C. D. all the goods, houshold-stuff and implements of houshold, and all other goods whatsoever, mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, now remaining and being in to have and to hold all and singular the goods, houshold stuff and implements of houshold, and every of them,

them, by these presents bargained and sold unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns for ever. And I the said A. B. for myself, my executors and administrators, all and singular of the said goods, unto the said C. D. his executors, administrators, and assigns, against me the said A. B. my executors, administrators and assigns, and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and for ever defend by these presents; of which goods I the said A. B. have put the said C. D. in full possession, by delivering him one silver tankard, &c. at the sealing hereof: In witness whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and A. B.

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

An indenture for an apprentice.

THIS indenture witnesseth, that Thomas Bulkely, son of Richard Bulkely, late of Guildford, in the county of Surry, hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily and of his own free will and accord put himself apprentice to Charles Jones, citizen and Linen-draper of London, to learn his art, trade, or mystery, after the manner of an apprentice, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, for and during the full term of seven years next ensuing: during all which time, he the said apprentice his said master shall faithfully serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands every where gladly obey. He shall do no damage to his said master, nor see it to be done by others, without letting or giving notice thereof to his said master. He shall not waste his said master's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to others. He shall not commit fornication, nor contract matrimony within the said term. At cards, dice, or any unlawful game he shall not play, whereby his said master may be damaged. With his own goods, or goods of others, during the term, without licence of his said master, he shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not absent himself day nor night from his said master's service,

vice, without his leave, nor haunt alehouſes, taverns, or playhouſes: but in all things behave himſelf as a faithful apprentice ought to do, during the ſaid term. And the ſaid maſter ſhall uſe the utmoſt of his endeavours to teach, or cauſe to be taught, and inſtructed, the ſaid apprentice in the trade and myſtery he now profeſſeth, occupieth, or followeth; and procure and provide for him the ſaid apprentice ſufficient meat, drink, apparel, waſhing, and lodging, fitting for an apprentice, during the ſaid term. And for the true performance of all and every the ſaid covenants and agreements, either of the ſaid parties bind themſelves unto the other by theſe preſents. In witneſs whereof, they have interchangeably put their hands and ſeals, this tenth day of November, in the year of the reign of our ſovereign lord George III. by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ——

THOMAS BULKELY,
CHARLES JONES.

WILLIAM ROBERTS, } Witneſſes.
JOHN FRITH, }

Note. If an apprentice be enrolled, he cannot ſue out his indenture, but upon proof of unmerciful uſage, want of victuals, and other neceſſaries, or his maſter's being uncapable of teaching him his trade, or not cauſing it ſo to be done at his own proper charge by others. And the ſame holds good in relation to a miſtreſs. But there being no inrollment, an indenture may be ſued out, without ſhewing cauſe, in any city or corporation, &c.

PETITIONS.

From a Man under Sentence of Tranſportation,
To the King's moſt excellent Majeſty.

The moſt humble Petition of A. B. now a Priſoner in Newgate.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner having a ſickly wife and ſix young helpleſs children to ſupport, on the ſmall ſum of ten ſhillings per week, which your petitioner

received as wages from a wholesale linen-draper, where he lived as a porter.—That your petitioner, being some small matter in debt for his lodgings, was threatened to be turned into the street unless he made good his payment.—That your petitioner not having any friend from whom he could borrow so much, unfortunately committed the crime for which he is now in prison, by stealing one piece of cloth, which he pledged for the sum wanted, intending to redeem it, and carry it again to his master's warehouse. That as soon as your petitioner was charged with the theft he immediately confessed, and when brought to the bar pleaded guilty to the indictment. That in every other instance your petitioner's life has been altogether unblameable, and his committing the above crime was to save his wife and children from being turned out into the streets. Truly sensible of his fault, and earnestly sollicitous to labour for his helpless family, he has presumed with the greatest reverence to present his afflicted case to your Majesty, whose heart is adorned with every royal virtue, begging that your Majesty would interpose your royal mercy, and suffer your unfortunate petitioner to spend the remainder of his life in this his native country, to bring up his children useful members of society, and his whole life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

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

From the widow of a military officer, solliciting for a Pension.

To the king's most excellent Majesty,

The humble petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner is the widow of the deceased major D. of the regiment of foot. That your petitioner's late husband served your majesty faithfully and loyally above thirty years, and during that time having nothing to subsist on but his pay, and a large family to bring up, he died a few months ago, and left your petitioner utterly unprovided for.

and

and four infant daughters, exposed to all the hardships of an injurious world. That your petitioner has already applied to some of your majesty's ministers, without ever obtaining an answer, and being destitute of every comfort, and even necessary of life, has ventured to present her petition at the foot of the throne. Her own life has been spent in discharging her domestic duties, and her husband's in venturing his life in defence of your majesty's person and government. From your Majesty's great goodness, she has every thing to hope; and to you, as the common father of your people, she looks up with the greatest anxiety, that your majesty would be graciously pleased to order a small annuity for her support, and to enable her to bestow on her children an education suitable to the rank of one of your majesty's military servants.

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

For a Tide-waiter's Place in the Custom-house.

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

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune to be brought up in a trade, which at present is so bad, that few hands are employed in it, and even those can scarce procure a subsistence.—That your petitioner has sought for every opportunity to obtain employment in vain, and at present is left in a very distressed condition.—That your petitioner being desirous to apply himself to some useful employment, and finding, that some tide waiters are wanting at present on the river, has, with greatest humility, presumed to beg of your lordship to be employed as one. He is ready to produce proofs of his ability to discharge the duty of that station, and if so happy as to seem worthy of your lordship's notice, he shall, on all occasions, observe the strictest fidelity, and make it appear

pear to the world that he has not been unworthy of your favour,

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

For a Place in the Excise.

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

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner had the misfortune not to be brought up to any other employment than that of a gentleman's servant, in which station he continued till last year, when he married, and was discharged from his place—That your petitioner being out of all manner of employment, and having learned the whole art and mystery of gauging, he has presumed to address himself to your lordship for one of the present vacant places of a common exciseman, in any part of the kingdom where your lordship shall think proper to order. His conduct has always been blameless, and his character will bear the strictest enquiry; and on all occasions he will make it his principal study to discharge every part of his duty with the utmost fidelity, And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

For a Place in the Stamp-office.

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

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has formerly lived in credit in the world, but through a variety of losses in trade, is reduced with his family to the lowest state of poverty, and destitute of the necessaries of life, and being desirous to discharge his duty as an husband and a father, he has presumed to address himself to your Lordship for one of the present vacant places of distributors in the stamp-office, and for which

which he can make it appear he is properly qualified, and will produce people of reputation to his character, and who (if required) will give security for his fidelity. Being fully convinced of your Lordship's readiness to relieve distressed merit, and your great humanity to every one in distress, is filled with the chearful hopes, that his request will meet with a favourable reception, and your Lordship will reflect with pleasure, that your bounty has rescued him from misery, and enabled his family to enjoy those comforts of life to which they have long been strangers.

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

From a disabled Porter to the Postmaster to be admitted as a Letter-carrier.

To M. ——— *Postmaster.*

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

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

curity (if demanded) and in all things act with the greateſt fidelity.

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

From an aged Gentlewoman in diſtreſs, to a Gentleman a diſtant Relation.

To J. S. Eſq;

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has the honour to be nearly related to your family, your mother being my aunt. That your petitioner, whilſt very young, was married to an eminent merchant in Briſtol, with whom ſhe lived happy many years. That your petitioner's huſband was largely engaged in the trade to the coaſt of Guinea, and the Weſt Indies. That during the late war he had ſhares in ſeveral ſhips trading to and from thoſe ports, and in their laſt voyage he unfortunately forgot to inſure them. That two of thoſe ſhips were attacked and taken by a French privateer, which obliged your petitioner's huſband to ſtop payment, and his creditors took out a commiſſion of bankruptcy. That your petitioner's huſband was ſo affected with his loſs, that he ſoon after died with a broken heart, and left your petitioner deſtitute of every neceſſary of life. That your petitioner, confiding in your great humanity, hath preſumed to addreſs herſelf to you. The ſmalleſt matter either towards my immediate ſubſiſtence or future ſupport, ſhall be received with the greateſt thankfulneſs, and acknowledged with gratitude to the lateſt period of my life.

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

From a decayed Citizen to an opulent Alderman, who had been his Acquaintance in his Youth.

To the worſhipful John Freeman, Eſq; Alderman of ——

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner ſerved his apprenticeſhip in the city of London to an eminent grocer, and after-

afterwards became ſhopman to another of the ſame profeſſion. That your petitioner having by his induſtry ſaved ſome money, entered into buſineſs for himſelf. That having at great expence fitted up a ſhop, he ſent large quantities of goods to country ſhopkeepers: that he was obliged to pay their notes to his creditors, and before they became due many of thoſe dealers became inſolvent, and your petitioner was obliged to receive their notes, and make good the deficiencies. That your petitioner, after ſtruggling to maintain his reputation as an honeſt man, was obliged to ſtop payment, and ſubmit to the diſagreeable neceſſity of becoming a bankrupt. That when your petitioner had obtained his certificate, he had not wherewithal to enter into trade, and a journeyman's wages was not ſufficient to ſupport his family. In circumſtances ſo diſtreſſing your petitioner bethought himſelf of making his caſe known to your worſhip. He reflects with pleaſure on the many pleaſant hours he has ſpent in your company when we were in the ſame claſs at Merchant-taylors ſchool, and if you will be pleaſed to interpoſe ſo far in his favour as to procure him credit, to open ſhop as a grocer, once more, in the place where he was originally bred to that buſineſs, and if he is ſo happy as to ſucceed, his whole conduct in future life ſhall be one continued act of uniform virtue.

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

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

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

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner's late huſband was a laborious, and induſtrious honeſt man: that he was both by birth and ſervitude one of your pariſhioners. That whilſt he enjoyed his health, it was his conſtant practice to do every thing in his power for the ſup-

port

port of his family: that he was lately ſeized with a violent fever, which, after two weeks illneſs, terminated in his death. That your petitioner was left entirely deſtitute with three helpleſs children: that your petitioner is willing to do every thing in her power towards their ſupport by her own labour, but that being inſufficient, ſhe has preſumed to preſent a ſtate of her caſe to you, humbly praying that a ſmall matter may be allowed her weekly, which with the profits ariſing from her labour, will enable her to bring up her children uſeful members of ſociety.

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

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

To the Truſtees of B.

The humble Petition of A. B.

Sheweth,

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

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

F I N I S.