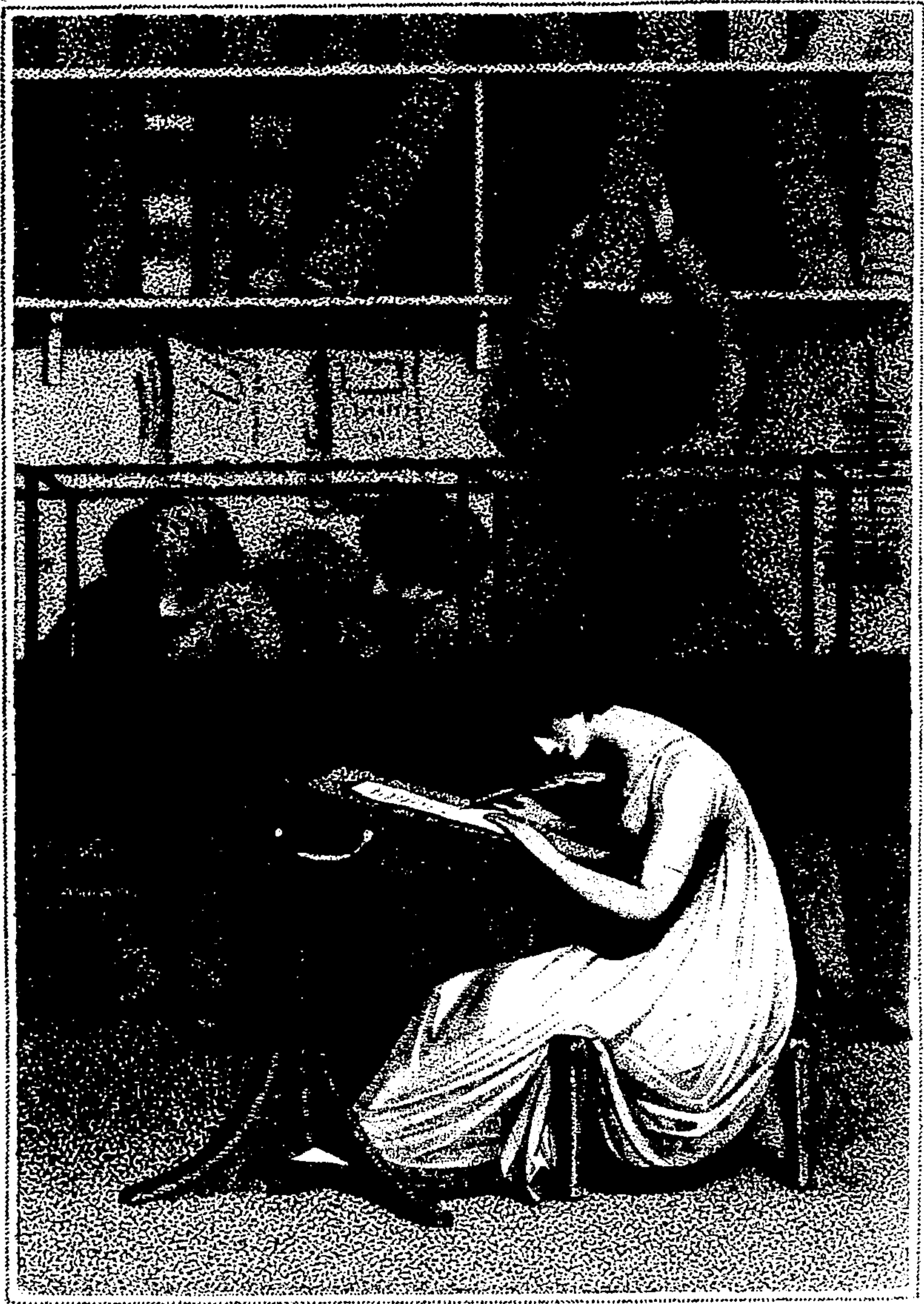


Frontispiece



A. Buck del^t

P. Roberts sculp^t

Engraved for

THE LONDON LETTER WRITER.

Published Sept^r. 25. 1800, by Crosby & Lettermore, Stationers Court.

THE LONDON
Universal Letter Writer;
OR, WHOLE ART OF
POLITE CORRESPONDENCE.

CONTAINING A

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LONDON :

PRINTED FOR CROSBY AND LETTERMAN, STATIONERS,
COURT, PATERNOSTER-ROW.



1800.

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1000

P R E F A C E.

LE TTER-WRITING is an accomplishment whereof every one should be capable, though few can justly pretend to it. Ease, elegance, and brevity, which are the great essentials of Epistolary Writing, can only be acquired by reading and practice. It is well known that many masters of languages are, to their great shame, incapable of composing a letter with propriety upon any cursory subject, while even strangers to grammar, directed by their natural abilities and the memory of their ear, have been able to address their superiors with elegance, correctness, and taste. Thus it is evident that practice, in particular, must be united with ability, in hopes of acquiring an easy and comprehensive style; for which reason this New Set of useful, entertaining, and familiar Letters, being upon all subjects the most interesting, important, and instructive, is strongly recommended to the youth of both sexes; and it is also presumed, that it should be universally introduced into all schools, for the purpose of making young Ladies and Gentlemen (at stated times) transcribe a letter upon whatever subject they may think proper, and address them, each

to their little friends, who shall also be under the necessity of making a reply; (for which reason every Letter herein, when the subject requires it, is succeeded by an Answer): were this mode of exercising their capacity, and giving them a taste and relish for correspondence during their younger days occasionally adopted, I make no doubt, but masters and governesses would in due time see the happy effects of this rule, and that each little pupil would soon be able to boast “The pen of a ready Writer.”

In expatiating upon the *London Universal Letter Writer*, we should be sorry, even in appearance, to depreciate the merit of any similar work; but think ourselves entitled to a preference, as well on account of the price as on account of our improvements, and the originality of our letters, which have been written on purpose for this undertaking; and every subject that might corrupt the morals of young minds carefully avoided; nor is it confined to the younger class alone, there being many grown up persons, of all occupations, professions, and degrees, who need, in a great measure, the assistance of this Letter Writer.

In the letters upon education, business, &c. are interspersed several upon the propriety of words and correct writing.—Our readers will find in our introductory letters every thing that is necessary in a work of this kind upon the subject of grammar. We have also concluded with instructions for addressing people of all ranks; the proper and fashionable style of writing complimentary cards; the form of bonds, &c. &c. drawing up Petitions upon all occasions, &c. &c.

&c. In short, when the whole of this undertaking is properly considered, we flatter ourselves that its brevity and generality, and above all our strict adherence to nature, character, and propriety, will be sufficient recommendation : the subjects being for the most part domestic, are with the utmost attention appropriated to all the various occurrences of human life, while the style is also adapted, with particular care, to every respective occasion : such have been our endeavours; how far they are executed is left with all due submission to the discernment and judgment of a candid public, who never fail to encourage any attempt which tends to general utility.

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Containing a great Variety of Letters on the most Familiar, Useful, Instructive, and Entertaining Occurrences in Life.

LETTERS RELATIVE TO EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, &c.

From a Friend to another in the Country.

DEAR SIR,

EMBOLDENED by the many protestations of friendship, which you have been so kind to make, I take the liberty of humbly requesting you would be so good to devote the first convenient day you have in seeking a proper school for my eldest son; it being my duty, I think, to put him under the care of a good preceptor; for, as he is now capable of spelling and reading decently, of course he wants the instructions of a *master*, not of a *mistress*. I wish him, if possible, to be near you, that I may frequently have the pleasure of hearing a real account of the progress which he makes. Your compliance with the above will be a considerable addition to all former obligations, and render me

Your much obliged servant.

Answer to the above.

DEAR SIR,

ACCORDING to your request, I made every necessary enquiry, and am happy to inform you, that within about two miles of my residence there is a gentleman of the church, who keeps a school, that bears a most excellent character; his attention to the young gentlemen under his care is remarkable—his terms are moderate—and his mode of teaching universally approved of; he wisely endeavours to render the arduous task of learning more a pleasure than a toil; corrects with gentleness the several errors of forward dispositions; and instils such noble principles in their young minds, that, as they improve in years, grow up with them. His first and general care is in making them write letters

B

with

with ease and elegance---this he does by putting the Letter Writer into their hands, and making each establish a correspondence with another, while a certain day in the week is appropriated for examining their epistles, and every due encouragement given to such as excel in their productions. Should it please my friend to send his son to this school, he may depend upon my constant visits to see him, and a faithful communication of what progress he makes. I shall also endeavour to render the young gentleman's holidays as agreeable to him as possible; and, by shewing my affection for the son, prove how much I am his father's

Most obedient, &c.

The Father's Reply, returning Thanks.

IMPRESSED with a just sense of my dear friend's good-nature and benevolence, I really feel, but cannot possibly express how much I am indebted to him. Accept my thanks for the kind care and assiduity you have manifested in complying with my requests; and, believe me, that, from the great recommendation you have given of the school, I shall not only prefer it to any other, but send my son there without further loss of time.

Your's sincerely, &c.

From a Lady to her Friend in the Country.

MY dear friend will, I hope, excuse the task I am about imposing on her, when she considers the necessity of the business. My daughter, Harriot, is now arrived to an age that is not only the most capable of acquiring, but also of retaining instructions. I think it the duty of all fond mothers, according to the best of their abilities, to give their daughters a good education. A young lady possessed of those desirable accomplishments, which can only be derived from proper governesses, needs no further qualifications to encounter the vicissitudes of life.—I request then you will make a speedy application to your neighbour, Mrs. ——. I wish to know her terms for teaching dancing, music, English, French, and especially all manner of needle-work; for, though Harriot will be mistress of a good fortune, it is, notwithstanding, indisputably necessary, that a young lady should know the proper use of her needle. I shall wait with the utmost impatience for my friend's answer, and mean time remain,

Her's affectionately, &c.

An Answer

An Answer to the above.

A GREEABLE to my friend's request, I have applied to my neighbour, who keeps the boarding-school.— I have inclosed her card, which contains her terms and the rules of her school. I approve highly of your intention, and doubt not but Harriot herself, when she becomes sensible of your goodness, will be grateful for it. I am surprised you should think the task of friendship any trouble—for the future, then, instead of requesting, command the services of

Your's most sincerely, &c.

A Reply to the above.

MY DEAR CHARLOTTE,

THE lady's terms being exceedingly moderate, and the rules of the school corresponding entirely with my wishes, I do not hesitate in sending her my dear girl immediately; assured, from the great encouragement which your polite favour has given me, that Harriot, during our separation, will, every opportunity, find a second mother in her mother's dear friend. Your's most gratefully, &c.

From a Son to his Father.

DEAR AND MOST WORTHY SIR,

THIS being the day appointed by my master for epistle-writing, and left to my choice of addressing whom I pleased, I could not possibly forbear availing myself of the first opportunity to enquire after my dear father's health—and also to express the satisfaction and pleasure I feel in my present situation; for my master is so good, that he indulges me with many hours of recreation, and I make no doubt but I shall profit so much by his great care and instructions, as to be shortly able to give ample specimens that no attention is wanting on my part. I am, dear father,

Your most dutiful son.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR BOY,

I Cannot possibly express the great satisfaction I felt, while reading your affectionate letter. You have given me great proofs already of your attention, nor shall your present assiduity be unrewarded; for I have herewith written to my friend to increase your pocket-money. I am happy that you take so much pleasure in learning, this being the time for improvement. They repent generally all their lives, who neglect their studies in their early days. Youth is never to be redeemed. Continue then, my dear son, to mind

your book, and observe your master's precepts, for your present labour will make ample compensation hereafter, and you shall always find me Your affectionate father.

From the Son to the Father, requesting leave to see him.

DEAR AND HONOURED SIR,

TO-MORROW being the day appointed for our breaking up for the holidays, I shall be happy, if it were agreeable to you, to spend the vacation at home, as I feel a strong inclination to see my dear father and mother again, my sister and other loving relations. Should my request meet with your approbation, since my master has referred me to you, I shall prepare for my journey early in the week, when I hope personally to declare myself Your dutiful son.

An Answer to the above.

MY DEAR BOY,

JUST on the receipt of your letter, your mother and I, after some serious consideration, had resolved to write to your master, respecting the request you have made. I am happy to find that it is agreeable to him, for, believe me, we are as eager to see you, as you can possibly be to see us. I admire your wish, as it is the result of filial affection; therefore, as soon as possible, prepare for your journey; mean while, believe me to be

Your affectionate father, &c.

From a Daughter to her Mother.

MY DEAR MAMMA,

IHAVE seized the earliest opportunity of returning sincere thanks for this evident assurance of maternal affection, in placing me under the care of a worthy woman, who often reminds me of my dear mamma, by her motherly affection. It is impossible to overlook her instructions, she takes such gentle means of giving them. I want nothing to make me completely happy, except your good presence; but as I know it is for my good, I endeavour to reconcile myself to our separation; the time I hope will shortly come, when I shall see my dear mamma, and declare myself in person

Her most dutiful daughter, &c.

The Mother's Answer.

DEAREST HARRIOT,

YOUR letter gave me inexpressible happiness, as every line evidently proceeded from the heart. I rejoice to hear, by letters from my friend, that you make a rapid progress

progress in your French. You pay uncommon attention, I understand, to your grammar, which gives me no little satisfaction; for I assure you, Harriot, nothing redounds more to the credit of a young lady, than writing and speaking correctly; — how many of our sex expose themselves, by corrupt phrases and false concords! I would not that my child should be pedantic and over-nice; — it is a mistaken notion to think that learning in *our* sex is always united with stiff pedantry—they are ignorant and vain, who make a boast of their qualifications; and it is those who pretend to most that are generally the least endued with understanding; never, my dear Harriot, affect superiority of knowledge; let your style be always plain and familiar, but exempt from vulgarisms; never make use of a word you do not perfectly understand; I have often blushed—for many a young lady, nay, many of the other sex too, who have introduced expressions quite foreign to their intended meaning; — this downright ignorance proceeds from downright arrogance: I dare say, my dear Harriot, knowing what an enemy I am to repetitions, will now turn critic, and find fault with my *downrights*: — but take notice, that when a repetition enforces an assertion, it is then, instead of being a fault, deemed a beauty: there are many tautologies in our poets, which in a great measure add to their force and energy. I am proud to find my dear Harriot so correct in her spelling; there is nothing dignifies a female letter more than this attention; a young lady should always have her dictionary near her, and never commit a word to paper that she entertains the least doubt of. It has been remarked by some conceited empty fools, that good spelling is not to be expected from the pens of young ladies; and why not? Do you not, my dear child, feel this declaration as an insult to *our* understanding? are we not endued with the same capability of acquiring learning as a man? are we not equally docile, and shall we not be equally improved? — if every female feels this saying as I do, they would be stimulated to prove it absurd and false; they would apply themselves more to study, and convince the world, that a *Smith* can write as well as a *Cumberland*—a *Robinson*, or *Inchbald*, as correct as a *Burgoyne*. — I need not add more to convince my dear Harriot of the utility of learning. I hope she will make herself mistress of her own language, before she attempts to learn another; for it is too often the case that a young lady will begin French before she knows English; and young gentlemen as frequently attempt Latin, before they can read the Bible; in like manner, Greek before they are acquainted with the

Latin Rudiments; — the fatal consequence is, that when they leave their studies, they are ignorant of all! I hope to surprize my dear Harriot shortly, by paying her an unexpected visit, and giving her an agreeable present, to prove myself

Her affectionate mother, &c.

From a Tradesman to his Son, at School.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

AS you are now arrived to an age of discernment, I hope you will not mis-spend the most precious part of your life, and neglect those necessary means which most qualify you to become a useful citizen. Let me know whatever business your inclination leads you to, and I shall look out immediately for a proper master; but before you become apprenticed, it behoves you to be very diligent— you should read with propriety, write well, and understand accompts perfectly—pay particular attention to your spelling and arithmetic. I desire an answer to this by return of post, without being either previously read or corrected by your master, that I may hereby judge of the progress you are making. I am your affectionate father,

W. TRADEWELL.

The Son's Answer.

DEAR AND HONOURED SIR,

IN obedience to your requests, you may depend upon my diligence and attention, it being the chief of my ambition to be bound as soon as possible, and become a man of busines. I confess myself partial to the employments of a bookseller and stationer: should my father endeavour to procure such a master for me, I would strain every nerve to render myself a worthy apprentice, and, as duty demands, a grateful son,

WILLIAM.

The Father to his Son, when bound.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

AS I have now satisfied your wish, in procuring you the desired master, I hope you will be mindful of the advice I gave you the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you. Consider your future prosperity depends upon your present attention: think no more of play, but devote your mind to busines; in short, lose the boy in becoming the man; be obedient to all your master's commands, follow his advice and example, and I make no doubt but you will become a worthy and respectable citizen. I remain your affectionate father,

W. TRADEWELL.

The

The Son's Answer.

DEAREST SIR,
 SHOULD be both wanting in duty and gratitude if I neglected your advice. I have no reason to complain. You have put me to a business I admire; and my master is indulgent as my father. I am conscious of the necessity of my obedience and attention, and hope I shall never be deficient in either.

I am, dearest Sir,
 Your dutiful son, WILLIAM.

From a Preceptor to his Scholar, during Vacation Time.

DEAR CHARLES,
 AM unwilling to omit the first opportunity that offered, of commencing a correspondence with my young friend, or fear, during this leisure time, the advice I had given, and the rules I have set down, in respect to writing letters, may be either forgotten or neglected. I think it my duty, therefore, to remind you of these observations, and by insisting on regular answers, oblige you to practice, as well as to observe. You may remember that my first advice was to be careful of your spelling, and not to make use of pompous language in addressing your friends; a simplicity of style always recommends itself, and displays far more learning than haphazard bombast: be also as brief as possible, for a prolix writer exhausts the patience of his reader. Avoid repetitions, for they offend the ear; except they are *artfully* introduced, to mark some *artful* point. I disapprove of parenthesis (*except they are absolutely necessary*) for they generally create confusion; some masters are very fond of recommending long f's, and appropriating the round one to the final letter of a word; but I abominate a practice that has no meaning; a long f in writing, I think very disagreeable to the eye, except when two meet, then I think it proper to make a distinction between them. Never send a letter to any one with an interlineation; it is an affront, for it betokens both laziness and carelessness: there is no excuse for an interlineation, except it is a piece which you wish to prove an original; and of which there should be no duplicate. Avoid capital letters, which should only be appropriated to proper names, or particular nouns. When you introduce a word which requires more than common notice, or on which the reader should lay a great accent, put a dash under it *with your pen*: such words, when printed, are put into *Italics*; but do not be too fond of this, for I have known many puzzled by these dashes, which have frequently imitated wit where there was none. Never let me see you write

write you was, or I shall deny you were ever a pupil of mine. Be attentive to the time, and do not jumble the present, past, and future, as many writers do. Use the conditional mood, provided the sentence be conditional; this I confess is not a general observation, but if a man pretend to write, he ought to be correct. Do not crowd us with monosyllables, for they are very insignificant creatures, nor use many long words, for fear you may exceed comprehension. I hate particles, when they are avoidable; be, therefore, sparing in your *fors*, your *buts*, and *ands*. Quotations, when not made too common, display both a variety and some knowledge of authors; but beware of misapplying them, for you not only insult the author you borrow from, but expose yourself to ridicule. Do not arrogate the power of making words, for we have sufficient in our language to express our meaning, and there are very few who possess competent abilities for the task. Avoid cant and obsolete phrases; nor insert a word that you do not perfectly comprehend. These hints, I hope, will be sufficient; let me therefore see they are observed, while I remain, with compliments to your father,

Your sincere friend.

The Scholar's Answer to his Preceptor.

HONOURED SIR,

I RETURN you sincere thanks, for the kind attention which you shew. It shall always be my study and ambition to follow your instructions. I have never, to my knowledge, made use of a word that I did not perfectly comprehend. I know “A little learning is a dangerous thing;” and as I am resolved not to *taste*, but *drink deep*, I shall pay every due attention to my master’s precepts. My father desires to be remembered to you, and my mother (though forgotten in your letter) joins me in compliments. I remain, with all due respect,

Your very obliged servant, CHARLES.

A Reply to the above.

DEAR CHARLES,

I AM exceedingly well pleased with the specimen you have given of your attention. Your letter is neatly written—properly pointed—brief and sufficient. I am pleased to find, that without disgracing your author, you can introduce a quotation, and I am now sensible you know where Italics are proper. Your parenthesis too was absolutely necessary, being a just reproof for my neglect. I am, with compliments to your father and mother,

Your sincere friend, &c.

From

From a Brother to his Sister.

MY DEAR SISTER,

IT is now full three weeks since I have heard from you, during which time I have been in anxious expectation of a letter. Surely you must be convinced that this silence gives great uneasiness; how have I deserved it? is it possible I can be so soon forgotten? can you not spare a few minutes out of four-and-twenty hours, to let me know how you are? I could not suppose the pleasures of town, let them be ever so engaging, could deny now-and-then an opportunity; believe me, I am exceedingly angry; it is evident that you are totally indifferent about me: if you wish me to change this opinion, and forgive your neglect, let me hear from you immediately; for I assure you, that I am still,

Your affectionate brother.

The Sister's Answer.

MY dear brother's letter was exceedingly unkind, for neither indifference nor neglect was the cause of my silence.—I am just recovered from a very severe illness, which rendered me incapable of answering your letter; I was unwilling that any other person should write to you, for fear the account of my indisposition might give you such uneasiness as would intrude upon your business. It is not in the power of all the pleasures of this life to make me forget an affectionate brother; but I assure you I partake of very few, as I do not think it prudent for any single female, like me, to be too often seen in the circles of the gay. As I now hope I have sufficiently pleaded my excuse, I shall expect another letter very soon, in more grateful terms; for believe me, that I am still, and ever shall remain,

Your loving sister.

From a Son at School, to his Father.

MY DEAREST FATHER,

OUR examinations are fixed for the ensuing Monday, when, if it be agreeable, as several ladies and gentlemen, I understand, are to be present, I should be happy to see you, for I am very sure that the company of my dear father would give me so much encouragement, that I should consequently get the premium. I have taken great pains in preparing myself, and make very little doubt but I shall gain the prize. I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

The

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR RICHARD,

I CONFESS I should be exceedingly happy to be present at your examinations, but my business in the city puts it totally out of my power. I rejoice to hear that you have been so studious in preparing yourself; but do not make too sure of success: consider, your antagonists may be equally clever and brilliant. Were you the *only* good scholar, the premium will do you but little credit. If you win it, the information will give me much pleasure; but if you lose it, instead of being discouraged, rather pluck up your spirits; seem not to envy your happier rival, but, stimulated by noble emulation, enter into a bold resolution of becoming doubly attentive and diligent, in order to be more successful on a future essay. I shall wait with impatience to hear your success, till when, I remain your affectionate father.

The Son, in Reply.

DEAREST SIR,

I NEVER wrote to you with less pleasure or satisfaction, having lost the premium, owing to my ill fortune—one of my class being deemed an equal competitor for the prize; and the person who examined us, being, on account of our similar answering, incapable of making any decision. After a long contest, it was at last agreed, that we should *cut* for it: I was unfortunate; but, concealing my anxiety with a smile, which I confess was borrowed, I wished my friend joy of his success. All the consolation which I now enjoy is, that I have not lost the premium, though I have not won it. The assembly of ladies and gentlemen who were present, seemed to be delighted with our examination, and, though not a complete victor, I had the satisfaction of receiving many compliments. According to your instructions, I have conquered all jealousy, hoping a future opportunity will reward my constant labour.

I am, dear father, your's most dutifully.

The Father, in Reply.

MY DEAR BOY,

I CONGRATULATE you upon your great success, for I look upon you equally triumphant, as your rival. I disapprove very much of this usual method of allotting single premiums; for I think in such case, the master should allow two, as no parent, I am sure, would grudge an advanced price for the sake of rewarding his son's merit—however, as I think encouragement is necessary, I have here-with

with sent you a gold watch, the fittest present in my opinion, for a youth, as it will inform him how fleeting, and, consequently, how precious time is. I am happy to find this laudable ambition of acquiring learning thus early, taking such deep root within your heart; be assured that your labour now will amply compensate itself hereafter.

I remain, dear son,
Your affectionate father.

From a Daughter to her Mother.

MY dear mamma will, I hope, forgive this complaint, when I secretly inform her of the cause—though I confess myself frequently negligent, yet my governess's severity discomposes me in such a manner, that I am really incapable of attending to my work. I am frequently deprived of my breakfast—sometimes of my dinner—and have often supperless gone to bed; because I have not drank large basons of camomile tea; which is so exceedingly obnoxious to me. If my dear mamma would remove me to another school, or prevail upon my governess to moderate her cruelty, my future conduct, I hope, will prove me
A dutiful daughter.

The Mother's Answer.

DEAR SALLY,
THE cause of complaint is ample excuse for your writing. I wish my dear girl had been earlier in her communication, for I should deem myself more cruel than your governess did I connive at such unwarrantable usage—
You shall leave school immediately.
I am, your affectionate mother.

From a Father to a School-mistress.

MADAM,

I THINK it my duty to inform you, that my daughter shall not return to your school any more; during her stay with you, she has been cruelly alarmed, I find, with superstitious notions of spirits and hobgoblins; than which nothing can be more pernicious to infant minds, having been the frequent cause of growing fits and hysterics, as well as the death of many. I wonder people, who pretend to teach and instruct, can prove themselves so weak and ignorant. I am, Madam, your's, &c.

LETTERS

LETTERS ON BUSINESS, FAMILY AFFAIRS, &c.

From an Apprentice to his Father.

HONOURED SIR,

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

Dutiful son.

From the Father in Answer.

DEAR FRANK,

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

Your affectionate father.

From a Father to an Idle Son.

DEAR GEORGE,

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

Your fond father.

The Son's Answer.

HONOURED SIR,
I FEAR the frailties of my youth, for, like other boys, I confess, I am not without my share, have been sadly misrepresented and cruelly exaggerated to my dear father, as well as to my master, by those idle gossipers, who, having no business of their own to heed, spend their time in venting calumny, and destroying the reputation of their neighbours. My future conduct, I hope, will convince both my father and master, that I have been in a great measure abused, and that I am not only a faithful servant, but a dutiful son,

GEORGE.

From a Master to his Apprentice's Father.

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

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CANDOUR.

From an Uncle to his Nephew.

DEAR TOM,
YOU recollect, I hope, that I bound you apprentice to an attorney, and gave the round sum of an hundred guineas with you;—how came it then, that by mere accident, being obliged to accompany a friend to a private play, where King Lear was attempted, I perceived my own foolish nephew in the character of *Poor Tom*, indeed?—Just before your appearance I was abusing these young men, for thus mis-spending their time, and saying to my friend, that I was sure my nephew was now employing himself with his parchments, or making out an indenture; but soon my eyes convinced my thoughts, that they were erroneous! I was sorry for it, knowing that such a step has been the ruin of many young persons. A man, who has been neglected by his friends and relations, and bred to no profession, is excuseable for attempting the stage, and should he succeed, is no disgrace to society; or if he fail in business, and have abilities for an actor,

actor, he is not to be censured; but for an apprentice to abuse his time, and desert a genteel employment, for a precarious situation, too oft disgraces himself and all his family! I suppose, by-and-by, your inclination for the stage will lead you to disoblige your uncle, desert your master, neglect your business, and shame your relations, by making a *buffoon* of yourself;—to prevent which, I think it my duty to give you my real opinion, without any *flattery*, of your performance of Edgar—to be candid then, nay, to be sincere, I never saw such a miserable attempt in all my life! I could hardly keep my seat with vexation, to see any man in his senses perform a *madman* so ill! Did you not hear somebody hiss you?—It was your uncle! I thought it my duty, nor could I indeed forbear shewing my disapprobation; and I assure you, nephew, if ever I see or hear of your murdering any other character, again, even in this *private* manner, I will solicit a magistrate to send you to Bridewell; for you have not the least pretension to theatrical merit.

I am your sincere friend,

TIMOTHY FREEMAN.

From a young Merchant to a Wholesale Dealer.

SIR,

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

From the Wholesale Dealer in Answer.

SIR,

IN answer to your favour of the 6th instant, I shall, by to-morrow's coach, send you a few articles, which I shall submit as a specimen of both the quality and cheapness of all my things—should it be your pleasure to repeat your order, I shall endeavour to prove myself deserving of your favour. I am, with sincere wishes for your success,

Your obliged servant,

From a Tradesman to another for Money.

SIR,

HAVING an unexpected bill to make up, and being at present deficient in money, I take the liberty of troubling you for the small balance of accounts which is at present

present between us. If it should be inconvenient to let me have the whole, a part at this critical juncture will exceedingly oblige.

Your very humble servant,

The Answer.

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

Yours, &c.

From a Retail Dealer to a Wholesale one.

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

Your humble servant,

An Answer to the above.

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

Your obliged servant,

From Wholesale Dealers to a Retail one.

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

Your humble servants,

An Answer to the foregoing.

GENTLEMEN,

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

Your obliged servant, R. WORTHY.

A Reply to the above Answer.

SIR,

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

Your humble servants,

TRADELOVE and Co.

From a Tradesman to a Relation.

DEAR SIR,

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

Exceedingly oblige your distressed cousin, &c.

The Relation's Answer.

MY DEAR JACK,

AS I think it a pity that honesty and industry should ever suffer, come and dine with me to-morrow, and the money shall be ready. I entertain so good an opinion of your principles, that I am determined to take no bills at those short dates; but, for I know your disposition, if you will urge security, I shall only desire your note, on demand, for the whole: and depend upon it, I never will demand

demand it, till I know it is perfectly convenient. Do not keep my dinnet waiting, which will be ready at two o'clock.
WILL. GENEROUS.

Your's sincerely,

From a Tradesman to another.

SIR,
I AM exceedingly displeased to find your bill for £.80 returned. I have found it very inconvenient to take it up, and am surprized that you should be so indifferent about your character, as neither to provide for it, or forewarn me of your incapability. You may remember, Sir, that I gave you your own time, which I always do, in order to prevent disappointments. I must confess that you have used me very ill, and if the bill be not taken up within six days, I shall put it into an attorney's hands. Your's, J. BLUNT.

The Answer to the foregoing.

SIR,
I ASSURE you I had left out the money for my note, in four twenty pound bank bills, being obliged to leave town on some urgent business. On my return I found my man had robbed me of several articles, and your letter convinces me, that he has made off with the cash. As I shall take care mention shall be made of it in the papers, my character, I hope, will still be preserved. If your man will be so kind to call this evening with the bill, it shall be taken up. I am, Sir, your humble servant, J. CREDULOUS.

Reply to the foregoing Answer.

SIR,
I AM exceedingly concerned for your misfortune, and have explained the business to the gentleman who returned your bill. According to your request, I have sent it herewith, by my man, hoping you will excuse any hasty expression, which I might have been guilty of in my former letter.
Your's sincerely,

J. BLUNT.

From a Tradesman to a Friend.

MY DEAR FRIEND,
ENCOURAGED by your repeated professions of friendship, I take the liberty of soliciting your assistance, presuming, as you had such amazing luck at cards, last Monday, at my house, you will be so kind as to lend me the small sum of one hundred pounds; the money I want

want immediately, having unfortunately lent my name to a person who has used me ill, and left me to answer it.

I am your's sincerely,

The Friend's Apology.

MY DEAR SIR,

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

Your humble servant,

JOHN FOPPINGTON.

From the Tradesman to another Friend.

SIR,

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

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

The Friend's Apology.

SIR,

I AM very sorry, on your sister's account, that I cannot possibly comply with your request; your embarrassment does not in the least surprize me; it is what I expected, on account of the unmeaning splendid extravagance which I have witnessed at your house. I have frequently taken the liberty of hinting to your sister, that it did not become a young tradesman to spend so much in entertainments, but I am sorry to find my advice was not taken.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

JAMES TURNCOAT.

The Tradesman's Reply.

SIR,

I THINK proper (for the last time) to inform you, that those entertainments alluded to, were given at my sister's request, and totally against my will;—it never was my desire to furnish a table for any person unworthy of it;—a real friend should always be welcome.—My sister desires me to add, that she entirely forgets when you were so kind as to give your advice: for my part, I think you should have proved your disapprobation of my extravagance, by not countenancing it. However, as I now intend to improve upon

upon the hints you have been so good to give, I beg leave
to inform you, that business puts it totally out of my power
to enjoy the pleasure of your company in future.

I am, yours, &c.

The Tradesman's Sister to a young Lady.

MY DEAR JULIA,

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

Your obliged friend,

HORTENSIA.

From the Banker to the Tradesman.

SIR,

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

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

JEFFERY DIVES.

An Answer to the above.

SIR,

I DIFFER in opinion with you, for without we assist one
another, it is impossible for commerce to rear her head:
he must be a suspicious wretch indeed, who has no faith in a
brother. I now beg leave to inform you, and with no little
exultation, that I neither do, nor *did* I want the sum which
was mentioned. My sister being both extravagant and cre-
dulous, I devised this stratagem by means of a friend, who
pretended to have left me in this supposed distress; in order
to show her the folly of her entertainments, as well as the
gratitude and friendship of her dear guests (to which num-
ber you had lately made an addition;) happily now I have
opened her eyes. The very person whom she did not look
upon as her friend, because of her late unwelcome reproofs,
was the young lady, who had made the application to you,
and

and has since, with unparalleled generosity, raised the money, that she supposed I wanted, on her jewels.—I saw, I admired her goodness; and, resolving to show my gratitude, have since made her my wife! As you are the person, who, by her father's will, was appointed to hold her fortune, till she was either of age or pleased to alter her situation, I thought it my duty to represent the matter in its true colours, that you may be prepared to account with me immediately for the lady's property.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, &c.

From a Country Tradesman to a London Dealer.

SIR,

HAVING met with an unforeseen loss, by the bankruptcy of a chief creditor, and finding by my accounts, that the note I last gave you will be due on Monday next, as it will be out of my power to answer it then, I humbly request your indulgence to renew it for twenty-one days, when you may depend upon its being faithfully taken up, and all future bills punctually paid. Your answer will greatly oblige,

Sir, your humble servant,

SIMON NEEDY.

The Answer.

SIR,

I REGRET exceedingly that you had not given me the notice contained in your last favour, having parted with your note a few days ago. Your late punctuality convinces me that it must be an unforeseen disappointment indeed, which has occasioned this application. I have, therefore, sent you a draft for the sum of your bill, payable at sight, in order to enable you to answer it, and keep up your credit; for which please to send me another bill, at whatever date you think will be sure and convenient; for, believe me, I had rather have a good bill at six months date, than a doubtful one at three weeks. I am, Sir, your humble servant,

MAT. REGULAR.

From a Merchant's Clerk to his Master.

SIR,

PRESUMING your delay in the country is owing to some unexpected business, I think it my duty to enquire after your health; at the same time to inform you that all due attention and care are paid to your commercial concerns at home. If, therefore, your absence be productive of any advantage,

vantage, I assure you that your stay will be very safe, notwithstanding your return is anxiously desired by, Sir,
Your faithful servant,

From the Master to his Clerk.

MR. STEADY,
YOUR conjectures have been very just; as unexpected events have procrastinated my departure from this; however, I am convinced of your fidelity and care. I am, thank God, in good health, and hope shortly to set off for town.
Yours, &c. &c.

From a Tenant to a Landlord.

SIR,
A LOSS very recent and unexpected, obliges me to request your indulgence with respect to half a year's rent, due last Lady-day, till the ensuing quarter, when you may depend upon the whole being faithfully discharged by, Sir,
Your very humble servant,
TIMOTHY FAITHFUL.

The Landlord's Answer.

SIR,
HAVING no reason to complain of your late payments, and entertaining no doubt of the fulfilment of your promise, I think it my duty, by a ready compliance with your request, to grant that indulgence, which your general punctuality so justly deserves. I remain, Sir,
Yours, BENJAMIN PLUMB.

From a Friend to another.

SIR,
HAVING just married a young lady, who will be entitled to five thousand pounds, when of age, of which she wants fourteen months, and being advised, in case of danger, either through sickness or pregnancy, to insure her life for that time, as a multiplicity of business prevents me from making the necessary enquiries, I take the liberty of troubling you to call on both the Royal Exchange and Black Friers' Offices, and enquire the terms of both. By acquiescing with the above request, you will exceedingly oblige,
Your very humble servant,
PETER GOODLUCK.

The

The Answer.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request, I have enclosed the proposals of both the insurance offices, begging leave to remark, that your wife must personally appear at the Royal Exchange, where there is no delay; but if you prefer the office at Black Friars, the terms of which are more moderate, they, in order to be as secure as possible, take some time to consult a physician. Any further service that I can render, you may, without any reserve, command of, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JONATHAN WILLING.

From a young Seaman to a Relation.

DEAR SIR,

ENCOURAGED by the esteem which you professed for my late father, I take the liberty of applying to you for a little succour, which I am at present in the greatest need of. You know the indigent circumstances to which my poor deceased father was reduced, therefore cannot wonder at my present want. I am now on a voyage for Jamaica, but being destitute of money, must decline it, if not immediately assisted by some generous friend. The best security I can give, you may command, for the sum of 40l. which, if you will be so good to advance, shall not only be repaid the first opportunity, but, as it may be the means of my future welfare in life, always gratefully remembered by, Sir,

Your humble servant,

THOMAS BELLISARIUS.

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

THE remembrance of your worthy father, as well as the candour and sincerity of his son, prompt me not only to commiserate, but grant the required relief. I have therefore sent the desired sum, and am exceedingly happy that I had it in my power to prove myself

Your sincere friend,

JOSEPH BOUNTIFUL.

From a Friend to another.

DEAR SIR,

IHAVE this morning received your letter, wherein you have stated your embarrassed situation, and humbly requested the loan of 50l. which you have declared you will repay in three months. I confess I have that sum by me, which

which I intended for my landlord, but, as I can put him off till then, and being disposed to serve you, I will, if you can positively insure me the payment at that time, supply your present wants; but I beg leave to remark, that your breaking your promise, will be attended to me with very injurious consequences; therefore, I hope you will consider my situation, and be precise in the re-payment. I am,

Your's sincerely,

JONATHAN MEANWELL.

From a Friend to another, on not receiving Money promised.

DEAR SIR,

I EXPECTED to have heard from you long before this with respect to the money which you were so kind to promise you would lend me; depending totally upon that promise, I have neglected applying elsewhere, and as to-morrow will be the day, when a large bill of mine becomes due, (for which purpose I wanted the cash) I hope you will not fail in fulfilling your word, otherwise my character will be materially injured. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

Apology to a Person wanting Money.

SIR,

I AM exceedingly sorry to hear you are so embarrassed, particularly as it is not in my power to give you any assistance; my circumstances being almost as bad as your's, I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

To the same purpose.

SIR,

AS it is the injunction of the wise to "be just before we are generous," I assure you I have at present so many demands, that it is not in my power either to lend or give. I am, Sir,

Your's,

CHRISTOPHER SMART.

From a Servant's late Master to a Gentleman.

SIR,

IN answer to your favour of the 15th instant, wherein you request a faithful character of the bearer, I assure you, upon my honour, that his diligence and knowledge of the business he professes, together with sobriety and honesty, entitle him much to notice; he has been in my service upwards of six years, and it was with the greatest regret that I parted with him.

Your's, &c.

On

On the same Occasion.

SIR,

I THINK it my duty, in reply to your very polite address of the 8th instant, candidly to inform you, that I discharged Thomas, my late servant, who lived with me only one month, for his continual inebriety, which rendered him totally incapable of doing his duty. I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

To a Lady for a Servant's Character.

MADAM,

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

Your obedient servant,

TABITHA STRICK.

An Answer to the above..

MADAM,

ITAKE the earliest opportunity of answering your favour relative to Mrs. Steady, who lived with me four years, as housekeeper; having testified the utmost diligence and attention in my service. I must confess that she is fully competent for the task she undertakes. I am, Madam,

Your humble servant,

DOROTHEA UPRIGHT.

To a Lady on a similar Occasion.

MADAM,

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

Your's, &c.

LUCINDA EASY.

The Answer.

MADAM,

THE woman you mentioned in your favour, lived with me three years and seven months, during which time I found her both cleanly and expert in her business; I should not have parted with her only she had married. I am, Madam,

Your's, &c.

HARRIOT SINGLE.

Another

Another Answer.

MADAM,
 I CONFESS Mrs. Dripping, the cook, who lived with me, is a quiet, sober, honest woman; and the only fault I find in her, is taking snuff, which was the sole cause of our separation.

I am, Madam, Your's, &c.
 SOPHIA PUNCTILIO.

To a Gentleman, for a Servant's Character.

SIR,

I N consequence of an application from Timothy Crop, who wishes to serve me as a groom, I trouble you, Sir, whom he says he last lived with, for his character, depending on your honour and veracity. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

ROBERT COLMAN.

An Answer.

SIR,

TIMOTHY Crop, during the time he spent in my service, behaved, I assure you, with great care and diligence. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

JOHN LA CONIC.

Another Answer.

SIR,

THE servant, mentioned in your favour, was discharged by me with the others, in consequence of several articles which were stolen; but it is entirely out of my power to tax his honesty, being ignorant of the transgressor. I am Sir,

Your's, &c.

JOSEPH QUICK.

To a Friend, on Breach of Promise.

SIR,

YOU may remember when I lent you the sum of £.50, that you positively assured me you would repay it in three months—on that account, I ventured to let you have the money, which I intended for my landlord; it has been now some weeks, since the expiration of the time, and I have neither seen nor heard from you. As I have been guilty myself of a breach of promise, owing to your's, you will exceedingly oblige me, by settling it as soon as possible.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JONATHAN MEANWELL.

An

D

An Answer.

SIR,
I AM exceedingly sorry that your good nature should suffer by my misfortunes; I had every reason to think I should be able to fulfil my promise, but I am now determined to surrender all I am worth, and as far as my stock will permit, give every creditor satisfaction. I am, Sir,

Your distressed friend, &c.

To a Nephew going abroad.

MY DEAR JACK,

I CONGRATULATE you upon the success of your interest, in so readily acquiring such an eligible situation abroad; I think it my duty, however, to assure you, that all the advantages of this voyage chiefly depend upon your proper behaviour and regulation of conduct. Avoid dissipation and idleness, which are very destructive to health, than which nothing should be more dear to you in a strange climate—While you seek for a fortune, let justice and honour be your guides, and do not sully the laws of humanity, by taking any unworthy advantage over the forlorn. I hope to see you before your departure, in order to add something to your purse and stock, that you may remember,

Your affectionate uncle,

HENRY GOODAL.

From the Nephew in Answer.

MY DEAR UNCLE,

I know not how to express my grateful thanks for your kind advice. Believe me, I shall always endeavour to keep your bright example before my eyes, that I may never deviate from the paths of rectitude. I shall do myself the extreme pleasure of seeing you to-morrow, till when, I remain, dear uncle,

Your dutiful and most devoted nephew,

JOHN HAZARD.

From a Nephew, asking Advice.

HONOUR'D SIR,

AS my situation and circumstances are not unknown to you, I take the liberty of applying to you for advice. My father, you know, left me a trifle, which, though it may keep me from want, is not sufficient to render me independent. I am, besides, heartily weary of an idle life, and should be happy of some employment; the exercise and emolument of which may contribute towards my future welfare; but being at present at a loss how to make proper enquiries,

nquiries, I humbly solicit your kindness on the occasion,
or which I shall remain, Your grateful nephew,
WILLIAM ACTIVE.

From the Uncle in Answer.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,
I WAS exceedingly pleased with the contents of your epistle, having often regretted your present situation. As you have some money to spare, you have certainly an advantage, which many want; by therefore advertising two or three times, and offering a gratuity to any person who has interest sufficient to procure a desirable situation, I think you may succeed, according to your wishes; for I am certain there are many persons, of good connections, who, in this secret manner, take a bribe; let your advertisement run thus:—"An adequate gratuity will be given to any person, who, by his or her interest, can procure for the advertiser, a place in the Custom-house, or under government.—A line directed for, &c. will be duly and personally answered, and the profoundest secrecy observed." But if you are unwilling to risque any money, as I suppose you can have no security of a continuance in those places, as the majority of them are during pleasure, I would advise you to advertise in a genteel paper, as well as the Star, for a clerkship in the following manner:—"Wants a situation as clerk or partner, a young man, who writes well, understands arithmetic perfectly, and though possessed of an annual income, yet is induced, through motives of industry, to make this application, &c." I now leave it to your consideration which method to adopt, and wishing you all possible success, remain, Your's sincerely, &c.

From the Nephew in Reply.

HONoured SIR,
IN order to see which advertisement might turn out better, I have inserted both at stated times, in different papers. I have had three answers to the former, but they came from persons, who, I suspected, had no interest to fulfil their agreement, and only intended to cajole me; they wanted a part of the money in hand, which I absolutely refused; to the latter, I received only two answers; the first was from a Register Office, who assured me, they had several applications from gentlemen, who wanted such an active person as I was, and therefore advised me, by all means, to have my name entered into their books, for which I was to pay some silver; this I declined, promising, that if they got me a good master, I would amply reward them,

otherwise I had rather apply that silver to another advertisement ; they seemed but ill-pleased with this reply ; for my part, I think the majority of these offices are an imposition on the public, particularly on the unfortunate and indigent, who place their dependance on those uncertain procurers ; however, the other application has sufficiently rewarded my labour : I am now with a person in the city, who is in a very extensive way of business, to keep his books—I have given him the security he desired, and make no doubt, but by assiduity and care, I shall win his favour and encouragement, I am, dear Sir, with hearty and sincere thanks for your late kindness,

Your grateful nephew,

From the Uncle in Reply.

DEAREST WILLIAM,

YOUR success has given me infinite delight, and I am sure, from the specimens I lately had of your brilliancy and industry, that you will be both a credit to yourself, and an acquisition to your master : your sagacious remarks upon those who would have duped you, convince me that you are well qualified to go through the world : it is a pleasure, believe me, to see "an old head upon young shoulders." I am, dearest nephew,

Your affectionate uncle, &c.

From a Quaker to his Friend.

FRIEND OBADIAH,

THOU wilt oblige both Sarah, my partner, and thy friend, Zaccheus, if thou wilt purchase for me a pipe of Port wine—ditto of Sherry—ditto of Coniac brandy ; and a puncheon of Jamaica rum. If thou wilt send them by our carrier, with an account of the charge, thou shalt receive the money thou hast laid out, from

Thy friend, of the faithful,
ZACCHEUS PRIM.

The Answer.

FRIEND ZACCHEUS,

ACCORDING to thy wish, I took our friend, Jonathan, who understandeth the quality of liquors, and have purchased for thee the quantity thou hast desired : which thou wilt receive a short time after this, with a bill of the charges. Remember to the partner of thy days,

Thy friend,
OBADIAH FAITHFUL.

From

From a Tradesman retiring from Business.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HAVING now acquired a competency to serve me during the remainder of life, and my young children being all provided for, I am determined to resign business to my eldest son, and seek a rural convenient spot, where I may enjoy the fruits of my labour, and see my friends with comfort.

Your's sincerely,

LAWRENCE MEDIUM.

The Answer.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I REJOICE to hear that your industrious attempts are crowned with the desired success; and I applaud your design of making room for another, since you have made sufficient for yourself. I am, Your's sincerely,

JOSEPH PLAUDIT.

From a Creditor to a Debtor.

SIR,

IT is out of my power to give you any farther indulgence; seeing that the money has been long due, and I am at present in great want of it; if, therefore, you will not settle your bill by fair means, you shall shortly be obliged by legal compulsion.

I am, Sir, Your's,

JOHN HARDY.

The Answer.

SIR,

WHEN it is at present out of my power to discharge the debt I have contracted with you, I hope you will consider that making me a prisoner will only add costs to the bill, and render it of course more impracticable. If bereft of my liberty, I shall consequently be deprived of all means of either doing for myself or others. Your further indulgence will, in the end, be better for yourself, and add to the obligations of, Sir, Your humble servant,

PLATO CANDOUR.

The Debtor's Wife's Answer.

SIR,

MR. NEEDY's present embarrassments having obliged him to leave town, it must be of course evident, that it is totally out of his power to comply with your demand; time, I hope, will make a vast alteration in our circumstances; till when, my husband cannot be seen. I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

SOPHIA.

From a Wholesale Dealer to a Country Shopkeeper.

MR. PUNCTUAL,

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

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

From an embarrassed Tradesman to a Creditor.

SIR,

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

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

The Answer.

SIR,

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

Your humble servant,

ANDREW LOVEALL.

From

From a Country Shopkeeper to a London Merchant.

SIR,
I REQUEST you will be so kind, by return of post, to let me know the current prices of those articles, which I have subjoined. If I think they admit of sufficient profit, you will shortly receive a very considerable order for myself and correspondents. I am, Sir, your humble servant,
(The list follows.) JOHN HOMELY.

The Answer.

SIR,
A GREEABLE to your request, I have, underneath, added the prices to those articles which you wish to know; showing, at the same time, the retail prices, that you may be a judge of the profits. As I have some apprehension that their prices will be shortly advanced, recommend the present time as the best for yourself and friends to purchase.
I am, Sir, Your very humble servant,
(The prices, &c. follow.) NATHANIEL WISEPATE.

An anonymous Letter to a Tradesman.

SIR,
I LIKE a true friend, I take this opportunity of assuring you, that neither your manners nor appearance are calculated for a tradesman—You never return thanks to any customer for his money, and seem very unwilling to oblige; the consequence will soon be, that yourself and shop will be soon deserted—You have a disagreeable way of making replies, and instead of recommending your goods, seem very indifferent whether they are bought or not; the last time I was in your shop I was very uneasy to see several ladies, particularly elderly gentlewomen, standing—Pray, have you no chairs? If they were a scarce commodity, you should have offered them the stool you employed yourself—so much for your manners. As to your appearance, I would recommend to you a hair-dresser. Why not appear as genteel in your shop, as you do at the hopping assemblies in the evening? I presume that you would derive more advantage from it. In hopes that these friendly hints will be of service, I remain, Sir, Your very humble servant, A. B.

From a Master to his Clerk.

MR. BUSTLE,
I Received your letter yesterday, and am happy to find that my absence is no detriment to my business; I desire, when next you write, that you will date your letters—it is a shameful neglect in any tradesman or man of business.

Reading, Jan. 2.

LEWIS REGULAR.
From

From an Apothecary to his Friend.

DEAR SIR,

I Am very apprehensive that the youth whom I have taken as apprentice, on account of your regard for his father, is guilty of some mean practices—I should be very unwilling to tax the lad, or intimate any suspicion to his father, without very substantial reasons to prove my charge: but, between you and me, I do not think the profits of my retail business, instead of improving, by any means correspond with my former receipts. This is a season, which, on account of the instability of the weather, is not a little promising to our business. I assure you I am very much embarrassed on account of my fears. You are conscious that I must not, for my own sake, retain a youth that could be guilty of the smallest theft, and it is such a nice business, that I am unwilling to hurt the feelings of a father, who has been so long the friend of mine; for his sake, therefore, I request you will communicate your advice as soon as possible, which shall be gratefully acknowledged by, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

The Friend's Reply.

DEAR SIR,

I Confess your letter has given me much pain and dissatisfaction, being equally concerned for the interest of my friend, as for my poor old Oliver's peace of mind and tranquillity, whose son I ventured to recommend to you. By all means endeavour to convince yourself whether your suspicions are just or not; for, however disagreeable the detection may be to us all, yet, believe me, it is absolutely necessary; by a timely discovery greater sin may be prevented, and the infatuated boy preserved from hereafter ignominious shame. Suppose you spend all to-morrow with me, while we send some unknown persons to buy, severally, a few little articles in your shop; by making a memorandum of those things which are thus indifferently purchased, you may, on your return, see if they be regularly entered in his book; if they are, I shall be happy to think the boy, notwithstanding the temptation is great, is honest and faithful to his trust; but if you find any omission in the accounts, no greater conviction can be wanting. With hopes that your fears might have deceived you,

I remain, dear Sir,

Your very humble servant,

From a Clergyman to another.

DEARLY BELOVED,

AS I find myself exceedingly weak and infirm, I fear I shall be incapable of going through divine service o-morrow with that zeal and devotion, which are so truly necessary on the occasion. I have therefore taken the liberty of requesting your kind assistance, imagining, if not already engaged, you could be able to officiate for me, since I understand your parish church, the repairs not being yet complete, will not be open for divine service this month.— Should it please God to restore me my health, and give me the same opportunity of serving my friend, my willingness shall prove how much I am

Your obliged brother in God, &c.

The Reply.

DEARLY BELOVED,

THOUGH I know myself but a poor substitute for so worthy a pastor, I shall, on this occasion, exert my weak abilities to supply your place, praying Heaven the cause may soon be removed, and my dear friend restored in perfect health to his congregation.

Your very humble servant, &c.

From a Father to a run-away Apprentice.

DEAR JACK,

THOUGH you must know yourself to be unworthy of that epithet, yet as I still retain the same parental affection for you as ever, I would fain make you sensible of the duties of a son. Your master, whom I know to be a worthy quiet man, both by his late behaviour and his conduct now, has informed me, that you have, without any provocation that he knows of, left him, and are now in concealment with a young man, who I must declare to be your greatest enemy under the masque of friendship: though his servant would not confess where you both were, he has promised to deliver you this; and I hope these few lines will meet with your serious reflection, and have greater weight than verbal admonitions or personal remonstrances. If a spark of filial gratitude dwells in your breast, you must, for my sake, return to your duty.—Consider, Jack, the unremitting pains I have taken in your education. Many a hard earned guinea I have spent in qualifying you for business. I also gave a hundred to your master with you; and if you but knew with what difficulty I procured the money, I am sure you would not thus repay me with ingratitude! The indulgence and generosity of your master leave

leave not the shadow of excuse in palliation of your misconduct: in hopes of your voluntary return he has forbore, according to custom, to advertise you; but, if you stay longer away, you must expect to see your name published to the great disgrace of yourself and family; need I say more to awaken sensibility, and invite you to your home? Yes, and that there may be no apology for your absence, be assured that you shall not only be forgiven, but never reproached by either your master or me: let me then persuade you, if not for mine, for your own sake, to abandon these puerile follies, for surely you must be conscious that all your future happiness and prosperity depend upon your present care and attention. Let not your adversaries, who call themselves your friends, mislead you. I have no reason to deceive you; my admonitions proceed from the just motives of love and sincerity; if I find them slighted and neglected, I shall then renounce you for ever; but if I find they are attended with a happy issue, still shall I remain,

Your ever affectionate father, &c.

The Son's Answer.

HONOURED SIR,

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

A Father to his Son commencing Business.

DEAR JOE,

THIS day I understand you are sworn an attorney, therefore I think a little advice, respecting the propriety of your future conduct, is absolutely necessary: the profession you have chosen has been, you know, contrary to my wish; but as you appeared somewhat desirous for it, I did not think proper to oppose your inclinations. I have long entertained, perhaps unjustly, a strong aversion to the name of an attorney, but this, doubtless, has proceeded from what I have suffered by the tediousness and expence of law-suits. I have known several of your calling to be so accustomed to oppress the fallen, and prey upon the unfortunate,

to be insensible of all feeling and humanity! Such I have seen with the utmost contempt and indignation.—How many of the unhappy indigent have been rendered still more poor and miserable by the cajoling promises of those mercenary unfeeling men, who, for the sake of enriching themselves, have plunged whole families into ruin and distress! I would not insinuate, Joe, that every follower of the law is thus inclined—your master, I am positive, was a worthy upright man, and that you may be another example, I pray you never undertake a cause that betrays the least cruelty and oppression: be not prone to stimulate your plaintiffs to an opposition, but if possible, reconcile matters, and be as much the defendant's friend as your client's; though such impartial rectitude may not be of present advantage to your cause, yet believe me, it will so establish your character, as to be of hereafter emolument, by increasing the number of employers. Every man must prefer that attorney who acts from motives of honour and prudence, and had rather settle or compromise a difficult matter over a bottle of wine (thereby making parties social and amicable) than incur a tedious expence, and uneasiness of mind, that must even damp the spirits of the succeeding party. Be not, dear Joe, too hasty, on every idle pretence and application, to arrest a man; this I know is a common practice among attorneys, and many are deprived of liberty, unable to regain it, while others have been obliged to pay debts which have been illegally contracted. Before ever you engage in such undertaking, be well assured that the plaintiff's demand is just, and that the debtor's character and situation are such as authorize you to proceed against him. Whenever you find a poor man under the influence of rich oppressors, and that his right is withheld by the other's might, be ready to afford him assistance, and exert your utmost abilities in his behalf: such generosity always compensates itself! Never take advantage of the needy: I have known some of your profession delay business for the sake of enlarging their bill of costs, to the very great detriment of the losing parties. Nothing requires more expedition than the law, and nothing (I am sorry to remark) is attended with greater delay.—That which was originally designed for the relief of the necessitous, is now so artfully corrupted, as generally to give additional pain. Some time ago, when I visited a friend in prison, I was told there were two wretched men in confinement, who had been arrested by their own attorneys; attorneys who had absolutely forced their services with an assurance of success; had cajoled these poor sufferers out of all the money they could borrow, for the sake of concluding a pro-

a prosecution which they understood would terminate their afflictions; but want succeeded want; and being at last incapable of supplying the demands of these men, they and their families were totally ruined by their supposed friends. I confess this recent business (*absolutely a fact*) has in a great measure prejudiced me against your profession. I detest those characters who can suck the vitals of those, whose easy credulity expose them to deception, and would rather see a tomb-stone over the head of my son, than find it dressed at the expence of honour and integrity: Make it then your study to recover the lost reputation of your calling, and restore your profession to that degree of reputation, to which, on account of the qualifications which are absolutely necessary, it is most justly entitled, and I shall be proud to say, my son is an honest attorney, and,

I am, his affectionate father, &c.

The Son in Reply.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter this morning, and though I thought your censures on the gentlemen of my occupation rather severe, and chiefly the result of prejudice, yet, as they evidently proceeded from the goodness of your heart, I could not but admire them, even in the height of my disapprobation! You are a physician, Sir, and must be conscious that even your profession is as liable to censure (by being equally abused) as ours. Justice and equity would be indeed banished for ever, were they not constantly enforced and supported by our endeavours. I confess that the *lower* order of attorneys have long been a disgrace, as well as a detriment to our profession; but should the rest suffer on their account? I presume, that instead of being the oppressors of the poor, we are more commonly their friends and patrons! Were it not for us, Might would indeed overcome Right, and modesty must be trampled on by proud usurpation! Surely, Sir, a *petty-fogging* pretender to our occupation is no more to be compared to an attorney, than a mountebank to a physician! Every profession is liable to be usurped by impostors; some more and some less; but this is no reason that the occupation itself should suffer in our esteem.

I return my dutiful thanks for your kind advice; it shall always be my study to assist the needy; and, as far as my feeble abilities will permit, appropriate law, as was its first design, to the relief of all the wronged and unfortunate. I shall never undertake any case, that I am not well assured is strictly just and honest: and it shall always be my great ambition

to do my clients every justice in my power—by these means I hope to establish a character so unblemished and pure, that even my father shall acknowledge there is an honest attorney in his

Dutiful son, &c.

A Merchant to another requesting the Character of a Clerk.

SIR,
MR. Ledger has applied to me for a place that is now vacant in my counting-house. He seems a decent honest man, but appearance not being sufficient assurance, seeing that I must place great confidence in him, I have taken the liberty of requesting your candid opinion both of his honesty and abilities. He has informed me that he was employed for some time in your house; I should be glad particularly to know on what account you parted with him. As he calls the ensuing week, your answer previous to then, will exceedingly oblige, Sir. Your very humble servant,

JOSEPH SCRIBBLE.

The Reply.

SIR,
THE person mentioned in your letter, is really worthy both of your confidence and encouragement. He served me when in partnership with Mr. Middleton, but that being dissolved, I was obliged to dismiss several hands in order to lessen my expences; it was with the greatest regret on both sides that we parted. I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

JOHN TRADELOVE.

From a Tradesman to another, demanding a Debt.

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

Your very humble servant,
JEREMY BUSTLE.

The Answer.

SIR,
I HOPE you will believe me, when I declare upon the word of a tradesman, I never received the bill that you mentioned. As I give no credit myself, I expect none, and

and am somewhat surprized that on my account, particularly, you would deviate from your established rule. It is rather hard, you must allow yourself, that a man, who would fain support a character of honesty and integrity, should be liable to pay all the unexpected debts of an extravagant wife: your's is not the only bill that has surprized me. If you will be so kind as to send me a receipt to-morrow, it shall be discharged; but any other account contracted for the future, without my knowledge or consent, I must beg leave to decline. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,
DAVID BRIEF.

From a Friend to another relative to a Sale.

SIR,

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

Your obliged servant,

The Reply.

SIR,

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

Your very humble servant,

From a Nephew to his Uncle, wanting a Commission.

DEAR SIR,

AS you have long supplied the place of a father, and by your evident attention loved me as a son, I trust my present application may not be deemed either presumptuous or an imposition upon your goodness. I am induced, for two reasons, to make the following request;—first, because my welfare in life has always seemed your concern; and, secondly, I am unwilling to be any longer a burthen to my kind uncle.—I am anxious, at this critical period

serve my king and country ; and, presuming that a commission may now be had on reasonable terms, would deem the greatest addition that could possibly be to all former negotiations, if you would procure me even the most humble. My chief ambition shall be to deserve the same, and distinguish myself in such situation, whereby I flatter myself, may gain opportunity of rising—merit seldom goes unrewarded. I cannot bear the thoughts of being thus in obscurity, leading a dull inactive life, when my services are much wanted—but, above all, to be constantly obliged to weary my dear uncle with repeated solicitations, without her the hope or the prospect of a return. I shall wait with the utmost impatience for your answer, and should it be your inclination to comply, I shall always be proud to make most hearty acknowledgments of your goodness, and prove myself no longer a troublesome, but grateful nephew,

W.M. NOBLE.

The Answer.

DEAR WILLIAM,
THOUGH I confess your request in some measure pleased me, as it shews an eager wish to serve society, besides displaying a great magnanimity of mind ; yet the thoughts of the dangers you would encounter render me somewhat slow in gratifying your desire. However, if our inclination does not change, and you will not be dissuaded from those honourable motives you have already testified, of deriving fame and support, I shall let you have sufficient sum to procure the first commission that is to be purchased.—Think, however, on the fatigues and dangers of war—think on the malignant frowns of fortune—think on captivity and death. Many there are, allured by the military dress, only appear what they are not ! I have no reason to doubt your courage ; for real valour, and not vanity, has evidently prompted this desire. I should be very proud to see my nephew a hero, and boldly aspiring to honour ; but it would grieve me very much to think that after he obtained his wish he should have any cause to repent it. I therefore beg you will seriously weigh the business in your mind, for a week at least, and upon your communicating the effects of that consideration, I will endeavour to prove myself

Your affectionate uncle,

A.N.T. NOBLE.

The Nephew's Reply.

DEAR UNCLE,
YOU may rest satisfied that I have duly considered my request before I made it. I am not (as I hope you will allow me) one of those empty fools, who would fain

exhibit a red coat, without proving themselves worthy of it. Such bear the external appearance of men, while in fact, they have women's hearts. If I have the honour to wear his Majesty's livery, I shall endeavour to prove that I am sensible it is an honour. At present I am wasting a life that might be better employed. Death is the common lot of all, and a man may as well face him in the field, as endure the lingering pains of dissolution upon a bed—for my part

"I nought can boast, but a desire to be

"A soldier, and to gain a name in arms."

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

The Uncle in Reply.

DEAR WILLIAM,

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

Your's sincerely, &c.

From a Gentleman to another, relative to a bad Servant.

SIR,

THE footman whom I received into my house, on account of your recommendation, has proved himself, I am sorry to say, during his short stay with me, the very reverse of honest, sober, and industrious; these being his characteristics, as you were pleased to write, but of which (in my service at least) he has proved himself totally undeserving. As I think it a duty every honest person owes to society to give the real characters of servants, when required, I request, should he apply to you instead of me, for a recommendation, you will be so good as to refer him to his last master, which will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your humble servant,

CHARLES SMART.

The Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter, which has somewhat surprised me; as I must repeat, that the footman alluded to, was, in every sense of the words, honest, sober, and industrious, while he lived with me, otherwise I should not have kept him three years. I shall certainly give the man the character

raffer

ster he deserves, while I knew him, and at the same time tell the enquirer, what you are pleased to remark, that you were his last master, by means of which reference you may have an opportunity of proving your declarations; but I think they should be *proved*, before the man is rendered incapable of earning his bread. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

JOHN PLAIN.

LETTERS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE, &c.

Reprimand from a Father to his Son, on an imprudent Connection.

DEAR HARRY,

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

officious, yet, believe me, son, I am not only your true friend and counsellor, but likewise

Your fond affectionate father,
HENRY CONSTANT.

The Son's Answer.

MY DEAR SIR,

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

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

I shall return home immediately, and flatter myself, when I inform you of the parentage and connections of this young lady,

, you will not be averse to my wishes; but if it be
ur pleasure to disapprove, I assure you, I shall then en-
vour to suppress my inclinations; in the mean time, I
scribe myself

Your dutiful and affectionate son,
H. CONSTANT, jun.

*A Daughter to her Father, disclosing a Proposal of
Marriage.*

MY DEAR HONOURED SIR,

S MR. Constant, whose father, I am sensible, is one of
your most intimate acquaintance, has, during your
ence in the country, openly avowed a sincere passion for
, and ardently pressed me to comply with his overtures
marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of
t nature, however advantageous they might seem, till I
I received your opinion on so important an affair, being
ermained to be entirely directed by your superior judge-
ment, and according to your advice, either prohibit or en-
ourage his addresses. I shall, however, take the liberty,
th due submission, to disclose candidly my real sentiments
the young gentleman, hoping, I am not too blind or
artial in his favour: he appears perfectly honourable in his
entions, and to be by no means inferior to any gentleman
my acquaintance, either in respect to good sense or good
inners. I acknowledge, Sir, that I could admit his ad-
dresses with pleasure, were they attended with your consent
d approbation; but, Sir, be assured, that I am not so far
gaged, as to act with precipitation, or comply with any
fers, inconsistent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude
r your parental indulgence, I shall ever owe you. Your
vice, therefore, as soon as possible, on so momentous a
bject, will be the greatest satisfaction imaginable to, dear
onoured Sir,

Your most dutiful daughter,
CHARLOTTE WORTHY.

The Father's Answer to his Daughter.

MY DEAREST GIRL,

HAVE long wished to see you happy with a deserving
man—I would not, upon any consideration, either thwart
or force your inclinations; the consequences especially of
the latter, have been, in many instances, fatal; far be it
from me to disapprove of a worthy match! I should then
deviate from the duty of a father, and be injurious to the
appiness of a daughter. I know the gentleman's family
you mention, and make little doubt but the connection
will be mutually agreeable; be assured then that my return
home

home shall be as speedy as possible, in order to prove how much I am, my dear girl's Affectionate father,
W. WORTHY.

From a Lover, to the Object of his Affection.

MADAM,

THE ardent passion I entertain for you, being founded on the basis of sincerity, will, I hope, be ample apology for this seeming presumption. As my views are both honourable and just, they cannot, I trust, give any offence to that delicacy, which I so much admire. I have beheld you, unobserved, with the profoundest attention, till, at last, I was led to behold you with admiration; and discovering such amiability in your countenance, was induced by the sensibility, which it indicated, to flatter myself your mind is susceptible of impression, and would not deny encouragement, where truth, honour, and sincerity are advocates. I am thereby encouraged to avow an honest passion, and indulge, at least, a distant hope of success. Permit me, then, on any day that may be convenient, and in the presence of whatever friend may be deemed most proper, personally to assure you, how much I am, with all due respect,

Your sincere friend, and ardent lover.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

AS your unexpected favour required much consideration, it was totally out of my power to give it an immediate reply. I was induced to think some part of it flattery, than which there is nothing gives me greater offence. At times, I was apprehensive that the whole proceeded from gallantry; but I hope, Sir, neither my conduct nor manners, render me a proper object for ill-timed wit or cruel sport: there is something, however, in the latter part of your favour, which promises sincerity, and indicates honour. I cannot, however, approve of a sudden passion, which prudence and decorum forbid; notwithstanding I shall be very happy to have the pleasure of your company any evening, with other friends, provided you will wave a subject, that requires both time and consideration, before it can be with any propriety introduced. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

ROSINA.

To the same Lady, after some Time.

DEAR MADAM,

YOU will now give me leave, I hope, to renew a subject, which, according to your request, I have, with the greatest difficulty imaginable, endeavoured to suppress.

You

You have ample proofs, I flatter myself, that neither interested nor dishonourable views attend this proposal. I didly declare, that I never found my heart in the situation s now. This sensibility of love, susceptible of every nice thing, induces me to announce an utter aversion to thoseious forms of courtship, which, I hear, have often conued, till love itself became weary and indifferent. Whever my passion is more ardent than common, I cannot say, t I really assure you, I can live no longer without you. m so much, Madam, Your sincere admirer, R. L.

From the young Lady in Reply.

SIR,
AM no more fond of the fashionable modes of courtship than yourself. Plain dealing, I acknowledge, is best ; t, methinks, common decency should always be preserved. Our acquaintance has been no longer than six months— short a time, I think, to form an opinion of one's disposition; and I assure you, Sir, I hope, the man that is stined to be my husband may know me perfectly, while is my lover.

There is something, so peculiar and whimsical, in your inner of expression, that I am absolutely at a loss to determine whether you are serious, or only write for your amusement. I must, therefore, beg leave to decline further remarks upon this subject, till we are better own to each other, and you explain yourself in more inligible terms. I shall then, perhaps, be better able to m a judgment of your passion, and more capable of rening a proper answer. What influence your future adelles may have over me, I cannot possibly say, but, to be ore free and candid, your present attempts have made no pression on the heart of

ROSINA.

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

SIR,
INCE neither of us, I believe, is over fond of squander- ing away time on idle unmeaning compliments, I think now proper to inform you, in direct terms, that, notwithstanding my parents are deceased, the disposal of my person not altogether in my own power; for, according to the will of my late father, I can transact nothing of any moment, without both the consent and approbation of Mr. kindly of the Middle Temple; he is my counsel upon all particular occasions, and a gentleman too of such strict honour and honesty, that I am determined to abide always by his

his advice. I think proper, freely to acknowledge, with candour and sincerity, that I have no objection to your person; if, therefore, you think it worth your while, to wait upon my guardian, with your proposals, and if I find that he approves of them, I shall act without any mental reservation, and be very apt to encourage a passion, which I imagine to be both honourable and sincere. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

R.

From a Bachelor to a married Friend.

DEAR SIR,

IT can be no wonder that the much-to-be-envied happiness of my dear friend and his lady, have long increased that anxious desire, which I have at intervals, to enter my name into the list of happy *Benedict*s. I am become heartily weary of celibacy and a solitary life. I wish for a loving partner to gladden my days and harmonize my soul; but all past attempts being in vain, I apply to you for advice, for the older I grow the more difficult I shall find it, of course, to gain my ends: whether modesty or want of money has been my misfortune, I know not, but I could never prevail upon any young lady yet to give me her hand. I have known many a poor man obtain an heiress; and I have frequently made proposals and formed an acquaintance with several young ladies, so that I cannot attribute my ill success to these causes. My looking-glass assures me, that I am neither decrepit, old, or ugly; but I can get no fair to view me with my own eyes; I can meet no lady so kind to me as my glass! Pray, then, commiserate my situation, and tell me what I shall do. I have been thinking of advertising for a discreet young tender-hearted female: to shew my integrity, I shall settle whatever fortune she has, upon her, and enter into a written promise to give her every proper indulgence. I have frequently seen advertisements of a similar tendency; and if others do it, why may not I? Give me, pray, your advice; and if you approve of this measure, you shall be my friend to bring about an interview, whenever you think there comes a serious reply. I shall remain with the utmost impatience, to hear from you, your sincere and obedient friend,

JOHN EAGER.

The Friend's Reply.

DEAR JACK,

IT has been urged by several, that it is much more difficult to get rid of a wife, than to obtain one; but I dare say, my friend looks upon himself as an exception. I would not, upon any account preach against matrimony; but I think it

It should always meet with due, serious consideration. How many are there like you, so eager to have a wife, that they never think of previously consulting the disposition of the woman they are about marrying: and what is generally the consequence? we find extravagance and thriftiness united—the peaceable and turbulent! in short, such contradicting tempers so often meet, owing to precipitation and folly, that what was intended to *harmonize* the soul, too frequently proves an unhappy *discord*. Having thus preached so far, I hope my friend will be aware of making a rash choice; for which reason be resolved never to take a woman that does not see you with your *own eyes*, and become as kind to you as your *glass*.

I assure you, Jack, that the matrimonial happiness, which you so often envy, is too generally false, by being feigned. On your account, I have had, this moment, a falling out with my lady; I was absent when your letter came, and taking advantage of the fond indulgence, which I had always granted her, she took the liberty of opening your favour and perusing the contents. Now she displays all the privileges which her sex usurp; the right of gratifying her female curiosity, and the pleasure of revealing secrets and talking. What you meant as serious, she now turns into ridicule; and she has applied to every friend for the news-papers, that she may see your advertisement. For this chief reason, I beg you will decline your intention, as certainly you will expose yourself to many impositions, for doubtless my wife and her gossips will seize an opportunity of deceiving you, and lead you some unnecessary dances, for the sake of (what they call) sport and diversion.

Indeed, my friend, when you seriously consider the business, an advertisement, I think, should be the last resource; it seems somewhat strange to address the public on such a *private* subject; besides, few amiable women are in want of admirers:—what amiable woman, can you suppose, then, would take notice of your public proposal, and violate all the laws of prudence and decorum, by vouchsafing it a serious answer? How can a lady be sure but such advertisement is the produce of a wit's brain, and only intended to deceive and ridicule the credulous? You may, I grant, have some applications from the *tender-hearted*, but none, I am sure, from the *discreet*; and I should be exceedingly sorry, my friend would make an improper union, by hastily accepting the hand of some deserted fair, or a woman, who, for convenience-sake, would be induced to call you husband.

If you want a wife, keep your wish concealed;—render yourself as agreeable as you can to the ladies, and be in their company as often as possible; but do not be a general lover; for truth, honour, and constancy, are the only recommendations, which a woman of sense will ever be guided by; beware of falling into the snares of the coquets and flirts; the prude, who trembles and blushes at your suit, leave to a state of celibacy, for time will punish her pretended coyness, and unmeaning squeamishness. I am dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

FRED. HOPEWELL.

From a Friend to another, advising him to marry.

DEAR CHARLES,

I AM sorry to hear that you have absolutely declared against matrimony, and for no other reason, as I can learn, but because you are not acquainted with its sweets. Has not both Providence and religion enjoined this sacred union? Would we be now in existence only for it? But without confining ourselves to general reflections, let us see if you could not live more comfortably with a woman, than in the single state, you are at present resolved to make choice of; for my part, I must think that if you find yourself capable of regulating a family, of living upon good terms, with an honest person, and of giving good education to your children, you would find that there is nothing more agreeable than to live with a woman, who has made a tender of herself to you, and who is inclined to discharge faithfully all the duties incumbent on that union.—If you examine every thing which passes in a family, under proper regulations, you will see that a good virtuous wife shares with her husband all the pleasure or sorrow that may happen—his joy she increases by adding her own, and his afflictions she alleviates by the part she bears in them. Conjugal affection, when it is sincere, seldom decreases; but, supposing the first transports of love to suffer an abatement, still a virtuous woman is the best friend a man can have. They concert together the measures they judge conformable to what they design to undertake and put in execution. They never act but by agreement; their thoughts and sentiments rest on the foundation of mutual confidence and the good understanding which subsists between them, adds unspeakable charms to the union. A husband may leave home and enjoy uninterrupted tranquillity, because he leaves the care of family concerns to a frugal and good house-wife. If he has children—how sweet are the effects of his love, who

will

will be hereafter the support of his old age ! Single life in men can no where find the consolation and assistance that are met with in the society of women. Providence has given this help to man as a sort of helpmate, and therefore, as the scripture says, " it is not good for man to be alone."

The Romans (as appears in history) expelled from their city those who persisted to live in a state of celibacy, as being useless to the republic. There is something unnatural in a man desiring to remain a bachelor all the days of his life ! it is contradictory to the laws of reason and nature ! he that hates a woman, hates the loveliest part of heaven's creation, and well deserves to be hated himself ! I hope, then, my friend will change his opinion of a single life, and lay upon himself the injunction of matrimony, which, no doubt, will be more agreeable than he has hitherto thought it. He will, I hope, take in part the advice I here presume to give, and believe that I am,

His sincere friend,
OLIVER LOVEFAIR.

An Answer.

SIR,
I THANK you for your letter of advice, and to prove that I have attended to your counsel, and followed your precepts, I beg leave to inform you, that I have given both my hand and heart this day to a lady of Grosvenor-square ; this may appear somewhat extraordinary after the resolution that I made ; but believe me, Sir, that resolution proceeded not from an aversion to women, as you have unkindly insinuated, but from motives of real tenderness and affection : my property was but small and only sufficient for one person ; by marrying, I not only endanger the happiness of myself, but perhaps bring misfortunes upon the head of a virtuous woman—if poverty knocks at the door, love not only gives admittance but leaves the room ; and those very children that you say will be our comfort and happiness, may serve in such case, only to add to our affliction, by adding to our wants ; believe me, my dear Sir, I should never, notwithstanding all your persuasive arguments, have been tempted in my poor state to marry a woman, had not my uncle lately died and left me an estate, which without an heir must have perished in my family ; for, though your picture of matrimony is very captivating, and may, in some measure be just, yet (for example) I can draw one that is not only alarming, but equally true.—A husband and wife are together without a competency for life, a child year after year enters the world, to be both miserable and to make them so ! Are the cries of these

children harmonious—are they the sweets of matrimony?
“ It is better for man to be alone.”

All politeness after marriage ceases. “ A lover when a husband is a lover no more.” This is a common saying, and I believe it is verified by almost every couple after the honey-moon. Good manners and respects generally cease after marriage, and of course ill humour and anger fill their place! If a wife drops her handkerchief, her fan, or any thing else, the husband leaves her to take it up herself; but when he was courting, how readily he would fly to her assistance, how gladly stoop to serve her. A husband you may see very often take the wall-side of his wife whenever they are walking together; they will frequently take a long walk and not exchange a single word.—Such are the pleasures and harmony of matrimony!

My friend will now give me leave to point out the blessings of a single life—A bachelor has no cause for jealousy, nor is he fretted with the jealousy of his wife! he is unacquainted with the actions of *crim. con.* and the quietudes attending a bad woman—he has no sons to torment him with extravagance and dissipation; he has no daughters eloping with footmen, or sacrificing their virtue; in short, he has no plagues, which are so common to married men, and which, Heaven grant may never be known by my dear friend, or his

Most affectionate servant.

From a young Man suddenly captivated at the Play House.

MADAM,

T HIS intrusion will, I hope, be deemed pardonable, when I assure you, with all due submission, that it is the irresistible impulse of honest love, which induces me thus to address you. The charms of your person, which appeared to such advantage last night, at the play house in Covent Garden, have totally deprived me of my heart. I flatter myself my glances were not altogether disagreeable, as I did not perceive any token of disdain. I am therefore encouraged, though a stranger, to make this humble acknowledgment of my love; and, if you will honour me with an interview, in the presence of any relation, will satisfy you, and those whom it may concern, with respect to my parentage, connections, profession, and all other matters that should be known previous to an allowed familiarity. Presuming, unless a fatal pre-engagement prevents, that you will comply with my request, seeing that my designs are apparently honourable, I remain, waiting with the utmost impatience for an answer, Madam,

Your devoted servant.

From

From the Lady's Father.

SIR,

MY daughter has this day shewn me a letter with your signature; from motives of prudence and modesty, she declines answering it herself; it is not my intention either to force her inclinations, or oppose a desirable connection; her heart has hitherto been her own; if you will therefore favour me to-morrow with a call, and prove the veracity of your assertions, you shall always have my permission to visit my daughter, as long as it may be agreeable to her. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

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

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

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES DORICOURT.

The Father's Answer.

SIR,

I MAKE no doubt of the truth of your assertions, relative to yourself, character, and connections; but as I think my daughter too young to enter into such a serious engagement, I request I may hear no more of your passion for the present; in every other respect, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

ALEX. HARLEY.

A different Reply.

SIR,

THERE is so much candour and honour apparent in your letter, that to withhold my consent would be both ungenerous and unjust. According to the duty of a father, I shall first make some necessary enquiries, assuring you, I never would oppose my daughter's choice, except I had some very just reason to imagine it would be productive of ill consequences; for I am convinced, that in the marriage-state happiness consists only in reciprocal love.

You

You may therefore depend upon hearing from me in a few days, till when, I remain, Your very humble servant,
JOHN REASONWELL.

From the same.

SIR,

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

From the Lover to the Daughter.

MY DEAR CAROLINE,

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

Your most devoted servant, &c.

The Lady's Reply.

SIR,

AS you have been very successful in your application to my father, who seems pleased with your character and family, I think I should be wanting both in duty to him, and respect for you, did I dare to oppose his inclinations, or discourage a gentleman, who has testified so much honour and regard for me. Your visits shall be received with all due respect; but I must beg leave to premise, I shall never be tempted to part with my hand, till it is accompanied with a sincere heart. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient.

A different Reply.

SIR,

AS I think a true lover should endeavour to render himself agreeable to the eyes of his mistress, before he presumes to obtain a father's permission, which, in my opinion, is not only rash and unthinking, but seems to indicate

dicate an inclination of obtaining the daughter through motives of interest, whether she approves or not of the union; I must therefore beg leave to inform you, that your visits to me will be so very disagreeable, that when the servant announces your name, I am determined to leave my father to entertain you. It has always been my study to behave with duty and affection to my parents, but in the disposal of my heart, I shall follow my own inclinations. I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant.

The Gentleman's Reply.

MADAM,

SINCE my honourable views are treated with such cold disdain, and you have disapproved where you should have commended, I shall endeavour to conquer my ill placed passion; be assured then, Madam, that I shall not either give your servant the trouble of announcing my name, or put the mistress under the necessity of going abroad. The woman who can take offence with a man, because he does not pursue the fashionable modes of clandestine courtship, and by a precipitate elopement, plant a dagger in an honest parent's breast, should certainly be left to her own unthinking folly, or the poor deluded husband may soon find thorns in his own bosom! I am, Madam, for the last time,

Your very humble servant.

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

SIR,

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

Sure, Sir, upon cool and deliberate reflection, you must, notwithstanding the wishes of my father, despise the acceptance of a lifeless hand, and so far become the man of spirit,

Spirit, if possesst of either honour or feeling, as to forget a woman who proves herself now so unworthy your attention. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,
LYDIA LANGUISH.

From the above Lady's secret Lover.

MY DEAR LYDIA,

APPRISED of your father's cruelty and the baseness of your intended husband, I think in this respect an elopement both praise-worthy and proper. You are at present exposed to insults and despotism, while methods base and cruel may be taken of blasting all our early hopes, and rendering life for ever wretched! Let me prevail on you, therefore, to put yourself under my care and protection—this night a coach will be ready, and I hope speedily to convey you from all apprehension and cruelty. You know my honour and sincerity: believe me, I would not urge this proposal, were I not alarmed for your safety. I am, dear Lydia,

Your sincere and most constant admirer,

SIMON READY.

The Lady's Reply.

DEAR SIR,

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

Your distress'd, & fond Lydia.

From the Daughter after eloping, to her Father.

DEAR SIR,

I CONFESS the precipitate and rash step I have taken, but must urge in my own defence the unkindness of a father; though I have long maintained a great regard for the gentleman, who is now my husband, yet had not you, Sir, insisted upon a marriage, that would have rendered me for ever unhappy, I would never have been guilty of these clandestine proceedings. I am now wedded to a man worthy of both my heart and hand! if deserving to be your daughter's husband, he should certainly be acknowledged as my father's son-in-law! I presume then that cool deliberation

liberation will remove all resentment; there being faults on both sides (perhaps mine are greater, for despair had almost subdued my senses) we should mutually forget the past, and endeavour to make each other happy! Though I feel myself blest in the arms of an affectionate husband, yet my happiness I find incomplete till a parent's anger is abated.

Oh, then, my dear Sir, permit me once more to enter your presence, kneel at your feet, and humbly sue for pardon; while my future life shall convince how much I am

LYDIA.

Your dutiful daughter,

The Father, in Reply.

MY DEAR CHILD,

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

Your affectionate father.

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

DEAR HONOURED SIR,

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

Your affectionate daughter.

From the Father, in Reply.

I CANNOT express the satisfaction I felt, while reading your affectionate letter; you have exhibited strong proof of filial respect, in thus soliciting advice, on a business, which equally concerns both you and me. The gentleman's father, you have mentioned, I know perfectly well; he bears a most respectable character, and his circumstances in life are thought to be good; but I am a total stranger to his son, and therefore would advise my daughter to take some time for consideration, that we may acquire as much knowledge as possible of his disposition and manners, and see whether his connection with you would be perfectly agreeable

agreeable to his father; for I have too great a regard for my child, to wish to enter her into a family, where she would not be properly respected. I assure you, my dear girl, nothing would give me so much pleasure and happiness, as to see you united with a man of merit and probity, to which I think my daughter's virtues are entitled. Every opportunity, therefore, of promoting a desirable union, shall always be my study to embrace. I remain

Your affectionate father, &c.

A different Reply.

MY DEAR SALLY,

AT the early age of fifteen, for you are only a few months beyond it, I think it very improper that a girl should think of a husband. Your letter not only surprised, but gave me some uneasiness; I could plainly see an inclination to change your situation; I make no doubt, but the young man who has offered proposals is worthy of you; but an early union is often attended with embarrassments; you are too young and inexperienced to afford much happiness to a man; —you would find the cares of a wife—a house—perhaps a family, too much for your tender age; then my dear Sally, let me advise you, to stay till time ripens your understanding, and renders you more capable of supporting worldly cares. Your's affectionately.

From a jealous Lover to his Mistress.

OH MADAM! MADAM!

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

Your distracted lover,

W. WILDFIRE.

From

From the Lady, in Reply.

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

A different Reply.

SIR,
HAVE sent herewith a most excellent comedy, called "All in the wrong." I request you will read it with attention, as I presume it will cure, in showing its absurdities, that jealousy which is apparently the cause of your letter. I am, Sir,
Your humble servant, &c.

From a jealous Lady to her Lover.

SIR,
BELIEVING you to be a man of honour, my credulity yielded to your professions, for I should never have admitted your addresses, had I not considered your proposal the result of truth and probity. The supposed rectitude of your principles created an esteem, and the seeming accomplishments of your mind, not those of your person, were the strong advocates in your favour; but now I find myself deceived; I am sorry that I have any reason to rede from the good opinion I entertained of you; but I see your infidelity, and all your vows towards me are both forgotten and broken, by the apparent attention which you have lately paid to Miss Harcourt. I therefore insist, if yet a spark of honour remains, that you will either release me from an unfortunate contract, or remove my suspicions by the best authority, till when, expect to hear no further from
Your forsaken

MARIA.

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

MADAM,
HAVING several times, with your knowledge, been happy in the company of your niece, I have often endeavoured to avail myself of those opportunities of avowing

ing my honest and sincere love; but just as I have been about to speak, my fears have vanquished my hopes, and have been obliged to suspend my design. I confess I have thrown out some intimations, but it seems the young lady did not, or will not comprehend them. As I flatter myself, Madam, that my family and connections have already recommended me to your favour, I most humbly solicit that you will be my advocate on this occasion. I would fain make a declaration of my love, but not knowing how to begin it, request you will be so good as to prepare the way. I wait with the utmost impatience your reply, when, believe me, Madam, Your sincere friend,

JOSEPH BASHFEE

The Aunt's Reply.

SIR,

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

Your obedient servant, &c.

From the same.

SIR,

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

From a Modest Lover to his Mistress.

DEAR MADAM,

IHAVE long struggled with the most honourable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man:—frequently I have endeavoured to reveal it personally, and as frequently in this manner; but never, till now, could summon sufficient courage to consummate my design. I can no longer labour with a secret, that has given me so much torture to keep, and hitherto more, when I have endeavoured to reveal it. With rapture I fly to see you, and yet

when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated, as
ought, I am utterly confounded, and totally deprived of
courage. Sure it must be a diffidence in myself—a con-
sciousness of my own unworthiness, and an exalted op-
inion of your merit that occasions this timidity. Love,
they say, has inspired men with courage, and stimulated
them to noble achievements; how differently does it
operate with me! seeing it deprives me of all necessary con-
fidence! Believe me, my dear Madam, though romantic
it may appear, my passion is sincere. If respect be a
crime, it bears its own punishment—it is unnecessary for
me to add, that my designs and motives are honourable.
Who could dare approach so much virtuous excellence,
with any unworthy views? My family and circumstances
will, I flatter myself, stand the test of the strictest enquiry.
Oh then, my dear Madam, condescend to embolden my
respectful passion, by a favourable reply, which will for-
ever oblige

Your affectionate and devoted admirer,

JERRY SNEAK.

The Lady's Reply.

SIR,

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

Your humble servant, &c.

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

MY DEAR NIECE,

DO not, I beg you, imagine the liberty which I now
take of admonishing you, with respect to one instance
of your conduct, proceeds from any officious impertinence;
on the contrary, it is my regard for your own honour and
future happiness which prompts me to take up the pen. I
am informed, that you have most imprudently given en-
couragement to the addresses of that empty and dissipated
coxcomb Mr. Flippant, and absolutely admitted him as a
suitor in form. This report I am sorry to find corroborated
by his being constantly seen with you at public places, and
other circumstances, which, I am sorry to say, prove my
niece very deficient in prudence and discretion: the ac-
counts I hear of this young man are exceedingly alarming:
—he has been the ruin, I understand, of two unguarded
females, in the country, whom, after he seduced, he aban-
doned

doned to their misery ; and may I not with some reason be apprehensive that his views, in respect to you, are equally base and dishonourable ? Oh then, my dear niece, despise the company of a man who is void of all the principles of honour, virtue, or humanity. Your education has been good, therefore I cannot think you destitute of understanding : you have been, from your infancy, taught the ways of virtue, therefore I cannot think you will wilfully swerve from the path of rectitude ; reflect seriously then on the evil tendency of this unthinking behaviour, and abandon from your presence a man unworthy your notice ; be assured that it is through motives of benevolence and sincerity of regard, that you have received, I hope, these timely admonitions from

Your affectionate aunt,

ANNE SMITH.

The Niece's Reply.

DEAR AUNT,

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

Grateful niece,

MARY SMITH.

From

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

SIR,
BEING the sincere friend of Miss Sidney, to whom she has in confidence revealed her utter aversion to your untruding impertinence, and nonsensical jargon, I have undertaken, in consequence of her request, to insist that you will forbear further solicitations, as they are both contemptible and disgusting. Consummate ignorance alone can after this be guilty of a perseverance, which may produce such fatal consequences, as to provoke my friend to apply to some male relative for protection. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

From a Ward to her Guardian, against compulsive Marriage.

DEAR SIR,
I HOPE you will do me the justice to acknowledge, that hitherto, I have in no material instance, transgressed the obedience which I owe that friend, whom my father, in his will, appointed as my guardian--that guardian, which now supplies the place of a father, but, on the contrary, that I have been attentive to his advice, and submissive to his will; still I hope to preserve the character of an obedient ward. You have expressed a great desire, that I should give my hand to Mr. Sturdy: herein I must disobey; were it a father's self that demand compliance, duty, if not directed by inclination, must give way to nature. I have therefore taken this liberty, with all deference, to put in a plea for your candid indulgence, in a matter that concerns the happiness of my life, and, though a female, to reason with you a little upon it. I confess Mr. Sturdy is a man of property and respect; these, I grant, are strong recom- mendations, but not sufficient qualities to constitute happiness in a matrimonial life; consider the great disparity of years—I am young, he is old; the gaiety of youth can never agree with the gravity of age: if they cannot agree, such a disproportionate match must be productive of reciprocal aversion! Age can never delight youth, and sure where there is no attraction on the part of one object, there can be no affection on the part of the other, and if one part be deficient in affection, happiness can never be mutual. Mr. Sturdy may find more pleasure in an alliance with a widow, or a lady of advanced years and experience, while, perhaps I may meet with a gentleman better suited to my inclinations. Having thus far expatiated (as well as my feeble abilities will permit) upon the inevitable consequences of uniting young and old, I hope my dear guardian will no longer favour the addresses of his friend, but persuade him to

to look out for a more suitable and worthy lady than his
young foolish ward. I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

S. K.

From a late Lover to a Lady.

MADAM,

IHAVE been so long, and with so little success, preferring my addresses, that finding them equally tiresome to you and myself, I think it now the best way to decline them for ever! I confess myself guilty of not having done this long ago, but I was amused with hope, as well as the false intimations of your friends. I wish, when I had first made known my wishes, you had been so generous as to have given me a peremptory denial instead of encouraging that cruelty would have been kindness; but there is double cruelty in the kindness you have shewn! it would have prevented trouble on my part, and anxiety on your's; but I shall no longer intrude with my professions, nor shall you be any longer under the necessity of rejecting them— from this day I am at liberty to renew my choice; you to select another object for your's; and, as I once held you in the profoundest esteem, I cannot forbear expressing a desire, that you may meet with a man, who may be a constant and sincere as your late unfortunate admirer.

Adieu for ever.

From a late Lover to a Coquette.

MADAM,

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

MAT. RIGOUR.

The

The Lady's Reply.

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

Your humble servant,

ANN SMART.

From a young Lady to an old Suitor.

SIR,
 I AM obliged by that duty I owe myself, humbly to request a truce to those addresses, which you have lately honoured me with, for fear you may make me guilty of rudeness, which I wish to avoid, especially to a man of your years, as old age, I acknowledge, should always be treated with respect.—To prevent any application to my guardian, I also take the liberty of assuring you, that every advocate in your favour will be in vain, for I am well aware of those evils which attend unequal matches:—Dotage must fall to the share of the old:—Disgust to the share of the young; mutual wretchedness is the result, instead of mutual happiness.—Please then to reflect coolly on what I have said, and desist from pursuing an object, that never could bring you content. I am, Sir,
 Yours, &c.

From

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

MY DEAR CAROLINE,

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

Your devoted servant, &c.

The young Lady's Reply.

DEAR WILLIAM,

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

Your sincere,

CAROLINE.

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

SIR,

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

The Answer.

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

From a young Lady to her Seducer.

DEAR HENRY,
I STILL must call you *dear*, though you have wantonly taken away all that is *dear* to me—I expected, agreeable to your promise, to have seen you long before this. Sure you must be conscious of my deplorable situation! I am now pregnant, and dread every day the severe and just rebuke of my friends. You promised that you would make me your wife—I fear that, being now satisfied in your wishes, you forget—you despise me. Oh Henry, I am innocent and virtuous still, though in this melancholy situation! for, notwithstanding my affection for you, had not you deprived me of my senses by the cruel draught of opium you administered, you should never have succeeded in your impious designs. For Heaven's sake let sympathy, if love be entirely flown, move you in my behalf! O think on my helpless situation, and then you must commiserate it! Forsaken and abandoned, what shall I do? My friends will turn their heads—my relations reproach and despise me!—the unfortunate child, which must shortly enter this world of sorrow, will, fatherless, look up to a mother for support! And where is that support? Oh Henry, for the sake of your child, relieve your unfortunate mistress, who only wishes for an opportunity to prove with how much delight and tenderness she would fulfil the conjugal duties. I shall say no more at present—it will I know be as disagreeable to you, as it is to me, to dwell on a theme that is so truly melancholy; permit me then to subscribe myself,

Your's, most affectionately.

From the Seducer's Wife, in Reply.

MADAM,
BY an accident, which I must deem fortunate, your letter fell into my hands. I cannot say how much I have ever since hated myself for having accepted a hand which

which I know is your due; it is therefore my duty not only to pity, but to relieve you: for which reason you must forget Henry.—I would say, the perfidious Henry, however he is my husband, and I must not only forget his errors but endeavour to love him! I shall never intimate to him the knowledge I have of this business; but secretly I shall allow you a sufficiency every week for your own support the child, if it lives, shall come home to me, and be under the care of its own father, through the supposition of a foundling; nor shall the infant want a mother in me, for I shall esteem it (if I have any) as one of my own. Should this proposal meet with your approbation, the performance will give me infinite satisfaction, as in pity for your wronged innocence, I shall strain every nerve to prove myself,

Your sincere and affectionate friend,

DELIA.

The Reply.

MADAM,

THE noble generosity and exalted benevolence which you have displayed render me almost insensible of the wrongs I have suffered—instead of envying your marriage I pray for your happiness, and invoke heaven, that Henry may be to you, what he never was to me!—but no more of him—it is now a sin for me to think of him, being another's I return my hearty thanks for your proposed goodness, and will endeavour to be grateful. I have lately got a boy, who entered the world before his time, as it were anxiously to participate the sorrows of his mother!—It is my wish to nurse him myself; for who can be a more tender nurse than his own mother? Should you retain the same inclination you professed, when he is able to run about, I shall contrive some means to let him see you; and though my overflowing gratitude should be proud to acknowledge your kindness publicly, yet as secrecy is as essential towards your happiness as my good, my lips shall be for ever closed! I received the presents you were so generous and thoughtful to send me last week. Alas, were it not for your bounty, my child and self would be destitute and naked, as well as abandoned and forsaken! I am, dear Madam,

Your grateful friend and servant.

From a Suitor to his Father, relating his ill Success.

HONOURED SIR,

I PAID my addresses sometime ago to Miss Faulkland, agreeable to your desire and recommendation, and flattered myself from the many qualifications ascribed to that young lady, that I should at least meet with civility and

and politeness; on the contrary, she appeared to me not only reserved, but, in many instances, arrogant and supercilious, which I presume from the profound respect and attention I shewed, was a behaviour undeserved. I was however unwilling to judge too hastily of the lady's character, and therefore suffering a few days to elapse, I repeated my visit; but I observed now a stiff formality of deportment, unaccompanied with the least degree of ease and freedom, which are always the result of good breeding. I was resolved, however, to come to the main point; she took pains to interrupt me by the most frivolous and foreign observations: when I was praising her beauty, as an introduction to my adoration, she was expatiating on the valour of the Duke of York; when I was expressing my admiration of her charms, she was enquiring what comedy was for the evening; in short, when I declared my passion, her answer rudely (I must call it) did she introduce the most unseasonable subjects, rung the bell for her servants on every trifling occasion, flew to the harpsichord to play, then hummed a tune, looked out of the window; in fact, gave me several convincing proofs of her indifference and contempt. I persisted still in my suit, and urged the ardour of my passion, expatiating at times upon the irresistible power of her beauty (for flattery I deemed agreeable to the ears of every woman) and entreating her for a generous reply; but now she laughed, sung, played, and treated me with more coolness and neglect than before; at last, fired with indignation, I made some hasty remarks upon her conduct, and taking a final leave, departed with a resolution never to see her again.

The extraordinary behaviour of this young lady, I submit to your serious consideration, and request to know, if it be your opinion that I have acted right. I am, dear honoured Sir,

The Father's Reply.

MY DEAR JACK,

YOU do not know the woman. Miss Faulkland is a lady of a most excellent character, and I still retain the same opinion of her merits; I look upon this behaviour to have been adopted on purpose, to make a trial of your disposition, and certainly she had as much right to be gay and merry, as you had to be fired with indignation. You should not be too prepossessed in favour of yourself, nor arrogantly suppose, that, on account of family connections and personal merit, you are entitled to respect. A woman of sense is not to be taken by surprise, nor even by the ordinary

ordinary formalities of courtship ; she requires some time to read the heart, and prove its sincerity and affection ; it is not merely the exterior graces of deportment, but the interior graces of the mind, that can recommend a lover to the notice and esteem of a female of judgment ; and as I know Miss Faulkland is possessed of both judgment and sense, I therefore advise you to renew your addresses in a more submissive and persuasive manner, supported by sound arguments and honest declarations ; then you need not despair of success ! but that flattery which you confess you made use of, previous to your suit, must offend the ears of every woman of understanding. Be assured that if you win this young lady, you will secure a most valuable wife, that will render life happy and desirable. I am

Your affectionate father, &c.

From a rich Lover, to a Lady without Fortune.

MY DEAR MADAM,

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

A true and sincere admirer,

JOHN OPULENT.

The young Lady's Reply.

SIR,

YOUR honourable proposal demands my warmest thanks and gratitude, and though at present I cannot think of accepting it, yet time, I hope, will remove every objection ; besides

besides, I think matters of this kind require proper consideration on all sides: and I wish that you would, first of all, consult with your relations and friends, as it would end much to my unhappiness, if you incurred their displeasure on my account. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant, &c.

From a young Lady to a Friend whose Lover was false.

MY DEAR SOPHIA,

I t is always the duty of friendship to administer consolation to the unhappy; I therefore seize the earliest opportunity of endeavouring to abate your distress, by pointing out greater distresses, which you have fortunately avoided; your lover has been false and perfidious; and your disappointment is consequently mortifying; your good has been returned with evil; your kind offers repaid with ingratitude; but think, my dear, if he had succeeded in his base design, (for his views could never be honourable) how much greater would have been your affliction? Let this consideration moderate your present grief; and likewise think that the wisest of our sex have frequently met with the same ill usage, and perhaps worse; in short, if you reflect seriously, you will discover that the very cause of your unhappiness now, will in the end be great occasion for joy; for you have certainly avoided many ills by not entering the marriage state with a worthless man; it is not easy I know for a feeling mind to banish the remembrance of an object that was once dear; but with the aid of reason and reflection, time can complete the arduous task. Oh then, my dear Sophia, collect all your fortitude, endeavour to be yourself again, free and happy, and you will be so; with wishes for this noble resolution, and the desired effect, I remain,

Your's sincerely, &c.

From a Friend to a foolish Lover.

MY DEAR SIR,

A N early attachment created a friendship between us that I thought would have been lasting and permanent; but I have lately perceived a great indifference on your side; I am exceedingly concerned for this, conscious that I have given no just reason for a suspension of our intimacy. My regard therefore induces me to write upon the subject, and true friendship, which is always officious about the health and welfare of those we esteem, having prompted me to make enquiries, I have now discovered that you are in

in love; but why was this concealed from your friend? Love is no crime, no shame: except it is attended with base designs, which then makes it criminal indeed, or ill-placed, which renders it a disgrace. My opinion of your integrity and honour removes the former idea; and being convinced of your prudence and discretion, I cannot doubt the propriety of your choice; but authorized by friendship and our long intimacy, I must chide you (and that severely) for both the secrecy and folly of your love; your devotion to your fair one is, by all accounts, so constant, that I fear you will counteract, instead of promoting your design; you spend too much time with the lady, by which means your presence will become so common and troublesome, that your absence may be often desired; the company of your friend is now totally neglected for that of the young lady; the sight of every visitor is disagreeable; and every subject painful, except the theme of love; be assured, my friend, that disappointment and vexation will be the consequence of this over-passion; the lady I expect will become totally indifferent in a few days; her love will terminate in disdain; and you will be both neglected and despised; though for the present she may seem to entertain the same regard for you which you do for her, yet this reiteration of sighs and vows, and vows and sighs, will soon exhaust her stock of affection and tenderness, and render her in time languid and cool. Love is such a nice matter, that it requires more œconomy than you are aware; it is equally as bad to be profuse as reserved: I fear my friend is but a novice in the science; occasional separations, though painful as they may be, are absolutely necessary, in order to render our future interviews mutually agreeable; nothing can more effectually renew an old flame, nothing revive a languishing one, sooner than absence, which is the chief promoter of love; besides different objects should be occasionally introduced, to render the theme of love more pleasing; else it will be attended with such a sameness that sooner or later must appal; I hope my friend will pardon me for this seeming officiousness, and attribute the cause to true friendship, for I ingenuously confess, that I have been induced to offer my opinion on this occasion, because I have been thereby deprived of the society of a man, whom I have long held in the greatest estimation, and in whose service, I shall always be happy to prove myself

His affectionate and sincere friend, &c.

From a Friend to a Lover on the Imprudence of his Choice.

DEAR SIR,

A S friendship should always be sincere and open, I have taken both an early and private opportunity of stating some facts, which, though disagreeable for me to relate, and you to hear, are certainly worthy your attention, as your future happiness thereupon depends.

With the eye of sincere friendship for you, I have long perceived the capricious conduct and behaviour of Miss Whimsical, and am led to entertain great doubts of her love and constancy. I admit the qualifications of her birth; the strong recommendation of her beauty, and the attraction of her fortune: but what are all these considerations? What avail her lineage, charms, and money, if love be not reciprocal? My friend should be wary; he ought not to set his affections upon objects which may never be his: for my part, I should scorn to pay my addresses where once they have been repulsed; or seek the favour of a woman, whose heart is either alienated by being another's, or unsettled by being nobody's. I have some notion that this young lady you are now pursuing, notwithstanding the encouragement she gives you, is engaged to another; be therefore advised, and suppress a flame which, if cherished longer, may be dangerous; the authority on which I speak is upon seeing her picture on Lord Brilliant's finger; his lordship has also boasted of her partiality for him. These, my friend, are serious considerations; let me then persuade you to recover your senses by returning to the pleasures of society, re-uniting yourself with your old intimates, and particularly

Your sincere and affectionate friend.

From a Wit to his Mistress.

MADAM,

I TAKE the liberty of assuring you, that you must either pull out your eyes, or I must pull out mine—that's a fact. You must either not be so handsome, or I must be blind—that's another. Though my passion be as violent as my lover's need be, I hope you will not expect that I should either hang or drown myself; for, believe me, Madam, I shall do neither. I should certainly betray great want of sense, and little knowledge of your merit, if I was inclined to leave the world while you were in it. To deal sincerely with you, Madam, I choose infinitely the happiness of being with you, before the glory of dying for you; besides I entertain such a good opinion of your sense, as to believe you prefer a living lover to a dead one; the lips that are warm and ready to imprint a thousand sweet kisses to

to those that are cold and closed for ever ! the limbs which are animated with emotion, to those that are lifeless and good for nothing ! but, Madam, if I must die, pray kill me with your kindness, not with your cruelty ; I had much rather expire upon your bosom than at your feet ; should you be tenderly inclined to give me a death of this sort, I am ready to receive it immediately, on any ground, in the three kingdoms : appoint but your place and time, and I will not fail to meet my fair murderer. Your's for ever,

ANDREW MERRI

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

MY DEAR FRIEND,

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

This world being scurrilous and censorious, I think it my duty herein to assure you (who will, I know, tell every body else, when occasion requires) that I have the least reason to call her virtue in doubt ; in this respect I believe her the best wife in all the world, and for her noble quality, I regret sincerely that her imperfections prevent us from enjoying true happiness together. I am, Sir,

Your afflicted friend,

TOWNLE

The Friend's Reply.

MY LORD,

I NEVER found the task of friendship and sympathy more difficult and painful in all my life.—I have long seen your lady's defects ; long pitied your lordship's situat-

d dreaded this sad effect: but still I hope that this sorrow
the forerunner of joy; a heavy shower always brings sun-
ine. Unknown to my friend, and in pity for his suffer-
ings, I sought your lady, and reproved her with all the
nder eloquence I was master of: at first, I believe, I was
eemed rude and impertinent; but on this occasion I took
the liberty of disclosing the contents of your letter, which
had such a happy effect, that I hope separation is now
unnecessary. As a proof of her sudden reformation, she
has renounced her former acquaintance, and is determined
either to see visitors, nor pay visits, except in your com-
pany, and with your permission.—She has prayed me to be
an advocate in her favour; and I must now request your
Lordship, for my sake, will forget the errors of her youth,
and, for the preservation of that virtue which you admire
—change your intentions. A wife, absent from her husband
is exposed to many temptations and evils; for want of that
protection which she has a right to, she may meet with insults
which otherwise she could avoid. Pray then consider the
danger, as well as now (I presume) the inutility of separa-
tion. And that connubial happiness may soon return and
continue, by changing the bitters you have felt to end-
less sweets, is the sincere wish of

Your faithful friend, &c.

From a Lady just married, to her Friend.

DEAR NANCY,

DO not stare at a strange name at the bottom of this
letter; she that writes to you, was Miss Richards,
but my lover insisted upon my taking his name; what can-
not these men do when they persuade us out of our very
titles?—I send you herewith a pair of gloves, a ribbon, and
a bit of bridal cake (between you and me it was the sweetest
cake I ever ate.) You remember that the late Miss Richards
and you entered into a bargain, that which ever married
first, should send this present to the other; if you have
been married before yesterday, you need not send it back
to me; make it two pair of gloves, two ribbons, and
double the quantity of cake; if you are not, my dear Nancy,
take a friend's advice, and marry as soon as you can.

I believe you will find that marriage has not taken away
my spirits; and, indeed by what I see of it, I do not think
it ever will. One may have occasion to be grave some-
times, when the *children* are cross, or dirty, or sick; but
that need not make one unhappy for ever. Excuse me, my
dear, for not writing a long letter; you must surely know
I

that the time of a woman, who has not been married above fourteen hours, is exceedingly precious and scarce. I have only told Mr. Sedgwick I must have a moment to write to the person in the world I love next himself. Adieu. I suppose I shall see you soon.

Your's, &c.

A congratulating Reply.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

THOUGH I had some reason to think you were approaching the indissoluble bond, yet I had no apprehension that the change would have been so sudden. I pleased myself with the thoughts of being your companion and confidant in the agreeable task of making preparations; but herein you have disappointed, for the evident pleasure of surprising me; however, as I have no doubt of your happiness, I sincerely rejoice in the event. May your felicity be long and uninterrupted, and every thing conspire to render it complete. My papa speaks very handsomely of the man of your choice; may he live long, and always deserve so fair a character and so deserving a bride: and may my dear friend live long too to reward his merit and delight her friends!—Being a spinster still, I have kept your presents, and return thanks for your remembering your bargain.—I thought the cake as sweet as you did; may it be the means of everlasting sweets! I am, my dear Eliza,

Your's sincerely, &c.

From a Clergyman, to a new-married Couple.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE taken the liberty of offering a few hints (it being my lot, amongst other offices of my function, to join your hands, according to the sacred rites of the church) respecting the nature and obligations of this awful state, which you have entered by mutual consent. The Holy Scripture has, in many places, particularly the Epistles, sufficiently explained the general design of this institution; and as you might lately have observed, a select part thereof was read to you upon the solemnization of the marriage rites, well worthy your private consideration.—I think it my duty to assure you, that the obligations of husband and wife are reciprocal, or, in other words, there are certain duties which the man owes the woman, and the woman the man; your performance of which is highly essential towards future peace and tranquillity; but if sincere affection for each other dwell within your breasts, and that your motives for entering this state are really well founded, there is very

little

ittle occasion for friendly admonition or counsel, as that love for each other will not only inform you of your duties, but likewise inspire you to fulfil them. You will then love and cherish each other, you will then participate each other's joy or grief, resulting from prosperity or adversity; in short, you will live for each other. The husband, by industry and sobriety, will endeavour to provide honestly for his family, and the wife will diligently employ herself in all the necessary duties of domestic concern; by this care and industry, to promote each other's welfare, a mutual affection will take such deep root that nothing but death can dissolve it! That this may always prove the happy lot of my dear young friends, is the sincere wish of

Your's, &c.

From a humorous Lover, to his Fair One.

MISS—or, MY DEAR MISS—or,

MY MOST DEAR YOUNG LADY,

DID you ever see an almanack in your life? You may say this is an odd question.—I will give the reason when why I ask it: there is an odd sort of a fellow usually pictured in it, Madam, with the devil knows how many arts in his body: and what of him? you will cry—Nothing, Madam, but that he is only a type of your very humble servant; for that little rogue, Cupid, has so pink'd me all over with his confounded arrows, that I look like—let me think like what?—your ladyship's pincushion!—but this is not all;—your eyes had like to have proved more fatal to me than Cupid and all his roguery; for, Madam, while I was star-gazing the other night at your window, full of fire and flame (as we lovers use to be) I dropt plump into your fishpond: by the same token, I hissed like a red-hot horse-shoe, lunging into a smith's trough.—It was a hundred pound to a penny but I had been drowned; for those that came to my assistance left me in this sad pickle to shift for myself; because, forsooth! laughing had so conquered their sides, that they were incapable of affording me the desired aid.—Seeing some fish (very good, I presume, when dressed) approaching me with an air that seemed to question me what business I had there? I took the liberty of catching a few of my fellow-sufferers; of which I intend to make an offering to our ladyship, as well as of, Madam,

Your devoted slave, &c.

LETTERS ON MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

From an Uncle to his Nephew on Friendship.

MY DEAR BOB,

NOT having much time I cannot dwell long upon a subject, which, if illustrated with every just argument, would undoubtedly form a packet. I have observed in all your letters, that you are either going to see, or expect a visit from some new friend—friend—were they indeed friends, you are the happiest man in the world, for you have certainly a greater number than any of your friends can boast. I am not against your being complaisant to strangers, nor desirous of abridging you in any necessary or innocent liberty, or prescribe too much to the choice of a friend; but a few hints I think are absolutely necessary—You must not think every man whose conversation is agreeable, fit to be immediately treated and trusted as a friend. Friendships hastily contracted, promise the least duration and satisfaction, as they commonly arise from design on one hand, and weakness on the other. True friendship must be the effect of long mutual esteem and knowledge. It ought to have for its cement an equality of years, a similitude of manners, and, perhaps, a parity in circumstance and degree—this last, however, is not always essential: it is certainly in the power of the affluent to display real friendship and benevolence towards the indigent; but, generally speaking, an opening to a stranger carries with it strong marks of indiscretion, and ends too often in repentance.

Some of your friends (as you call them) are, I fear, more suited to the tea-table than the cabinet—be therefore very careful of your new associates, nor make them friends without previously knowing their characters. This caution, believe me, is the pure effect of my experience in life, and affection for you, it being my wish on every opportunity and occasion, to prove myself,

Your affectionate uncle, &c.

From a Student to his Friend.

DEAR SIR,

YOU mistake, I do not lead a solitary life: for though constantly alone, I am always in company, and my company too are far more entertaining and instructive than all your friends and bottle companions. My great ambition is to have a good library, that whoever calls upon me, whether

bether a friend to religion, history, poetry, or romance, may have his inclinations gratified: permit me then to give you the following commission; an opportunity may arrive when I can return the compliment. I give you a list of books which I want to complete my present number—whatever they may come to, your expences shall be defrayed: first of all, procure me "The Christian's New and Complete British Family Bible, by Wright," with his Common Prayer Book;" "Howard's New Royal Encyclopædia;" "Captain Cook's Voyages round the World, selected by Anderson;" "Barnard's History of England;" "Millar's System of Geography and Natural History;" "Wright's Book of Martyrs;" "Walpole's British Traveller;" "Thornton's History and Survey of London;" "Boswell's Antiquities of England;" "Bunyan's Works, by Mason;" "Melmoth's Homer, Virgil, Telemachus, and Roman History;" "Worthington's Whole Duty of Man, and Week's Preparation;" "Hamilton's Beauties of Religion and Morality, Prose and Verse;" "Gordon's English Physician;" "Murray's History of Scotland;" "Arnold's History of America;" "Porney's Collection of Novels and Romances;" "Morgan's Complete Sportsman;" "The New and Complete English Farmer;" "Price's Complete Confectioner, and Book of Cookery;" (these I want for my sister) "The Young Man's Companion, by Brown;" "Bettesworth's Ready Reckoner and Tables of Interest;" "Stanhope's Lady's Polite Tutorress;" (for my sister also) "Sir John Fielding's Jests;" "The New Art of Speaking;" "New London Spy, and Cheats of London, by King;" "Middleton's History of England;" "The Universal Fortune-Teller;" "Wonderful Magazine," and "Story-Teller;" (these I wish to make a present of to my old aunt) "The Lover's Instructor;" (I want particularly for myself) "Bradshaw's Josephus;" "Johnson's Biographical Dictionary;" "Adams's Quarto System of Geography;" "Walker's (formerly Harrison's) British Classics;" with "The New Lady's and London Magazines;" and "The Scotch Encyclopædia;" all these you will procure on the lowest terms at Shakespeare's Head, Beech Street, or at No. 46, (late Mr. Evans's) Paternoster Row; please also to send me every new play and pamphlet, which will exceedingly oblige,

Your very humble servant, &c.

An ironical Letter to a Slanderer.

SIR,

THE particular assiduity you have displayed in defending my character, when a middle-aged, squint-eyed, short, impertinent fellow* was practising every unjust means, and exerting all his feeble endeavours to fulfil it, highly deserves my thanks. I own myself your debtor so much, that I am apprehensive it will never be in my power to repay you; I wish every person would follow your example—How noble, how illustrious the pattern—you scorn to wound the reputation of your neighbour—you despise the poor mean practice of calumny which hurts, perhaps ruins the name and character of a man, which should be always his greatest care to preserve.

“ — Who steals my purse, steals trash,
 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
 But he who pilfers from me my good name,
 Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
 And makes me poor indeed !”

You will be so kind, I hope, as to receive this poor acknowledgment of your goodness, as a small token of gratitude; and whenever I experience the same civility and benevolent interposition again, pardon me, if I should be tempted to make my private thanks more public. I am

Your much obliged servant,
 HENRY HUMBUG.

From a Friend to another, on Time.

DEAR SIR,

IT is a common proverb among the Jews that “he who breeds not up his son to some trade, makes him a thief;” and the Arabians say, that “an idle person is the devil’s play-fellow;” it is therefore the mandate of their prophet Mahomet, that they should exercise themselves every day in some manual occupation. The sultan on his throne is not more exempt from obedience to this universal precept than he who attends him. The soul of man is active as fire, and can no more cease from being busy than water can withhold itself from running out at every hole of a sieve. Men should always exert their faculties one way or other, and there is no medium between good and evil; whosoever is not employed in the one must necessarily fall into the other. These are the points to which all the lines of human actions tend; the center where all our affairs meet; but though there be no such thing as mediocrity

* A description of the person himself.

between these two extremes, and every man is within the circumference of virtue or vice, yet there are certain degrees and steps in each ; specific differences also which take their rise and proportion from nature, morality and religion. Thus human providence teaches us of two evils to choose the least, while the divine oracle instructs us not to stand upon niceties and punctilio with virtue, but push forward till we arrive at heroism.

You are, perhaps, curious to know how I employ my hours of leisure? I will inform you then ; I make watches, not knowing how better to spend my vacant time, than in framing an instrument whereby I may perceive how time passes away : this little engine points out every minute, and measures exactly the succession of hours ; it keeps pace with years, yet outruns not months. It is the journal of the sun, a faithful record of his daily travel through the heavens. In a word, it is the secretary of time, and a compendious history of the first born issue of eternity.

May the Being who moves all things, yet is moved of none; who sets all the springs and wheels of nature a going, yet remains himself in eternal rest, beholding all things past, present, and to come, with one undivided glance, guard and protect us here, and give us eternal happiness hereafter !

Your's,

CHRISTIAN SPINTEXT.

A Challenge.

SIR,

THE epithets which you were pleased to bestow upon my late conduct, being in my opinion illiberal and impertinent, I demand that satisfaction due to injured honour.—And therefore insist upon your meeting me to-morrow, with whatever friend you think proper, in order to settle this business agreeable to the laws of honour. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

THOMAS FIREBRAND,

The Reply.

SIR,

YOU are a young man without a family ; I have a wife and three children ; my life being dear to them, is consequently dear to me ; nor do I think I could meet my audit with Christian fortitude, did I wilfully enter the road of death, and leave a widow and fatherless infants to bewail my loss ! and for what ? because a mere empty butterfly (as I must call you) thinks proper to fire a pistol or two : if you wish me to meet you, please to provide for my wife and children,

children, in case of danger, and I will then prove my valour and courage. As your fortune enables you to perform this, if you deny, the cowardice is upon your side ; and you must accordingly expect to be publicly reproached and for ever despised, by

M A R K V A L O U R.

From a Lady to her Friend, on Solitude.

DEAR JULIA,

H ERE in the country, far from the noisy town, I enjoy such true and uninterrupted bliss, while only the presence of my friend is wanting to complete my joy.

“ Sweet solitude, where life's gay hours are past ;
Howe'er we range, in thee we fix at last ;
Tost thro' tempestuous seas (the voyage o'er)
Pale we look back, and bless the friendly shore ;
Our own strict judges, our past life we scan,
And ask, if virtue has enlarg'd the span ?
If bright the object, we the grave defy,
Trust future ages, and contented die.”

Nothing, perhaps, is more terrible to the imagination than absolute solitude ; yet I must own, that such a retreat as disengages the mind from those interests and passions, which mankind generally pursue, appears to me the most certain way to happiness ; quietly to withdraw from the crowd, and leave the gay and ambitious to divide the honours and pleasures of the world, without being a rival or competitor in any of these advantages, must leave a person in perfect and unenvied repose.

Let me lose the remembrance of this busy world, and hear no more of its distracting tumults ! Ye vain grandeurs of the earth ! Ye perishing riches and fantastic pleasures, what are your proudest boast ? Can you yield undecaying delights, joys becoming the dignity of reason, and the capacities of an immortal mind ? Ask the happy spirits above, at what price they value their enjoyments ? Ask them, if the whole creation should purchase one moment's interval of their bliss ?—No : one beam of celestial light obscures and casts a reproach on all the beauty this world can boast !

This is talking buskins, you will think ; and indeed I may resign crowns and sceptres, and give up the grandeurs of the world, with as much imaginary triumph, as a hero might fight battles, and conquer armies in a dream.

Yours, &c.

From

From a Friend to another, on Pride and Epitaphs.

DEAR SIR,

THE vanity of mankind has made such a deep impression upon my spirits, that I cannot forbear making it my present theme.—Pride even follows us to our grave, or why those towering monuments, those vain and pompous epitaphs!—merely to tell the reader that underneath is a heap of dust! I was surprized to hear sometime ago, that a gentleman of the name of John Oaks had bequeathed five hundred pounds by his will to the author of an epitaph that should be approved of by his executors.—Numbers were presented by all the minor poets of both sexes, but all disapproved of under pretence they were not true. On account of this general rejection the executor was obliged to write the epitaph himself, for which he was also obliged to pocket the five hundred pounds. The epitaph was as follows, and true enough it must be universally acknowledged,

“ Here lies the body of John Oaks,
“ Who lived and died like other folks.”

If this man after death could have been sensible how much his design was abused, it would, I think, have been a sufficient punishment for his pride. I am, Your's, &c.

SAMUEL PLAINWELL.

A Recommendation of an Author to a Man of Rank and Influence.

I HAVE taken the liberty of recommending to your grace, the bearer, who is the author of several fugitive pieces. I believe his merit is considerable; but for want of friends, he remains in obscurity; his great misfortune is poverty; however, by means of your grace's benevolent patronage, he may in time be able to surmount it, which will confer a lasting obligation on your grace's,

Most obedient and respectful servant, &c.

From an Uncle to his Nephew, on Dress.

TOM,

I SHOULD have spoken to you last Sunday, when I met you at Kensington, but did not know you; indeed, I do not believe you knew yourself; where did you get that fine embroidered waistcoat? A magnificent appearance becomes persons of rank; but when private persons arrogate pomp and ostentation, they destroy that distinction which should be between them and public characters; besides they incur hatred and envy, without deriving any advantage, though many are foolishly fond of making what they call a figure

figure in the world; but thus making a figure, through motives of vanity and ignorance, is only making one coxcomb stare at another. Now, Tom, that you know my sentiments, I hope you will never let me see you in that dress again, for fear I may be tempted to spoil it on your back, by plunging you into the first convenient kennel.—Read *Æsop's Jackdaw*, that stole the peacock's feathers; the fable is very applicable to those poor upstarts, who would fain appear very great. I am,

Yours, &c.

JOHN HONEST.

From a Friend to another in confinement for Debt.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IT is hard and lamentable indeed that misfortunes, not crimes, should deprive so many honest characters of their liberty. Prisons were never intended for innocent men. My heart feels most sincerely for those poor sufferers, torn from their wives and children, by inexorable creditors, who, under pretence of compelling them to pay their debts, deprive them of all means of earning bread, and increase both their debts and expences.—How many are deprived of freedom by unjust arrests and impositions, who, for want of friends to bail them, must submit to a *felon's* situation and find no redress!—These suggestions struck me, when informed of your situation: Your case is equally deplorable, being in a cruel manner oppressed by an usurer, and lodged, hopeless and moneyless, in a spunging-house; but you are not friendless, of course there is hope!—I presume I shall be able to procure another, with myself, who will bail you immediately: I wish every person, who unjustly commits a fellow-creature to prison may be severely punished for the same! He deserves but little pity himself in the hour of calamity, who, though the debt be just, gives no indulgence, when the debtor has no means!—What good does it produce? Except feeding bailiffs and keepers of lock-up houses, who live on the distresses of the unhappy! I am, dear Sir,

Your's, &c.

T. FRIENDLY.

From a Cousin to another, on making and breaking Promises.

DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE more than once remarked how very prone you are to make promises; but, I seldom or ever knew you to fulfil one:—This I must confess has very much hurt your character; some people have in consequence called you a liar; others more mild, a fool:—Instead of making friends by it, you have certainly lost many. As you subject yourself

elf to be frequently teased and insulted by this foolish custom, I wonder you do not drop it. Were I to repeat my visits every day till you fulfilled all the promises you made me since last week, I fear I should soon become troublesome and disagreeable; and I assure you if you do not drop this mode of promising without any intention of performing, I will not only adopt the measure, but persuade your other acquaintance to follow my example. I am, dear cousin,

Yours, &c.

From an elder Brother to the Younger, on Habits.

DEAR BROTHER,

I MUST entreat you will be particular how you contract bad habits of any kind; like the envenomed shirt of Hercules, in spite of all your endeavours to shake them off, they will hang upon you to destruction.

By habit is meant such a custom of doing any particular action as to fall into it involuntarily and without thinking; or to repeat it so frequently as to render it almost a part of our nature, not to be subdued without the greatest difficulty.

—Of the first sort is the impious and foolish habit of swearing; and of the second, that of drinking: What can be the motive to swearing—"I am weary of conjecture,"—for why any man should depart from reason, as well as virtue, so far as to mention with hourly irreverence the sacred and awful name of the Lord of being, and subject himself to the danger of habitual perjury, of which, though part of the guilt may be extenuated, as nobody is deceived, yet the other part, which arises from the insult to the Author of Truth, no virtuous being can conceive without horror. The original of this hateful practice was, perhaps, only the desire of appearing manly, and shewing that the fear of reproof is at an end; and at last the claim to manhood is prosecuted, till the practice is no longer the consequence of thought, and the swearer is shunned as a demon by the pious, and as a brute by the polite.

The motive to drunkenness is easily discovered; the pleasures of mirth, the solicitations of company, and the calls of appetite concur to promote it. But learn, my dear brother, to despise that mirth of which the end is sorrow—to refuse that communication which corrupts good manners, and deny those appetites, which are never to be satisfied; demanding more as they are more indulged. At least before you suffer this habit to prevail, take a deliberate view of the consequences, which must ensue from it:—an unfitness and inattention to business, a depravity of taste and manners, a loss of appetite, a decay of health, and,

and, perhaps, a sudden and untimely period of your doom or condemnation to the sad remainder of them in pain and misery; with a broken constitution, a ruined fortune, and lost reputation; a course of pain and want, unalleviated consciousness of innocence or hope of recompence.

I might go on to shew you in several other instances the fatal consequences of indulging bad habits; but I will only mention that of idleness and sauntering. "Indolence is the daughter of folly, sister of vice, and mother of misery."—Whoever suffers himself to fall into this pernicious habit, cannot hope to make much progress in learning or knowledge of any kind, and consequently must give up the glorious aim of rendering himself useful and conspicuous in any capacity or station in life. Wisdom is not to be won without great assiduity and constant application; she must be sought for early, and attended late. But he who consumes his hours in idle sauntering, or buries them in morning slumbers, shall never see the light of fame, any more than that of the sun rising upon him. I am, my dear brother,

Your's &c.

From a young Lady to a Gentleman.

SIR,

NATURE, it is said, never produced any thing without some motive and design.—I wish to know the utility of fools; I do not mean those witty fools of former days, who were so remarkably pertinent and shrewd—but the mere empty fools of the present times. I cannot for my life conceive what advantage they are to society, except it is to afford others an opportunity of displaying their wisdom.—Your opinion will exceedingly oblige, Sir, your humble servant,

LAURA.

The Gentleman's Reply.

MY DEAR LAURA,

I RECEIVED your pretty lively letter, and am now preparing to consider the question you have started, relating to fools.

As nature is said to have made nothing in vain, what apology then for fools? This difficulty which has so long puzzled the learned, I will offer you two solutions to answer; one by denying, and the other by admitting the fact.

First then, I deny that nature ever made a fool, but as she makes any other monster; not by design, but through some accidental imperfection in the organs of conception, or casual event happening afterwards to the infant in the cradle.

Next,

Next, I admit fools to have been made by design, and, with no offence to you, shall take the liberty to offer you this hypothesis of the matter.

Providence made man, and seeing it not good that man should be alone, made woman; then, seeing it not good that woman should be alone, he made a fool; before which time it is said she amused herself with the Devil;—since knaves and fools have divided the favours of the fair, I am, my fair querist,

Your faithful respondent,

CHARLES.

Recommending a Relation to a Gentleman of Rank.

SIR,

THE gentleman who delivers this letter is a near relation, but whom I esteem myself more allied to by friendship than consanguinity. Convinced of your late kindness to me, I take the liberty of recommending him to your notice, assuring you, that whatever services are rendered him, will exceedingly add to the obligations of, Sir,

Your much obliged servant, &c.

The Answer.

SIR,

I HAD the pleasure of your cousin's company to dinner yesterday; the young gentleman's conduct and behaviour are so very engaging, that, I assure you, both for his and his relative's sake, I shall do all in my power to serve him.

Your's, &c.

I am, Sir,

Recommending a Son to an intimate Friend.

SIR,

THE unviolated friendship which has subsisted so long between us, induces me to recommend to your notice, the bearer, who is my son; persuaded that for his father's sake, you will serve him according to the best of your ability. I remain, Sir,

Your's, &c.

The Reply.

SIR,

YOU have exceedingly obliged me, by giving an opportunity of proving my friendship.—I hope shortly to be able to afford a test; though, notwithstanding I shall use all my influence, I never shall be able to serve your son, as much as he deserves. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

K

From

From a Friend to another, on Law-Suits.

SIR,

THE tediousness and embarrassment of law-suits are really provoking; you know my disposition, I would be peaceable if I could; but my relations and their attorney won't let me. You must be conscious that all the disputes between my father-in-law and me, are occasioned entirely by himself and his evil advisers.—I am innocently led into a law-suit, the termination of which is very uncertain, by the artful contrivance of his attorneys;—such is my wish to insure quietness and harmony, that though I have no right to yield a halfpenny to my father-in-law, still I would be very happy to compromise for the sake of peace and happiness:—Last term the old gentleman has brought a bill in chancery against me:—The trustees have also applied to the Court of Exchequer:—While one of the lawyers has persuaded a nephew of mine, to make a claim (without any just cause) to the estate.—Thus my friend am I harrassed and compelled to live in continual discord with relations, whom I would fain love and respect. I am, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

JOHN AMITY.

DEAR SIR,

MY father-in-law has absolutely refused to compromise, notwithstanding his interest is so much concerned:—The man is certainly deluded by his counsellors, who have, it seems, fed him with hopes of success, in spite of justice and equity.—It is amazing to me how some characters delight in law-suits, and are never happy, but when they are contending, and that, frequently, on the most frivolous occasion—but thus it is that barristers and attorneys live. I am in my own defence obliged to employ some; and now instead of partaking social happiness, enjoying my friends and the benefit of the air, my time is monopolized with running from one inn of court to another, and hearing tedious scrawls of unmeaning repetitions from morning till night; the sound of which is as disagreeable to my ears, as the cutting of cork. I am,

Your distressed friend, &c.

A Lady to her Friend raising a Subscription for a distressed Person.

MY DEAR HARRIOT,

THE distresses of poor Mrs. Williams, who once enjoyed all the tranquil pleasures of this life, without the least suspicion of these her present misfortunes, have so exceeded

exceedingly moved my sympathy, that being unable myself to relieve her, as I wish, I intend by the assistance of my friends to render her circumstances more easy if possible.— I have therefore resolved to open a subscription for her among my acquaintance, and if my dear Harriot will exert her influence, where she is, she will not only have the hearty prayers of this unfortunate woman, but the grateful thanks of her sincere friend. I am,

Your's, &c.

The Friend's Reply.

MY DEAR ANN,
YOUR favour has convinced me that you still retain that generosity and nobleness of mind, which have been so long the characteristics of my friend. I should be wanting both in esteem for my dear Harriot, and pity for the distress, if I did not comply immediately with her request. There is none of us, exalted as we may be at present, can insure the continuance of prosperity; as therefore in cases of misfortune we would expect relief ourselves, we should always be ready to relieve the necessitous. You may be sure of my name at least in the subscription book, provided the donations are not to be published; for ostentation in charity totally destroys, in my opinion, all effect on the part of the donor.. I am, my dear friend,

Your's, &c.

From a Friend to another, on Peevishness.

SIR,
I AM very sorry to remark, my dear friend, that the most common accidents of this life are two apt to ruffle your temper—it gives me much uneasiness; for peevishness instead of profiting generally does harm; besides a man exposes himself, who wants fortitude and patience; those great and amiable virtues, which our religion so forcibly enjoins! During our correspondence, I have remarked some parts of your letters exceedingly splenetic and warm; in this, you are both unkind to yourself and friend—you seem to doubt the purity of his mind, and pay no respect to your own merit, when so constantly in the vapours. I am now resolved, in hopes to effect a happy cure, never to take notice of any letter that displays the least peevishness or complaint; presuming, by this silence, I shall prove myself,

Your sincere friend,

ANTHONY MEER.

From the same to the same, on Anger.

DEAR SIR,

YOU wish to know my opinion of anger; in some instances it is proper, and in many others sinful. man would be a very inanimate creature indeed, if he were not susceptible of insults, but then his passion should be momentary, under the controul of pity and inclined to forgiveness. The father is justly angry with his child, when he chastises him for an error: I am angry with my friend when I reprove his folly: In scripture we read "Be angry and sin not," a man therefore may be angry; but when anger is uncontroled by reason, it then becomes a sin: The transgressor is blinded with passion; the angry man rages in vain, for a cool disputant gains the cause. It is therefore our duty to check the fallies of anger, before it is too late by being the cause of many evils. Such is the opinion of, Sir,

Your's, &c.

A Lady to her Friend, on the Fondness of Married People before Friends.

YOU ask me, dear Jenny, why I don't marry? I shall be brief and give you two very substantial reasons: I am afraid my husband may either hate me or be too fond of me, for one I think as bad as the other. You cannot conceive what an utter aversion I have taken to the disgusting, *louées* and *dearys* of married people. Mr. and Mrs. Honeycomb, who are constantly here, are so frequently lolling on each other, and kissing, that I could not forbear taking notice: Modesty blushes at the sight, and it is always my opinion that such overflowing love will soon be overturned, and leave an empty vessel. I am,

Your's, sincerely, &c.

From a plain Gentleman to a ceremonious Friend.

DEAR JACK,

IF you wait for forms and compliments, and so forth, I shall never, I foresee, have the pleasure of your company. I despise what you are pleased to term the *etiquette*; therefore if you wait for a visit from me, I do not know when it will be, for I never walk that way, its so inconvenient to my business: in short, to wave ceremony (for I hate ceremony, being always a plain man) I dine every day at three o'clock, nor would I exceed that hour for the best friend in the world! Whenever you are inclined to dirty one of my knives and forks, you are exceedingly welcome, provided you will not dirty my room with scrapes and bows, for I hate them.

JOHN BULL.

A hu-

A humorous Letter from a Friend to another, upon Wishes.
 I MUST agree with friend Horace, that notwithstanding all our possessions, we fain would be having; if a man had the whole world, I dare say he would wish for the other: In short, we are never to be content; though our right hand be full, we would hold out the left; and should Providence overload both, we would, doubtless, put the gifts into our pockets and empty our hands for future favours; however I presume, that I am an exception to this rule—Heaven has given me a wife; I never desire to have two! I have three children, and never wish to have more! My friends too are so numerous, that, with gratitude, I confess I have enough, I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

WILLIAM PLEASANCE.

A humorous Letter in Reply.

SIR,
NOTWITHSTANDING your boasting, it is my opinion, that you are as guilty of wishing as any body else; when your lady and you, according to matrimonial custom, have quarrelled, did you never wish—yourself dead? (I would not presume, *the lady*). When one of your children has been crying did not you wish yourself deaf? When your friend has intruded, *sans ceremonie*, did you never wish—yourself away? (I do not mean him). We are all induced to wish now and then. Castle-building in the air so entertains the imagination, that we find a pleasure in deceiving ourselves: Thus, I remember, my poor grandmother was a rich woman; when lame, she wished for a pair of legs; but Mercury did not hear her; and I was obliged to call in a mechanic, who proved labour of greater utility and profit than wishes; for by his art he supplied her with a pair of crutches.

“ Who wishes and wishes, and hopes to obtain,
 “ Their wishes and wishes, without toil or pain,
 “ May wish and may wish, and yet still wish in vain.”

Your's, &c.

I am, Sir,

From a Man who had gone aboard a Vessel, to his Friend.

DEAR JACK,

AS every person in liquor is liable both to deception and imprudence, you need not wonder at my present situation, when I inform you that I was totally insensible of what I was about when I went aboard the _____. Inebriety I am convinced is no excuse for a hasty action; were my sufferings only touching myself, I would not ask for commi-

commiseration; I should be happy to serve my king and country had I no family depending on my industry and presence. Oh! Jack, when I think on the calamitous situation of a forsaken wife with her destitute little ones, I must wish myself at home in spite of patriotic sentiments or thirst for fame. I request, therefore, on the receipt of this that you will endeavour to find a man that may supply my place, or intercede in my behalf that I may return to a wretched forlorn family. My regard for my king and country was surely evident when I forgot my wife and family; but when reason and recollection returned, I was too well assured, as I had not wherewithal to leave behind for my wife's support, that her situation must be as melancholy as a widow's, and my little ones be as equally distressed as orphans. Your pity then, and intercession will be gratefully acknowledged and remembered by

Your sincere well-wisher,
BEN. AFTERTHOUGHT.

From a Man who had enlisted, to his Friend.

DEAR JOSEPH,

BY an imprudent connection with a set of unthinking men, I have unfortunately entered his Majesty's service; I say unfortunately, because I am totally unfit for military exercise. My ill state of health and feebleness of body, are ill suited for the duties of a soldier; you will therefore exceedingly oblige me by reporting my inability, as I can possibly derive no credit from a soldier's station, nor be of any service to my king and country. It is needless to say how or when I listed. Happy for my contemporaries, I think, that they have got some employment. Should they now perish in the field, they die with honour, whereas if they pursued their extravagance and dissipation at home, an ignominious death might be their untimely fate; depending on your assiduity and attention, I remain, dear Joseph,

Your's sincerely,
GEORGE CARELESS.

The Reply.

MY DEAR GEORGE,

I WAS exceedingly sorry to hear that evil communications should corrupt your good manners; it is happy for the country I acknowledge that men can be easily attained, when their services are wanted, and happy for those men that they can be thus employed, whereas drunkenness and idleness might expose them to many misfortunes; but I am surprised how some people can do it without previously

viously considering (this is no time, however, for moralizing,) the old adage says, "What's done cannot be undone." I presume this will be a future lesson; it is proper that we should sometimes experience the dire effects of our imprudence and indiscretion, that we may be the more wise and cautious; in a short time after the receipt of this, you will have your discharge, for I have represented your lameness in such a manner that the serjeant will be very happy to get rid of you; but if ever you are guilty of the same folly again, and by unthinking intoxication fall into the same predicament, I hope you may be obliged to march two or three weeks without intermission upon your sore leg.

Your's sincerely, &c.

From a Gentleman to a Friend's Relation, on Chastity.

DEAR NANCY,

Of all the graces which adorn the conduct of females, none I think can more powerfully operate to prepossess mankind in their favour than chastity. Without it, wit is impertinence, and beauty abject deformity. The ancients were particularly remarkable for this virtue. In the character of Lucretia this eminent female quality is described in the most lively colours. After having with just abhorrence rejected the embraces of Sextus, she was at last through absolute necessity obliged to yield to his outrageous request. After finding her inexorable by entreaty, he has recourse to menaces. He said, unless you will suffer me to gratify a passion which your beauty has kindled, I will put you and one of your slaves to the sword, and report I killed you both in the base act of adultery: There was no alternative, she must be either stigmatised for an unlawful intercourse with her slave, without possibility of vindicating herself, or yield to the solicitations of a base usurper of her husband's rights.

What a conflict between *duty*, with eternal infamy, and *shame*, without the possibility of exculpating herself. She who had hitherto shewn herself proof against the artful insinuations of her seducer, was now obliged to yield to his menaces.

Early next morning she sent for her father and her husband, letting the latter know his bed was violated. They besought her to ease her agitated mind, and promised to vindicate her injured chastity; but no intreaties could prevail. She took a dagger, which she had concealed under her garment, and plunging it into her heart, declared, that no one should live unchaste, and cite Lucretia as an example to sanction the deed. In this story we see female chastity admirably

admirably pourtrayed, nor is it less so in the character of Penelope. Her husband Ulysses, after having assisted in the siege of Troy, endured innumerable hardships by sea and land, and at a great distance from his home. Many suitors admired Penelope, and had recourse to every imaginary artifice to make a conquest of her. But she lent a deaf ear to their entreaties and menaces, and preserved her character inviolate with the most invincible fortitude—She preferred her husband on his return, old and decrepid, to the splendour of courts and equipage of kings.

Copy, my dear Nancy, these examples of unparalleled chastity, which are communicated by an affectionate friend, as well as a relative, who is studious for your welfare, and attached to your sex.

Your's, &c.

From a Clergyman to a Gentleman of Rank, in behalf of Poor Supplicants.

MY LORD,

I HAVE taken up my pen in behalf of an unfortunate family, who have been deprived of their little all by a dreadful fire. I would to heaven that it was in my power to relieve those wretched supplicants, who from a state of happy competency are now reduced to beggary and extreme indigence. I have promised my feeble assistance, and therefore solicit your lordship's benevolence.

Charity is a goddess enthroned in the human heart—she never appears with greater lustre than when in exercise of her divine attribute. Her chief pleasure is to search into the private apartments of the afflicted, that her ear may not be hurt even by the whisper of praise: when her pity is guided by discernment, and the favours she confers are proportioned in the merit of the receiver, then she is doubly amiable. Her goodness droppeth “as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath,” and like mercy blesseth both the giver and receiver. As the morning dew revives the drooping flower, so doth charity spread gladness on the countenance of distress, and the sensations of delight she enjoys in the hours of reflection are more exquisite than those which agitate the bosom of the object at the moment it receives relief.

Having thus far expatiated upon the blessings of Charity, it is unnecessary, I hope, to add more to stimulate such whom heaven hath endued with plenty in the practice and exercise thereof.—Convinced of your lordship's inclination to benevolence, I have taken this opportunity of hinting the necessitous situation of these poor sufferers, knowing

your

your lordship's amiable characteristics, which only want
an opportunity of displaying themselves. I am your lord-
ship's
Very humble servant.

The Reply.

REV. SIR,
YOU have done me great honour by your application,
and it is with extreme pleasure that I herein inclose a
Bank note for the relief of those poor people you have
recommended. We are all liable to misfortunes, and should
herefore assist each other. I shall repeat this sum at a fu-
ture period, provided you will be so kind as conceal the
lender's name; I have been often prevented from assisting
the unfortunate by the apprehension of being too highly
praised for the same, while others might justly imagine there
was ostentation in my favour. I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant, &c.

A Neighbour to another, on impertinent Curiosity.

SIR,
BY the great attention you shew to other people's busi-
ness, I am apprehensive that your own is on the
decline. My servants inform me that you are continually
asking them questions; and questions of such a nature that
were they to satisfy by direct answers, I should be exceed-
ingly angry with them—for my part as I never trouble my
head about other people's business or meddle with that
which does not concern me, I own myself greatly displeased
with those that do. It is somewhat hard, I think, that I
cannot buy a pound of butter, but you must inquire whether
it is *fresh* or *Cambridge*. That my wife nor I cannot sit
down to our mutton or beef, without our neighbour's know-
ledge; this impertinent curiosity, I must think, proceeds
both from consummate ignorance, and the want of better
employ.—I must therefore beg leave to assure you, that if
I find you are still inquisitive in respect to my private
affairs, I shall be under the necessity of giving you a public
caution; but that this private admonition may suffice, is
the sincere wish of

Your near, though distant neighbour, &c.

A Friend to another—by Way of Apology for not Writing.

DEAR SIR,
YOU are offended because I do not frequently write;
but consider, I must write upon something as well as
paper, a repetition of one thing can afford but little plea-
sure, and I wish to avoid sameness, which is always insipid;
I had

I had rather tarry for some news than impose upon the patience of my friend.

If order be necessary, so also is *variety*; without this the soul languishes, for things that are alike seem to her to be the same; history pleases us from the variety of its accounts of romance from its variety of prodigies; and theatrical pieces from the variety of passions which they excite. A long uniformity makes every thing insupportable: the same order of periods, long continued, wearies in an harangue. The same number, and the same cadences tire one in a long poem. He who should live for any length of time on the Alps must certainly descend at last disgusted with the fine situation and most delightful prospects.

Some things, by good management, seem to have great variety which they have not; and on the other hand, some, by want of skill or judgment, appear uniform which have great variety. For a corroboration of this, behold several of our buildings, how many, by confused ornaments which display no taste, fatigue the eye, and meet our disapprobation; it being impossible to distinguish one ornament from another, their number being so great, that the eye cannot possibly repose on any of them, so that these buildings displease through the very means that were chosen to render them agreeable. While others, imitating the Grecian architecture, seem uniform, yet contain such necessary divisions that the eye may discern every thing without fatigue, and yet with pleasure, there being sufficient to keep it employed, consequently seeming to have great variety.

The soul loves variety (as the ingenious Montesquieu informs us) but she loves only as far as it tends to knowledge and discovery; for she must see, and variety must not prevent her seeing, that is, a thing must be simple enough to be seen, and have variety enough to be seen with pleasure.

This being the first time I have written to my friend on the subject of variety, I hope variety will be sufficiently displayed; but were I to resume my pen, and repeat the same topic, then I confess there would be no *variety in it*, I am, dear Sir,

Your's, &c.

To a Lady, in Commendation of her Style of Writing.

THOUGH my dear Harriot's presence always gives me inexpressible happiness, yet the letter I have received from her convinces me that I shall derive much pleasure from her absence, if she will honour me with a continuance of her correspondence; besides, I shall be often tempted to disagree in opinion with my friend for the sake of reading her ingenious arguments; likewise to offend now and then in order

order to be rebuked with so much pleasantry and good humour. I need only refer you to your last favour, to convince you that in this declaration, I pay you no empty compliment, it was so replete with wit, that had it been less obliging, I must have been delighted, and at the same time so very courteous, that I must have been charmed had it been less witty.

The beauties of your mind so enhance your personal qualifications, that I am now become your's more than ever, and have proved wholly what I thought impossible, that the esteem I had for you could receive any addition. I must ingenuously confess that once in my life, I have been made happy by your absence, and that when I read over your charming epistle, I make a doubt of what before I ever confidently believed, that I could not receive a greater satisfaction, than that of seeing you, and hearing you speak, for which, however, I wait with the greatest impatience; but till when, I hope to be honoured with a continuance of your favours, which, according to the best of my feeble abilities, shall be always duly answered by,

Your obliged servant, &c.

To a young Person, recommending Silence in Company.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH a turn for conversation, founded on useful and experimental knowledge, is highly serviceable and entertaining, yet it is a great evidence of good sense and understanding to know when to be silent as well as when to speak. A well governed taciturnity is the first step of wisdom, the nurse of peace, and the guardian of virtue. A multiplicity of words serve but to ruffle and discompose the mind, as well as betray it into a thousand vanities. We ought cautiously to withhold our opinion on subjects which we are not well acquainted with, or that may be offensive to our company; in short, it is infinitely more commendable to say a little to the purpose than a great deal that is vague, foreign and impertinent.

Your's sincerely, &c.

CARDS

CARDS OF COMPLIMENTS.

LORD B— requests the pleasure of Mr. F—'s company this evening to join him, and other friends at the Opera House.

Tuesday morning.

Mr. F—'s most respectful compliments to Lord B—, is very sorry he is already engaged on a similar occasion.

Tuesday, 1 o'clock.

Mr. AIRY presents his best compliments to Miss Watson, requests the honour of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

Thursday Afternoon.

Miss WATSON returns thanks to Mr. Airy for his polite offer, which she is very sorry she cannot accept, having already engaged herself.

Thursday, 5 o'clock.

Miss H—'s respectful compliments to Lady W—, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to tea and coffee.

10 o'clock, morning.

Lady W—'s compliments to Miss H—, is happy to accept her polite invitation.

11 o'clock, morning.

Mrs. WILLIAMS's compliment's to Mrs. Hartley and the young ladies, hopes they have got safe home, and are perfectly recovered from the fatigue of last night.

Wednesday.

Mrs. and Miss HARTLEY'S return thanks to Mrs. Williams for her kind enquiries—returned home perfectly safe and are all well—Sally excepted, who has got a slight cold.

Wednesday.

Miss WILMOT's compliments to Miss Harcourt, requests the pleasure of her company to dinner next Sunday—Dinner to be on table at four o'clock.

Friday.

Miss HAROURT's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Wilmot.

Friday.

Lord L— requests the pleasure of Sir John P—'s company to Kew for an airing—the chariot to be at the door at three.

Sunday

Sunday noon.

Sir JOHN P—'s respectful compliments to Lord L— will be happy to attend his lordship punctually at the time.

N. B. All cards of compliment should be confined to one subject, expressed with ease, elegance, and brevity.

DIRECTIONS for addressing PERSONS of all RANKS.

TO the King's Most Excellent Majesty, Sire, or *May it please your Majesty.*

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

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

To the NOBILITY.

To his Grace the Duke of S—, *My Lord Duke*, or *May it please your Grace*, or, *Your Grace.*

To the most noble the Marquis of H—. *My Lord, Marquis, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. the Earl of B—. *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. the Lord Viscount D—. *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. the Lord F—. *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

The Sons of Dukes, Marquises, and the eldest Sons of Earls have the title of *Lord* and *Right Honourable*; and the Title of *Lady* is given to their Daughters.

The younger Sons of Earls, the Sons of Viscounts, and Barons, are styled *Esquires*, and *Honourable*, and all their daughters *Honourable*.

The Title of *Honourable* is likewise conferred on such Persons as have the King's Commission, and upon those Gentlemen who enjoy places of Trust and Honour.

The Title of *Right Honourable* is given to no Commoner, excepting those who are Members of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the three Lord Mayors, of London, York, and Dublin, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, during their office.

To the PARLIAMENT.

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

To the Right Hon. Sir F/A. Speaker of the House of Commons.

To the CLERGY.

To the Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, or York, *My Lord, or Your Grace.*

To the Lord Bishop of S. *My Lord.*

To the Dean of C. or Archdeacon, or Chancellor, *Reverend Sir, &c.*

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

To the MILITARY and NAVY.

To the Hon. A. R. Esq. Lieutenant-General, Major-General, Brigadier-General of his Majesty's Forces, *Sir, Your Honour.*

All Colonels are stiled Honourable; all inferior officers should have the name of their employment set first; as for example, To Major W. C. to Captain T. H. &c.

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

To the AMBASSADORS, SECRETARIES, and CONSULS.

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

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

To his Excellency, E. F. Esq. Ambassador to his most Christian Majesty, *Sir, or, Your Excellency.*

To the JUDGES and LAWYERS.

All the Judges, if Privy-Councillors, are stiled *Right Honourable*; as for instance:

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

To the Right Hon. P. V. Master of the Rolls, *Sir, Your Honour.*

To the Right Hon. Sir G. L. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, or of the Common Pleas, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

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

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

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

To

To all others in the Law, according to the offices and rank they bear, every Barrister having the title of *Esquire* given to him.

To the LIEUTENANCY and MAGISTRACY.

To the Right Hon. G. Earl of C. Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Durham, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. B. C. Esq. Lord Mayor of the City of London, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

All Gentlemen in the commission of the Peace, have the titles of *Esquire* and *Worshipful*, as have all Sheriffs and Recorders.

The Aldermen and Recorder of London are styled *Right Worshipful*, as are all Mayors of Corporations, except Lord Mayors.

To P. S. Esq. High Sheriff of the County of York, *Sir, Your Worship.*

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

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

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

To the GOVERNORS of the CROWN.

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

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

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

Those appointed by Proprietors, as the East-India Company, &c. are styled Deputy-Governors.

To INCORPORATE BODIES.

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

USEFUL FORMS IN LAW, &c.

A Bond.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I *Christopher Jenkins* of the parish of *St. Martin*, in the county of *Middlesex*, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to *William Brown*, 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 *William Brown*, 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 eight hundred and

The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above bounden *Christopher Jenkins*, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid to the above-named *William Brown*, his executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of *one 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.

CHRIST. JENKINS.

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

**JOSEPH BAKER,
B. HAYES.**

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

Letter of Attorney.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I *James Smith*, of *Highgate*, in the county of *Middlesex*, gentleman, (for divers considerations and good causes me hereunto moving) have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and

and by these presents do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint, my trusty friend *Robert Wills*, of *London*, 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 Brentford*, 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 attorneys under him, to substitute or appoint, and again at his pleasure to revoke; and, further to do, perform, and finish for me, and in my name, all and singular thing and things, which shall or may be necessary, and entirely as I the said *James Smith*, in my own person, ought or could do in and about the same: ratifying, allowing, and confirming, whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, in and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents; in witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the first day of *November*, 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 God one thousand eight hundred and

JAMES SMITH..

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

WILLIAM JONES,
RICHARD ROBERTSON..

A Letter of Attorney by a Seaman; or a Will and Power.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I *John Anchor*, mariner, now belonging to his majesty's ship *Hector*, for divers good causes and considerations me thereunto moving, have, and by these presents do make my trusty friend (or beloved wife) *Thomas Jones*, 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 or sums of money whatsoever, as now are, and which hereafter

after 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 services or otherwise, in any one of his majesty's ship or ships of war, frigates or vessels: Giving, and hereby granting, unto my said beloved wife *Jane*, or attorney, full and whole power, to take, pursue, and follow such legal ways and courses, for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining, and discharging upon the said sum or sums of money, or any of them, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and I do hereby ratify, allow, and confirm, all and whatever my said wife or attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents; in witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of *November*, one thousand eight hundred and

JOHN ANCHOR.

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

A. B.
C. D.

A Will.

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of *October*, one thousand eight hundred and —

I RICHARD Walker, of the parish of St. Martin's, in the city of London, grocer, being in health of body, and of sound mind and memory, do make this my last will and testament, at the same time utterly revoking all former wills made by me, declaring this to be my last will and testament.

First, I give and bequeath to my sister, *Mary Walker*, the sum of one hundred pounds. To my sister *Ann Walker*, ninety pounds. To my brother, *Henry Walker*, one hundred and fifty pounds. To my brother, *David Walker*, fifty pounds. To my nephew, *James Walker*, thirty pounds, and to my two executors, twenty pounds each for their trouble. And lastly, after all my just debts are paid I give and bequeath the whole rest and residue of my estates, whether real or personal, and all my stock in trade, and every thing I am possessed whatsoever or wheresoever, to my son, *Richard Walker*.

At the same time I do appoint Mr. *George Trusty*, draper, and Mr. *Robert Goodwin*, mercer, of the same parish, joint executors of this my last will and testament; to which I have

I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this first of *March*,
in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and
RICHARD WALKER.

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

A. B.
C. D.
E. F.

An Indenture for an Apprentice.

THIS indenture witnesseth, that *Benjamin Atkins*, son
of *John Atkins*, late of *Epsom*, in the county of *Surrey*,
hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily,
and of his own free will and accord, put himself apprentice
to *Joseph Clarke*, citizen and linen-draper of *London*, to
learn his art, trade, or mystery, after the manner of an ap-
prentice, 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, without his leave, nor
haunt ale-houses, taverns, or play-houses ; 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 pro-
fesseth, occupieth, or followeth ; and procure and provide
for him the said apprentice, sufficient meat, drink, ap-
parel, 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 to 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,

Ireland, defender of the faith; and in the year of our Lord God one thousand eight hundred and

BENJAMIN ATKINS,
JOSEPH CLARKE.

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

A. B.
C. D.

A Bill of Sale of Goods.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I, *John Smith*,
for, and in consideration of the sum of
pounds to me in hand paid, at and before the
sealing and delivering hereof, by *J. Jones*, of
the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bar-
gained and sold, and by these presents do bargain and sell
unto the said *J. Jones*, all the goods, household-stuff, and
implements of household, and all other goods whatsoever,
mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, now remain-
ing and being in

To have and to hold all and
singular the goods, household-stuff, and implements of
household, and every of them, by these presents, bargained
and sold unto the said *J. J.* his executors, administrators,
and assigns for ever. *And I, the said J. S.* for myself, my
executors, and administrators, all and singular of the said
goods, unto the said *J. J.* his executors, administrators,
against me the said *J. S.* 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 *J. S.* have put
the said *J. J.* 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 eight
hundred and

JOHN SMITH.

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

A. B.
C. D.

A General Release.

KNOW all men by these presents, that I, *L. G.* of
Brentford, in the county of *Middlesex*, grocer, having
remised, released, and for ever quit claim to *F. O.* in the
county of *Middlesex* aforesaid, carpenter, his heirs, exe-
cutors, and administrators, of all, and all manner of action
and

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 L. G. against the said F. O. 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 eight hundred and

L. G.

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

A. B.
C. D.

* * * All the foregoing precedents must be upon stamped paper.

Note of Hand.

London, Feb. 12, 180

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

A. B.

* * * Mr. Morgan, to make this note negotiable, must indorse his name on the back, and so must every person through whose hands it goes. —

Bill of Exchange.

London, Feb. 11, 180

SIR,
ONE month after date (sight, or at sight) please to pay Mr. _____ or order, the sum of pounds, shillings, and pence, and place the same to the account of Your humble servant,

A. B.

To
M. _____, merchant, Cheapside.

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

¶¶ Our readers are requested to observe, that no instrument of writing whatever must be dated with the day of the month on which Sunday falls, because such errors are always deemed invalid by law.

An

*An Agreement for letting Houses, Lodgings, &c. &c.
Made Between Mr. John Smith, of Islington, and Mr. Joseph
Gadd, of Wilderness Row.*

THE said *John Smith*, for himself, his heirs, executors, or administrators, doth hereby agree to take of the said *Joseph Gadd*, a house and garden, No. 8, situate in *Chapel-street, Pentonville*, and late in the tenure or occupation of *William Holloway*, for one year certain, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds, to be paid quarterly, as soon as the said rent becomes due. The said *John Smith*, further agrees to commence tenant at *Lady-day* next, to pay all taxes whatever (land as well as other assessments), and not to quit the said house, &c. after the term of one year agreed upon, without giving six months notice in writing. The said *John Smith*, also agrees to leave all locks, bolts, windows, shutters, and other fixtures complete and in decent repair as they are at present, and not to suffer any business or employment to be carried on that may be a nuisance or prejudice to the neighbourhood, or that may be contrary to the original lease by which the premises are held.—Also, to leave all improvements made on the said house, and to preserve entire and leave all trees, shrubs, roots, &c. in the garden.

It is also hereby understood that the said *John Smith*, agrees to pay to said *Joseph Gadd* two quarters rent, over and above what may be due at the time of his quitting the said house, if such notice as above-mentioned be not given as aforesaid; and also that such glass windows, as may be broke or damaged while he keeps possession of the said house, shall be properly repaired or amended at his own cost and charge.

And the said *Joseph Gadd* hereby agrees to accept of the said *John Smith*, as a tenant on the above terms and conditions, reserving for himself the right of landlords, to give six months warning to tenants to quit possession of the said house, if such a step should ever be deemed necessary. In consequence of which the above parties have respectively signed this memorandum of agreement, and the counterpart, this first day of *March*, 1800.

JOHN SMITH,
JOSEPH GADD.

* * When used for lodgings, or any other common bargain, the particulars respecting houses must be left out, and those of lodging, &c. inserted in their stead.

PETITIONS.

For the Admission of a Boy into Christ's Hospital.

To the President and Governors of Christ's Hospital.

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,

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

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

From a poor Woman, whose Husband was dead, soliciting Relief.

To the Minister, Church-wardens, 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 support of his family; that he was lately seized with a violent fever, which, after two weeks illness, terminated in his death. That your petitioner was left entirely destitute, with three helpless children: that your petitioner is willing to do every thing in her power towards their support by her own labour; but that being

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, will ever pray.

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

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHE WETH,

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

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

A distressed Man, to a Gentleman in the same Neighbourhood.

To R. B. Esq.

The humble petition of William Harley.

SHE WETH,

THAT your petitioner was brought up to the trade of a cabinet-maker, and by constant application to business was able to support himself, together with a wife and four children. That about six months ago your petitioner was seized with a severe illness, which has confined him to his bed ever since. That during that time he was obliged to pawn his clothes, and every necessary, in order to procure a subsistence for himself and family. That being still in a languishing condition, and destitute of every manner of subsistence, he has ventured, in great humility, to lay his distressed case before you. The smallest matter for an immediate support will be ever gratefully acknowledged.

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

A Trades-

! Tradesman to his principal Creditors, for a Letter of Licence.

To E. R. G. S.

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,
THAT your petitioner has long carried on business, and brought up a numerous family: that having lately trusted goods to a considerable amount, to a person in whom he placed the greatest confidence, he soon after became insolvent, and he was obliged to stop payment: that although his debts are but small sums, yet being liable to be arrested, and confined in prison, he has taken this method of applying to you his worthy creditors: that from a review of his conduct ever since you have known him, he presumes you are convinced of his integrity and honour: that your petitioner having hopes of retrieving his losses in a little time, most humbly begs that you will be pleased to sign the inclosed letter of licence, by which your petitioner will be enabled to follow his business without interruption.

And, as in duty bound, he will ever pray.

The Petition of a Family in Distress to a person of Rank.

The humble Petition of Widow B.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,
THAT your petitioner has lately lost a beloved and affectionate husband, who by his industry and assiduity provided a sufficiency to support his family, and through his honest endeavours she and her children were enabled to live with comfort, though not with splendour; but by his sudden and unforeseen dissolution, your petitioner and six helpless children are now bereft of all means of support, and must perish with want if humanity affords not relief. Your petitioner's furniture is seized for rent, and a few days must deprive her of all her little, if your grace, whose benevolence of heart is universally known, vouchsafes not to raise a forlorn widow from distress and want. A small matter may put your petitioner in a way of providing for a young family, destitute at present of all relief, which, should it please your grace to give in this hour of calamity, will not only be attended with the blessing of poor orphans, but your petitioner will gratefully acknowledge your benevolence.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

From a Poor Woman, for the Christmas Bounty of Coals.

To the Church-wardens of C.

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHE WETH,

THAT your petitioner was left a widow with two children, whom she has continued to support by her labour. That it has long been the practice of this parish to give coals, &c. to the industrious poor at this severe season; as your petitioner has never troubled the parish for any thing before, she humbly prays that you will consider her as an object of charity.

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

From a Person under Sentence of Death for a Robbery, &c.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of W. S.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your Majesty's most unhappy petitioner was convicted in May sessions, for having committed a robbery, (or burglary) and received sentence of death accordingly; but from the known benevolence of your Majesty's disposition, he humbly presumes to throw himself at your feet, and hopes to experience that royal clemency which has been so often extended to dry the tears of distress.

He is truly sensible of the enormity of his crimes, a sincere penitent for having committed them; and hopes, through your Majesty's humane consideration, to make amends for his past transgressions, by being a grateful subject, an useful member of society, a comfort to his friends, and a credit to himself, in any part of your Majesty's dominions which in your royal wisdom you may please to appoint.

Your Majesty's petitioner hath six children, and a wife at present pregnant; he therefore implores your Majesty's compassion to be extended to a miserable husband, an unhappy father, and a penitent sinner. And that concord may dwell in your Majesty's councils, blessings await your family, and prosperity attend your reign,

*Your Majesty's humble petitioner, as in duty bound,
will ever pray.*

A Prisoner

A Prisoner for Debt, to a Gentleman celebrated for his Humanity.

To G. E. Esq.

The Humble Petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has laboured many years to provide for a family of young children: that having been some weeks out of employment, he was obliged to contract a small debt at a chandler's shop: that your petitioner intended to pay it as soon as he possibly could, but his inexorable creditor sent him a summons to the court, and took out an execution against him, and he is now a prisoner in Newgate, and his children starving for want of bread: and that your petitioner has often heard of your great goodness to your fellow-creatures in distress. The whole debt and costs for which he is confined, does not exceed forty shillings; and if you will be pleased to interpose so far in his favour to set him at liberty, and restore him to his family, his future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

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

A Sailor, late in the Merchants' Service, to be admitted a Pensioner.

To the Directors of the Office for wounded Seamen in the Merchants' Service.

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner served as a seaman on board the ship *Achilles*, trading to the Indies; that your petitioner continued near twenty years in the said service, until he was disabled by a fall from the mizen-mast, by which one of his arms were broken, and otherwise much bruised, that he is utterly incapable of going to sea: that not having been brought up to any other employment, and destitute of every necessary of life, he humbly begs to be admitted as one of your pensioners.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

From a poor Man, who had been impressed for the Sea Service.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty.

The humble Petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner, a poor hard working industrious man, has a wife and four children, who have nothing to subsist on but your petitioner's wages as a journeyman carpenter: that your petitioner, last night returning from his work

work to his family, was stopped by a press-gang, and carried on board a tender in the river, where he now is: that being utterly unacquainted with the sea, and as inevitable ruin will be the consequence to his family, he earnestly begs that your lordships will order him to be discharged.

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

From a poor Man, whose Goods had been seized for Rent.

To R. D. Esq.

The humble petition of A. B.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has always laboured hard to support his family. That his wife, and two of his children, having been long confined to a sick bed, run him to so much expence; that he had it not in his power to pay his landlord half a year's rent due last quarter-day. That your petitioner's landlord came yesterday and seized his goods, and unless redeemed in five days, they will be appraised and sold. That your petitioner has often heard of your great humanity to the afflicted, and humbly begs that you will so far interpose, as to save a poor honest man and his family from being turned into the streets.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A Soldier's Petition for his Discharge.

To Col. L—.

The Petition of A. B. who has been in his Majesty's Service three Years.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner has endured all the hardships and fatigue of last war, and has been in his Majesty's service now three years, during which time his wife and family, consisting of three children, have been in most poignant distress—his wife's labour being insufficient for their support, and your petitioner not being able to add thereto. In hopes, therefore, of performing the necessary duties of a husband and father, and by industrious means to alleviate the distresses of a now forlorn wife and miserable offspring, your petitioner humbly implores a discharge from his Majesty's service, wherein he has already exerted his utmost abilities to serve his king and country, and obey as was his duty the orders of a noble commander: by therefore discharging your servant from his military exercise, and permitting him to return to an indigent family; their prayers and blessings shall not only be constant,

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

To the Trustees of a Charity-School, in behalf of a Child.

To the Trustees of the Parish of St. C.

The humble Petition of G. B.

SHE WETH,

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



THE

TABLE OF CONTENTS,

Which will enable Readers to find out any particular Letter, &c. wanted.

<i>Letters on Education, &c.</i>	<i>Page</i>
LETTER from a Friend to another in the Country	1
The Friend's Answer	ib.
The Reply, Returning Thanks	2
From a Lady to her Friend in the Country	ib.
The Friend's Answer	3
The Lady's Reply	ib.
From a Son to his Father	ib.
The Father's Answer	ib.
From the Son to the Father, requesting Leave to see him	4
The Father's Answer	ib.
From a Daughter to a Mother	ib.
The Mother's Answer	ib.
From a Tradesman to his Son, at School	6
The Son's Answer	ib.
The Father to his Son, when bound	ib.
The Son's Answer	7
From a Preceptor to his Scholar, during Vacation Time	ib.
The Scholar's Answer	8
The Preceptor's Reply	ib.
From a Brother to his Sister	9
The Sister's Answer	ib.
From a Son at School, to his Father	ib.
The Father's Answer	10
The Son, in Reply	ib.
The Father, in Reply	ib.
	<i>Page</i>
From a Daughter to her Mother	xi
The Mother's Answer	ib.
From a Father to a School-Mistress	ib.
	<i>Letters Domestic, &c.</i>
From an Apprentice to his Father	12
The Father's Answer	ib.
From a Father to an idle Son	ib.
The Son's Answer	13
From a Master to his Apprentice's Father	ib.
From an Uncle to his Nephew	ib.
From a young Merchant to a Wholesale Dealer	14
The Wholesale Dealer's Answer	ib.
From a Tradesman to another for Money	ib.
The Tradesman's Answer	15
From a Retail Dealer to a Wholesale one	ib.
The Wholesale Dealer's Reply	ib.
From Wholesale Dealers to a Retail one	ib.
The Retail Dealer's Answer	16
The Wholesale Dealer's Reply	ib.
From a Tradesman to a Relation	ib.
The Relation's Answer	ib.
From a Tradesman to another	17

The

Page	Page
The Tradesman's Answer 17	To a Nephew going abroad 20
Reply to the foregoing An- swer ib.	The Nephew's Answer ib.
From a Tradesman to a Friend ib.	From a Nephew, asking Advice ib.
The Friend's Apology 18	The Uncle's Answer 27
From the Tradesman to another Friend ib.	The Nephew's Reply ib.
The Friend's Apology ib.	The Uncle's Reply 28
The Tradesman's Reply ib.	From a Quaker to his Friend ib.
The Tradesman's Sister to a young Lady 19	The Quaker's Answer ib.
From a Banker to the Tradesman ib.	From a Tradesman retiring from Business 29
The Tradesman's Answer ib.	The Friend's Answer ib.
From a Country Tradesman to a London Dealer 20	From a Creditor to a Debtor ib.
The London Dealer's Answer ib.	The Debtor's Answer ib.
From a Merchant's Clerk to his Master ib.	The Debtor's Wife's Answer ib.
From the Master to his Clerk 21	From a Wholesale Dealer to a Country Shopkeeper 30
From a Tenant to a Landlord ib.	From an embarrassed Trades- man to a Creditor ib.
The Landlord's Answer ib.	The Creditor's Answer ib.
From a Friend to another ib.	From a Country Shopkeeper to a London Merchant 31
The Friend's Answer 22	The Merchant's Answer ib.
From a young Seaman to a Relation ib.	An anonymous Letter to a Tradesman ib.
The Relation's Answer ib.	From a Master to his Clerk ib.
From a Friend to another, on not receiving money promised 23	From an Apothecary to his Friend 32
Apology to a Person wanting money ib.	The Friend's Reply ib.
Another on the same Purpose ib.	From a Clergyman to another 33
From a Servant's late Master to a Gentleman ib.	The Clergyman's Reply ib.
Another on the same Oc- casion 24	From a Father to a run- away Apprentice ib.
To a Lady for a Servant's Character 24	The Son's Answer 34
The Lady's Answer ib.	A Father to his Son com- mencing Business ib.
To a Lady on a similar Oc- casion ib.	The Son's Reply 36
Another Answer 25	A Merchant to another, re- questing the character of a Clerk 37
To a Gentleman for a Ser- vant's Character ib.	The Merchant's Reply ib.
The Gentleman's Answer ib.	From a Tradesman to another demanding a debt ib.
Another Answer ib.	The Tradesman's Answer ib.
To a Friend on Breach of Promise ib.	From a Friend to another, relative to a Sale 38
The Friend's Answer 26	The Friend's Reply ib.
	From a Nephew to his Uncle, wanting a Commission ib.
	The Uncle's Answer 39
	The Nephew's Reply ib.
	The

	Page		Page
The Uncle's Reply	40	From the Daughter after eloping, to her Father	54
From a Gentleman to another, relative to a bad servant	ib.	The Father in Reply	55
<i>Letters on Love, Marriage, &c.</i>		From a young Lady to her Father, on a Proposal of Marriage	ib.
Reprimand from a Father to his Son, on an imprudent Connection	41	From the Father in Reply	ib.
The Son's Answer	42	A different Reply	56
From a Daughter to her Father, disclosing a Pro- posal of Marriage	43	From a jealous Lover to his Mistress	ib.
The Father's Answer	ib.	The Lady's Reply	57
From a Lover to the Object of his Affection	44	A different Reply	ib.
The young Lady's Answer	ib.	From a jealous Lady to her Lover	ib.
To the same Lady, after some Time	ib.	From a Lover to his Mis- tress's Aunt, requesting her Intercession	ib.
From the young Lady, in Reply	45	The Aunt's Reply	58
From the same, in Reply, to another Letter received after some Time	ib.	From the same	ib.
From a Bachelor to a married Friend	46	From a modest Lover to his Mistress	ib.
The Friend's Reply	ib.	The Lady's Reply	59
From a Friend to another, advising him to marry	48	From an Aunt to her Niece disapproving of her choice	ib.
The Friend's Answer	49	The Niece's Reply	60
From a young Man suddenly captivated at the Play- house	50	From a young Lady's Friend to a disagreeable Suitor	61
From the Lady's Father	51	From a Ward to her Guardian against compulsive Mar- riage	ib.
From a Lover to a Father, on his Attachment to his Daughter	ib.	From a late Lover to a Lady	62
The Father's Answer	ib.	From a late Lover to a Co- quette	ib.
A different Reply	ib.	The Lady's Reply	63
From the same	52	From a young Lady to an old Suitor	ib.
From the Lover to the Daughter	ib.	From a Lover after receiving wounds in Battle, to his Mistress	64
The Lady's Reply	ib.	The young Lady's Reply	ib.
A different Reply	ib.	From a young Lady after the Small-pox, to her Lover	ib.
The Gentleman's Reply	53	The Lover's Answer	65
From a young Lady to a Gentleman, introduced by her Father	ib.	From a young Lady to her Seducer	ib.
From the above Lady's secret Lover	54	From the Seducer's Wife in Reply	ib.
The Lady's Reply	ib.	The Reply	66
		From a Suitor to his Father, relating his ill Success	ib.
		The Father's Reply	67
		From	

Page	Page		
From a rich Lover to a young Lady without Fortune	68	From a young Lady to a Gentleman	84
The young Lady's Reply	ib.	The Gentleman's Reply	ib.
From a young Lady to a Friend whose Lover was false	69	Recommending a Relation to a Gentleman of Rank	85
From a Friend to a foolish Lover	69	The Gentleman's Answer	ib.
From a Friend to a Lover, on the Imprudence of his Choice	71	Recommending a Son to an intimate Friend	85
From a Wit to his Mistress	ib.	The Friend's Reply	ib.
From a Husband to his Friend, on the Extrava- gance of his Wife	72	From a Friend to another, on Law-Suits	86
The Friend's Reply	ib.	From the same in continu- ation	ib.
From a Lady just married, to her Friend	73	A Lady to her Friend raising a Subscription for a dis- tressed Person	ib.
A congratulating Reply	74	The Friend's Reply	87
From a Clergyman to a new married Couple	ib.	A Friend to another on Pevishness	ib.
From a humorous Lover to his Fair One	75	The same to the same, on Anger	88
<i>Miscellaneous Letters.</i>			
From an Uncle to his Ne- phew, on Friendship	76	A Lady to her Friend, on the Fondness of married People before Friends	ib.
From a Student to his Friend	ib.	From a Plain Gentleman to a ceremonious Friend	ib.
An Ironicle Letter to a Slan- derer	78	A humourous Letter from a Friend to another, upon Wishes	89
From a Friend to another, on Time	ib.	A humourous Letter in Reply	ib.
A Challenge	79	From a Man who had gone aboard a Vessel to his Friend	ib.
The Reply	79	From a Man who had en- listed, to his Friend	90
From a Lady to her Friend, on Solitude	80	The Friend's Reply	ib.
A Recommendation of an Author to a Man of Rank and Influence	ib.	From a Gentleman to a Fe- male Relation, on Chastity	91
From a Friend to another on Pride and Epitaphs	81	A Clergyman to a Gentle- man of Rank in behalf of poor Suplicants	92
From an Uncle to his Ne- phew, on Dress	ib.	The Gentleman's Reply	93
From a Friend to another in confinement for Debt	82	A Neighbour to another, on impertinent Curiosity	ib.
From a Cousin to another, on making and breaking Pro- mises	ib.	A friend to another, by way of Apology for not Writing	ib.
From an elder Brother to the Younger, on Habits	83	To a Lady in Commendation of her Style of Writing	94
		To a young Person recom- mending Silence in Com- pany	95
		Cards	95

Page	Page		
Cards of Compliment	96	with whom she lived as a servant -	108
Directions for addressing Persons of all Ranks	97	A distressed Man, to a Gentleman in the same Neighbourhood	108
<i>Various useful Forms in Law, viz.</i>		A Tradesman to his principal Creditors, for a Letter of Licence	109
A Bond	100	The Petition of a Family in Distress, to a Person of Rank	ib.
A Letter of Attorney	ib.	From a poor Woman for the Christmas Bounty of Coals	110
A Letter of Attorney by a Seaman; or a Will and Power	101	From a Person under Sen- tence of Death for a Rob- bery, &c.	ib.
A Will	102	A Prisoner for Debt, to a Gentleman celebrated for his Humanity	111
An Indenture for an Ap- prentice	103	From a Sailor, late in the Merchant's Service, to be admitted a Pensioner	ib.
A Bill of Sale of Goods	104	From a poor Man who had been impressed for the Sea Service -	ib.
A General Release	ib.	From a poor Man, whose Goods had been seized for Rent	112
A Note of Hand	105	From a Soldier, for his Dis- charge	ib.
Bill of Exchange	ib.	To the Trustees of a Cha- rity School, on behalf of a Child	113
Agreement for Letting Houses, Lodgings, &c.	106		
PETITIONS			
<i>Adapted to the different Wants and Exigencies of Life.</i>			
For the Admission of a Boy into Christ's Hospital	107		
From a poor Woman, whose Husband was dead, solicit- ing Relief from the Pa- rish	ib.		
A poor Widow, to a Lady,			