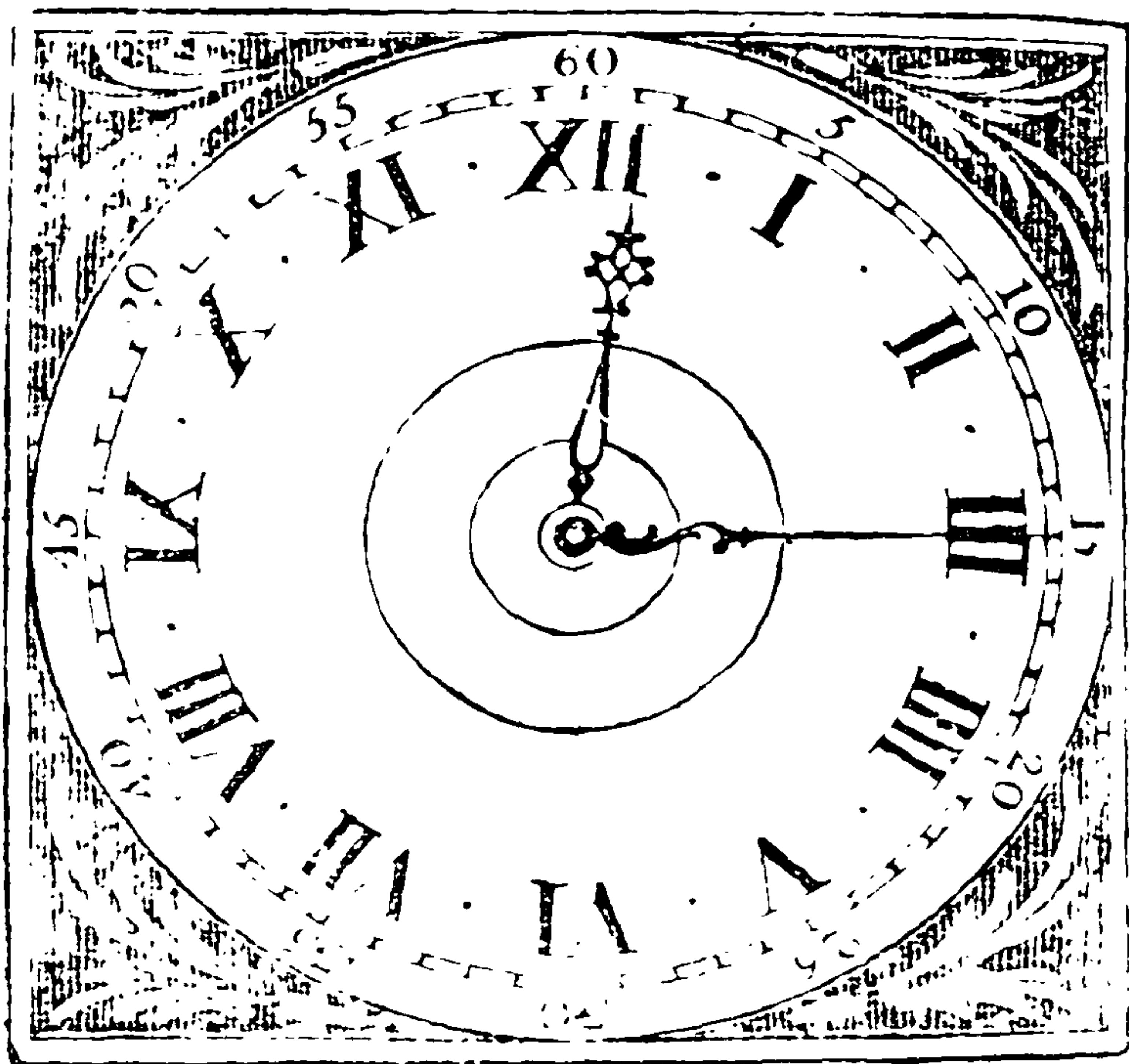


In folly do not waste your Prime,
 But make the most of precious Time :
 The warning Clock doth you advise,
 To be watchful diligent and wise :
 The faithful Clock like a true friend,
 Reminds you of your latter end .



Reminds you how your moments fly,
 That soon the Day will draw nigh,
 When life shall end, and the last Breath
 Shall yield us to the conquer Death,
 And as the Time it is so nigh
 Let us to live as not to die.

THE BRITISH

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LETTERS.

On various Subjects.



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Mr. Houghton,

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A COLLECTION OF LETTERS.

LETTER, I.

*From one young Man to another, to
request a kindness*

Dear Friend,

RElying upon the long familiarity that^a has passed between us, and your large protestations of sincerity in friendship, I have made bold to let you know, that I stand in need of twenty pounds, with which if you can possibly furnish me, without any prejudice to your own affairs, I shall take it as an extraordinary kindness and if it suit you, pray send it by the bearer, and in so doing, you will much oblige your humble servant

Samuel Willis,

LETTER, II.

In Answer to the former.

Dear Sam.

I Was much pleas'd that you gave me an opportunity to do you any manner of service, whereby I might signalize some marks of true friendship; Wherefore not to give you any delay, I have sent by the bearer the money you desired, and shall always be be willing to oblige you, So with my wishes for your prosperity I remain your real friend,

Thomas Bonnor.

LETTER III.

From a Mother to her Son.

Dear Frank,

IF the pleasures, which I have the grief to hear you pursue in town, do not take up all your time, do not deny your mother so much of it, as to read seriously this letter. You said before Mr. Williams that an old woman might live very well
in

in the country upon half my jointure, and that your father was a fond fool to give me a rent charge of 600 a year to the prejudice of his son. What Mr. Williams said to you upon that occasion, you ought to have born with more decency. In the first place, Frank, I must tell you, I will have my rent duly paid, for I will make up to your sisters for the partiality I was guilty of, in making your father do so much as he has done for you. I may it seems, live upon half my jointure: I liv'd upon much less, Frank, when I carried you from place to place in these arms, and could neither eat, dress, or mind any thing for feeding you, a weakly child, and shedding tears, when the convulsions you were then troubled with returned upon you. By my care you outgrew them, and now you throw away the strength of your youth in the arms of Harlots, and deny your mother what is not yours to detain. If you please to go on thus, like a gentleman of the town, and forget all regards to yourself and family, I shall immediately enter upon your estate, for the arrears due to me ; and without a tear more, condemn you for forgetting the fondness of your

mo-

mother, as much as you have the example of your father.

I still remain your affectionate mother,
Amelia Spencer.

LETTER IV,

An answer to the foregoing.

Madam

I Will come down to-morrow, and pay the money on my knees; pray write so no more. I will take care you never shall, for I will be for ever hereafter

Your most dutiful son

Francis Spencer.

P. S. So uneasy has your letter made me that I know not what to do, once more dear mother let me beg you to pardon and forgive me.

LETTER, V.

To ask pardon for a Fault.

S I R,

I Have too great an Opinion of your piety to make doubt of the pardon which I crave for my fault committed last night ; 'tis not that I fear the innocence of my intention is not able to justify me, but because I would set my mind in quiet, as I have already my conscience. This act of acknowledgment should serve you for a satisfaction, as it does me for a penance ; in putting you in mind of the passion which always heretofore I have had to do you service, and of the profession which I have made, to bear in all places, the quality of,

Sir, your humble,

and most obedient servant,

Maria Willis.

LET

LETTER VI.

A letter from a lady to a maid servant who had left her. In which is contained an useful lesson for all persons in that state of life.

Dear Sally,

I Had your letter very safe, and though I have failed to answer it before, yet my daily prayers, and best wishes, have constantly attended you. I trust you have the good fortune to please where you are, as I hear nothing to the contrary. If you are so happy to be in favour with the good family that you have the honour to serve, I make no question of your continuing in it by a constant endeavour to deserve it. I told you above, and I told you truth, that I daily remember you in my prayers, and at the same time I will not suppose that you forget to remember yourself. I fancy you lie with the other maid, and know not that you have a closet or retiring place to yourself; but whether you have or not, I intreat you let no pretence whatever prevail on you to omit an indispensable duty: Let no false notion of modesty suffer you to neglect an action that is your utmost glory to perform; I hope
your

your fellow-servant thinks as she ought on this occasion, but if she be so unhappy as not to do it, endeavour to gain her over by your example, but beware of being perverted by hers: To wake in a morning, and without addressing the



throne of grace, to commit ourselves to the hazards of the day, is such a degree of impiety and fool-hardiness, as shocks one out to think on, and surely it is equally the

the blackest ingratitude to close our eyes at night, without returning our unfeigned thanks for the dangers we have escaped; those eyes, for ought we know, may never again be unclosed in this world.

I was going to offer some advice of another kind, but I recollect that, perform but your duty to your creator, and all the rest is included. Be sure in whatever you are about to do, think always on what is due to the dignity of your nature. Consider, that although you are placed by providence in the degree of a servant, yet your immortal soul is of an equal rank with that of an Empress. This counsel at the first glance may appear to encourage pride, but if duly attended to, it will be far otherwise, and prove the most effectual means to extinguish it; for a proper consideration of the several degrees of men in the order the wisdom of God has placed them with relation to this life, will teach you to condescend to your superiors without meaness, and learn you to distinguish yourself from those below you without arrogance; it will hinder adversity from oppressing you; and if prosperity be your lot (as I heartily wish it may) it will find you worthy of it; in a word, it will make

you

you equal to good fortune, and superior to ill. I desire you whenever you are inclined to write to me, that you would chuse out half an hour when you can best be spared, and ask leave ; this will save you the confusion of equivocating, if you are demanded what was your employment, and prevent your turning an indifferent action into a guilty one : For before never to forget, your time is not your own, but is intirely due to those you serve, and that you can never justly employ any of it on your own occasions without leave.

Observe my method, and be not above being taught by any one, anything that is worthy the trouble of learning ; no matter who it is teaches, provided the instructions are good, Adieu dear Sally.

I remain yours

Harriet Melvin.

C

LET

LETTER, VII.

Recommending a Man Servant.

SIR,

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

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

Zachariah Tomlins

LET,

LETTER, VIII.

From a Youth to his Sister.

Most loving Sister,

THE absence so long from each other has occasioned my writing to you, that I might be informed of your health and welfare, of which I am as solicitous and tender as of my own, not forgetting you in my prayers, nor neglecting to do you all the good offices I can with our parents, friends, and acquaintances : In requital of which, let it be your part to return me an answer, that so I may be satisfied in what I have required, which will render me no small contentment of mind ; in expectation whereof I rest

Your everloving brother

Samuel Hervey,

LETTER IX.

The Sisters Answer,

Dear Brother,

YOUR letter hath luckily found me, though I am removed from the place you directed it to, and I am not a little glad that I have the happiness to hear from you, considering we are so very distant one from another. As for my health thanks be to heaven it continues as heretofore; and of my welfare, I have no cause to complain, as being in an honest family, where nothing convenient is wanting, that enjoying health, plenty, freedom and content, I may justly account myself happy; and so wishing you and every of our relations and friends the like with a continuance of my prayers to that end,

I am, Your loving and obliged Sister

Mary Hervey,

LETTER, X.

From a young Gentleman to a lady.

Madam,

I Have three times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter ; but my heart as often failed.

I know not in what light it may be considered, only if I can form any notion of my own heart, from the impression made on it by your many admirable virtues, my happiness in this world will in a great measure depend on your answer.

I am not precipitate, madam, nor would I desire your hand, if your heart did not accompany it. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am,

Madam, your most humble,

And obedient Servant

Solomon Mayer.

LETTER XI.

In Answer to the former.

S I R,

I Received yours last night, and as it was on a subject I had not any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surpris'd.

Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had not the thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. Those of your sex have often asserted that we are fond of flattery, I shall therefore suppose it true, and excuse you for those fulsome encomiums bestowed upon me in your letter, but am afraid was I to comply with your proposals, you would soon be convinced that the charms you mention and seem to value so much, are merely exterior appearances, which like the summer flower will very soon fade. However, as your behaviour when in my company was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent with common decorum, and am, sir,

your humble Servant,

Maria Melmont.

LET

LETTER XII,



From on board the Triumph.

Honoured Father

Misfortunes have attended me, from the time that I left a kind parents hospitable dwelling : I now see my past folly in its truest light, and embrace this opportunity to send you these few lines, wherein I most earnestly beg forgiveness for the many faults I have committed

Forgive your poor penitent child, and be assured, that if I live to return, I
will

be a most dutiful son, not will I ever keep company ~~with~~ ~~low~~ women any more, for they alas have been instrumental towards my ruin. With ~~them and other~~ wicked companions I often profaned ~~the~~ ~~holy~~ sabbath : for these past ~~as~~ I am heartily sorry, and am resolved for the future to lead a new life, Dear father, I conclude with many prayers for your health and prosperity, at the same time begging that you will give my kind love to my brothers and sisters.

I remain

your dutiful Son

Jonathan Davis.

Direct your next to be
left at the post office
in Portsmouth till
call'd for.

LET.

LETTER, XIII.

From a Youth to his Grandfather.

Reverend Sir,

MY heart rejoices, for I have received information that you are in good health, that through the blessing of Providence there is a likelihood that you shall yet enjoy true felicity after your many troubles.

But passing over these, I must fir in the next place, present my duty to yourself, and make a due acknowledgement of the care you have had of me. This, dear sir, being all at present I can render you I must, with hearty wishes for your happiness here and hereafter, conclude with a dutiful acknowledgement, that I remain

your most obedient

and dutiful Grandson,

Henry Morgan.

LET

LETTER XIV.

From a youth to his father.

MY ever honoured father this is to remind you that I have now been six weeks upon trial, and find the trade of a carpenter so agreeable, that I desire nothing more than to be bound, that I may learn my Trade and lose no more time, considering I am of sufficient age. I have acquainted my master with my intentions and resolution, who very well approved of my willingness: Wherefore, let me intreat you to take the first opportunity of coming to London, that so things being settled, I may no longer be delayed. But however, sir, submitting all things to your good time and pleasure, I continue as heretofore

— Your most dutiful son

— Thomas Walters.

LET

From a Scholar to his Cousin.

Dear Cousin,

REmember dear Tom that I have more than once told you that I wished for your being happily settled in life: now while you are young be sure to mind your learning; the which if you fully acquire, it will prove a fast and faithful friend to you, when those friends you too fondly rely on, may fail you. Wherefore let me intreat you not any longer to trifle away your time in pursuing things lighter than vanity, but leaving those childish things, betake yourself to your book; For certainly; did you know what sweet content and pleasure I find in my studies, you would not be long absent from me.

However let me hear from you; till then I rest in expectation of an answer, and am

Your loving Cousin

Thomas Rogers.

LET,

LETTER XVI.

An-answer to the foregoing.

Dear Cousin,

I Received your letter. in which, according to your wonted goodness, you mildly reprove me for spending my time in things that will render me no profit or advantage ; nor am I insensible that you are in the right ; But what shall I do in this case The over-tenderness of my mother will not let me be from her so distant as your invitation seems to wish me ; and in these parts tho' I am greatly sensible of my defect in learning, no place is found that affords a convenient means, whereby I may better myself ; however, dear cousin, whatever you may imagine, my heart is with you, and I hope within a short time to prevail so far, as to be with you in person, till then I remain your loving

though absent cousin

Mathew Coulster.

LET.

LETTER XVII.

From a Merchant to a widow

Madam,

EVER since I saw you at Wells at
work with the nimblest fingers,



when I was on my journey to Bristol
D be -

believe me that my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. I have been settled in business about three years, my success has been equal to my expectations, and is likewise increasing, My family is respectable, though not rich ; and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference, where the affections are placed on so worthy an object. I can only say my dear madam, that I prefer you to all the young ladies I have seen, and if business continues to increase, I shall be greatly in want of one of your prudence, to manage my domestic affairs. If you will favour me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed as a particular favour, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect by

Your most humble

An most obedient Servant

Martin Moon.

LET

LETTER XVIII.

Recommending a Housekeeper.

Honoured Madam,

THE bearer hereof is Miss Maria Careful, a niece of mine, who has had a very liberal female education, and has learned Cookery, Pastry, &c. tho' under thirty years of age these things have been her principal study. For her integrity and abilities to serve you as a housekeeper, or superintendant of your family, I dare be accountable. I take the greater pleasure in this recommendation, as I no ways doubt, but if she has the happiness to be retained by you, that she will answer your warmest expectations, and that I shall have an opportunity by that means, of being in some measure serviceable to you both.

I remain Madam

Your most obedient servant

Arrabella Carefull,

LETTER XIX.

From an Uncle to his Nephew

Dear Nephew,

AS nothing in the conduct of human life is of greater importance than the choice of your friends ; you will permit me I hope, to advise you in all cases where your happiness is concerned. Very sorry I be to hear that you keep company with Mr. Swagger, who, notwithstanding all that vivacity and humour, which makes him generally thought an agreeable companion, is of an abandoned character, of very loose principles, and by his vices has rendered his circumstances not the most happy. I am therefore, the more concerned at hearing that you are hardly ever asunder : I dread lest he should lead you into his debaucheries ; lest you should learn of him, to treat every serious subject with contempt ; and lest he should involve you in that ruin, which by his vicious conduct he is bringing upon himself. Let me, my dear nephew, prevail on you to break off an acquaintance that can be attended with no advantage on your side, though it may

may on his. You must not think that every man, whose conversation is agreeable, is fit to be treated as a friend. You ought to put some restraint upon that natural openness of heart, and frankness of disposition, which is in other respects, so commendable; and always remember, that friendships too hastily contracted generally end in repentance. And if you proceed with him, I am afraid he will teach you that wisdom at your own expence, or ruin which you may have by only following the advice of

Your affectionate Uncle

James Margent.

Let me hear from you
by return of Post.

▲ D₃

LET.

LETTER XX.

From a young lady at the boarding school, to her Mamma.

Honoured Madam,

ACCCEPT of my most grateful thanks for the kind present you sent me last week. I and my companions live very happy together, our governess is very kind,



we all of us very much respect her, for
the

teaches us to be good, to say our prayers and to love every body : When I come home you will see a vast alteration in me, my firm resolution is, that for the time to come I will endeavour to improve my time : the love of learning will make me industrious : and the desire of being truly religious, will animate me to the discharge of every heavenly duty. I have been very serious ever since I attended the corpse of a deceased school-fellow to the silent grave. To see my dear companion with whom I had spent so many hours, laid in the silent grave and covered with dust, to be seen no more till the last trumpet shall sound and all shall rise again.

Be so kind as to send me Drelincourt on death: Also some other books, those which you think properest to be put into the hands of a young woman for her improvement, hoping to see you in the holidays at Christmas, I conclude, honoured Mamma, your most dutiful daughter

Anna Maria Beaumont.

LET.

LETTER XXI.

*From a Tradesman to his Correspondent
in the Country.*

S I R,

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

I remain dear Sir

your most obedient servant.

Abel Moore.

LET.

LETTER XXII.

In Answer to the former.

S I R,

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

Your very humble servant,

James King,

P. S. If the sum above-mentioned is not sufficient, send me word.

LET

LETTER XXXII.

From a father to his son.

SON,

I Have thought fit to direct these lines to you, to let you understand, it is my pleasure that you continue where you are, that you be no ways negligent in making a due progress in your learning ; neither let me hear any more complaints of you, of this or any other kind, but so behave yourself, that you may not only obtain my blessing, but further yourself in those things that will undoubtedly redound to your credit and advantage, and to the pleasure and contentment of him who is, and will remain

Your loving father

Benjamin Welling.

LET,

L E T T E R XXXIV

An answer to the foregoing.

Honoured Sir,

I Was not a little surpris'd when I first read your letter, and found your commands so strictly enjoin me to that which my own inclinations above all things covet; so that I conclude no other, than that some malicious tongue had reach'd your ear to disturb my quiet, and the pleasure I take in my studies. I beseech you fir to believe me, when I assure you, that it shall be my chief endeavour to to learn and improve, that I may be a blessing to my parents and of use to society in general. So with my sincere wishes for your health and prosperity, I remain

Honoured sir,

Your dutiful son.

Matthew Welling.

F I N I S.