

center [144]

double rule

center A

center TRAVELLER

[I]s a Native of all Countries, and an Alien at [I]Home. He flies from the Place where he was hatched, like a Wildgoose, and prefers all others before it. He has no Quarrel to it, but because he was born in it, and like a Bastard, he is ashamed of his Mother, because she is of him. He is a Merchant, that makes Voyages into foreign Nations, to drive a Trade in Wisdom and Politics, and it is not for his Credit to have it thought, he has made an ill Return, which must be, if he should allow of any of the Growth of his own Country. This makes him quick and blow up himself with Admiration of foreign Parts, and a generous Contempt of Home, that all Men may admire, at least, the means he has had of Improvement, and deplore their own Defects. His Observations are like a Sieve, that lets the finer Flour pass, and retains only the Bran of Things;

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center A TRAVELLER. #justify left 145  
 for his whole Return of Wisdom proves to be  
 but Affectation, a perishable Commodity, which  
 he will never be able to put off. He believes  
 all Men's Wits are at a stand, that stay at  
 Home, and only those advanced, that travel ;  
 as if Change of Pasture did make great Politi-  
 cians, as well as fat Calves. He pities the little  
 knowledge of Truth which those have, that  
 have not seen the World abroad, forgetting,  
 that at the same time he tells us, how little  
 Credit is to be given to his own Relations and  
 those of others, that speak and write of their  
 Travels. He has worn his own Language to  
 Rags, and patched it up with Scraps and Ends  
 of foreign--This serves him for Wit, and they ap-  
 plaud one another accordingly. He believes  
 this Raggedness of his Discourse a great Demon-  
 stration of the Improvement of his Knowledge ;  
 as (i) Inns-of-Court (i) Men intimate their Proficiency  
 in the Law by the Tatters of their Gowns-  
 All the Wit he brought Home with him is like  
 foreign Coin, of a baser Alloy than our own,  
 and so will not pass here without great Loss.  
 All noble Creatures, that are famous in any  
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146 A TRAVELLER.  
 one Country, degenerate by being transplanted;  
 and those of mean Value only improve--If it  
 hold with Men, he falls among the Number  
 of the latter, and his Improvements are little  
 to his Credit. All he can say for himself is,  
 his Mind was sick of a Consumption, and  
 change of Air has cured him : For all his other  
 Improvements have only been to eat in . . .  
 and talk with those he did not understand; to  
 hold Intelligence with all Gazettes, and from  
 the Sight of Statesmen in the Street unriddle

the Intrigues of all their Councils, to make a wondrous Progress into Knowledge by riding with a Messenger, and advance In Politics by mounting of a Mule, run through all Sorts of Learning in a Waggon, and found all Depths of Arts in Felucca, ride post into the Secrets of all States, and grow acquainted with their close Designs in Inns and Hostleries; for certainly there is great Virtue in Highways and Hedges to make an able Man, and a good Prospect cannot but let him see far into Things.

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