

A Curious Man

Non-Specific Humans Fanatics others An Alderman

Proper Names Homer Alexander Epictetus

Mythological Figures the twelve Apostles St. Peter Christ Judas

Animal Flea Cattle

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Double Rule

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[V]ALUES things not by their Use or
 [V]Worth, but Scarcity. He is very tender
 and scrupulous of his Humour, as [i] Fantatics [i]
 are of their Consciences, and both for the most
 part in Trifles. He cares not how unuseful
 any Thing be, so it be but unusual and rare.
 He collects all the Curiosities he can light upon
 in Art or Nature, not to inform his own
 Judgement, but to catch the Admiration of o-
 thers, which he believes he has a Right to, be-
 cause the Rarities are his own. That which
 other Men neglect he believes they oversee,
 and stores up Trifles as rare Discoveries, at least
 of his own Wit and Sagacity. He admires
 subtleties above all Things, because the more
 subtle they are, the nearer they are to nothing;
 and values no Art but that which is spun s*o

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thin, that it is of no Use at all. He had rather have an iron Chain hung about the Neck of a Flea, than an Alderman's of Gold, and [i] Homer's [i] Iliads in a Nutshel than [i] Alexander's [i] Cabinet. He had rather have the twelve Apostles on a Cherry-Stone, than those on St. [i] Peter's [i] Portico, and would willingly sell [i] Christ [i] again for the numerical Piece of Coin, that [i] Judas [i] took for him. His perpetual Dotage upon Curiosities at length renders him one of them, and he shews himself as none fo the meanest of his Rarities. He so much affects Singularity, that rather than follow the Fashion, that is used by the rest of the World, he will wear dissenting Cloaths with odd fantastic Devices to distinguish himself from others, like Marks set upon Cattle. He cares not what Pains he throws away upon the meanest Trifle, so it be but strange, while some pity, and others laugh at his ill-employed Industry. He is one of those, that valued [i] Epictetus's [i] Lamp above the excellent Book he writ by it. If he be a Bookman he spends all his Time and Study upon Things that are never to be known. The [i] Philosopher's Stone [i] and [i] universal Medicine cannot

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possibly miss him, though he is sure to do them. He is wonderfully taken with abstruse Knowledge, and had rather hand to Truth with a Pair of Tongs wrapt up in Mysteries and Hieroglyphics, than touch it with his Hands, or see it plainly demonstrated to his Senses.
