

Center [150]

Double Rule

Center A

Center CURIOUS MAN

[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*

Center A CURIOUS MAN. 151

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] Ca-

binet. 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 Curiousities 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 form 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 Book-man, he spends all his Time and Study upon

152 A CURIOUS MAN.

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.
