

An Antiquary

Non-Specific Humans The Madman that fell in love with Cleopatra Old frippery-Philosopher his Forefathers [his] Fore-mothers his Parents a younger brother One that shoots away an Arrow, to find out another that was lost before [he] that shows the Tombs at Westminster every Man Father Grand-Fathers Ancestors Time-server the Author of the most ingenious new one An old Author Those that reckon their Pounds before their Shillings and Pence Catholics Fanatics the living

Proper Names Scalinger Horace

Supernatural Figures Saints

Animals Moths Worms

[double rule]

AN

ANTIQUARY

I²S one that has his Being in this Age, but his Life and Conversation is in the Days of old. He despises the present Age as an Innovation, and flights the future ; but has a great Value for that, which is past and gone, like the Madman, that fell in Love with Cleopatra. He is an old frippery-Philosopher, that has so strange a natural Affection to worm-eaten Speculation, that it is apparent he has a Worm in his Skull. He honours his Forefathers and Fore-mothers, but condemns his Parents as too modern, and no better than Upstarts. He neglects himself, because he was born in his own Time, and so far off Antiquity, which he so much admires ; and repines, like a younger Brother, because he came so late into the World. He spends the one half of his Time in collecting old insignificant Trifles,

and the other in fhewing them, which he takes fingular Delight in ; becaufe the oftener he does it, the further they are from being new to him. All his Curioufities take place of one another according to their Seniority, and he values them not by their Abilities, but their Standing. He has a great Veneration for Words that are ftricken in Years, and are grown fo aged, that they have out-lived their Employments---Thefe he ufes with a Refpect agreeable to their Antiquity, and the good Services they have done. He throws away his Time in enquiring after that which is paft and gone fo many Ages fince, like one that fhoots away an Arrow, to find out another that was loft before. He fetches things out of Duft and Ruins, like the Fable of the chymical Plant raifed out of its own Afhes. He values one old Invention, that is loft and never to be recovered, before all the new ones in the World, tho' never fo useful. The whole Bufinefs of his Life is the fame with his, that flows the Tombs at Westminster, only the one does it for his Pleafure, and the other for Money. As every Man has but one Father, but two Grand-Fathers and a World of Anceftors ; fo he has a proportional Value

for Things that are antient, and the further off the greater.

He is a great Time-ferver, but it is of Time out of Mind, to which he conforms exactly, but is wholly retied from the prefent. His Days were fpent and gone long before he came into the World, and fince his only Bufinefs is to collect what he can out of the Ruins of them. He has fo ftrong a natural Affection to any Thing that is old, that he may truly fay to Duft and Worms you are my Father, and to Rottennefs thou are my Mother. He has no Provi-

dence nor Fore-fight ; for all his Contemplations look backward upon the Days of old, and his Brains are turned with them, as if he walked backwards. He had rather interpret one obscure Word in any old fenfelefs Difcourfe, than be the Author of the moft ingenious new one ; and with Scaliger would fell the Empire of Germany¹ (if it were in his Power) for an old Song. He devours an old Manufcript with greater Relifh than Worms and Moths do, and, though there be nothing in it, values

it above any Thing printed, which he accounts but a Novelty. When he happens to cure a fmall Botch in an old Author, he is as proud of it, as if he had got the Philofophers Stone, and could cure all the Difeafes of Mankind. He values things wrongfully upon their Antiquity, forgetting that the moft modern are really the moft ancient of all Things in the World, like thofe that reckon their Pounds before their Shillings and Pence, of which they are made up. He efteems no Customs but fuch as have outlived themfelves, and are long fince out of Ufe ; as the Catholics allow of no Saints, but fuch as are dead, and the Fanatics, Oppofition, of none but the Living.

¹ And with Scaliger would fell the Empire of Germany] This alludes to a ranting Exclamation of Scaliger's upon an Ode in Horace, which he was particularly pleased with.