[*double rule*]

# A SMALL POET

I2S one, that would fain make himſelf that,  
which *Nature* never meant him ; like a *Fa-*  
*natic*, that inſpires himſelf with his own  
Whimſies. He ſets up Haberdaſher of ſmall  
Poetry, with a very ſmall Stock, and no Credit.  
He believes it is Invention enough to find out  
other Men’s Wit ; and whatſoever he lights upon  
either in Books, or Company, he makes bold  
with as his own. This he puts together ſo un-  
towardly, that you may perceive his own Wit  
has the Rickets, by the ſwelling Diſproportion  
of the Joints. Imitation is the whole Sum of  
him ; and his Vein is but an Itch or Clap, that  
he has catched of others ; and his Flame like  
that of Charcoals, that were burnt before :  
But as he wants Judgment to underſtand what  
is beſt, he naturally takes the worſt, as being  
moſt agreeable to his own Talent. You may

know his Wit not to be natural, ’tis ſo un-  
quiet and troubleſome in him : For as thoſe,  
that have Money but ſeldom, are always ſhak-  
ing their Pockets, when they have it ; ſo does  
he, when he thinks he has got ſomething, that  
will make him appear. He is a perpetual Tal-  
ker ; and you may know by the Freedom of his  
Diſcourſe, that he came light by it, as Thieves  
ſpend freely what they get. He meaſures other  
Men’s Wits by *their* Modeſty, and his own by  
*his* Confidence. He makes nothing of writing  
Plays, becauſe he has not Wit enough to un-  
derstand the Difficulty. This makes him ven-  
ture to talk and ſcribble, as Chowſes do to play  
with cunning Gameſters, until they are cheated  
and laughed at. He is always talking of Wit,  
as thoſe, that have bad Voices, are always ſing-  
ing out of Tune ; and thoſe, that cannot play,  
delight to fumble on Inſtruments. He grows  
the unwiſer by other Men’s Harms ; for the  
worſe others write, he finds the more Encou-  
ragement to do ſo too. His Greedineſs of  
Praiſe is ſo eager, that he ſwallows any Thing,  
that comes in the Likeneſs of it, how notorious  
and palpable ſoever, and is as Shot-free againſt  
any Thing, that may leſſen his good Opinion

of himſelf---This renders him incurable, like  
Diſeaſes, that grow inſenſible.

If you diſlike him it is at your own Peril ;  
he is ſure to put in a Caveat beforehand againſt  
your Understanding ; and, like a Malefactor  
in Wit, is always furniſhed with Exceptions  
againſt his Judges. This puts him upon perpe-  
tual Apologies, Excuſes, and Defences, but  
ſtill by Way of Defiance, in a Kind of whif-  
fling Strain, without Regard of any Man,  
that ſtands in the Way of his Pageant.  
Where he thinks he may do it ſafely, he  
will confidently own other Men’s Writings ;  
and where he fears the Truth may be diſcovered,  
he will by feeble Denials and feigned Inſinua-  
tions give Men Occaſion to ſuppoſe ſo.

If he underſtands *Latin* or *Greek* he ranks  
himſelf among the Learned, deſpiſes the Igno-  
rant, talks Criticiſms out of *Scaliger*, and re-  
peats *Martial*'s baudy Epigrams, and ſets up  
his Reſt wholly upon Pedantry. But if he be  
not ſo well qualified, he crys down all Learning  
as pedantic, diſclaims Study, and profeſſes to  
write with as great Facility, as if his Muſe was

ſliding down *Parnaſſus*. Whatſoever he hears  
well ſaid[[1]](#footnote-22) he ſeizes upon by poetical Licence ;  
and one Way makes it his own, that is by ill  
repeating of it---This he believes to be no  
more Theft, than it is to take that, which others  
throw away. By this means his Writings are,  
like a Taylor’s Cuſhion, of moſaic Work,  
made up of ſeveral Scraps ſewed together.  
He calls a ſlovenly naſty Deſcription *great Na-*  
*ture*, and dull Flatneſs *strange Eaſineſs*. He  
writes down all that comes in his Head, and  
makes no Choice, becauſe he has nothing to  
do it with, that is Judgment. He is always  
repealing the old Laws of Comedy, and like  
the *long Parliament* making *Ordinances* in their  
Stead ; although they are perpetually *thrown*  
*out* of Coffee-Houſes, and come to Nothing.  
He is like an *Italian* Thief, that never robs,  
but he murthers, to prevent Diſcovery ; ſo ſure  
is he to cry down the Man from whom he pur-  
loins, that his petty Larceny of Wit may paſs  
unſuſpected. He is but a Copier at beſt, and  
will never arrive to practice by the Life : For  
bar him the Imitation of ſomething he has  
read, and he has no Image in his Thoughts.

Obſervation and Fancy, the Matter and Form  
of juſt Wit, are above his Philoſophy. He  
appears ſo over concerned in all Men’s Wits,  
as if they were but Diſparagements of his  
own ; and crys down all they do, as if they  
were Encroachments upon him. He takes  
Jeſts from the Owners and breaks them, as  
*Justices* do falſe Weights, and Pots that want  
Meaſure. When he meets with any Thing,  
that is very good, he changes it into ſmall  
Money, like three Groats for a Shilling, to  
ſerve ſeveral Occaſions. He diſclaims Study,  
pretends to take Things in Motion, and to ſhoot  
flying, which appears to be very true by his  
often miſſing of his Mark. His Wit is much  
troubled with Obſtructions ; and he has Fits as  
painful as thoſe of the Spleen. He fancies him-  
ſelf a dainty ſpruce Shepherd, with a Flock and  
a fine ſilken Shepherdeſs, that follows his Pipe,  
as Rats did the Conjurers in *Germany*.

As for *Epithets*, he always avoids thoſe, that  
are near akin to the Senſse. Such matches are  
unlawful, and not fit to be made by a *Chriſtian*  
Poet ; and therefore all his Care is to chuſe out  
[^2]: [*footnote cont'd from prev. page*] *Quem recitas meus eſt, O Fidentine, libellus :*  
*Sed male dum recitas, incipit eſſe tuus.    Mart. L. 1. Ep. 39.*

ſuch, as will ſerve, like a wooden Leg, to piece  
out a main’d Verſe, that wants a Foot or two ;  
and if they will but rhimes now and then into  
the Bargain, or run upon a Letter, it is a Work  
of Supererrogation.

For *Similitudes*, he likes the hardeſt and moſt  
obſcure beſt : For as Ladies wear black Patches,  
to make their Complexions ſeem fairer than  
they are ; ſo when an Illuſtration is more ob-  
ſcure than the Senſe that went before it, it muſt  
of Neceſſity make it appear clearer than it  
did : For Contraries are beſt ſet off with Con-  
traries.

He has found out a Way to ſave the Expence  
of much Wit and Senſe : For he will make  
leſs than ſome have prodigally laid out upon  
five or ſix Words ſerve forty or fifty Lines.  
This is a thrifty Invention, and very eaſy ; and,  
if it were commonly known, would much in-  
creaſe the Trade of Wit, and maintain a Mul-

titude of ſmall Poets in conſtant Employment.  
He has found out a new Sort of poetical *Geor-*  
*gics*, a Trick of ſowing Wit like clover-graſs  
on barren Subjects, which would yield nothing  
before. This is very uſeful for the Times,  
wherein, ſome Men ſay, there is no Room left  
for new Invention. He will take three Grains  
of Wit like the Elixir, and projecting it upon  
the *Iron-Age* turn it immediately into *Gold---*  
All the Buſineſs of Mankind has preſently  
vaniſhed, the whole World has kept Holiday ;  
there has been no Men but Heroes and Poets,  
no Women but Nymphs and Shepherdeſſes ;  
Tress have born Fritters, and Rivers flowed  
Plum-Porrige.

We read that *Virgil* uſed to make[[2]](#footnote-23) fifty or  
ſixty Verſes in a Morning, and afterwards re-  
duce them to ten. This was an unthrifty  
Vanity, and argues him as well ignorant in the  
Huſbandry of his own Poetry, as *Seneca* ſays  
he was in that of a Farm ;[[3]](#footnote-24) for in plain *Engliſh*

it was no better than bringing a Noble to Nine-  
pence. And as ſuch Courſes brought the  
*prodigal Son* to eat with Hogs : So they did him  
to feed with Horſes,[[4]](#footnote-25) which were not much  
better Company, and may teach us to avoid  
doing the like. For certainly it is more noble  
to take four or five Grains of Senſe, and, like  
a Gold-Beater, hammer them into ſo many  
Leaves as will fill a whole Book ; than to write  
nothing but Epitomies, which many wiſe Men  
believe will be the Bane and Calamity of Learning.

When he writes, he commonly ſteers the  
Senſe of his Lines by the Rhime that is at the  
End of them, as Butchers do Calves by the  
Tail. For when he has made one Line, which  
is eaſy enough ; and has found out ſome ſturdy  
hard Word, that will but rhime, he will ham-  
mer the Senſe upon it, like a Piece of hot Iron  
upon an Anvil, into what Form he pleaſes.

There is no Art in the World ſo rich in  
Terms as Poetry ; a whole Dictionary is ſcarce

able to contain them : For there is hardly a  
Pond, a Sheep-walk, or a Gravel-pit in all  
*Greece*, but the antient Name of it is become  
a Term of Art in Poetry. By this means ſmall  
Poets have ſuch a Stock of able hard Words lying  
by them, as *Dryades*, *Hamadryades*, *Aonides*, *Fauni*,  
*Nymphae*, *Sylvani*, *&c*. that ſignify nothing at all ;  
and ſuch a World of pedantic Terms of the  
ſame Kind, as may ſerve to furniſh all the new  
Inventions and *thorough-Reformations*, that can  
happen between this and *Plato*’s great Year.

When he writes he never propoſes any Scope  
or Purpoſe to himſelf, but gives his Genius all  
Freedom : For as he, that rides abroad for his  
Pleaſure, can hardly be out of his Way ; ſo he  
that writes for his Pleaſure, can ſeldom be be-  
ſide his Subject. It is an ungrateful Thing to  
a noble Wit to be confined to any Thing---  
To what Purpoſe did the Antients feign *Pegaſus*  
to have Wings, if he muſt be confined to the  
Road and Stages like a Pack-Horſe, or be forced  
to be obedient to Hedges and Ditches? There-

fore he has no Reſpect to Decorum and Pro-  
priety of Circumſtance ; for the Regard of  
Perſons, Times, and Places is a Reſtraint too  
ſervile to be impoſed upon poetical Licence ;  
like him that made *Plato*[[5]](#footnote-26) confeſs *Juvenal* to be  
a Philoſopher, or *Perſius*, that calls the *Athe*-  
*nians Quirites*.

For *Metaphors*, he uſes to chuſe the hardeſt,  
and moſt far-fet that he can light upon---Theſe  
are the Jewels of Eloquence, and therefore the  
harder they are, the more precious they muſt  
be.

He’ll take ſcant Piece of coarſe Senſe, and  
ſtretch it on the Tenterhooks of half a ſcore  
Rhimes, until it crack that you may ſee through  
it, and it rattle like a Drum-Head. When  
you ſee his Verſes hanged up in Tobacco-Shops,  
you may ſay, in defiance of the Proverb, *that*  
*the weakeſt does not always go to the Wall* ; for ’tis

well known the Lines are ſtrong enough, and  
in that Senſe may juſtly take the Wall of any,  
that have been written in our Language. He  
ſeldom makes a Conſcience of his Rhimes ; but  
will often take the Liberty to make *preach*  
rhime with *Cheat*, *Vote* with *Rogue*, and *Com*-  
*mittee-Man* with *Hang*.

He’ll make one Word of as many Joints, as  
the Tin-Pudding, that a Jugler pulls out of  
his Throat, and chops in again---What think  
you of *glud-fum-flam-hasta-minantes ?* Some of  
the old *Latin* Poets[[6]](#footnote-27) bragged, that their Verſes  
were tougher than Braſs, and harder than  
Marble ; what would they have done, if they  
had ſeen theſe ? Verily they would have had  
more reaſon to wiſh themſelves an hundred  
Throats, than they then had, to pronounce them.

There are ſome, that drive a Trade in writ-  
ing in praiſe of other Writers, (like Rooks,

*Exegi monumentum ære perennius*  
*Regalique ſitu Pyramidum altius*      *Hor*. L. 3. O. 30

118 A SMALL POET. that bet on Games*ters Hands) not at all to ce- lebrate the learned Author's Merits, as they would s*hew, but their own Wits, of which he is but the Subjec\_t. The Letchery of this Va- nity has s*pawned more Writers than the [i] civil Law: [i] For thos*e, whos*e Modes*ty mus*t notorious Va- pours imaginable. For if the Privilege of Love be allowed--[i] Dicere quae* puduit, s*cribere jus*s*it Amor,[i] why s*hould it not be s*o in Self- Love too? For if it be Wis*dom to conceal our Imperfec\_tions, what is it to dis*cover our Vir- tues? It is not like, that [i] Nature [i] gave Men great Parts upon s*uch Terms, as the [i] Fairies [i] us*e to give Money, to pinch and leave them if they s*peak of it. They s*ay--[i]Prais*e is but the Shadow of Virtue; [i] and s\*ure that Virtue is very foolish, that is afraid of its own Shadow.

When he writes [i] Anograms, [i] he us*es to lay the Outs*ides of his Vers\*es even (like a Brick-

A SMALL POET. 119

layer) by a Line of Rhime and Acros*tic, and fill th eMiddle with Rubbis*h--In this he imi- tates [i] Ben Johnson, [i] but in nothing els\*e.

There was one, that lined a Hat-Cas*e with a Paper of [i] Benlows*e'[i]s Poetry--[i] Prynne [i] bought it by Chance, and put a new Demi-Cas*tor into it. The firs*t Time he wore it he felt only a s*inging in his Head, which within two Days turned to a Vertigo--He was let Blood in the Ear by one of the State-Phys*icians, and reco- vered; but before he went abroad he writ a Poem of Rocks and Seas, in a Stile s\*o proper and natural, that it was hard to determine, which was ruggeder.

There is no Fear of Ac\_tivity, nor Gambol of Wit, that ever was performed by Man, from him that vaults on [i] Pegasus, [i] to him that tumbles through the Hoop of an Anagram, but [i] Benlows [i] has got the Mas\*tery in it, whether it be high-rope Wit, or low-rope Wit. He

son means was .......

120 A SMALL POET./ has all Sorts of [i] Echoes, Rebus's, Chronograms,/ &c.[i] bes*ides [i] Carwichets, Clenches, [i] and [i] Quibbles--[i]/ As for [i] Altars [i] and [i] Pyramids [i] in Poetry, he has/ out-done all Men that Way; for he has/ made a [i] Gridiron, [i] and a [i] Frying-Pan [i] in Vers*e,/ that, bes*ide the Likenes*s in Shape, the very/ Tone and Sound of the Words did perfec\_tly/ repres*ent the Nois*e, that is made by thos*e/ Utens*ils, s*uch as the old Poet called [i] s*artago lo-/ quendi. [i] When he was Captain, he made all/ the Furniture of his Hors*e, from the Bit to/ the Crupper, in beaten Poetry, every Vers*e/ being fitted to the Proportion of the Thing,/ with a moral Allus*ion of the Sens*e to the/ Thing; as the [i] Bridle of Moderation, the Saddle/ of Content, [i] and [i] the Crupper of Cons*tancy;[i] s*o that/ the s*ame Thing was both Epigram and Emblem,/ even as Mule is both Hors*e and As*s./ / / {New Paragraph} Some Critics are of Opinion, that Poets/ ought to apply themselves to the Imitation of/ [i] Nature, [i] and make a Cons*cience of digres*s*ing/ from her; but he is none of thes\*e. The an-/ tient Magicians could charm down the Moon,/ and force Rivers back to their Springs by the/

## A SMALL POET. 121/

Power of Poetry only; and the Moderns will/ undertake to turn the Ins*ide of the Earh out-/ ward (like a Jugler's Pocket) and s*hake the/ [i] Chess[i] out of it, make [i] Nature [i] s*hew Tricks like/ an Ape, and the Stars run on Errands; but/ s*till it is by dint of Poetry. And if Poets can/ so s*uch noble Feats, they were unwis*e to des*-/ cend to mean and vulgar: For where the rares*t/ and mos*t common Things are of a Price (as/ they are all one to Poets) it argues Dis*ease in/ Judgement not to chus*e the most curious. Hence/ s*ome infer, that the Account they give of things/ des*erves no Regard, becaus*e they never receive/ any Thing, as they find it, into their Compo-/ s*itions, unles*s it agree both with the Meas*ure/ of their own Fancis, and the Meas*ure of their/ Lines, which can very s*eldom happen: And/ therefore when they give a Character of any/ Thing or Pers*on, it does commonly bear no/ more Proportions to the Subject, than the Fis*hes/ and Ships in a Map do to the Scale. But let/ s*uch know, that Poets, as well as Kings, ought/ rather to cons\*ider what is fit for them to give,/ than others to receive; that they are fain to/ have regard to the Exchange of Language, and/ /

122 A SMALL POET. / write high or low, according as that runs:/ For in this Age, when the s*mallest Poet s*eldom/ goes below more then mos*t, it were a Shame for/ a grater and more noble Poet not to out-throw/ that cut a Bar. / / / ##There was a [i] Tobacco-Man, [i] that wrapped / [i]Spanis*h [i] Tobacco in a Paper of Vers*es, which/ [i]Benlows[i] had written agains*t the [i] Pope, [i] which/ by a natural Antipathy, that his Wit has to / any Thing that's Catholic, s*poiled the Tobacco;/ for it pres*ently turned Mundungus. This Au-/ thor will take an [i] English [i] Word, and, like the/ [i] Frenchman, [i] that s*wallowed Water and s*pit it/ out Wine, with a little Heaving and Straining/ would turn it immediately into [i] Latin,[i] as [i] plun-/ derat ille Domos[i]--Mille [i] Hocopokiana, [i] and a thou-/ s*and s*uch./ / ##There was a young Practitioner in Poetry,/ that found there was no good to be done with-/ out a Mis*tres*s: For he, that writes of Love/ before he hath tried it, doth but travel by the/ Map; and he, that makes Love without a/ Dame, does like a Games*ter, that plays for/ / #[i]More the mos*t] There is an appearance Defect or Error in thes*e/ Words; but I leave it to the Reader to s*upply or correct./

## A SMALL POET. 123/

Nothing. He thought it convenient therefore,/ firs*t to furnis*h hims*elf with a Name for his/ Mis*stress beforehand, that he might not be to/ s*eek, when his Merit or good Fortune s*hould/ bes*tow her upon him: for every Poet is his/ mis*tres*s*e's Godfather, and gives her a new/ Name, like a Nun that takes Orders. He was/ very curious to s*it himself with a hands*ome/ Word of a turnable Sound; but could light/ upon none, that s*ome Poet or other had not / made us*e of before. He was therefore forced/ to fall to coining, and was s*everal Months be-/ fore he could light on one, that pleas*ed him/ perfectly. But after he had overcome that Dif-/ ficulty, he found a greater remaining, to get a/ Lady to own him. He accos*ted s*ome of all/ Sorts, and gave them to unders*tand, both in/ Pros*e and Vers*e, how incomparably happy it/ was in his Power to make his Mis*tres*s, but/ could never convert any of them. At length/ he was fain to make his Landres*s s*upply that/ Place as Proxy, until his good Fortune, or/ s*omebody of better Quality would be more / kind to him, which after a while he neither/ hoped nor cared for; for how mean Toever her/ Condition was before, when he had once pre-/ tended to her, s*he was s*ure to be a Nymph and/

124 A SMALL POET./ a Goddes*s. For what greater Honour can a/ Woman be capable of, than to be trans*lated/ into precious Stones and Stars? No Herald in/ the World can go higher. Bes*ides se found no/ Man can us*e that Freedom of Hyperbole in the/ Character of a Pers*on commonly known (as/ great Ladies are) which we can in des*cribing/ one s*o obs*cure and unknown, that nobody can/ dis*prove him. For he, that writes but one/ Sonnet upon any of the public Pers*ons, s*hall/ be s*ure to have his Reader at ever third Word/ cry out--What an As*s is this to call [i] Spanis*h/ paper and Cerus*e Lillies and Ros*es, [i] or [i] claps In-/ fluences--[i] To s*ay, [i] the Graces are her waiting Wo-/ men, [i] when they are known to be no better/ than her Bawdes--that [i] Day breaks from her/ Eyes, [i]when s*he looks as*quint--Or that [i] her/ Breath perfumes the Arabian Winds, [i] when s*he/ puffs Tobacco?/ / ##It is no mean Art to improve a Language,/ and find out Words, that are not only removed/ from common us*e, but rich in Cons*onanats,/ the Nerves and Sinews of Speech, to rais\*e a/ / ---

# A SMALL POEt. 125/

s*ft and feeble Language like ours to the Pitch/ of [i] High-Dutch,[i] as he did, that writ/ / ## [i] Arts rattling Fores*kins s*hrilling Bagpipes quell.[i]/ / #This is not the only the mos*t elegant, but mos*t po-/ litic Way of Writing, that a Poet can us*e; for I/ know no Defence like it to pres*erve a Poem from/ the Torture of thos*e that lis*p and s*tammer./ He that wants Teeth may as well venture upon/ a Piece of tough horny Brawn as s*uch a Line,/ for he will look like an As*s eating This*tles./ / # He never begins a Work without an Invoca-/ tion of his [i] Muse; [i] for it is not fit that s*he s*hould/ appear in public, to s*hew her Skill before s*he/ is entreated, as Gentlewomen do not us*e to / s*ing, until they are applied to, and often des*ired./ / # I s*hall not need to s*ay any this of the Ex-/ cellence of Poetry, s*ince it has been already/ performed by many excellent Pers*ons, among/ whom s*ome have lately undertaken to prove, that/ the civil Government cannot pos*s*ibly s*ubs*is*t with-/ out it, which, for my Part, I believe to be true/ / [i] S\*ome have lately. [i]] This alludes to [i] Davenant--See [i] G---

126 A SMALL POET./ in a poetical Sens*e, and more probable to be/ received of it, than thos*e s*trange Feats of/ building Walls and making Trees dance,/ which Antiquity as*cribes to Vers*e. And though/ [i] Philos*ophers [i] are of a contrary Opinion, and will/ not allow Poets fit to live in a Commonwealth,/ their Partiality is plainer than their Reas*ons;/ for they have no other Way to pretend to this/ Prerogative thems*elves, as they do, but by re-/ moving Poets, whom they know to have a/ fairer Title; and this they do unjus*tly, that/ [i] Plato, [i] who firs*t banis*hed Poets his Republic,/ forgot that the very Commonwealth was poe-/ tical. I s*hall s*ay nothing to them, but only/ des*ire the World to cons*ider, how happily it is/ like to be governed by thos*e, that are as s*o per-/ petual a civil War among thems*elves, that if we/ s*hould s*ubmit ours*elves to their own Res*olution/ of this Question, and be content to allow them/ only fit to rule if they could but conclude it/ s*o themselves, they would never agree upon it--/ Mean while there is no les*s Certainty and Agree-/ ment in Poetry than the Mathematics; for they/ all s*ubmit the to the s*ame Rules without Dis*pute or/ Controvers*y. But whos*oever s*hall pleas*e to look/ into the Records of Antiquity s*hall find their/ Title s*o unques*tioned, that the greatest Princess/ / / 4

A SMALL POET. 127/ in the whole World have been glad to derive/ their Pedigrees, and their Power too, from/ Poets. [i] Alexander [i] the great had no wis*er a Way/ so s*ecure the Empire to hims*elf by [i] Right, [i]/ which he had gotten by [i] Force, [i] then by de-/ claring hims*elf the Son of [i] Jupiter; [i] and who/ was [i] Jupiter [i] but the Son of a Poet? So [i] Caes\*ar [i]/ and all [i] Rome [i] was transported with Joy, when a/ Poet made [i] Jupiter [i] his Colleague in the Empire;/ and when [i] Jupiter [i] governed, what did the/ Poets, that governed Jupiter?/

1. *Whatſoever he hears well ſaid*, &tc. ] In this *Butler* alludes to  
   *Martial*'s Epigram to *Fidentinus*. [*footnote cont. next page*][^2] [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
2. [*footnote for next page*] *We read that Virgil uſed to make*, &c.] This alludes to a Paſſage  
   in the Life of *Virgil* aſcribed to *Donatus*. “ Cum Georgica ſcribe-  
   “ ret traditur quotidie meditatos mane plurimos verſus dictare ſo-  
   “ litus, ac per totum diem retracando ad pauciſſimos redigrere :  
   “ non abſurde carmen ſe urſæ more parere dicens, et lambendo  
   “ demum effingere. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
3. *As* Seneca *ſays he was in that of a farm*.] *Seneca* in his 86th  
   Epiſtle finds ſeveral Faults with *Virgil*'s Rules and Obſervations in  
   Huſbandry, as they are delivered in his *Georgics*, and adds of him ---  
   “ Qui non quod veriſſime, ſed quid decentiſſime diceretur, ad-  
   “ ſpexit ; nec Agricolas docere voluit, ſed legentes delectare.” [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
4. *So they did him to feed with Horſes*] This muſt be explained by  
   the ſame Writer of *Virgil*’s Life, who informs us, that *Virgil* in  
   his Youth ſtudied Phyſic, in which having made great Proficiency,  
   he repaired to *Rome*, and applying himſelf to that Branch of it [*footnote cont. next page*][^6] [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
5. *Like him that made Plato*, &c.] Who this Blunder is to be fa-  
   thered upon I cannot diſcover ; but that which he imputes to *Per*-  
   *ſius*, and another of *Juvenal*’s, a Paſſage of his own in a Part of his  
   Proſe Collections called *Criticiſms upon Books and Autohrs*, will ex-  
   plain --- *Persius*, ſays he, commits a very great Abſurdity, when  
   laying the Scene of his fourth Satyr in *Greece*, and bringing in *So*-  
   *crates* reproving a young Stateſmen, he makes him call the *Græ*-  
   *cians* Quirites. [*footnote cont. next page*][^8] [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
6. *Some of the old* Latin *Poets*, &c.] Thus *Horace*  
    [↑](#footnote-ref-27)