engaged the attention of mathematicians and philoſophers both at home and abroad. At Paris it was in high eſtimation ; and the men of ſcience in that city were deſirous of obtaining a personal acquaintance with the learned ſecretary of the Royal Society, whoſe reputation was ſo general­ly acknowledged, and who had particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the Leibnitzian or German controverſy, as we may denominate it, of that period. In conſequence of ma­ny urgent invitations, he determined to viſit his friends at Paris in the year 1716. He was received with every poſ­ſible token of affection and reſpect ; and had an opportuni­ty of diſplaying many traits of character, which mark the general ſcholar and accompliſhed gentleman, as well as the profound mathematician. His company was courted by all "who had temper to enjoy, or talents to improve, the charms of ſocial intercourse.” Beſides the mathematicians, to whom he had always free acceſs, he was here introduced to Lord Bolingbroke, the Count de Caylus, and Biſhop Boſſuet. “ He inſpired partiality on his firſt address ; he gained imperceptibly on acquaintance ; and the favourable impreſſions which he made from genius and accompliſhments, he fixed in further intimacy by the fundamental qualities of benevolence and integrity.”

Among the ladies who honoured Dr Brook Taylor with a particular regard, we may mention the names of Marcilly de Villette, and of Miss Brunton, the beautiful and accom­pliſhed niece of Sir Isaac Newton.

Early in 1717 he returned to London, and compoſed three treatiſes, which were presented to the Roval Society, and publiſhed in the 30th volume of the Tranſactions. A bout this time his intenſe application had impaired his health to a conſiderable degree ; and he was under the necessity of repairing, for relaxation and relief, to Aix-la-Chapelle. Having likewiſe a desire of directing his attention to subjects of moral and religious ſpeculation, he reſigned his office of ſecretary to the Royal Society in 1718.

Alter his return to England in 1719, he applied to ſubjects of a very different kind from thoſe that had employed the thoughts and labours of his more early life. Among his papers of this date, Sir William Young has found de­tached parts of A Treatiſe on the Jewiſh Sacrifices, and **a disse**rtation of considerable length On the Lawfulneſs of eating Blood, He did not, however, wholly neglect his former subjects or ſtudy, but employed his leiſure hours in combining ſcience and art ; with this view he reviſed and improved his treatiſe on Linear Perſpective. Drawing con­tinued to be his favourite amusement to his lateſt hour'; and **it** is not improbable, that his valuable life was ſhortened by the ſedentary habits which this amusement, ſucceeding his ſeverer ſtudies, occaſioned.

“ He drew figures with extraordinary preciſion and beau­**ty** of pencil. Landſcapc was yet his favourite branch of deſign. His original landſcapes are moſtly painted in wa­**ter** colours, but with all the richneſs and ſtrength of oils. They have a force of colour, a freedom of touch, a varied disposition of planes of diſtance, and a learned uſe of aerial as well as linear perſpective, which all profeſſional men who have ſeen theſe paintings have admired. Some pieces are compositions ; ſome are drawn from nature ; and the gene­ral characteriſtic of their effect may be exemplified, in ſuppoſing the bold fore-grounds of Salvator Roſa to be backed by the ſucceſſion of distances, and mellowed by the ſober harmony, which diſtinguiſh the productions of Gaſpar Pouſſin. The ſmall figures interſperſed in the landſcapes would not have diſgraced the pencil of the correct and claſſic Ni­cholas.”

The work of Dr Brook Taylor in linear perspective was cenſured by Bernoulli, in a treatiſe publiſhed in the Acts of Leipſic, as "abſtruſe to all, and as unintelligible to ar­tists for whom it was more eſpecially written.” It muſt be acknowledged that this excellent work, for ſo it deserves to be called, was not level to the apprehenſions of practitioner in the art of drawing and deſign : but it was much deem­ed by mathematicians. Three editions of it have been pub­liſhed ; and as it is now ſcarce, a repudiation of it in its most improved and perfect ſtate would be very acceptable. Mr Kirby, however, has made it more plain and popular, in his treatiſe entitled "Brook Taylor’s Perſpective made eaſy ;” and this book, detailing and illuſtrating the princi­ples of the original work, has been the *vade mecum* of artiſts. Dr Brook Taylor was incenſed by the invidious at­tacks of Bernoulli ; and he publiſhed An Apology against J. Bernoulli’s Objections, which may be ſeen in the 30th volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions. Bernoulli, with his uſual envy of Britiſh mathematicians, had diſputed our author’s right to his own work. We have no reaſon to doubt Dr Taylor’s claims to the undecided discovery of the me­thod which he describes, though he is not an original inven­tor. This method was long before publiſhed by Guido Ubaldi, in his Perſpective, printed at Peſaro in 1600; where it is delivered very clearly, and confirmed by moſt elegant demonſtrations ; and where it is actually applied to the art of delineating the ſcenes of a theatre.

Toward the end of the year 1720, Dr Brook Taylor accepted the invitation of Lord Bolingbroke to ſpend some time at La Source, a country-ſeat near Orleans, which he held in right of his wife, the widow of the Marquis de Vil­lette, nephew of Madame de Maintenon. During his reſidence at this beautiful ſpot, he fixed and cemented a friendſhip with its noble owners which terminated only with life.

In the next year he returned to England, and publiſhed the laſt paper which appears with his name in the Philoſo­phical Tranſactions, entitled, An Experiment made to aſcertain the Proportion of Expanſion of Liquor in the Ther­mometer, with regard to the decree of Heat.

In 1721, Dr Brook Taylor married Miſs Bridges of Wallington in the county of Surry, a young lady of good family, but of ſmall fortune ; and this marriage occaſioned a rupture with his father, whoſe consent he had never obtain­ed. The death of this lady in 1725, and that of an infant ſon, whom the parents regarded as the preſage and pledge of reconciliation with the father, and who actually proved ſuch, deeply affected the ſenſibility of Dr Taylor. How­ever, during the two ſucceeding years he reſided with his father at Bisrons, where “ the musical parties, ſo agreeable to his taſte and early proficiency, and the affectionate atten­tions of a numerous family welcoming an amiable brother, ſo long eſtranged by paternal reſentment, not only toothed his ſorrows, but ultimately engaged him to a ſcene of coun­try retirement, and domeſticated and fixed his habits of life. He could no more recur to the deſultory reſources and cold ſolace of society, which casual viſits, slight acquaintance, and diſtant friendſhips, afford the man—who hath *none to make, and cheer a constant home."*

In 1725 he formed a new connection ; and with the full approbation of his father and family, married Sabetta, daughter of John Sawbridge, Eſq; of Olantigh, in Kent. In 1729, on the death of his father, he ſucceeded to the fa­mily eſtate of Bifrons. In the following year he loſt his wife in child-bed. The daughter whoſe birth occaſioned this melancholy event survived, and became the mother of Sir William Young, to whom we owe theſe memoirs of his grandfather.

in the interval that elapſed between the years 1721 and 1730, no production by Brook Taylor appears in the Phi-