

pr e fac e. he following Effay
owes its origin T to a
converfation with a friend, on the
fubject of Mr. Godwin's effay on
avarice and profufion, in his
Enquir- er. The difcufion ftarted
the general queftion of the future
improvement of fociety, and the
Author at firft fat down with an
intention of merely ftating his
thoughts to his friend, up- on
paper, in a clearer manner than
he thought he could do in
converfation. But as the fubject
opened upon him, fome ideas
occurred, which he did not
recollect to have met with before
; and as he conceived that every
leafc light, on a topic fo generally
intereft- ing, might be received
with candour, he determined to
put his thoughts in a form for
publication. pr e fac e. he
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