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# CHARACTERISTICKS.

### VOLUME III.

MISCELLANEOUS REFLECTIONS on the preceding Treatifes, and other Critical Subjects.

A Notion of the Tablature, or Judgment of HERCULES. With a Letter concerning DESIGN.



Printed in the Year M.DCC.XXXII.

# CHARACTERISTICAS.

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Annex

TREATISE VI.

# VIZ. Miscellaneous Reflections,

Scilicet uni æquus Virtuti, atque ejus Amicis. Horat. Sat. 1. Lib. 2.

Printed first in the Year M.DCC.XIV.

TURATISE VI.

FIZ.

Miscellaneous Resections,

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Printed Bill in the Year MDCCXIM.



# Miscellaneous Reflections.

### MISCELLANY I.

#### CHAP. I.

Of the Nature, Rife, and Establishment of MISCELLANYS.—
The Subject of these which follow.
—Intention of the Writer.

EACE be with the Soul of that charitable and courteous Author, who for the common Benefit of his Fellow-Authors, introduc'd the ingenious way of MISCELLANEOUS Vol. 3.

Writing!

Misc. 1. Writing!—It must be own'd that since this happy Method was establish'd, the Harvest of Wit has been more plentiful, and the Labourers more in number than heretofore. 'Tis well known to the able Practitioners in the writing Art; "That " as easy as it is to conceive Wit, 'tis the " hardest thing imaginable to be deliver'd " of It, upon certain Terms." Nothing cou'd be more severe or rigid than the Conditions formerly prescrib'd to Writers; when CRITICISM took place, and Regularity and Order were thought effential in a Treatise. The Notion of a genuine Work, a legitimate and just Piece, has certainly been the Occasion of great Timidity and Backwardness among the Adventurers in Wit: And the Imposition of such strict Laws and Rules of Composition, has set heavy on the free Spirits and forward Genius's of Mankind. 'Twas a Yoke, it feems, which our Forefathers bore; but which, for our parts, we have generoully thrown off. In effect, the invidious Distinctions of Bastardy and Legitimacy being at length remov'd; the natural and lawful Issue of the Brain comes with like advantage into the World: And Wit (mere WIT) is well receiv'd; without examination of the Kind, or censure of the Form. who for the common Benefit of

This the Miscellaneous Manner of Writing, it must be own'd, has happily

pily effected. It has render'd almost every Ch. 1. Soil productive. It has disclos'd those various Seeds of Wit, which lay suppress'd in many a Bosom; and has rear'd numberless Conceits and curious Fancys, which the natural Rudeness and Asperity of their native Soil wou'd have with-held, or at least not have permitted to rife above the ground. From every Field, from every Hedge or Hillock, we now gather as delicious Fruits and fragrant Flowers, as of old from the richest and best-cultivated Gardens. Miserable were those antient Planters, who understanding not how to conform themselves to the rude Tafte of unpolish'd Mankind, made it so difficult a Task to serve the World with intellectual Entertainments, and furnish out the Repasts of Literature and Science.

THERE was certainly a time when the Name of AUTHOR stood for something considerable in the World. To succeed happily in such a Labour as that of writing a Treatise or a Poem, was taken as a sure mark of Understanding and Good Sense. The Task was painful: But, it seems, 'twas honourable. How the Case happen'd, in process of time, to be so much revers'd, is hard to say. The primitive Authors perhaps being sew in number, and highly respected for their Art, sell under the weight of Envy. Being sensible of their

Misc. 1. their Misfortune in this respect, and being excited, as 'tis probable, by the Example of some popular Genius; they quitted their regular Schemes and accurate Forms of Workmanship, in favour of those Wits who could not possibly be receiv'd as Authors upon fuch difficult Terms. 'Twas necesfary, it feems, that the Bottom of Wit shou'd be enlarg'd. "Twas advisable that more Hands shou'd be taken into the Work. And nothing cou'd better ferve this popular purpose, than the way of MISCELLANY, or common Essay; in which the most confus'd Head, if fraught with a little Invention, and provided with Common-place-Book Learning, might exert itself to as much advantage, as the most orderly and well-settled Judgment.

To explain the better how this Revolution in Letters has been effected, it may not perhaps be indecent, shou'd we offer to compare our Writing-Artists, to the Manufacturers in Stuff or Silk. For among These 'tis esteem'd a principal piece of Skill, to frame a Pattern, or Plan of Workmanship, in which the several Colours are agreeably dispos'd; with such proportionable Adjustment of the various Figures and Devices, as may, in the whole, create a kind of Harmony to the Eye. According to this Method, each Piece must be, in reality, an Original. For

to copy what has gone before, can be of Ch. rano use. The Fraud wou'd easily be perceiv'd. On the other side, to work originally, and in a manner create each time anew, must be a matter of pressing weight, and sitted to the Strength and Capacity of none besides the choicest Workmen.

A MANNER therefore is invented to confound this Simplicity and Conformity of Design. Patch-work is substituted. Cuttings and Shreds of Learning, with various Fragments, and Points of Wit, are drawn together, and tack'd in any fantastick form. If they chance to cast a Luster, and spread a fort of sprightly Glare; the MISCELLANY is approv'd, and the complex Form and Texture of the Work admir'd. The EYE, which before was to be won by Regularity, and had kept true to Measure and strict Proportion, is by this means pleafingly drawn afide, to commit a kind of Debauch, and amuse it-self in gaudy Colours, and disfigur'd Shapes of things. Custom, in the mean while, has not only tolerated this Licentiousness, but render'd it even commendable, and brought it into the highest repute. The Wild and Whimsical, under the name of the Odd and Pretty, succeed in the room of the Graceful and the Beautiful. Justness and Accuracy of Thought are set aside, as too constraining, and of too painful an Vol. 3. aspect,

Misc. 1. aspect, to be endur'd in the agreeable and more easy Commerce of Gallantry, and modern Wit.

Now fince it has been thought convenient, in these latter Ages, to distinguish the Provinces of WIT and WISDOM, and fet apart the agreeable from the useful; 'tis evident there cou'd be nothing devis'd more sutable to the distinct and separate Interest of the former of these Provinces, than this complex manner of Performance which we call MISCELLANY. For whatever is capricious and odd, is fure to create Diversion, to those who look no further. And where there is nothing like Nature, there is no room for the troublesom part of Thought or Contemplation. 'Tis the Perfection of certain Grotefque-Painters, to keep as far from Nature as possible. To find a Likeness in their Works, is to find the greatest Fault imaginable. A natural Connexion is a Slur. A Coherence, a Defign, a Meaning, is against their purpose, and destroys the very Spirit and Genius of their Workmanship.

I REMEMBER formerly when I was a Spectator in the French Theater, I found it the Custom, at the end of every grave and folemn Tragedy, to introduce a comick Farce, or MISCELLANY, which they call'd the little Piece. We have indeed

a Method still more extraordinary upon Ch. 1. our own Stage. For we think it agreeable and just, to mix the Little Piece or Farce with the main Plot or Fable, thro' every Act. This perhaps may be the rather chosen, because our Tragedy is so much deeper and bloodier than that of the French, and therefore needs more immediate Resreshment from the elegant way of Drollery, and Burlesque-wit; which being thus closely interwoven with its opposite, makes that most accomplished kind of theatrical Miscellany, call'd by our Poets a Tragi-comedy.

I cou'd go further perhaps, and demonstrate from the Writings of many of our grave Divines, the Speeches of our Senators, and other principal Models of our national Erudition, "That the Mis-"Cellaneous Manner is at present in the highest esteem." But since my chief Intention in the following Sheets is to descant cursorily upon some late Pieces of a British Author; I will presume, That what I have said already on this Head is sufficient; and That it will not be judg'd improper or absurd in me, as I proceed, to take advantage of this miscellaneous Taste which now evidently prevails. According to this Method, whilst I serve as Critick or Interpreter to this new Writer, I may the better correct his Flegm, and give him

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Misc. 1, more of the fashionable Air and Manner of the World; especially in what relates to the Subject and Manner of his two last Pieces, which are contain'd in his second Volume. For these being of the more regular and formal kind, may easily be oppressive to the airy Reader; and may therefore with the same assurance as Tragedy claim the necessary Relief of the little Piece or Farce above-mention'd.

NoR ought the Title of a MISCEL-LANEOUS Writer to be deny'd me, on the account that I have grounded my Mifcellanys upon a certain Set of Treatifes already publish'd. Grounds and Foundations are of no moment in a kind of Work, which, according to modern Establishment, has properly neither Top nor Bottom, Beginning nor End. Besides, that I shall noway confine myself to the precise Contents of these Treatises; but, like my Fellow-Miscellanarians, shall take occasion to vary often from my propos'd Subject, and make what Deviations or Excursions I shall think fit, as I proceed in my random Essays. officient; and That it will not be judged

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#### CHAP. II.

Of Controversial Writings: Answers:
Replies.—Polemick Divinity; or
the Writing Church-Militant.—
Philosophers, and Bear-Garden.—
Authors pair'd and match'd.—
The Match-makers.—Foot-Ball.
—A Dialogue between our Author and his Bookseller.

MONG the many Improvements A daily made in the Art of Writing, there is none perhaps which can be faid to have attain'd a greater Height than that of Controversy, or the Method of Answer and Refutation. 'Tis true indeed, that antiently the Wits of Men were for the most part taken up in other Employment. If Authors writ ill, they were despis'd: If well, they were by some Party or other espous'd. For Partys there wou'd necessarily be, and Sects of every kind, in Learning and Philosophy. Every one fided with whom he lik'd; and having the liberty of hearing each fide speak for it-self, stood in no need of express Warning-Pieces against pretended Sophistry, or dangerous Reasoning. Particular B 3

Misc. 1. ticular Answers to single Treatises, were thought to be of little use. And it was esteem'd no Compliment to a Reader, to help him so carefully in the Judgment of every Piece which came abroad. Whatever Seets there were in those days, the Zeal of Party-causes ran not so high as to give the Reader a Taste of those personal Reproaches, which might pass in a Debate between the different Partymen.

Thus Matters stood of old; when as yet the Method of writing Controversy was not rais'd into an Art, nor the Feuds of contending Authors become the chief Amusement of the learned World. But we have at present so high a Relish of this kind, that the Writings of the Learned are never truly gustful till they are come to what we may properly enough call their due Ripeness, and have begot a Fray. When the Answer and Reply is once form'd, our Curiosity is excited: We begin then, for the first time, to whet our Attention, and apply our Ear.

For example: Let a zealous Divine and flaming Champion of our Faith, when inclin'd to shew himself in Print, make choice of some tremendous Mystery of Religion, oppos'd heretofore by some damnable Heresiarch; whom having vehemently resuted, he turns himself towards

the orthodox Opinion, and supports the Ch. 2. true Belief, with the highest Eloquence and profoundest Erudition; he shall, notwithstanding this, remain perhaps in deep Obscurity, to the great affliction of his Bookseller, and the regret of all who bear a just Veneration for Church-history, and the antient Purity of the Christian Faith. But let it so happen that in this Prosecution of his deceas'd Adversary, our Doctor raises up some living Antagonist; who, on the same foot of Orthodoxy with himself, pretends to arraign his Expositions, and refute the Resuter upon every Article he has advanc'd; from this moment the Writing gathers Life, the Publick listens, the Bookseller takes heart; and when Issue is well join'd, the Repartees grown fmart, and the Contention vigorous between the learned Partys, a Ring is made, and Readers gather in abundance. Every one takes party, and encourages his own Side. "This shall be " my Champion! This Man for my
" Money! Well hit, on our fide!
" Again, a good Stroke! There he
" was even with him! Have at him " the next Bout!" -- Excellent Sport! And when the Combatants are for a-while drawn off, and each retir'd with his own Companions; What Praises, and Congratulations! What Applauses of the suppos'd Victor! And how honourably is he faluted B 4

Misc. r. by his Favourers, and complimented even to the disturbance of his Modesty!

" Nay, but Gentlemen !- Good Gen-" tlemen! Do you really think thus? ----

" Are you fincere with me? - Have I " treated my Adversary as he deserves? " Never was Man fo maul'd. Why you

" have kill'd him downright. "Sirs! you flatter me. He can ne-"ver rise more. Think ye so in-

" deed? Or if he shou'd; 'twou'd

" be a Pleasure to see how you wou'd han-

" dle him."

THESE are the Triumphs. This is what fets sharp: This gives the Author his Edge, and excites the Reader's Attention; when the Trumpets are thus founded to the Croud, and a kind of Amphitheatrical Entertainment exhibited to the Multitude, by these Gladiatorian Pen-men.

THE Author of the preceding Treatises being by profession a nice Inspector into the Ridicule of Things, must in all probability have rais'd to himself some such Views as these, which hinder'd him from engaging in the way of Controversy. For when, by accident, the \* First of these Treatises (a private Letter, and in the Writer's Esteem, little worthy of the

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. The Letter concerning ENTHUSIASM.

Publick's notice) came to be read abroad Ch. 2. in Copys, and afterwards in Print; the finartest Answers which came out against it, cou'd not, it feems, move our Author to form any Reply. All he was heard to say in return, was, "That he thought who-" ever had taken upon him to publish a "Book in answer to that casual Piece, had certainly made either a very high Compliment to the Author, or a very ill one to the Publick."

IT must be own'd, that when a Writer of any kind is fo confiderable as to deserve the Labour and Pains of some shreud Heads to refute him in publick, he may, in the quality of an Author, be justly congratulated on that occasion. 'Tis suppos'd necessarily that he must have writ with some kind of Ability or Wit. But if his original Performance be in truth no better than ordinary; his Answerer's Task must certainly be very mean. He must be very indifferently imploy'd, who wou'd take upon him to answer Nonsense in form, ridicule what is of it-felf a fest, and put it upon the World to read a fecond Book for the fake of the Impertinencys of a former.

TAKING it, however, for granted, "That a forry Treatife may be the foundation of a confiderable Answer;" a

Reply

Misc. 1. Reply still must certainly be ridiculous, which-ever way we take it. For either the Author, in his original Piece, has been truly refuted, or not. If refuted; why does he defend? If not refuted; why trouble himself? What has the Publick to do with his private Quarrels, or his Adversary's Impertinence? Or supposing the World out of curiofity may delight to fee a Pedant expos'd by a Man of better Wit, and a Controversy thus unequally carry'd on between two such opposite Partys; How long is this Diversion likely to hold good? And what will become of these polemick Writings a few Years hence? What is already become of those mighty Controver-fys, with which some of the most eminent Authors amus'd the World within the memory of the youngest Scholar? An original Work or two may perhaps remain: But for the subsequent Defenses, the An-fivers, Rejoinders, and Replications; they have been long since paying their atten-dance to the Pastry-cooks. Mankind perhaps were heated at that time, when first those Matters were debated: But they are now cool again. They laugh'd: They carry'd on the Humour: They blew the Coals: They teaz'd, and fet on, maliciously, and to create themselves diversion. But the Jest is now over. No-one so much as inquires Where the Wit was; or Where possibly the Sting shou'd lie of those notable

notable Reflections and fatirical Hints, Ch. 2. which were once found fo pungent, and gave the Readers fuch high Delight.

Notable Philosophers and Divines, who can be contented to make sport, and write in learned Billing state, to divert the Coffeehouse, and entertain the Assemblys at Booksellers Shops, or the more airy Stalls of inferior Book-retailers!

IT must be allow'd, That in this respect, controverfial Writing is not so wholly unprofitable; and that for Book-Merchants, of whatever Kind or Degree, they undoubtedly receive no small Advantage from a right Improvement of a learned Scuffle. Nothing revives 'em more, or makes a quicker Trade, than a Pair of fubstantial Divines or grave Philosophers, well match'd, and foundly back'd; till by long worrying one another, they are grown out of breath, and have almost lost their Force of Biting.-" So have I known a crafty " Glazier, in time of Frost, procure a Foot-" ball, to draw into the Street the emulous " Chiefs of the robust Youth. The tumid " Bladder bounds at every Kick, bursts the " withstanding Casements, the Chassys, Lan-" terns, and all the brittle vitrious Ware. " The Noise of Blows and Out-cries fills " the whole Neighbourhood; and Ruins of Glass cover the stony Pavements; s' till the bloated battering Engine, subdu'd

Misc. 1." by force of Foot and Fist, and yielding up its Breath at many a fatal Cranny, be-" comes lank and harmless, finks in its

"Flight, and can no longer uphold the "Spirit of the contending Partys."

This our Author supposes to have been the occasion of his being so often and zealously complimented by his Amanuensis (for so he calls \* his Bookseller or Printer) on the Fame of his first Piece. The obliging Crafts-man has at times presented him with many a handsom Book, set off with Titles of Remarks, Reflections, and the like, which, as he affur'd him, were ANSWERS to his small Treatise. "Here " Sir, is a Reverend-This a Right Re-"verend—This a Reger Re"verend—This a noted Author—
"Will you not reply, Sir?—O' my
"word, Sir, the World is in expecta"tion. Pity they shou'd be disap"pointed! A dozen Sheets, Sir,
"wou'd be sufficient.—You might disappatch it presently. Think you so?
"I have my Paper ready. And a "I have my Paper ready — And a good Letter. — Take my word for it "You shall see, Sir! Enough. But "hark ye (Mr. A, a, a, a) my worthy "Engineer, and Manager of the War of

<sup>\*</sup> VOL, I. pag. 305.

" Letters! Ere you prepare your Artille-Ch. 3.
" ry, or engage me in Acts of Hostility,
" let me hear, I intreat you, Whether or
" no my Adversary be taken notice of.
" — Wait for his Second Edition. And
" if by next Year, or Year or two after,
" it be known in good Company that
" there is such a Book in being, I shall
" then perhaps think it time to consider of
" a Reply."

#### CHAP. III.

Of the Letter concerning Enthusiasm.

—Foreign Criticks.—Of Letters in general; and of the Epistolary Style.—Addresses to great Men.—Authors and Horsemanship.—The modern Amble.—Further Explanation of the MISCELLANEOUS Manner.

A S resolute as our Author may have shewn himself in resusing to take notice of the smart Writings publish'd against him by certain Zealots of his own Country, he cou'd not, it seems, but out of curiosity observe what the foreign and

Misc. 1. more impartial Criticks might object to his fmall Treatife, which he was furpriz'd to hear had been translated into foreign Languages, foon after it had been publish'd here at home. The first Censure of this kind which came to our Author's fight, was that of the PARIS \* Journal des Savans: Confidering how little favourable the Author of the Letter had shewn himself towards the Romish Church, and Policy of FRANCE, it must be own'd those Journalists have treated him with fufficient Candor: tho they fail'd not to take what Advantages they well cou'd against the Writing, and particularly arraign'd it for the want + of Order and Method.

> THE Protestant Writers, such as live in a free Country, and can deliver their Sentiments without Constraint, have certainly ± done our Author more Honour than he ever prefum'd to think he cou'd deserve. His Translator indeed, who had done him the previous Honour of introdu-

(2.) Histoire des Ouvrages des Savans, Mois d' Octobre, Novembre & Decembre, 1708. pag. 514.

. (3.) Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, Mois de Mars, 1710.

<sup>\*</sup> Du 25 Mars, 1709.
† Ses pensées ne semblent occuper dans son Ouwrage, que la place que le hazard leur a donnée. Ibid. pag. 181. I (1.) Bibliotheque Choisie, année 1709. Tome XIX.

cing him to the Acquaintance of the fo-Ch. 34 reign World, represents particularly, by the Turn given to the latter end of the Letter, that the Writer of it was, as to his Condition and Rank, little better than an inferior Dependent on the noble Lord to whom he had address'd himself. And in reality the Original has so much of that air; that I wonder not, if what the Author left ambiguous, the Translator has determin'd to the side of Clientship and Dependency.

But whatever may have been the Circumstance or Character of our Author himself; that of his great Friend ought in justice to have been consider'd by those former Criticks above-mention'd. So much, at least, shou'd have been taken notice of, that there was a real GREAT MAN characteriz'd, and sutable Measures of Address and Style preserv'd. But they who wou'd neither observe this, nor apprehend the Letter it-self to be real, were insufficient Criticks, and unqualify'd to judg of the Turn or Humour of a Piece, which they had never consider'd in a proper light.

"Tis become indeed fo common a Practice among Authors, to feign a Correspondency, and give the Title of a private Letter to a Piece address'd folely to the Publick,

Misc. 1. Publick, that it wou'd not be strange to

fee other Journalists and Criticks, as well as
the Gentlemen of PARIS, pass over such
Particularitys, as things of Form. This
Prejudice however cou'd not misguide a
chief Critick of the Protestant side; when

\* mentioning this Letter concerning Enthusiasm, he speaks of it as a real Letter,
(such as in truth it was) not a precise and
formal + TREATISE, design'd for publick
View.

IT will be own'd furely, by those who have learnt to judg of Elegancy and Wit by the help merely of modern Languages, That we cou'd have little Relish of the best Letters of a Balsac or Voiture, were we wholly ignorant of the Characters of the principal Persons to whom those Letters were actually written. But much less cou'd we find pleasure in this reading, shou'd we take it into our heads, that both the Personages and Correspondency it-self were merely sictitious. Let the best of Tully's Epistles be read in such a narrow View as this, and they will cer-

\* Ceux qui l'ont luë ont pû voir en général, que l'Anteur ne s'y est pas proposé un certain plan, pour traiter sa matiere methodiquement; parceque c'est une Lettre, & non un Traité. Bibliotheque Choisse. Ibid. pag. 428.

<sup>†</sup> If in this joint Edition, with other Works, the Letter be made to pais under that general Name of Treatife; 'tis the Bookfeller must account for it. For the Author's part, he considers it as no other than what it originally was.

tainly prove very infipid. If a real BRU-Ch. 3. TUS, a real ATTICUS be not suppos'd, there will be no real CICERO. The elegant Writer will disappear: as will the vast Labour and Art with which this eloquent Roman writ those Letters to his illustrious Friends. There was no kind of Composition in which this great Author prided or pleas'd himself more than in this; where he endeavour'd to throw off the Mein of the Philosopher and Orator, whilst in effect he employ'd both his Rhetorick and Philosophy with the greatest Force. They who can read an Epistle or Satir of HORACE in somewhat better than a mere scholastick Relish, will comprehend that the Concealment of Order and Method, in this manner of Writing, makes the chief Beauty of the Work. They will own, that unless a Reader be in some measure appriz'd of the Characters of an Augustus, a Mæcenas, a Flo-RUS, or a TREBATIUS, there will be little Relish in those Satirs or Epistles address'd in particular to the Courtiers, Ministers, and Great Men of the Times. Even the SATIRICK, or MISCELLA-NEOUS Manner of the polite Antients, requir'd as much Order as the most regular Pieces. But the Art was to destroy every fuch Token or Appearance, give an extemporary Air to what was writ, and make the Effect of Art be felt, without discover-Vol. 3.

Misc. 1, ing the Artifice. There needs no further Explanation on this Head. Our Author himself has said enough in his \* Advice to an Author, particularly where he treats of the simple Style, in contra-distinction to the learned, the formal, or metbodick.

> 'Tis a different Case indeed, when the Title of Epistle is improperly given to such Works as were never writ in any other view than that of being made publick, or to serve as Exercises or Specimens of the Wit of their Composer. Such were those infinite Numbers of Greek and Latin Epistles, writ by the antient Sophists, Grammarians, or Rhetoricians; where we find the real Character of the Epistle, the genuine Style and Manners of the corresponding Partys sometimes imitated; but at other times not fo much as aim'd at, nor any Measures of historical Truth pre-ferv'd. Such perhaps we may esteem even the Letters of a + SENECA to his Friend Lucilius. Or supposing that philo-

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<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 233, 257, 258. + 'Tis not the Person, Character, or Genius, but the Style and Manner of this great Man, which we prefume to censure. We acknowledg his noble Sentiments and worthy Actions. We own the Patriot, and good Minister: But we reject the Writer. He was the first of any Note or Worth who gave credit to that false Style and Manner here spoken of. He might, on this account, be call'd in reality The Corrupter of ROMAN Eloquence. This indeed cou'd not

philosophical Courtier had really such a Ch. 3. Correspondency; and, at several times, had sent so many fair Epistles, honestly sign'd and seal'd, to his Country-friend at

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but naturally, and of it-felf, become relax and dissolute, after fuch a Relaxation and Diffolution of Manners, confequent to the Change of Government, and to the horrid Luxury and Effeminacy of the Roman Court, even before the time of a CLAUDIUS, or a NERO. There was no more possibility of making a Stand for Language, than for Liberty. As the World now flood, the highest Glory which cou'd be attain'd by mortal Man, was to be Mitigator or Moderator of that universal Tyranny already establish'd. To this I must add, That in every City, Principality, or fmaller Nation, where fingle WILL prevails, and Court-power, instead of Laws or Constitutions, guides the State; 'tis of the highest difficulty for the best Minister to procure a just, or even a tolerable Administration. Where such a Minister is found, who can but moderately influence the petty Tyranny, he deserves considerable Applause and Honour. But in the Case we have mention'd, where a universal Monarchy was actually establish'd, and the Interest of a whole World concern'd; He furely must have been efteem'd a Guardian-Angel, who, as a prime Minister, cou'd, for several Years, turn the very worst of Courts, and worst-condition'd of all Princes, to the fatherly Care and just Government of Mankind. Such a Minister was Seneca under an Agrippina and a Nero. And fuch he was acknowledg'd by the antient and never-sparing Satirifts, who cou'd not forbear to celebrate, withal, his Generofity and Friendship in a private Life:

Nemo petit, modicis quæ mittebantur amicis A Seneca; quæ P150 bonus, quæ Cotta folebat Largiri: namque & titulis, & fascibus olim Major habebatur donandi gloria.

Juvenal. Sat. v. ver. 108.

Perditus, ut dubitet Senecam præferre Neroni? Id. Sat. viii. ver. 211. Misc. 1. a distance; it appears however by the Epistles themselves, in their proper Order, (if they may be said to have any) that after a few Attempts at the beginning, the Author by degrees loses sight of his Correspondent, and takes the World in general for his Reader or Disciple. He salls into the random way of Miscellaneous Writing; says every-where great and noble Things, in and out of the way, accidentally as Words led him (for with these he plays perpetually;) with infinite Wit, but with little or no Coherence; without a Shape or Body to his Work; without

This Remark is what I have been tempted to make by the way, on the Character of this Roman Author, more mistaken (if I am not very much so my-self) than any other so generally study'd. As for the philosophick Character or Function imputed to him, 'twas foreign, and noway proper or peculiar to one who never affum'd fo much as that of Sophist, or Pensionary Teacher of Philosophy. He was far wide of any fuch Order, or Profession. There is great difference between a Courtier who takes a Fancy tor Philosophy, and a Philosopher who shou'd take a Fancy for a Court. Now SENECA was born a Courtier; being Son of a Court-Rhetor: himself bred in the same manner, and taken into favour for his Wit and Genius, his admir'd Style and Eloquence; not for his Learning in the Books of Philosophy and the Antients. For this indeed was not very profound in him. In short, he was a Man of wonderful Wit, Fluency of Thought and Language, an able Minister, and bonest Courtier. And what has been deliver'd down to his prejudice, is by the common Enemy of all the free and generous ROMANS, that apish shallow Historian, and Court-Flatterer, DION CASSIUS, of a low Age, when Barbarism (as may be easily seen in his own Work) came on apace, and the very Traces and Features of Virtue, Science and Knowledg, were wearing out of the World.

a real \* Beginning, a Middle, or an End. Ch. 3. Of a bundred and twenty four Epiftles, you may, if you please, make five Hundred, or balf a Score. A great-one, for instance, you may divide into five or fix. A little-one you may tack to another; and that to another; and so on. The Unity of the Writing will be the same: The Life and Spirit sull as well preserv'd. "Tis not only whole Letters or Pages you may change and manage thus at pleasure: Every Period, every Sentence almost, is independent; and may be taken asunder, transpos'd, postpon'd, anticipated, or set in any new Order, as you fansy.

This is the Manner of Writing formuch admir'd and imitated in our Age, that we have scarce the Idea of any other Model. We know little, indeed, of the Difference between one Model or Character of writing and another. All runs to the same Tune, and beats exactly one and the same Measure. Nothing, one wou'd think, cou'd be more tedious than this uniform Pace. The common Amble or Canterbury is not, I am persuaded, more tiresom to a good Rider, than this see-saw of Essay-Writers is to an able Reader. The

<sup>\*</sup> Infra, p. 259, 260. in the Notes. And VOL. I. p. 146.

Misc. 1. just Composer of a legitimate Piece is like an able Traveller, who exactly measures his Journey, confiders his Ground, premeditates his Stages, and Intervals of Relaxation and Intention, to the very Conclusion of his Undertaking, that he happily arrives where he first propos'd when he set out. He is not presently upon the Spur, or in his full Career; but walks his Steed leisurely out of his Stable, settles himself in his Stirrups, and when fair Road and Season offer, puts on perhaps to a round Trot; thence into a Gallop, and after a while takes up. As Down, or Meadow, or shady Lane present themselves, he accordingly sutes his Pace, savours his Palfry; and is sure not to bring him puffing, and in a heat, into his last Inn. But the Post-way is become highly fashionable with modern Authors. The very same stroke sets you out, and brings you in. Nothing stays, or interrupts. Hill or Valley; rough or smooth; thick or thin: No Difference; no Variation. When an Author fits down to write, he knows no other Business he has, than to be witty, and take care that his Periods be well turn'd, or (as they commonly fay) run smooth. In this manner, he doubts not to gain the Character of bright. When he has writ as many Pages as he likes, or as his Run of Fancy wou'd permit; he then perhaps confiders what Name

he had best give to his new Writing: Ch. 3. whether he shou'd call it Letter, Esfay, Miscellany, or aught else. The Bookseller perhaps is to determine this at last, when all, besides the Preface, Epistle Dedicatory, and Title-page, is dispatch'd.

——Incertus fcamnum, faceretne Priapum.
——Deus inde ego!
Horat. Sat, 8. Lib. i. ver. 2.

nels as evely as Pleasure: --- Opera-

Hoveick Fring; Honor ; Put

rloution; Martyrdon

here tender Comment Recountries

C4 MISCEL-

## MISCELLANY II.

#### CHAP. I.

Review of ENTHUSIASM.—Its
Defense, Praise:—Use in Business as well as Pleasure:—Operation by Fear, Love.—Modifications of Enthusiasm: Magnanimity;
Heroick Virtue; Honour; Publick Zeal; Religion; Superstition;
Persecution; Martyrdom.—
Energy of the extatick Devotion in the Tender Sex.—Account of antient Priesthood.—Religious War.—Reference to a succeeding Chapter.

HETHER in fact there be any real Enchantment, any Influence of Stars, any Power of Dæmons or of foreign Natures over our own Minds, is thought questionable by many. Some there are who affert the Negative,

Negative, and endeavour to folve the Ap-Ch. I. pearances of this kind by the natural Operation of our Passions, and the common Course of outward Things. For my own part, I cannot but at this present apprehend a kind of Enchantment or Magick in that which we call Enthusiasm; since I find, that having touch'd slightly on this Subject, I cannot so easily part with it at pleasure.

AFTER having made fome cursory Reflections on our Author's \* Letter, I thought I might have sufficiently acquitted my-self on this head; till passing to his next Treatise, I found my-self still further ingag'd. I perceiv'd plainly that I had as yet scarce enter'd into our Author's Humour, or selt any thing of that Passon, which, as he informs us, is so easily communicable and naturally engaging. But what I had pass'd over in my first Reslections, I found naturally rising in me, upon second thoughts. So that by experience I prov'd it true what our Author says †, "That we all of us know some" thing of this Principle." And now that I find I have in reality so much of it imparted to me, I may with better reason be

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Letter concerning Enthusiasm, above. VOL. I. Treatife I. † VOL. I. pag. 54.

Misc. 2. pardon'd, if, after our Author's example, I am led to write on fuch Subjects as these, with Caution, at different Reprifes; and not fingly, in one Breath.

> I HAVE heard indeed that the very reading of Treatifes and Accounts of Melancholy, has been apt to generate that Pasfion in the over-diligent and attentive Reader. And this perhaps may have been the reason, why our Author himself (as he feems to intimate towards the Conclufion of his first \* Letter) car'd not in reality to grapple closely with his Subject, or give us, at once, the precise Definition of ENTHUSIASM. This however we may, with our Author, presume to infer, from the coolest of all Studys, even from Criticism it-self, (of which we have been lately treating) + " That there is a Power in " Numbers, Harmony, Proportion, and " Beauty of every kind, which naturally " captivates the Heart, and raises the Ima-" gination to an Opinion or Conceit of

" fomething majestick and divine."

WHATEVER this Subject may be in it-felf; we cannot help being transported with the thought of it. It inspires us with fomething more than ordinary, and

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Treatife I. (Letter of ENTHUSIASM) VOL. I. pag. 55. lin. 7. † VOL. II. p. 75, 105, 400, &c.

raises us above our-selves. Without this Ch. r. Imagination or Conceit, the World wou'd to be but a dull Circumstance, and Life a sorry Pass-time. Scarce cou'd we be said to live. The animal Functions might in their course be carry'd on; but nothing surther sought for, or regarded. The gallant Sentiments, the elegant Fancys, the Belle-passions, which have, all of them, this Beauty in view, wou'd be set aside, and leave us probably no other Employment than that of satisfying our coarsest Appetites at the cheapest rate; in order to the attainment of a supine State of Indolence and Inactivity.

SLENDER wou'd be the Enjoyments of the Lover, the ambitious Man, the Warrior, or the Virtuoso, (as our Author has \* elsewhere intimated) if in the Beautys which they admire, and passionately pursue, there were no reference or regard to any higher Majesty or Grandure, than what simply results from the particular Objects of their pursuit. I know not, in reality, what we shou'd do to find a seasoning to most of our Pleasures in Life, were it not for the Taste or Relish, which is owing to this particular Passion, and the Conceit or Imagination which supports it. Without this, we cou'd not so much as

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. II. pag. 400.

Misc. 2. admire a Poem, or a Picture; a Garden, or a Palace; a charming Shape, or a fair Face. Love it-self wou'd appear the lowest thing in Nature, when thus anticipated, and treated according to the Antienthusiastick Poet's method:

\* Et jacere humorem collectum in corpora quæque.

How Heroism or Magnanimity must stand in this Hypothesis, is easy to imagine. The Muses themselves must make a very indifferent figure in this philosophical Draught. Even the Prince of † Poets wou'd prove a most insipid Writer, if he were thus reduc'd. Nor cou'd there, according to this Scheme, be yet a place of Honour lest even for our ‡ Latin Poet, the great Disciple of this un-polite Philosophy, who dares with so little Equity employ the Muses Art in favour of such a System. But in spite of his Philosophy, he everywhere gives way to Admiration, and rapturous Views of NATURE. He is transported with the several Beautys of the World, and destroys the Principle of

\* Lucret lib. iv. ver. 1059.

Τάτισε το 10. 10. 10ερε. 1053.

† 'Ουθεν μέςος 'Ομήρω άθευν, άθε θυνάς αποςον, άθε αρχίκ έγημαν, άλλα πάνθα μεςα βείων δυομάτων κ΄ βείων λόγων, δι βείας πέχνης. Maximus Tyr. Differt. xvi.

‡ Viz. Lucretius. As above, VOL. I. p. 52.

Beauty, from whence in antient Languages Ch. I. the \* WORLD it-felf was nam'd.

THIS is what our Author advances; when in behalf of ENTHUSIASM he quotes its formal Enemys, and shews That they are as capable of it as its greatest Confessors and Assertors. So far is he from degrading Enthusiasm, or disclaiming it in himself; that he looks on this Passion, simply consider'd, as the most natural, and its Object as the justest in the World. Even VIRTUE it-self he takes to be no other than a noble Enthusiasm justly directed, and regulated by that high Standard which he supposes in the Nature of Things.

HE feems to affert, † "That there are certain moral Species or Appearances fo friking, and of fuch force over our Natures, that when they present themselves, they bear down all contrary Opinion or Conceit, all opposite Passion, Sensation, or mere bodily Affection." Of this kind he makes VIRTUE it-self to be the chief: since of all Views or Contemplations, this, in his account, is the most na-

turally

<sup>\*</sup> Κόσμ, ... Mundus. From whence that Expostulation, "Η ἐν σοὶ μ τις κόσμ. Φ ὑρίς αλ αλ ὑναίαι, ἐν δὶς τοὶ παντὶ ἀκοσμία; Μ. Απτ. Lib. iv. 27. And that other Allusion to the same word, Κόσμον δ' ἐτύμως τὸ σύμπων ἀλλὶ ἐκ ἀκοσμίαν ὀνομάσαις ἄν. Below, pag. 264. in the Notes. † VOL. I. pag. 138, 139, &c. VOI. II. pag. 100, 104, 5, 6.

Misc. 2. turally and strongly affecting. The exalted part of Love is only borrow'd hence. That of pure Friendship is its immediate Sels. He who yields his Life a Sacrifice to his Prince or Country; the Lover who for his Paramour performs as much; the heroick, the amorous, the religious Martyrs, who draw their Views, whether visionary or real, from this Pattern and Exemplar of DIVINITY: all these, according to our Author's Sentiment, are alike actuated by this Passion, and prove themselves in effect so many different Enthusiass.

Nor is thorow Honesty, in his Hypothesis, any other than this Zeal, or Passion, moving strongly upon the Species or View of the Decorum, and Sublime of Actions. Others may pursue \* different Forms, and fix their Eye on different Species, (as all Men do on one or other:) The real bonest Man, however plain or simple he appears, has that highest Species, † Honesty it-self, in view; and instead of outward Forms or Symmetrys, is struck with that of inward Character, the Harmony and Numbers of the Heart, and Beauty of the Affections, which form the Manners and Conduct of a truly social Life.

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. II. pag. 429, 430. † The Honestum, Pulchrum, το Καλέν, Πρέπον. Infra, pag. 182, &c.

"T is indeed peculiar to the Genius of that cool Philosophy \* above describ'd; that as it denies the Order or Harmony of Things in general, so by a just Consequence and Truth of Reasoning, it rejects the Habit of admiring or being charm'd with whatever is call'd Beautiful in particular. According to the Regimen prescrib'd by this Philosophy, it must be acknowledg'd that the Evils of Love, Ambition, Vanity, Luxury, with other Disturbances deriv'd from the florid, high, and elegant Ideas of Things, must in appearance be set in a fair way of being radical-

It need not be thought furprizing, that Religion it-self shou'd in the account of these Philosophers be reckon'd among those Vices and Disturbances, which it concerns us after this manner to extirpate. If the Idea of Majesty and Beauty in other inserior Subjects be in reality distracting; it must chiesly prove so, in that principal Subject, the Basis and Foundation of this Conceit. Now if the Subject it-self be not in Nature, neither the Idea nor the Passion grounded on it can be properly esteem'd natural: And thus all Admiration ceases; and Enthusiasm is at an end. But

ly cur'd.

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 32. And VOL. I. pag. 48, 49, 117, &c.

Misc. 2. if there be naturally such a Passion; 'tis evident that Religion it-self is of the kind, and must be therefore natural to Man.

WE can admire nothing profoundly, without a certain religious Veneration. And because this borders so much on Fear, and raises a certain Tremor or Horror of like appearance; 'tis easy to give that Turn to the Affection, and represent all Enthusiasm and religious Extasy as the Product or mere Effect of Fear:

Primus in orbe deos fecit timor.

But the original Passion, as appears plainly, is of another kind, and in effect is so confess'd by those who are the greatest Opposers of Religion, and who, as our Author observes, have shewn themselves sufficiently convinc'd, "\* That altho these "Ideas of Divinity and Beauty were vain; "they were yet in a manner innate, or such as Men were really born to, and cou'd hardly by any means avoid."

Now as all Affections have their Excess, and require Judgment and Discretion to moderate and govern them; so this high and noble Affection, which raises

<sup>\*</sup> Letter of ENTHUSIASM, VOL. I. pag. 49.

Man to Action, and is his Guide in Busi-Ch. 1. ness as well as Pleasure, requires a steddy Rein and strict Hand over it. All Moralists, worthy of any Name, have recogniz'd the Passion; tho among these the wisest have prescrib'd Restraint, press'd Moderation, and to all Tyro's in Philofophy forbid the forward Use of Admiration, Rapture, or Extasy, even in the Subjects they esteem'd the highest, and most divine. They knew very well that the first Motion, Appetite, and Ardour of the Youth in general towards \* Philosophy and Knowledg, depended chiefly on this Turn of Temper: Yet were they well appriz'd, withal, That in the Progress of this Study, as well as in the affairs of Life, the florid Ideas and exalted Fancy of this kind became the Fuel of many incendiary Paf-fions; and that, in religious Concerns par-ticularly, the Habit of Admiration and contemplative Delight, wou'd, by over-Indulgence, too easily mount into high Fanaticism, or degenerate into abject Superstition.

UPON the whole therefore, according to our Author, ENTHUSIASM is, in itself, a very natural bonest Passion; and has

<sup>\*</sup> So The Stagirite: Διὰ το Βαυμάζειν ὁι ἄνθρωποι κὸ νῦν κὸ τὸ αφώτον ἤεξαιθο φιλοσορέιν. Metaph. Lib. i. Cap. 2. See below, pag. 202, 203. in the Notes.

Misc. 2. properly nothing for its Object but what is \* Good and Honest. 'Tis apt indeed, he confesses, to run astray. And by modern example we know, perhaps yet better than by any antient, that, in Religion, the En-THUSIASM which works by Love, is fubject to many strange Irregularitys; and that which works by Fear, to many monstrous and horrible Superstitions. Mysticks and Fanaticks are known to abound as well in our Reform'd, as in the Romish Churches. The pretended Floods of Grace pour'd into the Bosoms of the Quietists, Pietists, and those who favour the extatick way of Devotion, raise such Transports, as by their own Proselytes are confess'd to have something strangely agreeable, and in common with what ordinary Lovers are us'd to feel. And it has been remark'd by many, That the Female Saints have been the greatest Improvers of this jost part of Religion. What truth there may be in the related Operations of this pretended Grace and amorous Zeal, or in the Accounts of what has usually past between the Saints of each Sex, in these devout Extafys, I shall leave the Reader to examine: supposing he will find credible Accounts, sufficient to convince him of the dangerous progress of ENTHUSIASM in this amorous Lineage.

<sup>\*</sup> To rando no dydoor.

THERE are many Branches indeed more vulgar, as that of FEAR, MELANCHO-LY, CONSTERNATION, SUSPICION. DESPAIR. And when the Passion turns more towards the astonishing and frightful; than the amiable and delightful side, it creates rather what we call Superstition than ENTHUSIASM. I must confess withal, that what we commonly style Zeal in matters of Religion, is feldom without a mixture of both these Extravagancys. The extatick Motions of Love and Admiration, are feldom un-accompany'd with the Horrors and Confernations of a lower fort of Devotion. These Paroxysms of Zeal are in reality as the hot and cold Fits of an Ague, and depend on the different and occasional Views or Aspects of the DI-VINITY; according as the Worshiper is \* guided from without, or affected from within, by his particular Constitution. Seldom are those Aspects so determinate and fix'd, as to excite constantly one and the same Spirit of Devotion. In Religions therefore, which hold most of Love, there is generally room left for Terrors of the deepest kind. Nor is there any Religion fo diabolical, as, in its representation of DIVINITY, to leave no room for Admiration and Esteem. Whatever Personage or

<sup>\*</sup> Infra, pag. 130.

Misc. 2. Specter of DIVINITY is worship'd; a certain Esteem and Love is generally affected by his Worshipers. Or if, in the Devotion paid him, there be in truth no real or absolute Esteem; there is however a certain astonishing Delight or Ravishment excited.

This Passion is experienc'd, in com-mon, by every Worshiper of the Zealot-kind. The Motion, when un-guided, and left wholly to it-felf, is in its nature turbulent and incentive. It disjoints the natural Frame, and relaxes the ordinary Tone or Tenor of the Mind. In this Disposition the Reins are let loose to all Passion which arises: And the Mind, as far as it is able to act or think in fuch a State, approves the Riot, and justifies the wild Effects, by the suppos'd Sacredness of the Cause. Every Dream and Frenzy is made INSPIRA-TION; every Affection, ZEAL. And in this Persuasion the Zealots, no longer self-govern'd, but set adrift to the wide Sea of Passion, can in one and the same Spirit of Devotion, exert the opposite Passions of Love and Hatred; unite affectionately, and abbor furiously; curse, bles, sing, mourn, exult, tremble, carefs, assassinate. inflict and fuffer \* MARTYRDOM, with

<sup>\*</sup> A Passage of History comes to my mind, as it is cited by an eminent *Divine* of our own Church, with regard to that

a thousand other the most vehement Ef-Ch. 1. forts of variable and contrary Affection.

THE common Heathen Religion, especially in its latter Age, when adorn'd with the most beautiful Temples, and render'd more illustrious by the Muniscence of the Roman Senate and succeeding Emperors, ran wholly into Pomp, and was supported chiesly by that fort of Enthusiasm, which is rais'd from the \*external Objects of Grandure, Majesty, and what we call August. On the other side, the Egyptian or Syrian Religions, which lay more in Mystery and conceal d Rites; having less Dependence on the Magistrate, and less of that Decorum of Art,

that Spirit of MARTYRDOM which furnishes, it seems, fuch folid Matter for the Opinion and Faith of many Zealots. The Story, in the words of our Divine, and with his own Reflections on it, is as follows: "Two Franciscans offer'd " themselves to the Fire to prove Savanorola to be a Here-" tick. But a certain Jacobine offer'd himself to the Fire to " prove that Savanorola had true Revelations, and was no "Heretick. In the mean time Savanorola preach'd; but " made no fuch confident Offer, nor durst he venture at that " new kind of Fire-Ordeal. And put Cafe, all four had " pass'd thro' the Fire, and died in the flames; What wou'd " that have prov'd? Had he been a Heretick, or no Here-"tick, the more, or the less, for the Confidence of thefe

zealous Idiots? If we mark it, a great many Arguments

whereon many Seds rely, are no better Probation than

this comes to." Bishop Taylor in his dedicatory Discourse, before his Liberty of Prophesying. See Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 26, &c. \* Infra, p. 90, 91.

Misc. 2. Politeness, and Magnificence, ran into a more pusillanimous, frivolous, and mean kind of Superstition; "The Obser-" vation of Days, the Forbearance of "Meats, and the Contention about Tradi-" tions, Seniority of Laws, and \* Priority of Godships."

\_\_\_\_\_Summus utrinque
Inde furor vulgo, quod numina vicinorum
Odit uterque locus, quum folos credat habendos
Esse deos, quos ipse colit.—

HISTORY, withal, informs us of a certain Establishment in EGYPT, which was very extraordinary, and must needs have had a very uncommon effect; no way advantageous to that Nation in particular, or to the general Society of Mankind. We know very well, that nothing is more injurious to the Police, or municipal Constitution of any City or Colony, than the forcing of a particular Trade: Nothing more dangerous than the over-peopling any Manusacture, or multiplying the Traders, or Dealers, of whatever Vocation, beyond their natural Proportion, and the publick Demand. Now it happen'd of old, in this Mother-Land of Superstition,

<sup>\*</sup> Juvenal. Sat. xv. ver. 35. See VOL. II. p. 387, 388.

that \* the Sons of certain Artists were by Ch. 1. Law oblig'd always to follow the same Calling with their Fathers. Thus the Son of a Priest was always a Priest by Birth, as was the whole Lineage after him, without interruption. Nor was it a Custom with this Nation, as with others, to have only † one single Priest or Priestess to a Temple: but as the Number of Gods and Temples was infinite; so was that of the

\* Fr ε δ 'Αιγυπίων έπτα γένεα. Καὶ τότων, ὁι μὲν, 
'Ιρέες, ὁι δὲ, Μάχιμοι κεκλέα|αι: — 'Ουδὲ τέτσισ ἔξεςι
τέχυνι ἐσσοκίσαι ἐδειλίνι, ἀλλά τὰ ἐς σόλεμον ἐπασκένσι
μένα, παῖς σαροβ παῖρὸς ἐκδειλιμενοι. Ηετοdot. L. ii. §. 164.
'Ιράται δὲ ἐκ δὲς τός κ τη Θεων, ἀλλά πολλά — ἐπεὰρ
δὲ τις ἀποδάνη, τάτε ὁ σαῖς ἀγικατίς α]αι. 1bid. §. 37.

† Tüs de zásegs ándons els rela uson dingnusens, &c. Cum tota regto in tres partes divisa sit, primam sibi portionem vendicat ordo sacerdotum, magna apud indigenas autoritate pollens, tum ob pietatem in deos, tum quod multam ex eruditione scientiam ejusmodi homines asserunt. Ex reditibus autem suis cuneta per Ægyptum sacrificia procurant, ministros alunt; & propriis commodiatatibus aucillantur, rais idiais xpeiais zognyūstv. Non enim (Ægyptii) existimant sas esse deorum bonores mutari, sed semper ab eistem endem ritu peragi, neque eos necessariorum copia destituti qui in commune omnibus consulunt. In universum namque de maximis rebus consulentes, indesnenter Regi præsto suint, in nonnullis tanquam participes imperii, in aliis reges, duces & magistri (covespo), econosilal, didastados) existentes. Ex astrologia quoque & sacroum inspectione, sutura prædicunt, atque è sacroum librorum scriptis res gestas cum utilitate conjunctas præsegunt. Non enim, ut apud Grecos, unus tentummodo vir, aut semma una, sacerdotio sungitur; sed complures sacrificia & bonores deum obeuntes, liberis suis eandem vitæ rationem quass per manus tradunt. Hi autem cuntiis oneribus sunt immunes, & primos post Regem bonoris & potessatis gradus obtinent. Diod. Sic. lib. i. pag. 66.

Priests.

Misc. 2. Priests. The Religious Foundations were without Restriction: and to one single Worship or Temple, as many of the Holy Order might be Retainers, as cou'd raise a Maintenance from the Office.

WHATEVER happen'd to other Races or Professions, that of the *Priest*, in all likelihood, must, by this Regulation, have propagated the most of any. 'Tis a tempting Circumstance; to have so easy a Mastery over the World; to subdue by Wit instead of Force; to practise on the Passions, and triumph over the Judgment of Mankind; to influence private Familys, and publick Councils; conquer Conquerors; controul the Magistrate himself, and govern without the Envy which attends all other Government or Superiority. No wonder if such a Profession was apt to multiply: especially when we consider the easy Living and Security of the *Professors*, their Exemption from all Labour, and Hazard; the suppos'd Sacredness of their Character; and their free Possession of Wealth, Grandure, Estates, and Women.

THERE was no need to invest such a Body as this, with rich Lands and ample Territorys, as it happen'd in EGYPT. The Generation or Tribe being once set apart as sacred, wou'd, without surther encouragement, be able, no doubt, in process

process of time, to establish themselves a Ch. 1. plentiful and growing Fund, or religious Land-Bank. 'Twas a sufficient Donative, to have had only that single Privilege from the \* Law; "That they might retain "what they cou'd get; and that it might be lawful for their Order to receive such "Estates by voluntary Contribution, as "cou'd never afterwards be converted to other Uses."

Now if, besides the Method of Propagation by Descent, other Methods of Increase were allow'd in this Order of Men; if Volunteers were also admitted at pleafure, without any Stint or Confinement to a certain Number; 'tis not difficult to imagine how enormous the Growth wou'd be of such a Science or Profession, thus recogniz'd by the Magistrate, thus invested with Lands and Power, and thus intitled to whatever extent of Riches or Possession cou'd be acquir'd by Practice and Insluence over the superstitious part of Mankind.

THERE were, besides, in EGYPT some natural Causes of Superstition, beyond those which were common to other Regions. This Nation might well abound in *Prodigys*, when even their Country and Soil it-self was a kind of *Prodigy* in Nature. Their solitary idle Life, whilst shut

<sup>\*</sup> Infra, p. 79.

Misc. 2. up in their Houses by the regular Inundations of the NILE; the unwholesom Vapours arising from the new Mud, and slimy Relicts of their River, expos'd to the hot Suns; their various Meteors and Phænomena; with the long Vacancy they had to observe and comment on them; the necessity, withal, which, on the account of their Navigation, and the Measure of their yearly drowned Lands, compell'd them to promote the Studys of Astronomy and other Sciences, of which their Priesthood cou'd make good advantages: All these may be reckon'd, perhaps, as additional Causes of the immense Growth of Superstition, and the enormous Increase of the Priesthood in this fertile Land.

"Twill however, as I conceive, be found unquestionably true, according to political Arithmetick, in every Nation whatsoever; "That the Quantity of Su-"PERSTITION (if I may so speak) "will, in proportion, nearly answer the "Number of Priests, Diviners, Sooth-"fayers, Prophets, or such who gain "their Livelihood, or receive Advantages by officiating in religious Affairs." For if these Dealers are numerous, they will force a Trade. And as the liberal Hand of the Magistrate can easily raise Swarms of this kind, where they are already but in a moderate proportion; so where, thro'

any

gu

any other cause, the Number of these in-Ch. 1. creasing still, by degrees, is suffer'd to grow beyond a certain measure, they will soon raise such a Ferment in Mens Minds, as will at least compel the Magistrate, however sensible of the Grievance, to be cautious in proceeding to a Reform.

WE may observe in other necessary Professions, rais'd on the Instrmitys and Desects of Mankind, (as for instance, in Law and Physick) "That with the least "help from the Bounty or Benesicence of the Magistrate, the Number of the Pro-"fessor, and the Subject-matter of the Profession, is found over and above increasing." New Difficultys are started: New Subjects of Contention: Deeds and Instruments of Law grow more numerous and prolix: Hypotheses, Methods, Regimens, more various; and the Materia Medica more extensive and abundant. What, in process of time, must therefore naturally have happen'd in the case of Religion, among the Egyptians, may easily be gather'd.

Nor is it strange that we shou'd find the \* Property and Power of the Egyptian

Priest-

<sup>\*</sup> Which was one Third. Budoulynn de Thy "IZIN, &c. Sed cum Is is lucro etiam Sacerdotes invitare wellet ad cultus islos, (nempe Osirio Is, mariti sato sunai) tertiam eis terræ partem eis æggoddus, ad Deorum ministeria Escara.

Misc. 2. Priesthood, in antient days, arriv'd to such a height, as in a manner to have swallow'd up the State and Monarchy. A worse Accident befel the Persian Crown, of which the Hierarchy having got absolute possession, had once a fair Chance for Universal Empire. Now that the Persian or Babylonian Hierarchy was much after the Model of the Egyptian, tho different perhaps in Rites and Ceremonys, we may well judg; not only from the History of the \* MAGI, but from what is recorded of antient Colonys fent long before by the Egyptians into + Chaldea and the adjacent Countrys. And whether the Ethiopian Model was from that of EGYPT, or the Egyptian from that of ETHIOPIA, (for ‡ each Nation had its pretence) we know by remarkable \*\* Effects, that the Ethiopian Empire was once in the same

facra munia, fruendam donavit. Diod. Sic. lib. i. A remarkable Effect of Female Superficion! See also the Passage of the same Historian, cited above, pag. 43. in the Notes.

<sup>\*</sup> See Treatife II. viz. Senfus Communis, (VOL. I.) pag. 85, &c. Herodotus gives us the History at length in his third Book.

<sup>†</sup> Diod. Sic. lib. i. p. 17, & 73. ‡ Herodot. Euterpe; & Diod. Sic. lib. iii.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Katà tlu Megénv oi del tas est Oesov Secareias te nuas sia felcovies iesess, &c. Qui in Meroe (urbe, & infula primaria Athiopum) Deorum cultus & bonores adminifrant sacerdotes, (ordo autem bic maximâ pollet auctoritate) quandocumque ipsis in mentem venerit, miso ad Regem nuncio, vitâ se illum abdicare jubent. Oraculis enim Deorum

Condition: the State having been wholly Ch. 1. fwallow'd in the exorbitant Power of their landed Hierarchy. So true it is, " That " Dominion must naturally follow Proper-" ty." Nor is it possible, as I conceive, for any State or Monarchy to withstand the Encroachments of a growing Hierarchy, founded on the Model of these Egyptian and Afiatick Priesthoods. No SUPERSTI-TION will ever be wanting among the Ignorant and Vulgar, whilst the Able and Crafty have a power to gain Inheritances and Possessions by working on this buman Weakness. This is a Fund which, by these Allowances, will prove inexhaustible. New Modes of Worship, new Miracles, new Heroes, Saints, Divinitys (which, serve as new Occasions for facred DONATIVES) will be easily supply'd on the part of the reli-

boc edici: nec fas esse ab ullo mortalium, quod Dii immortales justerint, contemni.—So much for their Kings. For as to Subjecks, the Manner was related a little before. Unus ex lictoribus ad reum mittitur, signum mortis prasferens: quo ille viso, domum abiens sibi mortem consciscit. This, the People of our days wou'd call Passive-Obedience and Priestratt, with a witness. But our Historian proceeds—Et per superiores quidem etates, non armis aut vi coadis, sed mera superstitionis, va dvīss tīs desodutivos sascino, mente capti reges sacerdotibus morem gesterunt: donec E rega Am en e s, Ethiopum rex, (P T O L O M R O secundo rerum potiente) Gracorum disciplina & philosophia particeps, mandata illa primus adspernari ausus suit. Nam bic animo, qui regem deceret, sumto, cum militum manu in boum inaccessum, ubi aureum suit templum Æthiopum, prosectus; omnes illos sacriscos jugulavit, & abolito more pristino, sacra pro arbitrio suo instauravit. Diod. Sic. lib. iii.

Misc. 2. gious Orders; whilst the Civil Magistrate authorizes the accumulative Donation, and neither restrains the Number or Possiessions of the Sacred Body.

WE find, withal, that in the early days of this antient Priestly Nation of whom we have been speaking, 'twas thought expedient also, for the increase of Devotion, to enlarge their System of DEITY; and either by mystical Genealogy, Consecration, or Canonization, to multiply their reveal'd Objects of Worship, and raise new Personages of DIVINITY in their Religion. They proceeded, it feems, in process of time, to increase the \* Number of their Gods, so far that, at last, they became in a manner numberless. What odd Shapes, Species, and Forms of Deity were in latter times exhibited, is well known. Scarce an Animal or Plant but was adopted into fome share of Divinity.

+ O sanctas Gentes, quibus bæc nascuntur in hortis Numina!

No wonder if by a Nation so abounding in religious Orders, spiritual Conquests

<sup>\*</sup>  $\Omega s$   $\delta c$   $\delta$ 

were fought in foreign Countrys, \* Colo-Ch. 1. nys led abroad, and Missionarys detach'd, ~~ on Expeditions, in this prosperous Service. 'Twas thus a Zealot-People, influenc'd of old by their very Region and Climate, and who thro' a long Tract of Time, under a peculiar Policy, had been rais'd both by Art and Nature to an immense Growth in religious Science and Mystery; came by degrees to spread their variety of Rites and Ceremonys, their distinguishing Marks of separate Worships and secrete Communitys, thro' the distant World; but chiefly thro' their neighbouring and dependent Countrys.

We understand from History, that even when the EGYPTIAN State was least powerful in Arms, it was still respected for its Religion and Mysterys. It drew Strangers from all Parts to behold its Wonders. And the Fertility of its Soil forc'd the adjacent People, and wandring Nations, who liv'd dispers'd in single Tribes, to visit them, court their Alliance, and sollicit a Trade and Commerce with them, on whatsoever Terms. The Strangers, no doubt, might well receive religious Rites

<sup>\*</sup> OI & w'Aryo'nlest, &c. Agyptii plurimas colonias ex Agypto in orbem terrarum disseminatas suisse dicunt. In Babylonem colonos deduxit Belus, qui Neptuni & Libyæ silius habetur: & postă ad Euspratem sede, instituit sacerdotes ad morem Agyptiorum exemptos impensis & oneribus publicis, quos Babylonii vocant Chaldaeos, qui, exemplo Sacerdotum & Physicorum, Astrologorumque in Agypto, observant stellas. Diod. Sic. lib. i. p. 17. Ibid. p. 73.

Misc. 2. and Doctrines from those, to whom they wo'd their Maintenance and Bread.

BEFORE the time that ISRAEL was constrain'd to go down to EGYPT, and fue for Maintenance to these powerful Dynastys or Low-Land States, the Holy Patriarch \* ABRAHAM himself had been neceffitated to this Compliance on the same account. He apply'd in the same manner to the EGYPTIAN Court. He was at first well receiv'd, and handsomly prefented; but afterwards ill us'd, and out of favour with the Prince, yet suffer'd to depart the Kingdom, and retire with his Effects; without any attempt of recalling him again by force, as it happen'd in the case of his Posterity. 'Tis certain that if this holy Patriarch, who first instituted the facred Rite of Circumcifion within his own Family or Tribe, had no regard to any Policy or Religion of the Egyptians; yet he had formerly been a Guest and Inhabitant in EGYPT (where + Historians mention this to have been a national Rite;)

\* Gen. cap. xii. ver. 10, &c.

<sup>†</sup> Abramu, quando Ægyptum ingressus est, nondum circumcisus erat, neque per annos amplius viginti post reditum.
— Illius posteri circumcis sunt, & ante introitum, & dum in Ægypto commorati sunt: post exitum verò non sunt circumcis, quamdiu vixit Moses.— Fecit itaque Josue cultros lapideos, & circumcidit filios Israel in Colle Præputiorum. Factum Deus ratum habuit, dixitque, Hodie ἀφέιλον τ ὁνεωθουν 'Αιγο πτε ἀρ' υμών, abstuli opprobrium Ægypti à vobis. Τοικε

Rite;) long \* ere he had receiv'd any Ch. 16 divine Notice or Revelation, concerning this Affair. Nor was it in Religion merely that this reverend Guest was said to have deriv'd Knowledg and Learning from the EGYPTIANS. 'Twas from this Parent-Country of occult Sciences, that he was presum'd, together with other Wisdom, to have learnt that of # judicial Astrology; as his Successors did afterwards other prophetical and miraculous Arts, proper to the MAGI, or Priesthood of this Land.

ONE cannot indeed but observe, in after times, the strange Adherence and servile Dependency of the whole HEBREW Race on the EGYPTIAN Nation. It appears that the they were of old abus'd in the Person of their grand Patriarch; the asterwards held in bendage, and treated as the most abject Slaves; the twice expel'd, or necessitated to save themselves by slight, out of this oppressive Region; yet in the very instant of their last Retreat;

Jose cap. 5: vet. 3. Tam Ægyptis qu'àm Judæis opprobrio erant incircumcis. — Apud Ægyptios circumcidendi ritus vetustissimus suit, & ἀπ' ἀςχῆς ab ipso initio institutus. Illi nullorum aliorum hominum institutis uti volunt. Herodos. Illi 2. cap. 91. Τὰ ἀιδῖα ῷλλοι με ἐῶσι ὡς ἐγένον]ο, πλην ὅποι ἀπὸ τέτων ἔμωθων ἀπλην ὅποι ἐκὰ τέτων ἔμωθων ἀπλην ὅποι cap. 36. Marshami Chronicus Canon, p. 72.

\* Gen. cap. xvii.

<sup>+</sup> Julius Firmicus, apud Marshamum, p. 452, 453.

Misc. 2, whilst they were yet on their March, conducted by visible Divinity, supply'd and fed from Heaven, and supported by continual Miracles; they notwithstanding inclin'd so strongly to the Manners, the Religion, Rites, Diet, Customs, Laws, and Constitutions of their tyrannical Masters, that it was with the utmost disficulty they could be with-held from returning again into the same Subjection. Nor could their great Captains and Legislators prevent their + relapsing

\* It can scarce be said in reality, from what appears in Holy Writ, that their Retreat was voluntary. And for the Hiftorians of other Nations, they have presum'd to affert that this People was actually expel'd EGYPT on account of their Leproly; to which the Jowish Laws appear to have so great a Reference. Thus TACITUS: Plurimi austores consentiunt, orta per Agyptum tabe, quæ corpora fædaret, regem Occhorim, adito Hammonis oraculo, remedium petentem, purgare regnum, & id genus hominum ut invifum Deis, alias in terras avchere juffum. Sic conquisitum collectumque vulgus, Mosen unum monuisse, &c. Hist. lib. v. c. 3. Agyptii, quum scabiem & vitiliginem paterentur, responso moniti eum (Mosen) cum agris, ne pestis ad plures serpcret, terminis Ægypti pellunt. Dux igitur exulum factus, sacra Ægyptiorum furto abstulit : quæ repetentes armis Ægyptii, domum redire tempestatibus compulsi sunt. Justin. lib. xxxvi. c. 2. And in Marlbam we find this remarkable Citation from Manetho: Amenophin regem affestasse Gew peredus Seatil, ώσπες Ως είς των πεδ αυτέ Εεβασιλευκότων, Deorum effe contemplatorem, ficut Orum quendam Regum priorum. Cui responlum est, ori Svigelas Jess ider, quod peffet videre Deas, fi Regionem à leprofis & immundis kominibus purgaret. Chronicus Canon, p. 52.

† See what is cited above (p. 52. in the Notes from Marfnam) of the Jews returning to Circumcifion under Joshua, after a Generation's Intermission: This being approved by God, lapfing perpetually into the fame Wor-Ch. I. fhip to which they had been fo long accustom'd.

How far the divine Providence might have indulg'd the stubborn Habit and stupid Humour of this People, by giving them Laws (as the \* Prophet says) which he

God, for the reason given, "That it was taking from them" the Reproach of the Egyptians, or what render'd them "olious and impious in the eyes of that People." Compare with this the Passage concerning Moses himself, Exod. iv. 18, 25, 26. (together with Asts vii. 30, 34.) where in regard to the Egyptians, to whom he was now returning when sourscore years of Age, he appears to have circumcis'd his Children, and taken off this National Reproach: ZIPPOBAH his Wife, nevertheless, reproaching him with the Bloodiness of the Deed; to which she appears to have been a Party only thro' Necessity, and in sear rather of her Husband, than of GOD.

\* Ezek.xx. 25. Acts xv. 10. Of these Ægyptian Institutions receiv'd amongst the Jews, fee our SPENCER. Cum morum quorundam antiquorum toleratio vi magna polleret; ad Hebræorum animos Dei legi & cultui conciliandus, & à reformatione Mosaica invidiam omnem amoliretur; maximè conveniebat, ut Deus ritus aliquos antiquitus usitatos in sacrorum suorum numerum assumeret, & lex à Mose data speciem aliquam cultus olim recepti ferret. --- Ita nempe nati factique erant Ifraelitæ, ex Ægypto recens egressi, quod Deo penè necesse esset (humanitùs loqui fas fit) rituum aliquorum veterum usum iis indulgere, & illius instituta ad corum morem & modulum accommodare. Nam populus erat à teneris Agypti moribus assuetus, & in iis multorum annorum usu consirmatus. Hebræi, non tantum Ægypti moribus affueti, sed etiam refractarii fuerunt. \_\_\_\_ Quemadmodum cujusque regionis & terra populo sua sunt ingenia, moresque proprii, ita natura gentem Hebræorum, præter cæteros orbis incolas, ingenio moroso, dissicili, & ad infamiant usque pertinaci, finxit.--- Cum itaque veteres Hebræi moribus effent asperis & efferatis aded, populi conditio postula-953

Misc. 2. be bimself approv'd not, I have no Intention to examine. This only I pretend to infer from what has been advanc'd; "That the Manners, Opinions, Rites and "Customs of the EGYPTIANS, had, in "the earliest times, and from Generation to Generation, strongly influenc'd the Hebrew People (their Guests, and "Subjects) and had undoubtedly gain'd a powerful Ascendency over their Natures."

How extravagant soever the multitude of the EGYPTIAN Superstitions may appear, 'tis certain that their Doctrine and Wisdom were in high repute; since it is taken notice of in Holy Scripture, as no small Advantage even to Mo-

vii, ut Deus ritus aliquos usu veteri sirmatos iis concederet, E vousun algesav The savis algesa vulla instant (uti loquitur Theodoretus) cultum legalem eorum instimitati accommodatum instituerit.——Hebræi superstitiosa gens erant, & omni pene literatura destituti. Quam alte Gentum superstitionibus immergebantur, è legibus intelligere licet, quæ populo tanquam remedia superstitionis imponebantur. Contumax autem bellua superstitio, si præsertim ab ignorantiæ tenebris novam serociam & contumaciam bauserit. Facile verd credi potess, si superstition sumaniorum rudes suisse, super è servorum domo liveratos, artium bumaniorum rudes suisse, & vix quicquam supra lateres atque allium Ægypti sapuisse. Quando itaque Deo jam negotium esset, cum populo tam barbaro, & superstitioni tam impense dedito; penè necesse suit, ut aliquid eorum instimitati daret, eosque dolo quodam (non argumentis) ad scipsum alliceret. Nullum animal superstitios, rudi præcipue, morosus est, aut majori arte tractandum. Spencenus de Leg. Hebr. pag. 627, 628, 629.

ses himself, "\* That he had imbib'd the Ch. 1. "Wisdom of this Nation;" which, as is well known, lay chiefly among their Priests and MAGI.

BEFORE the Time that the great Hebrew Legislator receiv'd his Education among these Sages, a + Hebrew Slave, who came a Youth into the Egyptian Court, had already grown fo powerful in this kind of Wisdom, as to outdo the chief Diviners, Prognosticators, and Interpreters of EGYPT. He rais'd himself to be chief Minister to a Prince, who, following his Advice, obtain'd in a manner the whole Property, and consequently the absolute Dominion of that Land. But to what height of Power the establish'd Priesthood was arriv'd even at that time, may be conjectur'd hence; "That the Crown (to speak in a modern Style) " offer'd not to " meddle with the Church-Lands;" and that in this great Revolution nothing was

<sup>\* (</sup>i.) Καὶ ἐπαιδεύθη Μωσής ΠΑΣΗι ΣΟΦΙΑι Aigunflow ήν δὲ δυνατός ἐν λόροις κὴ ἐν ἔργοις. Act. Apost. cap. vii. ver. 22.

<sup>(2.)</sup> Exod. cap. vii. ver. 11, & 22.

<sup>(3.)</sup> Ibid. cap. viii. ver. 7. (4.) Justin. lib. xxxvi. cap. 2.

<sup>†</sup> Gen. cap. xxxix, &c. Minimus ætate inter fratres Joseph fuit, cujus excellens ingenium veriti fratres clam interceptum peregrinis mercatoribus vendiderunt. A quibus deportatus in Ægyptum, cum magicas ibi artes solerti ingenio percepiset, brevi isse Regi percarus fuit Justin. lib. xxxvi. C. 2.

Misc. 2. attempted, so much as by way of Purchase or Exchange \*, in prejudice of this Landed Clergy: The prime Minister him-self having join'd his Interest with theirs, and enter'd + by Marriage into their Alliance. And in this he was follow'd by the great Founder of the Hebrew-State: for he also ‡ match'd himself with the Priesthood of some of the neighbouring Nations, and Traders \*\* into EGYPT, long ere his Establishment of the HE-BREW Religion and Commonwealth. Nor had he perfected his Model, till he confulted the foreign Priest his ++ Father-in-law, to whose Advice he paid such remarkable Deference.

> BUT TO resume the Subject of our Speculation, concerning the wide Diffusion of the Prieftly Science or Function; it appears from what has been faid, that notwithstanding the EGYPTIAN Priesthood was, by antient Establishment, hereditary; the Skill of Divining, Soothfaying, and Magick was communicated to others besides their national sacred Body: and that the Wisdom of the MAGICIANS, the Power

<sup>\*</sup> Gen. xlvii. ver. 22, 26.

<sup>†</sup> Gen. xli. ver. 45. † Exod. chap. iii. ver. 1. and chap. xviii. ver. 1, &c, \*\* Such were the Midianites, Gen. xxxvii. ver. 28, 36.

<sup>+</sup> Exod. xviii. ver. 17-24.

of Miracles, their Interpretation of Dreams Ch. 1. and Visions, and their Art of administring in Divine Affairs, were entrusted even to Foreigners who resided amongst them.

IT appears, withal, from these Considerations, how apt the religious Profession was to spread it-felf widely in this Region of the World; and what Efforts wou'd naturally be made by the more necessitous of these unlimited Professors, towards a Fortune, or Maintenance, for themselves and their Successors.

COMMON Arithmetick will, in this Case, demonstrate to us, " That as the " Proportion of fo many Lay-men to each " Priest grew every day less and less, so the Wants and Necessitys of each Priest " must grow more and more.' The Magistrate too, who according to this EGYP-TIAN Regulation had refign'd his Title or share of Right in facred Things, cou'd no longer govern, as he pleas'd, in these Affairs, or check the growing Number of these Professors. The spiritual Generations were left to prey on others, and (like Fish of Prey) even on themselves, when destitute of other Capture, and confin'd within too narrow Limits. What Method, therefore, was there left to heighten the ZEAL of Worshipers, and augment their Liberality, but " to foment their Emulase tion,

Misc. 2." tion, prefer Worship to Worship, Faith
"to Faith; and turn the Spirit of ENTHU"siasm to the side of sacred Horror, re"ligious Antipathy, and mutual Discord
"between Worshipers?"

THUS Provinces and Nations were divided by the most contrary Rites and Customs which cou'd be devis'd, in order to create the strongest Aversion possible between Creatures of a like Species. For when all other Animositys are allay'd, and Anger of the fiercest kind appeas'd, the religious Hatred, we find, continues still, as it began, without Provocation or voluntary Offence. The presum'd Misbeliever and Blasphemer, as one rejected and abhor'd of God, is thro' a pious Imitation, abhor'd by the adverse Worshiper, whose Enmity must naturally increase as his religious Zeal increases.

FROM hence the Opposition rose of Temple against Temple, Proselyte against Proselyte. The most zealous Worship of one God, was best expressed (as they conceived) by the open defiance of another. SIR-Names and Titles of DIVINITY passed as Watch-words. He who had not the SYMBOL, nor could give the Word, received the Knock.

ch. r. colleged; the facred Force redden Down with him! Kill him! Merit Heaven thereby; cil as in their

As our \* Poet has it, in his AMERICAN Tragedy.

Nor did + PHILOSOPHY, when introduc'd into Religion, extinguish, but rather inflame this Zeal: as we may shew perhaps in our following Chapter more particularly; if we return again, as is likely, to this Subject. For this, we perceive, is of a kind apt enough to grow upon our hands. We shall here, therefore, observe only what is obvious to every Student in facred Antiquitys, That from the contentious Learning and Sophistry of the antient Schools (when true Science, Philosophy, and Arts were already deep in their † Decline) religious Pro-blems of a like contentious Form sprang up; and certain Doctrinal TESTS were fram'd, by which religious Partys were ingag'd and lifted against one another, with more Animosity than in any other Cause or Quarrel had been ever known. Thus religious Massacres began, and were carry'd on; Temples were demolish'd; holy Uten-

<sup>\*</sup> Dryden, Indian Emperor, Act v. Scene 2.

<sup>+</sup> Infra, pag. 81. t VOL I pag. 221, 222, & 350. in the Notes. And Infra, pag. 79, 80, 1, 2, &c.

Misc. 2. sils destroy'd; the facred Pomp trodden under-foot, insulted; and the Insulters in their turn expos'd to the same Treatment, in their Persons as well as in their Worship. Thus Madness and Confusion were brought upon the World, like that CHAOS, which the Poet miraculously describes in the mouth of his mad Hero: When even in Celestial Places, Disorder and Blindness reign'd:—" No Dawn of Light;

\* " No Glimpse or starry Spark,
" But Gods met Gods, and jostled in the
" Dark.

and, by which relegion illurry were in-

<sup>\*</sup> OEDIPUS of Dryden and Lee.

## CHAP. II.

Judgment of Divines and grave Authors concerning Enthuliasm.—
Reflections upon Scepticism.— A Sceptick-Christian.— Judgment of the Inspir'd concerning their own Inspirations.—Knowledg and Belief.—History of Religion resum'd.
—Zeal Offensive and Defensive. — A Church in Danger.
—Persecution.—Policy of the Church of ROME.

WHAT I had to remark of my own concerning ENTHUSIASM, I have thus dispatch'd: What Others have remark'd on the same Subject, I may, as an Apologist to another Author, be allow'd to cite; especially if I take notice only of what has been dropt very naturally by some of our most approv'd Authors, and ablest Divines.

IT has been thought an odd kind of Temerity, in our Author, to affert, \* " That " even ATHEISM it-felf was not whol-

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. In his Letter concerning Enthusiasm, VOL. I.

Misc. 2." ly exempt from Enthusiasm; That there " have been in reality Enthusiastical A-" theists; and That even the Spirit of " Martyrdom cou'd, upon occasion, exert "it-felf as well in this Cause, as in any " other." Now, besides what has been intimated in the preceding Chapter, and what in fact may be demonstrated from the Examples of VANINUS and other Martyrs of a like Principle, we may hear an \* excellent and learned Divine, of highest Authority at home, and Fame abroad; who after having describ'd an Enthusiastical Atheist and one atheistically inspir'd, says of this very fort of Men, "That they " are Fanaticks too; however that word " feem to have a more peculiar respect to " something of a DEITY: All Atheists " being that blind Goddess-NATURE'S " Fanaticks."

AND again: "All Atheists (says he) "are possess'd with a certain kind of "Madness, that may be call'd + Pneuma-"tophobia, that makes them have an irra-"tional

\* Dr. Cudworth's Intellectual System, pag. 134.
† The good Doctor makes use, here, of a Stroke of Raillery against the over-frighted anti-superfitious Gentlemen, with whom our Author reasons at large in his second Treatise (viz. VOL. I. pag. 85, 86, &c. and 88, 89, &c.) 'Tis indeed the Nature of Fear, as of all other Passions, when excessive, to deseat its own End, and prevent us in the execution of what we naturally propose to our-selves as our Advantage.

"tional but desperate Abhorrence from Spi-Ch. 2." rits or incorporeal Substances; they be-

" ing acted also, at the same time, with

" an Hylomania, whereby they madly dote

" upon Matter, and devoutly worship it,

" as the only NUMEN."

WHAT the Power of EXTASY is, whether thro' Melancholy, Wine, Love, or other natural Causes, another learned \* Divine of our Church, in a Discourse upon Enthusiasm, sets forth: bringing an Example from ARISTOTLE, " of a Syracusean " Poet, who never versify'd so well, as " when he was in bis distracted Fits." But as to Poets in general, compar'd with the

vantage. Superstition it-felf is but a certain kind of Fear, which possessing us strongly with the apprehended Wrath or Displeasure of Divine Powers, hinders us from judging what those Powers are in themselves, or what Conduct of ours may, with best reason, be thought sutable to such highly rational and superior Natures. Now if from the Experience of many gross Delusions of a superstitious kind, the Course of this Fear begins to turn; 'tis natural for it to run, with equal violence, a contrary way. The extreme Passion for religious Objects passes into an Aversion. And a certain Horror and Dread of Imposture causes as great a Disturbance as even Imposture it-felf had done before. In such a Situation as this, the Mind may eafily be blinded; as well in one respect, as in the other. 'Tis plain, both these Disorders carry something with them which discover us to be in some manner beside our Reason, and out of the right use of Judgment and Understanding. For how can we be faid to intrust or use our Reason, if in any case we fear to be convinc'd? How are we Masters of our-selves, when we have acquir'd the Habit of bringing Horror, Aversion, Favour, Fondness, or any other . Temper than that of mere Indifference and Impartiality, into the Judgment of Opinions, and Search of Truth?

Misc. 2. religious Enthusiasts, he says: There is this Difference; "That a Poet is an En"thusiast in jest: and an Enthusiast is a 
"Poet in good earnest."

"'TIS a strong Temptation \* (says the Doctor) with a Melancholist, when he feels a Storm of Devotion and Zeal come upon him like a mighty Wind; his Heart being full of Affection, his Head preganant with clear and sensible Representations, and his Mouth slowing and streaming with sit and powerful Expressions, such as would astonish an ordinary † Auditory; 'tis, I say, a shreud Temptation to him, to think it the very Spirit of God that then moves supernaturally in him; whenas all that Excess of Zeal and Affection, and Fluency of Words, is most palpably to be resolved into the power of Melancholy, which is a kind of natural Inebriation."

THE learned Doctor, with much pains afterwards, and by help of the Peripatetick

<sup>\* 6. 16.</sup> 

<sup>†</sup> It appears from hence, that in the Notion which this learned Divine gives us of ENTHUSIASM, he comprehends the focial or popular Genius of the Passion; a greeably with what our Author in his Letter concerning Enthussiasm (p. 15, 16, 44, 45.) has said of the Influence and Power of the Assembly and Auditory it-felf, and of the communicative Force and rapid Progress of this extatick Fervor, once kinedled, and set in action.

Philosophy, explains this Enthusiastick Ine-Ch. 2. briation, and shews in particular \*, " How " the Vapours and Fumes of Melancholy " partake of the nature of Wine."

ONE might conjecture from hence, that the malicious Opposers of early Christianity were not unvers'd in this Philosophy; when they sophistically objected against the apparent Force of the Divine Spirit speaking in divers Languages, and attributed it "To the Power of new + Wine."

BUT our devout and zealous Doctor feems to go yet further. For besides what he says of the ‡ Enthusiastick Power of Fancy in Atheists, he calls Melancholy \*\* a pertinacious and religious Complexion; and asserts, "That there is not any true "spiritual Grace from God, but this mere "natural Constitution, according to the se-"veral Tempers and Workings of it, will "not only resemble, but sometimes seem to "outstrip." And after speaking of †† Prophetical Enthusiasm, and establishing (as our Author ‡‡ does) a Legitimate and a Bastard-sort, he afferts and justifies the (a) Devotional Enthusiasm (as he calls

Misc. 2.it) of boly and sincere Souls, and ascribes this also to MELANCHOLY.

HE allows, " That the Soul may fink " so far into Phantasms, as not to recover " the use of her free Facultys; and that " this enormous Strength of Imagination does not only beget the Belief of mad " internal Apprehensions, but is able to as-" fure us of the Presence of external Ob-" jeets which are not." He adds, " That "what Custom and Education do by de-" grees, diftemper'd FANCY may do in a " shorter time." And speaking \* of Ex-TASY and the Power of MELANCHOLY in Extatick Fancys, he says, " That what " the Imagination then puts forth, of her-" felf, is as clear as broad day; and the " Perception of the Soul at least as strong " and vigorous, as at any time in beholding " things awake."

FROM whence the Doctor infers, "That "the Strength of *Perception* is no fure "Ground of Truth."

HAD any other than a reverend Father of our Church express'd himself in this manner, he must have been contented perhaps to bear a sufficient Charge of Scepticism.

<sup>\* §. 28</sup> 

Ch. 2.

"Twas good fortune in my Lord Bacon's Case, that he shou'd have escap'd being call'd an Atheist, or a Sceptick, when speaking in a solemn manner of the religious Passion, the Ground of Superstition, or Enthusiasm, (which he also terms \* a Panick) he derives it from an Impersection in the Creation, Make, or natural Constitution of Man. How far the Author of the † Letter differs from this Author in his Opinion both of the End and Foundation of this Passion, may appear from what has been said above. And, in general, from what we read in the other succeeding Treatises

The Author of the Letter, I dare fay, wou'd have expected no quarter from his Criticks, had he express'd himself as this celebrated Author here quoted; who, by his Natura Rerum, can mean nothing less than the Universal Dispensing Nature, erring blindly in the very first Design, Contrivance, or original Frame of Things; according to the Opinion of Epicurus himself, whom this Author, immediately after,

cites with Praise.

† Viz. The Letter concerning Enthusiasm, above, VOL. I.

<sup>\*\*</sup> NATURA RERUM omnibus viventibus indidit metum & formidinem, vitæ atque essentia sua conservatricem, ac mala ingruentia vitantem & depellentem. Veruntamen eadem Natura modum tenere nessia est, sed timoribus salutaribus semper vanos & inanes admiset: adeò ut omnia (si intus conspici darentur) Panicis Terroribus plenissima sint, præseptim bumana; & maximè omnium apud vulgum, qui superstitione (quæ verè nibil aliud quàm Panicus Terror est) in immensum laborat & agitatur; præsipuè temporibus duris, & salversis. Franciscus Bacon de Augment. Scient. lib. ii. c. 13.

Misc. 2. of our Author, we may venture to say of him with Affurance, "That he is as lit"tle a Sceptick (according to the
"vulgar Sense of that word) as he is Epi"curean, or Atheiss." This may be prov'd sufficiently from his Philosophy: And for any thing higher, 'tis what he no-where presumes to treat; having forborn in particular to mention any Holy Mysterys of our Religion, or Sacred Article of our Belief.

As for what relates to \* Revelation in general, if I mistake not our Author's meaning, he professes to believe, as far as is possible for any one who himself had never experienc'd any Divine Communication, whether by Dream, Vision, Apparation, or other supernatural Operation; nor was ever present as Eye-witness of any Sign, Prodigy, or Miracle whatsoever. Many of these, † he observes, are at this day pretendedly exhibited in the World, with an Endeavour of giving them the perfect Air and exact Resemblance of those recorded in Holy Writ. He speaks indeed with Contempt of the Mockery of modern Miracles and Inspiration. And as to all Pretences to things of this kind in our

<sup>\*</sup> Infra, pag. 315. † VOL. I. pag. 44, 45, &c. And VOL. II. pag. 322, 323, &c.

present Age; he seems inclin'd to look Ch. 2. upon 'em as no better than mere Impossure or Delusion. But for what is recorded of Ages heretofore, he seems to resign his Judgment, with intire Condescension, to his Superiors. He pretends not to frame any certain or possive Opinion of his own, notwithstanding his best Searches into Antiquity, and the Nature of religious Record and Tradition: but on all occasions submits most willingly, and with full Confidence and Trust, to the \* Opinions by Law establish. And if this be not sufficient to free him from the Reproach of SCEPTICISM, he must, for ought I see, be content to undergo it.

To fay truth, I have often wonder'd to find such a Disturbance rais'd about the simple name of + SCEPTICK. 'Tis certain that, in its original and plain signification, the word imports no more than barely, "That State or Frame of Mind" in which every one remains, on every "Subject of which he is not certain." He who is certain, or presumes to say he knows, is in that particular, whether he be mistaken or in the right, a DOGMATIST. Between these two States or Situations of

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 360, 1, 2, &c. And Infra, pag. 103, 231, 315, 316.

† VOL. II. pag. 205, 206, \$\pi\$ 323, &c. And Infra, pag. 317, 318, &c.

F 2 Mind,

Misc. 2. Mind, there can be no medium. For he who fays, "That he believes for certain, " or is affur'd of what he believes;" either speaks ridiculously, or says in effect, " That be believes strongly, but is not sure." So that whoever is not conscious of Revelation, nor has certain Knowledg of any Miracle or Sign, can be no more than SCEP-TICK in the Case: And the best Christian in the World, who being destitute of the means of Certainty, depends only on History and Tradition for his Belief in these Particulars, is at best but a Sceptick-Christian. He has no more than a nicely critical \* Historical Faith, subject to various Speculations, and a thousand different Criticisms of Languages and Li-To fay truth, I have often sautarail to mad fuch a Diffurbance rais'd about the

This he will naturally find to be the Case, if he attempts to search into Originals, in order to be his own Judg, and proceed on the bottom of his own Discernment, and Understanding. If, on the other hand, he is no Critick, nor competently learned in these Original Judgment of his own; but must rely still on the Opinion of those who have opportunity to examine such matters, and whom he takes to be the unbiass'd and disinterested Judges

VOL. I. pag. 146, 47. And Infra, pag. 316, 317,

of these religious Narratives. His Faith Ch. 2. is not in antient Facts or Persons, nor in the antient Writ, or Primitive Recorders; nor in the successive Collators or Conservators of these Records (for of these he is unable to take cognizance:) But his Considence and Trust must be in those modern Men, or Societys of Men, to whom the Publick, or He himself, ascribes the Right to judg of these Records, and commits the Determination of sacred Writ and genuine Story.

vent on which he grounded his Conver-LET the Person seem ever so positive or dogmatical in these high Points of Learning; he is yet in reality no Dogmatist, nor can any way free himself from a certain kind of SCEPTICISM. He must know himself still capable of Doubting: Or if, for fear of it, he strives to banish every opposite Thought, and resolves not fo much as to deliberate on the Case; this still will not acquit him. So far are we from being able to be fure when we have a mind; that indeed we can never be thorowly fure, but then only when we can't help it, and find of necessity we must be so, whether we will or not. Even the highest implicit Faith is in reality no more than a kind of passive SCEPTI-CISM; "A Refolution to examine, re-" collect, consider, or hear, as little as " possible to the prejudice of that Belief, " which tariw

Misc. 2." which having once espous'd we are ever afterwards afraid to lose."

IF I might be allow'd to imitate our Author, in daring to touch now and then upon the Characters of our Divine Worthys, I shou'd, upon this Subject of BELIEF, observe how fair and generous the great Christian Convert, and learned APOSTLE, has shewn himself in his Sacred Writings. Notwithstanding he had himself an original Testimony and Revelation from Heaven, on which he grounded his Conversion; notwithstanding he had in his own Person the Experience of outward Miracles and inward Communications; he condefcended still, on many occasions, to speak fceptically, and with some Hesitation and Referve, as to the Certainty of these Divine Exhibitions. In his account of fome Transactions of this kind, himself being the Witness, and speaking (as we may prefume) of his own Person, and proper Vifion, \* he fays only that " He knew a "Man: whether in the Body or out of it, be cannot tell. But such a one caught up " to the third Heaven, he knew formerly " (he fays) above fourteen years before his then Writing." And when in another Capacity the same inspir'd Writer, giving Precepts to his Disciples, distinguishes

risidly "

what \* he writes by Divine Commission from Ch. 2. what he delivers as his own Judgment and private Opinion, he condescends nevertheless to speak as one no way positive, or Master of any absolute Criterion in the Case. And in several subsequent + Passages, he expresses himself as under some kind of Doubt how to judg or determine certainly, "Whether he writes by Inspi" ration or otherwise." He only "thinks has the Spirit." He "is not sure," nor wou'd have us to depend on him as positive or certain in a matter of so nice Discernment.

THE holy Founders and inspir'd Authors of our Religion requir'd not, it seems, so strict an Assent, or such implicit Faith in behalf of their original Writings and Revelations, as later un-inspir'd Doctors, without the help of Divine Testimony, or any Miracle on their side, have requir'd in behalf of their own Comments and Interpretations. The earliest and worst of Hereticks, 'tis said, were those call'd Gnosticks, who took their name from an audacious Pretence to certain Knowledg and Comprehension of the greatest Mysterys of Faith. If the most dangerous State of Opinion was this dogmatical and presump-

<sup>\* 1</sup> Cor. vii. 10, 12.

<sup>+ 1</sup> Cor. vii. 40.

Misc. 2. tuous fort; the safest, in all likelihood, must be the sceptical and modest.

THERE is nothing more evident than that our Holy RELIGION, in its original Constitution, was set so far apart from all Philosophy or refin'd Speculation, that it seem'd in a manner diametrically oppos'd to it. A Man might have been not only a Sceptick in all the controverted Points of the Academys, or Schools of Learning, but even a persect Stranger to all of this kind; and yet compleat in his Religion, Faith, and Worship.

AMONG the polite Heathens of the antient World, these different Provinces of Religion and Philosophy were upheld, we know, without the least interfering with each other. If in some barbarous Nations the Philosopher and Priest were join'd in one, 'tis observable that the Mysterys, whatever they were, which sprang from this extraordinary Conjunction, were kept fecret and undivulg'd. 'Twas Satisfaction enough to the Priest-Philosopher, if the initiated Party preserv'd his Respect and Veneration for the Tradition and Worship of the Temple, by complying in every respect with the requisite Performances and Rites of Worship. No Account was afterwards taken of the Phil sophick Faith of the Proselyte, or Worshiper. His Opinions

nions were left to himself, and he might Ch. 2. philosophize according to what foreign School or Sect he fansy'd. Even amongst the Jews themselves, the SADDUCEE (a Materialist, and Denyer of the Soul's Immortality) was as well admitted as the PHARISEE; who from the Schools of PYTHAGORAS, PLATO, or other latter Philosophers of GREECE, had learnt to reason upon immaterial Substances, and the natural Immortality of Souls.

'Tis no aftonishing Reflection to obferve how fast the World declin'd in \* Wit
and Sense, in Manhood, Reason, Science,
and in every Art, when once the RoMAN Empire had prevail'd, and spread an
universal Tyranny and Oppression over
Mankind. Even the Romans themselves,
after the early Sweets of one peaceful and
long Reign, began to groan under that
Yoke, of which they had been themselves
the Imposers. How much more must other Nations, and mighty Citys, at a far
distance, have abhor'd this Tyranny, and
detested their common Servitude under a
People, who were themselves no better
than mere Slaves?

IT may be look'd upon, no doubt, as providential, that at this time, and in

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 220, &c. And in the preceding Chapter. pag. 61.

Misc. 2. these Circumstances of the World, there shou'd arise so high an expectation of a divine Deliverer; and that from the Eastern Parts and Consines of Judea the Opinion shou'd spread it-self of such a Deliverer to come, with Strength from Heaven sufficient to break that Empire, which no earthly Power remaining cou'd be thought sufficient to encounter. Nothing cou'd have better dispos'd the generality of Mankind, to receive the Evangelical Advice; whilst they mistook the News, as many of the first Christians plainly did, and understood the Promises of a Messia in this temporal Sense, with respect to his second Coming, and sudden Reign here upon Earth.

\* SUPERSTITION, in the mean while, cou'd not but naturally prevail, as Mifery and Ignorance increas'd. The ROMAN Emperors, as they grew more barbarous, grew so much the more superstitious. The Lands and Revenues, as well as the Numbers of the Heathen Priests grew daily. And when the season came, that by means of a Convert-Emperor, the Heathen + Church-Lands, with an Increase of Power,

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 133. And below, pag. 90. † How rich and valt these were, especially in the latter times of that Empire, may be judg'd from what belong'd to

Power, became transfer'd to the Christian Ch. 2. Clergy, 'twas no wonder if by such Riches and Authority they were in no small measure insluenc'd and corrupted; as may be gather'd even from the Accounts given us of these matters by themselves.

WHEN, together with this, the Schools of the antient + Philosophers, which had been long in their Decline, came now to be dissolved, and their sophistick Teachers

the fingle Order of the Veftals, and what we read of the Revenues belonging to the Temples of the Sun, (as in the time of the Monster Heliogabalus) and of other Donations by other Emperors. But what may give us yet a greater Idea of these Riches, is, That in the latter Heathen Times, which grew more and more superfittious, the restraining Laws (or Statutes of Mort-main) by which Men had formerly been with-held from giving away Estates by Will, or otherwise, to Religious Uses, were repeal'd; and the Heathen-Church lest, in this manner, as a bottomless Gulph and devouring Receptacle of Land and Treasure. Senatüs-consulto, & Constitutionibus Principum, Haredes instituter concession est Apollinem Didymaum, Dianam Ephesiam, Matrem Deorum, &c. Ulpianus post Cod. Theodos. pag. 92. apud Marsh.

This answers not amiss to the modern Practice and Expression of Making our Soul our Heir: Giving to God what has been taken sometimes with freedom enough from Man; and conveying Estates in such a manner in this World, as to make good Interest of them in another. The Reproach of the antient Satirist is at present out of doors. 'Tis no affront to Religion now-a-days to compute its Prosits. And a Man might well be accounted dull, who, in our present Age, shou'd ask the Question, Dicite, Pontifices, in sacro quid facit Aurum? Pers. Sat. ii, ver. 69. See below, pag. 90, and

125. in the Notes, and 88. ibid.

<sup>+</sup> As above, pag. 61.

Misc. 2. became Ecclesiastical Instructors; the unnatural Union of Religion and Philosophy was compleated, and the monstrous Product of this Match appear'd foon in the World. The odd exterior Shapes of Deitys, Temples, and holy Utenfils, which by the \* EGYPTIAN Sects had been formerly fet in battel against each other, were now metamorphos'd into philosophical Forms and Phantoms; and, like Flags and Banners, display'd in hostile manner, and borne offensively, by one Party against another. In former times those barbarous Nations above mention'd were the fole Warriors in these religious Causes; but now the whole World became engag'd: when instead of Storks and Crocodiles, other Ensigns were erected; when sophistical Chimeras, crabbed Notions, bombastick Phrases, Solecisms, Absurditys, and a thoufand Monsters of a scholastick Brood, were fet on foot, and made the Subject of vulgar Animofity and Dispute.

HERE first began that Spirit of Bigotry, which broke out in a more raging
manner than had been ever known before,
and was less capable of Temper or Moderation than any Species, Form, or Mixture of Religion in the antient World.

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 42, 46, 47, 60. And VOL. I. pag. 350. in the Notes.

Mysterys, which were heretofore treated Ch. 2. with profound respect, and lay unexpos'd to vulgar Eyes, became publick and prostitute; being enforc'd with Terrors, and urg'd with Compulsion and Violence, on the unfitted Capacitys and Apprehensions of Mankind. The very Jewish Traditions, and Cabalistick Learning underwent this Fate. That which was naturally the Subject of profound Speculation and Inquiry, was made the necessary Subject of a strict and absolute Assent. The allegorical, mythological Account of Sacred Things, was wholly inverted: Liberty of Judgment and Exposition taken away: No Ground left for Inquiry, Search, or Meditation: No Refuge from the dogmatical Spirit let loose. Every Quarter was taken up; every Portion preposses'd. All was reduc'd to \* Article and Proposition.

Thus a fort of philosophical Enthusiasm overspread the World. And Bigotry (a + Species of Superstition hardly known before) took place in Mens Affections, and arm'd 'em with a new Jealousy against each other. Barbarous

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<sup>\*</sup> Infra, pag. 332, 3, 4. in the Notes. Et fupra, p. 61.
† Let any one who confiders distinctly the Meaning and
Force of the word BIGOTRY, endeavour to render it
in either of the antient Languages, and he will find how
peculiar a Passion it implies; and how different from the
mere Affection of Enthusiasm or Supersition.

Misc. 2. Terms and Idioms were every day introduc'd: Monstrous Definitions invented and impos'd: New Schemes of Faith erected from time to time; and Hostilitys, the fiercest imaginable, exercis'd on these oc-casions. So that the ENTHUSIASM or ZEAL, which was usually shewn by Mankind in behalf of their particular Worships, and which for the most part had been hitherto defensive only, grew now to be universally of the offensive kind.

> IT MAY be expected of me perhaps, that being fallen thus from remote Antiquity to later Periods, I shou'd speak on this occasion with more than ordinary Exactness and Regularity. It may be urg'd against me, that I talk here, as at random, against me, that I talk here, as at random, and without-book: neglecting to produce my Authoritys, or continue my Quotations, according to the profess'd Style and Manner in which I began this present Chapter. But as there are many greater Privileges by way of Variation, Interruption, and Digression, allow'd to us Writers of Miscellany; and especially to such as are Commentators upon other Authors; I shall be content to remain mysterious in this respect, and explain my-felf rious in this respect, and explain my-self no further than by a noted Story; which feems to fute our Author's purpose, and the present Argument.

TIS.

cal, mythological Account of Sacred Things,

Ch. 12. Gwa is D. LAKA of Ak Epheliane. "Tis observable from Holy Writ, that the antient EPHESIAN Worshipers, however zealous or enthufiaftick they appear'd, had only a defensive kind of Zeal in behalf of their \* Temple; whenever they thought in earnest, it was brought in danger. VIn the + Tumult which happen'd in that City near the time of the holy Apo-Ale's Retreat, we have a remarkable instance of what our Author calls a religious Paniek. As little Bigots as the People were, and as far from any offensive Zeal, yet when their establish'd Church came to be call'd in question, we fee in what a manner their Zeal began to operate. # " All with one voice, about the " space of two bours, cried out, saying,

<sup>\*</sup> The Magnificence and Beauty of that Temple is well known to all who have form'd any Idea of the antient Grecian Arts and Workmanship. It seems to me to be remarkable in our learned and elegant Apolile, that tho an Enemy to this mechanical Spirit of Religion in the Ephesians; yet according to his known Character, he accommodates himself to their Humour, and the natural Turn of their Enthusiasm; by writing to his Converts in a kind of Architect-Style, and almost with a perpetual Allusion to Building, and to that Majefty, Order, and Beauty, of which their Temple was a Master-piece. Exomodoundsfles in the Temple was a Master-piece. Exomodoundsfles in the Squarking of Artosokow & Theography of aregraphic his auto Inos Xeis? Er & aroa n orkodound revappendo-cyupan duce eis vator at yeur es Kueiw. Er & youes cypuscodoundse eis katonumtheur of Ges er arecupali.—Eph. ch. ii. ver. 20, 21, 22. And so Ch. iii. ver. 17, 18, & c. And Ch. iv. ver. 16, 29.

<sup>+</sup> Act. Apost. chap. xix. ver. 23.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. ver. 28, & 34.

Misc. 2." Great is DIANA of the Ephesians." At the fame time this Affembly was fo confus'd, that \* the greater part knew not wherefore they were come together; and consequently cou'd not understand why their Church was in any Danger. But the ENTHU-SIASM was got up, and a PANICK Fear for the Church had struck the Multi-tude. It ran into a popular Rage or epidemical Phrenzy, and was communicated (as our + Author expresses it) " by Aspect, " or, as it were, by Contact, or Sym-" pathy."

> IT must be confess'd, that there was, besides these Motives, a secret Spring which forwarded this ENTHUSIASM. For certain Partys concern'd, Men of Craft, and ftrictly united in Interest, had been secret-ly call'd together, and told, "Gentlemen! " ‡ (or Sirs!) Ye know that by this Myste-"ry, or Craft, we have our Wealth. Ye fee withal, and have heard, that not only here at EPHESUS, but almost thro'out " all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turn'd away many People, by telling them, They are no real Gods who are " figur'd, or wrought with hands: so that

<sup>\*</sup> Act. Apost. chap. xix. ver. 32. † Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 15.

onot only this our Craft is in danger; Ch. 2. to but also the Temple it-self."

Nothing cou'd be more moderate and wife, nothing more agreeable to that magifterial Science or Policy, which our Author \* recommends, than the Behaviour of the Town-Clerk or Recorder of the City, as he is represented on this occasion, in Holy Writ. I must confess indeed, he went pretty far in the use of this moderating Art. He ventur'd to affure the People, "That every one acquiesc'd in " their antient Worship of the great God-" dess, and in their Tradition of the " Image, which fell down from Jupi-" TER: That these were Facts undenia-" ble: and That the new Sect neither " meant the pulling down of their Church, " nor so much as offer'd to blaspheme or " fpeak amifs of their Goddess."

This, no doubt, was stretching the point sufficiently; as may be understood by the Event, in after time. One might perhaps have suspected this Recorder to have been himself a Dissenter, or at least an Occasional Conformist, who cou'd answer so roundly for the new Sect, and warrant the Church in Being secure of Damage, and out of all Danger for the suture. Mean

<sup>\*</sup> Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 16, &c.

Misc. 2. while the Tumult was appeas'd: No harm befel the Temple for that time. The new Sect acquiesc'd in what had been spoken on their behalf. They allow'd the Apology of the Recorder. Accordingly the Zeal of the Heathen Church, which was only defensive, gave way: And the new Religionists were prosecuted no further.

HITHERTO, it seems, the Face of PERSECUTION had not openly shewn it-self in the wide World. 'Twas sufficient Security for every Man, that he gave no disturbance to what was publickly establish'd. But when offensive Zeal came to be discover'd in one Party, the rest became in a manner necessitated to be Aggressors in their turn. They who observ'd, or had once experienc'd this intolerating Spirit, cou'd no longer tolerate on their part \*. And they who had

<sup>\*</sup> Thus the Controverfy flood before the Time of the Emperor Julian, when Blood had been fo freely drawn, and Crueltys fo frequently exchang'd not only between Christian and Heathen, but between Christian and Christian; after the most barbarous manner. What the Zeal was of many early Christians against the Idolatry of the old Heathen Church (at that time the establish'd one) may be comprehended by any Person who is ever so slenderly vers'd in the History of those Times. Nor can it be said indeed of us Moderns, that in the quality of good Christians (as that Character is generally understood) we are sound either backward or scrupulous in affigning to Perdition such Wretches as we pronounce guilty of Idolatry.

once exerted it over others, cou'd expect Ch. 2. no better Quarter for themselves. So that nothing less than mutual Extirpation became the Aim, and almost open Profession of each religious Society.

IN

Idolatry. The name Idolater is sufficient Excuse for almost any kind of Infult against the Person, and much more against the Worship of such a Mis-Believer. The very word Christian is in common Language us'd for Man, in opposition to Brute-Beaft, without leaving fo much as a middle place for the poor Heathen or Pagan: who, as the greater Beast of the two, is naturally doom'd to Massacre, and his Gods and Temples to Fracture and Demolishment. Nor are we masters of this Passion, even in our best humour. The French Poets, we fee, can with great Success, and general Applause, exhibit this primitive Zeal even on the publick Stage: Poly-EUCTE. Act II. Sc. 6.

Ne perdons plus de temps, le Sacrifice est prêt. Allons y du vray Dieu soutenir l'intérêt, Allons fouler aux piés ce Foudre ridicule Dont arme un bois pourri ce Peuple trop credule; Allons en éclairer l'aveuglement fatal, Allons briser ces Dieux de Pierre & de Metat : Abandonnons nos jours à cette ardeur celeste, Faisons triompher Dieu; qu'il dispose du reste.

I shou'd scarce have mention'd this, but that it came into my mind how ill a Construction some People have endeavour'd to make of what our Author, stating the Case of Heathen and Christian Persecution, in his Letter of Enthusiasm, has said concerning the Emperor JULIAN. It was no more indeed than had been faid of that virtuous and gallant Emperor by his greatest Enemys; even by those who, to the shame of Christianity, boasted of his having been most insolently affronted on all occasions, and even treacherously affassinated by one of his Christian Soldiers. As for such Authors as these, shou'd I cite them in their proper invective Style and Saint-like Phrase, they wou'd make no very agreeable appearance, especially in Miscellanys of the kind we have here undertaken. But a Letter of that elegant and witty Emperor, may not be improperly plac'd amongst our Citations, as a Pattern of his Humour Misc. 2.

In this extremity, it might well perhaps have been esteem'd the happiest Wish for Mankind, That one of these contending Partys of incompatible Religionists shou'd

Humour and Genius, as well as of his Principle and Sentiments, on this occasion. Julian's Epistles, Numb. 52.

## JULIAN to the BOSTRENS.

" I should have thought, indeed, that the Galilaan Leaders " avou'd have efteem'd themselves more indebted to me, than " to him who preceded me in the Administration of the Em-" pire. For in his time, many of them suffer'd Exile, Per-" secution, and Imprisonment. Multitudes of those whom "in their Religion they term Hereticks, were put to the fword. Insomuch that in Samosata, Cyzicum, Paphla-" gonia, Bithynia, Galatia, and many other Countrys, auhole " Towns were level'd with the Earth. The just Reverse of " this has been observed in my time. The Exiles have been " recall'd; and the Profcrib'd reftor'd to the lawful Poffession " of their Estates. But to that height of Fury and Distrac-" tion are this People arriv'd, that being no longer allow'd " the Privilege to tyrannize over one another, or persecute " either their own Sectarys, or the Religious of the lawful " Church, they fwell with rage, and leave no flone un-"turn'd, no opportunity unimploy'd, of raifing Tumult and " Sedition. So little regard have they to true Piety; fo little " Obedience to our Laws and Constitutions; however hu-" mane and tolerating. For still do we determine and sted-" dily resolve, never to suffer one of them to be drawn in-" voluntarily to our Altars. \* \* \* As for the mere People, " indeed, they appear driven to these Riots and Seditions by " those amongst them whom they call CLERICKS: who " are now enrag'd to find themselves restrain'd in the use of " their former Power and intemperate Rule. \* \* \* They can " no longer act the Magistrate or Civil Judy, nor assume Au-" thority to make Peoples Wills, Supplant Relations, tof-" fefs themselves of other Mens Patrimonys, and by specious Pretences transfer all into their own possession. \* \* \* For "Pretences transfer all into their own possession. \*\* For this reason I have thought fit, by this Publick EDICT, " to forewarn the People of this fort, that they raise no

shou'd at last prevail over the rest; so Ch. 2. as by an universal and absolute Power to \*\* determine Orthodoxy, and make that Opinion effectually Catholick, which in their particular Judgment had the best right to that Denomination. And thus by force of Massacre and Desolution, Peace in Wor-

" more Commotions, nor gather in a riotous manner about " their seditious CLERICKS, in defiance of the Magistrate, " who has been infulted and in danger of being ston'd by " these incited Rabbles. In their Congregations they may, not-" withstanding, assemble as they please, and croud about their " Leaders, performing Worship, receiving Doctrine, and pray-" ing, according as they are by them taught and conducted: " But if with any Tendency to Sedition; let them beware " how they hearken, or give affent; and remember, 'tis at "their peril, if by these means they are secretly wrought up to Mutiny and Insurrection. \* \* \* Live, therefore, in "Peace and Quietness! neither spitefully opposing, or inju-riously treating one another. You misguided People of the " new way, Beware, on your side! And you of the antient " and establish'd Church, injure not your Neighbours and Fel-" low-Citizens, who are enthufiaftically led away, in Igno-" rance and Mistake, rather than with Design or Malice! "Tis by DISCOURSE and REASON, not by Blows, " Infults, or Violence, that Men are to be inform'd of Truth, " and convinc'd of Error. Again therefore and again I en-" join and charge the zealous Followers of the true Religion, no " way to injure, molest, or affront the Galilæan People."

Thus the generous and mild Emperor; whom we may indeed call Heathen, but not so justly Aposate: since being, at different times of his Youth, transser'd to different Schools or Universitys, and bred under Turors of each Religion, as well Heathen as Christian; he happen'd, when of sull age, to make his choice (tho very unfortunately) in the former kind, and adher'd to the antient Religion of his Country and Foresthers. See the same Emperor's Letters to Arthebus, Numb. 7. and to Hecebolus, Numb. 43. and to the People of Alexandria, Numb. 10. See VOL. I. pag. 25.

Misc. 2. ship, and Civil Unity by help of the Spiritual, might be presum'd in a fair way of being restor'd to Mankind.

I SHALL conclude with observing how ably the ROMAN-Christian, and once Catholick Church, by the affistance of their converted \* Emperors, proceeded in the Establishment of their growing Hierarchy. They confider'd wifely the various Superfitions and Enthusiasms of Mankind; and prov'd the different Kinds and Force of each. All these seeming Contrarietys of human Passion they knew how to comprehend in their political Model and subfervient System of Divinity. They knew how to make advantage both from the high Speculations of Philosophy, and the grossest Ideas of vulgar Ignorance. They faw there was nothing more different than that ENTHUSIASM which ran upon Spirituals, according to the + fimpler Views of the divine Existence, and that which ran upon ‡ external Proportions, Magnificence of Structures, Ceremonys, Proceffions, Quires, and those other Harmonys which captivate the Eye and Ear. On this account they even added to this latter kind, and display'd Religion in a yet more gorgeous Habit of Temples, Statues, Paint-

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 133. Supra, 78, 79. † VOL. II. pag. 270, 271.

<sup>‡</sup> Supra, pag. 41.

ings, Vestments, Copes, Miters, Purple, Ch. 2. and the Cathedral Pomp. With these Arms they cou'd subdue the victorious Goths, and secure themselves an ATTILA\*, when their CESARS fail'd them.

THE truth is, 'tis but a vulgar Species of ENTHUSIASM, which is mov'd chiefly by Shew and Ceremony, and wrought upon by Chalices and Candles, Robes, and figur'd Dances. Yet this, we may believe, was lookt upon as no flight Ingredient of Devotion in those Days; fince, at this hour, the Manner is found to be of confiderable Efficacy with some of the Devout amongst our-selves, who pass the least for superstitious, and are reckon'd in the Number of the polite World. This the wife Hierarchy duly preponderating; but being fatisfy'd withal that there were other Tempers and Hearts which cou'd not fo eafily be captivated by this exterior Allurement, they affign'd another Part of Religion to Proselytes of another Character

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<sup>\*</sup> When this victorious Ravager was in full March to Rome, St. Leo (the then Pope) went out to meet him in folemn Pomp. The Goth was firuck with the Appearance, obey'd the Priest, and retir'd instantly with his whole Army in a panick Fear; alledging that among the rest of the Pontifical Train, he had seen one of an extraordinary Form, who threaten'd him with Death, if he did not instantly retire. Of this important Encounter there are in St. Peter's Church, in the Vatican, and elsewhere, at Rome, many fine Sculptures, Paintings, and Representations, deservingly made, in honour of the Miracle.

Misc. 2. and Complexion, who were allow'd to proceed on a quite different bottom; by the inward way of Contemplation, and Divine Love.

THEY are indeed so far from being jealous of mere ENTHUSIASM, or the extatick manner of Devotion, that they allow their Mysticks to write and preach in the most rapturous and seraphick Strains. They suffer them, in a manner, to superfede all external Worship, and triumph over outward Forms; till the refin'd Religionists proceed so far as either expressy or seemingly to dissuade the Practice of the vulgar and establish'd Ceremonial Dutys. And then, indeed \*, they check the suppos'd exorbitant ENTHUSIASM, which wou'd prove dangerous to their Hierarchal State.

IF modern Visions, Prophecys, and Dreams, Charms, Miracles, Exorcisms, and the rest of this kind, be comprehended in that which we call FANATICISM or SUPERSTITION; to this Spirit they allow a full Career; whilst to ingenuous Writers they afford the Liberty, on the other side, in a civil manner, to call in

<sup>\*</sup> Witness the Case of Molinos, and of the pious, worthy and ingenious Abbé Fenelon, now Archbishop of Cambray.

question these spiritual Feats perform'd in Ch. 2. Monasterys, or up and down by their mendicant or itinerant Priests, and ghostly Missionarys.

THIS is that antient Hierarchy, which in respect of its first Foundation, its Policy, and the Confistency of its whole Frame and Constitution, cannot but appear in some respect august and venerable, even in fuch as we do not usually esteem weak Eyes. These are the spiritual Conquerors, who, like the first CESARS, from small Beginnings, establish'd the Foundations of an almost Universal Monarchy. No wonder if at this day the immediate View of this Hierarchal Residence, the City and Court of ROME, be found to have an extraordinary Effect on Foreigners of other latter Churches. No wonder if the amaz'd Surveyors are for the future fo apt either to conceive the horridest Aversion to all Priestly Government; or, on the contrary, to admire it, so far as even to wish a Coalescence or Re-union with this antient Mother-Church.

In reality, the Exercise of Power, however arbitrary or despotick, seems less intolerable under such a spiritual Sovereignty, so extensive, antient, and of such a long Succession, than under the petty Tyrannys and mimical Politys of some new Pretenders. Misc. 2. ders. The former may even \* persecute with a tolerable Grace: The latter, who wou'd willingly derive their Authority from the former, and graft on their successive Right, must necessarily make a very aukard Figure. And whilst they strive to give themselves the same Air of Independency on the Civil Magistrate; whilst they affect the same Authority in Government, the same Grandure, Magnistence, and Pomp in Worship, they raise the highest Ridicule, in the Eyes of those who have real Discernment, and can distinguish Originals from Copys:

+ O Imitatores, servum pecus!

<sup>\*</sup> Infra, pag. 110. † Horat. Lib. i. Ep. 19. ver. 19.

## CHAP. III.

Of the Force of Humour in Religion.

—Support of our Author's Argument in his Essay on the Freedom of Wit and Raillery.

ZEAL discuss'd. Spiritual Surgeons: Executioners: Carvers.

—Original of human Sacrifice.

—Exhilaration of Religion.

Various Aspects, from outward Causes.

HE celebrated Wits of the Misceptiters, cafual Discoursers, Respection-Coiners, Meditation-Founders, and others of the irregular kind of Writers, may plead it as their peculiar Advantage, "That they follow the Variety of NATURE." And in such a Climate as ours, their Plea, no doubt, may be very just. We Islanders, fam'd for other Mutabilitys, are particularly noted for the Variableness and Inconstancy of our Weather. And if our Taste in Letters be found answerable to this Temperature of our Climate; 'tis certain

Misc. 2. tain a Writer must, in our Account, be the more valuable in his kind, as he can agreeably surprize his Reader, by sudden Changes, and Transports, from one Extreme to another.

WERE it not for the known Prevalency of this Relish, and the apparent Deference paid to those Genius's who are said to elevate and surprize; the Author of these MISCELLANYS might, in all probability, be afraid to entertain his Reader with this multifarious, complex, and defultory kind of Reading. "Tis certain, that if we confider the Beginning and Process of our present Work, we shall find fufficient Variation in it. From a profess'd Levity, we are laps'd into a fort of Gravity unfutable to our manner of fetting out. We have steer'd an adventurous Course, and seem newly come out of a stormy and rough Sea. 'Tis time indeed we shou'd enjoy a Calm, and instead of expanding our Sails before the swelling Gusts, it befits us to retire under the Lee-shore, and ply our Oars in a fmooth Water.

'Tis the *Philosopher*, the *Orator*, or the *Poet*, whom we may compare to some First-Rate Vessel, which launches out into the wide Sea, and with a proud Motion insults the encountering Surges. We

I

ESSAY-

Essay-Writers are of the Small-Craft, or Ch. 3. Galley-kind. We move chiefly by Starts and Bounds; according as our Motion is by frequent Intervals renew'd. We have no great Adventure in view; nor can tell certainly Whither we are bound. We undertake no mighty Voyage, by help of Stars or Compass; but row from Creek to Creek, keep up a coasting Trade, and are fitted only for fair Weather and the Summer Season.

HAPPY therefore it is for us in particular, that having finish'd our Course of ENTHUSIASM, and purfu'd our Author into his \* second Treatife, we are now, at last, oblig'd to turn towards pleasanter Reflections, and have fuch Subjects in view as must naturally reduce us to a more familiar Style. WIT and HUMOUR (the profess'd Subject of the Treatise now be-fore us) will hardly bear to be examin'd in ponderous Sentences and pois'd Discourse. We might now perhaps do best, to lay afide the Gravity of strict Argument, and refume the way of Chat; which, thro' Aversion to a contrary formal manner, is generally relish'd with more than ordinary Satisfaction. For excess of Physick, we know, has often made Men hate the name of wholesom. And an abundancy of forc'd

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Essay on the Freedom of Wit and Humour, VOL. I.

Misc. 2. Instruction, and solemn Counsel, may have made Men sull as averse to any thing deliver'd with an Air of high Wisdom and Science; especially if it be so high as to be set above all human Art of Reasoning, and even above Reason it-self, in the account of its sublime Dispensers.

HOWEVER, fince it may be objected to us by certain Formalists of this fort, "That we can prove nothing duly with-"out proving it in form:" we may for once condescend to their Demand; state our Case formally; and divide our Subject into Parts, after the precise manner, and according to just Rule and Method.

OUR purpose, therefore, being to defend an Author, who has been charg'd as too presumptuous for introducing the way of WIT and HUMOUR into religious Searches; we shall endeavour to make appear:

- Ist, THAT WIT and HUMOUR are corroborative of Religion, and promotive of true Faith.
- 2ly, THAT they are us'd as proper Means of this kind by the holy Founders of Religion.
- 3/y, THAT notwithstanding the dark Complexion and four Humour of some religious

ligious Teachers, we may be justly said to Ch. 3. have in the main, A witty and good-humour'd Religion.

AMONG the earliest Acquaintance of my Youth, I remember, in particular, a Club of three or four merry Gentlemen, who had long kept Company with one another, and were feldom separate in any Party of Pleasure or Diversion. They happen'd once to be upon a travelling Adventure, and came to a Country, where they were told for certain, they should find the worst Entertainment, as well as the worst Roads imaginable. One of the Gentlemen, who feem'd the least concern'd for this Disaster, said slightly and without any seeming Design, "That the best Expedient for them in this Extre-" mity wou'd be to keep themselves in high Humour, and endeavour to com-" mend every thing which the Place af-" forded." The other Gentlemen immediately took the hint; but, as it happen'd, kept filence, pass'd the Subject over, and took no further notice of what had been propos'd.

BEING enter'd into the difmal Country, in which they proceeded without the least Complaint; 'twas remarkable, that if by great chance they came to any tolerable Bit of Road, or any ordinary Profpect.

Misc. 2. pect, they fail'd not to say something of other in its praise, and wou'd light often on such pleasant Fancys and Representations, as made the Objects in reality agreeable.

When the greatest part of the Day was thus spent, and our Gentlemen arriv'd where they intended to take their Quarters, the first of 'em who made trial of the Fare, or tasted either Glass or Dish, recommended it with such an air of Assurance, and in such lively Expressions of Approbation, that the others came instantly over to his Opinion, and confirm'd his Relish with many additional Encomiums of their own.

MANY ingenious Reasons were given for the several odd Tastes and Looks of Things, which were presented to 'em at Table. "Some Meats were wholesom: "Others of a high Taste: Others accor-"ding to the manner of eating in this or "that foreign Country." Every Dish had the slavour of some celebrated Receit in Cookery; and the Wine, and other Liquors, had, in their turn, the advantage of being treated in the same elegant strain. In short, our Gentlemen eat and drank heartily, and took up with their indifferent Fare so well, that 'twas apparent they had wrought upon themselves to believe they were tolerably well ferv'd.

THEIR

Ch. 3.

THEIR Servants, in the mean time, having laid no fuch Plot as this against themselves, kept to their Senses, and stood it out, "That their Masters had certainly lost theirs. For how else cou'd they "fwallow so contentedly, and take all for good which was set before 'em?"—

HAD I to deal with a malicious Reader; he might perhaps pretend to infer from this Story of my travelling Friends, that I intended to represent it as an easy matter for People to persuade themselves into what Opinion or Belief they pleas'd. But it can never surely be thought, that Men of true Judgment and Understanding shou'd set about such a Task as that of perverting their own Judgment, and giving a wrong Biass to their REASON. They must easily foresee that an Attempt of this kind, shou'd it have the least Success, wou'd prove of far worse Consequence to them than any Perversion of their Taste, Appetite, or ordinary Senses.

I Must confess it, however, to be my Imagination, that where fit Circumstances concur, and many inviting Occasions offer from the side of Mens Interest, their Humour, or their Passion; 'tis no extraordinary Case to see 'em enter into such a Plot as this against their own Understand-Vol. 3.

H ings,

Misc. 2.ings, and endeavour by all possible means to persuade both themselves and others of what they think convenient and useful to believe.

If in many particular Cases, where Favour and Affection prevail, it be sound so easy a thing with us, to impose upon ourselves; it cannot surely be very hard to do it, where we take for granted, our highest Interest is concern'd. Now it is certainly no small Interest or Concern with Men, to believe what is by Authority establish'd; since in the Case of Disbeliest there can be no Choice lest but either to live a Hypocrite, or be esteem'd profane. Even where Men are lest to themselves, and allow'd the Freedom of their Choice, they are still forward enough in believing; and can officiously endeavour to persuade themselves of the Truth of any flattering Imposture.

Nor is it unusual to find Men successful in this Endeavour: As, among other Instances, may appear by the many religious Faiths or Opinions, however preposterous or contradictory, which, Age after Age, we know to have been rais'd on the Foundation of Miracles and pretended Commissions from Heaven. These have been as generally espous'd and passionately cherish'd as the greatest Truths and most cer-

tain Revelations. 'Tis hardly to be fup-Ch. 3. pos'd that fuch Combinations shou'd be form'd, and Forgerys erected with such Success and Prevalency over the Understandings of Men, did not they themselves co-operate, of their own accord, towards the Imposture, and shew, "That by a "good-Will and hearty Desire of believing, "they had in reality a considerable Hand in the Deceit."

'Tis certain that in a Country, where FAITH has, for a long time, gone by Inheritance, and Opinions are entail'd by Law, there is little room left for the Vulgar to alter their Persuasion, or deliberate on the Choice of their religious Belief. Whenfoever a Government thinks fit to concern itfelf with Mens Opinions, and by its absolute Authority impose any particular Belief, there is none perhaps ever so ridiculous or monstrous in which it needs doubt of having good Success. This we may see thorowly effected in certain Countrys, by a steddy Policy, and found Application of Punishment and Reward: with the Affistance of particular Courts erected to this end; peculiar Methods of Justice; peculiar Magistrates and Officers; proper Inquests, and certain wholesom Severitys, not slightly administer'd, and play'd with, (as certain Triflers propose) but duly and properly inforc'd; as is absolutely requisite to this end

of

Misc. 2. of strict Conformity, and Unity in one and the same Profession, and manner of Worship.

BUT shou'd it happen to be the TRUTH it-self which was thus effectually propagated by the Means we have describ'd; the very Nature of such Means can, however, allow but little Honour to the Propagators, and little Merit to the Disciples and Believers. 'Tis certain that MAHOMETISM, PAGANISM, JUDAISM, or any other Belief may stand, as well as the truest, upon this Foundation. He who is now an Orthodox Christian, wou'd by virtue of such a Discipline have been infallibly as true a Mussulman, or as errant a HERETICK; had his Birth happen'd in another place.

For this reason there can be no rational Belief but where Comparison is allow'd, Examination permitted, and a fincere Toleration establish'd. And in this case, I will presume to say, "That Whatever Belief" is once espous'd or countenanc'd by the "Magistrate, it will have a sufficient ad-"vantage; without any help from Force" or Menaces on one hand, or extraordimary Favour and partial Treatment on the other." If the Belief be in any measure consonant to Truth and Reason, it will find as much savour in the Eyes of Mankind, as Truth and Reason need desire.

Whatever Difficultys there may be in any Ch. 3. particular Speculations or Myslerys belonging to it; the better fort of Men will endeavour to pass 'em over. They will believe (as our \* Author says) to the full stretch of their Reason, and add Spurs to their Faith, in order to be the more sociable; and conform the better with what their Interest, in conjunction with their Good-Humour, inclines them to receive as credible, and observe as their religious Duty and devotional Task.

HERE it is that GOOD HUMOUR will naturally take place, and the Hospitable Disposition of our travelling Friends above-recited will easily transfer it-self into Religion, and operate in the same manner with respect to the establish d Faith (however miraculous or incomprehensible) under a tolerating, mild, and gentle Government.

EVERY one knows, indeed, That by HERESY is understood a Stubbornness in the Will, not a Defect merely in the Understanding. On this account 'tis impossible that an honest and good-humour'd Man shou'd be a Schismatick or Heretick, and affect to separate from his national Worship on slight Reason, or without severe Provocation.

<sup>\*</sup> Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 34.

106

Misc. 2.

To be pursu'd by petty INQUISITORS; to be threatned with Punishment, or penal Laws; to be mark'd out as dangerous and suspected; to be rail'd at in high Places, with all the study'd Wit and Art of Calumny; are indeed sufficient Provocations to ill Humour, and may force People to divide, who at first had never any such Intention. But the Virtue of Good-Humour in Religion is such, that it can even reconcile Persons to a Belief, in which they were never bred, or to which they had conceiv'd a former Prejudice.

FROM these Considerations we cannot but of course conclude, "That there is "nothing so ridiculous in respect of Po"licy, or so wrong and odious in respect
"of common Humanity, as a moderate
"and balf-way Persecution." It only frets the Sore; it raises the Ill-bumour of Mankind; excites the keener Spirits; moves Indignation in Beholders; and sows the very Seeds of Schism in Mens bosoms. A resolute and bold-fac'd Persecution leaves no time or scope for these engendring Distempers, or gathering Ill-humours. It does the work at once; by Extirpation, Banishment, or Massacre; and like a bold Stroke in Surgery, dispatches by one short Amputation, what a bungling Hand wou'd make worse and worse, to

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the perpetual Sufferance and Misery of the Ch. 3. Patient.

If there be on earth a proper way to render the most sacred Truth suspected, 'tis by supporting it with Threats, and pretending to terrify People into the Belief of it. This is a sort of daring Mankind in a Cause, where they know themselves superior, and out of reach. The weakest Mortal finds within himself, that the he may be out-witted and deluded, he can never be forc'd in what relates to his Opinion or Assent. And there are few Men so ignorant of human Nature, and of what they hold in common with their Kind, as not to comprehend, "That where great "Vehemence is express'd by any-one in "what relates solely to another, 'tis sel-"dom without some private Interest of bis own."

In common Matters of Dispute, the angry Disputant makes the best Cause to appear the worst. A Clown once took a fancy to hear the Latin Disputes of Doctors at a University. He was ask'd what pleasure he could take in viewing such Combatants, when he could never know so much as which of the Partys had the better. "For that matter, reply'd the "Clown, I a'n't such a Fool neither, but I can see who's the first that puts t'other H 4. "into

Misc. 2. "into a Passion." Nature her-self dictated this Lesson to the Clown; "That he
"who had the better of the Argument,
"wou'd be easy and well-humour'd: But
he who was unable to support his Cause
by Reason, wou'd naturally lose his
"Temper, and grow violent."

Were two Travellers agreed to tell their Story separate in publick; the one being a Man of Sincerity, but positive and dogmatical; the other less sincere, but easy and good-bumour'd: tho it happen'd that the Accounts of this latter Gentleman were of the more miraculous sort; they wou'd yet sooner gain Belief, and be more favourably receiv'd by Mankind, than the strongly afferted Relations and vehement Narratives of the other fierce Desender of the Truth.

THAT GOOD HUMOUR is a chief Cause of Compliance, or Acquiescence in matters of Faith, may be prov'd from the very Spirit of those, whom we commonly call CRITICKS. "Tis a known Prevention against the Gentlemen of this Character; "That they are generally ill-bu-"mour'd, and splenetick." The World will needs have it, That their Spleen disturbs 'em. And I must confess I think the World in general to be so far right in this Conceit, That the all Criticks perhaps

are not necessarily splenetick; all splenetick Ch. 3. People (whether naturally such, or made of fo by ill Usage) have a necessary Propenfity to Criticism and Satir. When Men are easy in themselves, they let others remain so; and can readily comply with what feems plaufible, and is thought conducing to the Quiet or good Correspondence of Mankind. They study to raise no Difficultys or Doubts. And in religious Affairs, 'tis feldom that they are known for-ward to entertain ill Thoughts or Surmises, whilst they are unmolested. But if disturb'd by groundless Arraignments and Suspicions, by unnecessary Invectives, and bitter Declamations, and by a contentious quarrelfom Aspect of Religion; they naturally turn Criticks, and begin to question every thing. The Spirit of Satir rises with the ill Mood: and the chief Passion of Men thus diseas'd and thrown out of Good Humour, is to find fault, censure, unravel, confound, and leave nothing without exception and controverfy.

THESE are the Scepticks or Scrupulists, against whom there is such a Clamor rais'd. 'Tis evident, in the mean while, that the very Clamor it-self, join'd with the usual Menaces and Shew of Force, is that which chiefly raises this sceptical Spirit, and helps to multiply the number of these inquisitive and ill-bumour'd CRI-

Misc. 2.TICKS. Mere Threats, without power of Execution, are only exasperating and provocative. They \* who are Masters of the carnal as well as spiritual Weapon, may apply each at their pleasure, and in what proportion they think necessary. But where the Magistrate resolves steddily to reserve his Fasces for his own proper Province, and keep the Edg-Tools and deadly Instruments out of other Hands, 'tis in vain for spiritual Pretenders to take such magisterial Airs. It can then only become them to brandish such Arms, when they have strength enough to make the Magistrate resign his Office, and become Provost or Executioner in their service.

SHOU'D any one who happens to read these Lines, perceive in himself a rising Animosity against the Author, for afferting thus zealously the Notion of a religious Liberty, and mutual Toleration; 'tis wish'd that he wou'd maturely deliberate on the Cause of his Disturbance and Ill-humour. Wou'd he deign to look narrowly into himself, he wou'd undoubtedly find that it is not Zeal for Religion or the Truth, which moves him on this occasion. For had he happen'd to be in a Nation where he was no Conformist, nor had any Hope or Expectation of obtaining the Prece-

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 94.

dency for his own Manner of Worship, he Ch. 3. wou'd have found nothing preposterous in this our Doctrine of *Indulgence*. 'Tis a Fact indisputable, that whatever Sect or Religion is undermost, tho it may have persecuted at any time before; yet as soon as it begins to suffer Persecution in its turn, it recurs instantly to the Principles of Moderation, and maintains this our Plea for Complacency, Sociableness, and Good Humour in Religion. The Mysters of this Asian Survey is a sufference of this Asian Survey is a survey of this Asian Surv the Security of Mens Morals, nor any fuch violent Resentment of their Vices, when they are such as no-way incom-mode him. And from hence it will be easy for him to infer, "That the Passion

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Misc.2." he feels on this occasion, is not from "pure ZEAL, but private INTEREST, "and worldly EMULATION."

COME we now (as authentick Rhetoricians express themselves) to our second Head: which we shou'd again subdivide into Firsts and Seconds, but that this manner of carving is of late days grown much out of fashion.

'Twas the Custom of our Ancestors, perhaps as long fince as the days of our hospitable King ARTHUR, to have nothing serv'd at Table but what was intire and substantial. 'Twas a whole Boar, or solid Ox which made the Feast. The Figure of the Animal was preserv'd intire, and the Diffection made in form by the appointed Carver, a Man of Might as well as prosound Crast and notable Dexterior, who was seen as the with goodly terity; who was feen erect, with goodly Mein and Action, displaying Heads and Members, dividing according to Art, and distributing his Subject-matter into proper Parts, sutable to the Stomachs of those he serv'd. In latter days 'tis become the Fashion to eat with less Ceremony and Method. Every-one chuses to carve for himself. The learned Manner of Dissection is out of request; and a certain Method of Cookery has been introduc'd; by which

which the anatomical Science of the Table Ch. 3. is intirely fet aside. Ragouts and Fricasses are the reigning Dishes, in which every thing is so dismember'd and thrown out of all Order and Form, that no Part of the Mass can properly be divided, or distinguish'd from another.

FASHION is indeed a powerful Mistress, and by her single Authority has so far degraded the carving Method and Use of Solids, even in Discourse and Writing, that our religious Pastors themselves have many of 'em chang'd their Manner of diftributing to us their spiritual Food. They have quitted their substantial Service, and uniform Division into Parts and Under-Parts; and in order to become fashionable, they have run into the more favoury way of learned Ragout and Medley. 'Tis the unbred rustick Orator alone, who presents his clownish Audience with a divisible Discourse. The elegant Court-Divine exhorts in MISCELLANY, and is asham'd to bring his Two's and Three's before a fashionable Affembly.

SHOU'D I therefore, as a mere Miscellanarian or Essay-Writer, forgetting what I had premis'd, be found to drop a Head, and lose the connecting Thred of my present Discourse; the Case perhaps wou'd not be so preposterous. For fear however

Misc. 2. lest I shou'd be charg'd for being worst
than my word, I shall endeavour to satisfy
my Reader, by pursuing my Method propos'd: if peradventure he can call to mind,
what that Method was. Or if he cannot,
the matter is not so very important, but he
may safely pursue his reading, without surther trouble.

To proceed, therefore. Whatever Means or Methods may be employ'd at any time in maintaining or propagating a religious Belief already current and establish'd, 'tis evident that the first Beginnings must have been founded in that natural Compla-cency, and Good Humour, which in-clines to Trust and Confidence in Mankind. Terrors alone, tho accompany'd with Miracles and Prodigys of whatever kind, are not capable of raising that sincere Faith and absolute Reliance which is requir'd in favour of the divinely authoriz'd Instructor, and spiritual Chief. The Affection and Love which procures a true Adherence to the new religious Foundation, must depend either on a real or counterfeit \* GOODNESS in the religious Founder. Whatever ambitious Spirit may inspire him; whatever savage Zeal or persecuting Principle may lie in referve, ready to disclose it-self when Authority and

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 94. and VOL. II. pag. 334.

Power is once obtain'd; the First Scene of Ch. 3. Doctrine, however, fails not to present us with the agreeable Views of Joy, Love, Meekness, Gentleness, and Moderation.

In this respect, RELIGION, according to the common Practice in many Sects, may be compar'd to that fort of Court (bip. of which the Fair Sex are known often to complain. In the Beginning of an Amour, when these innocent Charmers are first accosted, they hear of nothing but tender Vows, Submission, Service, Love. But soon afterwards, when won by this Appearance of Gentleness and Humility, they have refign'd themselves, and are no longer their own, they hear a different Note, and are taught to understand Submission and Service in a fense they little expected. Charity and Brotherly Love are very engaging Sounds: But who wou'd dream that out of abundant Charity and Brotherly Love shou'd come Steel, Fire, Gibbets, Rods, and fuch a found and hearty Application of these Remedys as shou'd at once advance the worldly Greatness of religious Pastors, and the particular Interest of private Souls, for which they are fo charitably concern'd?

IT has been observed by our \* Author, "That the JEWS were naturally a very

<sup>\*</sup> Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 29. And above, pag. 55, 56. "Cloudy

Misc. 2." cloudy People." That they had certain-Misc. 2. "cloudy People." That they had certainly in Religion, as in every thing else,
the least Good-Humour of any People in
the World, is very apparent. Had it
been otherwise, their holy Legislator and
Deliverer, who was declar'd \* the meekest
Man on Earth, and who for many years
together had by the most popular and
kind Acts endeavour'd to gain their Love
and Affection, wou'd in all probability
have treated them afterwards with more Sweetness, and been able with + less Blood and Massacre to retain them in their religious Duty. This however we may observe, That if the first Yewish Princes and celebrated Kings acted in reality according to the Institutions of their great Founder, not only Musick, but even Play and Dange, were of holy Appointment, and divine Right. The first Monarch of this Nation, the of a melancholy Complexion, join'd Musick with his spiritual Exercises, and even us'd it as a Remedy under that dark Enthusiasm or ‡ evil Spirit; which how far it might resemble that of Prophecy, experienc'd by him \*\* even after his

<sup>\*</sup> Numb. Ch. xii. ver. 3. † Exod. Ch. xxxii. ver. 27, &c. And Numb. Ch. xvl. ver. 41.

† 1 Sam. Ch. xviii. ver. 10. And Ch. xix. ver. 9.

\*\* Ibid. ver. 23, 24.

Apostacy, our \* Author pretends not to Ch. 3. determine. 'Tis certain that the Successor of this Prince was a hearty Espouser of the merry Devotion, and by his example has shewn it to have been fundamental in the religious Constitution of his People. + The samous Entry or high Dance perform'd by him, after so conspicuous a manner, in the Procession of the sacred Coffer, shews that he was not asham'd of expressing any Extasy of Joy or playsom Humour, which was practis'd by the \*\* meanest of the Priests or People on such an occasion.

<sup>\*</sup> Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 45.

<sup>+ 2</sup> Sam. Ch. vi. ver. 5, 14, & 16.

<sup>†</sup> Ibid. ver. 22.
\*\* The this Dance was not perform'd quite naked, the Dancers, it feems, were fo flightly cloth'd, that in respect of Modesty, they might as well have wore nothing: their Nakedness appearing still by means of their high Caperings, Leaps, and violent Attitudes, which were proper to this Dance. The Reader, if he be curious, may examine what relation this religious Extafy and naked Dance had to the naked and processional Prophecy; (1 Sam. Ch. xix. ver. 23, & 24.) where Prince, Prieft, and People prophefy'd in conjunction: the Prince himself being both of the itinerant and naked Party. It appears that even before he was yet advanc'd to the Throne, he had been feiz'd with this prophefying Spirit errant, processional, and saltant, attended, as we find, with a fort of Martial Dance perform'd in Troops or Companys, with Pipe and Tabret accompanying the March, together with Pfaltry, Harp, Cornets, Timbrels, and other variety of Musick. See 1 Sam. Ch. x. ver. 5. and Ch. xix. ver. 23, 24, &c. and 2 Sam. Ch. vi. ver. 5. And above, Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 45.

118 Mifc. 2.

Besides the many Songs and Hymns dispers'd in Holy Writ, the Book of Psalms it-self, Job, Proverbs, Canticles, and other intire Volumes of the sacred Collection, which are plainly Poetry, and full of humorous Images, and jocular Wit, may sufficiently shew how readily the inspir'd Authors had recourse to Humour and Diversion, as a proper Means to promote Religion, and strengthen the establish'd Faith.

When the Affairs of the Jewish Nation grew desperate, and every thing seem'd tending to a total Conquest and Captivity, the Style of their holy Writers and Prophets might well vary from that of earlier days, in the Rise and Vigor of their Common-wealth, or during the first Splendor of their Monarchy, when the Princes themselves prophesy'd, and potent Kings were of the number of the Sacred Pen-men. This still we may be affur'd of; That however melancholy or ill-bumour'd any of the Prophets may appear at any time, 'was not that kind of Spirit, which God was wont to encourage in them. Witness the Case of the Prophet Jonah; whose Character is so naturally describ'd in Holy Writ.

PETTISH as this Prophet was, unlike a Man, and resembling rather some refractory boyish Pupil; it may be said that God, as a kind Tutor, was pleas'd to bumour him, bear with his Anger, and in a lusory manner, expose his childish Frowardness, and shew him to himself.

"\* \* Arise (faid his gracious Lord) and "gb to Ninive." "No fuch matter," fays our Prophet to himself; but away over-Sea for Tarshish. He fairly plays the Truant, like an arch School-Boy; hoping to hide out of the way. But his Tutor had good Eyes, and a long Reach. He overtook him at Sea; where a Storm was ready prepar'd for his Exercise, and a Fish's Belly for his Lodging. The Renegade found himself in harder Durance than any at Land. He was sufficiently mortify'd: He grew good, pray'd, moraliz'd, and spoke mightily against + Lying Vanitys.

AGAIN, ‡ the Prophet is taken into favour, and bid go to NINIVE, to foretel Destruction. He foretels it. NINIVE repents: God pardons: and the Prophet is angry.

<sup>\*</sup> Jonah, Ch. i, &c. † Ibid. Ch. ii. ver. 8.

t Ch. iii. ver. 1, &c.

Misc.2.

"\* LORD!—Did I not foresee what
"this wou'd come to? Was not this my
"Saying, when I was safe and quiet at
"bome?—What else shou'd I have run
"away for?—As if I knew not how
"little dependence there was on the Reso"lution of those, who are always so ready
"to forgive, and repent of what they
"have determin'd.—No!——Strike
"me dead!—Take my Life, this moment.
"'Tis better for me.—If ever I prophesy
"again." \*\*\*\*\*

" + AND Dost thou well then to be thus angry, JONAH? Consider with thy-self. "—Come!—Since thou wilt needs retire out of the City, to see at a distance what will come of it; here, Take a better Fence than thy own Booth against the hot Sun which incommodes Thee. Take this tall Plant as a shady Covering for thy Head. Cool thy-self, and be deliver'd from thy Grief."

WHEN the Almighty had shown this Indulgence to the Prophet, he grew better-humour'd, and pass'd a tolerable Night. But the ‡ next morning the Worm came,

† Ver. 4, 5, 6. † Ver. 7, 8.

Lawe To

<sup>\*</sup> Jonah, Ch. iv. ver. 1, 2, 3. † Ver. 4, 5, 6.

and an East-Wind: the Arbor was nip'd: Ch. 3. the Sun shone vehemently, and the Prophet's Head was heated, as before. Prefently the ill Mood returns, and the Prophet is at the old pass. "Better die, "than live at this rate. — Death, Death " alone can fatisfy me. Let me hear no longer of Living.—No!—"Tis in vain to talk of it."—

AGAIN \* GOD expostulates; but is taken up short, and answer'd churlishly, by the testy Prophet. "Angry he is; " angry he ought to be, and angry he will " be, to his Death." But the ALMIGH-TY, with the utmost pity towards him, in this melancholy and froward Temper, lays open the Folly of it; and exhorts to Mildness, and GOOD HUMOUR, in the most tender manner, and under the most familiar and pleasant Images; whilst he shews + expressy more Regard and Tenderness to the very CATTEL and Brute-Beasts, than the Prophet to his own HUMAN KIND, and to those very Disciples whom by his Preaching he had converted.

In the antienter Parts of Sacred Story, where the Beginning of things, and Ori-gin of human Race are represented to us,

<sup>\*</sup> Ver. 9. † See the last Verse of this Prophet.

Misc. 2, there are sufficient Instances of this Familiarity of Style, this popular pleasant Intercourse, and Manner of Dialogue between \* God and Man: I might add even between † Man and Beast; and what is still more extraordinary, between God and † SATAN.

WHATSOEVER of this kind may be allegorically understood, or in the way of PARABLE or FABLE; this I am sure of, That the Accounts, Descriptions, Narrations, Expressions, and Phrases are in themselves many times exceedingly pleafant, entertaining, and facetious. But fearing lest I might be mis-interpreted, shou'd I offer to set these Passages in their proper Light, (which however has been perform'd by undoubted good Christians, and most learned and \*\* eminent Divines of our own Church) I forbear to go any further into the Examination or Criticism of this fort.

As for our Saviour's Style, 'tis not more vehement and majestick in his gravest Animadversions or declamatory Discourses; than it is sharp, humorous, and witty in

<sup>\*</sup> Gen. Ch. iii. ver. 9, &c. † Numb. Ch. xxii. ver. 28, &c.

<sup>‡ (1.)</sup> Job, Ch. i, & ii.

<sup>(2.) 2</sup> Chron. Ch. xviii. ver. 18, 19, &c. \*\* See Burnet, Archael. cap. 7. p. 280, &c.

his Repartees, Reflections, fabulous Nar-Ch. 3. rations, or Parables, Similes, Comparisons, and other Methods of milder Censure and Reproof. His Exhortations to his Disciples; his particular Defignation of their Manners; the pleasant Images under which he often couches his Morals and prudential Rules; even his Miracles themselves (especially the \* first he ever wrought) carry with them a certain Festivity, Alaerity, and GOOD HUMOUR fo remarkable, that I shou'd look upon it as impossible not to be mov'd in a pleasant manner at their Recital. videlion William martin and the political

Now, if what I have here afferted in behalf of PLEASANTRY and HUMOUR, be found just and real in respect of the Jewish and Christian Religions; I doubt not, it will be yielded to me, in respect of the antient Heathen Establishments; that the highest Care was taken by their original Founders, and following Reformers, to exhilarate Religion, and correct that Melancholy and Gloominess to which it is subject; according to those different Modifications of + ENTHUSIASM above specify'd.

& cremon eft in sir vocum qual liple

<sup>\*</sup> St John, Chap. ii. ver. 11. † Above, Chap.i, ii.

Our Author, as I take it, has \* elsewhere shewn that these Founders were real Musicians, and Improvers of Poetry, Musick, and the entertaining Arts; which they in a manner incorporated with Religion: Not without good reason; as I am apt to imagine. For to me it plainly appears, That in the early times of all Religions, when Nations were yet barbarous and savage, there was ever an Aptness or Tendency towards the dark part of Superstition, which among many other Horrors produc'd that of buman Sacrifice. Something of this nature might possibly be deduc'd even from † Holy Writ. And

\* VOL. I. pag. 237.

† Gen. chap. xxii. ver. 1, 2, &c. and Judg. chap. xi. ver.

30, 31, 80

These Places relating to ABRAHAM and JEPHTHAH, are cited only with respect to the Notion which these Primitive Warriors may be faid to have entertain'd concerning this horrid Enormity, fo common among the Inhabitants of the Palestine and other neighbouring Nations. It appears that even the elder of these Hebrew Princes was under no extreme Surprize on this trying Revelation. Nor did he think of expostulating, in the least, on this occasion; when at another time he cou'd be so importunate for the Pardon of an inhospitable, murderous, impious and incessuous City; Gin. xviii. 23, & c. See Marsham's Citations, pag. 76, 77. Ex ifis fatius est colligere banc Abrahami Tentationem non fuisse neugroupy nuevny regiziv, actionem innovatam; non recens excogitatam, sed ad pristinos Cananæorum mores designatam. See the learned CAPEL's Differtation upon JEPHTHAH; "Ex hujus voti Lege (Lev. xxvii. ver. 28, " 29.) JEPHTE Filiam omnino videtur immolasse, boc "est, morte assecisse, & executus est in ea votum quod ipse voverat, Jud. xi. 39."

in other Historys we are inform'd of it Ch. 3. more at large.

EVERY one knows how great a Part of the old Heathen Worship consisted in Play, Poetry, and Dance. And the some of the more melanchely and superstitious Votarys might approach the Shrines of their DIVINITYS with mean Grimaces, Crouchings, and other fawning Actions, betraying the low Thoughts they had of the Divine Nature; yet 'tis well known, that in those times the illiberal \* sycophantick manner of Devotion was by the wiser fort contemn'd, and oft suspected, † as knavish and indirect.

\* See VOL. I. pag. 35.

+ \_\_\_ Non tu prece poscis emaci, &c.

Haud cuivis promptum est, murmurque humilesque sufurros,

Tollere de Templis. — -De Jov E quid sentis? Estne, ut præponere cures

Hunc cuinam?

- 2uå tu mercede Deorum

Emeris auriculas?

O curvæ in terris animæ, & cælestium inanes! Quid juvat boc, Templis nostros immittere mores, Et bona Diis ex bâc scelerata ducere pulpâ?

Perf. Sat. ii. ver. 3.

Non est meum, si mugiat Africis Malus procellis, ad miseras preces Decurrere.—

Hor. lib. iii. Od. 29. ver. 57.

+ See VOL. I. pag. 133. And above, pag. 79. in the Notes.

Misc. 2.

How different an Air and Aspect the good and virtuous were presum'd to carry with them to the Temple, let Plutarch singly, instead of many others, witness, in his excellent Treatise of \* Superstition;

\* D Backae' efeusorles Enduves rara in Sembasporia, σηλώσεις, καταδορδορώσεις, σαδδατισμές, ρίθεις επί πρόσωπον αιοχρούς, προσκαθίσεις, αλλοκότως προσκυνήσεις, &c. + " O wretched GREEKS! (says he, speaking to his then " declining Countrymen) who in a way of Superstition run " fo easily into the Relish of barbarous Nations, and bring " into Religion that frightful Mein of fordid and vilifying "Devotion, ill-favour'd Humiliation and Contrition, abject "Looks and Countenances, Confernations, Profrations, Difof figurations, and, in the Act of Worship, Distortions, con-" firain'd and painful Postures of the Body, very Faces, beg-"gerly Tones, Mumpings, Grimaces, Cringings, and the rest
of this kind—— A shame indeed to us Grecians!— " For to us, we know, 'tis prescrib'd from of old by our pe-" culiar Laws concerning Musick, and the publick Chorus's, " that we shou'd perform in the handsomest manner, and " with a just and manly Countenance, avoiding those Gri-" maces and Contortions of which some Singers contract a " Habit. And shall we not in the more immediate Worship " of the DEITY preserve this liberal Air and manly Ap-" pearance? Or, on the contrary, whilf we are nicely ob-" ferwant of other Forms and Decencys in the Temple, shall " we neglect this greater Decency in Voice, Words, and Man-" ners; and with vile Cries, Fawnings, and prostitute Beha-" viour, betray the natural Dignity and Majesty of that Divine "Religion and National Worship deliver'd down to us by our " Forefathers, and purg'd from every thing of a barbarous " and savage kind?"

What PLUTARCH mentions here, of the just Cauntenance or liberal Air, the sour Pirator, of the Musical Performer, is agreeably illustrated in his ALCIBIADES. 'Twas that heroick Youth, who, as appears by this Historian, first gave occasion to the ATHENIANS of the higher Rank wholly to abandon the use of Flutes; which had before

been

<sup>†</sup> Plutaschi Oper. T. II. pag. 166. Ed. Fran-

perstition; and in another against the Epi-Ch. 3. curean Atheism, where it will plainly enough

been highly in favour with them. The Reason given, was " the illiberal Air which attended such Performers, and the " unmanly Disfiguration of their Looks and Countenance, " which this Piping-work produc'd." As for the real Figure or Plight of the Superstitious Mind, our Author thus defcribes it: "Gladly wou'd the poor comfortless Mind, by " whiles, keep Festival and rejoice: But such as its Reli-" gion is, there can be no free Mirth or Joy belonging to it. " Publick Thanksgivings are but private Mournings. Sighs " and Sorrows accompany its Praises. Fears and Horrors 6 corrupt its best Affections. When it assumes the outward " Ornaments of best Apparel for the Temple, it even then " strikes Melancholy, and appears in Paleness and ghastly " Looks. While it worships, it trembles. It sends up Vows " in faint and feeble Voices, with eager Hopes, Desires, and " Passions, discoverable in the whole Disorder of the outward " Frame: and, in the main, it evinces plainly by Practice, " that the Notion of PYTHAGORAS was but vain, who " dar'd affert, That we were then in the best State, and " carry'd our most becoming Looks with us, when we ap-" proach'd the Gods. For then, above all other Seasons, are " the Superstitious found in the most abject miserable State of " Mind, and with the meanest Presence and Behaviour; " approaching the Sacred Shrines of the Divine Powers in the " Same manner as they would the Dens of Bears or Lions, " the Caves of Basilisks or Dragons, or other hideous Recef-" fes of wild Beafts or raging Monsters. To me therefore it " appears wonderful, that we shou'd arraign Atheism as " impious; whilft Superstition escapes the Charge. Shall be " who holds there are no Divine Powers, be esteem'd im-" pious; and shall not be be esteem'd far more impious, who " holds the Divine Beings such in their Nature as the Super-" stitious believe and represent? For my own part, I had " rather Men shou'd say of me, &c." See VOL. I. pag. 41. in the Notes. Nothing can be more remarkable than what our Author fays again, a little below. + " The Atheist " believes there is no Deity; the Religionist, or superstitious " Believer, wishes there were none. If he believes, 'tis a-" gainst his Will: mistrust be dares not, nor call his Thought " in question. But cou'd be with Security, at once, throw

Misc. 2. enough appear \* what a share Good

Humour had in that which the politer

Antients esteem'd as Piety, and true Religion.

" off that oppressive Fear, which like the Rock of TAN"TALUS impends, and presses over him, he would with
" equal Joy spurn his inslaving Thought, and embrace the
"Atheist State and Opinion as his happiest Deliverance.
"Atheists are free of Supersition, but the Supersitions are
"ever willing Atheists, the impotent in their Thought, and
"unable to believe of the Divine Being as they gladly would.
"Now! It To it Aben destaluturiae iden patterns of de
"Destaluin Ti mercuspers in the "or, advises ess ess is
"so dealers are stayed to be before." See VOL. I. pag.

" δεισταίμων τη προαιρέσει άθεθ ών, άδενεςτερός ές ν ή " το δεάζειν του δεών ο βελείαι." See VOL I. pag. 35, 36, 40, 41. Where speaking of Religion, as it stood in the Heathen Church, and in his own time; he confesses, " That as to the " vulgar Disposition, there was no Remedy. Many even of " the better fort wou'd be found, of course, to intermix with " their Veneration and Esteem something of Terror or Fear " in their religious Worship, which might give it perhaps the " Character of SUPERSTITION: But that this Evil " was a thousand times over-balanc'd by the Satisfaction, " Hope, Joy, and Delight which attended religious Worship. "This, fays he, is plain and evident from the most demon-" strable Testimonys. For neither the Societys, or Publick " Meetings in the Temples, nor the Festivals themselves, nor " any other diverting Partys, Sights, or Entertainments, are " more delightful or rejoicing than what we our-felves be-" hold, and act in the Divine Worship, and in the Holy Sa-" crifices and Mysterys which belong to it. Our Disposition " and Temper is not, on this occasion, as if we were in the " Presence of worldly Potentates, dread Sovereigns, and de-" fpotick Princes. Nor are we here found meanly humbling " our-felves, crouching in Fear and Awe, and full of Anxie-" ty and Confusion, as wou'd be natural to us in such a Case. " But where the Divinity is esteem'd the nearest, and most " immediately present, there Horrors and Amazements are " the furthest banish'd; there the Heart, we find, gives freest " way to Pleasure, to Entertainment, to Play, Mirth, Hu-" mour, and Diversion; and this even to an Excess."

Ch. 3.

BUT NOW, methinks, I have been fufficiently grave and ferious, in defense of what is directly contrary to Seriousness and Gravity. I have very folemnly pleaded for Gaity and Good Humour: I have declaim'd against Pedantry in learned Language, and oppos'd Formality in Form. I now find my-self somewhat impatient to get loose from the Constraint of Method: And I pretend lawfully to exercise the Privilege which I have afferted, of rambling from Subject to Subject, from Style to Style, in my Miscellaneous manner, according to my present Profession and Character.

I MAY, in the mean while, be cenfur'd probably for passing over my Third Head. But the methodical Reader, if he be scrupulous about it, may content himself with looking back: And if possibly he can pick it out of my Second, he will forgive this Anticipation, in a Writing which is govern'd less by Form than Humour. I had indeed resolv'd with my-self to make a large Collection of Passages from our most eminent and learned Divines, in order to have set forth this Latter Head of my Chapter; and by better Authority than my own to have evinc'd, "That we had in the main a good-bumour'd Religion."

Misc. 2. "gion." But after considering a little while, I came to this short Issue with myfelf: "That it was better not to cite at "all, than to cite partially." Now if I cited fairly what was said as well on the melancholy as the chearful side of our Religion, the Matter, I sound, wou'd be pretty doubtfully balanc'd: And the Result at last wou'd be this; "That, generally "speaking, as oft as a Divine was in good "Humour, we shou'd find Religion "the sweetest and best-humour'd thing in "Nature: But at other times (and that, "pretty often) we shou'd find a very different Face of Matters."

Thus are we alternately exalted and humbled, chear'd and dejected, according as out spiritual \* Director is himself influenc'd: And this, peradventure, for out Edification and Advantage; "That by "these Contrarietys and Changes we may be render'd more supple and compliant." If we are very low, and down; we are taken up. If we are up, and high; we are taken up.—This is Discipline. This is Authority and Command.—Did Religion carry constantly one and the same Face, and were it always represented to us alike in every respect; we might perhaps be overabold, and make Acquaintance with it, in

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 39.

too familiar a manner: We might think Ch. 3. our-selves fully knowing in it, and affur'd of its true Character and Genius. From whence perhaps we might become more refractory towards the Ghostly Teachers of it, and be apt to submit our-selves the less to those who, by Appointment and Authority, represent it to us, in such Lights, as they esteem most proper and convenient.

I SHALL therefore not only conclude abruptly, but even fceptically on this my last Head: referring my Reader to what has been said already, on my preceding Heads, for the bare probability " of our "having, in the main, a witty and good-"bumour'd Religion."

This, however, I may prefume to affert; That there are undoubtedly fome Countenances or Aspects of our Religion, which are humorous and pleasant in themfelves; and that the sadder Representations of it are many times so over-sad and dismal, that they are apt to excite a very contrary Passion to what is intended by the Representers.

Misc. 3.

## MISCELLANY III.

## CHAP. I.

Further Remarks on the Author of the Treatises.—His Order and Design.—His Remarks on the Succession of Wit, and Progress of Letters, and Philosophy.

Of Words, Relations, Affections.—Country-Men and Country.—Old.England.—Virtuosi, and Philosophers.—A Taste.

AVING already afferted my Privilege, as a MISCELLANEOUS or ESSAY-Writer of the modern Establishment; to write on every Subject, and in every Method, as I fansy; to use Order, or lay it aside, as I think sit; and to treat of Order and Method in other Works, the free perhaps and unconfined as to my own: I shall presume, in this place,

to consider the present Method and Order Ch. 1. of my Author's Treatises, as in this joint-Edition they are rang'd.

Notwithstanding the high Airs of Scepticism which our Author affumes in his first Piece; I cannot, after all, but imagine that even there he proves himself, at the bottom, a real DOGMA-TIST, and shews plainly that he has his private Opinion, Belief, or Faith, as strong as any Devotee or Religionist of 'em all. The he affects perhaps to strike at other Hypotheses and Schemes; he has some-thing of his own still in reserve, and holds a certain Plan or System peculiar to himfelf, or fuch, at least, in which he has at present but few Companions or Followers.

On this account I look upon his Management to have been much after the rate of some ambitious ARCHITECT; who being call'd perhaps to prop a Roof, redress a leaning Wall, or add to some particular Apartment, is not contented with this small Specimen of his Mastership: but pretending to demonstrate the Un-serviceableness and Inconvenience of the old Fabrick, forms the Defign of a new Building, and longs to shew his Skill in the principal Parts of Architecture and Mechanicks.

'T is certain that in matters of Learning and Philosophy, the Practice of pulling down is far pleasanter, and affords more Entertainment, than that of building and fetting up. Many have succeeded, to a miracle, in the first, who have miserably fail'd in the latter of these Attempts. We may find a thousand Engineers, who can sap, undermine, and blow up, with admirable Dexterity, for one fingle-one, who can build a Fort, or lay the Plat-form of a Citadel. And the Compassion in real War may make the ruinous Practice less delightful, 'tis certain that in the literate warring-World, the springing of Mines, the blowing up of Towers, Bastions, and Ramparts of PH 1-LOSOPHY, with Systems, Hypotheses, Opinions, and Doctrines into the Air, is a Spectacle of all other the most naturally rejoicing dayer mad avad of members

Our Author, we suppose, might have done well to consider this. We have fairly conducted him thro' his first and second LETTER, and have brought him, as we fee here, into his third Piece. He has hitherto, methinks, kept up his sapping Method, and unravelling Humour, with tolerable good Grace. He has given only fome few, and very flender \* Hints of going fur-

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. In the Letter of Enthufiasm, which makes Treatise I. See VOL. I. pag. 41, 43, 44, 49. at the end.

ther, or attempting to erect any SchemeCh. i. or Model, which may discover his Pretence to a real Architect-Capacity. Even in this his Third Piece he carrys with him the same sceptical Mein: and what he offers by way of Project or Hypothefis, is very faint, hardly spoken aloud; but mutter'd to himself, in a kind of dubious Whisper, or feign'd Soliloguy. What he discovers of Form and Method, is indeed fo accompany'd with the random Miscellaneous Air, that it may pass for Raillery, rather than good Earnest. 'Tis in his following. \* Treatife that he discovers himself openly, as a plain Dogmatist, a Formalist, and Man of Method; with his Hypotheses tack'd to him, and his Opinions fo close-sticking, as wou'd force one to call to mind the Figure of some precise and strait-lac'd Professor in a University.

WHAT may be justly pleaded in his behalf, when we come in company with

VOL. II.

And 54. concerning the previous Knowledg. So again, Treatile II. VOL. I. pag. 81, and 116. And again, Treatise III. VOL. I. page 294, 295, 297. where the IN-QUIRY is propos'd, and the System and Genealogy of the Affections previously treated; with an Apology (pag. 312.) for the examining Practice, and seeming Pedantry of the Method. And afterwards the Apology for Treatife IV. in Treatise V. VOL. II. pag. 263, 264. Concerning this Series and Dependency of these joint Treatises, see more particularly below, pag. 189, 190, 191, 284, &c. \* Viz. Treatise V. The INQUIRY concerning Virtue,

Misc. 3. him, to inquire into such solemn and profound Subjects, seems very doubtful. Mean while, as his Affairs stand hitherto in this his Treatise of Advice, I shall be contented to yoke with him, and proceed, in my miscellaneous Manner, to give my ADVICE also to Men of Note; whether they are Authors or Politicians, Virtuosi or Fine-Gentlemen; comprehending Him, the said Author, as one of the Number of the Advis'd, and My-self too (if occasion be) after his own example of Self-Admonition and private Address.

BUT FIRST as to our Author's Differtation in this \* third Treatife, where his Reflections upon Authors in general, and the Rife and Progress of Arts, make the Inlet or Introduction to his Philosophy; we may observe, That it is not without some appearance of Reason that he has advanc'd this Method. It must be acknowledg'd, that tho, in the earliest times, there may have been divine Men of a transcending Genius, who have given Laws both in Religion and Government, to the great Advantage and Improvement of Mankind; yet Philosophy it it-self, as a Science and known Profession worthy of that name, cannot with any probability be supposed to have risen (as our Author shews) till other

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 236, 7, 8, 9, &c.

Arts had been rais'd, and, in a certain pro-Ch. 1. portion, advanc'd before it. As this was of the greatest Dignity and Weight, so it came last into Form. It was long clearing it-self from the affected Dress of Sophists, or Enthusiastick Air of Poets; and appear'd late in its genuine, simple, and just Beauty.

THE Reader perhaps may justly excuse our Author for having \* in this place fo over-loaded his Margin with those weighty Authoritys and antient Citations, when he knows that there are many grave Professors in Humanity and Letters among the Moderns, who are puzzled in this Search, and write both repugnantly to one another, and to the plain and natural Evidence of the Case. The real Lineage and Suc-CESSION of Wit, is indeed plainly founded in Nature: as our Author has endeavour'd to make appear both from History and Fact. The GREEK Nation, as it is Original to us, in respect to these polite Arts and Sciences, fo it was in reality original to it-felf. For whether the EGYPTIANS, PHENICIANS, THRACIANS, OF BAR-BARIANS of any kind, may have hit fortunately on this or that particular Invention, either in Agriculture, Building, Navigation, or Letters; which-ever may have introduc'd this Rite of Worship, this Title of a Deity, this or that Instrument of Mu-

\* Viz. VOL. I. pag. 242, &c.

Misc. 3. sick, this or that Festival, Game, or Dance, (for on this matter there are high Debates among the Learned) 'tis evident, beyond a doubt, that the Arts and Sciences were form'd in GREECE it-self. 'Twas there that Musick, Poetry, and the rest came to receive some kind of shape, and be distinguish'd into their several Orders and Degrees. Whatever slourish'd, or was rais'd to any degree of Correctness, or real Perfection in the kind, was by means of GREECE alone, and in the hand of that sole polite, most civiliz'd, and accomplish'd Nation.

Nor can this appear strange, when we consider the fortunate Constitution of that People. For tho compos'd of different Nations, distinct in Laws and Governments, divided by Seas and Continents, dispers'd in distant Islands; yet being originally of the same Extract, united by one single Language, and animated by that social, publick and free Spirit, which notwithstanding the Animosity of their several warring States, induc'd them to erect such heroick Congresses and Powers as those which constituted the AMPHICTONIAN Councils, the OLYMPICK, ISTHMIAN, and other Games; they cou'd not but naturally polish and refine each other. 'Twas thus they brought their beautiful and comprehensive Language to a just Standard, leaving

leaving only fuch Variety in the Dialects Ch. 1. as render'd their Poetry, in particular, so much the more agreeable. The Standard was in the fame proportion carry'd into other Arts. The Secretion was made. The feveral Species found, and fet apart. The Performers and Masters in every kind, honour'd and admir'd. And, last of all, even CRITICKS themselves acknowledg'd and receiv'd as Masters over all the rest. From Musick, Poetry, Rhetorick, down to the fimple Prose of History, thro' all the plat-tick Arts of Sculpture, Statuary, Painting, Architecture, and the rest; every thing Muse-like, graceful and exquisite, was rewarded with the highest Honours, and carry'd on with the utmost Ardor and Emulation. Thus GREECE, the she exported Arts to other Nations, had properly for her own share no Import of the kind. The utmost which cou'd be nam'd, wou'd amount to no more than raw Materials, of a rude and barbarous form. And thus the Nation was evidently Original in Art; and with them every noble Study and Science was (as the great Master, so often cited by our Author, fays of certain kinds of Poetry) \* felf-

K 4

form'd,

<sup>\* &#</sup>x27;Autognstasin'. VOL I. pag. 244. 'Tis in this fense of the natural Production, and Self-Formation of the Arts, in this Free State of antient GREECE, that the same great Master uses this Word a little before, in the same Chapter of his Poeticks, (viz. the 4th) speaking in general of the Poets:

Kata unego negatyoises, expension the noisen, ex sold autogendiaguaton. And presently after, his sews se yanguing, auth is vine to sine very suge.

Misc. 3. form'd, wrought out of Nature, and drawn from the necessary Operation and Course of things, working, as it were, of their own accord, and proper inclination. Now according to this natural Growth of Arts, peculiar to GREECE, it wou'd necessarily happen; That at the beginning, when the Force of Language came to be first prov'd; when the admiring World made their first Judgment, and essay'd their Taste in the Elegancys of this fort; the Lofty, the Sublime, the Astonishing and Amazing wou'd be the most in fashion, and prefer'd. Metaphorical Speech, Multiplicity of Figures and bigh-founding Words wou'd naturally prevail. Tho in the Commonwealth it-felf, and in the Affairs of Government, Men were us'd originally to plain and direct Speech; yet when Speaking became an Art, and was taught by Sophists, and other pretended Masters, the high-poetick, and the figurative Way began to prevail, even at the Bar, and in the Publick Affemblys: Infomuch that the Grand-Master, in the \* above-cited part of his Rhetoricks, where he extols the Tragick Poet EURIPIDES, upbraids the Rhetoricians of his own Age, who retain'd that very bombastick Style, which even Poets, and those too of the tragick kind, had already thrown off, or at least considerably.

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 245. in the Notes.

mitigated. But the Tafte of GREECE was Ch. I. now polishing. A better Judgment was foon form'd, when a DEMOSTHENES was heard, and had found fuccess. The People themselves (as our Author has shewn) came now to reform their Co-MEDY and familiar Manner, after TRA-GEDY, and the higher Style, had been brought to its perfection under the last hand of an EURIPIDES. And now in all the principal Works of Ingenuity and Art, SIMPLICITY and NATURE began chiefly to be fought: And this was the TASTE which lasted thro' so many Ages, till the Ruin of all things, under a Univerfal Monarchy.

IF the Reader shou'd peradventure be led by his Curiofity to feek some kind of Comparison between this antient Growth of TASTE, and that which we have experienc'd in modern days, and within our own Nation; he may look back to the Speeches of our Ancestors in Parliament. He will find 'em generally speaking, to have been very short and plain, but coarse, and what we properly call home-spun; till Learning came in vogue, and Science was known amongst us. When our Princes and Senators became Scholars, they spoke scholastically. And the pedantick Style was prevalent, from the first Dawn of Letters, about the Age of the Reformation, till

long

Misc. 3. long afterwards. Witness the best written Discourses, the admir'd Speeches, Orations, or Sermons, thro' feveral Reigns, down to these latter, which we compute within the present Age. 'Twill undoubtedly be found, That till very late days, the Fashion of fpeaking, and the Turn of Wit, was after the figurative and florid Manner. Nothing was fo acceptable as the high-founding Phrase, the far-fetch'd Comparison, the capricious Point, and Play of Words; and nothing fo despicable as what was merely of the plain or natural kind. So that it must either be confess'd, that in respect of the preceding Age, we are fallen very low in TASTE; or that, if we are in reality improv'd, the natural and simple Manner which conceals and covers ART, is the most truly artful, and of the genteelest, truest, and best-study'd Taste: as has \* above been treated more at large.

NOW, THEREFORE, as to our Author's PHILOSOPHY it-self, as it lies conceal'd in + this Treatise, but more profes'd and formal in his ‡ next; we shall proceed gradually according to his own Method: since it becomes not one who

‡ Viz. INQUIRY, &c. Treatise IV. VOL. II.

<sup>\*</sup> Page 21. and VOL. I. pag. 257, 258. † Viz. Soliloquy, or Advice to an Author: Treatife III. VOL. I.

has undertaken the part of his airy Affif-Ch. 1. tant and humorous Paraphraft, to enter fuddenly, without good preparation, into his dry Reasonings and moral Researches about the social Passions and natural Affections, of which he is such a punctilious Examiner.

OF all human Affections, the noblest and most becoming human Nature, is that of Love to one's Country. This, perhaps, will easily be allow'd by all Men, who have really a COUNTRY, and are of the number of those who may be call'd \* A PEOPLE, as enjoying the Happiness of a real Constitution and Polity, by which they are free and independent. There are few fuch Country-men or Free-men fo degenerate, as directly to discountenance or condemn this Passion of Love to their Community and national Brotherhood. The indirect Manner of opposing this Principle, is the most usual. We hear it commonly, as a Complaint, " That there is little of " this Love extant in the World." From whence 'tis haftily concluded, " That there is little or nothing of friendly or focial

<sup>\*</sup> A Multitude held together by Force, tho under one and the same Head, is not properly united: Nor does such a Body make a People. 'Tis the social Ligue, Consederacy, and mutual Consent, sounded in some common Good or Interest, which joins the Members of a Community, and makes a People ONE. Absolute Power annuls the Publick: And where there is no Publick, or Constitution, there is in reality no Mother-Country, or Nation. See VOL. L. pag. 105, 6, 7.

Misc. 3. "Affection inherent in our Nature, or pro-"per to our Species." 'Tis however apparent, That there is scarce a Creature of human Kind, who is not possess'd at least with some inferior degree or meaner sort of this natural Affection to a Country.

\* Nescio quâ Natale Solum duscedine captos
Ducit.—

'Tis a wretched Aspect of Humanity which we figure to our-felves, when we wou'd endeavour to refolve the very Effence and Foundation of this generous Paf-fion into a Relation to mere Clay and Duft, exclusively of any thing fensible, intelligent, or moral. "Tis, I must own, on certain + Relations, or respective Proportions, that all natural Affection does in some meafure depend. And in this View it cannot, I confess, be deny'd, that we have each of us a certain Relation to the mere Earth it-felf, the very Mould or Surface of that Planet, in which, with other Animals of various forts, We (poor Reptiles!) were also bred and nourish'd. But had it happen'd to one of us British-Men to have been born at Sea, cou'd we not therefore properly be call'd British-Men? Cou'd we be allow'd Country-Men of no fort, as having no dif-

<sup>\*</sup> Ovid. Pont. Lib. i. Eleg. iii. ver. 35. † Ta Kahnarla rais ynsen Bauelgeirat.

tinct relation to any certain Soil or Re-Ch. 1. gion; no original Neighbourhood but with the watry Inhabitants and Sea-Monsters? Surely, if we were born of lawful Parents, lawfully employ'd, and under the Protection of Law; wherever they might be then detain'd, to whatever Colonys fent, or whither-foever driven by any Accident, or in Expeditions or Adventures in the Publick Service, or that of Mankind, we shou'd still find we had a Home, and Country, ready to lay claim to us. We shou'd be oblig'd still to consider our-selves as Fellow-Citizens, and might be allow'd to love our Country or Nation as honestly and heartily as the most inland Inhabitant or Native of the Soil. Our political and focial Capacity wou'd undoubtedly come in view, and be acknowledg'd full as natural and effential in our Species, as the parental and filial kind, which gives rife to what we peculiarly call natural Affection. Or supposing that both our Birth and Parents had been unknown, and that in this respect we were in a manner younger Brothers in Society to the rest of Mankind; yet from our Nurture and Education we shou'd surely espouse some Country or other; and joyfully embracing the Protection of a Magiftracy, shou'd of necessity and by force of Nature join our-selves to the general Society of Mankind, and those in particular, with whom we had enter'd into a nearer

Misc. 3. nearer Communication of Benefits, and closer Sympathy of Affections. It may therefore be esteem'd no better than a mean Subterfuge of narrow Minds, to assign this natural Passion for Society and a Country, to such a Relation as that of a mere Fungus or common Excrescence, to its Parent-Mould, or nursing Dung-bill.

THE RELATION of Country-man, if it be allow'd any thing at all, must imply something moral and social. The Notion it-self pre-supposes a naturally civil and political State of Mankind, and has reference to that particular part of Society, to which we owe our chief Advantages as Men, and rational Creatures, such as are \* naturally and necessarily united for each other's Happiness and Support, and for the highest of all Happinesses and Enjoyments; "The "Intercourse of Minds, the free Use of our Reason, and the Exercise of mutual "Love and Friendship."

An ingenious Physician among the Moderns, having in view the natural Dependency of the vegetable and animal Kinds on their common Mother-EARTH, and observing that both the one and the other draw from her their continual Sustenance, (some rooted and fix'd down to their first

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. p. 109, &c. and VOL. II. p. 310, &c.

abodes, others unconfin'd, and wandring Ch. r. from place to place to fuck their Nourishment:) He accordingly, as I remember, styles this latter animal-Race, ber releas'd Sons; Filios Terræ emancipatos. Now if this be our only way of reckoning for Mankind, we may call our-felves indeed, The Sons of EARTH, at large; but not of any par-ticular Soil, or District. The Division of Climates and Regions is fantaftick and artificial: much more the Limits of particular Countrys, Citys or Provinces. Our Natale Solum, or Mother-Earth, must by this account be the real GLOBE it-self which bears us, and in respect of which we must allow the common Animals, and even the Plants of all degrees, to claim an equal Brotherbood with us, under this common PARENT.

ACCORDING to this Calculation we must of necessity carry our *Relation* as far as to the whole material World or Universe; where alone it can prove compleat. But for the particular District or Tract of Earth, which in a vulgar sense we call our Country, however bounded or geographically divided, we can never, at this rate, frame any accountable *Relation* to it, nor consequently assign any natural or proper Affection towards it.

IF unhappily a Man had been born either at an *Inn*, or in fome dirty *Village*; he wou'd

Misc. 3. wou'd hardly, I think, circumscribe himfelf fo narrowly as to accept a Denomination or Character from those nearest Appendices, or local Circumstances of his Nativity. So far shou'd one be from making the Hamlet or Parish to be characteristical in the Case, that hardly wou'd the Shire it-self, or County, however rich or flourishing, be taken into the honorary Term or Appellation of one's COUNTRY.

> "What, then, shall we presume to call " our Country? Is it England it-" felf? But what of SCOTLAND? " Is it therefore BRITAIN? But " what of the other Islands, the Northern

> "ORCADES, and the Southern LERSEY " and GUERNSEY? What of the Plan-" tations, and poor IRELAND?" --- Behold, here, a very dubious Circumscrip-A CC OR THE WOLTS This Calculationnois

But what, after all, if there be a Conquest or Captivity in the case? a Migration? a national Secession, or Abandonment of our native Seats for fome other Soil or Climate? This has happen'd, we know, to our Forefathers. And as great and powerful a People as we have been of late, and have ever shewn our-selves under the influence of free Councils, and a tolerable Ministry; shou'd we relapse again into flavish Principles, or be administer'd long under such Heads as having

no Thought of Liberty for themselves, can Ch. 1. have much less for EUROPE or their Neighbours; we may at last feel a War at home, become the Seat of it, and in the end a Conquest. We might then gladly embrace the hard Condition of our Predecessors, and exchange our beloved native Soil for that of some remote and uninhabited part of the World. Now shou'd this possibly be our Fate; shou'd some considerable Colony or Body be form'd afterwards out of our Remains, or meet, as it were by Miracle, in some distant Climate; wou'd there be, for the future, no English-man remaining? No common Bond of Alliance and Friendship, by which we cou'd still call Country-men, as before? How came we, I pray, by our antient name of English-men? Did it not travel with us over Land and Sea? Did we not, indeed, bring it with us heretofore from as far as the remoter Parts of GER-MANY to this Island?

I MUST confess, I have been apt fometimes to be very angry with our Language, for having deny'd us the use of the word PATRIA, and afforded us no other name to express our native Community, than that of Country; which already bore \* two different Significations, abstracted

<sup>\*</sup> Rus & Regio. In French Campagne & Pais.

Misc. 3. from Mankind or Society. Reigning words are many times of fuch force, as to influence us confiderably in our Apprehenfion of things. Whether it be from any fuch Cause as this, I know not: but certain it is, that in the Idea of a CIVIL State or NATION, we English-men are apt to mix somewhat more than ordinary gross and earthy. No People who ow'd so much to A CONSTITUTION, and so little to A SOIL OF CLIMATE, were ever known fo indifferent towards one, and fo passionately fond of the other. One wou'd imagine from the common Discourse of our Country-men, that the finest Lands near the Eu-PHRATES, the BABYLONIAN or PER-SIAN Paradises, the rich Plains of E-GYPT, the Grecian TEMPE, the Roman CAMPANIA, LOMBARDY, PROVENCE, the Spanish ANDALUSIA, or the most delicious Tracts in the Eastern or Western INDIES, were contemptible Countrys in respect of OLD ENGLAND.

Now by the good leave of these worthy Patriots of the Soil, I must take the liberty to say, I think OLD ENGLAND to have been in every respect a very indifferent Country: and that Late ENGLAND, of an Age or two old, even fince Queen Bess's days, is indeed very much mended for the better. We were, in the beginning of her Grandsather's Reign, un-

der a fort of *Polish* Nobility; and had no Ch. 1. other Libertys, than what were in common to us with the then fashionable Monarchys and *Gotbick* Lordships of Europe. For *Religion*, indeed, we were highly fam'd, above all Nations; by being the most subject to our *Ecclesiasticks* at home, and the best Tributarys and Servants to the Holy See abroad.

I MUST go further yet, and own, that I think Late ENGLAND, fince the Revolution, to be better still than Old ENG-LAND, by many degrees; and that, in the main, we make somewhat a better Figure in EUROPE, than we did a few Reigns before: But however our People may of late have flourish'd, our Name, or Credit have risen; our Trade, and Navigation, our Manufactures, or our Husbandry been improv'd; 'tis certain that our Region, Climate, and Soil, is, in its own nature, still one and the same. And to whatever Politeness we may suppose ourfelves already arriv'd; we must confess, that we are the latest barbarous, the last civilized or polished People of EUROPE. We must allow that our first Conquest by the ROMANS brought us out of a State hardly equal to the Indian Tribes; and that our last Conquest by the NORMANS brought us only into the capacity of receiving Arts and civil Accomplishments from Misc. 3. from abroad. They came to us by degrees, from remote distances, at second or third hand; from other Courts, States, Academys, and foreign Nurserys of Wit and Manners.

NOTWITHSTANDING this, we have as over-weaning an Opinion of our-felves, as if we had a claim to be Original and Earth-born. As oft as we have chang'd Masters, and mix'd Races with our several fuccessive Conquerors, we still pretend to be as legitimate and genuine Possessors of our Soil, as the antient ATHENIANS accounted themselves to have been of theirs. 'Tis remarkable however in that truly antient, wise, and witty People, That as fine Territorys and noble Countrys as they poffefs'd, as indifputable Mafters and Superiors as they were in all Science, Wit, Politeness, and Manners; they were yet so far from a conceited, selfish, and ridiculous Contempt of others, that they were even, in a contrary Extreme, "Admirers " of whatever was in the least degree in-" genious or curious in foreign Nations." Their Great Men were constant Travellers. Their Legislators and Philosophers made their Voyages into EGYPT, pass'd into CHALDEA, and PERSIA; and fail'd not to visit most of the dispers'd Grecian Governments and Colonys thro' the Islands of the ÆGEAN, in ITALY, and on the Coafts

Coasts of Asia and Africa. 'TwasCh. I. mention'd as a Prodigy, in the case of a great Philosopher, tho known to have been always poor; "That he shou'd never have "travel'd, nor had ever gone out of "Athens for his Improvement." How modest a Reslection in those who were themselves Athenians!

\* For our part, we neither care that \* Foreigners shou'd travel to us, nor any of ours shou'd travel into foreign Countrys. Our best Policy and Breeding is, it feems.

\* An ill Token of our being thorowly civiliz'd: fince in the Judgment of the Polite and Wife, this inhospitable Disposition was ever reckon'd among the principal Marks of Barbarism. So STRABO, from other preceding Authors, north piev sivas tois bage ages agos of the Tiv ZENHAAZIAN, L.xvii. p.802.

The Zevi Zevi of the Antients was one of the folemn Characters of Divinity: the peculiar Attribute of the fupreme DEITY, benign to Mankind, and recommending universal Love, mutual Kindness, and Benignity between the remotest and most unlike of human Race. Thus their Divine Poet in Harmony with their Sacred Oracles, which were

known frequently to confirm this Doctrine.

Ζών', '΄ κιμι θέμις ές', 'εδ' ' ε΄ πουίων σύθεν έλθοι, Ζώνον ἀτιμῆσαι' σερός 3δ Διός είπν ε΄ πανθες Ζώνοι———ΟΔΥΣ. Ε.

Again,
— Oud's της άμω βεσίων επιμογείαυ άλλο.

'Αλλ' 5 θε της δυςτινο άλωμενο ενθαδ' ίναναι,
Τον νου χειν ποιώευν στος γδ Διος είσου άπου les
Ξείνου — ΟΔΥΣ. ζ.

And again, 'Αονειδε βιόποιο, φίλος δ' ην ανθεώποιστ Πάγ]ας χδ φιλέεσκεν, όδῷ ἔπ δικία ναίων. ΙΛΙΑΔ. ζ. Misc. 3. seems, "To look abroad as little as possi-" ble; contract our Views within the nar-" rowest Compass; and despise all Know-" ledg, Learning, or Manners, which are " not of a Home Growth." For hardly will the Antients themselves be regarded by those, who have so resolute a Contempt of what the politest Moderns of any Nation, besides their own, may have advanc'd in the way of Literature, Politeness, or Philosophy. - mail wheel, and T. the Breeff Post to

THIS Disposition of our Country-men, from whatever Causes it may possibly be deriv'd, is, I fear, a very prepossessing Circumstance against our Author; whose Design is to advance something new, or at least something different from what is commonly current in PHILOSOPHY and MORALS. To support this Design of his, he feems intent chiefly on this fingle Point; "To discover, how we may, to " best advantage, form within our-selves " what in the polite World is call'd a Re-" lift, or Good TASTE."

See also Odys. lib. iii. ver. 34, &c. and 67, &c. lib. iv. ver. 30, &c. and 60.

Such was antient Heathen CHARITY, and pious Duty towards the Whole of Mankind; both those of different Nations, and different Worships. See VOL. II. pag. 165, 166.

HE begins, it's true, as near bome as possible, and fends us to the narrowest of all Conversations, that of Soliloguy or Self-discourse. But this Correspondence, according to his Computation, is wholly impracticable, without a previous Commerce with the World: And the larger this Commerce is, the more practicable and improving the other, he thinks, is likely to prove. The Sources of this improving. Art of Self-correspondence he derives from the highest Politeness and Elegance of antient Dialogue, and Debate, in matters of Wit, Knowledg, and Ingenuity. And nothing, according to our Author, can fo well revive this felf-corresponding Practice, as the same Search and Study of the highest Politeness in modern Conversation. For this, we must necessarily be at the pains of going further abroad than the Province we call HOME. And, by this Account, it appears that our Author has little hopes of being either relish'd or comprehended by any other of his Country-men, than those who delight in the open and free Commerce of the World, and are rejoic'd to gather Views, and receive Light from every Quarter; in order to judg the best of what is perfect, and according to a just Standard, and true TASTE in every kind, metagenesis a lenter of

Misc. 3.

IT may be proper for us to remark in favour of our Author, that the fort of Ridicale or Raillery, which is apt to fall upon PHILOSOPHERS, is of the same kind with that which falls commonly on the VIRTUOSI, or refin'd Wits of the Age. In this latter general Denomination we include the real fine Gentlemen, the Lovers of Art and Ingenuity; such as have seen the World, and inform'd themselves of the Manners and Customs of the several Nations of EUROPE, search'd into their Antiquitys, and Records; consider'd their Antiquitys, and Records; connected their Police, Laws, and Conflitutions; observed the Situation, Strength, and Ornaments of their Citys, their principal Arts, Studys, and Amusements; their Architecture, Sculpiure, Painting, Musick, and their Taste in Poetry, Learning, Language, and Conversation.

HITHERTO there can lie no Ridicule, nor the least Scope for Satirick Wit or Raillery. But when we push this Virtussion Character a little further, and lead our position of Gentleman into more nice Researches; when from the view of Mankind and their Affairs, our speculative Genius, and minute Examiner of Nature's Works, proceeds with equal or perhaps superior Zeal in the Contemplation of the Insect-Life, the Conveniencys, Habitations

bitations and OEconomy of a Race of Ch. I. Shell-Fift; when he has erected a Cabinet in due form, and made it the real Pattern of his Mind, replete with the fame Trash and Trumpery of correspondent empty Notions, and chimerical Conceits; he then indeed becomes the Subject of sufficient Raillery, and is made the Jest of common Conversations.

A WORSE thing than this happens commonly to these inferior VIRTUOSI. In seeking so earnestly for Raritys, they fall in love with RARITY for Rarenessfake. Now the greatest Raritys in the World are MONSTERS. So that the Study and Relish of these Gentlemen, thus affiduously imploy'd, becomes at last in reality monstrous: And their whole Delight is found to consist in selecting and contemplating whatever is most monstrous, disagreeing, out of the way, and to the least purpose of any thing in Nature.

leaft Concerne on Mockey . On the con-

IN PHILOSOPHY, Matters answer exactly to this Virtuoso-Scheme. Let us suppose a Man, who having this Resolution merely, how to employ his Understanding to the best purpose, considers "Who or "What he is; Whence he arose, or had "his Being; to what End he was design'd; "and to what Course of Action he is by

<sup>&</sup>quot; his natural Frame and Constitution de" stin'd:"

Misc. 3." stin'd:" shou'd he descend on this account into himself, and examine his inward Powers and Facultys; or shou'd he ascend beyond his own immediate Species, City, or Community, to discover and recognize his bigher Polity, or Community, (that common and universal-one, of which he is born a Member;) nothing, furely, of this kind, cou'd reasonably draw upon him the least Contempt or Mockery. On the contrary, the finest Gentleman must after all be consider'd but as an IDIOT, who talking much of the knowledg of the World and Mankind, has never fo much as thought of the Study or Knowledg of bimfelf, or of the Nature and Government of that real Publick and WORLD, from whence he holds his Being,

> \* Quid Sumus, & quidnam victuri gignimur?——

> "Where are we? Under what Roof? Or on board what Vessel? Whither bound? "On what Business? Under whose Pilot"ship, Government, or Protection?" are Questions which every sensible Man wou'd naturally ask, if he were on a sudden transported into a new Scene of Life. 'Tis admirable, indeed, to consider, That a Man shou'd have been long come into a

<sup>\*</sup> Perf. Sat. iii. ver. 67.

World, carry'd his Reason and Sense a-Ch. 1. bout with him, and yet have never feriously ask'd himself this single Question, "WHERE am I? or WHAT?" but, on the contrary, shou'd proceed regularly to every other Study and Inquiry, postponing this alone, as the least considerable; or leaving the Examination of it to others, commission'd, as he supposes, to under-stand and think for him, upon this Head. To be bubbled, or put upon by any sham-Advices in this Affair, is, it seems, of no consequence! We take care to examine accurately, by our own Judgment, the Affairs of other People, and the Concerns of the World which least belong to us: But what relates more immediately to our-felves, and is our chief SELF-Interest, we charitably leave to others to examine for us, and readily take up with the first Comers; on whose Honesty and good Faith 'tis presum'd we may safely rely.

HERE, methinks, the Ridicule turns more against the Philosophy-Haters than the Virtuosi or Philosophers. Whilst Philosophers will Philosophers or Mastership in LIFE and MANNERS, 'tis like to make no ill Figure in the World, whatever Impertinencys may reign, or however extravagant the Times may prove. But let us view Philosophers

Misc. 3.PHY, like mere Virtuoso-ship, in its usual Career, and we shall find the Ridicule rifing full as strongly against the Profesiors of the higher as the lower kind. Cockleshell abounds with each. Many things exterior, and without our-felves, of no relation to our real Interests or to those of Society and Mankind, are diligently investigated: Nature's remotest Operations, deepest Mysterys, and most difficult Phanomena discuss'd, and whimsically explain'd; Hypotheses and fantastick Systems erected; a Universe anatomiz'd; and by some \* notable Scheme fo folv'd and reduc'd, as to appear an easy Knack or Secret to those who have the Clew. Creation it-felf can, upon occasion, be exhibited; Transmutations, Projections, and other Philosophical AR-CANA, fuch as in the corporeal World can accomplish all things; whilst in the intellectual, a fet Frame of metaphyfical Phrases and Distinctions can serve to solve whatever Difficultys may be propounded either in Logicks, Ethicks, or any real Science, of whatever kind.

IT appears from hence, that the Defects of PHILOSOPHY, and those of Virtuoso-ship are of the same nature. Nothing can be more dangerous than a wrong Choice, or Misapplication in these Affairs.

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. II. pag. 184, 190.

But as ridiculous as these Studys are ren-Ch. 1. der'd by their sensless Managers; it appears, however, that each of 'em are, in their nature, essential to the Character of a Fine Gentleman and Man of Sense.

To philosophize, in a just Signification, is but to carry Good-breeding a step higher. For the Accomplishment of Breeding is, To learn whatever is decent in Company, or beautiful in Arts; and the Sum of Philosophy is, To learn what is just in Society, and beautiful in Nature, and the Order of the World.

'Tis not Wit merely, but a Temper which must form the WELL-BRED MAN. In the same manner, 'tis not a Head merely, but a Heart and Resolution which must compleat the real PHILOSOPHER. Both Characters aim at what is excellent, aspire to a just Taste, and carry in view the Model of what is beautiful and becoming. Accordingly, the respective Conduct and distinct Manners of each Party are regulated; The one according to the perfectest Ease, and good Entertainment of Com-PANY; the other according to the strictest Interest of MANKIND and SOCIETY: The one according to a Man's Rank and Quality in his private Nation; the other according to his Rank and Dignity in NA-TURE.

Misc. 3.

WHETHER each of these Offices, of focial Parts; are in themselves as convenient as becoming, is the great Question which must some-way be decided. The WELL-BRED MAN has already decided this, in his own Case, and declar'd on the side of what is Handsom: For whatever he practises in this kind \*, he accounts no more than what he owes purely to himself; without regard to any further Advantage. The Pretender to PHILOSOPHY, who either knows not how to determine this Affair, or if he has determin'd, knows not how to purfue his Point, with Constancy, and Firmness, remains in respect of Philosophy, what a Clown or Coxcomb is in respect of Breeding and Behaviour. Thus, according to our Author, the TASTE of Beauty, and the Relish of what is decent, just, and amiable, perfects the Character of the GENTLEMAN, and the PHILOSOPHER. And the Study of fuch a TASTE or Relifts will, as we suppose, be ever the great Employment and Concern of him, who covets as well to be wife and good, as agreeable and polite.

† Quid VERUM atque DECENS, curo, & rogo, & omnis in boc sum.

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 129, 130. † Horat. lib. i. Ep. 1. ver. 11.

## CHAP. II.

Explanation of a TASTE continu'd. - Ridiculers of it . Their Wit, and Sincerity. - Application of the Taste to Affairs of Government and Politicks. — Imaginary CHARACTERS in the State. - Young Nobility, and Gentry. — Pursuit of BEAUTY. -Preparation for Philosophy.

Y this time, furely, I must have prov'd my-self sufficiently engag'd in the Project and Defign of our Selfdiscoursing Author, whose Defence I have undertaken. His Pretension, as plainly appears in this third Treatife, is to \* recommend Morals on the fame foot, with what in a lower sense is call'd Manners; and to advance PHILOSOPHY (as harsh a Subject as it may appear) on the very Foundation of what is call'd agreeable and polite. And 'tis in this Method and Management that, as his Interpreter, or Paraphrast, I have propos'd to imi-

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 336, &c.

Misc. 3. tate and accompany him, as far as my Miscellaneous CHARACTER will permit.

Our joint Endeavour, therefore, must appear this: To shew, \* "That nothing "which is found charming or delightful in " the polite World, nothing which is adop-" ted as Pleasure, or Entertainment, of "whatever kind, can any way be ac"counted for, supported, or established,
"without the Pre-establishment or Sup"position of a certain TASTE." Now a
TASTE or Judgment, 'tis suppos'd, can
hardly come ready form'd with us into
the World. Whatever Principles or Materials of this kind we may possibly bring with us; whatever good Facultys, Senses, or anticipating Sensations, and Imaginations, may be of Nature's Growth, and arise properly, of themselves, without our Art, Promotion, or Affistance; the general Idea which is form'd of all this Management, and the clear Notion we attain of what is preferable and principal in all these Subjects of Choice and Estimation, will not, as I imagine, by any Person, be taken for in-nate. Use, Practice and Culture must precede the Understanding and Wit of such an advanc'd Size and Growth as this. A legitimate and just TASTE can neither be begotten, made, conceiv'd,

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 356, &c.

or produc'd, without the antecedent La-Ch. 2. bour and Pains of CRITICISM.

FOR this reason we presume not only to defend the Cause of CRITICKS; but to declare open War against those indolent supine Authors, Performers, Readers, Auditors, Actors, or Spectators; who making their Humour alone the Rule of what is beautiful and agreeable, and having no account to give of such their Humour or odd Fancy, reject the criticizing or examining Art, by which alone they are able to discover the true Beauty and Worth of every Object,

ACCORDING to that affected Ridicule which these insipid Remarkers pretend to throw upon just CRITICKS, the Enjoyment of all real Arts or natural Beautys wou'd be intirely lost: Even in Behaviour and Manners, we shou'd at this rate become in time as barbarous, as in our Pleasures and Diversions. I wou'd presume it, however, of these Critick-Haters, that they are not yet so unciviliz'd, or void of all social Sense, as to maintain, "That the "most barbarous Life, or brutish Pleasure, "is as desirable as the most polish'd or re-"fin'd."

FOR my own part, when I have fometimes heard Men of reputed Ability join in Vol. 3. M with Misc. 3. with that effeminate plantive Tone of Investive against CRITICKS, I have really thought they had it in their Fancy, to keep down the growing Genius's of the Youth, their Rivals, by turning them afide from that Examination and Search, any which all good Parsentages as well as on which all good Performance as well as good Judgment depends. I have feen many a time a well-bred Man, who had himfelf a real good TASTE, give way, with a malicious Complaifance, to the Humour of a Company, where, in favour chiefly of the tender Sex, this foft languishing Contempt of Criticks, and their Labours, has been the Subject fet a-foot. "Wretch-" ed Creatures! (fays one) impertinent "Things, these Criticks, as ye call 'em! "—As if one cou'dn't know what was "agreeable or pretty, without their help.
"—"Tis fine indeed, that one shou'dn't
be allow'd to fansy for one's-felf.—— " Now shou'd a thousand Criticks tell me " that Mr. A--'s new Play wan't the " wittiest in the World, I wou'dn't mind " 'em one bit."

This our real Man of Wit hears patiently; and adds, perhaps of his own, "That he thinks it, truly, somewhat hard, in what relates to People's Diver- fion and Entertainment, that they shou'd be oblig'd to chuse what pleas'd others, and not themselves." Soon after this

he goes himself to the Play, finds one of Ch. 2. his effeminate Companions commending or admiring at a wrong place. He turns to the next Person who sits by him, and asks privately, "What he thinks of his Compa-"nion's Relish."

SUCH is the Malice of the World! They who by Pains and Industry have acquir'd a real TASTE in Arts, rejoice in their Advantage over others, who have either none at all, or such as renders'em ridiculous. At an Auction of Books, or Pictures, you shall hear these Gentlemen persuading every one "To bid for what he fansys." But, at the same time, they wou'd be foundly mortify'd themselves, if by fuch as they efteem'd good Judges, they shou'd be found to have purchas'd by a wrong Fancy, or ill TASTE. The same Gentleman who commends his Neighbour for ordering his Garden or Apart-ment, as bis HUMOUR leads him, takes care his own shou'd be so order'd as the best Judgments wou'd advise. Being once a Judg himself, or but tolerably knowing in these Affairs, his Aim is not "To " change the Being of Things, and bring "TRUTH and NATURE to his Hu-" mour : but, leaving NATURE and "TRUTH just as he found 'em, to ac-" commodate his Humour and Fancy to " their STANDARD." Wou'd he do this M 2

Misc. 2. in a yet higher Case, he might in reality become as wife and great a Man, as he is already a refin'd and polish'd GENTLE-MAN. By one of these TASTES he understands how to lay out his Garden, mo-del his House, fansy his Equipage, ap-point his Table: By the other he learns of what Value these Amusements are in Life, and of what Importance to a Man's Freedom, Happiness, and Self-enjoyment. For if he wou'd try effectually to acquire the real Science or TASTE of Life; he wou'd certainly discover, "That a RIGHT " MIND, and GENEROUS AFFECTION, " had more Beauty and Charm, than all "other Symmetrys in the World besides:" And, "That a Grain of Honesty and na-"tive Worth, was of more value than " all the adventitious Ornaments, Estates, " or Preferments; for the fake of which " fome of the better fort fo oft turn " Knaves; forfaking their Principles, and " quitting their Honour and Freedom, for " a mean, timorous, shifting State of gau-" dy Servitude."

A LITTLE better TASTE (were it a very little) in the Affair of Life it-felf, wou'd, if I mistake not, mend the Manners, and secure the Happiness of some of our noble Countrymen, who come with high Advantage and a worthy Character

## REFLECTIONS.

have long engag'd in it, their WORTH what long engag'd in it, their WORTH what less, Precedencys, Staffs, Ribbons, and other fuch glittering Ware, are taken in exchange for inward MERIT, HONOUR, and a CHARACTER.

This they may account perhaps a shreud Bargain. But there will be found very untoward Abatements in it, when the matter comes to be experienc'd. They may have descended in reality from ever fo glorious Ancestors, Patriots, and Sufferers for their Country's Liberty and Welfare: They may have made their Entrance into the World upon this bottom of anticipated Fame and Honour: They may have been advanc'd on this account to Dignitys, which they were thought to have deserv'd. But when induc'd to change their honest Measures, and sacrifice their Cause and Friends to an imaginary private Interest; they will soon find, by Experience, that they have lost the Relish and TASTE of Life; and for infipid wretched Honours, of a deceitful kind, have unhappily exchang'd an amiable and sweet Honour, of a sincere and lasting Relish, and good Savour. They may, after this, act Farces, as they think fit; and hear Qualitys and Virtues affign'd to 'em, under the Titles of Graces, Excellencys, Ho-M 3 720717'5.

Misc. 3. nours, and the rest of this mock-Praise and mimical Appellation. They may even with serious Looks be told of Honour and Worth, their PRINCIPLE, and their Country: But they know better within themselves; and have occasion to find, That, after all, the World too knows better; and that their sew Friends and Admirers have either a very shallow Wit, or a very profound Hypocrify.

'Tis not in one Party alone that these Purchases and Sales of Honour are carry'd on. I can represent to my-self a noted Patriot, and reputed Pillar of the religious Part of our Constitution, who having by many and long Services, and a steddy Conduct, gain'd the Reputation of thorow Zeal with his own Party, and of Sincerity and Honour with his very Enemys, on a sudden (the time being come that the Fulness of his Reward was set before him) submits complacently to the propos'd Bargain, and sells himself for what he is worth, in a vile detestable Old-Age, to which he has reserv'd the Insamy of betraying both his Friends and Country.

I CAN imagine, on the other fide, one of a contrary Party; a noted Friend to LIBERTY in Church and State; an Abhorrer of the flavish Dependency on Courts, and of the narrow Principles of Bigots:

Such a one, after many publick Services of Ch. 2. note, I can fee wrought upon, by degrees, to feek Court-Preferment; and this too under a Patriot-Character. But having perhaps try'd this way with lefs success, he is oblig'd to change his Character, and become a royal Flatterer, a Courtier against bis Nature; submitting himself, and suing, in so much the meaner degree, as his inherent Principles are well known at Court, and to his new-adopted Party, to whom he seigns himself a Proselyte.

THE greater the Genius or Character is of fuch a Person, the greater is his Slavery, and heavier his Load. Better had it been that he had never discover'd such a Zeal for publick Good, or fignaliz'd himself in that Party; which can with least grace make Sacrifices of national Interests to a Crown, or to the private Will, Appetite, or Pleasure of a Prince. For suppofing fuch a Genius as this had been to act his Part of Courtship in some foreign and absolute Court; how much less infamous wou'd his Part have prov'd? How much less slavish, amidst a People who were All Slaves? Had he peradventure been one of that forlorn begging Troop of Gentry extant in DENMARK, or SWEDEN, fince the time that those Nations lost their Libertys; had he liv'd out of a free Nation, and happily-balanc'd Constitution; had he M 4

Misc. 3. he been either conscious of no Talent in the Affairs of Government, or of no Opportunity to exert any fuch, to the advantage of Mankind: Where had been the mighty shame, if perhaps he had employ'd some of his Abilitys in flattering like others, and paying the necessary Homage requir'd for Safety's sake, and Selfpreservation, in absolute and despotick Governments? The TASTE, perhaps, in frictness, might still be wrong, even in this hard Circumstance: But how inexcusable in a quite contrary one! For let us suppose our Courtier not only an Englishman, but of the Rank and Stem of those old English Patriots, who were wont to curb the Licentiousness of our Court, arraign its Flatterers, and purge away those Poifons from the Ear of Princes; let us suppose him of a competent Fortune and moderate Appetites, without any apparent Luxury or Lavishment in his Manners: What shall we, after this, bring in Excuse, or as an Apology, for such a Choice as his? How shall we explain this preposterous Relish, this odd Preference of Subtlety and Indirectness, to true Wisdom, open Honesty, and Uprightness?

> 'TIS easier, I confess, to give account of this Corruption of TASTE in some noble Youth of a more sumptuous gay Fancy; supposing him born truly Great, and

of honourable Descent; with a generous free Ch. 2. MIND, as well as ample Fortune. Even these Circumstances themselves may be the very Caufes perhaps of his being thus ensnar'd. The \* Elegance of his Fancy in outward things, may have made him overlook the Worth of inward Character and Proportion: And the Love of Grandure and Magnificence, wrong turn'd, may have possess'd his Imagination over-strongly with fuch things as Frontispieces, Parterres, Equipages, trim Valets in party-colour'd Clothes; and others in Gentlemens Apparel. — Magnanimous Exhibitions of Honour and Generofity! --- " In Town, a " Palace and futable Furniture! In the " Country the fame; with the addition " of fuch Edifices and Gardens as were " unknown to our Ancestors, and are un-" natural to fuch a Climate as GREAT " BRITAIN!"

MEAN while the Year runs on; but the Year's Income answers not its Expence. For "Which of these Articles can be re-"trench'd? Which way take up, after "having thus set out?" A Princely Fancy has begot all this; and a Princely Slavery, and Court-Dependence must maintain it.

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<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 139.

174 Mifc. 3.

THE young Gentleman is now led into a Chace, in which he will have flender Capture, tho Toil sufficient. He is himself taken. Nor will he so easily get out of that Labyrinth, to which he chose to commit his steps, rather than to the more direct and plainer Paths in which he trod before. "Farewel that generous proud "Spirit, which was wont to speak only what it approv'd, commend only whom it thought worthy, and act only what it thought right! Favourites must be " now observ'd, little Engines of Power " attended on, and loathfomly carefs'd: " an honest Man dreaded, and every free "Tongue or Pen abhor'd as dangerous " and reproachful." For till our Gentleman is become wholly prostitute and shameless; till he is brought to laugh at publick Virtue, and the very Notion of common Good; till he has openly renounc'd all Principles of Honour and Honesty, he must in good Policy avoid those to whom he lies so much expos'd, and shun that Commerce and Familiarity which was once his chief Delight.

Such is the Sacrifice made to a wrong Pride, and ignorant Self-esteem; by one whose inward Character must necessarily, after this manner, become as mean and abiect. abject, as his outward Behaviour infolent Ch. 2. and intolerable.

THERE are another fort of Suitors to Power, and Traffickers of inward WORTH and LIBERTY for outward Gain, whom one wou'd be naturally drawn to compassionate. They are themselves of a humane, compassionate, and friendly nature, Well-wishers to their Country and Mankind. They cou'd, perhaps, even embrace POVERTY contentedly, rather than fubmit to any thing diminutive either of their inward Freedom or national Liberty. But what they can bear in their own Persons, they cannot bring themselves to bear in the Persons of such as are to come after them. Here the best and noblest of Affections are borne down by the Excess of the next best, those of Tenderness for Relations and near Friends.

SUCH Captives as these wou'd dissain, however, to devote themselves to any Prince or Ministry, whose Ends were wholly tyrannical, and irreconcilable with the true Interest of their Nation. In other cases of a less Degeneracy, they may bow down perhaps in the Temple of RIMMON, support the Weight of their suppose LORDs, and prop the Steps and ruining Credit of their corrupt Patrons.

176

Misc.3.

This is Drudgery sufficient for such honest Natures; such as by hard Fate alone cou'd have been made dishonest. But as for Pride or Insolence on the account of their outward Advancement and seeming Elevation; they are so far from any thing resembling it, that one may often observe what is very contrary in these fairer Characters of Men. For the perhaps they were known somewhat rigid and severe before; you see 'em now grown in reality submissive and obliging. The in Conversation formerly dogmatical and over-bearing, on the Points of State and Government; they are now the patients to hear, the least forward to dictate, and the readiest to embrace any entertaining Subject of Discourse, rather than that of the Publick, and their own personal Advancement.

NOTHING is so near Virtue as this Behaviour; and nothing so remote from it, nothing so sure a Token of the most profligate Manners, as the contrary. In a free Government, 'tis so much the Interest of every one in Place, who profits by the Publick, to demean himself with Modesty and Submission; that to appear immediately the more insolent and haughty on such an Advancement, is the mark only of a contemptible Genius, and of a want of

CIMT'

true Understanding, even in the narrow Ch. 2. Sense of Interest and private Good.

Thus we see, after all, that 'tis not merely what we call Principle, but a TASTE, which governs Men. They may think for certain "This is right, or that wrong:" They may believe "This a "Crime, or that a Sin; This punishable by Man, or that by God?" Yet if the Savor of things lies cross to Honesty; if the Fancy be florid, and the Appetite high towards the subaltern Beautys and lower Order of worldly Symmetrys and Proportions; the Conduct will infallibly turn this latter way.

EVEN Conscience, I fear, such as is owing to religious Discipline, will make but a slight Figure, where this TASTE is set amiss. Among the Vulgar perhaps it may do wonders. A Devil and a Hell may prevail, where a Jail and Gallows are thought insufficient. But such is the Nature of the liberal, polish'd, and refin'd part of Mankind; so far are they from the mere Simplicity of Babes and Sucklings; that, instead of applying the Notion of a suture Reward or Punishment to their immediate Behaviour in Society, they are apt, much rather, thro' the whole Course of their Lives, to shew evidently that they look on the pious Narrations to be indeed

Misc. 3. indeed no better than Childrens Tales, or the Amusement of the mere Vulgar:

+ Esse aliquos Manes, & subterraned regna,

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Nec pueri credunt, nisi qui nondum cere lavantur.

SOMETHING therefore shou'd, methinks, be further thought of, in behalf of our generous Youths, towards the correcting of their TASTE, or Relisto in the Concerns of Life. For this at last is what will influence. And in this respect the Youth alone are to be regarded. Some hopes there may be still conceiv'd of These. The rest are confirm'd and harden'd in their way. A middle-ag'd Knave (how-ever devout or orthodox) is but a common Wonder: An old-one is no Wonder at all: But a young-one is still (thank Heaven!) fomewhat extraordinary. And I can never enough admire what was faid once by a worthy Man at the first appearance of one of these young able Prostitutes, "That he even trembled at the fight, to "find Nature capable of being turn'd fo foon: and That he boded greater Calamity to his Country from this fingle Example of young Villany, than from

<sup>†</sup> Juven. Sat. 2. ver. 149.

"the Practices and Arts of all the old Ch. 2.
"Knaves in being."

LET us therefore proceed in this view, addressing our-selves to the grown Youth of our polite World. Let the Appeal be to these, whose Relish is retrievable, and whose Taste may yet be form'd in Morals; as it seems to be, already, in exterior Manners and Behaviour.

THAT there is really A STANDARD of this latter kind, will immediately, and on the first view, be acknowledg'd. The Contest is only, "Which is right: -"Which the un-affected Carriage, and just " Demeanour: And Which the affected " and false." Scarce is there any-one, who pretends not to know and to decide What is well-bred and bandsom. There are few so affectedly clownish, as absolutely to disown Good-breeding, and renounce the Notion of A BEAUTY in outward Manners and Deportment. With fuch as these, wherever they shou'd be found, I must confess, I cou'd scarce be tempted to bestow the least Pains or Labour, towards convincing 'em of a Beauty in inward Sentiments and Principles.

WHOEVER has any Impression of what we call Gentility or Politeness, is already

180

Misc. 3. so acquainted with the DECORUM and GRACE of things, that he will readily confess a Pleasure and Enjoyment in the very Survey and Contemplation of this kind. Now if in the way of police Pleasure, the Study and Love of BEAUTY be effential; the Study and Love of SYMMETRY and ORDER, on which Beauty depends, must also be essential, in the same respect.

> 'Tis impossible we can advance the least in any Relish or Taste of outward Symmetry and Order; without acknowledging that the proportionate and regular State is the truly prosperous and natural in every Subject. The fame Features which make Deformity, create Incommodiousness and Disease. And the same Shapes and Proportions which make Beauty, afford Advantage, by adapting to Activity and Use. Even in the imitative or designing Arts, (to which our Author fo often refers) the Truth or Beauty of every Figure or Statue is measur'd from the Perfection of Nature, in her just adapting of every Limb and Pro-portion to the Activity, Strength, Dexte-rity, Life and Vigor of the particular Species or Animal design'd.

> THUS Beauty and \* Truth are plainly join'd with the Notion of Utility and stia 'n ooi lastel van an navsou'

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 142, &c.

Convenience, even in the Apprehension of Ch. 2. every ingenious Artist, the \* Architest, ~~ the Statuary, or the Painter. 'Tis the same in the Physician's way. Natural Health is the just Proportion, Truth, and regular Course of things, in a Constitution. 'Tis the inward Beauty of the Body. And when the Harmony and just Measures of the rising Pusses, the circulating Humours, and the moving Airs or Spirits are disturbed or lost, Deformity enters, and with it, Calamity and Ruin.

SHOU'D not this, one wou'd imagine, be still the same Case, and hold equally as to the MIND? Is there nothing there which tends to Disturbance and Dissolution? Is there no natural Tenour, Tone, or Order of the Passions or Affections? No Beauty, or Desormity in this moral kind?

<sup>\*</sup> In GRÆCIS Operibus, nemo sub mutulo denticulos constituit, &c. Quod ergo supra Cantberios & Templa in Veritate debet esse collecatum, id in Imaginibus, si instrà constitutum fuerit, mendosam babebit operis rationem. Etiamque ANTIQUI non probaverunt, neque instituerunt, &c. Ita quod non potest in Veritate sieri, id non putaverunt in Imaginibus saetum, posse certam rationem habere. Omnia enim certà proprietate, & à veris NATURÆ deductis Moribus, traduxerunt in Operum persectiones: & ea probaverunt quorum explicationes in Disputationibus rationem possunt babere VERITATIS. Itaque ex eis Originibus Symmetrias & Proportiones uniuscujusque generis constitutas reliquerum. VITRUVIUS, lib. iv. cap. 2. whote Commentator Philander may be also read on this place. See above, VOL. I. pag. 208, 336, &c. 340, 350, &c. And below, pag. 259, 260.

Misc. 3. Or allowing that there really is; must it not, of consequence, in the same manner imply Health or Sickliness, Prosperity or Disaster? Will it not be found in this respect, above all, "That what is \* BEAU-"TIFUL

\* This is the HONESTUM, the PULCHRUM, 7d Καλdr, on which our Author lays the firefs of VIR-TUE, and the Merits of this Cause; as well in his other Treatiles, as in this of Soliloguy here commented. This Beauty the ROMAN Orator, in his rhetorical way, and in the Majesty of Style, cou'd express no otherwise than as A Mystery. + " HONESTUM igitur id intelligimus, quod " tale est, ut, detractà omni utilitate, sine ullis præmiis " fructibusve, per seipsum possit jure laudari. Quod quale "ft, non tam definitione quà fum usus intelligi potest (quan-"quam aliquantum potest) quam COMMUNI omnium "JUDICIO, & optimi cujusque studiis, atque factis; " qui permulta ob eam unam causam faciunt, quia decet, 
quia rectum, quia honestum est; etst nullum consecuturum 
emolumentum vident." Our Author, on the other side, having little of the Orator, and less of the Constraint of Formality belonging to some graver Characters, can be more familiar on this occasion: and accordingly descending, without the least scruple, into whatever Style, or Humour; he refuses to make the least Difficulty or Mystery of this matter. He pretends, on this head, to claim the Assent not only of Orators, Poets, and the higher Virtuofi, but even of the Beaux themselves, and such as go no farther than the Dancing-Master to feek for Grace and Beauty. He pretends, we fee, to setch this natural Idea from as familiar Amusements as Dress, Equipage, the Tiring-Room, or Toy-shop. And thus in his proper manner of SOLILOQUY, or Self-Discourse, we may imagine him running on: beginning perhaps with some particular Scheme or fanfy'd Scale of BEAUTY, which, according to his Philosophy, he strives to erect; by distinguishing, forting, and dividing into Things animate, in-animate, and mixt: as thus.

In the IN-ANIMATE; beginning from those regular Figures and Symmetrys with which Children are delighted; and proceeding gradually to the Proportions of Architecture and

<sup>7</sup> Cic, de Fin. Bon, & Mat, lib, ii, fect, 14.

"TIFUL is *barmonious* and *proportion*-Ch. 2. "able; what is harmonious and proportion-Ch. 2. "tionable, is TRUE; and what is at once

"both beautiful and true, is, of confe-

" quence, agreeable and GOOD?"

WHERE

and the other Arts. — The fame in respect of Sounds and MUSICK. From beautiful Stones, Rocks, Minerals; to Vegetables, Woods, aggregate Parts of the World, Seas, Rivers, Mountains, Vales. — The Globe. — Celestial Bodys, and their Order. The higher Architecture of Nature. — NATURE her-self, consider'd as in-animate and

paffive.

In the ANIMATE; from Animals, and their feveral Kinds, Tempers, Sagacitys, to Men. — And from fingle Perfons of Men, their private Characters, Understandings, Genius's, Dispositions, Manners; to Publick Societys, Communitys, or Communitys, or Communitys or Communitys or Groups of living Creatures, to human Intelligencys and Correspondencys, or whatever is higher in the kind. The Correspondence, Union and Harmony of NATURE her-self, consider'd as animate and intelligent.

In the MIXT; as in a fingle Person, (a Body and a Mind) the Union and Harmony of this kind, which conditutes the real Person: and the Friendship, Love, or whatever other Affection is form'd on such an Object. A Houstoold, a City, or Nation, with certain Lands, Buildings, and other Appendices, or local Ornaments, which jointly form that a

greeable Idea of Home, Family, Country.-

"And what of this?" (fays an airy Spark, no Friend to Meditation or deep Thought) "What means this Catalogue, "or Scale, as you are pleas'd to call it? Only, Sir, to "fatisfy my-felf," That I am not alone, or fingle in a certain "Fancy I have of a thing call'd BEAUTY; That I have almost the whole World for my Companions; and That each of us Admirers and earnest Purfuces of BEAUTY ((such as in a manner we All arc) if peradventure we take not a certain Sagacity along with us, we must err widely, range extravagantly, and run ever upon a sale Scent. We may, in the Sportsman's Phrase, have many Haves associated that the state of the same many that is the same may and the sportsman's Phrase, have many Haves associated that the same may content us.

N 2

### MISCELLANEOUS

184 Mifc. 3.

WHERE then is this BEAUTY or Harmony to be found? How is this SYMMETRY to be discover'd and apply'd? Is it any other Art than that of PHILOSOPHY, or the Study of inward Numbers and Pro-

" See with what Ardour and Vehemence, the young Man, " neglecting his proper Race and Fellow-Creatures, and for-" getting what is decent, bandsom, or becoming in human " Affairs, pursues these SPECIES in those common Ob-" jects of his Affection, a Horfe, a Hound, a Hawk! "What doting on these Beautys! - What Admiration " of the Kind it-self! And of the particular Animal, what " Care, and in a manner Idolatry and Confecration; when "the Beast beloved is (as often happens) even set apart from " use, and only kept to gaze on, and feed the enamour'd "Fancy with highest Delight!—See! in another Youth, "not so sorgetful of Human Kind, but remembring it still " in a wrong way! a DINORANG of another fort, a CH Æ-" REA. Quam elegans formarum Spectator! - See! " as to other Beautys, where there is no Possession, no En-" joyment or Reward, but barely seeing and admiring: as in " the Virtuoso-Passion, the Love of Painting, and the De-" figning Arts of every kind, so often observ'd. - How " fares it with our princely Genius, our Grandee who affem-" bles all these Beautys, and within the Bounds of his sump-"tuous Palace incloses all these Graces of a thousand kinds? " --- What Pains! Study! Science! --- Behold the " Disposition and Order of these finer forts of Apartments, "Gardens, Villas! The kind of Harmony to the Eye, " from the various Shapes and Colours agreeably mixt, and " rang'd in Lines, intercroffing without confusion, and for-"tunately co-incident. — A Parterre, Cypreffes, Groves, Wildernesses. —— Statues, here and there, of Virtue, " Fortitude, Temperance. - Heroes-Bufts, Philosophers-"Heads; with futable Mottos and Inferiptions. Solemn Representations of things deeply natural. — Caves, " Grotios, Rocks .- Urns and Obelisks in retir'd places, " and dispos'd at proper distances and points of Sight: with " all those Symmetrys which filently express a reigning OrProportions, which can exhibit this in Life? Ch. 2. If no other; Who, then, can possibly have a TASTE of this kind, without being beholden to PHILOSOPHY? Who can admire the outward Beautys, and not recur instantly to the inward, which are the most real and essential, the most naturally affecting, and of the highest Pleasure, as well as Prosit and Advantage?

IN

"der, Peace, Harmony, and Beauty! —— But what is there answerable to this, in the MINDS of the Posses," fors? —— What Possession or Propriety is theirs? What "Conflancy or Security of Enjoyment? What Peace, what

" Harmony WITHIN."-

Thus our MONOLOGIST, or felf-discoursing Author, in his usual Strain; when incited to the Search of BEAU-TY and the DECORUM, by vulgar Admiration, and the universal Acknowledgment of the SPECIES in outward Things, and in the meaner and subordinate Subjects. By this inferior Species, it feems, our strict Inspector disdains to be allur'd: And refusing to be captivated by any thing less than the fuperior, original, and genuine Kind; he walks at leisure, without Emotion, in deep philosophical Reserve, thro' all these pompous Scenes; passes unconcernedly by those Court-Pageants, the illustrious and much-envy'd Potentates of the Place; overlooks the Rich, the Great, and even the Fair: feeling no other Aftonishment than what is accidentally rais'd in him, by the View of these Impostures, and of this specious Snare. For here he observes those Gentlemen chiefly to be caught and fastest held, who are the highest Ridiculers of fuch Reflections as his own; and who in the very height of this Ridicule prove themselves the impotent Contemners of a SPECIES, which, whether they will or no, they ardently pursue: Some, in a Face, and certain regular Lines, or Features: Others, in a Palace and Apartments: Others, in an Equipage and Drefs .- " O EFFEMINACY! EF-"FEMINACY! Who wou'd imagine this cou'd be the " Vice of fuch as appear no inconfiderable Men? \_\_\_\_\_But " Person is a Subject of Flattery which reaches beyond the N 3

186

Misc. 3.

In fo short a compass does that Learning and Knowledge lie, on which Manners and Life depend. "Tis We our-selves create and form our TASTE. If we resolve to have it just; 'tis in our power. We may esteem and value, approve and disapprove, as we wou'd wish. For who wou'd not rejoice to be always equal and confonant to himself, and have constantly that Opinion of things which is natural and proportionable? But who dares fearch OPINION to the bottom, or call in question his early and prepoffeffing TASTE? Who is so just to himself, as to recal his FANCY from the power of Fashion and Education, to that of REASON? Cou'd we, however, be thus courageous; we shou'd foon settle in our-selves such an Opinion of Good as wou'd fecure to us an invari-

able.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Bloom of Youth. The experienc'd Senator and aged Gemeral, can, in our days, differile with a Toilet, and take his outward Form into a very extraordinary Adjustment and Regulation.—All Embellishments are affected, before fides the true. And thus, led by Example, whilst we run in fearch of Elegancy and Neatrofs; pursuing BEAU-TY; and adding, as we imagine, more Lustre, and Value to our own Person; we grow, in our real Character and truer SELF, deformed and monstrous, servile and adject; stooping to the lowest Terms of Courthip; and facrificing all internal Proportion, all intrinsed and read BEAUTY and WORTH, for the sake of Things which carry scarce a Shadow of the Kind." Supra, VOL. II. pag. 394, &c. and VOL. I. pag. 138, &c. and pag. 337.

able, agreeable, and just TASTE in LifeCh. 2. and Manners.

THUS HAVE I endeavour'd to tread in my Author's steps, and prepare the Reader for the ferious and downright Philosophy, which even in this \* last commented Treatife, our Author keeps still as a Mystery, and dares not formally profess. His Pretence has been to advise Authors, and polish Styles; but his Aim has been to correct Manners, and regulate Lives. He has affected Soliloguy, as pretending only to censure Himself; but he has taken occasion to bring others into his Company, and make bold with Personages and Characters of no inferior Rank. He has given scope enough to Raillery and Hu-mour; and has intrench'd very largely on the Province of us Miscellanarian Writers. But the Reader is + now about to fee him in a new aspect, " a formal and profess'd " Philosopher, a System-Writer, a Dogma-" tift, and Expounder." - Habes confitentem reum.

So to his Philosophy I commit him. Tho, according as my Genius and

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Treatise III. (ADVICE to an Author) VOL. I. + Viz. In Treatise IV. (The INQUIRY, &c.) Vol. II.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

188

Misc. 3 present Disposition will permit, I intend ftill to accompany him at a distance, keep him in fight, and convoy him, the best I am able, thro' the dangerous Seas he is about to pass.

todish as a select his Aira sacce and together the control of the

par seine S in se suppos MISCEL-

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# MISCELLANY IV.

## CHAP. I.

Connexion and Union of the Subject-Treatises. — PHILOSOPHY in form. — Metaphysicks. — Ego-ity. Identity. — Moral Footing. — Proof and Discipline of the Fancys. Settlement of OPINION. — Anatomy of the Mind. — A Fable.

E have already, in the beginning of our preceding Miscellany, taken notice of our Author's Plan, and the Connection and Dependency of his \* Joint-Tracts, comprehended in two preceding Volumes. We are now, in our Commentator-Capacity, arriv'd at length to his second Volume, to which the three Pieces of his sirst appear preparatory. That they were really so

<sup>\*</sup> Above, pag. 135. Again below, 284, 285, &c. defign'd,

Misc. 4. design'd, the Advertisement to the first Edition of his Soliloguy is a sufficient Proof. He took occasion there, in a line or two, under the Name of his Printer, or (as he otherwise calls him) his Amanuensis, to prepare us for a more elaborate and methodical Piece which was to follow. We have this System now before us. Nor need we wonder, fuch as it is, that it came fo hardly into the World, and that our Author has been deliver'd of it with so much difficulty, and after so long a time. His Amanuensis and he, were not, it seems, heretofore upon such good Terms of Correspondence. Otherwise such an unshapen Fætus, or false Birth, as that of which our Author in his \* Title-page complains, had not formerly appear'd abroad. Nor had it ever risen again in its more decent Form, but for the accidental Publication of our Author's First + Letter, which, by a necessary Train of Consequences, occafion'd the revival of this abortive Piece, and gave usherance to its Companions.

> IT will appear therefore in this Joint-Edition of our Author's Five Treatises, that the Three former are preparatory to the Fourth, on which we are now enter'd;

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. To the INQUIRY (Treatife IV.) VOL. II. † Viz. Letter of Enthulialm, VOL. I.

and the Fifth (with which he concludes) Ch. 1. a kind of Apology for this reviv'd Treatise concerning Virtue and Religion.

As for his Apology (particularly in what relates to reveal'd Religion, and a World to come) I commit the Reader to the disputant Divines, and Gentlemen, whom our Author has introduc'd in that concluding Piece of Dialogue-Writing, or rhapsodical Philosophy. Mean while, we have here no other part left us, than to enter into the dry Philosophy, and rigid Manner of our Author; without any Excursions into various Literature; without help from the Comick or Tragick Muse, or from the Flowers of Poetry or Rhetorick.

Such is our present Pattern, and strict moral Task; which our more humorous Reader fore-knowing, may immediately, if he pleases, turn over; skipping (as is usual in many grave Works) a Chapter or two, as he proceeds. We shall, to make amends, endeavour afterwards, in our following Miscellany, to entertain him again with more chearful Fare, and afford him a Desert, to rectify his Palat, and leave his Mouth at last in good relish.

To the patient and grave READER, therefore, who in order to moralize, can afford

Misc. 4. afford to retire into his Closet, as to some religious or devout Exercise, we presume thus to offer a few Reslections, in the support of our Author's prosound INQUIRY. And accordingly, we are to imagine our Author speaking, as follows.

HOW LITTLE regard foever may be shewn to that moral Speculation or INQUIRY, which we call the Study of ourfelves; it must, in strictness, be yielded, That all Knowledg whatsoever depends upon this previous-one: "And that we can in "reality be assured of nothing, till we "are first assured of What we are Ourse" selves." For by this alone we can know what Certainty and Assurance is.

THAT there is fomething undoubtedly which thinks, our very Doubt it-felf and scrupulous Thought evinces. But in what Subject that Thought resides, and how that Subject is continu'd one and the same, so as to answer constantly to the suppos'd Train of Thoughts or Reslections which seem to run so harmoniously thro' a long Course of Life, with the same relation still to one single and self-same Person; this is not a Matter so easily or hastily decided, by those who are nice Self-Examiners, or Searchers after Truth and Certainty.

Ch. I.

'Twill not, in this respect, be suffia famous \* Modern, and fay " We think: therefore We are." Which is a notably invented Saying, after the Model of that like philosophical Proposition; That " What is, is." — Miraculously argu'd! " If I am; I am." - Nothing more certain! For the EGO or I, being establish'd in the first part of the Proposition, the Ergo, no doubt, must hold it good in the latter. But the Question is, "What constitutes the WE or I?" And, "Whe-" ther the I of this instant, be the same " with that of any instant preceding, or " to come." For we have nothing but Memory to warrant us: and Memory may be false. We may believe we have thought and reflected thus or thus; but we may be mistaken. We may be conficious of that, as *Truth*; which perhaps was no more than *Dream*: and we may be conscious of that as a past Dream, which perhaps was never before so much as dreamt of.

This is what Metaphysicians mean, when they fay, "That Identity can be "prov'd only by Consciousness; but that "Consciousness, withal, may be as well

<sup>\*</sup> Monfieur DES CARTES.

Misc. 4. " false as real, in respect of what is past."

So that the same successional We or I must remain still, on this account, undecided.

To the force of this Reasoning I confess I must so far submit, as to declare that for my own part, I take my Being upon Trust. Let others philosophize as they are able: I shall admire their strength, when, upon this Topick, they have refuted what able Metaphysicians object, and Pyrrhonists plead in their own behalf.

MEAN while, there is no Impediment, Hinderance, or Suspension of Action, on account of these wonderfully refin'd Speculations. Argument and Debate go on still. Conduct is settled. Rules and Measures are given out, and receiv'd. Nor do we scruple to act as resolutely upon the mere Supposition that we are, as if we had effectually prov'd it a thousand times, to the full satisfaction of our Metaphysical or Pyrrhonean Antagonist.

This to me appears sufficient Ground for a Moralift. Nor do I ask more, when I undertake to prove the reality of Virtue and Morals.

IF it be certain that I AM; 'tis certain and demonstrable WHO and WHAT

I ought to be, even on my own account, Ch. I. and for the fake of my own private Happiness and Success. For thus I take the liberty to proceed.

THE Affections, of which I am conficious, are either GRIEF, or JOY; DESIRE, or AVERSION. For whatever mere Sensation I may experience; if it amounts to neither of these, 'tis indifferent, and no way affects me.

THAT which causes Joy and Satisfaction when present, causes Grief and Disturbance when absent: And that which causes Grief and Disturbance when present, does when absent, by the same necessity occasion Joy and Satisfaction.

THUS LOVE (which implies Defire, with Hope of Good) must afford occasion to Grief and Disturbance, when it acquires not what it earnestly seeks. And HATRED (which implies Aversion, and Fear of Ill) must, in the same manner, occasion Grief and Calamity, when that which it earnestly shun'd, or wou'd have escap'd, remains present, or is altogether unavoidable.

THAT which being present can never leave the Mind at rest, but must of necessity cause Aversion, is its ILL. But that which can be sustain'd without any necessary

### MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. 4. fary Abborrence, or Aversion, is not its ILL; but remains indifferent in its own nature; the ILL being in the Assection only, which wants redress.

In the fame manner, that which being absent, can never leave the Mind at rest, or without Disturbance and Regret, is of necessity its Good. But that which can be absent, without any present or future Disturbance to the Mind, is not its Good, but remains indifferent in its own nature. From whence it must follow, That the Affection towards it, as suppos'd Good, is an ill Affection, and creative only of Disturbance and Disease. So that the AF-FECTIONS of Love and Hatred, Liking and Dislike, on which the Happiness or Prosperity of the Person so much depends, being influenc'd and govern'd by OPI-NION; the highest Good or Happiness must depend on right Opinion, and the highest Misery be deriv'd from wrong.

To explain this, I consider, for instance, the Fancy or Imagination I have of Death, according as I find this Subject naturally passing in my Mind. To this Fancy, perhaps, I find united an Opinion or Apprehension of Evil and Calamity. Now the more my Apprehension of this Evil increases; the greater, I find, my Disturbance proves, not only at the approach

approach of the suppos'd Evil, but at the Ch. t. very distant Thought of it. Besides that, the Thought it-self will of necessity so much the oftner recur, as the Aversion or Fear is violent, and increasing.

FROM this suppos'd Evil I must, however, sly with so much the more earnest-ness, as the Opinion of the Evil increases. Now if the Increase of the Aversion can be no Cause of the Decrease of Diminution of the Evil it-self, but rather the contrary; then the Increase of the Aversion must necessarily prove the Increase of Disappointment and Disturbance. And so on the other hand, the Diminution or Decrease of the Aversion (if this may any way be effected) must of necessity prove the Diminution of inward Disturbance, and the better Establishment of inward Quiet and Satisfaction.

AGAIN, I confider with my-felf, That I have the \* Imagination of fomething BEAUTIFUL, GREAT, and BECOMING in Things. This Imagination I apply perhaps

<sup>\*</sup> Of the necessary Being and Prevalency of some such IMAGINATION or SENSE (natural and common to all Men, irrestitible, of original Growth in the Mind, the Guide of our Affections, and the Ground of our Admiration, Contempt, Shame, Honour, Dissain, and other natural and unavoidable Impressions see VOL. I. pag. 138, 139, 336, 337. VOL. II. pag. 28, 29, 30, 394, 420, 421, 429, 430. And above, p. 30, 31, 2, 3, &c. 182, 3, 4, 5, 6. in the Notes.

Misc. 4. to such Subjects as Plate, Jewels, Apartments, Coronets, Patents of Honour, Titles, or Precedencys. I must therefore naturally feek thefe, not as mere Conveniencys, Means, or Helps in Life, (for as such my Passion cou'd not be so excessive towards 'em) but as EXCELLENT in themfelves, necessarily attractive of my Admiration, and directly and immediately caufing my Happiness, and giving me Satisfaction. Now if the PASSION rais'd on this Opinion (call it Avarice, Pride, Vanity, or Ambition) be indeed incapable of any real Satisfaction, even under the most successful Course of Fortune; and then too, attended with perpetual Fears of Disappointment and Loss: how can the Mind be other than miserable, when posses'd by it? But if instead of forming thus the Opinion of Good; if instead of placing WORTH or EXCELLENCE in these outward Subjects, we place it, where it is truest, in the Affections or Sentiments, in the governing Part and inward Character; we have then the full Enjoyment of it within our power: The Imagination or Opinion remains steddy and irreversible: And the Love, Defire and Appetite is answer'd; without Apprehension of Loss or Disappointment.

HERE therefore arises Work and Employment for us Within: "To regulate "FANCY,

"FANCY, and rectify \* OPINION, on Ch. 1. "which all depends." For if our Loves, ——Defires, Hatreds and Aversions are left to themselves; we are necessarily exposed to endless Vexation and Calamity: but if these are found capable of Amendment, or in any measure flexible or variable by Opinion; we ought, methinks, to make trial, at least, how far we might by this means acquire Felicity and Content.

ACCORDINGLY, if we find it evident, on one hand, that by indulging any wrong Appetite (as either Debauch, Malice, or Revenge) the Opinion of the false Good increases; and the Appetite, which is a real Ill, grows so much the stronger: we may be as fully assured, on the other hand, that by restraining this Affection, and nourishing a contrary sort in opposition to it; we cannot fail to diminish what is Ill, and increase what is properly our Happiness and Good.

<sup>\* \* \*</sup> Οτι σάν]α ἡ ύσολη (το κ) ἀν]λ ἐτὶ σόι. \* Αςον ενδτε θέλεις, τὴν ὑπόλη (το κ) ἄσπες κάμι (τη τὴν ἄκςαν Γαλήνη, 5αθας κ) πάν]α κ) κολπ (Θ΄ ακυμων. Μ. Ant. Lib. κὶί. 22.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>circ}$  Oiov eṣrv n λεκάνη τὰ ὕθω $^{\circ}$  Τοιᾶτν n Ļυχh.  $^{\circ}$  Oiov n ἀνηλ n περοπίπθεσα τη ὑθω $^{\circ}$  , τοιᾶτν αι φωνβασίαι. Όθαν δν τὸ ὅθως κινηθῆ, δοκᾶ μέν χ n αυγλ κινᾶθωι ἐ μέν τοι κινᾶται τη ὅταν τόνυν σκοβωδη π, ἔχ ἀι τέχκωι χ ἀι ἀςεβαὶ συ $^{\circ}$  σκοβωί, ἀλλὰ τὸ σνεῦμα ἐφ ἑ ἐσί καβασίν $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$  εἰσί καβασίν $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$  εἰσί καβασίν $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$ 

Mifc. 4.

On this account, a Man may reasonably conclude, "That it becomes him, by working upon his own Mind, to with- draw the Fancy or Opinion of Good or Ill from that to which justly and by necessity it is not join'd; and apply it, with the strongest Resolution, to that " with which it naturally agrees," For if the Fancy or Opinion of Good be join'd to what is not durable, nor in my power either to acquire or to retain; the more fuch an Opinion prevails, the more I must be subject to Disappointment and Distress. But if there be that to which, whenever I apply the Opinion or Fancy of Good, I find the Fancy more confistent, and the Good more durable, folid, and within my Power and Command; then the more fuch an Opinion prevails in me, the more Satisfaction and Happiness I must experience.

Now, if I join the Opinion of Good to the Possessions of the Mind; if it be in the Assessions themselves that I place my highest Joy, and in those Objects, whatever they are, of inward Worth and Beauty, (such as Honesty, Faith, Integrity, Friendship, Honour) 'tis evident I can never possibly, in this respect, rejoice amiss, or indulge my-self too far in the Enjoyment. The greater my Indulgence is, the less I have reason to fear either Reverse or Disappointment.

THIS,

THIS, I know, is far contrary in another Regimen of Life. The Tutorage of
FANCY and PLEASURE, and the easy Philosophy of taking that for Good which \* pleases me, or which I fansy merely, will, in time, give me Uneasiness sufficient. 'Tis plain, from what has been debated, That the less fanciful I am, in what relates to my Content and Happiness, the more powerful and absolute I must be, in Selfenjoyment, and the Possession of my Good. And fince 'tis Fancy merely, which gives the force of Good, or power of passing as fuch, to Things of Chance and outward Dependency; 'tis evident, that the more I take from Fancy in this respect, the more I confer upon my-self. As I am less led or betray'd by Fancy to an Esteem of what depends on others; I am the more fix'd in the Esteem of what depends on myself alone. And if I have once gain'd the Tafte of +LIBERTY, I shall easily understand the force of this Reasoning, and know both my true SELF and INTEREST.

THE Method therefore requir'd in this my inward OEconomy, is, to make those Fancys themselves the Objects of my Aver-fion which justly deserve it; by being the Cause of a wrong Estimation and Measure

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 308. VOL. II. pag. 227. + VOL. II. pag. 432. And below, pag. 307, &c.

Misc. 4. of Good and Ill, and consequently the Cause of my Unhappiness and Disturbance.

ACCORDINGLY (as the learned Mafters in this Science advise) we are to begin rather \* by the averse, than by the prone and forward Disposition. We are to work rather by the weaning than the ingaging Passions: since if we give way chiefly to Inclination, by loving, applauding and admiring what is Great and Good, we may possibly, it seems, in some high Objects of that kind, be so amus'd and extassy'd, as to lose

\* Agov ซึ่ง Thy ะันนมเทง ฉักธิ เกรียมง ชนึ่ง ซัน ซัง กันโห, หรู้ นะไล่ปียร รัสว Th เลือน อุบัตง ซีฟ ซัง ทีนโท. Epictet. Enchirid.

cap. vii.

\*\* Ορεξιν δερί σε δε σωθελώς, ξεκκισιν επὶ μόνα μεθαθείται τὰ σεραιρείτες. Arrian. Lib. iii. cap. 22. This fubdu'd or moderated Admiration or Zeal in the highest Subjects of Virtue and Divinity, the Philosopher calls σύμμε[τον κ] κοικοντών των "Ορεξιν"; the contrary Disposition, τὸ ἀλοριν κ] κότικον. Lib. ii. cap. 26. The Reason why this over-forward Ardor and Purfuit of high Subjects runs naturally into Enthusias and Disorder, is shewn in what succeeds the sint of the Passages here cited; νία. Τόν δερ πρών, δουν διέμεδαι κακόν αξη, εδε δεθεπω σου σαφερει. And hence the repeated Injunction, "Ανόρια συτά σαμθεπατών διέξεως, "να συτά κ) ευλόρως δερχθήση. Lib. iii. cap. 13. Το this Hor κ c κ, in one of his latest Epistles of the deeply philosophical kind, alludes-

Insani sațiens nomen ferat, aquuș iniqui, Ultra quam satis est Virtutem si petat ipsam. Lib. i. Ep. vi. And in the beginning of the Epistle: ver. 15.

Nil admirari propères est una, Numici, Solaq; qua posset facere & servare beatum. Ibid. ver. 1. For the these first Lines (as many other of Horace's on the Subject of Philosophy) have the Air of the Epicu-REAN Discipline and LUCRETIAN Style; yet by the Iose our-selves, and miss our proper Mark, Ch. 1. for want of a steddy and settled Aim. But the being more sure and infallible in what relates to our III, we shou'd begin, they tell us, by applying our Aversion, on that side, and raising our Indignation against those Meannesses of Opinion and Sentiment, which are the Causes of our Subjection, and Perplexity.

THUS the COVETOUS FANCY, if consider'd as the Cause of Misery, (and consequently detested as a real III) must of necessity abate: And the AMBITIOUS FANCY, if oppos'd in the same manner, with Resolution, by better Thought, must resign it-felf, and leave the Mind free, and disincumber'd in the pursuit of its better Objects.

Nor is the Case different in the Pasfion of Cowardice, or Fear of

whole taken together, it appears evidently on what System of antient Philosophy this Epistle was form'd. Nor was this Prohibition of the avandering or admiring Habit, in early Students, peculiar to one kind of Philosophy alone. It was common to many; however the Reason and Account of it might differ, in one Sect from the other. The PYTHAGOREANS sufficiently check'd their TYRO'S, by silencing them so long on their first Courtship to Philosophy. And the Admiration, in the Peripatetick Sense, as abovemention'd, may be justly call'd the inclining Principle or first Motive to PHILOSOPHY; yet this Mistress, when once espous'd, teaches us to admire, after a different manner from what we did before. See above, pag. 37. And VOL. I. pag. 41.

DEATH.

Misc. 4. Death. For if we leave this Passion to it-felf, (or to certain Tutors to manage for us) it may lead us to the most anxious and tormenting State of Life. But if it be oppos'd by sounder Opinion, and a just Estimation of things, it must diminish of course: And the natural Result of such a Practice must be, the Rescue of the Mind from numberless Fears, and Miserys of other kinds.

Thus at last a Mind, by knowing it-self, and its own proper Powers and Virtues, becomes free, and independent. It sees its Hindrances and Obstructions, and finds they are wholly from it-self, and from Opinions wrong-conceiv'd. The more it conquers in this respect, (be it in the least particular) the more it is its own Master, seels its own natural Liberty, and congratulates with it-self on its own Advancement and Prosperity.

WHETHER fome who are call'd Philofophers have so apply'd their Meditations, as to understand any thing of this Language, I know not. But well I am affur'd that many an honest and free-hearted Fellow, among the vulgar Rank of People, has naturally some kind of Feeling or Apprehensing to act for Lucre or outward Profit, the Thing which from his Soul he abhors, and thinks below him; he goes on, with harder Labour,

Labour, but more Content, in his direct Ch. 1. plain Path. He is fecure within; free of what the World calls Policy, or Defign; and fings, according to the old Ballad,

My Mind to me a Kingdom is, &c.

Which in Latin we may translate,

Virtute me involvo, probamque
Pauperiem sine dote quæro.

BUT I FORGET, it feems, that I am now speaking in the Person of our grave INQUIRER. I shou'd consider I have no Right to vary from the Pattern he has set; and that whilst I accompany him in this particular Treatise, I ought not to make the least Escape out of the high Road of Demonstration, into the diverting Paths of Poetry, or Humour.

As grave however as Morals are prefum'd in their own nature, I look upon it as an effential matter in their Delivery, to take now and then the natural Air of Pleasantry. The first Morals which were ever deliver'd in the World, were in Parables, Tales, or Fables. And the latter and most consummate Distributers

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. Lib. iii. Od. xxix. ver. 54.

Misc. 4. of Morals, in the very politest times, were great Tale-Tellers, and Retainers to honest Æsor.

AFTER all the regular Demonstrations and Deductions of our grave Author, I dare say 'twou'd be a high Relief and Satisfaction to his Reader, to hear an Apologue, or Fable, well told, and with such humour as to need no sententious Moral at the end, to make the application.

As an Experiment in this case, let us at this instant imagine our grave Inquirer taking pains to shew us, at full length, the unnatural and unhappy Excursions, Rovings, or Expeditions of our ungovern'd FANCYS and OPINIONS over a World of Riches, Honours, and other ebbing and flowing Goods. He performs this, we will fuppose, with great Sagacity, to the full measure and scope of our Attention. Mean while, as full or satiated as we might find our-felves of ferious and folid Demonstration, 'tis odds but we might find Vacancy still sufficient to receive Instruction by another Method. And I dare answer for success, shou'd a merrier Moralist of the Æsopæan-School present himself; and, hearing of this Chace de-ferib'd by our Philosopher, beg leave to re-present it to the life, by a homely Cur or two, of his Master's ordinary breed. " Two

Ch. I.

"Two of this Race (he wou'd tell " us) having been daintily bred, and in high thoughts of what they call'd Plea-" fure and good Living, travel'd once in " quest of Game and Raritys, till they came by accident to the Sea-fide. They " faw there, at a distance from the shore, " fome floating pieces of a Wreck, which "they took a fancy to believe fome wonderful rich Dainty, richer than Amber-" greefe, or the richest Product of the "Ocean. They cou'd prove it; by their " Appetite and Longing, to be no less " than Quintessence of the Main, ambrofial " Substance, the Repast of marine Deitys, " furpassing all which Earth afforded .-" By these rhetorical Arguments, after " long Reasoning with one another in this " florid Vein, they proceeded from one " Extravagance of Fancy to another; till " they came at last to this issue. Being " unaccustom'd to Swimming, they wou'd " not, it feems, in prudence, venture fo " far out of their Depth as was necessary " to reach their imagin'd Prize: But be-" ing flout Drinkers, they thought with "themselves, they might compass to " drink all which lay in their way; even " The SEA it-felf; and that by this mest thod they might shortly bring their "Goods fafe to dry Land. To work " thereMisc.4." therefore they went; and drank till they were both burst."

For my own part, I am fully satisfy'd that there are more Sea-drinkers than one or two, to be found among the principal Personages of Mankind; and that if these Dogs of ours were filly Curs, many who pass for wise in our own Race are little wiser; and may properly enough be said to have the Sea to drink.

'Tis pretty evident that they who live in the highest Sphere of human Affairs, have a very uncertain View of the thing call'd Happiness or Good. It lies out at Sea, far distant, in the Offin; where those Gentlemen ken it but very imperfectly: And the means they employ in order to come up with it, are very wide of the matter, and far short of their propos'd End. " First a general Acquain-" tance. Vifits, Levees. Attendance " upon the Great and Little .-- Popula-" rity.--- A Place in Parliament.-Then " another at Court .- Then Intrigue, " Corruption, Proftitution. - Then a " higher Place. Then a Title. Then " a Remove. A new MINISTER! " Fractions at Court. Ship-wreek of " Ministrys The new : The old .- En-" gage with one: piece up with t'other .and the state of the state of

"Bargains; Losses; After-Games; Retrie-Ch. I. vals."—Is not this, the Sea to drink?

\* At si Divitiæ prudentem reddere possent, Si cupidum timidumque minùs te; nempe ruberes, Viveret in Terris te si quis avarior uno.

But lest I shou'd be tempted to fall into a manner I have been oblig'd to disclaim in this part of my Miscellaneous Performance; I shall here set a Period to this Discourse, and renew my attempt of serious Resection and grave Thought, by taking up my Clew in a fresh Chapter.

13 Jies Sa yam two to depression

to whole we have paid that of a defect our O

-id to me and all this CHAP.

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. ii. ver. 155.

Mifc. 4.

## CHAP. II.

Passage from Terra Incognita to the visible World.— Mistress-ship of NATURE. — Animal-Confederacy, Degrees, Subordination.— Master-Animal Man. Privilege of his Birth.—Serious Countenance of the Author.

As heavily as it went with us, in the deep philosophical part of our preceding Chapter; and as necessarily engag'd as we still are to prosecute the same serious Inquiry, and Search, into those dark Sources; 'tis hop'd, That our remaining Philosophy may slow in a more easy Vein; and the second Running be sound somewhat clearer than the first. However it be; we may, at least, congratulate with our-selves for having thus briefly pass'd over that Metaphysical part, to which we have paid sufficient deference. Nor shall we scruple to declare our Opinion, "That it is, in a manner, necessary "for one who wou'd usefully philosophize, "to have a Knowledg in this part of Phiculary Sufficient to satisfy him that "there

"there is no Knowledg or Wisdom to be Ch. 2. "learnt from it." For of this Truth no- thing besides Experience and Study will be able fully to convince him.

When we are even past these empty Regions and Shadows of Philosophy; 'twill still perhaps appear an uncomfortable kind of travelling thro' those other invisible Ideal Worlds: such as the Study of Morals, we see, engages us to visit. Men must acquire a very peculiar and strong Habit of turning their Eye inwards, in order to explore the interior Regions and Recesses of the Mind, the bollow Caverns of deep Thought, the private Seats of Fancy, and the Wastes and Wildernesses, as well as the more fruitful and cultivated Trasts of this obscure Climate.

But what can one do? Or how difpense with these darker Disquisitions and Moon-light Voyages, when we have to deal with a fort of Moon-blind Wits, who tho very acute and able in their kind, may be said to renounce Day-light, and extinguish, in a manner, the bright visible outward World, by allowing us to know nothing beside what we can prove, by strict and formal Demonstration?

'T is therefore to fatisfy fuch rigid Inquirers as these, that we have been necessi-

Misc. 4. tated to proceed by the inward way; and that in our preceding Chapter we have built only on such foundations as are taken from our very Perceptions, Fancys, Appearances, Affections, and Opinions themselves, without regard to any thing of an exterior World, and even on the supposition that there is no such World in being.

SUCH has been our late dry Task. No wonder if it carrys, indeed, a meagre and raw Appearance. It may be look'd on, in Philosophy, as worse than a mere EGYPTIAN Imposition. For to make Brick without Straw or Stubble, is perhaps an eafier labour, than to prove MORALS without a World, and establish a Condust of Life without the Supposition of any thing living or extant besides our immediate Fancy, and WORLD of Imagination.

But having finished this mysterious Work, we come now to open Day, and Sunshine: And, as a Poet perhaps might express himself, we are now ready to quit

The dubious Labyrinths, and Pyrrhonean Cells

Of a Cimmerian Darkness.

We are, henceforward, to trust our Eyes, and take for real the whole Creation, and

the fair Forms which lie before us. WeCh. 2. are to believe the Anatomy of our own Body, and in proportionable Order, the Shapes, Forms, Habits, and Constitutions of other Animal-Races. Without demurring on the profound modern Hypothesis of animal Insensibility, we are to believe firmly and resolutely, " That other Creatures " have their Sense and Feeling, their mere " Passions and Affections, as well as our-" felves." And in this manner we proceed accordingly, on our Author's Scheme, " To inquire what is truly natural to each " Creature: And Whether that which " is natural to each, and is its Perfec-" tion, be not withal its Happiness, or " Good."

To deny there is any thing properly natural, (after the Concessions already made) wou'd be undoubtedly very preposterous and absurd. NATURE and the outward World being own'd existent, the rest must of necessity follow. The Anatomy of Bodys, the Order of the Spheres, the proper Mechanisms of a thousand kinds, and the infinite Ends and surable Means establish'd in the general Constitution and Order of Things; all this being once admitted, and allow'd to pass as certain and unquestionable, 'tis as vain afterwards to except against the Phrase of natural and unnatural, and question the Propriety Vol. 3.

Misc. 4. of this Speech apply'd to the particular Forms and Beings in the World, as it wou'd be to except against the common Appellations of Vigour and Decay in Plants, Health or Sickness in Bodys, Sobriety or Distraction in Minds, Prosperity or Degeneracy in any variable part of the known Creation.

We may, perhaps, for Humour sake, or after the known way of disputant Hostility, in the support of any odd Hypothesis, pretend to deny this natural and unnatural in Things. 'Tis evident however, that the our Humour or Taste be, by such Affectation, ever so much depray'd; we cannot resist our natural \* Anticipation in behalf of NATURE;

<sup>\*</sup> See what is said above on the word Sensus Communis, in that second Treatife, VOL. I. pag. 103, &c. and pag. 110, 138, 139, 140. And in the same VOL. p. 336, &c. and 352, 353, &c. And in VOL. II. p. 307, 411, 412, &c. concerning the natural Ideas, and the Pre-conceptions of Pre-sensations of this kind; the Tlepanders, of which a learned Critick and Master in all Philosophy, modern and antient, takes notice, in his lately publish'd Volume of Socratick Dialogues; where he adds this Reslection, with respect to some Philosophical Notions much in vogue amongst us, of late, here in England, Obiter dumtaxat addemus, Socraticam, quam exposumus, Doctrinam magno usu esse position, in Britannia presertim, exorta, de Ideis Innatis, quas dicere possis euclives evolas. Quamois enim nullae sint, si adcurate loquamur, notiones à natura amimis nostris infixe; attamen nemo negàrit ita esse saultates Animorum nostrorum naturà adsestas, ut quam primum ratione uti incipimus, Verum à Fasso, Malum à Rouse.

NATURE; according to whose supposed Ch. 2. Standard we perpetually approve and dispersion approve, and to whom in all natural Appearances, all moral Actions (whatever we contemplate, whatever we have in de-

Bono aliquo modo dissinguere incipiamus. Species Veritatis nibis semper placet; displicet contra Mendacii: Imo & HONESTUM INHONESTO præserimus; ob Semina nobis indita, quæ tum demum in lucem prodeunt, cum ratiocinari possumus, eoque uberiores frustus proseunt, quo melius ratiocinamur, adcuratioreque institutione adjuvamur. Æsch. Dial. cum Silvis Philol. Jo. Cler. ann. 1711. pag. 176. They seem indeed to be but weak Philosphers, tho able Sophist, and artful Consounders of Words and Notions, who wou'd resulte Nature and Common Sense. But NATURE will be able still to shift for her-self, and get the better of those Schemes, which need no other Force against them, than that of Horace's single Verse:

Dente Lupus, cornu Taurus petit. Unde, nisi INTUS Monstratum? Lib. ii. Sat. 1. ver. 52.

An ASS (as an English Author says) never butts with his Ears; tho a Creature born to an arm'd Forebead, exercises his butting Faculty long ere his Horns are come to him. And perhaps if the Philosopher wou'd accordingly examine himself, and consider his natural Passions, he wou'd sind there were such belong'd to him as Nature had premeditated in his behalf, and for which she had furnish'd him with Ideas long before any particular Practice or Experience of his own. Nor wou'd he need be scandaliz'd with the Comparison of a Goat, or Boar, or other of Horace's premeditating Animals, who have more natural Wit, it seems, than our Philosopher; if we may judg of him by his own Hypothesis, which denies the same implanted SENSE and natural Ideas to his own Kind.

Cras donaberis Hædo, Cui Frons turgida Cornibus Primis, & Venerem & Prælia destinat.

Lib. iii. Od. 13. ver. 3.

And,

Verris obliquum meditantis Iclum.

Ib. Od. 22. ver. 7.

Misc. 4. bate) we inevitably appeal, and pay our constant Homage, with the most apparent Zeal and Passion.

'Tis here, above all other places, that we say with strict Justice,

\* NATURAM expellas Furcâ, tamen usque recurret.

THE airy Gentlemen, who have never had it in their thoughts to ftudy NA-TURE in their own Species; but being taken with other Loves, have apply'd their Parts and Genius to the same Study in a Horse, a Dog, a Game-Cock, a Hawk, or any other + Animal of that degree; know very well, that to each Species there belongs a feveral Humour, Temper, and Turn of inward Disposition, as real and peculiar as the Figure and outward Shape, which is with fo much Curiofity beheld and admir'd. If there be any thing ever fo little amiss or wrong in the inward Frame, the Humour or Temper of the Creature, 'tis readily call'd vicious; and when more than ordinarily wrong, unnatural. The Humours of the Creatures, in order to their redress, are attentively obferv'd; fometimes indulg'd and flatter'd;

<sup>\*</sup> Hor. Lib. i. Ep. 10. ver. 24.

<sup>+</sup> VOL. II. pag. 92, 93, &c. and 131, &c. and pag. 307, &c.

at other times controul'd and check'd Ch. 2. with proper Severitys. In short, their Affections, Passions, Appetites, and Antipathys, are as duly regarded as those in Human Kind, under the strictest Discipline of Education. Such is the Sense of inward Proportion and Regularity of Affections, even in our Noble Youths themselves; who in this respect are often known expert and able Massers of Education, the not so susceptible of Discipline and Culture in their own case, after those early Indulgences to which their Greatness has intitled 'em.

As little favourable however as these sportly Gentlemen are presum'd to show themselves towards the Care or Culture of their own Species; as remote as their Contemplations are thought to lie from Nature and Philosophy; they confirm plainly and establish our philosophical Foundation of the natural Ranks, Orders, interior and exterior Proportions of the several distinct Species and Forms of Animal Beings. Ask one of these Gentlemen, unawares, when sollicitously careful and busy'd in the great Concerns of his Stable, or Kennel, "Whether his Hound or Greybound-Bitch who eats her Puppys, is as natural as the other who nurses "em?" and he will think you frantick. Ask him again, "Whether he P 3 "thinks

Misc. 4." thinks the unnatural Creature who acts " thus, or the natural-one who does other-" wife, is best in its kind, and enjoys it-" felf the most?" And he will be inclin'd to think still as strangely of you. Or if perhaps he esteems you worthy of better Information; he will tell you, "That " his best-bred Creatures, and of the truest "Race, are ever the noblest and most ge-" nerous in their Natures: That it is this " chiefly which makes the difference be-" tween the Horse of good Blood, and the " errant Jade of a base Breed; between the " Game-Cock, and the Dungbil-Craven; " between the true Hawk, and the mere " Kite or Buzzard; and between the right " Mastiff, Hound, or Spaniel, and the very " Mungrel." He might, withal, tell you perhaps with a masterly Air in this Brute-Science, "That the timorous, poor-spi-"rited, lazy and gluttonous of his Dogs, " were those whom he either suspected to " be of a spurious Race, or who had been " by fome accident spoil'd in their Nur-" fing and Management: for that this " was not natural to 'em. That in every "Kind, they were still the miserablest " Creatures who were thus spoil'd: And " that having each of 'em their proper " Chace or Business, if they lay resty and " out of their Game, chamber'd, and idle, " they were the same as if taken out of " their Element. That the faddest Curs

in

piledity 12

"in the world, were those who took the Ch. 2. 
"Kitchin-Chimney and Dripping-pan for "
"their Delight; and that the only hap"py Dog (were one to be a Dog One's"Self) was be, who in his proper Sport
"and Exercise, his natural Pursuit and
"Game, endur'd all Hardships, and had
"so much delight in Exercise and in the
"Field, as to forget Home and his Re"ward."

THUS the natural Habits and Affections of the inferior Creatures are known; and their unnatural and degenerate part discover'd. Depravity and Corruption is acknowledg'd as real in their Affections, as when any thing is mishapen, wrong, or monstrous in their outward Make. And notwithstanding much of this inward Depravity is discoverable in the Creatures tam'd by Man, and, for his Service or Pleasure merely, turn'd from their natural Course into a contrary Life and Habit; notwithstanding that, by this means, the Creatures who naturally herd with one another, lose their affociating Humour, and they who naturally pair and are constant to each other, lose their kind of conjugal Alliance and Affection; yet when releas'd from human Servitude, and return'd again to their natural Wilds, and rural Liberty, they instantly resume their natural and regular Habits, fuch as are conducing P 4 bag

Misc. 4. to the Increase and Prosperity of their own Species.

WELL it is perhaps for Mankind, that tho there are fo many Animals who naturally herd for Company's sake, and mutual Affection, there are so few who for Conveniency, and by Necessity are oblig'd to a strict Union, and kind of confederate State. The Creatures who, according to the OEconomy of their Kind, are oblig'd to make themselves Habitations of Defense against the Seasons and other Incidents; they who in fome parts of the Year are depriv'd of all Subfistence, and are therefore necessitated to accumulate in another, and to provide withal for the Safety of their collected Stores, are by their Nature indeed as strictly join'd, and with as proper Affections towards their Publick and Community, as the loofer Kind, of a more easy Subfistence and Support, are united in what relates merely to their Offspring, and the Propagation of their Species. Of these thorowly affociating and confederate-Animals, there are none I have ever heard of, who in Bulk or Strength exceed the BEA-VER. The major part of these political Animals, and Creatures of a joint Stock, are as inconsiderable as the Race of ANTS or BEES. But had Nature affign'd fuch an - OEconomy as this to so puissant an Animal, for instance, as the ELEPHANT, and

and made him withal as prolifick as those Ch. 2. smaller Creatures commonly are; it might have gone hard perhaps with Mankind: And a single Animal, who by his proper Might and Prowess has often decided the Fate of the greatest Battels which have been sought by Human Race, shou'd he have grown up into a Society, with a Genius for Architecture and Mechanicks proportionable to what we observe in those smaller Creatures; we shou'd, with all our invented Machines, have found it hard to dispute with him the Dominion of the Continent.

checky in the Support and Bropagarion of WERE we in a difinterested View, or with somewhat less Selfishness than ordinary, to confider the OEconomys, Parts, Interests, Conditions, and Terms of Life, which Nature has distributed and affign'd to the several Species of Creatures round us, we shou'd not be apt to think ourfelves fo hardly dealt with. But Whether our Lot in this respect be just, or equal, is not the Question with us, at present. 'Tis enough that we know "There is cer-" tainly an Affignment and Distribution: "That each OEconomy or Part fo distri-" buted, is in it-felf uniform, fix'd, and " invariable: and That if any thing in " the Creature be accidentally impair'd; " if any thing in the inward Form, the "Disposition, Temper or Affections, be " contrary

Misc. 4." contrary or unsutable to the distinct " OEconomy or Part, the Creature is wretched and unnatural."

> THE focial or natural Affections, which our Author confiders as effential to the Health, Wholeness, or Integrity of the particular Creature, are fuch as contribute to the Welfare and Prosperity of that Whole or Species, to which he is by Nature join'd. All the Affections of this kind our Author comprehends in that fingle name of natural. But as the Defign or End of Nature in each Animal-System, is exhibited chiefly in the Support and Propagation of the particular Species; it happens, of consequence, that those Affections of earliest Alliance and mutual Kindness between the Parent and the Offspring, are known more particularly by the name of \* natural Affection. However, fince it is evident that all Defect or Depravity of Affection, which counterworks or opposes the original Constitution and OEconomy of the Creature, is unnatural; it follows, "That in Crea-" tures who by their particular OEconomy " are fitted to the strictest Society and Rule " of common Good, the most unnatural of " all Affections are those which separate " from this Community; and the most e Creature be accidentally impair'd :

" COUNTRELA

<sup>\*</sup> Exogen; for which we have no particular Name in 

"truly natural, generous and noble, are Ch. 2. "those which tend towards Publick Ser- vice, and the Interest of the Society at large."

THIS is the main Problem which our Author in more philosophical Terms demonstrates, \* in this Treatise, " That for " a Creature whose natural End is Society, " to operate as is by Nature appointed him " towards the Good of fuch his Society,
" or Whole, is in reality to pursue his " own natural and proper Good." And " That to operate contrary-wife, or by fuch " Affections as fever from that common "Good, or publick Interest, is, in reali-"ty, to work towards his own natural and " proper ILL." Now if Man, as has been prov'd, be justly rank'd in the number of those Creatures whose OEconomy is according to a joint-Stock and publick-Weal; if it be understood, withal, that the only State of his Affections which answers rightly to this publick-Weal, is the regular, orderly, or virtuous State; it necessarily follows, "That VIRTUE is his natural " Good, and VICE his Mifery and Ill."

As for that further Confideration, "Whether NATURE has orderly and iguftly distributed the several OEconomys

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. The INQUIRY concerning Virtue, VOL. II.

Misc. 4." or Parts; and Whether the Defects, " Failures, or Calamitys of particular Sys-" tems are to the advantage of all in ge-" neral, and contribute to the Perfection " of the one common and universal Sys-" tem;" we must refer to our Author's profounder Speculations in this his IN-QUIRY, and in his following Philosophick DIALOGUE. But if what he advances in this respect be real, or at least the most probable by far of any Scheme or Repre-ientation which can be made of the Universal Nature and Cause of things; it will follow, "That fince MAN has been fo " constituted, by means of his rational " Part, as to be conscious of this his " more immediate Relation to the Uni-" versal System, and Principle of Order "and Intelligence; he is not only by "Nature fociable, within the Limits of his own Species, or Kind; but in a "yet more generous and extensive maniner. He is not only born to VIRTUE, 
Friendship, Honesty, and Faith; but to "RELIGION, Piety, Adoration, and \* a " generous Surrender of his Mind to what-" ever happens from that Supreme CAUSE, or ORDER of Things, which he ac-" knowledges intirely just, and perfect."

British bas orderly and

<sup>\*</sup> VOL, II. pag. 72,73, &c.

Confirmed the Confirmation THESE ARE our Author's formal and grave Sentiments; which if they were not truly his, and fincerely espous'd by him, as the real Refult of his best Judgment and Understanding, he wou'd be guilty of a more than common degree of Imposture. For, according to his own \* Rule, an affected Gravity, and feign'd Seriousness carry'd on, thro' any Subject, in fuch a manner as to leave no Infight into the Fiction or intended Raillery; is in truth no Raillery, or Wit, at all; but a gross, immoral, and illiberal way of Abuse, foreign to the Character of a good Writer, a Gentleman, or Man of WORTH.

But fince we have thus acquitted ourfelves of that ferious Part, of which our Reader was before-hand well appriz'd; let him now expect us again in our original MISCELLANEOUS Manner and Capacity. 'Tis here, as has been explain'd to him, that Raillery and Humour are permitted: and Flights, Sallys, and Excursions of every kind are found agree-able and requisite. Without this, there might be less Safety found, perhaps, in Thinking. Every light Reflection might run us up to the dangerous State of Meditation.

<sup>\*</sup> WOL. I. pag. 63.

Misc. 4. And in reality, profound Thinking is many times the Cause of shallow Thought. To prevent this contemplative Habit and Character, of which we see so little good effect in the World, we have reason perhaps to be fond of the diverting Manner in Writing, and Discourse, especially if the Subject be of a solemn kind. There is more need, in this case, to interrupt the long-spun Thred of Reasoning, and bring into the Mind, by many different Glances and broken Views, what cannot so easily be introduc'd by one steddy Bent, or continu'd Stretch of Sight.

Your's Every light Reds for might sun

## MISCELLANY V.

## CHAP. I.

Ceremonial adjusted, between AU-THOR and READRR.—Affectation of Precedency in the former.—Various Claim to Inspiration.—Bards; Prophets: Sibylline Scripture.—Written Oracles; in Verse and Prose.—Common Interest of antient Letters, and Christianity.—State of Wit, Elegance, and Correctness.—Poetick Truth.—Preparation for Criticism on our Author, in his concluding Treatise.

F all the artificial Relations, form'd between Mankind, the most capricious and variable is that of Author and Reader. Our Author, for his part, has declar'd his Opinion of this, where

Misc. 5. where \* he gives his Advice to modern Authors. And tho he supposes that every Author in Form, is, in respect of the particular matter he explains, superior in Understanding to his Reader; yet he allows not that any Author shou'd assume the upper hand, or pretend to withdraw himself from that necessary Subjection to foreign Judgment and Criticism, which must determine the Place of Honour on the Reader's side.

"T is evident that an Author's Art and Labour are for his Reader's sake alone. 'Tis to his Reader he makes his application, if not openly and avowedly, yet, at least, with implicit Courtship. Poets indeed, and especially those of a modern kind, have a peculiar manner of treating this Affair with a high hand. They pretend to set themselves above Mankind. "Their "Pens are sacred: Their Style and Utte-" rance divine." They write, often, as in a Language foreign to human Kind; and wou'd dissain to be reminded of those poor Elements of Speech, their Alphabet and Grammar.

But here inferior Mortals presume often to intercept their Flight, and remind them of their fallible and human part.

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Treatife III. VOL. I.

Had those first Poets who began this Pre-Ch. I. tence to Inspiration, been taught a manner of communicating their rapturous. Thoughts and high Ideas by some other Medium than that of Style and Language; the Case might have stood otherwise. But the inspiring DIVINITY or MUSE having, in the Explanation of her-self, submitted her Wit and Sense to the mechanick Rules of buman arbitrary Composition; she must, in consequence, and by necessity, submit her-self to buman Arbitration, and the Judgment of the literate World. And thus THE READER is still superior, and keeps the upper hand.

'Tis indeed no small Absurdity, to assert a Work or Treatise, written in buman Language, to be above buman Criticism, or Censure. For if the Art of Writing be from the grammatical Rules of human Invention and Determination; if even these Rules are form'd on casual Practice and various Use: there can be no Scripture but what must of necessity be subject to the Reader's narrow Scrutiny and strict Judgment; unless a Language and Grammar, different from any of human Structure, were deliver'd down from Heaven, and miraculously accommodated to human Service and Capacity.

Vol. 3.

TIS

Art of Characters, and painted Speech, than in the Art of Painting it-felf. I have seen, in certain Christian Churches, an antient Piece or two, affirm'd, on the folemn Faith of Priestly Tradition, " to " have been Angelically and Divinely " wrought, by a supernatural Hand, and facred Pencil." Had the Piece happen'd to be of a Hand like RAPHAEL's, I cou'd have found nothing certain to oppose to this Tradition. But having obferv'd the whole Style and Manner of the pretended heavenly Workmanship to be so indifferent as to vary in many Particulars from the Truth of Art, I presum'd within my-felf to beg pardon of the Tradition, and affert confidently, " That if " the Pencil had been Heaven-guided, it " cou'd never have been fo lame in its " performance:" It being a mere contradiction to all Divine and Moral Truth, that a Celestial Hand, submitting it-self to the Rudiments of a buman Art, shou'd fin against the ART it-felf, and express Falshood and Error, instead of Justness and Proportion.

IT may be alledg'd perhaps, "That "there are, however, certain AUTHORS" in the World, who tho, of themselves,

<sup>&</sup>quot;they neither boldly claim the Privilege

" of Divine Inspiration, nor carry indeed Ch. 1. " the least resemblance of Perfection in " their Style or Composition; yet they " fubdue the READER, gain the ascendent "over his Thought and Judgment, and force from him a certain implicit Veneration and Esteem." To this I can only answer, "That if there be neither Spell " nor Inchantment in the Case; this can " plainly be no other than mete En THU-" SI ASM;" except, perhaps, where the fu-preme Powers have given their Sanction to any religious Record, or pious Writ: And in this Case, indeed, it becomes immoral and profane in any one, to deny absolutely, or dispute the facred Authority of the least Line or Syllable contain'd in it. But shou'd the Record, instead of being fingle, short and uniform, appear to be multifarious, voluminous, and of the most difficult Inter-pretation; it wou'd be somewhat hard, if not wholly impracticable in the Magistrate, to suffer this Record to be universally current, and at the fame time prevent its being variously apprehended and descanted on, by the several differing Genius's and contrary Judgments of Mankind.

'Tis remarkable, that in the politest of all Nations, the Writings look'd upon as most facred, were those of their great Poets; whose Works indeed were truly divine, in respect of Art, and the Perfection Q 2

Misc. 5. fection of their Frame and Composition.

But there was yet more \* Divinity ascrib'd to them, than what is comprehended in this latter Sense. The Notions of vulgar Religion were built on their miraculous Narrations. The wifer and better fort themselves paid a regard to them in this respect; tho they interpreted them indeed more allegorically. Even the Philosophers who criticiz'd 'em with most Severity, were not their least Admirers; when they + ascrib'd to 'em that divine Inspiration, or fublime ENTHUSIASM, of which our Author has largely treated t elsewhere. The pan tanni suntan bas

> IT wou'd, indeed, ill become any Pretender to Divine Writing, to publish his Work under a Character of Divinity; if, after all his Endeavours, he came short of a consummate and just Performance. In this respect the Cumean SIBYL was not so indifcreet or frantick, as the might appear, perhaps, by writing her Prophetick Warnings and pretended Inspirations upon Joint-Leaves; which, immediately after their elaborate Superscription, were torn in pieces, and scatter'd by the Wind.

remarkable, that, in the police?

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 153, 154. in the Notes. † VOL. I. pag. 553, 54. † Viz. Letter of Enthulialm, VOL. I. And above, MISC. II. chap. 1, 2.

\* Insanam vatem aspicies; quæ rupe sub Ch. 1.

Fata canit, foliisque notas & nomina mandat.

Quacunque in foliis descripsit Carmina Virgo,

Digerit in numerum, atque antro seclusa

relinquit.

Illa manent immota locis, neque ab ordine cedunt.

Verum eadem, verso tenuis cum cardine ventus

Impulit, & teneras turbavit janua frondes:

Nunquam deinde cavo volitantia prendere faxo,

Nec revocare situs, aut jungere carmina curat.

Inconsulti abeunt, sedemque odere SI-

"Twas impossible to disprove the DIVINI-TY of such Writings, whilst they cou'd be perus'd only in Fragments. Had the Sister-Priestess of DELPHOS, who deliver'd her-self in audible plain Metre, been found at any time to have transgress'd the Rule of Verse, it wou'd have been difficult in those days to father the lame Poetry upon APOLLO himself. But where the Invention of the Leaves prevented the reading of a single Line intire; whatever In-

Virg. Æn. lib. iii. 444.

Misc. 5. terpretations might have been made of this fragil and volatil Scripture, no Imperfection cou'd be charg'd on the Original TEXT it-self.

What those \* Volumes may have been, which the disdainful SIBYL or Prophetess committed to the Flames; or what the remainder was, which the Roman Prince receiv'd and consecrated; I will not pretend to judg: Tho it has been admitted for Truth by the antient Christian Fathers, That these Writings were so far facred and divine, as to have prophesy'd of the Birth of our religious Founder, and bore testimony to that boly Writ which has preserv'd his Memory, and is justly held, in the highest degree, facred among Christians.

THE Policy however of Old ROME was such, as not absolutely to rest the Authority of their Religion on any Composition of Literature. The SIBYLLINE Volumes were kept safely lock'd, and inspected only by such as were ordain'd, or deputed for that purpose. And in this Po-

receives and a

<sup>\*</sup> Libri tres in Sacrarium conditi, Sibyllini appellati. Id eos quafs ad Oraculum Quindecimoviri adunt, cum Dii immetales publicè confulendi Junt. Aul. Gell. lib. i.c. 19. & Pln. lib. xui. c. 13. But of this first Sibylline Scripture, and of other canoniz'd Books and additional Sacred Writ among the Romans; fee what Dionystus Halicarnassius cites (from Varra o's Roman Theologicks) in his History, lib. iv. c. 62.

licy the New Rome has follow'd their Ex-Ch. Is ample; in scrupling to annex the supreme Authority and sacred Character of Infallibility to Scripture to it-self; and in refusing to submit that Scripture to publick Judgment, or to any Eye or Ear but what they qualify for the Inspection of such sacred Mysterys.

THE Mahometan Clergy seem to have a different Policy. They boldly rest the Foundation of their Religion on a Book: Such a one as (according to their Pretenfion) is not only perfect, but inimitable. Were a real Man of Letters, and a just Critick permitted to examine this Scripture by the known Rules of Art; he wou'd foon perhaps refute this Plea. But so barbarous is the accompanying Policy and Temper of these Eastern Religionists, that they discourage, and in effect extinguish all true Learning, Science, and the politer Arts, in company with the antient Authors and Languages, which they fet afide; and by this infallible Method, leave their SA-CRED WRIT the fole Standard of literate Performance. For being compar'd to no-thing besides it-self, or what is of an inferior kind, it must undoubtedly be thought 'ncomparable.

'T WILL be yielded, furely, to the Hosour of the Christian World, that their Q 4 Faith Misc. 5. Faith (especially that of the Protestant Churches) stands on a more generous Foundation. They not only allow Comparison of Authors, but are content to derive their Proofs of the Validity of their sacred Record and Revelation, even from those Authors call'd Profane; as being well appriz'd, according to the Maxim of \* our Divine Master, " That in what we bear " witness only to our-selves, our Witness " cannot be establish'd as a Truth." So that there being at present no immediate Testimony of Miracle or Sign in behalf of holy Writ; and there being in its own particular Composition or Style nothing miraculous, or felf-convincing; if the collateral Testimony of other antient Records, Historians, and foreign Authors, were destroy'd, or wholly lost; there wou'd be less Argument or Plea remaining against that natural Suspicion of those who are call'd Sceptical, "That the boly Records them-" felves were no other than the pure In-" vention or artificial Compilement of an " interested Party, in behalf of the richest " Corporation and most profitable Monopoly "which cou'd be erected in the World."

THUS, in reality, the Interest of our pious Clergy is necessarily join'd with the of antient Letters, and polite Learning

John, chap. v. ver. 31.

By this they perpetually refute the crafty Ch. 1. Arguments of those Objectors. When they abandon this; they refign their Cause. When they strike at it; they strike even at the Root and Foundation of our holy Faith, and weaken that Pillar on which the whole Fabrick of our Religion depends.

IT belongs to mere Enthufiasts and Fanaticks to plead the Sufficiency of a reiterate translated Text, deriv'd to 'em thro' fo many Channels, and subjected to fo many Variations, of which they are wholly ignorant. Yet wou'd they persuade us, it feems, that from hence alone they can recognize the Divine Spirit, and receive it in themselves, un-subject (as they imagine) to any Rule, and superior to what they themselves often call the dead Letter, and unprofitable Science. This, any one may fee, is building Castles in the Air, and demolishing them again at pleasure; as the exercise of an aerial Fancy, or heated Imagination.

BUT the judicious Divines of the establish'd Christian Churches, have sufficiently condemn'd this Manner. They are far from resting their Religion on the common Aspect, or obvious Form of their vulgar BIBLE, as it presents it-self in the printed Copy, or modern Version. Neither do they in the Original it-self represent it to

Misc. 5. us as a very Master-piece of Writing, or as absolutely perfect in the Purity and Justness either of Style, or Composition. They allow the Holy Authors to have written according to their best Facultys, and the Strength of their natural Genius: "A Shepherd like a Shepherd; "and a Prince like a Prince: A Man of "reading, and advanc'd in Letters, like "a Prosicient in the kind; and a Man of "meaner Capacity and Reading, like one of the ordinary sort, in his own common Idiom, and imperfect manner of "Narration."

'TIS the Substance only of the Narrative, and the principal Fasts confirming the Authority of the Revelation, which our Divines think themselves concern'd to prove, according to the best Evidence of which the Matter it-self is capable. And whilst the Sacred Authors themselves allude not only to the Annals and Historys of the HEATHEN World, but even to the philosophical Works, the regular \* Poems, the very Plays and + Comedys of the learn-

<sup>\*</sup> ARATUS, Acts ch. xvii. ver. 28. And EPIMENIDES, Titus ch.i. ver. 12. Even one of their own PROPHETS. For so the holy Apoltle deign'd to speak of a Heathen Poet, a Physiologist, and Divine: who prophely'd of Events, wrought Miracles, and was receiv'd as an inspir'd Writer, and Author of Revelations, in the chief Citys and States of GREECE.

<sup>+</sup> MENANDER, 1 Cor. ch. xv. ver. 33.

ed and polite Antients; it must be own'd, Ch. 1. that as those antient Writings are impair'd, or lost, not only the Light and Clearness of holy Writ, but even the Evidence itself of its main Fasts, must in proportion be diminish'd and brought in question. So ill advis'd were \* those devout Churchmen heretosore, who in the height of Zeal

\* Even in the fixth Century, the fam'd GREGORIUS Bishop of Rome, who is so highly celebrated for having planted the Christian Religion, by his Missionary Monks, in our English Nation of Heathen Saxons, was so far from being a Cultivater or Supporter of Arts or Letters, that he carry'd on a kind of general Massacre upon every Product of human Wit. His own Words in a Letter to one of the French Bishops, a Man of the highest Consideration and Merit, (as a noted modern Critick, and fatirical Genius of that Nation acknowledges) are as follow. Pervenit ad nos quod fine verecundià memorare non possumus, fraternitatem tuam GRAMMATICAM quibusdam exponere. Quam rem ita moleste suscepimus, ac sumus vehementius aspernati, ut ea quæ prius dicta fuerunt, in gemitum & tristitiam verteremus, quia in uno se ore cum Jovis laudibus Christi laudes non capiunt. \* \* \* \* \* Unde si post hoc evidenter ea quæ ad nos perlata sunt, falsa esse claruerint, nec vos NUGIS & SECULARIBUS LITERIS studere contigerit, Deo nostro gratias agimus, qui cor vestrum maculari blasphemis nefandorum laudibus non permisit. GRE-GORII Opera, Epist. 48. lib. ix. Parif. Ann. 1533. And in his Dedication, or first Preface to his Morals, after some very infipid Rhetorick, and figurative Dialect imploy'd against the Study and Art of Speech, he has another Fling at the Classick Authors and Discipline; betraying his inveterate Hatred to antient Learning, as well as the natural Effect of this Zealot-Paffion, in his own Barbarity both of Style and Manners. His words are, Unde & ipsam artem loquendi, quam Magisteria Disciplinæ exterioris insmuant, servare despexi. Nam sicut bujus quoque Epistolæ tenor enunciat, non Metacismi collisionem fugio: non Barbarismi confusionem devita, situs motusque præpositionum casusque servare contemno: Mile. 5. Zeal did their utmost to destroy all Footsteps of Heathen Literature, and consequently all further use of Learning or Antiquity.

But happily the Zeal of this kind is now left as proper only to those despis'd and

quia indignum vehementer existimo, ut verba cælestis oraculi restringam sub regulis DONATI. That he carry'd this favage Zeal of his fo far as to destroy (what in him lay). the whole Body of Learning, with all the Classick Authors then in being, was generally believ'd. And (what was yet more notorious and unnatural in a ROMAN Pontiff) the Destruction of the Statues, Sculptures, and finest Pieces of Antiquity in ROME, was charg'd on him by his Succeffor in the SEE; as, befides PLATINA, another Writer of his Life, without the least Apology, confesses. See in the above-cited Edition of St. GREGORY's Works, at the beginning, viz. Vita D. Gregorii ex Joan. Laziardo Calestino. 'Tis no wonder, therefore, if other Writers have given account of that Sally of the Prelate's Zeal against the Books and Learning of the Antients, for which the Reason alledg'd was very extraordinary; " That the holy Scriptures " wou'd be the better relish'd, and receive a considerable " Advantage by the Destruction of these Rivals." It seems they had no very high Idea of the boly Scriptures, when they fuppos'd them fuch Losers by a Comparison. However, 'twas thought advisable by other Fathers (who had a like view) to frame new Pieces of Literature, after the Model of these condemn'd Antients. Hence those ridiculous Attempts of new beroick Poems, new Epicks and Dramaticks, new HOMERS, EURIPIDES'S, MENANDERS, which were with fo much Pains and fo little Effect industriously fet afoot by the zealous Priesthood; when Ignorance prevail'd, and the Hierarchal Dominion was fo universal. But tho their Power had well nigh compass'd the Destruction of those great Originals, they were far from being able to procure any Reception for their puny Imitations. The Mock-Works have lain in their deferv'd Obscurity; as will all other Attempts of that kind, concerning which our Author has already given his Opinion,

and ignorant modern Enthusiass we have Ch. 1. describ'd. The Roman Church it-self is fo recover'd from this primitive Fanaticism, that their Great Men, and even their \* Pontiss, are found ready to give their helping Hand, and confer their Bounty liberally towards the advancement of all antient and polite Learning. They justly observe, that their very Traditions stand in need of some collateral Proof. The

Opinion, VOL. I. pag. 356, 357, &c. But as to the ill Policy as well as Barbarity of this Zealot-Enmity against the Works of the Antients, a foreign Protestant Divine, and most learned Defender of Religion, making the best Excuse he can for the GREEK-Fathers, and endeavouring to clear them from this general Charge of Havock and Massacre committed upon Science and Erudition, has these words: "Si "cela est, woilà encore un nouveau Sujet de mépriser les Pa-" triarches de CONSTANTINOPLE qui n'étoient d'ail-« leurs rien moins que gens de bien ; mais j'ai de la peine à le « croire, parce qu'il nous est resté de Poetes infiniment plus " sales que ceux qui se sont perdus. Personne ne doute qu' "ARISTOPHANE ne soit beaucoup plus sale, que n'etoit MENANDER. PLUTARQUE en est un bon témoin, " dans la Comparaison qu'il a faite de ces deux Poetes. Il peu-" voit être neanmoins arrivé, que quelques ECCLESIAS-" TIQUES ennemis des Belles Lettres, en eussent use comme " dit CHALCONDYLE, sans penser qu'en conservant toute 4 l'Antiquité Grecque, ils conserveroient la Langue de leurs Pré-" decesseurs, & une infinité de Faits qui servoient beaucoup à " l'intelligence & à la confirmation de l'Histoire Sacrée, & " même de la Religion Chretienne. Ces gens-là devoient au " moins nous conserver les Histoires Anciennes des Orientaux, " comme des Chaldéens, des Tyriens, & des Egyptiens; mais ils agissoient plus par ignorance & par negligence, " que par raison." BIBL. CHOIS. Tom. XIV. pag. 131, 132, 133-

\* Such a one is the present Prince, CLEMENT XI. an

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Incourager of all Arts and Sciences.

Misc. 5. Conservation of these other antient and disinterested Authors, they wisely judg essential to the Credibility of those principal Facts, on which the whole religious History and Tradition depend.

'Twou'd indeed be in vain for us, to bring a Pontius Pilate into our Creed, and recite what happen'd under bim, in Judea, if we knew not, "Under whom "he himself govern'd, whose Authority he had, or what Character he bore, in "that remote Country, and amidst a fo- reign People." In the same manner, twou'd be in vain for a Roman Pontist to derive his Title to spiritual Sovereignty from the Seat, Insuence, Power, and Donation of the Roman Cesars, and their Successors; if it appear'd not by any History, or collateral Testimony, "Who the "first Cesars were; and how they "came possessed for that universal Power, "and long Residence of Dominion."

MY READER doubtless, by this time, must begin to wonder thro' what Labyrinth of Speculation, and odd Texture of capricious Reslections, I am offering to conduct him. But he will not, I presume, be altogether displeas'd with me, when I give him to understand, that being now come into my last MISCELLANY, and being

being fensible of the little Courtship I Ch. 1. have paid him, comparatively with what is practis'd in that kind by other modern Authors; I am willing, by way of Compensation, to express my Loyalty or Homage towards him, and shew, by my natural Sentiments, and Principles, "What particular Deference and high Respect I think to be his Due."

THE Issue therefore of this long Deduction is, in the first place, with due Compliments, in my Capacity of Author, and in the name of all modest Workmen willingly joining with me in this Representation, to congratulate our English READER on the Establishment of what is fo advantageous to himself; I mean, that mutual Relation between him and ourfelves, which naturally turns fo much to his Advantage, and makes us to be in reality the fubservient Party. And in this respect 'tis to be hop'd he will long enjoy his just Superiority and Privilege over his humble Servants, who compose and la-bour for his sake. The Relation in all likelihood must still continue, and be improv'd. Our common Religion and Christianity, founded on Letters and Scripture, promifes thus much. Nor is this Hope likely to fail us, whilft READERS are really allow'd the Liberty to read; that is to fay, to examine, construe, and remark with Understanding.

Misc. 5. derstanding. LEARNING and SCIENCE must of necessity flourish, whilst the Language of the wifeft and most learned of Nations is acknowledg'd to contain the principal and effential part of our holy Revelation. And CRITICISM, Examinations, Judgments, literate Labours and Inquirys must still be in Repute and Practice; whilst Antient Authors, so necessary to the Support of the Sacred Volumes, are in request, and afford Imployment of such infinite Extent to us Moderns of whatever. degree, who are desirous to signalize ourfelves by any Atchievement in Letters, and be consider'd as the Investigators of Knowledg and Politeness.

I MAY undoubtedly, by virtue of my preceding Argument in behalf of Criticism, be allow'd, without suspicion of Flattery or mere Courtship, to affert the REA-DER's Privilege above the Author; and affign to him, as I have done, the upper Hand, and Place of Honour. As to Fact, we know for certain, that the greatest of Philosophers, the very Founder of Philofophy it-felf, was no Author. Nor did the Divine Author, and Founder of our Religion, condescend to be an Author in this other respect. He who cou'd best have given us the History of his own Life, with the intire Sermons and divine Discourses which he made in publick, was pleas'd to leave it 3

to others, \* "To take in hand:" As there Ch. 1. were many, it feems, long afterwards, who did; and undertook accordingly "to write in order, and as feem'd good to them, "for the better Information of particular Persons, what was then believ'd among

\* So LUKE, chap. i. ver. 1, 2, 3, 4. "(1) For as "much as MANY have taken in hand to fet forth, in order, " a Declaration (Exposition or Narrative, Amyrow) of those "things which are most furely believ'd among (or were fulfill'd in, or among) us; (2) Even as they deliver'd them " unto us, which from the beginning were Eye-witnesses " and Ministers of the Word: (3) It seem'd good to ME " also, having had perfect understanding of all things from " the very first, (or baving look'd back, and search'd accu-" rately into all Matters from the beginning, or bighest time, " maennodubniote avoder maou anelous) to write unto " Thee in order, most excellent THEOPHILUS, (4) That "Thou mightest know the Certainty (or Validity, found " Discussion, dopanear) of those things wherein THOU " hast been instructed (or catechiz'd) wei er ralnyinns." Whether the words wearinggognuever er nuir, in the first Verse, shou'd be render'd believ'd among, or fulfill'd in, or among us, may depend on the different reading of the Original. For in some Copys, the ev next following is left out. However, the exact Interpreters or verbal Translators render it fulfill'd, Vid. Ar. Montan. Edit. Plantin. 1584. In Ver. 4. the word CERTAINTY, asoaheav, is interpreted anei-Gesav, Validity, Soundness, good Foundation, from the Sense of the preceding Verse. See the late Edition of our learned Dr. MILL, ex recensione KUSTERI, Rot. 1710. For the word Catechiz'd, ramynous, (the last of the fourth Verse) ROB. CONSTANTINE has this Explanation of it: " Priscis Theologis apud ÆGYPTIOS mos erat, ut Mys-" teria voce tantum, veluti per manus, posteris relinquerent. " Apud Christianos, qui Baptismatis erant candidati, iis, " ข่างสิ ของe, tradebantur sidei Christianæ Mysteria, sine scrip-" tis: quod Paulus & Lucas รฐราหารัง ของสทt. Unde " qui docebantur, Catechumeni vocabantur; qui docebant, " Catechista."

#### MISCELLANEOUS

246 Mifc. 5."

Misc. 5. "the Initiated or Catechiz'd, from Tradi"tion, and early Instruction in their Youth;
"or what had been transmitted, by Re"port, from such as were the presum'd
"Auditors, and Eye-witnesses of those things
"in former time."

WHETHER those facred Books ascrib'd to the Divine Legislator of the Jews, and which treat of his \* Death, Burial, and Succession, as well as of his Life and Actions, are strictly to be understood as coming from the immediate Pen of that boly Founder, or rather from some other inspir'd Hand, guided by the same influencing Spirit; I will not prefume fo much as to examine or enquire. But in general we find, That both as to publick Concerns, in Religion, and in Philofophy, the great and eminent Actors were of a Rank superior to the Writing-Worthys. The great ATHENIAN Legislator, tho noted as a poetical Genius, cannot be esteem'd an Author, for the sake of some few Verses he may occasionally have made. Nor was the great SPAR-TAN Founder, a Poet himself, tho Author or Redeemer (if I may so express it) to the greatest and best of Poets; who ow'd in a manner his Form and Being to the accurate Searches and Collections of that great

<sup>\*</sup> Deut. ch. xxxiv. ver. 5, 6, 7, &c.

Patron. The Politicians and civil SA-Ch. 1. GES, who were fitted in all respects for the great Scene of Business, cou'd not, it seems, be well taken out of it, to attend the slender and minute Affairs of Letters, and Scholastick Science.

'Trs true, indeed, that without a Capacity for Action, and a Knowledg of the World and Mankind, there can be no Author naturally qualify'd to write with Dignity, or execute any noble or great Defign. But there are many, who with the highest Capacity for Business, are by their Fortune deny'd the Privilege of that higher Sphere. As there are others, who having once mov'd in it, have been afterwards, by many Impediments and Obstructions, necessitated to retire, and exert their Genius in this lower degree.

'Tis to some Catastrophe of this kind that we owe the noblest Historians (even the two Princes and Fathers of History) as well as the greatest Philosophical Writers, the Founder of the ACADEMY, and others, who were also noble in respect of their Birth, and fitted for the highest Stations in the Publick; but discourag'd from engaging in it, on account of some Missortunes, experienc'd either in their own Persons, or that of their near Friends.

Misc. 5.

'Tis to the early Banishment and long Retirement of a heroick Youth out of his native Country, that we owe an original System of Works, the politest, wisest, usefullest, and (to those who can understand the Divineness of a just Simplicity) the most \* amiable, and even the most elevating and exalting of all un-inspir'd and merely human Authors.

To this Fortune we owe some of the greatest of the antient Poets. 'Twas this Chance which produc'd the Muse of an exalted Grecian + LYRICK, and of his Follower ! HORACE; whose Character, tho easy to be gather'd from History, and his own Works, is little observ'd by any of his Commentators: The general Idea, conceiv'd of him, being drawn chiefly from his precarious and low Circumstances at Court, after the forfeiture of his Estate, under the Usurpation and Con-

Horat. Lib, i. Od. xxxii. ver. 3.

quest

<sup>\*</sup> Tòr no usor và xaçies alor Zevoporla, as Athenaus calls him, lib. xi. See VOL. I. pag. 255.

<sup>+</sup> Et te sonantem plenius aureo, ALC Æ E, plectro dura navis, Dura fugæ mala, dura belli. Horat. Lib. ii. Od. xiii. ver. 26.

<sup>-</sup>Age, die Latinum, Barbite, carmen. Lesbio primum modulate Civi; Qui ferox bello, &c.

quest of an OCTAVIUS, and the Ministry Ch. I. of a Mæcenas; not from his better Condition, and nobler Employments in earlier days, under the Favour and Friendship of greater and better Men, whilst the Roman State and Liberty subsisted. For of this Change he himself, as great a Courtier as he seem'd afterwards, gives sufficient \* Intimation.

LET

\* Dura sed amovere loco me tempora grato, Civilisque rudem belli tulit æstus in arma, Cæsaris Augusti non responsura lacertis. Unde simul primum me dimisere Philippi, Deciss humilem pennis, inopemque paterni Et laris & sundi, paupertas impulit audax Ut versus sacerem.

Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. ii. ver. 46.

\_\_\_\_\_At olim

Quod mihi pareret Legio Romana Tribuno.

Lib. i. Sat. vi. ver. 47.

Viz. under BRUTUS. Whence again that natural Boaft:

Me primis urbis BELLI placuiffe Domique.

Lib. i. Epift. xx. ver. 23.

And again,

——Cum MAGNIS vixisse invita fatebitur usque Invidia. Lib. ii. Sat. i. ver. 77.

Where the vixisse shews plainly whom he principally meant by his MAGNI, his early Patrons and Great Men in the State: His Apology and Desense here (as well as in his sourth and fixth Satirs of his first Book, and his 2d Epistle of his second, and elsewhere) being supported fill by the open and bold Afsertion of his good Education, (equal to the highest Senators, and under the best Masters) his Employments at home and abroad, and his early Commerce and Familiarity with former Great Men, before these his new Friendships, and this latter Court-Acquaintance, which was now envy'd him by his Adversarys.

NUNC quia Mecenas, tibi sum convictor: at OLIM

Quod mihi pareret Legio Romana Tribuno.

250

Misc. 5.

LET AUTHORS therefore know themfelves; and tho conscious of Worth, Virtue, and a Genius, such as may justlyplace them above Flattery or mean Courtship to their READER; yet let them reslect, that as Authors merely, they are but
of the second Rank of Men. And let the
READER withal consider, "That when
"he unworthily resigns the place of Ho"nour, and surrenders his Taste, or Judg"ment, to an Author of ever so great a
"Name, or venerable Antiquity, and not
"to Reason, and Truth, at whatever ha-

The Reproach now was with respect to a Macenas or Augustus. 'Twas the same formerly with respect to a Brutus, and those who were then the principal and leading Men. The Complaint or Murmur against him on account of his being an Upfart or Favourite under a Macenas and Augustus, could not be answer'd, by a Vixisse relating to the same Persons; any more than his Placusse, joined with his Belle Domique, could relate to those under whom he never went to War, nor would ever consent to bear any Honours. For so he himself distinguishes (Sat. vi. to Macenas)

- Quia non ut forsit bonorem

Jure mibi invideat quivis, ita te quoque amicum. ver. 49.

He was formerly an Allor, and in the Ministry of Affairs: Now only a FRIEND to a Minister: Himself still a private and retir'd Man. That he resust Augustus's Offer of the Secretary-ship, is well known. But in these Circumstances, the Politeness as well as Artissee of Horace is admirable; in making Futurity or Posserity to be the speaking Party in both those places, where he suggests his Intimacy and Favour with the Great, that there might, in some measure, be room lest (tho in strictness there was scarce any) for an Octavius and a Macenas to be included. See VOL. I. pag. 259, 270. in the Notes.

" zard;

" zard; he not only betrays himself, but Ch. I. "withal the common Cause of AUTHOR ~~ "and READER, the Interest of Letters

" and Knowledg, and the chief Liberty, " Privilege, and Prerogative of the rational

" part of Mankind."

"Tis related in History of the CAPPA-DOCIANS, That being offer'd their Liberty by the ROMANS, and permitted to, govern themselves by their own Laws and Constitutions, they were much terrify'd at the Proposal; and as if some fore harm had been intended 'em, humbly made it their Request, " That they might be go-" vern'd by arbitrary Power, and that an " absolute Governour might without de-" lay be appointed over 'em at the discre-"tion of the ROMANS." For such was their Disposition towards mere Slavery and Subjection; that they dar'd not pretend fo much as to chuse their own MASTER. So effential they thought SLAVERY, and so divine a thing the Right of MASTER-SHIP, that they dar'd not be fo free even as to presume to give themselves that Blesfing, which they chose to leave rather to Providence, Fortune, of A CONQUEROR, to bestow upon them. They dar'd not make a King; but wou'd rather take one from their powerful Neighbours. Had they been necessitated to come to an Election, the Horror of such a Use of R 4

Misc. 5. Liberty in Government, wou'd perhaps have determin'd 'em to chuse blindfold, or leave it to the Decision of the commonest Lot, Cast of Dye, Cross or Pile, or whatever it were which might best enable them to clear themselves of the heinous Charge of using the least Foresight, Choice, or Prudence in such an Affair.

I SHOU'D think it a great Misfortune, were my READER of the number of those, who in a kind of Cappadocian Spirit, cou'd easily be terrify'd with the Proposal of giving him his Liberty, and making him bis own Judg. My Endeavour, I must confess, has been to shew him his just Prerogative in this respect, and to give him the sharpest Eye over his Author, invite him to criticize honestly, without favour or affection, and with the utmost Bent of his Parts and Judgment. On this account it may be objected to me, perhaps, "That I am not a little vain and pre-"fumptuous, in my own as well as in my "Author's behalf, who can thus, as it "were, challenge my Reader to a Trial" of his keenest Wit."

But to this I answer, That shou'd I have the good fortune to raise the masterly Spirit of just CRITICISM in my Readers, and exalt them ever so little above

the lazy, timorous, over-modest, or re-Ch. I. sign'd State, in which the generality of them remain; tho by this very Spirit, I my-self might possibly meet my Doom: I shou'd however abundantly congratulate with my-self on these my low Flights, be proud of having plum'd the Arrows of better Wits, and furnish'd Artillery, or Ammunition of any kind, to those Powers, to which I my-self had fall'n a Victim.

## \*\_\_\_Fungar vice Cotis.\_\_\_\_

I cou'd reconcile my Ambition in this respect to what I call my Loyalty to the READER; and say of his Elevation in Criticism and Judgment, what a Roman Princess said of her Son's Advancement to Empire, "+ Occidat, dum imperet."

HAD I been a Spanish CERVANTES, and with success equal to that comick Author, had destroy'd the reigning Taste of Gothick or Moorish Chivalry, I cou'd afterwards contentedly have seen my Burlesque-Work it-self despis'd, and set aside; when it had wrought its intended effect, and destroy'd those Giants and Monsters of the Brain, against which it was originally design'd. Without regard, therefore, to the prevailing Relish or Taste which, in

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 304.

Misc. 5. my own Person, I may unhappily experience, when these my Miscellaneous Works are leisurely examin'd; I shall proceed still in my Endeavour to refine my Reader's PALATE; whetting and sharpening it, the best I can, for Use, and Practice, in the lower Subjects: that by this Exercise it may acquire the greater Keenness, and be of so much the better effect in Subjects of a higher kind, which relate to his chief Happiness, his Liberty and Manhood.

SUPPOSING me therefore a mere comick Humourist, in respect of those inferior Subjects, which after the manner of my familiar Prose-Satir I presume to criticize; May not I be allow'd to ask, " Whether " there remains not still among us noble " BRITONS, something of that original " Barbarous and Gothick Relish, not whol-" ly purg'd away; when, even at this hour, " Romances and Gallantrys of like fort, " together with Works as monstrous of o-" ther kinds, are current, and in vogue, even " with the People who constitute our re-" puted polite World?" Need I on this ac-count refer again to our \* Author, where he treats in general of the Style and Manner of our modern Authors, from the Divine to the Comedian? What Person is there of the

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. In his Advice to Authors, Treatife III. VOL. I.

least Judgment or Understanding, who can-Ch. 1. not easily, and without the help of a Divine, or rigid Moralist, observe the lame Condition of our English STAGE; which nevertheless is found the Rendevouz and chief Entertainment of our best Company, and from whence in all probability our Youth will continue to draw their Notion of Manners, and their Taste of Life, more directly and naturally, than from the Rebearsals and Declamations of a graver Theater?

LET those whose business it is, advance, as they best can, the Benefit of that facred Oratory, which we have lately feen and are still like to see employ'd to various purposes, and further deligns than that of instructing us in Religion or Manners. Let 'em in that high Scene endeavour to refine our Taste and Judgment in sacred Matters. 'Tis the good Critick's Task to amend our common STAGE; nor ought this Dramatick Performance to be decry'd or fentenc'd by those Criticks of a higher Sphere. The Practice and Art is honest, in it-self. Our Foundations are well laid. And in the main, our English STAGE (as \* has been remark'd) is capable of the highest Improvement; as well from the present Genius of our Nation, as from the rich Oar

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 217, &c. 223, 259, 275, 276.

Misc. 5. of our early Poets in this kind. But Faults are easier imitated than Beautys.

We find, indeed, our THEATER become of late the Subject of a growing Criticism. We hear it openly complain'd, "That in our newer Plays as well as in our older, in Comedy as well as Trage-"dy, the Stage presents a proper Scene of "Uproar; —Duels fought; Swords "drawn, many of a side; Wounds given, and sometimes dress'd too; the Surgeon call'd, and the Patient prob'd and tented upon the Spot. That in our Tragedy, nothing is so common as Wheels, Racks, and Gibbets properly adorn'd; Executions decently perform'd; Headless Bodys and Bodiless Heads, expos'd to view: Battels fought: Murders committed: and the Dead carry'd off in great Numbers."—Such is our Politeness!

NOR are these Plays, on this account, the less frequented by either of the Sexes: Which inclines me to favour the Conceit our \* Author has suggested concerning the mutual Correspondence and Relation between our Royal THEATER, and Popular CIRCUS or Bear-Garden. For in the former of these Assemblys, 'tis undeniable that at least the two upper Regions or Gallerys

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 270, &c.

contain fuch Spectators, as indifferently fre-Ch. 1. quent each Place of Sport. So that 'tis no wonder we hear fuch Applause resounded on the Victorys of an ALMANZOR; when the same Partys had possibly, no later than the Day before, bestow'd their Applause as freely on the victorious Butcher, the HE-Ro of another Stage: where amidst various Frays, bestial and human Blood, promiscuous Wounds and Slaughter; one Sex are observ'd as frequent and as pleas'd Spectators as the other, and fometimes not Spectators only, but Actors in the Gladiatorian Parts. These Congregations, which we may be apt to call Heathenish \*, (tho in reality never known among the politer Heathens) are, in our Christian Nation, unconcernedly allow'd and tolerated, as no way injurious to religious Interests; whatever effect they may be found to have on national Manners, Humanity, and Civil Life. Of fuch Indulgencys as these, we hear no Complaints. Nor are any Assemblys, tho of the most barbarous and enormous kind, so offensive, it seems, to Men of Zeal, as religious Assemblys of a different Fashion or Habit from their own.

I AM forry to fay, that, tho in the many parts of *Poetry* our Attempts have been high and noble, yet in general the

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 269, &c.

Misc. 5. TASTE of Wit and Letters lies much upon on a level with what relates to our Stage.

Genius what was allow'd to the ROMAN heretofore:

\* \_\_\_\_\_Naturâ fublimis & acer:

Nam fpirat Tragicum fatis, & feliciter audet.

But then I must add too, that the excessive Indulgence and Favour shown to our Authors on account of what their mere Genius and slowing Vein afford, has render'd them intolerably supine, conceited, and Admirers of themselves. The Publick having once suffer'd 'em to take the ascendent, they become, like slatter'd Princes, impatient of Contradiction or Advice. They think it a disgrace to be criticiz'd, even by a Friend; or to reform, at his desire, what they themselves are sully convinc'd is negligent, and uncorrect.

+ Sed turpem putat in scriptis, metuitque Lituram.

The ‡ Limæ Labor is the great Grievance, with our Country-men. An English Author wou'd be all Genius. He wou'd

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. i. ver. 165. † Ibid. ‡ Ars Poet.

reap the Fruits of Art; but without Stu-Ch. 1. dy, Pains, or Application. He thinks it necessary, indeed, (less his Learning shou'd be call'd in question) to show the World that he errs knowingly against the Rules of Art. And for this reason, whatever Piece he publishes at any time, he seldom fails, in some prefix'd Apology, to speak in such a manner of Criticism and Art, as may consound the ordinary Reader, and prevent him from taking up a Part, which, shou'd he once assume, wou'd prove fatal to the impotent and mean Performance.

'TWERE to be wish'd, that when once our Authors had consider'd of a Model or Plan, and attain'd the Knowledg of a \* WHOLE and PARTS; when from this begin-

Denique si quod vis simplex duntaxat & UNUM. Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 23. See VOL. I. p. 145, 146.

'Tis an infallible proof of the want of just Integrity in every Writing, from the Epopee or Heroick-Poem, down to the familiar Epistle, or slightest Essay either in Verse or Proje, if each several Part or Portion sits not its proper place so exactly, that the least Transposition wou'd be impracticable. Whatever is Episodick, tho perhaps it be a Whole, and in itself intire, yet being inserted, as a Part, in a Work of greater

<sup>\*</sup> OAON ປະ ອີຣເ ກວ້ອ້ຽວຍ ລ້ອຽກ້າ ຊື່ ແລ້ວຍ ນັ ກະລອບກຳຄ. ໂດຍໜ້າ ຄື ກະລອບກຳຄ. ໂດຍໜ້າ ປ້ອ ຄວາມ ປ້ອ ຄວາມ ພະ ດັດ ລ້ອງ ຄວາມ ປ້ອ ເຂົ້ອງ ເພື່ອນ ຄວາມ ປ້ອ ເຂົ້ອງ ຄວາມ ປ້ອງ ຄວາມ ປີ ປະຊ

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. 5. beginning they had proceeded to Morals, and the Knowledg of what is call'd \* POETICK MANNERS, and TRUTH; when

greater length, it must appear only in its due Place. And that Place alone can be call'd its due-one, which alone besits it. If there be any Passage in the Middle or End, which might have stood in the Beginning; or any in the Beginning, which might have stood as well in the Middle or End; there is properly in such a Piece neither Beginning, Middle, nor End. 'Tis a mere Rhapsady; not a Work. And the more it assumes the Air or Appearance of a real Work, the more ridiculous it becomes. See above, pag. 25. And VOL. I. pag. 145, 146.

\* Respicere exemplar vitæ morumque jubebo Dostum Imitatorem, & VERAS hinc ducere voces. Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 317.

The Chief of antient Criticks, we know, extols HOMER, above all things, for understanding how " To LYE in perfection:" as the Passage shews which we have cited above, VOL. I. pag. 346. His LYES, according to that Mafter's Opinion, and the Judgment of many of the gravest and most venerable Writers, were, in themselves, the justest Moral Truths, and exhibitive of the best Doctrine and Inftruction in Life and Manners. It may be ask'd perhaps, " How comes the Poet, then, to draw no fingle Pat-" tern of the kind, no perfect Character, in either of his " Heroick Pieces?" I answer, that shou'd he attempt to do it, he wou'd, as a Poet, be preposterous and false. Tis not the Possible, but the Probable and Likely, which must be the Poet's Guide in Manners. By this he wins Attention, and moves the conscious Reader or Spectator; who judges best from within, by what he naturally feels and experiences in his own Heart. The Perfection of Virtue is from long Art and Management, Self-controul, and, as it were, Force on Nature. But the common Auditor or Spectator, who feeks Pleasure only, and loves to engage his Passion, by view of other Passion and Emotion, comprehends little of the Restraints, Allays and Corrections, which form this new and artificial Creature. For fuch indeed is the truly virtuous Man; whose ART, tho ever so natural in it-felf.

when they had learnt to reject false Ch. 1. Thought, embarassing and mix'd Metaphors, the ridiculous Paint in Comedy,
and

it-felf, or justly founded in Reason and Nature, is an Improvement far beyond the common Stamp, or known Character of Human Kind. And thus the compleatly virtuous and perfect Character is unpoetical and false. Effects must not appear, where Caufes must necessarily remain unknown and incomprehensible. A HERO without Passion, is, in Poetry, as absurd as a HERO without Life or Action. Now if Paffion be allow'd, paffionate Action must ensue. The fame Heroick Genius and feeming Magnanimity which transport us when beheld, are naturally transporting in the Lives and Manners of the Great, who are describ'd to us. And thus the able Defigner, who feigns in behalf of Truth, and draws his Characters after the Moral Rule, fails not to discover Nature's Propensity; and assigns to these high Spirits their proper Exorbitancy, and Inclination to exceed in that Tone or Species of Paffion, which constitutes the eminent or shining part of each poetical Character. The Passion of an ACHILLES is towards that Glory which is acquir'd by Arms and personal Valour. In favour of this Character, we forgive the generous Youth his Excess of Ardor in the Field, and his Refentment when injur'd and provok'd in Council, and by his Allies. The Passion of an ULYSSES is towards that Glory which is acquir'd by Prudence, Wisdom, and Ability in Affairs. 'Tis in favour of this Character that we forgive him his fubtle, crafty, and deceitful Air: fince the intriguing Spirit, the over-reaching Manner, and Overrefinement of Art and Policy, are as naturally incident to the experienc'd and thorow Politician, as fudden Refentment, indiscreet and rash Behaviour, to the open underigning Character of a warlike Youth. The gigantick Force and military Toil of an AJAX wou'd not be so easily credible, or engaging, but for the honest Simplicity of his Nature, and the Heaviness of his Parts and Genius. For Strength of Body being so often noted by us, as un-attended with equal Parts and Strength of Mind; when we fee this natural Effect expres'd, and find our fecret and malicious kind of Reasoning confirm'd, on this hand; we yield to any Hyperbole of our Poet, on the other. He has afterwards his full Scope, and Vol. 3. Liberty Misc. 5. and the false Sublime, and Bombast in Heroick; they wou'd at last have some regard to Numbers, Harmony, and an Ear;

Liberty of enlarging, and exceeding, in the peculiar Virtue and Excellence of his Hero. He may he splendidly, raise wonder, and be as aftonifbing as he pleases. Every thing will be allow'd him in return for this frank Allowance. Thus the Tongue of a NESTOR may work Prodigys, whilst the accompanying Allays of a rhetorical Fluency, and aged Experience, are kept in view. An AGAMEMNON may be admir'd as a noble and wife Chief, whilst a certain princely Haughtiness, a Stiffness, and stately Carriage natural to the Character, are represented in his Person, and noted in their ill Effects. For thus the Excesses of every Character are by the Poet redress'd. And the Missortunes naturally attending fuch Excesses, being justly apply'd; our Passions, whilst in the strongest manner engag'd and mov'd, are in the wholesomest and most effectual manner corrected and purg'd. Were a Man to form himself by one single Pattern or Original, however perfect; he wou'd himself be a mere Copy. But whilft he draws from various Models, he is original, natural, and unaffected. We see in outward Carriage and Behaviour, how ridiculous any one becomes who imitates another, be he ever fo graceful. They are mean Spirits who love to copy merely. Nothing is agreeable or natural, but what is original. Our Manners, like our Faces, tho ever fo beautiful, must differ in their Beauty. An Over-regularity is next to a Deformity. And in a Poem, whether Epick or Dramatick, a compleat and perfect Character is the greatest Monster; and of all poetick Fictions not only the least engaging, but the least moral and improving. Thus much by way of Remark upon poetical TRUTH, and the just Fiction, or artful Lying of the able Poet; according to the Judgment of the Master-Critick. What HORACE expresses of the same Lying Virtue, is of an easier sense, and needs no explanation.

Arque ita mentitur, sic veris salsa remisset; Primo ne medium, medio ne discrepet imum. De Arte Poet. ver. 152.

\* Ear; and correct, as far as possible, the Ch. 1. harsh Sounds of our Language, in Poetry at least, if not in Prose.

But so much are our British Poets taken up, in feeking out that monftrous Ornament which we call + Rbyme, that 'tis

The same may be observ'd not only in Heroick Draughts, but in the inferior Characters of Comedy.

Quam similis uterque est sui!

Ter. Phorm. Act. iii. Sc. 2. See VOL. I. pag. 4, 142, 143, 337, & 351. in the Notes, at the end.

\* VOL. I. pag. 217.

† The Reader, if curious in these matters, may see Is. Vossius de viribus Rhythmi; and what he says, withal, of antient Musick, and the degrees by which they furpass us Moderns, (as has been demonstrated by late Mathematicians of our Nation) contrary to a ridiculous Notion some have had, that because in this, as in all other Arts, the Antients study'd Simplicity, and affected it as the highest Perfection in their Performances, they were therefore ignorant of Parts and Symphony. Against this, Is. Vossius, amongst other Authors, cites the antient Peripatetick con Kónsus at the beginning of his fifth Chapter. To which he might have added another Passage in Chap. 6. The Sutablenefs of this antient Author's Thought to what has been often advanc'd in the philosophical Parts of these Volumes, concerning the universal Symmetry, or Union of the Whole, may make it excufable if we add here the two Passages together, in their inimitable Original. "Ισως Αὶ κὴ δεαντίων ἡ φύσις γλίχε]αι, κὴ ἐκ τέπων ἀποβελεῖν τὸ σύμφωνον, ἐκ ἐκ τῷ ὁμοίων ἄσπερ ἀμέλει τὸ ἄρρεν συνήμαγε πρὸς τὸ Ͽῆλυ, κ) έχ έχατερον προς το ομόφυλου, κ) την πρώτην όμόrotar da The evarlier own ter, & da The opoler. Force de κὶ ή τέχνη την φύσιν μιμεμένη, σέτο ποιείν. Ζωγεφρία μέν γάς, λευκών τε κ μελάνων, ώχρων τε κ έρυθρών χρωμάτων EYREPAGULEN QU'GEIS, TA'S ELKOVAS TEIS TOPONYELEVOIS amτέλεσε συμφώνες Μεσική δε, όξεις αμα κ βαρείς, μακρύς τε κ) βεαχείς φθός γες μίξασα, εν διαφόροις φωναίς, S 2

Misc. 5. no wonder if other Ornaments, and real Graces are unthought of, and left un-at-tempted. However, fince in some Parts of Poetry, especially in the Dramatick, we have been so happy as to triumph over this barbarous Tafte; 'tis unaccountable that our Poets, who from this Privilege ought to undertake some further Refinements, shou'd remain still upon the fame level as before. 'Tis a shame to our Authors, that in their elegant Style and metred Proje there shou'd not be found a peculiar Grace and Harmony, refulting from a more natural and easy Disengagement of their Periods, and from a careful avoiding the Encounter of the shocking Confonants and jarring Sounds to which our Language is so unfortunately subject.

THEY have of late, 'tis true, reform'd in some measure the gouty Joints and

Darning-

Darning-work of Whereunto's, Whereby's, Ch. 1. Thereof's, Therewith's, and the rest of this kind; by which, complicated Periods are fo curiously strung, or hook'd on, one to another, after the long-spun manner of the Bar, or Pulpit. But to take into consideration no real Accent, or Cadency of Words, no Sound or Measure of Syllables; to put together, at one time, a Set of Compounds, of the longest Greek or Latin Termination; and at another, to let whole Verses, and those too of our heroick and longest fort, pass currently in Monosylla-bles; is, methinks, no slender Negligence. If single Verses at the head, or in the most emphatical places, of the most considerable Works, can admit of such a Structure, and pass for truly harmonious and poetical in this negligent form; I fee no reason why more Verses than one or two, of the fame formation, shou'd not be as well admitted; or why an un-interrupted Succesfion of these well-strung Monosyllables might not be allow'd to clatter after one another, like the Hammers of a Paper-Mill, without any breach of Musick, or prejudice to the Harmony of our Language. But if Persons who have gone no farther than a Smith's Anvil to gain an Ear, are yet likely, on fair trial, to find a plain defect in these Ten-Monosyllable Heroicks; it wou'd follow, methinks, that even a Profe-Author, who attempts to write politely, S 3 shou'd

Misc. 5. shou'd endeavour to confine himself within those Bounds, which can never, without breach of Harmony, be exceeded in any just Metre, or agreeable Pronunciation.

THUS HAVE I ventur'd to arraign the Authority of those self-privileg'd Writers, who wou'd exempt themselves from Criticism, and fave their ill-acquir'd Reputation, by the Decrial of an Art, on which the Cause and Interest of Wit and Letters absolutely depend. Be it they themselves, or their great Patrons in their behalf, who wou'd thus arbitrarily sup-port the Credit of ill Writings; the At-tempt, I hope, will prove unsuccessful. Be they Moderns or Antients, Foreigners or Natives, ponderous and auftere Writers, or airy and of the humorous kind: Whoever takes refuge here, or feeks Protection hence; whoever joins his Party or Interest to this Cause; it appears from the very Fact and Endeavour alone, that there is just ground to suspect some Insufficiency or Imposture at the bottom. And on this account the READER, if he be wife, will the rather redouble his Application and Industry, to examine the Merit of his affuming Author. If, as Reader, and Judg, he dares once affert that Liberty to which we have shewn him justly intitled; he will not easily be threaten'd or ridicul'd out of the

the use of his examining Capacity, and na-Ch. 1. tive Privilege of CRITICISM.

'T was to this Art, so well understood and practis'd heretofore, that the wife Antients ow'd whatever was confummate and perfect in their Productions. 'Tis to the fame Art we owe the Recovery of Letters in these latter Ages. To this alone we must ascribe the Recognition of antient Manuscripts, the Discovery of what is spurious, and the Discernment of whatever is genuine of those venerable Remains which have pass'd thro' such dark Periods of Ignorance, and rais'd us to the Improvements we now make in every Science. 'Tis to this Art, that even the Sacred Authors themselves owe their highest Purity and Correctness. So facred ought the Art it-felf to be esteem'd; when from its Supplies alone is form'd that judicious and learned Strength, by which the Defenders of our Holy Religion are able fo successfully to refute the Heathens, Jews, Sectarians, Hereticks, and other Enemys or Opposers of our primitive and antient Faith.

But having thus, after our Author's example, afferted the Use of Criticism, in all literate Works, from the main Frame, or Plan of every Writing, down to the minutest Particle; we may now proceed to exercise this Art upon our Author himself,

Misc. 5 and by his own Rules examine him in this his last Treatise; reserving still to our-selves the same Privilege of Variation, and Excursion into other Subjects, the same Episodick Liberty, and Right of wandering, which we have maintain'd in the preceding Chapters.

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# CHAP. II.

Generation and Succession of our national and modern Wit.—Manners of the Proprietors.—Corporation and Joint-Stock—Statute against Criticism. A Coffee-House Committee. Mr. BAYS.—Other BAYS'S in Divinity.—Censure of our Author's Dialogue-Piece; and of the Manner of Dialogue-Writing, us'd by Reverend Wits.

CCORDING to the common Course of Practice in our Age, we seldom see the Character of Writer and that of Critick united in the same Person. There is, I know, a certain Species of Authors, who subsist wholly by the criticizing or commenting Practice upon others, and can appear in no other Form besides what this Employment authorizes them to assume the Employment authorizes them to assume the They have no original Character, or first Part; but wait for something which may be call'd a Work, in order to graft upon it, and come in, for Sharers, at second hand.

Misc. 5.

THE Pen-men of this Capacity and Degree are, from their Function and Employment, distinguish'd by the Title of Answerers. For it happens in the World, that there are Readers of a Genius and Size just fitted to these answering Authors. These, if they teach 'em nothing else, will teach 'em, they think, to criticize. And tho the new practifing Criticks are of a fort unlikely ever to understand any original Book or Writing; they can understand, or at least remember, and quote the fubsequent Reflections, Flouts, and Jeers, which may accidentally be made on such a Piece. Where-ever a Gentleman of this fort happens, at any time, to be in company, you shall no sooner hear a new Book spoken of, than 'twill be ask'd, "Who has answer'd it?" or "When is there an Answer to come out?"—Now the Anfwer, as our Gentleman knows, must needs be newer than the Book. And the newer a thing is, the more fashionable still, and the genteeler the Subject of Discourse. For this the Bookseller knows how to fit our Gentleman to a nicety: For he has commonly an Answer ready bespoke, and perhaps finish'd, by the time his new Book comes abroad. And 'tis odds but our fashionable Gentleman, who takes both together, may read the latter first, and drop the other for good and all.

Bur

BUT of these answering WITS, and the manner of Rejoinders, and reiterate Replies, we have said what is sufficient \* in a former MISCELLANY. We need only remark in general, "That 'tis necessary a "writing CRITICK shou'd understand how to write. And tho every Writer is not bound to shew himself in the capacity of CRITICK, every writing Critick is bound to shew himself capable of being a WRITER. For if he be apparently impotent in this latter kind, he is to be deny'd all Title or Character in the other."

To censure merely what another Person writes; to twitch, snap, snub up, or banter; to torture Sentences and Phrases, turn a sew Expressions into Ridicule, or write what is now-a-days call'd an Answer to any Piece, is not sufficient to constitute what is properly esteem'd a WRITER, or AUTHOR, in due form. For this reason, tho there are many ANSWERERS seen abroad, there are few or no CRITICKS or SATIRISTS. But whatever may be the State of Controversy in our Religion, or politick Concerns; 'tis certain that in the mere literate World, Affairs are manag'd with a better Understanding between the

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Supra, MISC. I. chap. 2.

Misc. 5. principal Partys concern'd. The WRITERS or AUTHORS in possession have
an easier time than any Ministry, or religious Party, which is uppermost. They
have found a way, by decrying all CRITIcism in general, to get rid of their Disserters, and prevent all Pretences to further
Reformation in their State. The CRITICK
is made to appear distinct, and of another
Species; wholly different from the Writer.
None who have a GENIUS for Writing,
and can perform with any Success, are
presum'd so ill-natur'd or illiberal as to
endeavour to signalize themselves in CRI-

'T'is not difficult, however, to imagine why this practical Difference between Writer and Critick has been so generally established amongst us, as to make the Provinces seem wholly distinct, and irreconcilable. The forward Wits, who without waiting their due time, or performing their requisite Studys, start up in the World as Authors, having with little Pains or Judgment, and by the strength of Fancy merely, acquir'd a Name with Mankind, can on no account afterwards submit to a Decrial or Disparagement of those raw Works, to which they ow'd their early Character and Distinction. Ill wou'd it fare with 'em, indeed, if on these tenacious Terms they shou'd venture upon Criticals.

cism, or offer to move that Spirit which Ch. 2. wou'd infallibly give such Disturbance to their establish'd Title.

Now we may consider, That in our Nation, and especially in our present Age, whilst Wars, Debates, and publick Convulsions turn our Minds so wholly upon Business and Affairs; the better Genius's being in a manner necessarily involv'd in the active Sphere, on which the general Eye of Mankind is so strongly fixt; there must remain in the Theatre of Wit a sufficient Vacancy of Place: and the quality of Actor upon that Stage must of consequence be very easily attainable, and at a low Price of Ingenuity or Understanding.

The Persons therefore who are in possession of the prime Parts in this deserted. Theatre, being suffer'd to maintain their Ranks and Stations in full Ease, have naturally a good Agreement and Understanding with their Fellow-Wits. Being indebted to the Times for this Happiness, that with so little Industry or Capacity they have been able to serve the Nation with Wit, and supply the Place of real Dispensers and Ministers of the Muses Treasures; they must, necessarily, as they have any Love for themselves, or fatherly Affection for their Works, conspire with one another to preserve their common Interest of Industrial

Misc. 5. dolence, and justify their Remisness, Uncorrectness, Insipidness, and downright Ignorance of all literate Art, or just poetick Beauty.

### \* Magna inter molles Concordia.

For this reason you see 'em mutually courteous, and benevolent; gracious and obliging, beyond measure; complimenting one another interchangeably, at the head of their Works, in recommendatory Verses, or in separate Panegyricks, Essays, and Fragments of Poetry; such as in the Miscellaneous Collections (our yearly Retail of Wit) we see curiously compacted, and accommodated to the Relish of the World. Here the Tyrocinium of Genius's is annually display'd. Here, if you think fit, you may make acquaintance with the young Offspring of Wits, as they come up gradually under the old; with due Courtthip, and Homage, paid to those high Pre-decessors of Fame, in hope of being one day admitted, by turn, into the noble Order, and made WITS by Patent and Authority.

This is the young Fry which you may fee bushly surrounding the grown Poet, or chief Play-house-Author, at a Coffee-House. They are his Guards; ready to take up

<sup>\*</sup> Juven. Sat. ii. ver. 47.

Arms for him; if by some presumptuous Ch. 2. Critick he is at any time attack'd. They are indeed the very Shadows of their immediate Predecessor, and represent the fame Features, with fome fmall Alteration perhaps for the worse. They are fure to aim at nothing above or beyond their Master; and wou'd on no account give him the least Jealousy of their aspiring to any Degree or Order of writing above him. From hence that Harmony and reciprocal Esteem, which, on such a bottom as this, cannot fail of being perfectly well establish'd among our Poets: The Age, mean while, being after this manner hopefully provided, and secure of a constant and like Succession of meritorious Wits, in every kind! Was assumed and a standard

IF by chance a Man of Sense, un-apprized of the Authority of these high Powers, shou'd venture to accost the Gentlemen of this Fraternity, at some Coffee-bouse Committee, whilst they were taken up, in mutual Admiration, and the usual Praise of their national and co-temporary Wits; 'tis possible he might be treated with some Civility, whilst he inquir'd, for Satisfaction sake, into the Beautys of those particular Works so unanimously extoll'd. But shou'd he presume to ask, in general, "Why is our Epick or Dra-"matick, our Essay, or common Prose no "better"

Misc. 5." better executed?" Or, "Why in par"ticular does such or such a reputed Wit
"write so incorrectly, and with so little
"regard to Justness of Thought or Lan"guage?" The Answer wou'd presently be given, "That we Englishmen are
"not ty'd up to such rigid Rules as those
"of the antient Grecian, or modern
"French Criticks."

"BE it so (Gentlemen!) "Tis your good Pleasure. Nor ought any one to dispute it with you. You are Masters, no doubt, in your own Country. But (Gentlemen!) the Question here, is not What your Authority may be over your own Writers. You may have them of what Fashion or Size of Wit you please; and allow them to entertain you at the rate you think sufficient, and satisfactory. But can you, by your good Pleasure, or the Approbation of your highest Patrons, make that to be either Wit, or Sense, which wou'd otherwise have been Bombast and Contradiction? If your Poets are still Mr. BAYS's, and your Prose-Authors Sir Rogers, without

<sup>\*</sup> To see the Incorrigibleness of our Poets in their pedantick Manner, their Vanity, Desiance of Criticism, their Rhodomontade, and poetical Bravado; we need only turn to our famous Poet-Laureat (the very Mr. Bays himself) in one of his latest and most valued Pieces, writ many years

" without offering at a better Manner; Ch. 2. " must it follow that the Manner it-self is " good, or the Wit genuine? - What

" fay you (Gentlemen!) to this new

" Piece?—Let us examine these Lines

" which you call skining! This String of " Sentences which you call clever! This

" Pile of Metaphors which you call fub-

" lime! — Are you unwilling (Gentle-"men!) to stand the Test? Do you de-

" spise the Examination?

after the ingenious Author of the Rehearfal had drawn his Picture. " I have been listening (fays our Poet, in his Preface to Don Sebastian) " what Objections had been made " against the Conduct of the Play, but found them all so " trivial, that if I shou'd name them, a true Critick wou'd " imagine that I plaid booty——Some are pleas'd to fay "the Writing is dull. But atatem babet, de se loquatur." Others, that the double Poison is unnatural. Let the com-" mon receiv'd Opinion, and Ausonius's famous Epigram " answer that. Lastly, a more ignorant fort of Creatures " than either of the former, maintain that the Character of "DORAX is not only unnatural, but inconfiftent with . " it-felf. Let them read the Play, and think again .- A " longer Reply is what those Cavillers deserve not. But I " will give them and their Fellows to understand, that the " Earl of \* \* \* was pleas'd to read the Tragedy twice " over before it was acted, and did me the favour to fend " me word, that I had written beyond any of my former " Plays, and that he was displeas'd any thing shou'd be cut " away. If I have not reason to prefer his single Judgment " to a whole Faction, let the World be judge: For the Op-" position is the same with that of Lucan's Hero against " an Army, concurrere Bellum atque Virum. I think I may " modestly conclude, &c."

Thus he goes on, to the very end, in the felf-same Strain. Who, after this, can ever fay of the Rebearfal-Author, that his Picture of our Poet was over-charg'd, or the national Hu-

mour wrong describ'd ?

278 Misc. 5.

Misc. 5. "SIR!——Since you are pleas'd to " take this Liberty with us; May we pre-" fume to ask you a Question? O "Gentlemen! as many as you please: I " shall be highly honour'd. Why " then (pray Sir!) inform us, Whether " you have ever writ? Very often (Gentlemen!) especially on a Post-"night. But have you writ (for infance, Sir!) a Play, a Song, an Essay, or a PAPER, as, by way of Eminence, the current Pieces of our Weekly Wits are generally styl'd? Something of this kind I may perhaps (Gentlemen!) have attempted, the without pub-" lishing my Work. But pray (Gentle-"men!) what is my writing, or not wri-" ting to the question in hand? On-" ly this, (Sir!) and you may fairly take " our words for it: That, whenever you publish, you will find the Town against " you. Your Piece will infallibly be con-" demn'd. So let it. But for what " reason, Gentlemen? I am sure, you ne-" ver saw the Piece. No, Sir. But " you are a CRITICK. And we know by " certain Experience, that, when a Critick " writes according to Rule and Method, " he is sure never to hit the English Taste. " Did not Mr. R-, who criticiz'd our " English Tragedy, write a forry one of his own? If he did (Gentlemen!)

"twas

"'twas his own fault, not to know his Ch. 2. "Genius better. But is his Criticism the "
"less just on this account? If a Musi"cian performs his Part well in the hardest Symphonys, he must necessarily 
know the Notes, and understand the 
Rules of Harmony and Musick. But 
must a Man, therefore, who has an Ear, 
and has study'd the Rules of Musick, of 
necessity have a Voice or Hand? Can 
no one possibly judg a Fiddle, but who 
is himself a Fiddler? Can no one judg 
a Picture, but who is himself a Layer 
of Colours?"—

Thus far our rational Gentleman perhaps might venture, before his Coffee-house Audience. Had I been at his Elbow to prompt him as a Friend, I shou'd hardly have thought fit to remind him of any thing further. On the contrary, I shou'd have rather taken him aside, to inform him of this Cabal, and establish'd Corporation of Wit; of their declar'd Aversion to Criticifin, and of their known Laws and Statutes in that Case made and provided. I shou'd have told him, in short, that learned Arguments wou'd be mispent on such as these: And that he wou'd find little Succefs, tho he shou'd ever so plainly demonstrate to the Gentlemen of this Size of Wit and Understanding, "That the greatest " Masters of Art, in every kind of Wri-T 2

Misc. 5." ting, were eminent in the critical Prac-"tice." But that they really were so, witness, among the Antients, their greatest \* PHILOSOPHERS, whose critical Pieces lie intermixt with their profound philosophical Works, and other politer Tracts ornamentally writ, + for publick use. Witness in History and Rhetorick, ISOCRA-TES, DIONYSIUS HALICARNASSEUS, PLUTARCH, and the corrupt LUCIAN himself; the only one perhaps of these Authors, whom our Gentlemen may, in some modern Translation, have look'd into, with any Curiosity or Delight. To these among the Romans we may add CICERO, VAR-RO, HORACE, QUINTILIAN, PLINY, and many more.

> AMONG the Moderns, a BOILEAU and a CORNEILLE are sufficient Precedents in the Case before us. They apply'd their *Criticism* with just Severity, even to their own Works. This indeed is a Manner hardly practicable with the Poets of our own Nation. It wou'd be unreasonable to expect of 'em that they shou'd bring such Measures in use, as being apply'd to their Works, wou'd disco-

+ The distinction of Treatises was into the anecaualinit, and explecial.

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. PLATO, ARISTOTLE. See, in particular, the PHEDRUS of the former; where an entire Piece of the Orator Lystas is criticiz'd in form.

ver 'em to be wholly deform'd and dif-Ch. 2. proportionable. 'Tis no wonder therefore if we have so little of this critical Genius extant, to guide us in our Taste. 'Tis no wonder if what is generally current in this kind, lies in a manner bury'd, and in difguise under Burlesque, as particularly in the \* witty Comedy of a noble Author of this last Age. To the Shame, however, of our profess'd Wits and Enterprizers in the higher Spheres of Poetry, it may be observ'd, that they have not wanted good Advice and Instruction of the graver kind, from as high a Hand in respect of Quality and Character: Since one of the justest of our modern Poems, and so confess'd even by our Poets themfelves, is a short Criticism, An ART of POETRY; by which, if they themselves were to be judg'd, they must in general appear no better than mere Bunglers, and void of all true Sense and Knowledg in their Art. But if in reality both Critick and Poet, confessing the Justice of these Rules of Art, can afterwards, in Practice, condemn and approve, perform and judg, in a quite different manner from what they acknowledg just and true: it plainly shews, That, tho perhaps we are not indigent in Wit; we want what is of more

-MATER

<sup>\*</sup> The Rebearfal. See VOL. I. pag. 259. and just above, pag. 277. in the Notes.

Misc. 5. consequence, and can alone raise Wit to any Dignity or Worth; even plain Ho-NESTY, MANNERS, and a Sense of that MORAL TRUTH, on which (as has been often express'd in these \* Volumes) poetick TRUTH and Beauty must naturally depend.

> + Qui didicit Patriæ quid debeat, & quid Amicis. Quo fit amore parens, quo frater amandus & hospes, Quod fit Conscripti, quod Judicis offi--ille profectò Reddere personæ scit convenientia cuique.

As for this Species of Morality which distinguishes the Civil Offices of Life, and describes each becoming Personage or Character in this Scene; so necessary it is for the Poet and polite Author to be apprized of it, that even the Divine himself may with juster pretence be exempted from the knowledg of this fort. The Composer of religious Discourses has the advantage of that bigher Scene of Mystery, which is above the level of human Commerce. 'Tis not fo much his Concern, or Business, to be

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. VOL. I. jag. 207, 208. and 277, 278. and 336, &c. So above, pag. 260. and in the Notes.

† Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 312, &c.

agreeable. And often when he wou'd en-Ch. 2. deavour it, he becomes more than ordinarily displeasing. His Theater, and that of the polite World, are very different: Infomuch that in a Reverend AUTHOR, or DECLAIMER of this fort, we naturally excuse the Ignorance of ordinary Decorum, in what relates to the Affairs of our inferior temporal World. But for the POET or genteel WRITER, who is of this World merely, 'tis a different Case. He must be perfect in this moral Science. We can eafily bear the loss of indifferent POETRY or Essay. A good Bargain it were, cou'd we get rid of every moderate Performance in this kind. But were we oblig'd to hear only excellent SERMONS, and to read nothing, in the way of Devotion, which was not well writ; it might possibly go hard with many Christian People, who are at present such attentive Auditors and Readers. Establish'd Pastors have a right to be indifferent. But voluntary Discourses and Attempters in Wit or Poetry, are as intolerable, when they are indifferent, as either Fiddlers or Painters:

## \* -Poterat duci quia Cana fine istis.

Other BAYs's and *Poetasters* may be lawfully baited; tho we patiently submit to our BAYs's in *Divinity*.

<sup>\*</sup> Hor. Ars Poet. ver. 376.

Misc. 5.

HAD the Author of our \* Subject-Treatifes consider'd thorowly of these literate Affairs, and found how the Interest of Wit stood at present in our Nation, he wou'd have had so much regard surely to his own Interest, as never to have writ unless either in the fingle Capacity of mere CRITICK, or that of Author in form. If he had refolv'd never to produce a regular or legitimate Piece, he might pretty fafely have writ on still after the rate of his first Volume, and mixt manner. He might have been as critical, as satirical, or as full of Raillery as he had pleas'd. But to come afterwards as a grave Actor upon the Stage, and expose himself to Criticism in his turn, by giving us a Work or two in form, after the regular manner of Composition, as we see in his second Volume; this, I think, was no extraordinary Proof of his Judgment or Ability, in what related to his own Credit and Advantage. Advantage.

ONE of these formal Pieces (the IN-QUIRY already examin'd) we have found to be wholly after the Manner, which in one of his critical Pieces he calls the Methodick. But his next Piece (the Mo-RALISTS, which we have now before us)

must, according to his own \* Rules, beCh. 2. reckon'd as an Undertaking of greater weight. 'Tis not only at the bottom, as Systematical, didactick and preceptive, as that other Piece of formal Structure; but it affumes withal another Garb, and more fashionable Turn of Wit. It conceals what is scholastical, under the appearance of a polite Work. It aspires to Dialogue, and carrys with it not only those poetick Features of the Pieces antiently call'd MIMES; but it attempts to unite the feveral Personages and Characters in ONE Action, or Story, within a determinate Compass of Time, regularly divided, and drawn into different and proportion'd Scenes: And this, too, with variety of STYLE; the fimple, comick, rhetorical, and even the poetick or sublime; such as is the aptest to run into Enthusiasm and Extravagance. So much is our Author, by virtue of this Piece +, a POET in due form, and by a

\* VOL. I. pag. 193, &c. and pag. 257.

† That he is confcious of this, we may gather from that Line or two of Advertisement, which stands at the beginning of his first Edition. "As for the Characters, and Incidents, "they are neither wholly seign'd (fags be) nor wholly true: but according to the Liberty allow'd in the way of DIA-"LOGUE, the principal Matters are founded upon Truth; and the rest as near resembling as may be. 'Tis a Sceptick recites: and the Hero of the Piece passes for an Enthusiass."

If a persect Character be wanting; 'tis the same Case here, as with the Poets in some of their best Pieces. And this furely is a sufficient Warrant for the Author of a PHILO-" SOPHICAL."

Misc. 5. more apparent claim, than if he had writ

a PLAY, or dramatick Piece, in as regular a manner, at least, as any known at present on our Stage.

It appears, indeed, that as high as our Author, in his critical Capacity, wou'd pretend to carry the refin'd Manner and accurate SIMPLICITY of the Antients;

\_\_\_Thus our Author " SOPHICAL ROMANCE." himself; who to conceal, however, his strict Imitation of the antient poetick DIALOGUE, has prefix'd an auxiliary Title to his Work, and given it the Sirname of RHAPSODY: As if it were merely of that Effay or mix'd kind of Works, which come abroad with an affected Air of Negligence and Irregularity. But whatever our Author may have affected in his Title-Page, 'twas fo little his Intention to write after that Model of incoherent Workmanthip, that it appears to be forely against his Will, if this Dialogue-Piece of his has not the just Character, and correct Form of those antient Poems describ'd. He wou'd gladly have constituted ONE single Action and Time, futable to the just Simplicity of those Dramatick Works. And this, one wou'd think, was easy enough for him to have done. He needed only to have brought his first Speakers immediately into Action, and sav'd the narrative or recitative Part of PHILOCLES to PALEMON, by producing them as speaking Personages upon his Stage. The Scene all along might have been the Park. From the early Evening to the late Hour of Night, that the two Galants withdrew to their Town-Apartments, there was fufficient time for the Narrator PHILOCLES, to have recited the whole Transaction of the second and third Part; which wou'd have flood thro'out as it now does: only at the Conclusion, when the narrative or recitative Part had ceas'd, the fimple and direct DIALOGUE wou'd have again return'd, to grace the Exit. By this means the temporal as well as local Unity of the Piece had been preferv'd. Nor had our Author been necessitated to commit that Anachronism, of making his Erst Part, in order, to be last in time.

he dares not, in his own Model and prin-Ch. 2. cipal Performance, attempt to unite his Philosophy in one folid and uniform Body, nor carry on his Argument in one continu'd Chain or Thred. Here our Author's Timorousness is visible. In the very Plan or Model of his Work, he is apparently put to a hard shift, to contrive how or with what probability he might introduce Men of any Note or Fashion, \* reasoning expresly and purposely, without play or trifling, for two or three hours together, on mere PHILOSOPHY and MORALS. He finds these Subjects (as he confesses) so wide of common Conversation, and, by long Custom, so appropriated to the School, the University-Chair, or Pulpit, that he thinks it hardly fafe or practicable to treat of them elsewhere, or in a different Tone. He is forc'd therefore to raise particular Machines, and constrain his principal Characters, in order to carry a better Face, and bear himself out, against the appearance of Pedantry. Thus his Gentleman-Philosopher THEOCLES, before he enters into his real Character, becomes a feign'd Preacher. And even when his real Character comes on, he hardly dares stand it out; but to deal the better with his Sceptick-Friend, he falls again to personating, and takes up the

Misc. 5. Humour of the Poet and Enthusiast. PA-LEMON the Man of Quality, and who is first introduc'd as Speaker in the Piece, must, for fashion-sake, appear in Love, and under a kind of Melancholy, produc'd by fome Mif-adventures in the World. How else shou'd he be suppos'd so serious? P H 1-LOCLES his Friend (an airy Gentleman of the World, and a thorow Raillier) must have a home Charge upon him, and feel the Anger of his grave Friend, before he can be suppos'd grave enough to enter into a philosophical Discourse. A quarter of an hour's reading must serve to represent an hour or two's Debate. And a new Scene presenting it self, ever and anon, must give Refreshment, it seems, to the faint Reader. and remind him of the Characters and Business going on.

'TIS in the fame view that we MISCELLANARIAN Authors, being fearful of the natural Lassitude and Satiety of our indolent Reader, have prudently betaken ourselves to the way of Chapters and Contents; that as the Reader proceeds, by frequent Intervals of Repose, contriv'd on purpose for him, he may from time to time be advertis'd of what is yet to come, and be tempted thus to renew his Application.

Thus in our modern Plays we fee, almost in every other Leaf, Descriptions or Illustra-

Illustrations of the Action, not in the Ch. 2. Poem it-self, or in the mouth of the Actors; but by the Poet, in his own Person; in order, as appears, to help out a Defect of the Text, by a kind of marginal Note, or Comment: which renders these Pieces of a mix'd kind between the narrative and dramatick. 'Tis in this fashionable Style, or manner of dumb Shew, that the Reader finds the Action of the Piece more amazingly express'd, than he possibly cou'd by the Lines of the Drama it-self; where the Partys alone are suffer'd to be Speakers.

'Tis out of the same regard to Ease, both in respect of Writer and Reader, that we fee long Characters and Descriptions at the head of most dramatick Pieces, to inform us of the Relations, Kindred, Interests, and Designs of the Dramatis Personæ: This being of the highest importance to the Reader, that he may the better understand the Plot, and find out the principal Characters and Incidents of the Piece; which otherways cou'd not possibly discover themselves, as they are read in their due order. And to do justice to our Play-Readers, they feldom fail to humour our Poets in this respect, and read over the Characters with strict application, as a fort of Grammar, or Key, before they enter on the Piece it-felf. I know not whether they wou'd

Misc. 5. wou'd do so much for any philosophical Piece in the world. Our Author seems very much to question it; and has therefore made that part easy enough, which re-lates to the distinction of his Characters, by making use of the narrative Manner. Tho he had done, as well, perhaps, not to have gone out of the natural plain way, on this account. For with those to whom fuch philosophical Subjects are agreeable, it cou'd be thought no laborious Task to give the same attention to Characters in Dialogue, as is given at the first entrance by every Reader to the easiest Play, compos'd of fewest and plainest Personages. But for those who read these Subjects with mere Supineness, and Indifference; they will as much begrudg the pains of attending to the Characters thus particularly pointed out, as if they had only been difcernible by Inference and Deduction from the mouth of the speaking Partys themselves.

MORE REASONS are given by our \* Author himself, for his avoiding the direct way of DIALOGUE; which at prefent lies so low, and is us'd only now and then, in our Party-Pamphlets, or newfashion'd theological Essays. For of late,

b'uow

<sup>\*</sup> VOL.II. pag. 187, 188.

it feems, the Manner has been introduc'd Ch. 2. into Church-Controverfy, with an Attempt of Raillery and Humour, as a more fuccessful Method of dealing with Herefy and Infidelity. The Burlesque-Divinity grows mightily in vogue. And the cry'd-up Anfwers to heterodox Discourses are generally fuch as are written in Drollery, or with refemblance of the facetious and humorous Language of Conversation.

Toy to the reverend Authors, who can afford to be thus gay, and condescend to correct us, in this Lay-Wit. The Advances they make in behalf of Piety and Manners, by fuch a popular Style, are doubtless found, upon experience, to be very confiderable. As these Reformers are nicely qualify'd to hit the Air of Breeding and Gentility, they will in time, no doubt, refine their Manner, and improve this jocular Method, to the Edification of the polite World; who have been fo long feduc'd by the way of Raillery and Wit. They may do wonders by their comick Muse, and may thus, perhaps, find means to laugh Gentlemen into their Religion, who have unfortunately been laugh'd out of it. For what reason is there to suppose that Orthodoxy shou'd not be able to laugh as agreeably, and with as much Refinedness, as Herefy or Infidelity?

Misc. 5. Ar present, it must be own'd, the Cha-

Ar present, it must be own'd, the Characters, or Personages, employ'd by our new orthodox Dialogists, carry with 'em little Proportion or Coherence; and in this respect may be said to sute perfectly with that figurative metaphorical Style and rhetorical Manner, in which their Logick and Arguments are generally couch'd. Nothing can be more complex or multiform than their moral Draughts or Sketches of Humanity. These, indeed, are so far from representing any particular MAN, or Order of MEN, that they scarce resemble any thing of the Kind. 'Tis by their Names only that these Characters are figur'd. Tho they bear different Titles, and are fet up to maintain contrary Points; they are found, at the bottom, to be all of the same side; and, notwithstanding their seeming Variance, to co-operate in the most officious manner with the Author, towards the display of his own proper Wit, and the establishment of his private Opinion and Maxims. They are indeed his very legitimate and obsequious Puppets; as like real Men in Voice, Action, and Manners, as those wooden or wire Engines of the lower Stage. PHI-LOTHEUS and PHILATHEUS, PHI-LAUTUS and PHILALETHES are of one and the fame Order: Just Tallys to one another: Questioning and Answering in concert,

concert, and with such a fort of Alterna-Ch. 2. tive as is known in a vulgar Play, where one Person lies down blindfold, and presents himself, as fair as may be, to another, who by favour of the Company, or the affistance of his Good-fortune, deals his Companion many a sound Blow, without being once challeng'd, or brought into his Turn of lying down.

THERE is the fame curious Mixture of Chance, and elegant Vicissitude, in the Style of these Mock-Personages of our new Theological Drama: with this difference only, "That after the poor Phantom or "Shadow of an Adversary has said as "little for his Cause as can be imagin'd, "and given as many Opens and Advantages as cou'd be desir'd, he lies down for good and all, and passively submits to the killing Strokes of his unmerciful "Conqueror."

HARDLY, as I conceive, will it be objected to our MORALIST, (the Author of the philosophick Dialogue above) "That "the Personages who sustain the sceptical "or objecting Parts, are over-tame and "tractable in their Disposition." Did I perceive any such foul dealing in his Piece; I shou'd scarce think it worthy of the Criticism here bestow'd. For in this fort of Writing, where Personages are exhibited,

Misc. 5. ted, and natural Conversation set in view; if Characters are neither tolerably pre-ferv'd, nor Manners with any just Similitude describ'd; there remains nothing but what is too gross and monstrous for Criticism or Examination.

'Twill be alledg'd, perhaps, in anfwer to what is here advanc'd, "That
"fhou'd A DIALOGUE be wrought up
"to the Exactness of these Rules; it
"ought to be condemn'd, as the worse
"Piece, for affording the Infidel or Scep"tick such good quarter, and giving him
"the full advantage of his Argument and
"Wit."

BUT to this I reply, That either DIALLOGUE shou'd never be attempted; or, if it be, the Partys shou'd appear natural, and fuch as they really are. If we paint at all; we shou'd endeavour to paint like Life, and draw Creatures as they are knowable, in their proper Shapes and better Features; not in Metamorphosis, not mangled, lame, distorted, aukard Forms, and impotent Chimeras. Atheists have their Sense and Wits, as other Men; or why is ATHEISM so often challeng'd in those of the better Rank? Why charg'd so often to the account of Wit and subtle Reasoning?

WERE I to advise these Authors, towards whom I am extremely well-affected on account of their good-humour'd Zeal, and the feeming Sociableness of their Religion; I shou'd say to 'em, " Gentlemen! "Be not fo cautious of furnishing your "representative SCEPTICK with too good Arguments, or too shreud a Turn of Wit or Humour. Be not so fearful of " giving quarter. Allow your Adversary his full Reason, his Ingenuity, Sense, " and Art. Trust to the chief Character " or HERO of your Piece. Make him as " dazling bright, as you are able. He will " undoubtedly overcome the utmost Force " of his Opponent, and dispel the Dark-" ness or Cloud, which the Adversary may " unluckily have rais'd. But if when you " have fairly wrought up your Antagonist to his due Strength and cognizable Pro-" portion, your chief Character cannot af-" terwards prove a match for him, or shine " with a superior Brightness; Whose Fault " is it?—The Subject's?—This, I hope, "you will never allow.—Whose, there-" fore, befide your own? -- Beware then; " and confider well your Strength and " Mastership in this manner of Writing, " and in the qualifying Practice of the po-" lite World, ere you attempt these accu-" rate and refin'd Limnings or Portraitures " of Mankind, or offer to bring Gentlemen 1 Some Pa

296

Misc. 5." on the Stage. For if real Gentlemen, seduc'd, as you pretend, and made erro-" neous in their Religion or Philosophy, " discover not the least Feature of their real "Faces in your Looking-glass, nor know " themselves, in the least, by your Descrip-" tion; they will hardly be apt to think " they are refuted. How wittily foever " your Comedy may be wrought up, they " will scarce apprehend any of that Wit to " fall upon themselves. They may laugh " indeed at the Diversion you are pleas'd " to give 'em: But the Laugh perhaps " may be different from what you intend. "They may smile fecretly to see themselves " thus encounter'd; when they find, at " last, your Authority laid by, and your " scholastick Weapons quitted, in favour " of this weak Attempt, To master them " by their own Arms, and proper Ability."

THUS WE have perform'd our critical Task, and try'd our Strength, both on our Author, and those of his Order, who attempt to write in Dialogue, after the active dramatick, \* mimical, or personating Way; according to which a Writer is properly poetical.

WHAT remains, we shall examine in our succeeding and last Chapter.

<sup>\*</sup> See VOL. I. pag. 193, &c.

## CHAP. III.

Of Extent or Latitude of Thought.—
Free-Thinkers. — Their Cause, and Character. — Dishonesty, a Half-Thought. — Short Thinking, Cause of Vice and Bigotry. — Agreement of Slavery and Superstition. — LIBERTY, civil, moral, spiritual. — Free-thinking Divines. — Representatives incognito. — Embassadors from the Moon. — Effectual Determination of Christian Controversy and Religious Belief.

DEING now come to the Conclusion of my Work; after having defended the Cause of Criticks in general, and employ'd what Strength I had in that Science upon our adventurous Author in particular; I may, according to Equity, and with the better grace, attempt a line or two, in defense of that Freedom of Thought which our Author has us'd, particularly in one of the Personages of his last Dialogue-Treatise.

Misc. 5.

THERE is good reason to suppose, that however equally fram'd, or near alike, the Race of Mankind may appear in other respects, they are not always equal Thinkers, or of a like Ability in the management of this natural Talent which we call THOUGHT. The Race, on this account, may therefore justly be distinguish'd, as they often are, by the Appellation of the Thinking, and the Unthinking fort. The mere Unthinking are fuch as have not yet arriv'd to that happy Thought, by which they shou'd observe, "How necessary "Thinking is, and how fatal the want " of it must prove to 'em." The Thinking part of Mankind, on the other fide, having discover'd the Assiduity and Industry requisite to right-Thinking, and being already commenc'd THINKERS upon this Foundation; are, in the progress of the Affair, convinc'd of the necessity of thinking to good purpose, and carrying the Work to a thorow Issue. They know that if they refrain or stop once, upon this Road, they had done as well never to have set out. They are not fo supine as to be with-held by mere Laziness; when nothing lies in the way to interrupt the free Course and Progress of their Thought.

Some Obstacles, 'tis true, may, on this occasion, be pretended. Specters may

come a-cross; and Shadows of Reason rise Ch. 3. up against Reason it-self. But if Men whave once heartily espous'd the reasoning or thinking Habit; they will not easily be induc'd to lay the Practice down; they will not at an instant be arrested, or made to stand, and yield themselves, when they come to such a certain Boundary, Land-Mark, Post, or Pillar, erected here or there (for what reason may probably be guess'd) with the Inscription of a Ne plus ultrà.

'Tis not, indeed, any Authority on Earth, as we are well affur'd, can stop us on this Road, unless we please to make the Arrest, or Restriction, of our own accord. 'Tis our own Thought which must restrain our Thinking. And whether the restraining Thought be just, how shall we ever judge, without examining it freely, and out of all constraint? How shall we be fure that we have justly quitted REAson, as too high and dangerous, too aspiring or presumptive; if thro' Fear of any kind, or submitting to mere Command, we quit our very examining Thought, and in the moment stop short, so as to put an end to further Thinking on the matter? Is there much difference between this Case, and that of the obedient Beasts of Burden, who stop precisely at their appointed Inn, or at whatever Point the Charioteer, or

Misc. 5. Governour of the Reins, thinks sit to give the signal for a Halt?

I CANNOT but from hence conclude, That of all Species of Creatures faid commonly to have Brains; the most insipid, wretched and preposterous are those, whom in just Propriety of Speech, we call Half-tbinkers.

I HAVE often known Pretenders to WIT break out into admiration, on the fight of fome raw, heedless, unthinking Gentleman; declaring on this occasion, That they efteem'd it the happiest Case in the World, " Never to think, or trouble " one's Head with Study or Consideration." This I have always look'd upon as one of the highest Airs of Distinction, which the felf-admiring Wits are us'd to give themfelves, in publick Company. Now the Echo or Antiphony which these elegant Exclaimers hope, by this Resection, to draw necessarily from their Audience, is, "That they themselves are over-fraighted " with this Merchandize of THOUGHT; " and have not only enough for Ballast, "but such a Cargo over and above, as is "enough to fink em by its Weight." I am apt however to imagine of these Gentlemen, That it was never their over-thinking which oppress'd them; and that if their Thought had ever really become oppressive

to 'em, they might thank themselves, for Ch. 3. having under-thought, or reason'd short, so as to rest satisfy'd with a very superficial Search into Matters of the first and highest Importance.

Ir, for example, they over-look'd the chief Enjoyments of Life, which are founded in Honesty and a good Mind; if they prefum'd mere Life to be fully worth what its tenacious Lovers are pleas'd to rate it at; if they thought publick Distinction, Fame, Power, an Estate, or Title, to be of the same value as is vulgarly conceiv'd, or as they concluded, on a first Thought, without further Scepticism or After-deliberation; 'tis no wonder, if being in time become fuch mature Dogmatifts, and wellpractis'd Dealers in the Affairs of what they call a Settlement or Fortune, they are fo hardly put to it, to find ease or rest within themselves.

THESE are the deeply-loaded and overpensive Gentlemen, who esteeming it the truest Wit to pursue what they call their Interest, wonder to find they are still as little at ease when they have succeeded, as when they first attempted to advance,

THERE can never be less Self-enjoyment than in these supposed wife Characters, these felfish Computers of Happiness and private Misc. 5, private Good; whose Pursuits of Interest, whether for this World or another, are attended with the same steddy Vein of cunning and low Thought, fordid Deliberations, perverse and crooked Fancys, ill Dispositions, and false Relishes of Life and Manners. The most negligent undesigning thoughtless Rake has not only more of Sociableness, Ease, Tranquillity, and Freedom from worldly Cares, but in reality more of Worth, Virtue, and Merit, than such grave Plodders, and thoughtful Gentlemen as these.

IF it happens, therefore, that these graver, more circumspect, and deeply interested Gentlemen, have, for their Soul's fake, and thro' a careful Provision for Hereafter, engag'd in certain Speculations of RELIGION; their Tafte of VIRTUE, and Relist of LIFE is not the more improv'd, on this account. The Thoughts they have on these new Subjects of Divinity are so biass'd, and perplex'd, by those Half-Thoughts and raw Imaginations of Interest, and worldly Affairs; that they are still difabled in the rational Pursuit of Happiness and Good: And being necessitated thus to remain Short-Thinkers, they have the Power to go no further than they are led by those to whom, under such Disturbances and Perplexitys, they apply themselves for Cure and Comfort.

Private

IT HAS been the main Scope and principal End of these Volumes, "To as-"fert the Reality of a BEAUTY and "CHARM in moral as well as natural "Subjects; and to demonstrate the Rea-" fonableness of a proportionate TASTE, " and determinate CHOICE, in Life and " Manners." The STANDARD of this kind, and the noted Character of Moral TRUTH appear so firmly establish'd in Nature it-felf, and so widely display'd thro' the intelligent World, that there is no Genius, Mind, or thinking Principle, which (if I may fay fo) is not really conscious in the case. Even the most refractory and obstinate Understandings are by certain Reprises or Returns of Thought, on every occasion, convinc'd of this Existence, and neceffitated, in common with others, to acknowledg the actual RIGHT and 

'T is evident that whensoever the Mind, influenc'd by Passion or Humour, consents to any Action, Measure, or Rule of Life, contrary to this governing STANDARD and primary MEASURE of Intelligence, it can only be thro' a weak Thought, a Scantiness of Judgment, and a Defect in the application of that unavoidable Impression and first natural Rule of Honesty and Worth; against

Misc. 5. against which, whatever is advanc'd, will be of no other moment than to render a Life distracted, incoherent, full of Irresolution, Repentance, and Self-disapprobation.

THUS every Immorality and Enormity of Life can only happen from a partial and narrow View of Happiness and Good. Whatever takes from the Largeness or Freedom of Thought, must of necessity detract from that first Reliss, or TASTE, on which Virtue and Worth depend.

Nature it-felf, and-fo widely life

FOR instance, when the Eye or Appetite is eagerly fix'd on Treasure, and the money'd Blus of Bags and Coffers; 'tis plain there is a kind of Fascination in the case. The Sight is instantly diverted from all other Views of Excellence or Worth. And here, even the Vulgar, as well as the more liberal part of Mankind, discover the contracted Genius, and acknowledg the Narrowness of such a Mind.

In Luxury and Intemperance we eafily apprehend how far Thought is oppress'd, and the Mind debar'd from just Reflection, and from the free Examination and Cenfure of its own Opinions or Maxims, on which the Conduct of a Life is form'd.

EVEN in that complicated Good of vulgar kind, which we commonly call IN-

TEREST, in which we comprehend both Ch. 3. Pleasure, Riches, Power, and other exterior Advantages; we may discern how a fascinated Sight contracts a Genius, and by shortning the View even of that very Interest which it seeks, betrays the Knave, and necessitates the ablest and wittiest Proselyte of the kind, to expose himself on every Emergency and sudden Turn.

BUT above all other enflaving Vices, and Restrainers of Reason and just Thought, the most evidently ruinous and fatal to the Understanding is that of SUPERSTITION, BIGOTRY, and vulgar ENTHUSIASM. This Passion, not contented like other Vices to deceive, and tacitly supplant our Reason, professe open War, holds up the intended Chains and Fetters, and declares its Resolution to enslave.

THE artificial Managers of this human Frailty declaim against Free-Thought, and Latitude of Understanding. To go beyond those Bounds of thinking which they have prescrib'd, is by them declar'd a Sacrilege. To them, FREEDOM of Mind, a MASTERY of Sense, and a LIBERTY in Thought and Astion, imply Debauch, Corruption, and Depravity.

In confequence of their moral Maxims, and political Establishments, they can inMisc. 5. deed advance no better Notion of human Happiness and Enjoyment, than that which is in every respect the most opposite to Liberty. 'Tis to them doubtless that we owe the Opprobriousness and Abuse of those naturally honest Appellations of Free-Livers, Free-Thinkers, Latitudinarians, or whatever other Character implies a Largeness of Mind, and generous Use of Under-standing. Fain wou'd they confound Licentiousness in Morals, with Liberty in Thought and Action; and make the Libertine, who has the least Mastery of himself, resemble his direct Opposite. For such indeed is the Man of resolute Purpose and immovable Adherence to REASON, against every thing which Passion, Prepossession, Crast, or Fashion can advance in favour of ought else. But here, it seems, the Grievance lies. 'Tis thought dangerous for us to be over-rational, or too much Masters of our-selves, in what we draw, by just Conclusions, from Reason only. Seldom therefore do these Expositors fail of bringing the Thought of LIBERTY into disgrace. Even at the expence of Virtue, and of that very Idea of Good-NESS on which they build the Mysterys of their profitable Science, they derogate from Morals, and reverse all true Philosophy; they refine on Selfishness, and explode Generosity; promote a slavish Obedience in the room of voluntary Duty, and free Service :

vice; exalt blind Ignorance for Devotion, Ch. 3. recommend low Thought, decry Reason, extol \* Voluptuousness, Wilfulness, Vindica-tiveness, Arbitrariness, Vain-Glory; and even + deify those weak Passions which are the Disgrace rather than Ornament of human Nature.

But so far is it from the Nature of ‡ LIBERTY to indulge fuch Passions as these, that whoever acts at any time under the power of any fingle-one, may be faid to have already provided for himself an absolute Master. And he who lives under the power of a whole Race, (fince 'tis scarce possible to obey one without the other) must of necessity undergo the worst of Servitudes, under the most capricious and domineering Lords.

THAT this is no Paradox, even the Writers for Entertainment can inform us; however others may moralize, who discourse or write, as they pretend, for Profit and In-Struction. The POETS even of the wanton fort, give ample Testimony of this Slavery and Wretchedness of Vice. They may extol Voluptuousness to the Skies, and point their Wit as sharply as they are able against a virtuous State. But when they

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. II. pag. 256. And below, pag. 310. + VOL. I. pag. 38.

<sup>†</sup> VOL. II. pag. 252, 432.

Misc. 5. come afterwards to pay the necessary Tribute to their commanding Pleasures; we hear their pathetick Moans, and find the inward Discord and Calamity of their Lives. Their Example is the best of Precepts; fince they conceal nothing, are fincere, and speak their Passion out aloud. And 'tis in this that the very worst of Poets may justly be prefer'd to the generality of modern Philosophers, or other formal Writers of a yet more specious name. The Muses Pupils never fail to express their Pasfions, and write just as they feel. 'Tis not, indeed, in their nature to do otherwise; whilst they indulge their Vein, and are under the power of that natural Enthufiasm which leads 'em to what is highest in their Performance. They follow Nature. They move chiefly as the moves in 'em; without thought of difguifing her free Motions, and genuine Operations, for the fake of any Scheme or Hypothesis, which they have form'd at leifure, and in particular narrow Views. On this account, tho at one time they quarrel perhaps with VIR-TUE, for restraining 'em in their forbidden Loves, they can at another time make her fufficient amends; when with indignation they complain, " That MERIT is neg-" lected, and their \* worthless Rival pre-" fer'd before them."

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 141.

\* Contrane lucrum nil valere candidum Ch. 3: Pauperis ingenium?

And thus even in common Elegiack, in Song, Ode; or Epigram, confecrated to Pleasure it-self, we may often read the dolorous Confession in behalf of Virtue, and see, at the bottom, how the Case stands:

Nam veræ Voces tum demum pectore ab imo Eliciuntur.

The airy Poets, in these Fits, can, as freely as the Tragedian, condole with VIRTUE, and bemoan the case of suffering MERIT;

Th' Oppressor's Wrong, the proud Man's Contumely,
The Insolence of Office, and the Spurns
That patient MERIT of th' Unworthy takes.

THE Poetick Chiefs may give what reason they think fit for their Humour of representing our mad Appetites (especially that of LOVE) under the shape of Urchins and wanton Boys, scarce out of their State of Infancy. The original Design, and Moral of this Fiction, I am persuaded, was to shew us, how little there was of great and beroick in the Government of these

<sup>\*</sup> HORAT. Epod. xi. ver. 16. Vol. 3.

. Misc. 5. Pretenders, how truly weak and childish they were in themselves, and how much lower than mere Children we then became, when we submitted our-felves to their blind Tutorage. There was no fear lest in this Fiction the boyish Nature shou'd be misconstru'd as innocent and gentle. The Storms of Passion, so well known in every kind, kept the tyrannick Quality of this wanton Race sufficiently in view. Nor cou'd the poetical Description fail to bring to mind their mischievous and malignant Play. But when the Image of imperious Threatning, and absolute Command, was join'd to that of Ignorance, Puerility, and Folly; the Notion was compleated, of that wretched flavish State, which modern Libertines, in conjunction with some of a graver Character, admire, and represent, as the most eligible of any. "Happy Condition! (fays one) " Happy Life, that of the in-" dulg'd PASSIONS; might we pursue it! " - Miserable Condition! Miserable "Life, that of REASON and VIRTUE, " which we are \* bid purfue!"

'Tis the same, it seems, with Men, in Morals, as in Politicks. When they have been unhappily born and bred to SLAVERY, they are so far from being sensible of their slavish Course of Life, or of that ill

<sup>\*</sup> VOI.. II. pag. 256.

Usage, Indignity and Misery they sustain; Ch. 3. that they even admire their own Condition: and being us'd to think fhort, and carry their Views no further than those Bounds which were early prescrib'd to 'em; they look upon TYRANNY as a natural Cafe, and think Mankind in a fort of dangerous and degenerate State, when under the power of Laws, and in the possession of a free Government.

WE may by these Resections come ea-fily to apprehend What Men they were who first brought Reason and Free-Thought under difgrace, and made the noblest of Characters, that of a Free-Tbinker, to become invidious. 'Tis no wonder if the fame Interpreters wou'd have those also to be esteem'd free in their Lives, and Masters of good Living, who are the least Masters of themselves, and the most impotent in Paffion and Humour, of all their Fellow-Creatures. But far be it, and far furely will it ever be, from any worthy Genius, to be confenting to fuch a treacherous Language, and Abuse of Words. For my own part, I thorowly confide in the good Powers of REASON, "That LIBERTY and FREE-"DOM shall never, by any Artifice or " Delufion, be made to pass with me as " frightful Sounds, or as reproachful, or " invidious, in any fense."

Bue while day

UTD

312 Mifc. 5.

I CAN no more allow that to be Freeliving, where unlimited Passion, and un-examin'd Fancy govern, than I can allow that to be a Free Government, where the mere People govern, and not the Laws. For no People in a Civil State can possibly be free, when they are otherwise govern'd than by fuch Laws as they themselves have constituted, or to which they have freely given consent. Now to be releas'd from these, so as to govern themselves by each Day's Will or Fancy, and to vary on every Turn the Rule and Measure of Government, without respect to any antient Constitu-tions or Establishments, or to the stated and fix'd Rules of Equity and Justice; is as certain Slavery, as it is Violence, Distraction, and Mifery; fuch as in the Issue must prove the Establishment of an irretrievable State of Tyranny, and absolute Dominion.

In the Determinations of Life, and in the Choice and Government of Actions, he alone is free who has within himself no Hindrance, or Controul, in acting what he himself, by his best fudgment, and most deliberate Choice, approves. Cou'd VICE agree possibly with it-self; or cou'd the vicious any way reconcile the various Judgments of their inward Counsellors; they might with Justice perhaps affert their Liberty and Independency. But whilst they

are neceffitated to follow least, what, in Ch. their sedate hours, they most approve; whilst they are passively assign'd, and made over from one Possessor to \* another, in contrary Extremes, and to different Ends and Purposes, of which they are themselves wholly ignorant; 'tis evident, That the more they turn † their Eyes (as many times they are oblig'd) towards Virtue and a free Life, the more they must consess their Misery and Subjection. They discern their own Captivity, but not with Force and Resolution sufficient to redeem themselves, and become their own. Such is the real Tragick State, as the old ‡ Tragedian represents it:

Video meliora proboque,
Deteriora sequor.

And thus the highest Spirits, and most refractory Wills, contribute to the lowest Servitude and most submissive State. Reafon and Virtue alone can bestow LIBER-TY. Vice is unworthy, and unhappy, on

this

<sup>\*</sup> Hunccine an hunc sequeris? Subeas alternus oportet
Ancipiti obsequio Dominos.——Pers. Sat. v. ver. 155.
See VOL. I. pag. 285, 309, 323, &c.

<sup>†</sup> Magne Pater divum, sævos punire Tyrannos Haud aliå ratione velis, cum dira libido Moverit ingenium serventi tineta veneno, Virtutem videant, intabeseantque relietà.

Perî. Sat. iii. ver. 35. ‡ Καὶ μανθάνω μὲν δια πλμήσω νακά. Θυμός δὲ κρώσσων ξη εμών εκλευμάτων. Eurip. Med. Act. iv. 1078.

Misc. 5. this account only, "That it is slavish and while they are pathway augnet, a "gnipadeb over from one Poffestor to " arother in

THUS HAVE we pleaded the Cause of LIBERTY in general; and vindicated, withal, our Author's particular Freedom, in taking the Person of a Sceptick, as he has done in this \* last Treatise, on which we have so largely paraphras'd. We may now perhaps, in compliance with general Cufstom, justly presume to add something in defense of the same kind of Freedom we ourselves have assum'd in these latter Miscellaneous Comments; fince it wou'd doubtlefs be very unreasonable and unjust, for those who had so freely play'd the Critick, to expect any thing less than the same free Treatment, and thorow Criticism in return.

As for the STYLE or Language us'd in these Comments; 'tis very different, we find; and varys in proportion with the Author commented, and with the different Characters and Persons frequently introduc'd in the original Treatifes. So that there will undoubtedly be Scope sufficient for Censure and Correction.

As for the Observations on ANTI-QUITY; we have in most Passages, ex-

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. The MORALISTS, or Philosophick Dialogue, recited in the Person of a Sceptick, under the name of Philocles. See Treatife V. VOL. II. pag. 206, 207, &c.

cept the very common and obvious, pro-Ch. 3. duc'd our Vouchers and Authoritys in our own behalf. What may be thought of our Judgment or Sense in the Application of these Authoritys, and in the Deductions and Reasonings we have form'd from such learned Topicks, must be submitted to the Opinion of the Wise and Learned.

In Morals, of which the very Force lies in a love of Discipline, and in a willingness to redress and restify false Thought, and erring Views; we cannot but patiently wait Redress and amicable Censure from the sole competent Judges, the Wise and Good; whose Interest it has been our whole Endeavour to advance.

THE only Subject on which we are perfectly secure, and without sear of any just Censure or Reproach, is that of FAITH, and Orthodox BELIEF. For in the first place, it will appear, that thro' a prosound Respect, and religious Veneration, we have forborn so much as to name any of the sacred and solemn Mysterys of \* Revelation. And, in the next place, as we can with considence declare, that we have never in any Writing, publick or private, attempted such high Researches, nor have ever in Practice acquitted our-selves otherwise than as just Conformists to the lawful Church; so we

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 70, 71.

Misc. 5. may, in a proper Sense, be said faithfully and dutifully to embrace those holy Mysterys, even in their minutest Particulars, and without the least Exception on account of their amazing Depth. And tho we are fenfible that it wou'd be no small hardship to deprive others of a liberty of examining and fearching, with due Modesty and Submisfion, into the nature of those Subjects; yet as for our-felves, who have not the least scruple whatsoever, we pray not any such Grace or Favour in our behalf: being fully affur'd of our own steddy Orthodoxy, Refignation, and intire Submission to the truly Christian and Catholick Doctrines of our Holy Church, as by Law establish'd.

'TIS true, indeed, that as to \* CRITI-CAL Learning, and the Examination of Originals, Texts, Glosses, various Readings, Styles, Compositions, Manuscripts, Compilements, Editions, Publications, and other Gircumstances, such as are common to the Sacred Books with all other Writings and Literature; this we have considently afferted to be a just and lawful Study. We have even represented this Species of Griticism as necessary to the Preservation and Purity of Scripture; that Sacred Scripture, which has been so miraculously preserved in its successive Copys and Transcriptions,

W. Ct. Arned Christal and or all modified and VOL. I. pag. 146, 147.

of holy and learned *Criticks*, thro' fo many dark Ages of Christianity, to these latter Times; in which Learning has been happily reviv'd.

But if this critical Liberty raises any jealousy against us, we shall beg leave of our offended Reader to lay before him our Case, at the very worst: That if on such a naked Exposition, it be found criminal, we may be absolutely condemn'd; if otherwise, acquitted, and with the same savour indulg'd, as others in the same Circumstances have been before us.

ON this occasion therefore, we may be allow'd to borrow something from the Form or Manner of our Dialogue Author, and represent a Conversation of the same free nature as that recited by him in his \* Night-Scene; where the suppos'd Sceptick, or Free-Thinker, delivers his Thoughts, and reigns in the Discourse.

'TWAS IN a more confiderable Company, and before a more numerous Audience, that not long fince, a Gentleman of some Rank, (one who was generally esteem'd to carry a sufficient Caution and

thought cou'd never be

Misc. 5. Reserve in religious Subjects of Discourse, as well as an apparent Deserence to Religion, and in particular to the national and establish'd Church) having been provok'd by an impertinent Attack of a certain violent bigotted Party, was drawn into an open and free Vindication not only of Free-Thinking, but Free-Professing, and Discoursing, in Matters relating to Religion and Faith.

Some of the Company, it seems, after having made bold with him, as to what they fansy'd to be his Principle, began to urge "The Necessity of reducing Men to "one Profession and Belief." And several Gentlemen, even of those who pass'd for moderate in their way, seem'd so far to give into this Zealot-Opinion as to agree, "That "notwithstanding the right Method was "not yet found, 'twas highly requisite that "some way shou'd be thought on, to re-"concile Differences in Opinion; since so "long as this Variety shou'd last, Religion, they thought, cou'd never be "successfully advanc'd."

To this our Gentleman, at first, answer'd coldly, That "What was impossible
"to be done, cou'd not, he thought, be
"properly pursu'd, as necessary to be done."
But the Raillery being ill taken, he was
forc'd at last to defend himself the best he

cou'd, upon this Point; "That Variety of Ch. 3, "Opinions was not to be cur'd." And "That "'twas impossible All shou'd be of one "Mind."

I WELL know, said he, "That many "pious Men, seeing the Inconveniences " which the Dif-union of Persuasions and "Opinions accidentally produces, have " thought themselves oblig'd to stop this " Inundation of Mischiefs, and have made "Attempts accordingly. Some have en-"deavour'd to unite these Fractions, by
"propounding such a GUIDE, as they
"were all bound to follow; hoping that
"the Unity of a Guide wou'd have pro"duc'd Unity of Minds. But who this "GUIDE shou'd be, after all, became " fuch a Question, that 'twas made part of " that Fire it-felf which was to be extin-"guish'd. Others thought of a Rule.—
"This was to be the effectual Means of "Union! This was to do the Work, or nothing cou'd!—But supposing all the World had been agreed on this RULE, " yet the Interpretation of it was fo full " of Variety, that this also became part of " the Disease."

THE Company, upon this Preamble of our Gentleman, press'd harder upon him than before; objecting the Authority of Holy Scripture against him, and affirming

Misc. 5 firming this to be of it-self a sufficient Guide and Rule. They urg'd again and again that known Saying of a sam'd Controversial Divine of our Church against the Divines of another, "That the Scripture, the Scripture was the Religion of Protestants."

To this our Gentleman, at first, reply'd only, by defiring them to explain their word SCRIPTURE, and by inquiring into the Original of this Collection of antienter and later Tracts, which in general they comprehended under that Title: Whether it were the apocryphal SCRIP-TURE, or the more canonical? The full or the balf-authoriz'd? The doubtful, or the certain? The controverted, or uncontroverted? The fingly-read, or that of various Reading? The Text of these Manuscripts, or of those? The Transcripts, Copys, Titles, Catalogues of this Church and Nation, or of that other? of this Sect and Party, or of another? of those in one Age call'd ORTHODOX, and in posfession of Power, or of those who in another overthrew their Predecessors Authority, and in their turn also assum'd the Guardianship and Power of holy Things? For how these facred Records were guarded in those Ages, might easily, he said, be imagin'd by any one who had the least Infight into the History of those TIMES

which we call'd *primitive*, and the CHA-Ch. 3. RACTERS of those Men, whom we styl'd FATHERS of the Church.

"IT must be confess'd, continu'd he, " 'twas a strange Industry and unlucky Di-" ligence which was us'd, in this respect, " by these Ecclesiastical Fore-FATHERS. "Of all those Herefys which gave them "Imployment, we have absolutely no Re-" cord, or Monument, but what them-" felves who were Adversarys have trans-" mitted to us; and we know that Adver-" farys, especially such who observe all " Opportunitys to discredit both the Per-" fons and Doctrines of their Enemys, are " not always the best Recorders or Wit-" nesses of such Transactions." We see it (continu'd he, in a very emphatical, but somewhat embarass'd Style) "We see it " now in this very Age, in the present Dis-" temperatures, that Partys are no good " Registers of the Actions of the adverse " Side: And if we cannot be confident of " the Truth of a Story now, (now, I fay, " that it is possible for any Man, especially " for the interested Adversary, to discover "the Imposture) it is far more unlikely, that After-Ages shou'd know any other Truth than such as serves the ends of the "Representers."

Misc. 5.

Our Gentleman by these Expressions had already given considerable Offense to his Zealot-Auditors. They ply'd him faster with passionate Reproaches, than with Arguments or rational Answers. This, however, serv'd only to animate him the more, and made him proceed the more boldly, with the same assum'd Formality, and air of Declamation, in his general Criticism of Holy Literature.

"THERE are, said he, innumerable " Places that contain (no doubt) great " Mysterys, but so wrap'd in Clouds, or " hid in Umbrages, so heighten'd with " Expressions, or so cover'd with Allego-" rys and Garments of Rhetorick; fo pro-" found in the matter, or fo alter'd and " made intricate in the manner; that they " may feem to have been left as Trials of " our Industry, and as Occasions and Oppor-" tunitys for the exercise of mutual Cha-" rity and Toleration, rather than as the " Repositorys of FAITH, and Furniture of " Creeds. For when there are found in the " Explications of these Writings, so many " Commentarys; fo many Senses and In-" terpretations; fo many Volumes in all " Ages, and all like Mens Faces, no one " exactly like another: either this Diffe-" rence is absolutely no fault at all; or if " it be, it is excufable. There are, be-

" fides, so many thousands of Copys that Ch. 3. " were writ by Persons of several Interests " and Persuasions, such different Under-" flandings and Tempers, fuch distinct Abi-" litys and Weaknesses, that 'tis no wonder " there is so great variety of Readings: " -whole Verses in one, that are not " in another: - whole Books admitted " by one Church or Communion, which " are rejected by another: and whole Sto-" rys and Relations admitted by fome Fa-"thers, and rejected by others.—I consi"der withal, that there have been many
"Defigns and Views in expounding these " Writings; many Senses in which they " are expounded: and when the Gramma-" tical Sense is found out, we are many " times never the nearer. Now there be-" ing fuch variety of Senses in Scripture, " and but few Places fo mark'd out, as " not to be capable of more than one; if " Men will write Commentarys by Fancy, " what infallible Criterion will be left to " judg of the certain Sense of fuch Places " as have been the matter of Question? " I confider again, that there are indeed " divers Places in these facred Volumes, " containing in them Mysterys and Ques-"tions of great Concernment; yet such " is the Fabrick and Constitution of the "Whole, that there is no certain Mark " to determine whether the Sense of these " Passages shou'd be taken as literal or si-" gurative.

Misc. 5. " gurative. There is nothing in the na" ture of the thing to determine the Sense " or Meaning: but it must be gotten out " as it can. And therefore 'tis unreaso-"as it can. And therefore 'tis unreaso"nably requir'd, That what is of it-self
"ambiguous, shou'd be understood in its
"own prime Sense and Intention, under
"the pain of either a Sin, or an Anathe"ma. Very wise Men, even the antient
"Fathers, have expounded things allegori"cally, when they shou'd have expounded
"them literally. Others expound things
"literally, when they shou'd understand
"them in Allegory. If such great Spirits
"cou'd be deceiv'd in finding out what
"kind of Senses were to be given to " kind of Senses were to be given to " Scriptures, it may well be endur'd that " we, who fit at their Feet, shou'd be sub-"ject at least to equal Failure. If we follow any ONE Translation, or any ONE Man's Commentary, what Rule or Direction shall we have, by which to chuse that ONE aright? Or is there " any one Man, that hath translated per-" feetly, or expounded infallibly? If we refolve to follow any one as far only as " we like, or fanfy; we shall then only do wrong or right by Chance. If we re-"folve absolutely to follow any-one, whi"ther-foever he leads, we shall probably
"come at last, where, if we have any
"Eyes left, we shall see our-selves be"come sufficiently ridiculous."

Ch.
THE Reader may here perhaps, by his ~ natural Sagacity, remark a certain air of study'd Discourse and Declamation, not so very proper or natural in the mouth of a mere Gentleman, nor sutable to a Company where alternate Discourse is carry'd on, in un-concerted Measure, and un-premeditated Language. Something there was fo very emphatical, withal, in the delivery of these words, by the sceptical Gentleman; that some of the Company who were still more incens'd against him for these Expressions, began to charge him as a Preacher of pernicious Doctrines, one who attack'd Religion in form, and carry'd his Lessons or Lectures about with him, to repeat by rote, at any time, to the Ignorant and Vulgar, in order to feduce them.

'Tis true indeed, faid he, Gentlemen! that what I have here ventur'd to repeat, is address'd chiefly to those you call Ignorant; such, I mean, as being otherwise engag'd in the World, have had little time perhaps to bestow upon Inquirys into Divinity-Matters. As for you, Gentlemen! in particular, who are so much displeas'd with my Freedom; I am well assured, you are in effect so able and knowing, that the Truth of every Assertion I have advanc'd is sufficiently understood and acknowledg'd by you; however it Vol. 3.

Misc. 5. may happen, that, in your great Wisdom, you think it proper to conceal these Matters from such Persons as you are pleas'd to style the Vulgar.

'Tis true, withal, Gentlemen! continu'd he, I will confess to you, That the words you have heard repeated, are not my own. They are no other than what have been publickly and solemnly deliver'd, even by \* one of the Episcopal Order, a celebrated Churchman, and one of the highest fort; as appears by his many

\* The pious and learned Bishop TAYLOR, in his Treatife on the Liberty of Prophesying, printed in his Collection of Polemical and Moral Discourses, Anno 1657. The Pages answering to the Places above-cited are 401, 402, (and in the Epistle-Dedicatory, three or four Leaves before) 438, 439 444, 451, 452. After which, in the fucceeding Page, he fums up his Sense on this Subject of facred Literature, and the Liberty of Criticism, and of private Judgment and Opinion in these Matters, in the following words: "Since there " are fo many Copys, with infinite Varietys of Reading; " fince a various Interpunction, a Parenthesis, a Letter, an " Accent may much alter the Sense; since some Places have " divers literal Senses, many have spiritual, mystical, and al-" legorical Meanings; fince there are fo many Tropes, Me-"tonymys, Ironys, Hyperboles, Proprietys and Improprie-" tys of Language, whose understanding depends upon such " Circumstances, that it is almost impossible to know the " proper Interpretation, now that the knowledg of such Cir-46 cumflances and particular Storys is irrecoverably loft: fince " there are some Mysterys, which at the best Advantage of "Expression, are not easy to be apprehended, and whose "Explication, by reason of our Impersections, must needs " be dark, fometimes weak, fometimes unintelligible: And " lastly, fince those ordinary means of expounding Scrip-" ture, as fearching the Originals, Conference of Places, Padevotional Works, which carry the Rites, Ch. 3. Ceremonys and Pomp of Worship, with the Honour and Dignity of the Priestly and Episcopal Order, to the highest Degree. In effect, we see the Reverend Doctor's Treatises standing, as it were, in the Front of this Order of Authors, and

" rity of Reason, and Analogy of Faith, are all dubious, " uncertain, and very fallible; he that is the wifeft, and by " consequence the likeliest to expound truest, in all proba-" bility of Reason, will be very far from Confidence; be-" cause every one of these, and many more, are like so ma-" ny degrees of Improbability and Incertainty, all depressing " our Certainty of finding out Truth, in fuch Mysterys, and " amidst so many Difficultys. And therefore a wife Man " that confiders this, wou'd not willingly be prescrib'd to " by others; for it is best every Man shou'd be left in that " liberty, from which no Man can justly take him, unless he " cou'd fecure him from Error." The Reverend Prelate had but a few Pages before (viz. pag. 427.) acknowledg'd, indeed, " That we had an Apostolical Warrant to " contend earnefly for the Faith. But then," (fays the good Bishop, very candidly and ingenuously) " As these Things " recede farther from the Foundation, our Certainty is the " less .- And therefore it were very fit that our Confi-" dence shou'd be according to our Evidence, and our Zeal " according to our Confidence." He adds, pag. 507. " All these Disputes concerning Tradition, Councils, Fathers, " &c. are not Arguments against or besides Reason, but Con-" testations and Pretenses of the best Arguments, and the " most certain Satisfaction of our Reason. But then all these " coming into question, submit themselves to Reason, that " is, to be judg'd by human Understanding, upon the best " Grounds and Information it can receive. So that Scrip-" ture, Tradition, Councils, and Fathers, are the Evidence in " a Question, but Reason is the Judg: That is, we being " the Persons that are to be persuaded, we must see that we " be perfuaded reasonably; and it is unreasonable to assent " to a lesser Evidence, when a greater and clearer is pro-" pounded: but of that every Man for himself is to take " cognizance, if he be able to judg; if he be not, he is not 66 bound under the tie of necessity to know any thing of it."

Misc. 5. as the foremost of those Good-Books us'd by the politest and most refin'd Devotees of either Sex. They maintain the principal Place in the Study of almost every elegant and high Divine. They stand in Folio's and other Volumes, adorn'd with variety of Pictures, Gildings, and other Decorations, on the advanc'd Shelves or Glass-Cupboards of the Ladys Closers. They are in use at all Seasons, and for all Places, as well for Church-Service as Clofet-Preparation; and, in short, may vie with any devotional Books in British Christendom. And for the Life and Character of the Man himself; I leave it to you, Gentlemen, (you, I mean, of the Zealot-kind) to except against it, if you think proper. 'Tis your Manner, I know, and what you never fail to have recourse to, when any Authority is produc'd against you. Personal Reflection is always feafonable, and at hand, on fuch an occafion. No matter what Virtue, Honesty, or Sanctity may lie in the Character of the Person cited. No matter tho he be ever fo much, in other respects, of your own Party, and devoted to your Interest. If he has indifcreetly fpoken fome Home-Truth, or discover'd some Secret which Arikes at the temporal Interests of certain spiritual Societys; he is quickly doom'd to Calumny and Defamation. ed, and Manufff and the strength of the second seco

ton the colw of the technique of the Ch. 3. I SHALL try this Experiment, however, once more, (continu'd our Gentleman) and as a Conclusion to this Difcourse, will venture to produce to you a further Authority of the same kind. You shall have it before you, in the exact Phrase and Words of the great Author, in his theological Capacity; fince I have now no further occasion to conceal my Citations, and accommodate them to the more familiar Style and Language of Conver-

Our excellent \* Archbishop, and late Father of our Church, when expresly treating that very Subject of a Rule in matters of Belief, in opposition to Mr. S... and Mr. R.... his Romish Antagonish, shews plainly how great a shame it is, for us Protestants at least, (whatever the Case may be with Romanists) to disallow Difference of Opinions, and forbid private Examination, and Search into matters of antient RECORD, and scriptural TRA-DITION; when, at the fame time, we have no pretence to oral or verbal; no Claim to any absolute superior Judg, or decisive Judgment in the Case; no Polity, Church, or Community; no particular

<sup>\*</sup> Viz. Archbishop TILLOTSON in his Rule of Faith,

Misc 5. Man, or number of Men, who are not, even by our own Confession, plainly fallible, and subject to Error and Mistake.

"THE Protestants" (fays his Grace, speaking in the Person of Mr. S... and the Romanists) " cannot know how many "the Books of Scripture ought to be; and Which of the many controverted " ones may be fecurely put in that Cata-" logue; Which not.—But I shall tell him, replies his Grace, That we know "that just so many ought to be receiv'd as un-controverted Books, concerning " which it cannot be shewn there was ever " any Controverfy." It was not incumbent perhaps on my Lord Archbishop to help Mr. S...., fo far in his Objection, as to add, That in reality the burning, suppresfing, and interpolating Method, so early in fashion, and so tightly practis'd on the Epistles, Comments, Historys, and Writings of the Orthodox and Hereticks of old, made it impossible to say with any kind of Affurance, " What Books, Copys, or Tran-" scripts those were, concerning which there " was never any Controversy at all." This indeed wou'd be a Point not so easily to be demonstrated. But his Grace proceeds, in shewing the Weakness of the Romish Pillar, TRADITION. " For it must ei-" ther, fays he, acknowledg fome Books " to have been controverted, or not. If

" not, why doth he make a Supposition Ch. 3. " of controverted Books? If Oral Tra-" dition acknowledges some Books to have " been controverted; then it cannot af-" fure us that they have not been con-" troverted, nor confequently that they " ought to be receiv'd as never having " been controverted; but only as fuch, " concerning which those Churches who did " once raife a Controversy about them, have " been fince fatisfy'd that they are \* Canoni-" cal. - Where is then the Infallibility " of Oral Tradition? How does the liv-" ing Voice of the present Church affure us, " that what Books are now receiv'd by "Her, were ever receiv'd by Her? And " if it cannot do this, but the matter " must come to be try'd by the best Re-" cords of former Ages, (which the Pro-" testants are willing to have the Catalogue " try'd by) then it feems the Protestants " have a better way to know what Books " are Canonical, than is the infallible way

<sup>\*</sup> His Grace subjoins immediately: "The Traditionary Church now, receives the Epistle to the Habreau as Canonical. I ask, Do they receive it as ever deliver'd for such? That they must, if they receive it from Oral Tradition, which conveys things to them under this Notion as ever deliver'd; and yet St. Hierom (speaking not as a Speculator, but a Telitiper) says expresly of it, That the Custom of the Latin Church doth not receive it among the Canonical Scriptures. What saith Mr. S... to this? It is clear from this Testimony, that the Roman Church in St. Hiemon's time did not acknowledg this Epistle for Canonical; and its as plain, that the present Roman Church doth receive it for Canonical."

Misc. 5. " of Oral Tradition. And so long as 'tis
" better, no matter the it be not call'd
" Infallible."—— a section of the s

THUS the free and generous Archbishop. For, indeed, what greater Generosity is there, than in owning TRUTH frankly and openly, even where the greatest Advantages may be taken by an Adversary? Accordingly, our worthy Archbishop, speaking again immediately in the Person of his Adversary, "The Prote-" stants, fays \* he, cannot know that the "very Original, or a perfetly true Copy
of these Books, hath been preserved.

Nor is it necessary, replies the Archibishop, that they shou'd know either
of these. It is sufficient that they know " that those Copys which they have, are "not materially corrupted.—But how do the Church of Rome know that they have perfectly true Copys of the Scriptures in the original Languages? They do not pretend to know this. The " learned Men of that Church acknow-" ledg the various Readings as well as we, and do not pretend to know, otherwise "than by probable Conjecture, (as we also may do) Which of those Readings is " the true-one +."

AND

<sup>\*</sup> Pag, 678. † The Reader perhaps may find it worth while to read after this, what the Archbishop represents (pag. 716, &c.) of the

AND thus, continu'd our Lay-Gentleman, I have finish'd my Quotations, which I have been necessitated to bring in my own Desense; to prove to you That I have afferted nothing on this Head of Religion, Faith, or the Sacred Mysterys, which has not been justify'd and confirm'd by the most celebrated Church-Men and respected Divines. You may now proceed in your Investives; bestowing as free Language of that kind, as your Charity and Breeding will permit. And You, Reverend SIRs! who have assumed a Character which sets

the plaufible Introduction of the groffest Article of Belief, in the times when the Habit of making Creeds came in fashion. And accordingly it may be understood, of what effect the dogmatizing Practice in Divinity has ever been. " We will " fuppose then, that about the time, when universal Igno-" rance, and the genuine Daughter of it, (call her Devotion or " Superstition) had over-spread the World, and the genera-" lity of People were strongly inclin'd to believe strange " things; and even the greatest Contradictions were recom-" mended to them under the notion of MYSTERYS, be-" ing told by their Priefts and Guides, That the more contra-" dictious any thing is to Reason, the greater merit there is in " believing it: I fay, let us suppose, that in this state of things, one or more of the most Eminent then in the " Church, either out of Defign, or out of superstitious Ig-" norance and Mistake of the Sense of our Saviour's Words " used in the Consecration of the Sacrament, shou'd advance " this new Doctrine, that the words of Consecration, &c. " \* \* \* Such a Doctrine as this was very likely to be ad-" vanc'd by the ambitious Clergy of that time, as a probable " means to draw in the People to a greater Veneration of " them. \* \* \* Nor was fuch a Doctrine less likely to take " and prevail among the People, in an Age prodigiously igno-" rant and strongly inclin'd to Superstition, and thereby well-" prepar'd

Misc. 5. you above that of the mere Gentleman, and releases you from those Decorums, and conftraining Measures of Behaviour to which we of an inferior fort are bound; You may liberally deal your religious Compliments and Salutations in what Dialect you think sit; since for my own part, neither the Names of HETERODOX, SCHISMATICK, HERETICK, SCEPTICK, nor even INFIDEL, or ATHEIST it-self, will in the least scandalize me, whilst the Sentence comes only from your mouths. On the contrary, I rather strive with myself to suppress whatever Vanity might naturally arise in me, from such Favour bestow'd. For whatever may, in the bot-

" prepar'd to receive the groffest Absurdities under the notion " of Mysterys. \* \* \* Now supposing such a Doctrine as " this, so sitted to the Humour and Temper of the Age, to " be once afferted either by chance or out of defign, it " wou'd take like Wild-fire; especially if by some one or "more who bore (way in the Church, it were but recom"mended with convenient Gravity and Solemnity. \* \* \* \* " And for the Contradictions contain'd in this Doctrine, it " was but telling the People then, (as they do in effect now) " That Contradictions ought to be no Scruple in the way of " Faith; That the more impossible any thing is, 'tis the fitter " to be believ'd; That it is not praife-worthy to believe " plain Possibilitys, but this is the Gallantry and heroical " Power of Faith, this is the way to oblige God Almighty for " ever to us, to believe flat and downright Contradictions. " \* \* The more abfurd and unreasonable any thing is, it " is for that very reason the more proper matter for an Arti-" cle of Faith. And if any of these Innovations be objec-" ted against, as contrary to former Belief and Practice, it " is but putting forth a bufty Act of Faith, and believing ano-" ther Contradiction, That the they be contrary, yet they are " the same." Above, pag. 80, 1, 2.

tom, be intended me, by such a Treat-Ch. 3. ment; 'tis impossible for me to term it other than Favour; since there are certain Enmitys, which it will be ever esteem'd a real Honour to have merited.

IF, contrary to the Rule and Measure of Conversation, I have drawn the Company's Attention towards me thus long, without affording them an Intermission, during my Recital; they will, I hope, excuse me, the rather, because they heard the other Recitals, and were Witnesses to the heavy Charge and personal Restlection, which without any real Provocation was made upon me in publick, by these Zealot-Gentlemen, to whom I have thus reply'd. And notwithstanding they may, after fuch Breaches of Charity as are usual with them, presume me equally out of Charity, on my own side; I will take upon me however to give them this good Advice, at parting: "That since they have of late been so elated by some " feeming Advantages, and a Prosperity, " which they are ill fitted to bear; they " wou'd at least beware of accumula-"ting too hastily those high Characters,
"Appellations, Titles, and Ensigns of
"Power, which may be Tokens, perhaps,
"of what they expect hereaster, but
"which, as yet, do not answer the real
"Power and Authority bestow'd on them." The

Misc. 5. The Garb and Countenance will be more graceful, when the Thing it-self is secured to sem, and in their actual possession. Mean while, the Anticipation of high Titles, Honours, and nominal Dignitys, beyond the common Style and antient Usage; tho it may be highly sashionable at present, may not prove beneficial or advantageous in the end.

I wou'p, in particular, advise my elegant Antagonists of this Zealot-kind; That among the many Titles they assume to themselves, they wou'd be rather more sparing in that high-one of Embassabor, till such time as they have just Means and Foundation to join that of Plenipotential Tiary together with it. For as matters stand hitherto in our British World, neither their Commission from the Sovereign, not that which they pretend from Heaven, amounts to any absolute or determining Power.

THE first holy MESSENGERS (for That I take to be the highest apostolick Name) brought with them their proper Testimonials, in their Lives, their Manners and Behaviour; as well as in powerful Works, MIRACLES, and SIGNS from Heaven. And tho indeed it might well be esteem'd a Miracle in the kind, shou'd our present MESSENGERS go about to represent

represent their *Predecessors* in any part of Ch. 3. their Demeanour or Conversation; yet there are further *Miracles* remaining for em to perform, ere they can in modesty plead the *Apostolick* or *Messenger*-Authority. For tho, in the torrent of a sublime and figurative Style, a holy Apostle may have made use, perhaps, of such a Phrase as that of Embassy or Embassador, to express the Dignity of his Errand; 'twere to be wish'd that some who were never sent of any Errand or Message at all from God himself, wou'd use a modester Title to express their voluntary Negotiation between Us and Heaven.

I Must confess, for my own part, that I think the Notion of an Embassy from thence to be at best somewhat high-strain'd, in the metaphorical way of Speech. But certain I am, that if there be any such Residentship or Agentship now establish'd; 'tis not immediately from God himself, but thro' the Magistrate, and by the Prince or Sovereign Power here on Earth, that these Gentlemen-Agents are appointed, distinguish'd, and set over us. They have undoubtedly a \* legal Charter, and Character, legal Titles, and Precedencys, legal Habits, Goats of Arms, Colours, Badges.

<sup>\*</sup> VOL. I. pag. 362.

Misc. 5. But they may do well to consider, That a thousand Badges or Liverys bestow'd by Men merely, can never be sufficient to entitle 'em to the same Authority as Theirs, who bore the immediate Testimony and Miraculous Signs of Power, from Above. For in this case, there was need only of Eyes, and ordinary Senses, to distinguish the Commission, and acknowledg the Embassy or Message as divine.

But allowing it ever so certain a Truth, "That there has been a thousand or near "two thousand Years Succession in this "Commission of Embassy:" Where shall we find this Commission to have lain?—How has it been supply'd still, or renew'd?—How often dormant?—How often divided, even in one and the same Species of Claimants?—What Party are they, among Moderns, who by virtue of any immediate Testimonial from Heaven are thus intitled?—Where are the Letters. Patent? The Credentials? For these should, in the nature of the thing, be open, visible, and apparent.

A CERTAIN INDIAN of the Train of the Embassador-Princes sent to us lately from some of those Pagan Nations, being engag'd, one Sunday, in visiting our Churches, and happening to ask his Interpret.

" Who the eminent Persons were whom he Ch. 3. " observ'd haranguing so long, with such " Authority from a high Place?" was answer'd, " They were Embassadors from

" the ALMIGHTY, or (according to the " Indian Language) from the SUN." Whether the Indian took this feriously or in raillery, did not appear. But having afterwards call'd in, as he went along, at the Chapels of some of his Brother-Embassadors, of the Romish Religion, and at some other Christian Dissenting Congregations, where Matters, as he perceiv'd, were transacted with greater Privacy, and inferior State; he ask'd, "Whether Thefe " also were Embassadors from the same " Place." He was answer'd, " That " they had indeed been heretofore of the " Embassy, and had Possession of the " fame chief Places he had feen: But " they were now fucceeded there, by O-" thers. If those therefore, reply'd " the Indian, were Embassadors from

" the SUN; these, I take for granted, are " from the Moon."

Supposing, indeed, one had been no Pagan, but a good Christian; conversant in the original Holy Scriptures, but unacquainted with the Rites, Titles, Habits and Ceremonials, of which there is no mention in those Writings: Might one not have inquir'd, with humble Submission, inMisc. 5. to this Affair? Might one not have softly, and at a distance, apply'd for information concerning this bigh EMBASSY; and addressing perhaps to some inferior Officer or Livery-Man of the Train, ask'd modestly, " How and Whence they came? Whose "Equipage they appear'd in? At Whose " Charges they were entertain'd? and by "Whose Suffrage or Command appointed " and authoriz'd? - Is it true, pray " SIRS! that their Excellencys of the pre-" fent Establishment, are the fole-commis-"fion'd? Or are there as many real Com-"missioners as there are Pretenders? If so; "there can be no great danger for us, which-ever way we apply our-felves. "We have ample Choice, and may ad-" here to which COMMISSION we like " best. If there be only ONE single "TRUE-one; we have then, it feems, " good reason to look about us, search narrowly into the Asfair, be scrupulous "in our Choice, and (as the current Phy"fick-Bills admonish us) beware of Coun"terfeits; since there are so many of these " abroad, with earthly Powers, and tem-" poral COMMISSIONS, to back their " piritual Pretenfes."

'T is to be fear'd, in good earnest, that the Discernment of this kind will prove pretty difficult; especially amidst this universal Contention, Embroil, and Fury of religious Chal-

Challengers, these high Defiances of con-Ch. 3. trary Believers, this zealous Opposition of Commission to Commission; and this Din of Hell, Anathema's, and Damnations, rais'd every where by one religious Party against another.

So far are the pretendedly commission of Partys from producing their Commission openly, or proving it from the original Record, or Court-Rolls of Heaven, that they deny us inspection into these very Records they plead, and refuse to submit their Title to human Judgment or Examination.

A POET of our Nation infinuates indeed in their behalf, That they are fair enough in this respect. For when the murmuring People, speaking by their chosen Orator, or Spokes-man, to the Priests, says to em,

(Care.

With Ease you take what we provide with And we who your LEGATION must maintain,

Find all your Tribe in the Commission are, And none but Heav'n cou'd send so large a TRAIN;

The Apologist afterwards excusing this Boldness of the People, and soothing the incens'd Priests with fairer Words, Vol. 3. Z says

Misc. 5. says to 'em, on a foot of *Moderation*, which he presumes to be their Character:

\* You with fuch Temper their Intemperance bear,

To shew your solid Science does rely
So on it-self, as you no Trial fear:
For Arts are weak that are of Scepticks shy.

The Poet, it feems, never dreamt of a time when the very Countenance of Moderation shou'd be out of fashion with the Gentlemen of this Order, and the Word it-felf exploded as unworthy of their Profession. And, indeed, so far are they at present from bearing with any SCEP-TICK, or Inquirer, ever so modest or discreet, that to hear an Argument on a contrary fide to theirs, or read whatever may be writ in answer to their particular As-fertions, is made the highest Crime. Whilst they have among themselves such Differences, and sharp Debates, about their beavenly Commission, and are even in one and the same Community or Establishment, divided into different SeEts and Head-Ships; they will allow no particular Survey or Inspection into the Foundations of their controverted Title. They wou'd have us inferior paffive Mortals, amaz'd

<sup>\*</sup> GONDIBERT, Book ii. Canto 1.

as we are, and beholding with aftonish-Ch. 3. ment from afar these tremendous Subjects of Dispute, wait blindfold the Event and final Decision of the Controversy. Nor is it enough that we are merely passive. 'Tis requir'd of us, That in the midst of this irreconcilable Debate concerning heavenly Authoritys and Powers, we shou'd be as confident of the Veracity of some one, as of the Imposture and Cheat of all the other Pretenders: and that believing firmly there is still A real COMMISSION at the bottom, we shou'd endure the Misery of these Conflicts, and engage on one fide or the other, as we happen to have our Birth or Education; till by Fire and Sword, Execution, Massacre, and a kind of Depopulation of this Earth, it be \* determin'd at last amongst us, "Which is the true COM-" MISSION, exclusive of all others, and " fuperior to the rest."

HERE our fecular GENTLEMAN, who in the latter end of his Discourse had already made several Motions and Gestures which betoken'd a Retreat, made his final Bow in form, and quitted the Place and Company for that time; till (as he told his Auditors) he had another Op-

<sup>\*</sup> Supra, pag. 89.

#### MISCEL. REFLEC.

Misc. 5. portunity, and fresh Leisure to hear, in his turn, whatever his Antagonists might anew object to him, in a Manner more favourable and moderate; or, if they so approv'd, in the same Temper, and with the same Zeal as they had done before.

344

TREATISE

## TREATISE VII.

#### VIZ.

# A Notion of the Historical Draught or Tablature

OFTHE

## Judgment of Hercules,

According to PRODICUS, Lib. II. Xen. de Mem. Soc.

With a Letter concerning DESIGN.

Potiores

Herculis ærumnas credat, fævosque Labores,

Et Venere, & cœnis, & plumâ Sardanapali.

Juv. Sat. 10.

Printed first in the Year M.DCC.XIII.

TREACTION

A NOTION OF the Higher Dranght or Tablature

HHTTO

## Judgment of Hercules.

According to PRODUCUS, Lil. II. Nov. de Mem.

With a Letter concerning DUNGS

However a second common several and a second Rt. Venes, A second particle and a second Second

TREATE

Printed first in the Year MINICALLE.



Paulo de Matthais Pinx:

THE

Sim: Gribelin Sculps:

## Judgment of Hercules.

## INTRODUCTION.

EFORE we enter on the Examination of our Historical Sketch, it may be proper to remark, that by the word Tablature (for which we have yet no name in English, besides the general one of Picture) we denote, according to the original word TABULA, a Work not only distinct from a mere Portraiture, but from all those wilder forts of Painting which Vol. 3. [Z 3]

are in a manner absolute, and independent; such as the Paintings in Fresco upon the Walls, the Cielings, the Stair-Cases, the Cupolo's, and other remarkable Places either of Churches or Palaces.

(2.) ACCORDINGLY we are to understand, that it is not merely the Shape or Dimension of a Cloth, or Board, which denominates the Piece or Tablature; fince a Work of this kind may be compos'd of any colour'd Substance, as it may of any Form; whether square, oval or round. But 'tis then that in Painting we may give to any particular Work the Name of Tablature, when the Work is in reality " a Sin-" gle Piece, comprehended in one View, " and form'd according to one fingle In-" telligence, Meaning, or Defign; which " constitutes a real WHOLE, by a mutual " and necessary Relation of its Parts, the " fame as of the Members in a natural "Body." So that one may fay of a Picture compos'd of any number of Figures differently rang'd, and without any regard to this Correspondency or Union describ'd, That it is no more a real Piece or Tablature, than a Picture wou'd be a Man's Picture, or proper Portraiture, which represented on the same Cloth, in different places, the Legs, Arms, Nose, and Eyes of such a Person, without adjusting them according to the true Proportion, Air, and Character which belong'd to him. (3.) THIS

- (3.) This Regulation has place even in the inferior degrees of Painting; fince the mere Flower-Painter is, we see, oblig'd to study the Form of Festons, and to make use of a peculiar Order, or Architecture of Vases, Jars, Cannisters, Pedestals, and other Inventions, which serve as Machines, to frame a certain proportionate Assemblage, or united Mass; according to the Rules of Perspective; and with regard as well to the different shapes and sizes of his several Flowers, as to the harmony of Colours resulting from the whole: this being the only thing capable of rendering his Work worthy the name of a Composition or real Piece.
- (4.) So much the more, therefore, is this Regulation applicable to History-Painting, where not only Men, but Manners, and human Passions are represented. Here the Unity of Design must with more particular exactness be preserved, according to the just Rules of poetick Art; that in the Representation of any Event, or remarkable Fact, the Probability, or seeming Truth, which is the real Truth of Art, may with the highest advantage be supported and advanced: as we shall better understand in the Argument which follows on the historical Tablature of The Judgment of Hercules; who being young, and re-

Ch. 1. tir'd to a folitary place in order to deliberate on the Choice he was to make of
the different ways of Life, was accosted
(as our Historian relates) by the two Goddesses, VIRTUE and PLEASURE. 'Tis
on the issue of the Controversy between
these Two, that the Character of HERCULES depends. So that we may naturally
give to this Piece and History, as well the
Title of The Education, as the Choice or
Judgment of HERCULES.

### CHAP. I.

Of the general Constitution or Ordonnance of the Tablature.

(1.) THIS Fable or History may be variously represented, according to the Order of Time:

Either in the instant when the two Goddesses, VIRTUE and PLEASURE, accoss HERCULES:

Or when they are enter'd on their Dif-

pute;

Or when their Dispute is already far advanc'd, and VIRTUE seems to gain her Cause.

(2.) ACCORDING to the first Notion, HERCULES must of necessity seem surprized furpriz'd on the first appearance of such Ch. r. miraculous Forms. He admires, he contemplates; but is not yet ingag'd or interested. According to the fecond Notion, he is interested, divided, and in doubt. According to the third, he is wrought, agitated, and torn by contrary Passions. Tis the last Effort of the vitious one, striving for possession over him. He agonizes, and with all his Strength of Reason endeavours to overcome himself:

(borat.

Et premitur ratione animus, vincique la-

- (3.) Of these different Periods of Time, the latter has been chosen; as being the only one of the three, which can well serve to express the grand Event, or consequent Resolution of Hercules, and the Choice he actually made of a Life full of Toil and Hardship, under the conduct of Virtue, for the deliverance of Mankind from Tyranny and Oppression. And 'tis to such a Piece, or Tablature, as represents this Issue of the Balance, in our pondering Hero, that we may justly give the Title of the Decision or Judgment of Hercules.
  - (4.) THE same History may be reprefented yet according to a fourth Date or Period: as at the time when HERCULES is intirely won by Virtue. But then the signs of this resolute Determination reign-

Z 4

Ch. I. ing absolutely in the Attitude, and Air of our young Hero; there wou'd be no room left to represent his Agony, or inward Conslict, which indeed makes the principal Action bere; as it wou'd do in a Poem, were this Subject to be treated by a good Poet. Nor wou'd there be any more room left in this case, either for the persuasive Rhetorick of VIRTUE, who must have already ended her Discourse, or for the infinuating Address of PLEASURE, who having lost her Cause, must necessarily appear displeas'd, or out of humour: a Circumstance which wou'd no way sute her Character.

- (5.) In the original Story or Fable of this Adventure of our young HERCU-LES, 'tis particularly noted, that PLEASURE, advancing hastily before VIRTUE, began her Plea, and was heard with prevention; as being first in turn. And as this Fable is wholly philosophical and moral, this Circumstance in particular is to be consider'd as essential.
- (6.) In this third Period therefore of our History (dividing it, as we have done, into four successive Dates or Points of Time) HERCULES being Auditor, and attentive, speaks not. PLEASURE has spoken. VIRTUE is still speaking. She is about the middle, or towards the end of

her Discourse; in the place where, accord-Ch. 1. ing to just Rhetorick, the highest Tone of Voice and strongest Action are employ'd.

- rois l'Centelle estimation (7.) 'Tis evident, that every Master in Painting, when he has made choice of the determinate Date or Point of Time, according to which he wou'd represent his History, is afterwards debar'd the taking advantage from any other Action than what is immediately present, and belonging to that fingle Instant he describes. For if he passes the present only for a moment, he may as well pass it for many years. And by this reckoning he may with as good right repeat the same Figure several times over, and in one and the same Picture represent HERCULES in his Cradle, struggling with the Serpents; and the fame HERCULES of full Age, fighting with the Hydra, with Anteus, and with Cerberus: which wou'd prove a mere confus'd Heap, or Knot of Pieces, and not a fingle intire Piece, or Tablature, of the historical tubilli, tort harmen consessor in
- (8.) It may however be allowable, on fome occasions, to make use of certain enigmatical or emblematical Devises, to represent a future Time: as when Hercules, yet a mere Boy, is seen holding a small Club, or wearing the Skin of a young Lion. For so we often find him in the

- Ch. I. the best Antiques. And the History had never related of Hercules, that being yet very young, he kill'd a Lion with his own hand; this Representation of him wou'd nevertheless be intirely conformable to poetick Truth; which not only admits, but necessarily presupposes Prophecy or Prognostication, with regard to the Actions, and Lives of Heroes and Great Men. Besides that as to our Subject, in particular, the natural Genius of Hercules, even in his tenderest Youth, might alone answer for his handling such Arms as these, and bearing, as it were in play, these early tokens of the suture Hero.
  - (9.) To preserve therefore a just Conformity with bistorical Truth, and with the Unity of Time and Action, there remains no other way by which we can possibly give a hint of any thing future, or call to mind any thing past, than by setting in view such Passages or Events as have actually subsisted, or according to Nature might well subsist, or happen together in one and the same instant. And this is what we may properly call The Rule of Consistency.
  - (10.) How is it therefore possible, says one, to express a Change of Passion in any Subject, fince this Change is made by Succession; and that in this case the Passion which is understood as present, will require

quire a Disposition of Body and Features Ch. 1. wholly different from the Passion which is over, and past? To this we answer, That notwithstanding the Ascendency or Reign of the principal and immediate Passion, the Artist has power to leave still in his Subject the Tracts or Footsteps of its Predecessor: fo as to let us behold not only a rifing Paffion together with a declining one; but, what is more, a strong and determinate Passion, with its contrary already discharg'd and banish'd. As for instance, when the plain Tracts of Tears new fallen, with other fresh tokens of Mourning and Dejection, remain still in a Person newly transported with Joy at the sight of a Re-lation or Friend, who the moment before had been lamented as one deceas'd or loft.

(11.) AGAIN, by the same means which are employ'd to call to mind the Past, we may anticipate the Future: as wou'd be seen in the case of an able Painter, who shou'd undertake to paint this History of Hercules according to the third Date or Period of Time propos'd for our historical Tablature. For in this momentary Turn of Action, Hercules remaining still in a situation expressive of Suspense and Doubt, wou'd discover nevertheless that the Strength of this inward Conslict was over, and that Victory began now to declare her-felf in favour of Virtue. This

Ch. I. Transition, which seems at first so mysterious a Performance, will be easily comprehended, if one considers, That the Body, which moves much slower than the Mind, is easily out-strip'd by this latter; and that the Mind on a sudden turning itself some new way, the neater situated and more sprightly parts of the Body (such as the Eyes, and Muscles about the Mouth and Forehead) taking the alarm, and moving in an instant, may leave the heavier and more distant Parts to adjust themselves, and change their Attitude some moments after.

(12.) This different Operation may be diffinguish'd by the names of Anticipation and Repeal.

(13.) Is by any other method an Artift shou'd pretend to introduce into this Piece any portion of Time, suture or past, he must either fin directly against the Law of Truth and Credibility, in representing things contrary and incompatible; or against that Law of Unity and Simplicity of Design, which constitutes the very Being of his Work. This particularly shews it-self in a Picture, when one is necessarily left in doubt, and unable to determine readily, Which of the distinct successive parts of the History or Action is that very-one represented in the Design. For even here the

case is the same as in the other Circumstan-Ch. 1. ces of Poetry and Painting: "That what "is principal or chief, shou'd immediate-"ly shew it-self, without leaving the Mind" in any uncertainty."

(14.) ACCORDING to this Rule of the Unity of Time, if one shou'd ask an Artist, who had painted this History of The Judgment of HERCULES, "\* Which "of these four Periods or Dates of Time "above propos'd he intended in his Pic-"ture to represent;" and it shou'd happen that he cou'd not readily answer, "Twas this, or that: It wou'd appear plainly he had never form'd a real Notion of his Workmanship, or of the History he intended to represent. So that when he had executed even to a Miracle all those other Beautys requisite in a Piece, and had fail'd in this single one, he wou'd from hence

<sup>\*</sup> If the fame Question concerning the instantaneous Action, or present Moment of Time, were apply'd to many famous historical Paintings much admir'd in the World, they wou'd be sound very desective: as we may learn by the Instance of that single Subject of ACTEON, one of the commonest in Painting. Hardly is there any where seen a Design of this poetical History, without a ridiculous Anticipation of the Metamorshosts. The Horns of ACTEON, which are the Effect of a Charm, shou'd naturally wait the execution of that Act in which the Charm consists. Till the Goddess therefore has thrown her Cast, the Hero's Person suffers not any Change. Even while the Water slies, his Forehead is still sound. But in the usual Design we see it otherwise. The Horns are already sprouted, if not full grown: and the Goddess is seen watering the Sprouts.

Ch. 2. alone be prov'd to be in truth no History—
Painter, or Artist in the kind, who understood not so much as how to form the real
Design of a bistorical Piece.

## CHAP. II.

## Of the First or Principal Figure.

(1.) O apply therefore what has been faid above to our immediate Defign or Tablature in hand; we may observe, in the first place, with regard to HERCU-LES, (the first or principal Figure of our Piece) that being plac'd in the middle, between the two Goddesses, he shou'd by a skilful Master be so drawn, as even setting afide the Air and Features of the Face, it shou'd appear by the very Turn, or Position of the Body alone, that this young Hero had not wholly quitted the balancing or pondering part. For in the manner of his turn towards the worthier of these Goddesses, he shou'd by no means appear so averse or separate from the other, as not to fuffer it to be conceiv'd of him, that he had ever any inclination for her, or had ever hearken'd to her Voice. On the contrary, there ought to be fome hopes yet remaining for this latter Goddess PLEA-SURE, and some regret apparent in HER-

diately from the third to the fourth Period; or at least confound one with the other.

- (2.) HERCULES, in this Agony defcrib'd, may appear either fitting, or standing: tho it be more according to probability for him to appear standing; in regard to the presence of the two Goddess, and by reason the case is far from being the same here as in The Judgment of PARIS; where the interested Goddess plead their Cause before their Judg. Here the Interest of HERCULES himself is at stake. 'Tis his own Cause which is trying. He is in this respect not so much the Judg, as he is in reality the Party judg'd.
- (3.) THE superior and commanding Passion of HERCULES may be express'd either by a strong Admiration, or by an Admiration which holds chiefly of Love.

### - Ingenti perculfus amore.

(4.) If the latter be us'd, then the reluctant Passion, which is not yet wholly overcome, may shew it-self in Pity and Tenderness, mov'd in our Hero by the thought of those Pleasures and Companions of his Youth, which he is going for ever to abandon. And in this sense HERCULES may look either on the one or the

Ch. 2. other of the Goddesses, with this difference; That if he looks on Pleasure, it shou'd be faintly, and as turning his Eyes back with Pity; having still his Action and Gesture turn'd the other way towards Virtue. If, on the contrary, he looks on Virtue; it ought to be earnestly, and with extreme attention, having some part of the Action of his Body, inclining still towards Pleasure, and discovering by certain Features of Concern and Pity, intermix'd with the commanding or conquering Passion, that the Decision he is about to make in favour of Virtue, cost him not a little.

(5.) If it be thought fit rather to make use of Admiration, merely to express the commanding Passion of Hereules: then the reluctant-one may discover it-self in a kind of Horror, at the thought of the Toil and Labour, to be sustain'd in the rough rocky way apparent on the side of Virtue.

(6.) AGAIN, HERCULES may be represented as looking neither towards VIRTUE nor PLEASURE, but as turning his Eyes either towards the mountainous rocky Way pointed out to him by VIRTUE, or towards the flowry Way of the Vale and Meadows, recommended to him by PLEASURE. And to these different Attitudes may be apply'd the same Rules

Rules for the Expression of the Turn or Ch. 2. Balance of Judgment in our pensive Hero.

(7.) WHATEVER may be the manner chosen for the designing of this Figure of HERCULES, according to that part of the History in which we have taken him; 'tis certain he shou'd be so drawn, as neither by the opening of his mouth, or by any other fign, to leave it in the least dubious whether he is speaking or filent. For 'tis absolutely requisite that Silence shou'd be diftinctly characteriz'd in HERCULES, not only as the natural effect of his strict Attention, and the little leifure he has from what passes at this time within his breast; but in order withal to give that appearance of Majesty and Superiority becoming the Person and Character of pleading VIRTUE; who by her Eloquence and other Charms has ere this made her-felf mistress of the Heart of our enamour'd Hero:

#### \* — Pendetque iterum narrantis ob ore.

This Image of the Sublime in the Discourse and Manner of VIRTUE, wou'd be utterly lost, if in the instant that she employ'd the greatest Force of Action, she shou'd appear to be interrupted by the ill-tim'd Speech, Reply, or Utterance of her Auditor. Such a Design or Representation as this, wou'd prove contrary to Order,

\* Virg. Æn. Lib. iv. vere79. Vol. 3. A a Ch. 3. contrary to the History, and to the Decorum, or Decency of Manners. Nor can one well avoid taking notice here, of that general Absurdity committed by many of the esteem'd great Masters in Painting; who in one and the same Company, or Assembly of Persons jointly employ'd, and united according to the History, in one single or common Action, represent to us not only two or three, but several, and sometimes all speaking at once. Which must naturally have the same effect on the Eye, as such a Conversation wou'd have upon the Ear, were we in reality to hear it.

# C H A P. III. Of the Second Figure.

(1.) A FTER what has been said on the Subject of HERCULES, it appears plainly what the Attitude must be of our second Figure, VIRTUE; who, as we have taken her in this particular Period of our History, must of necessity be Speaking with all the Force of Action, such as wou'd appear in an excellent Orator, when at the height, and in the most affecting part of his Discourse.

(2.) SHE ought therefore to be drawn fanding; fince 'tis contrary to all probable

Appearance, and even to Nature it-felf, Ch. 3. that in the very Heat and highest Transport of Speech, the Speaker shou'd be seen fitting, or in any Posture which might express Repose.

(3.) SHE may be babited either as an AMAZON, with the Helmet, Lance, and in the Robe or Vest of PALLAS; or as any other of the Virtues, Goddesses, or Heroines, with the plain original Crown, without Rays, according to genuine Antiquity. Our History makes no mention of a Helmet, or any other Armour of VIR-TUE. It gives us only to understand, that she was dress'd neither negligently, nor with much study or ornament. If we follow this latter method, we need give her only in her hand the Imperial or \* Magisterial Sword; which is her true characteristick Mark, and wou'd fufficiently distinguish her, without the Helmet, Lance, or other military Habit. And in this manner, the opposition between her-self and her Rival wou'd be still more beautiful and regular. -" But this Beauty, fays one, wou'd be " discoverable only by the Learned."-Perhaps so. But then again, there wou'd be no loss for others: since no-one wou'd find this Piece the less intelligible on the account of this Regulation. On the contrary,

Parazonium.

Ch. 3. one who chanc'd to know little of Antiquity in general, or of this History in particular, wou'd be still further to seek, if upon seeing an armed Woman in the Piece, he shou'd represent to himself either a PALLAS, a BELLONA, or any other warlike Form, or Deity of the semale kind.

(4.) As for the Shape, Countenance, or Person of VIRTUE; that which is usually given to PALLAS may fitly ferve as a Model for this Dame; as on the other fide, that which is given to VENUS may ferve in the same manner for her Rival. The Historian whom we follow, represents VIR-TUE to us as a Lady of a goodly Form, tall and majestick. And by what he relates of her, he gives us sufficiently to understand, that tho she was neither lean, nor of a tann'd Complexion, she must have discover'd however, by the Substance and Colour of her Flesh, that she was sufficiently accustom'd to exercise. PLEASURE, on the other hand, by an exact Opposition, is represented in better case, and of a Softness of Complexion; which speaks her Manners, and gives her a middle Character between the Person of a VENUS, and that of a BACCHINAL Nymph.

(5.) As for the *Position*, or *Attitude* of VIRTUE; tho in a historical Piece, such as ours is design'd, 'twou'd on no account be

be proper to have immediate recourse to Ch. 3. the way of Emblem; one might, on this occasion, endeavour nevertheless by some artifice to give our Figure, as much as possible, the resemblance of the same Goddess, as she is seen on Medals, and other antient emblematick Pieces of like nature. In this view, she shou'd be so design'd, as to stand firm with her full poise upon one foot, having the other a little advanc'd, and rais'd on a broken piece of ground or rock, instead of the Helmet or little Globe on which we fee her usually setting her foot, as triumphant, in those Pieces of the emblematick kind. A particular advantage of this Attitude, so judiciously assign'd to VIRTUE by antient Masters, is, that it expresses as well her aspiring Effort, or Ascent towards the Stars and Heaven, as her Victory and Superiority over Fortune and the World. For fo the Poets have, of old, describ'd her.

And in our Piece particularly, where the arduous and rocky way of VIRTUE requires to be emphatically represented; the ascending Posture of this Figure, with one Foot advanc'd, in a sort of climbing Action, over

<sup>\* —</sup> Negatâ tentat iter viâ. † Virtutisque viam deserit arduæ.

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. Lib. iii. Od. ii. ver. 22.

<sup>+</sup> Idem ibid. Od. xxiv. ver. 44.

Ch. 3. the rough and thorny Ground, must of necessity, if well executed, create a due effect, and add to the Sublime of this \* antient Poetick Work.

(6.) As for the Hands or Arms, which in real Oratory, and during the strength of Elocution, must of necessity be active; tis plain in respect of our Goddess, that the Arm in particular which she has free to herfelf, and is neither incumber'd with Lance or Sword, shou'd be employ'd another way, and come in, to fecond the Discourse, and accompany it, with a just Emphasis and Action. Accordingly, VIRTUE wou'd then be feen with this Hand, turn'd either upwards to the rocky Way mark'd out by her with approbation; or to the Sky, or Stars, in the same sublime sense; or downwards to the flowery Way and Vale, as in a detesting manner, and with abhorrence of what passes there; or last of all (in a difdainful fense, and with the same appearance of Detestation) against PLEASURE herfelf. Each Manner wou'd have its peculiar

† As antient as the Poet HESIOD: which appears by the following Verses, cived by our Historian, as the Foundation, or first Draught of this HERCULEAN Tablature.

Τύν μ΄ 38 κακότη α κ) ίταδον ες το έλεδαι 'Pri δίως. λείη μ΄ όδος, μάλα δ' είγυθοι ναίω Τύς δ' αξείνε όδος παθού περοπαρούθεν έδυκαν 'Αθαναίω, μακρός δέ κ) όξιο διμος επ' άλίνο, καί τρικύς τό πρώτον επίν δ' ώς άκρον ϊκή ας 'Ριβίν δ' κπεία πέλω, χαλεπό περ εξαπ.

Oper. & Dier. Lib. i. ver. 285.

advantage. And the best Profit shou'd be Ch. 3. made of this Arm and Hand at liberty, to express either the Disapprobation or the Applause propos'd. It might prove, however, a confiderable advantage to our Figure of VIRTUE, if holding the Lance, or Imperial Sword, flightly, with one of her Hands stretch'd downwards, she cou'd, by that very Hand and Action, be made to express the latter meaning; opening for that purpose some of the lower Fingers of this Hand, in a refusing or repelling manner; whilst with the other Arm and Hand at liberty, she shou'd express as well the former meaning, and point out to HERCULES the way which leads to Honour, and the just Glory of heroick Actions.

(7.) FROM all these Circumstances of History, and Action, accompanying this important Figure, the difficulty of the Defign will fufficiently appear, to those who carry their Judgment beyond the mere Form, and are able to confider the Character of the Passion to which it is subjected. For where a real Character is mark'd, and the inward Form peculiarly describ'd, 'tis necessary the outward shou'd give place. Whoever shou'd expect to see our Figure of VIRTUE, in the exact Mein of a fine Talker, curious in her Choice of Action, and forming it according to the usual Decorum, and regular Movement of one of the A a 4

fair

Ch. 3. fair Ladys of our Age, wou'd certainly be far wide of the Thought and Genius of this Piece. Such study'd Action, and artificial Gesture, may be allow'd to the Actors and Actrices of the Stage. But the good Painter must come a little nearer to TRUTH, and take care that his Action be not theatrical, or at fecond hand; but original, and drawn from NATURE her-felf. Now altho in the ordinary Tenour of Discourse, the Action of the Party might be allow'd to appear fo far govern'd and compos'd by Art, as to retain that regular Contraste, and nice Balance of Movement, which Painters are apt to admire as the chief Grace of Figures; yet in this particular case, where the natural Eagerness of Debate, supported by a thorow Antipathy and Animofity, is join'd to a fort of enthusiastick Agitation incident to our prophetick Dame, there can be little of that fashionable Mein, or genteel Air admitted. The Painter who, in fuch a Piece as we describe, is bound to preserve the heroick Style, will doubtless beware of representing his Heroine as a mere Scold. Yet this is certain, That it were better for him to expose himself to the Meanness of fuch a Fancy, and paint his Lady in a high Rant, according to the common Weakness of the Sex, than to engage in the Embelishment of the mere Form; and, forgetting the Character of Severity and Reprimand belonging to the illustrious Rival, prefent her

her to us a fair specious Personage, free of Ch. 4. Emotion, and without the least Bent or Movement, which shou'd express the real Pathetick of the kind.

## CHAP. IV.

## Of the Third Figure.

(1.) ONCERNING PLEASURE there needs little to be faid, after what has been already remark'd in relation to the two preceding Figures. The Truth of Appearance, that of History, and even the Decorum it-felf, (according to what has been explain'd above) require evidently that in this Period or Instant describ'd, PLEA-SURE shou'd be found silent. She can have no other Language allow'd her than that merely of the Eyes. And 'twou'd be a happy Management for her in the Defign, if in turning her Eyes to meet those of HER-CULES, she shou'd find his Head and Face already turn'd fo much on the contrary fide, as to shew it impossible for her as yet to discover the growing Passion of this Hero in favour of her Rival. By this means the might still with good right retain her fond Airs of Dalliance and Courtship; as having yet discover'd no reason she has to be diffatisfy'd.

(2.) SHE

370 Zhe JUDGM

(2.) SHE may be drawn either flanding, leaning, fitting, or lying; without a Crown, or crown'd either with Roses, or with Myrtle; according to the Painter's Fancy. And since in this third Figure the Painter has so great a liberty lest him, he may make good advantage of it for the other two, to which this latter may be subjected, as the last in order, and of least consequence.

(3.) THAT which makes the greatest difficulty in the Disposition or Ordonnance of this Figure PLEASURE, is, that notwithstanding the supine Air and Character of Ease and Indolence, which shou'd be given her, she must retain still so much Life and Action, as is sufficient to express her persuasive Effort, and Manner of Indication towards her proper Paths; those of the flowery kind, and Vale below, whither she wou'd willingly guide our Hero's steps. Now shou'd this Effort be over-strongly express'd; not only the supine Character and Air of Indolence wou'd be loft in this Figure of PLEASURE; but, what is worse, the Figure wou'd feem to speak, or at least appear so, as to create a double Meaning, or equivocal Sense in Painting: which wou'd destroy what we have establish'd as fundamental, concerning the abfolute Reign of Silence thro'out the rest of the Piece, in favour of VIRTUE, the fole

fole speaking Party at this Instant, or third Ch. 4. Period of our History.

- (4.) ACCORDING to a Computation, which in this way of Reasoning might be made, of the whole Motion or Action to be given to our Figure of PLEASURE; she shou'd scarce have one fifth reserv'd for that which we may properly call active in her, and have already term'd her persussive or indicative Effort. All besides shou'd be employ'd to express, if one may say so, her Inaction, her Supineness, Effeminacy, and indulgent Eafe. The Head and Body might intirely favour this latter Passion. One Hand might be absolutely refign'd to it; ferving only to support, with much ado, the lolling lazy Body. And if the other Hand be requir'd to express some kind of Gesture or Action toward the Road of Pleafures recommended by this Dame; the Gesture ought however to be slight and negligent, in the manner of one who has given over speaking, and appears weary and spent.
- (5.) For the Shape, the Person, the Complexion, and what else may be further remark'd as to the Air and Manner of PLEASURE; all this is naturally comprehended in the Opposition, as above stated, between Her-self and VIRTUE.

## CHAP. V.

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Of the Ornaments of the Piece; and chiefly of the Drapery, and Perspective.

(1.) IS fufficiently known, how great a liberty Painters are us'd to take, in the colouring of their Habits, and of other Draperys belonging to their historical Pieces. If they are to paint a Roman People, they represent 'em in different Dresfes; tho it be certain the common People among 'em were habited very near alike, and much after the same colour. In like manner, the Egyptians, Jews, and other antient Nations, as we may well suppose, bore in this particular their respective Likeness or Resemblance one to another; as at present the Spaniards, Italians, and several other People of Europe. But such a Refemblance as this wou'd, in the way of Painting, produce a very untoward effect; as may eafily be conceiv'd. For this reason the Painter makes no scruple to introduce Philosophers, and even Apostles, in various Colours, after a very extraordinary manner. 'Tis here that the bistorical Truth must of necessity indeed give way to that which we call poetical, as being govern'd not so much by Reality, as by Probability,

or plausible Appearance, So that a Painter, Ch. 5. who uses his Privilege or Prerogative in this respect, ought however to do it cautiously, and with discretion. And when occasion requires that he shou'd present us his Philosophers or Aposles thus variously colour'd, he must take care at least so to mortify his Colours, that these plain poor Men may not appear, in his Piece, adorn'd like so many Lords or Princes of the modern Garb.

- (2.) IF, on the other hand, the Painter shou'd happen to take for his Subject some folemn Entry or Triumph, where, according to the Truth of Fact, all manner of Magnificence had without doubt been actually display'd, and all forts of bright and dazling Colours heap'd together and advanc'd, in emulation, one against another; he ought on this occasion, in breach of the bistorical Truth, or Truth of Fact, to do his utmost to diminish and reduce the excessive Gaiety and Splendor of those Objects, which wou'd otherwife raife fuch a Confusion, Oppugnancy, and Riot of Colours, as wou'd to any judicious Eye appear absolutely intolerable.
- (3.) IT becomes therefore an able Painter in this, as well as in the other parts of his Workmanship, to have regard principally, and above all, to the Agreement or

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Ch. 5. Correspondency of things. And to that end 'tis necessary he shou'd form in his Mind a certain Note or Character of Unity, which being happily taken, wou'd, out of the many Colours of his Piece, produce (if one may say so) a particular distinct Species of an original kind: like those Compositions in Musick, where among the different Airs, (such as Sonatas, Entrys, or Sarabands) there are different and distinct Species; of which we may say in particular, as to each, "That it has its own "proper Character or Genius, peculiar to "it-self."

(4.) Thus the Harmony of Painting requires, "That in whatever Key the "Painter begins his Piece, he shou'd be "fure to finish it in the same."

(5.) This Regulation turns on the principal Figure, or on the two or three which are eminent; in a Tablature compos'd of many. For if the Painter happens to give a certain Height or Richness of colouring to his principal Figure; the rest must in proportion necessarily partake this Genius. But if, on the contrary, the Painter shou'd have chanc'd to give a softer Air, with more Gentleness and Simplicity of colouring, to his principal Figure; the rest must bear a Character proportionable, and appear in an extraordinary Simplicity;

that one and the same Spirit may, with-Ch. 5. out contest, reign thro' the whole of his Design.

(6.) Our Historical Draught of Her-CULES will afford us a very clear example in the case. For considering that the Hero is to appear on this occasion retir'd and gloomy; being withal in a manner naked, and without any other Covering than a Lion's Skin, which is it-felf of a yellow and dusky colour; it wou'd be really impracticable for a Painter to represent this principal Figure in any extraordinary brightness or lustre. From whence it follows, that in the other inferior Figures or fubordinate parts of the Work, the Painter must necessarily make use of such still quiet Colours, as may give to the whole Piece a Character of Solemnity and Simplicity, agreeable with it-felf. Now shou'd our Painter honestly go about to follow his Historian, according to the literal Sense of the History, which represents VIRTUE to us in a resplendent Robe of the purest and most glossy White; 'tis evident he must after this manner destroy his Piece. The good Painter in this, as in all other occafions of like nature, must do as the good Poet; who undertaking to treat some common and known Subject, refuses however to follow strictly, like a mere Copyist or Translator, any preceding Poet or Historian; Ch. 5. rian; but so orders it, that his Work in it-self becomes really new and original.

\* Publica materies privati juris erit, si Nec circa vilem patulumque moraberis orbem; Nec verbum verbo curabis reddere sidus Interpres.

(7.) As for what relates to the Perspective or Scene of our historical Piece, it ought so to present it-self, as to make us instantly conceive that 'tis in the Country, and in a place of Retirement, near some Wood or Forest, that this whole Action passes. For 'twou'd be impertinent to bring Architecture or Buildings of whatever kind in view, as tokens of Company, Diversion, or Affairs, in a Place purposely chosen to denote Solitude, Thoughtfulness, and premeditated Retreat. Besides, that according to the Poets (our Guides and Masters in this Art) neither the Goddesses, nor other divine Forms of whatever kind, car'd ever to present themselves to human Sight, elsewhere than in these deep Receffes. And 'tis worth observing here, how particularly our philosophical Historian affects to speak, by way of prevention, of the folitary place where HER-CULES was retir'd, and of his Thoughtfulness preceding this Apparition: which from these Circumstances may be constru'd

<sup>\*</sup> Horat. de Art. Poet. ver. 131.

hence-forward as a mere *Dream*; but as Ch. 5-fuch, a truly rational, and divine one.

- (8.) As to the Fortress, Temple, or Palace of VIRTUE, situated on a Mountain, after the emblematical way; as we see represented in some Pieces form'd upon this Subject; there is nothing of this kind express'd by our Historian. And shou'd this, or any thing of a like nature, present itself in our Design, it wou'd fill the Mind with foreign Fancys, and mysterious Views, no way agreeable to the Taste and Genius of this Piece. Nor is there any thing, at the same time, on PLEASURE's side, to answer, by way of opposition, to this Palace of VIRTUE; which, if express'd, wou'd on this account destroy the just Simplicity and Correspondency of our Wotk.
- (9.) ANOTHER Reason against the Perspective-part, the Architecture, or other study'd Ornaments of the Landskip-kind, in this particular Piece of ours, is, That in reality there being no occasion for these Appearances, they wou'd prove a mere Incumbrance to the Eye, and wou'd of necessity disturb the Sight, by diverting it from that which is principal, the History and Fast. Whatsoever appears in a historical Design, which is not effential to the Action, serves only to consound the Representation, and perplex the Mind: more Vol. 3.

  Bb particularly,

378

Ch. 5. particularly, if these Episodick parts are so lively wrought, as to vie with the principal Subject, and contend for Precedency with the Figures and human Life. A just Defign, or Tablature, shou'd, at first view, discover, What Nature it is design'd to imitate; what Life, whether of the higher or lower kind, it aims chiefly to represent. The Piece must by no means be equivocal or dubious; but must with ease distinguish it-felf, either as bistorical and moral, or as perspective and merely natural. If it be the latter of these Beautys, which we defire to fee delineated according to its perfection, then the former must give place. The higher Life must be allay'd, and in a manner discountenanc'd and obscur'd; whilft the lower displays it-felf, and is exhibited as principal. Even that, which according to a Term of Art we commonly call Still-Life, and is in reality of the last and lowest degree of Painting, must have its Superiority and just Preference in a Tablature of its own Species. 'Tis the fame in Animal-Pieces; where Beasts, or Fowl are represented. In Landskip, Inanimates are principal: 'Tis the Earth, the Water, the Stones and Rocks which live. All other Life becomes subordinate. Humanity, Sense, Manners, must in this place yield, and become inferior. 'Twou'd be a fault even to aim at the Expression of any real Beauty in this kind, or go about to animate

or heighten in any considerable degree the Ch. 5. accompanying Figures of Men, or Deitys, which are accidentally introduc'd, as Appendices, or Ornaments, in such a Piece. But if, on the contrary, the human Species be that which first presents it-self in a Picture; if it be the intelligent Life, which is set to view; 'tis the other Species, the other Life, which must then surrender and become subservient. The merely natural must pay homage to the historical or moral. Every Beauty, every Grace must be sacrific'd to the real Beauty of this sirst and highest Order. For nothing can be more deform'd than a Consusion of many Beautys: And the Consusion becomes inevitable, where the Subjection is not compleat.

(10.) By the word Moral are underflood, in this place, all Sorts of judicious Representations of the human Passions; as we see even in Battel-Pieces; excepting those of distant Figures, and the diminutive kind; which may rather be consider'd as a fort of Landskip. In all other martial Pieces, we see express'd in lively Action, the several degrees of Valor, Magnanimity, Cowardice, Terror, Anger, according to the several Characters of Nations, and particular Men. 'Tis here that we may see Heroes and Chiefs (such as the Alexanders or Constantines) appear, even in the hottest of the Action,

Ch. 5. with a Tranquillity and Sedateness of Mind peculiar to themselves: which is, indeed, in a direct and proper sense, prosoundly moral.

- (11.) BUT as the Moral part is differently treated in a Poem, from what it is in History, or in a philosophical Work; so must it, of right, in Painting be far differently treated, from what it naturally is, either in the History, or Poem. For want of a right understanding of this Maxim, it often happens that, by endeavouring to render a Piece highly moral and learned, it becomes thorowly ridiculous and impertinent.
- (12.) FOR the ordinary Works of SCULPTURE, fuch as the Low-Relieves, and Ornaments of Columns and Edifices, great allowance is made. The very Rules of Perspective are here wholly revers'd, as necessity requires; and are accommodated to the Circumstance and Genius of the Place or Building, according to a certain OEconomy or Order of a particular and diftinct kind; as will eafily be observ'd by those who have thorowly study'd the TRAJAN and ANTONINUS-Pillars, and other Relieve-Works of the Antients. In the same manner, as to Pieces of ingrav'd Work, Medals, or whatever shews it-self in one Substance, (as Brass or Stone) or only by Shade and Light, (as in ordinary Drawings,

Drawings, or Stamps) much also is al-Ch. 5. low'd, and many things admitted, of the fantastick, miraculous, or hyberbolical kind. 'Tis here, that we have free scope, withal, for whatever is learned, emblematical, or enigmatick. But for the compleatly imitative and illusive Art of PAINTING, whose Character it is to employ in her Works the united Force of different Colours; and who, furpaffing by fo many Degrees, and in fo many Privileges, all other human Fiction, or imitative Art, aspires in a directer manner towards Deceit, and a Command over our very Sense; she must of necessity abandon whatever is overlearned, bumorous, or witty; to maintain her-felf in what is natural, credible, and winning of our Assent: that she may thus acquit her-felf of what is her chief Province, the specious Appearance of the Object she represents. Otherwise we shall naturally bring against her the just Criticism of HORACE, on the scenical Representation fo nearly ally'd to her:

Quodcunque ostendis mibi sic, incredulus odi.

(13.) WE are therefore to consider this as a sure Maxim or Observation in Painting, "That a bistorical and moral Piece" must of necessity lose much of its natural Simplicity and Grace, if any thing of the emblematical or enigmatick kind be Bb 3 "visibly

Ch. 5. "visibly and directly intermix'd." As if for instance, the Circle of the \* Zodiack, with its twelve Signs, were introduc'd. Now this being an Appearance which carrys not any manner of fimilitude or colourable refemblance to any thing extant in real Nature; it cannot possibly pretend to win the Sense, or gain Belief, by the help of any poetical Enthusiasm, religious History, or Faith. For by means of these, indeed, we are easily induc'd to contemplate as Realitys those divine Personages and miraculous Forms, which the leading Painters, antient and modern, have speciously defign'd, according to the particular Doctrine or Theology of their feveral religious and national Beliefs. But for our Tablature in particular, it carrys nothing with it of the mere emblematical or enigmatick kind: fince for what relates to the double Way of the Vale and Mountain, this may naturally and with colourable appearance be represented at the Mountain's foot. But if on the Summit or highest Point of it, we shou'd place the Fortress, or Palace of Virtue, rising above the Clouds, this wou'd immediately give the enigmatical mysterious

<sup>\*</sup> This is what RAPHAEL himself has done, in his samous Design of The Judgment of PARIS. But this Piece having never been painted, but design'd only for MARO ANTONIO'S engraving, it comes not within our Censure; as appears by what is said in the Paragraph just preceding.

Air to our Picture, and of necessity de-Ch. 5. ftroy its persuasive Simplicity, and natural Appearance.

(14.) In short, we are to carry this Remembrance still along with us, "That the " fewer the Objects are, besides those which " are absolutely necessary in a Piece, the " easier it is for the Eye, by one simple "Act and in one View, to comprehend " the Sum or Whole." The multiplication of Subjects, tho fubaltern, renders the Subordination more difficult to execute in the Ordonnance or Composition of a Work. And if the Subordination be not perfect, the Order (which makes the Beauty) remains imperfect. Now the Subordination can never be perfect, except " \* When the Or-"donnance is fuch, that the Eye not only " runs over with ease the several Parts of " the Defign, (reducing still its View each " moment to the principal Subject on " which all turns) but when the same Eye, " without the least detainment in any of " the particular Parts, and resting, as it " were, immovable in the middle, or cen-" ter of the Tablature, may fee at once, " in an agreeable and perfect Correspon-" dency, all which is there exhibited to

<sup>&</sup>quot; the Sight."

<sup>\*</sup> This is what the Grecian Masters so happily express'd, by the single word 'Euginorlov. See VOL. I. pag. 143, &c.

#### CHAP. VI.

## Of the Casual or Independent Ornaments.

HERE remains for us now to confider only of the separate Ornaments, independent both of Figures and Perspective; such as the \* Machine-Work, or Divinitys in the Sky, the Winds, Cupids, Birds, Animals, Dogs, or other loose Pieces, which are introduc'd without any abfolute necessity, and in a way of Humour. But as these belong chiefly to the ordinary Life, and to the comick, or mix'd kind; our Tablature, which on the contrary is wholly epick, beroick, and in the tragick Style, wou'd not so easily admit of any thing in this light way.

(2.) WE may besides consider, that whereas the Mind is naturally led to fanfy Mystery in a Work of such a Genius or Style of Painting as ours, and to confound with each other the two distinct kinds of the emblematick, and merely bistorical, or poetick; we shou'd take care not to afford

<sup>\*</sup> This is understood of the Machine-Work, when it is merely ornamental, and not essential in the Piece; by making part of the History, or Fable it-jelf.

it this occasion of Error and Deviation, by Ch. 6. introducing into a Piece of so uniform a Design, such Appendices, or supplementary Parts, as, under pretext of giving light to the History, or characterizing the Figures, shou'd serve only to distract or dissipate the Sight, and confound the Judgment of the more intelligent Spectators.

(3.) " WILL it then, fays one, be pos-" fible to make out the Story of these two " Dames in company with HERCULES, " without otherwise distinguishing them "than as above describ'd?"——We anfwer, it is possible; and not that only, but certain and infallible, in the case of one who has the least Genius, or has ever heard in general concerning HERCULES, without so much as having ever heard this History in particular. But if, notwithstanding this, we wou'd needs add fome exterior marks, more declaratory and determinative of these two Personages, VIRTUE and PLEASURE; it may be perform'd, however, without any necessary recourse to what is absolutely of the Emblem-kind. The Manner of this may be explain'd as follows.

(4.) THE Energy or natural Force of Virtue, according to the moral Philosophy of highest note among the Antients, was express'd in the double effect of Far-

Ch. 6. \* Forbearance and Indurance, or what we may otherwise call Refrainment and Support. For the former, the Bit or Bridle, plac'd somewhere on the side of Virtue, may serve as Emblem sufficient; and for the second, the Helmet may serve in the same manner; especially since they are each of them Appurtenances essential to Heroes, (who, in the quality of Warriors, were also Subduers or † Managers of Horses) and that at the same time these are really portable Instruments, such as the martial Dame, who represents Virtue, may be well supposed to have brought along with her.

(5.) On the fide of PLEASURE, certain Vajes, and other Pieces of imboss'd Plate, wrought in the figures of Satyrs, Fauns, and Bacchanals, may serve to express the Debauches of the Table-kind. And certain Draperys thrown carelessy on the ground, and hung upon a neighbouring Tree, forming a kind of Bower and Couch for this luxurious Dame, may serve sufficiently to suggest the Thought of other Indulgences, and to support the Image of the effeminate, indolent, and amorous Passions.

+ CASTOR, POLLUX; all the Heroes of HOMER:

ALEXANDER the Great, &c.

<sup>\*</sup> Kaeleela, 'Esaegleia: They were describ'd as Sisters in the emblematick Moral Philosophy of the Antients. Whence that known Precept, 'Aye'x's 2, 'Ane'x's, Sustine & Abstine.

Besides that, for this latter kind, we may rest satisfy'd, 'tis what the Painter will hardly fail of representing to the full. The sear is, lest he shou'd overdo this part, and express the Affection too much to the life. The Appearance will, no doubt, be strongly wrought in all the Features and Proportions of this third Figure; which is of a relish far more popular, and vulgarly ingaging, than that other opposed to it, in our historical Design.

## CONCLUSION.

(1.) E may conclude this Argument with a general Reflection, which feems to arise naturally from what has been faid on this Subject in particular: "That in " a real History-Painter, the same Know-" ledg, the fame Study, and Views, are re-" quir'd, as in a real Poet." Never can the Poet, whilst he justly holds that name, become a Relator, or Historian at large. He is allow'd only to describe a fingle Action; not the Actions of a fingle Man, or People. The Painter is a Historian at the same rate, but still more narrowly confin'd, as in fact appears; fince it wou'd certainly prove a more ridiculous Attempt to comprehend two or three distinct Actions or Parts of History in one Picture, than

than to comprehend ten times the number in one and the same Poem.

(2.) Tis well known, that to each Species of Poetry, there are natural Proportions and Limits affign'd. And it wou'd be a gross Absurdity indeed to imagine, that in a Poem there was nothing which we cou'd call Measure or Number, except merely in the Verfe. An Elegy, and an Epigram, have each of 'em their Measure, and Proportion, as well as a Tragedy, or Epick Poem. In the same manner, as to Painting, Sculpture, or Statuary, there are particular Measures which form what we call a Piece: as for instance, in mere Portraiture, a Head, or Bust: the former of which must retain always the whole, or at least a certain part of the Neck; as the latter the Shoulders, and a certain part of the Breast. If any thing be added or retrench'd, the Piece is destroy'd. 'Tis then a mangled Trunk, or difmember'd Body, which presents it-self to our Imagination; and this too not thro' use merely, or on the account of custom, but of necessity, and by the nature of the Appearance: fince there are such and such parts of the human Body, which are naturally match'd, and must appear in company: the Section, if unskilfully made, being in reality horrid, and representing rather an Amputation in Surgery, than a feemly Division or Separation

tion according to Art. And thus it is, that in general, thro' all the plastick Arts, or Works of Imitation, "Whatsoever is " drawn from Nature, with the intention " of raising in us the Imagination of the " natural Species or Object, according to " real Beauty and Truth, shou'd be com-" priz'd in certain compleat Portions or "Districts, which represent the Corre-" fpondency or Union of each part of " Nature, with intire NATURE ber-felf." And 'tis this natural Apprehension, or anticipating Sense of Unity, which makes us give even to the Works of our inferior Artizans, the name of Pieces by way of Excellence, and as denoting the Justness and Truth of Work.

(3.) In order therefore to fucceed rightly in the Formation of any thing truly beautiful in this higher Order of Design; 'twere to be wish'd that the Artist, who had Understanding enough to comprehend what a real Piece or Tablature imported, and who, in order to this, had acquir'd the Knowledg of a Whole and Parts, wou'd afterwards apply himself to the Study of moral and poetick Truth: that by this means the Thoughts, Sentiments, or Manners, which hold the first rank in his historical Work, might appear futable to the higher and nobler Species of Humanity in which he practis'd, to the Genius of the Age which 3033

which he describ'd, and to the principal or main Action which he chose to represent. He wou'd then naturally learn to reject those false Ornaments of affected Graces, exaggerated Passions, byperbolical and prodigious Forms; which, equally with the mere capricious and grotesque, destroy the just Simplicity, and Unity, essential in a PIECE. And for his Colouring; he wou'd then soon find how much it became him to be referv'd, severe, and chaste, in this particular of his Art; where Luxury and Libertinism are, by the power of Fashion and the modern Taste, become so universally establish'd.

(4.) 'Trs evident however from Reason it-self, as well as from \* History and Experience, that nothing is more fatal, either to Painting, Architecture, or the other Arts, than this false Relish, which is govern'd rather by what immediately strikes the Sense, than by what consequentially and by reflection pleases the Mind, and satisfies the Thought and Reason. So that whilst we look on Painting with the same Eye, as we view commonly the rich Stuffs, and colour'd Silks worn by our Ladys, and admir'd in Dress, Equipage, or Furniture; we must of necessity be effeminate in our Taste, and utterly set wrong as to all

<sup>\*</sup> See VITRUVIUS, and PLINY.

Judgment and Knowledg in the kind. For of this imitative Art we may justly say; "That the It borrows help indeed from Colours, and uses them, as means, to execute its Designs; It has nothing, however, more wide of its real Aim, or more remote from its Intention, than to make a shew of Colours, or from their mixture, to raise a \* separate and slattering Pleasure to the Sense."

<sup>\*</sup> The Pleafure is plainly foreign and separate, as having no concern or share in the proper Delight or Entertainment which naturally arises from the Subject, and Workmanship itself. For the Subject, in respect of Pleasure, as well as Science, is absolutely compleated, when the Design is executed, and the proposed Imitation once accomplished. And thus it always is the best, when the Colours are most subdu'd, and made subscreption.

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A

## LETTER

Concerning the

ART, or SCIENCE

OF

# DESIGN,

Written from ITALY,

On the occasion of the Judgment of HERCULES,

T O

My Lord \* \* \* \*

—Ante omnia Musæ. Vir. Georg. Lib. ii.

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H. J. C. (105) . HV

A

### LETTER

CONCERNING

## DESIGN.

My Lord,

Lordship, accompany'd with a small Writing intitled A Notice and that Piece deservedly be call'd, which aspires no higher than to the forming of a Project, and that too in so vulgar a Science as Painting. But whatever the Subject be, if it can prove any way entertaining to you, it will sufficiently answer my Design. And if possibly it may have that good success, I shou'd have no ordinary opinion of my Project; since I know how hard it wou'd be to give your Lordship a real Entertainment by any thing which was not in some respect worthy and useful.

Cc 2

ON

On this account I must, by way of prevention, inform your Lordship, that after I had conceiv'd my Notion such as you see it upon paper, I was not contented with this, but fell directly to work; and by the Hand of a Master-Painter brought it into *Practice*, and form'd a real *Defign*. This was not renough. I refoly'd afterwards to fee what effect it wou'd have, when taken out of mere Black-and-White, into Colours: And thus a Sketch was afterwards drawn. This pleas'd fo well, that being incourag'd by the Virtuofi, who are so eminent in this part of the World, I resolv'd at last to engage my Painter in the great Work. Immediately a Cloth was bespoke of a futable Dimension, and the Figures taken as big or bigger than the common Life; the Subject being of the Heroick kind. and requiring rather fuch Figures as shou'd appear above ordinary human Stature.

THUS my NOTION, as light as it may prove in the Treatife, is become very substantial in the Workmanship. The Piece is still in hand; and like to continue so for some time. Otherwise the first Draught or Design shou'd have accompany'd the Treatise; as the Treatise does this Letter. But the Design having grown thus into a Sketch, and the Sketch afterwards into a Pieture:

Picture; I thought it fit your Lordship shou'd either see the several Pieces together, or be troubled only with that which was the best; as undoubtedly the great one must prove, if the Master I employ sinks not very much below himself, in this Performance.

FAR furely shou'd I be, my Lord, from conceiving any Vanity or Pride in Amusements of such an inferior kind as these; especially were they such as they may naturally at first sight appear. I pretend not here to apologize either for them, or for my-felf. Your Lordship however knows, I have naturally Ambition enough to make me desirous of employing myto make me defirous of employing myfelf in Bufiness of a higher Order: fince it has been my fortune in publick Affairs to act often in concert with you, and in the fame Views, on the Interest of Europe and Mankind. There was a Time, and that a very early one of my Life, when I was not wanting to my Countries this result. try, in this respect. But after some years of hearty Labour and Pains in this kind of Workmanship, an unhappy Breach in my Health drove me not only from the Seat of Bufiness, but forc'd me to seek these foreign Climates; where, as mild as the Winters generally are, I have with much ado liv'd out this latter-one; and am now, as your Lordship finds, employ-Cc 3 ing

ing my-felf in fuch easy Studys as are most sutable to my state of Health, and to the Genius of the Country where I am confin'd.

This in the mean time I can, with fome affurance, fay to your Lordship in a kind of spirit of Prophecy, from what I have observed of the rising Genius of our Nation, That if we live to see a Peace any way answerable to that generous Spirit with which this War was begun, and carry'd on, for our own Liberty and that of EUROPE; the Figure we are like to make abroad, and the Increase of Knowledg, Industry and Sense at home, will render united BRITAIN the principal Seat of Arts; and by her Politeness and Advantages in this kind, will shew evidently, how much she owes to those Counsels, which taught her to exert herself so refolutely in behalf of the common Cause, and that of her own Liberty, and happy Constitution, necessarily included.

I CAN my-self remember the Time, when, in respect of Musick, our reigning Taste was in many degrees inferior to the French. The long Reign of Luxury and Pleasure under King Charles the Second, and the foreign Helps and study'd Advantages given to Musick in a following Reign, cou'd not raise our Genius the least

in this respect. But when the Spirit of the Nation was grown more free, tho engag'd at that time in the fiercest War, and with the most doubtful Success, we no sooner began to turn our-selves towards Musick, and enquire what ITALY in particular produc'd, than in an instant we outstrip'd our Neighbours the FRENCH, enter'd into a Genius far beyond theirs, and rais'd our-selves an Ear, and Judgment, not inserior to the best now in the World.

In the fame manner, as to PAINT-ING. Tho we have as yet nothing of our own native Growth in this kind worthy of being mention'd; yet fince the Publick has of late begun to express a Relish for Ingravings, Drawings, Copyings, and for the original Paintings of the chief Italian Schools, (so contrary to the modern French) I doubt not that, in very few years, we shall make an equal progress in this other Science. And when our Humour turns us to cultivate these defigning Arts, our Genius, I am persuaded, will naturally carry us over the flighter Amusements, and lead us to that higher, more ferious, and noble Part of Imitation, which relates to History, Human Nature, and the chief Degree or Order of BEAUTY; I mean that of the rational Life, distinct from the merely vegetable and sensible, as Cc 4 in

in Animals, or Plants; according to those several Degrees or Orders of Painting, which your Lordship will find suggested in this extemporary Notion I have sent you.

As for ARCHITECTURE, 'tis no wonder if so many noble Designs of this kind have miscarry'd amongst us; since the Genius of our Nation has hitherto been so little turn'd this way, that thro' several Reigns we have patiently seen the noblest publick Buildings perish (if I may say so) under the Hand of one single Court-Architect; who, if he had been able to prosit by Experience, wou'd long since, at our expence, have prov'd the greatest Master in the World. But I question whether our Patience is like to hold much longer. The Devastation so long committed in this kind, has made us begin to grow rude and clamorous at the hearing of a new Palace spoilt, or a new Design committed to some rash or impotent Pretender.

'Tis the good Fate of our Nation in this particular, that there remain yet two of the noblest Subjects for Architecture; our Prince's Palace, and our House of Parliament. For I can't but fanfy that when Whitehall is thought of, the neighbouring Lords and Commons will at the same time

be plac'd in better Chambers and Apartments, than at present; were it only for Majesty's sake, and as a Magnificence becoming the Person of the Prince, who here appears in full Solemnity. Nor do I fear that when these new Subjects are attempted, we shou'd miscarry as grosly as we have done in others before. Our State, in this respect, may prove perhaps more fortunate than our *Church*, in having waited till a national Taste was form'd, before these Edifices were undertaken. But the Zeal of the Nation cou'd not, it feems, admit so long a Delay in their Ecclesiastical Structures, particularly their Metropolitan. And fince a Zeal of this fort has been newly kindled amongst us, 'tis like we shall see from afar the many Spires arifing in our great City, with fuch hafty and fudden growth, as may be the occafion perhaps that our immediate Relish shall be hereafter censur'd, as retaining much of what Artists call the Gothick Kind.

HARDLY, indeed, as the Publick now ftands, shou'd we bear to see a Whitehall treated like a Hampton-Court, or even a new Cathedral like St. PAUL'S. Almost every-one now becomes concern'd, and interests himself in such publick Structures. Even those Pieces too are brought under the common Censure, which, tho rais'd

by private Men, are of such a Grandure and Magnificence, as to become National Ornaments. The ordinary Man may build his Cottage, or the plain Gentleman his Country-house according as he fansys: but when a great Man builds, he will find little Quarter from the Publick, if instead of a beautiful Pile, he raises, at a vast expence, such a false and counterfeit Piece of Magnificence, as can be justly arraign'd for its Desormity by so many knowing Men in Art, and by the whole People, who, in such a Conjuncture, readily follow their Opinion.

In reality the People are no small Partys in this Cause. Nothing moves successfully without 'em. There can be no Pu B-LICK, but where they are included. And without a Publick Voice, knowingly guided and directed, there is nothing which can raise a true Ambition in the Artist; nothing which can exalt the Genius of the Workman, or make him emulous of after-Fame, and of the approbation of his Country, and of Posterity. For with these he naturally, as a Freeman, must take part: in these he has a passionate Concern, and Interest, rais'd in him by the same Genius of Liberty, the same Laws and Government, by which his Property, and the Rewards of his Pains and Industry are secur'd to him, and to his Generation after him.

EVERY

EVERY thing co-operates, in such a State, towards the Improvement of Art and Science. And for the designing Arts in particular, such as Architecture, Painting, and Statuary, they are in a manner link'd together. The Taste of one kind brings necessarily that of the others along with it. When the free Spirit of a Nation turns it-self this way, Judgments are form'd; Criticks arise; the publick Eye and Ear improve; a right Taste prevails, and in a manner forces its way. Nothing is fo improving, nothing fo natural, fo con-genial to the liberal Arts, as that reigning Liberty and high Spirit of a People, which from the Habit of judging in the highest Matters for themselves, makes 'em freely judg of other Subjects, and enter thorowly into the Characters as well of Men and Manners, as of the Products or Works of Men, in Art and Science. So much, my Lord, do we owe to the Excellence of our National Conflitution, and Legal Monarchy; happily fitted for Us, and which alone cou'd hold together so mighty a People; all sharers (tho at so far a distance from each other) in the Government of themselves; and meeting under one Head in one vast Metropolis; whose enormous Growth, however censurable in other respects, is actually a Cause that Workmanship and Arts of fo many kinds arise to such perfection.

What Encouragement our higher Powers may think fit to give these growing Arts, I will not pretend to guess. This I know, that 'tis so much for their advantage and Interest to make themselves the chief Partys in the Cause, that I wish no Court or Ministry, besides a truly virtuous and wise one, may ever concern themselves in the Assair. For shou'd they do so, they wou'd in reality do more harm than good; since 'tis not the Nature of a Court (such as Courts generally are) to improve, but rather corrupt a Taste. And what is in the beginning set wrong by their Example, is hardly ever afterwards recoverable in the Genius of a Nation.

CONTENT therefore I am, my Lord, that BRITAIN stands in this respect as she now does. Nor can one, methinks, with just reason regret her having hitherto made no greater advancement in these assume and been established, she has in proportion stated her-self for other Improvements. There has been no Anticipation in the Case. And in this surely she must be esteemed wise, as well as happy; that ere she attempted to raise her-self any other Taste or Relish, she secured her-self a right

right one in Government. She has now the advantage of beginning in other Matters, on a new foot. She has her Models yet to feek, her Scale and Standard to form, with deliberation and good choice. Able enough the is at present to shift for her-felf; however abandon'd or helpless she has been left by those whom it became to affift her. Hardly, indeed. cou'd she procure a fingle Academy for the training of her Youth in Exercises. As good Soldiers as we are, and as good Horses as our Climate affords, our Princes, rather than expend their Treasure this way, have fuffer'd our Youth to pass into a foreign Nation, to learn to ride. As for other Academys, fuch as those for Painting, Sculpture, or Architecture, we have not fo much as heard of the Propofal; whilst the Prince of our rival Nation raises Academys, breeds Youth, and fends Rewards and Penfions into foreign Countrys, to advance the Interest and Credit of his own. Now if, notwithstanding the Industry and Pains of this foreign Court, and the fupine Un-concernedness of our own, the National Taste however rifes, and already shews it-self in many respects beyond that of our so highly-affisted Neighbours; what greater Proof can there be of the Superiority of Genius in one of these Nations above the other?

TIS

'Tis but this moment that I chance to read in an Article of one of the Gazettes from PARIS, that 'tis resolv'd at Court to establish a new Academy for political Affairs. "In it the present "Chief-Minister is to preside; having under him six Academists, douëz des "Talens nécessaires — No Person to be receiv'd under the age of twenty five. A thousand Livres Pension for each " Scholar -- Able Masters to be appointed " for teaching them the necessary Scien-" ces, and instructing them in the Treatys " of Peace and Alliances, which have " been formerly made—The Members " to affemble three times a Week ---"C'est de ce Seminaire (says the Writer)
"qu'on tirera les Secretaires d'Ambassade;
qui par degrez pourront monter à de plus
bauts Emplois."

I MUST confess, my Lord, as great an Admirer as I am of these regular Inflitutions, I can't but look upon an Academy for Ministers as a very extraordinary Establishment; especially in such a Monarchy as FRANCE, and at such a Conjuncture as the present. It looks as if the Ministers of that Court had discover'd lately some new Methods of Negotiation, such as their Predecessors RICHELIEU

and MAZARINE never thought of; or that, on the contrary, they have found themselves so declin'd, and at such a loss in the Management of this present Treaty, as to be forc'd to take their Lesson from some of those Ministers with whom they treat: a Reproach, of which, no doubt, they must be highly sensible.

But 'tis not my defign here, to entertain your Lordship with any Reslections upon Politicks, or the Methods which the FRENCH may take to raise themselves new Ministers, or new Generals; who may prove a better Match for us than hitherto, whilst we held our old. I will only fay to your Lordship on this Subject of Academys; that indeed I have less concern for the Deficiency of such a one as this, than of any other which cou'd be thought of, for ENGLAND; and that as for a Seminary of Statesmen, I doubt not but, without this extraordinary help, we shall be able, out of our old Stock, and the common course of Business, constantly to furnish a sufficient Number of well-qualify'd Persons to serve upon occasion, either at home, or in our foreign Treatys; as often as fuch Persons accordingly qualify'd shall duly, honestly, and bond side be requir'd to ferve.

I RETURN therefore to my Virtuofo-Science; which being my chief Amusement in this Place and Circumstance, your Lordship has by it a fresh Instance that I can never employ my Thoughts with fatisfaction on any Subject, without making you a Party. For even this very Notion had its rife chiefly from the Conversation of a certain Day, which I had the happiness to pass a few years fince in the Country with your Lordship. 'Twas there you shew'd me some Ingravings, which had been fent you from ITALY. One in particular I well remember; of which the Subject was the very same with that of my written Notion inclos'd. But by what Hand it was done, or after what Master, or how executed, I have quite forgot. 'Twas the Summer-feafon, when you had Recess from Business. And I have accordingly calculated this Epiftle and Projest for the same Recess and Leisure. For by the time this can reach ENGLAND, the Spring will be far advanc'd, and the national Affairs in a manner over, with those who are not in the immediate Administration.

WERE that indeed your Lordship's Lot, at present; I know not whether in regard to my Country I shou'd dare throw such Amusements as these in your way.

Yet

Yet even in this Case, I wou'd venture to fay however, in defense of my Project, and of the Cause of Painting; that cou'd my young Hero come to your Lordship as well represented as he might have been, either by the Hand of a \* MARAT or a JORDANO, (the Masters who were in being, and in repute, when I first travel'd here in ITALY) the Picture it-self, whatever the Treatise prov'd, wou'd have been worth notice, and might have become a Present worthy of our Court, and Prince's Palace; especially were it so bless'd as to lodge within it a royal Issue of her Majesty's. Such a Piece of Furniture might well fit the Gallery, or Hall of Exercises, where our young Princes shou'd learn their usual Lessons. And to see VIRTUE in this Garb and Action, might perhaps be no flight Memorandum hereafter to a Royal Youth, who shou'd one day come to undergo this Trial himself; on which his own Happiness, as well as the Fate of EUROPE and of the World, wou'd in fo great a measure depend.

THIS, my Lord, is making (as you fee) the most I can of my Project, and

<sup>\*</sup> Carlo Marat was yet alive, at the time this Letter was yritten; but had been long super-annuated, and incapable of any considerable Performance.

### A LETTER, &c.

fetting off my Amusements with the best Colour I am able; that I may be the more excusable in communicating them to your Lordship, and expressing thus, with what Zeal I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Naples, March 6. N. S. 1712.

410

most faithful

bumble Servant,

## SHAFTESBURY.

[N. B. The Letters shew the Volume: The Figures, the Pages of each.]

A.

BRAHAM, Patriarch, bis Character and Life.
Vol. iii. pag. 52, 53, 124

Absolute Power. See Arbitrary.

Absolute Princes. i. 203. Seem to act by Counfel and Advice. i. 210, 11. Their Education and Manners. ibid. No real Society in Absolute Government. i. 105, 6. No Publick, or Sense of publick Good.
107. No social or common Affection. ibid. No Community or Mother-Country. iii. 143. Absolute Monarchy, debauching in religious and moral Principles. i. 107. iii. 310, 11. Necessary Subjection and Homage in Absolute Government.

Academick Philosophy. i. 18, 253. Its Excellence. i. 81, 256. ii. 189, 191, 230, 31, &c. 305, 6. See Sceptick.

Academick Founder and Successor.

Academick Discipline amongst the Antients.

1. 122. ii. 191

Academitts: their way of arguing unsutable to the impatient

Humour of our Age.

ii. 189, 191

Academys for Exercise, wanted for our Youth. Unhappily

negletied. i. 333, 4. iii. 405. One propos'd at Paris, for Political Affairs. iii. 406. Reflections thereupon. ibid. See Exercises, School, University.

ACTEON: a common Absurdity in the Pictures of bis Meta-

morphofit.
Actions: Spring of Actions.
Activity, or Action, how necessary to Mankind.
ii. 131, 32

Activity, or Azion, how necessary to Mankina. 11. 131, 32

Actor (Stage) i.7

In the Publick. i.8

Dd 2 Admira-

## INDEX. Admiration, Weakness of the Passion. i. 144, &c. ii. 324, &c.

Admiration founded in the natural and necessary Imagina-

See Miracle, Wonder. Just Admiration.

tion of a sublime and beautiful in things. i. 138, 9, 336, 7. ii. 28, &c. 394, 420, 21, 29, 30. iii. 30, &c. 182, &c. Admiration, Motive, or Incentive to Philosophy. iii. 37. Restraint of it in Philosophy. iii. 35, &c. 202, 3 Admiration, a strong one, distinguish'd from that of Love. Advice. See Treatise of: viz. Vol. I. 153, &c. ÆGYPT, its Description. ii. 386. Origin and enormous Growth of Superstition from ÆGYPT. ii. 387, 8. iii. 42, &c. Natural as well as Political Causes. iii. 45,6. Unfociableness of Religion, mutual Abhorrence of Worshipers, and Persecution of Sects begun from hence. ii. 387, 8. iii. 42, 59, &c. 80, &c. Unhappy Settlement, Cantonment, and Agrarian of the primitive Agyptians. iii. 42, &c. Ægyptian Mysterys. iii. 245. See Hierarchy, Agyptian Loan. 1.358. Catechism and Catechumens originally Ægyptian. iii. 245. See Circumcision. iii. 48,9 ÆTHIOPIA, its Empire and Priesthood. Æthicpian Spellator. i. 82, 3, 5 Affectation in Behaviour opposite to Grace. Affectation in Belief, Faith, Religion, Praise. i. 6, 7, 34, &c. Affection: Natural Affection towards Moral Beauty. 1.280, Social Affection: Enjoyment. 1.310, 11. Social Affection confess d in Love of Country, &c. iii. 143, &c. In Parental, Filial Affection. iii. 145. Strength of Social Affecii. 132. iii. 219 tion. i. 16. Conjugal Affection. 'Iis by Affection merely that a Creature is esteem'd good or 11.21,22 Private or Self-Affection. ii. 22. When vitious. ii. 22, &c. When good. 11. 23, 24 Reflex Affection. ii. 28. Unequal Affection, or Iniquity. ii. 31. Opposition of the Affections. Religious Affection. ii. 75. See Devotion, Enthusiasm. System of the Affections. ii. 85. That System explained. ii. 86 Three kinds of Affections. ii. 86, 87 Degrees of Affections. ii. 87, 88, &c.

Affection:

## INDEX. Affection: Private Affection too weak, when? ii.89. Affec-

	y. nijet-
tions towards private Good, necessary.	11.90
Energy of Natural Affections. ii.	101, 2, &c.
What Pleasure attends the very Disturbances I	elonging to
Natural Affection. ii. 106, 7. Effects of Nat	ural Affec-
tion. ii. 107, 8, &c. Partial Affection has no	foundation
tion. ii. 107, 8, &c. Partial Affection has no in Reason. iii. 111. How stender Satisfaction	it affords.
	::
	11.112,13
Intire Affection, its Advantages.	11.113,14
Analysis or Plan of the Affections, as they relate	to human
Happiness or Unhappiness. iii. 10	5, 96, &c.
Natural Action 1	
Natural Affection, sogym. iii. 222. The same	
filial kind.	111.145
Balance of the Affections. ii. 92, 95, 1	30. 31. dec.
Exercise of the Social or Natural Affestions has	nece Cara
Exercise of the Social or Natural Affections, how	necessary .
to Man.	i. 134, 5, 6
Of the Affections which relate to the immedia.	te Self, or
private Interest of the Creature.	ii. 139
	consequences.
	68, 9, &c.
Age, the present: improving, in our Nation: W	by ? i.g.
	10
Agranian : automand one in the Econtian State iii	
Agrarian: untoward-one in the Ægyptian State. iii.	43. 11000
occajion a.	48,57,58
Air of Person: See Grace.	11 110 119
Alchymy. ii. 184, 190, 37	7 111 160
	/. III. 100
Alchymists: why their Philosophy still prevails so n	
Age.	11.189,90
ALCIBIADES.	iii. 126
ALEXANDER the Great.	•
	1 240 225
	1. 249, 325
Modern Alexanders.	i. 227
Modern Alexanders.	
Modern Alexanders. Amanuensis, the Author's. i. 305.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190
Modern Alexanders. Amanuensis, the Author's. i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41
Modern Alexanders. Amanuensis, the Author's. i. 305.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers.
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26
Modern Alexanders. Amanuensis, the Author's. i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26 iii. 151, 52, &c.
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuens, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii.1	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto-
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuenis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Paffion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. 1  ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallant.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto-
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuens, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii.1	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto-
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. 1  ry of an Amour. i. 176, &c. See Gallanti Love.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifta- ry, Novel,
Modern Alexanders.  Amanueniis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i. 320, 21, 25, &c. ii. 157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. 1  ry of an Amour. i. 176, &c. See Gallanti Love.  Amphictonian Counsel.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 of Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto-
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuenfis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallanti Love.  Amphictonian Counsel.  Amphitteater. See Gladiator.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 iii. 151, 52, &c. 15. History, Novel, iii. 138
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuens, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallants Love.  Amphitonian Counsel.  Amphitheater. See Gladiator.  Amphitheatrical Speciacles.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 iii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto- y, Novel, iii. 138 i. 270
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuenfis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallanti Love.  Amphictonian Counsel.  Amphitteater. See Gladiator.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 iii. 151, 52, &c. 15. History, Novel, iii. 138
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I  ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallanti Love.  Amphiteonian Counsel.  Amphitheatrical Speciacles.  Anacharsis.	i. 227 ii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto- ry, Novel, iii. 138 i. 270 i. 89
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuens, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallants Love.  Amphitonian Counsel.  Amphitheater. See Gladiator.  Amphitheatrical Speciacles.	i. 227 iii. 16, 190 333, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 iii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hiftory, Novel, iii. 138 i. 270 i. 89 dy. ii. 302,
Modern Alexanders.  Amanuensis, the Author's.  Ambition.  i.320, 21, 25, &c. ii.157, 4  Amble: common Amble, Pace, or Canterbery of  Amorous Passion: What Occasion of Disorder.  Amour. Manner of it with the Fair Sex. iii. I  ry of an Amour. i.176, &c. See Gallanti Love.  Amphiteonian Counsel.  Amphitheatrical Speciacles.  Anacharsis.	i. 227 ii. 16, 190 33, 40, 41 f Writers. iii. 25, 26 ii. 151, 52, &c. 15. Hifto- ry, Novel, iii. 138 i. 270 i. 89

## ÎNDEX. ANDREW: Merry-Andrew and Executioner: a Picture. i.66

Anger: Use of the Passion in the inferior Orders of Creatures, and in the ordinary Characters of Men. ii. 144, 45. Its ill Essets, when indulg'd. ii. 145, 6, 7. Void in the highest and most wirtzous Characters. ii. 144. Anger

Wild and Tame Animals of the same Species, how dif-

Answers to Books. iii. 9, 10, &c. Answer-Writers. ibid. and

11.419, 20

ii. 18

ii. 132

ibid.

an Acknowledgment of Just and Unjust.

Animal: How becomes a Part of another System.

Angels: Angelical Company.

Animal System.

ferent.

270, 71
Ant. ii. 96. iii. 220
Anticipation. ii. 420. See Pre-conception.
Anticipation and Repeal. iii. 356
Antidote to Enthusiasm: See Enthusiasm.
Antients, their Discipline of Youth. i. 122. ii. 191. See A-
cademy.
Antient Policy, in the Affairs of Religion and Philosophy.
i. 17, 18. ii. 262
ANTIPATER. i.249
Antipathy, religious. See Religion.
APELLES. i. 227. See Painter.
APOLLO. iii. 233. Apollo and Muses. i. 5, 6, 7. See Muses,
Pythian, Delphick.
Apologue. iii. 206, 7. See Fable, Mythology, Esop.
Apology, practice of. i. 329, 30. See Preface.
Appearances: See Species.
Appetites high, eager.
Appetite, elder Brother to Reason. i.187
Applause: See Praise.
ARATUS, Poet. iii. 238
Arbitrary Power, i. 220. The fweet and bitter. ibid.
Arbitrary Power, or absolute Monarchy, destructive of Arts.
i. 219, 20, 21, 237, 38, &c. iii. 23. See Absolute Power,
Tyranny, Will.
ARCADIA. i. 21
Architecture, Barbarous, Gothick. i. 353. True and natu-
ral, independent of Fancy. ibid. Founded in Truth and
Nature. iii. 181. Why it has succeeded no better in Eng-
land. iii. 400
Architect ambitious.
ARISTIDES. i.267
ARISTOPHANES. i. 245
ARISTOTLE cited. i. 142, 3, 242, &c. iii. 66, 139, 259, 80.
See Peripatetick.
Arm:

Arm: Secular-Arm, deliver over.	i.66. iii.110
Arms and Hands, expressive in Oratory.	iii. 366
ARTHUR King.	iii. 112
Articles of Belief. See Belief, Divinity.	
Artisans. i. 192. Artisan honest, resolute.	i. 262
Artists rejoice in Criticism. 1.235, 61. Virtue	
of Artists. i. 261, &c. See Poet, Painter,	Architect
Arts and Sciences born rais'd and improvid. i.	220. &c. 248
Arts and Sciences how rais'd and improv'd. i. &c. iii. 136, &c. Encourag'd by Liberty.	iii 402 Tie
the Interest of great Men to encourage them	iii. 404
Affemblys, Publick, demand Respect.	i.338 i.75
Atellan, Plays.	1.75
Atherism . its Conferences quith walkest to Vintus	1.251
Company in that wife a with Theiler	ii.69, 70 ii.72, 3, 4
Compar'd in that respect with Theism.	11. /2, 3, 4
Atheism from Superstition. ii. 335, 6, &c. M. ism. iii. 64. Atheism preferable to Supe	uriyes for Aine-
ijm. 111. 04. Atheijm preferable to supe	rgiiion. 1. 41.
iii. 126, 7, 8. Faith of Atheism.	ii. 357
Atheism charg'd on the People of the better Rai ii. 264. iii. 294. Charg'd upon Wit and	nk and raybion.
ing.	ibid.
Atheism. See Ill-Humour, Chance.	
Atheist, a compleat one: His Belief or Faith	
357, 8. Hard to pronounce certainly of an	y Man, that he
is an Atheist. ii. 12. Atheist personated	l. iii. 294, 95
Atheists. Best Writers against 'em. ii. 259.	Two forts of
People call'd Atheists. 11. 200. Different	in themselves;
and to be us a differently.	ii. 260, 61
Atheists miscall'd.	i. 345
Atheists Enthusiasts.	i. 52. iii. 64, 5
Atheist, a strong Believer.	ii. 357
Atheistical Hypothesis.	ii. 298
Certain Principles common to Atheists with	the Devout, or
Zealots. i. 97, 117, 18, 23, 24, &c. 132,	345, 52. ii. 68,
80, 81	, 256. iii. 310
Atheistical Writers or Talkers, no genuine Athe	ifts. i. 89, 90,
	92, &c.
ATHENIANS. i. 30. Their Antiquity, Geni. Manners, Modesty. ibid. (See Greece.)	us. iii. 152, 3.
Manners, Modesty. ibid. (See Greece.)	Progress of Arts
and Letters among ft them.	i. 248, 49, 50
Attick Elegance.	i. 233
ATTICUS.	iii. 2 I
ATTIIA, Gothick Prince.	iii.91
	varitious Temper,
how miserable.	ii. 155, 6, &c.
Audience. i. 264, 65, 77. See Stage.	- 557 - 7
2, 17, 17, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18, 18	

i. 220, 28, 269, 70. iii. 21, 250

A : b to - man - 1 - a - 0 - ( - m - 1	
AUGUSTUS. 1.220, 28, 209, 70.	iii. 21, 250
Augustus. i. 220, 28, 269, 70. Authors: Saint-Authors. i. 164, 5. iii. 239, 40.	Author in
Solitude. 1.175. Prince-Authors. 1.213, 1.	4. Author's
Courtship to the Reader. 1.200, 330. Self.	shness of Au-
thors. i. 200. Coquetry of an Author.	ibid.
Author once an honourable Name. iii. 3, 4. A	Character or
Note of Understanding. ibid. Jealous of	9 264 8rd
Author Orthodox. 1.358, 59, 60. Orthodoxy of	, 8, 262, &c.
particular.	i. 70, 71, 315
Authors not excusable for their ill Performance,	because neg-
lected by the Great. i. 222, 3, 4, 30. O	r because of
Criticism and Censure. 1.231, &c. Or b	ecause of the
publick Genius or Ear.	1.261,2,78
Author and Reader, their mutual Relation, Inter	reft. iii. 227,
&c. Their Pretensions, Privileges, Place,	
D	ibid.
Divinest Characters and Personages, no Auth	ors, either in
Sacred or Profane Letters. iii. 244, &c.	areat Authors
capable of Business, the out of it. iii. 2  Authors of narrow Genius's, incapable of Action	
tion. iii. 272, 3, &c. Bookfeller makes the A	
iii. 27. Modern Author professes Laziness,	
Carelessness. i. 233, 4. In doubt about bi	s own Work.
iii. 27. See Piece, Penman, Miscellany.	
Author of these Treatises: accidentally engag'd in the	bem. iii. 190.
His first Treatise (viz. Letter of Enthusiasm)	a real Letter.
ibid. And before.	12, 13, 19, 20
Authority: Divine Authority judg'd by Morals.	i. 298
Awe: Its Effect on Mens Understandings. i.96.	See Fear.
E.	
ABYLONIAN Empire and Hierarchy.	iii. 48. See
BABYLONIAN Empire and Hierarchy.	
BACON, Lord, cited.	iii. 69
Banter: Fashionable with modern Politicians an	d Negotiators.
	i.62
Banter from Persecution.	i.72
Barbarian. See Goth, Indian.	40
Barbarism, chief Mark of.	iii. 153
Barbarism from Universal Monarchy.	1.221, 22
Bart'lemy-Fair.	i. 28
Mr. B A Y S. iii. 274, 5, 6, &c. Other Bays's	iii. 282, &c.
Bear-Garden. i. 270, 7	1. iii. 256, 7
( ) (	1. 21.250, /
WALLE THE	Beafts.

Beafts. Beaft or Brute-Science. iii. 184, 218. Paffionate Love and Fondness towards the Bestial or Animal-Forms, iii. 184, 216, &c. Virtues, Beautys.

Oeconomy or Order of Nature in the Beafts. See Oecono-

Beasts: their natural Instincts.

ii. 307, 8

Beaver. iii. 220 Beauty: where to be found. ii.404, &c. Mysterious Charms of Beauty. ii.211, &c. Knowledg in the Degrees and Orders of Beauty. ibid. Three Degrees or Orders of Beauty. ii. 406, &c. Scale or Scheme of Beauty. iii. 182, &c. Moral Beauty. ii. 409. Confes'd. i. 280, 81. ii. 419, &c. iii. 179, 80. Moral Beauty and Deformity. ii. 29, 30. Beauty of Sentiments, Character, Mind. i. 136, 207. iii. 303. See Character, Mind, Virtue, Heart.

i. 142, 3. iii. 180, 1, &c. Beauty, is Truth. Beauty of Virtue. i. 315, &c. Beauty of the Soul. ii. 414,

Beauty of the Body. 11.414 Beauty dangerous. i. 183. Outward Beauty expressive of inward. i. 138. Natural Health, the inward Beauty of the Body. iii. 181. Mechanick Beautys, in opposition to Moral and Intellectual.

Beauty in Animals. iii. 218. How attractive, enchanting. iii. 216, 17, &c.

Scale of Beauty. iii. 182, 3

The Odd and Pretty in the room of the Graceful and Beautiful. iii. 5, 6, &c.

Beauty: its Idea natural. Beauty and Good the same. ii. 399, 422. Not the Object of the Sense. ii. 423, 4. Its Extent. ii. 211, 12, 13 The Beautiful, Honestum, Pulchrum, To xador. See Fair, Decorum, Enthusiasm.

Bee. ii. 94, 96. iii. 220 Beggars. i. 35, 36. Beggarly Religion. ibid. and iii. 126,

Belief. (See Faith.) Belief at a venture. 1.35. No Merit in believing on weak Grounds. 1.34. Affectation of Belief. ibid. Articles of Belief. 1.361. iii.60, 1, 2, 79, 80, 1, 2. Groffest Article of Belief, bow introduc'd of old into the Church. iii. 333, 4. Sacred and indifputable Articles of Belief. iii. 70. Whether a Man can be accountable for his wrong Belief. ii. 326, 7, 8. Men persuade themselves into any Opinion or Belief whatever. iii. 101, 2, &c. Belief at the Stretch of Reason. i. 34. iii. 105

## INDEX. Believer against bis Will. i. 35. iii. 127. Superstitious Be-

Bibliotheque Choisie. iii. 18, 20, 241. See Monsieur LE

Bigotry: its Spirit. i. 74. First Rise. iii. 80. Force of the

Bit or Bridle, proper Emblem for the Figure of Virtue. iii. 386 Body-Politick, Head and Members. i. 113, 14. See Consti-

111. 127, 8

1. 283

iii. 81, 2 ii. 302, &c.

liever wishes there were no God.

CLERC.

Belly. Gluttonous Imagination, or Belly-Sense.

tution. BOILEAU: French Satirift. i. 218. iii. 280 Bombast. i. 232, 41. iii. 262 Books. See Reading, Scholar, Burning. Good-Books fo call'd. i. 165. iii. 327. Books of Chivalry, Gallantry, Prodigys, Travels, barbarous Nations, and Customs. i. 341, &c. Interpolating, suppressing Practice on Books. iii. 330. See Scripture, Fathers. Bookseller. i. 304. (See Author, Amanuensis.) Begets a Fray or learned Scuffle. iii. 10, 11, 15, &cc. Bookfeller and Glazier. iii. 15. Bookfeller's Shop and Trade. ibid. Bookseller determines Titles. iii. 27. Fits bis Customers. iii. 270 Bossu: Pere Boffu, du Poeme Epique. Breeding. See Academy, University. Good-Breeding. i. 64, 5. ii. 242. Leading Character to Vir-tue. i. 129, 35, 333. iii. 161, 62, 68 Good-Breeding, and Liberty, necessarily join'd. i. 76. Man of Good-Breeding incapable of a brutal Action. i. 129. Acts from his Nature, without Reflection, and by a kind of Necessity. i. 129, 30. Compar'd with the thorow bonest Man. ibid. See Gentleman. BRITAIN: its Advantages. i. 219. Has secur'd a right Taste in Government, Arts, &c. iii. 404, 5. Old Britain. 1. 272 British Liberty. i. 216, 22. British Seuse in Politicks. British Countrymen, Fellow-Citizens. iii. 144, &c. BRITONS: their Sense of Government, and a Constitution. i. 108. See England, Englishmen. Brute. ii. 305. See Beaft. BRUTUS. 111. 249 Buffoons. i. 72. See Laugh, Italian, Banter, Burlesque. Build: easier to demolish than build. iii. 134 Burlesque : its principal Source. i. 71. (See Banter.) Mere Burlesque rejected by the Antients. 1. 73. See Parodys, Comedy. Burlesque-Wit and Buffoonery on the Stage. iii. 281 Burlefaue

I I D L II.	
Burlesque Divinity. See Divinity.	
BURNET Archæol. cited.	24
Burning Zeal. See Zeal.	64
Burning and Destruction of Books, Learning, &c. iii. 239,	enn
See Fathers of the Church.	occ.
Duniels . Man of Dajmejs.	109
C.	
	•
C Abalistick Learning.	18
CESAR, Julius. i. 272. Cæsar's Commentarys. i. 2	
His Ability.	
CASARS, Roman. i. 24, 25, 133, 221. iii. 41, 86,	
William C. Troppe	91
	30
Camp.	35
Cantonizing.	
Canterbery. See Amble.	1
CAPPADOCIANS.	CI
Carnival. i.82,	
Carver, carnal, spiritual.	
Catechiim, Theological, Metaphyfical. i. 306, 7. Moral, I	
losophical. i.307,	
Catechism, and Catechumens, originally Ægyptian. iii. 2	15
	40.
See Circumcition.	
See Circumcifion. Catholick Church. See Church. Rome. Pope.	
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope.	itv
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform	
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS. i. 2	28
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  Caufe: common Caufe.  i. 2	28
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS. i.2 Cause: common Cause. ii.2 CEBES.	228 222 254
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, how form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS. Cause: common Cause. CEBES. Censors of Manners. i. 240. Censure free.	28
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, how form d. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULIUS. Cause: common Cause. CEBES. Censors of Manners. i. 240. Censure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments.	228 222 54 1. 9
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUGE: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader.  iii. 227,	228 222 54 1. 9
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CATULLUS.  CEBES.  CEGES of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. Ceremonys. See Rites.	228 222 254 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS. CAUE: common Cause. CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Censure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. Ceremonys. See Rites. CERVANTES, Michael. iii. 2	228 222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUGE: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremony. between Author and Reader. Ceremonys. See Rites. CEBYANTES, Michael. CHALDEA.  iii. 2	222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES.  CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael.  CERVANTES, Michael.  CHALDEA.  CHALDEA.  Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Callenger.	222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULUS. i.2 CAUE: common Cause. i.2 CEBES. ii.2 CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Censure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonyal, between Author and Reader. Ceremonys. See Rites. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lists, Challenge.	228 222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUE: common Cause.  CEBES.  Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Censure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader.  CERVANTES, Michael.  CHALDEA.  CHALDEA.  Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lists, Chalcen, preserved to Providence, by the supersitious. i.	228 222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUGE: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chatants. i. 363. iii. 341. See Religion, Priefts. Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the superstitus. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheism.	228 222 54 1. 9 &c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the superstitutus. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheiss. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy.  i. 2	228 222 254 1.9 353 48 2000-
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CATULLUS.  CAUE: common Cause.  CEBES.  CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Censure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader.  CERVANTES, Michael.  CHALDEA.  CHALDEA	228 222 254 1.9 \$\$c.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the superstitutus. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheiss. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy.  i. 2	228 222 254 1.9 3cc. 353 48 200 40.
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chatants. i. 363. iii. 341. See Religion, Priefts. Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the supersitious. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheism. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy. Chaos of the English Poets. Characters. Dealer in Characters must know his own. Sacred Characters.	228 222 254 1.9 3cc. 53 48 222 62 89
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chatants. i. 363. iii. 341. See Religion, Priefts. Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the supersitious. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheism. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy. Chaos of the English Poets. Characters. Dealer in Characters must know his own. Sacred Characters.	228 222 254 1.9 3cc. 53 48 222 62 89
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. CENORS of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the superstituus. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheism. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy. Chaos of the English Poets. Characters. Dealer in Characters must know his own. Sacred Characters. Characters, Divine. i. 23, 37. In God, in Man. i. 38,	228 222 254 1.9 3cc. 53 48 222 62 89
Catholick Church. See Church, Rome, Pope. Catholick Opinion, bow form'd. iii. 86, &c. See Uniform CATULLUS.  CAUG: common Caufe.  CEBES. Cenfors of Manners. i. 240. Cenfure free. Ceremony. i. 203, 4. See Compliments. Ceremonial, between Author and Reader. CERVANTES, Michael. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. CHALDEA. Challenge. (See Duel.) Spiritual Challengers, Lifts, Chatants. i. 363. iii. 341. See Religion, Priefts. Chance, prefer'd to Providence, by the supersitious. i. iii. 126, &c. See Atheism. Chaos, and Darkness, from Universal Monarchy. Chaos of the English Poets. Characters. Dealer in Characters must know his own. Sacred Characters.	228 222 254 1.9 3cc. 53 48 200 40.

Character, generous, and vile, set in opposition. 1.141
Character, generous, and one, jet in opposition.
Real Characters and Manners. i. 194, 99, 200, &c. See
Manners.
Perfest Charaster, weil'd. i. 194. Perfest Charaster un-
Terject Character, vett a. 1. 194. Terject Character an-
artificial in Poetry. i. 337. Monstrous in Epick, or on
the Stage. iii. 260, &c.
Homer's Characters. See Homer.
Principal Characters and Under-Parts. i. 195
Characters in Holy Writ, not Subjects for a Poem. i. 356
Characters or Personages in Dialogue. iii. 292, 3, &c. See
Dialogue.
Sublime of Characters. i.336
Inward Character. i.339. iii.34
Character from Circumstances of Nativity. iii. 147, 8
Characters in the State. iii. 162,70, &c.
21/
Inward Character and Worth. iii. 174, 5
Character of a Critick. See Critick.
Characteristick of Understandings. 1. 201
Charity and good Will: Pretexts to what Ends. i. 87, 133.
iii. 115, 33, 4. See Morals.
Clici
Christian Charity. i.99. Charitable Foundations, to whose
Benefit. i. 133. Supernatural Charity. i. 18. iii. 115.
Heathen Charity. iii. 153, 4
Of Carry.
Charm of Nature, in Moral Objects. See Nature, Beauty,
Harmony, Taste.
Childrens Play. i. 66
Childrens I wy.
Chivalry. i. 272, 3. Originally Moorish, Gothick. i. 344,
&c. iii. 253. Books of Chivalry. i. 344. Dregs of it.
ii. 195. See Gallantry.
Christian Author. i. 67. Good Christian. i. 99. Christian,
Mahometan, Pagan. i.352. iii.104. Sceptick-Christian.
111111111111111111111111111111111111111
111.72
Christianity no way concern'd in modern Miracles. ii. 326,
30, &c. Not founded in Miracle merely. ibid. and
i.297, 8
A Church. i. 10. See Hierarchy, Catholick.
Roman Christian and Catholick Church. iii. 90. See Mo-
narchy.
National Church. i. 17, 28. Its Interest afferted. i. 17.
Panick Fear for the Church. iii. 83, &c.
Church-Lands. i. 25, 133. iii. 45, 79
Writing Church-Militant. iii. 9, &c. and 290, &c.
Antient Heathen-Church. i. 50. iii. 126, &c.
Church of England. iii. 15, &c. See Divines.
Church-Patriot. iii. 170, 71
Chymistry. See Alchymy.
CICERO. 1. 208, 334. iii. 20, 21, 182, 280
Circumcifion

Circumcision, its Origin among the Ægyptians. iii. 52, 3. Receiv'd by the Hebrew Patriarch, their Gueft. ibid. By Moses on his Return. 55. Laid down again, on his Retreat. 52. Again renew'd by Joshua, with regard to the same Ægyptians. 52, 4, 5 City: Heavenly City Jerusalem. i. 282

Clan. See Tribe.

Cleanliness. 1.125 CLERC (Mr. Le Clerc, Sylv. Phil.) iii. 214, 15. See Bib-

liotheque Choisie.

Clergy, Benefit of. i. 305. Interest of Christian Clergy in antient and polite Learning. iii. 236, 7. Management and Practices of the antient Clergy. iii. 333, 4. See Clericks, Priesthood, Fathers of the Church.

Clericks seditious. iii. 88, 9. See Magistrate, Civil Govern-

ment.

Climates, Regions, Soils, compar'd. 111. 150 Closet-Thoughts. 1.139

Clown, judges Philosophers. iii. 107. Better Philosopher than some so call'd. 111. 204

Club, Liberty of the Club. i. 75. (See Committee.) Club-Method. i. 267 Coffee-House. iii. 15, 274, &c. Coffee-House Committee. iii.

274, &c. Coffee-House Hero. ibid. i. 334. ii. 184, 91 College.

Collision amicable. i. 64 Comedy. i. 198. Posterior to Tragedy. i. 244, &c. See Farce,

Play, Theater, Drama, Burlesque. Comedy, antient. First, Second, Third. i. 245, &c. 252, &c.

Comick Style. i. 257, &c. See Style, Satir.

Commission: Sole Commission for Authorship. i. 335. Heavenly Commission, Pretences to it examin'd. iii. 102, 59, 336, &c.

Committee. iii. 275, &c. See Club.

Common Sense. (See Sense, Nature.) Men not to be reason'd out of it. i.96 Company, provocative to Fancy. i. 159. See Affemblys, Con-

versations.

Complexions, religious. i. 84. See Salvation, Persecution.

Compliments. i. 203, 4. See Ceremony.

Comprehension in Religion. See Uniformity.

Conference, free. 1.70, 3, 5

Conformity in Religion. iii. 315. See Uniformity. Conformist Occasional.

Conjurer, a wife and able one, i. 318. Conjurers, i. 87, 175, 348. See Magi, Priest, Enchanter.

Conscience, Moral. ii. 119. Its Effects. ii. 120, 1, 2. Religious Conscience supposes Moral Conscience. ii. 120. False

iii. 148

ii. 125

iii. 354

makes

i. 60

ii. 122, 3, 4

Conquest, National.

Conscience, its Effects.

Confecration of Opinions, Notions.

Conscience from Interest.

Confistency, Rule of.

Constitution, State or Government. i. 108, 239. English Con-
fitution. i. 212, 16. iii. 150
Contemplation. ii. 75. See Meditation.
Controversy. Controversial Writings. iii. 9, &c. 270, 71.
Church-Controverfy. iii. 290, &c. Religious Controverfy,
and Decision of the Cause, according to modern Priesthood.
iii. 341, &c.
Conversation. i. 68, &c. 75, 6. iii. 335, 6. Life of Con-
versation. i. 75, 6. Sterility of the best Conversations:
the Cause. i. 77. Remedy. ibid. Modern Conversation,
effeminate, enervate. ii. 186
Convocation (Synod, Council) what Candour, Temper?
i. 360, &c.
Coquetry, see Author.
CORNEILLE, French Tragedian, cited. iii. 87, 280
Correctness (See Genius Critical) in quantities i 222 &c
Correctness (See Genius, Critick) in writing. i. 232, &c. 241. iii. 227. Incorrectness. iii. 2, 3, &c. 258. Cause
of Incorrectness in our English Writers. ibid. & 272,
9
2, &c.
3, &c. Covetouinels. See Avarice.
3, &c.
Covetousness. See Avarice.
Covetousness. See Avarice. Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest. Countenances. See Complexions. Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wise aspect.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.
Covetousness. See Avarice. Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest. Countenances. See Complexions. Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear. Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love. Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recogniz d.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 210, &c.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 230, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recogniz'd.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 239, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Specters met with there. i. 130. Place at Court. iii. 169,
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 239, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Spesters met with there. i. 139. Place at Court. iii. 169, &c. 208. Court-Slavery. iii. 168, &c. See Slavery.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 210, &c. 239, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Specters met with there. i. 139. Place at Court. iii. 169, &c. 208. Court-Slavery. iii. 168, &c. See Slavery.  Court-Engines. iii. 174. See Favourites.
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspect.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 230, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Specters met with there. i. 139. Place at Court. iii. 169, &c. 208. Court-Slavery. iii. 168, &c. See Slavery.  Court-Engines. iii. 174. See Favourites.  Courtier. i. 192. Honest Courtier.  iii. 24, 175, 6
Covetouines. See Avarice.  Counfellor. Privy Counfellors, of wife afpest.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recogniz'd.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 239, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Specters met with there. i. 139. Place at Court. iii. 169, &c. 208. Court-Slavery. iii. 168, &c. See Slavery.  Court-Engines. iii. 174. See Favourites.  Courtier. i. 192. Honest Courtier.  iii. 24, 175, 6  Creature. Every one a private Interest. iii. 15, &c. Private
Covetousness. See Avarice.  Counsellor. Privy Counsellors, of wife aspect.  Countenances. See Complexions.  Cowardice. i. 314. ii. 140, &c. See Fear.  Country. Love of native Country. iii. 143. See Love.  Native Country, Name wanting. iii. 149. Higher City or Country recognized.  A Court. i. 10, 335. Court-Power. iii. 23. Grandeur of a Court, what influence on Art and Manners. i. 219, &c. 230, &c. 341, 2. iii. 23. Spirit of a Court. i. 104, &c. Specters met with there. i. 139. Place at Court. iii. 169, &c. 208. Court-Slavery. iii. 168, &c. See Slavery.  Court-Engines. iii. 174. See Favourites.  Courtier. i. 192. Honest Courtier.  iii. 24, 175, 6

When a Creature is suppos'd good. ii. 21, 22, 26. What

makes an ill Creature. ii. 26, 27. What ma	kes a Crea-
ture worthy or virtuous.	ii. 30, 31
Creature void of natural Affection.	ii. 81, 82
Creature when too good.	ii. 90, 91
Creed. iii. 242. Furniture of Creeds. iii. 322. C	reed-making.
iii. 60, 61, 80, &c. 332, 3, 4. See Belie	
Watch-word.	,
Credulity and Incredulity. i. 345. Credulity, box	w dangerous.
C. C	ii. 326, &c.
Criterion of Truth.	i.6r
Critical Truth. See Truth.	ter main
Critical Liberty.	iii. 316
Critical Art, Support of Sacred Writ. iii. 236, &co	. 241, &c.
Dittions and on the same of th	267
Criticism, rejoices the real Artist. i. 234, &c.	
Criticism, essential to Wit. 1. 260. Sacred C.	riticism iii.
72, 3, 229, 30, &c. Prevention against.	ii 166. 276
Criticks: the ingenious and fair fort. i. 81. For	midable to the
Author or Poet, subv? 1, 221, 2, iii. 2	72. 72. &c.
Author or Poet, why? i. 231, 2. iii. 2 French Criticks. iii. 280. See Bossu, Journal	ifts
Critick-haters. i. 235, 6. iii. 165, 6, 7, 258,	272 74 80
Self-Critick.	i. 168
Interest, Party, Cause, or Writing, to be susp	
declares against Criticism, or declines the Proc	f. iii. 266.
accessed against Cresseying or weesting size I re-	342
Criticks, Pillars of State in Wit and Letters. i. 2:	
41. iii. 267. Criticks, Notarys, Expositors	Prompters
i. 241. Treated as whimfical. i. 272. Th	eir Caule de-
fended.	iii. 165, 66
Criticks by fashion.	i. 272
Writing-Criticks, or Satirifts.	iii. 271, 2
Criticks, Satirifts, Scepticks, Scrupulifts.	iii. 109
Crocodile, worship'd. ii. 32. iii. 80. Emblem of	
	ii. 387
Crocodiles, Chimeras, Scholastick.	iii. 80
Crowns, how purchas'd on some occasions.	i. 133
Crudities.	i. 164, &c.
CUDWORTH (Dr.) bis Character. ii. 262.	Why accus'd
of being a Friend to Atheists. ibid. Cited.	iii. 64
Custom and Fashion powerful Seducers. i. 355.	Custom vi-
tious.	ii. 35
CYBELE, Goddess.	ii. 253
The second secon	73

D.
Amon, or Guardian Spirit. i. 168, 9. iii. 28
Dæmon, or Guardian Spirit. i. 168, 9. iii. 28 Dæmon, to what that Name belongs. ii. 11. See
Witch.
Dæmonist, who, what.
Dancer. i. 193
Figur'd Dances. iii. 91. High Dance in Religion and Pro-
phecy.
Death, King of Terrors. i. 314. ii. 253. See Fear.
Debate, free. i. 71. iii. 155. See Conference, Freedom.
Debauch, has a reference to Society. i. 310, 11. ii. 127
Declamation. i. 70. See Preaching.
Decorum. i.138, 9, 337. ii.415. iii.180, 85, 97, 8. Deco-
rum and Sublime of Actions. iii. 34. (See Beauty, Grace.)
Dulce & Decorum. i. 102, 23
Dedication. See Preface.  Defender of the Faith.  i. 213
70 10 1 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
Deity, when view'd amis. 1.32, 3. Deity sought in Chaos
and Confusion, not in Order and Beauty. ii. 336, &c.
Various Combinations of Opinions concerning Deity. ii. 13.
How Men are influenc'd by the Belief of a Deity. ii. 54, &c.
Terror of the Deity implies not moral Conscience. ii. 119.
Different Characters, Aspects, or Views of Deity. iii. 39,
40. Species multiply'd. iii. 47, 49, 50, 80. Heathen Attri-
butes of Deity. iii. 153. See Genius, Mind.
Deity, the fovereign Beauty, and Source of all Beautys. ii.
294, 5. See God.
Delphick Inscription. i. 170
Demosthenes. i. 161, 208. iii. 141
DENMARK and SWEDEN. iii. 171
Despotick. See Arbitrary, Absolute.
Devil. See Hell.
Devotion of the dismal fort; its Effects. ii. 116, 17. The
abject, beggarly, illiberal, sycophantick, knavish kind. 1.34,
75. iii. 125, &c.
Dialogue: Manner of Writing us'd by the Antients. 1.73.
Preliminary Science to Poetry and just Writing. i. 191, &c.
Moderns, why so sparing and unsuccessful in the way of
Dialogue-Writing. ii. 187, 8. How practis'd by some mo- dern Divines. iii. 291, &c. Dialogue between an Author
and his Bookseller, iii. 16. Between GOD and Man.
iii. 122. Between Man and Beaft. ibid. Between GOD
and Satan. ibid. Between GOD and JONAH. iii.119,
&c.

DIANA.	iii. 79, 83, &c.
Diodorus Siculus cited.	iii.43, 47, &c.
DION CASSIUS, wretched Historian.	i. 270. iii. 24
DIONYSIUS HALICARN.	iii. 234, 80
Discourse continu'd and alternate. i. 70.	Vicistitude in Dis-
course, a Law.	i. 70, 76
Dishonesty, a Half-Thought. iii.297, 302,	
Thinking.	7
Disinterestedness in Friendship. i. 100, 1.	See Friendthin
Difinterestedness in Religion, and its bo	
&c. See Reward, Love.	y 2 outsider 31 1. 201,
Distraction, real.	i. 322, &c.
Divine, or God-like. i. 33, 38. See Cha	
	racter, Theogony,
Theology.	
Divine Example.	ii. 56
Divine Presence.	11. 57
Divines (Theologists) iii. 122, 235, 237, &c	282, 90, 91, 93,
&c. 305, 6, 316, 325, &c. Why	
Managers, in the Cause of Religion.	ii. 258, 9
Divine, in humour, out of humour.	iii. 130
Divinity-Doctor, combatant in Print.	iii. 10, &c.
Polemick Divinity.	iii. 9, &c.
Burlesque Divinity. iii. 291, &c. Sirna	ames and Titles of
Divinity. iii. 60. See Deity, Theolog	y.
Doctrine. See Hypothesis.	
Dog. See Fable, Beaft.	AL WAR SON E
Dogmatists, why so fashionable in this	Age. ii. 190, 91.
Dogmatizing in Religion and on a futur	re State. ibid. and
236, 7, 297. See Sceptick.	
Dominion, founded in Property.	iii. 49
Drama: English Drama, lame Support of	
Dramatis Personæ. ibid. See Play,	
Comedy, Mr. Bays.	
Theological Drama.	iii. 293
Drapery, Rules concerning it.	iii. 372, 3
DRYDEN. iii. 61, 2. See BAYS.	372,3
Duels. i. 273, 363. See Challenges.	
Duch. 1.2/5, 505. Our Charlenges.	
E. E.	
	7, 18, 35, 336, 38
Ear loft. i. 344. Publick Ear. i.	264, 275, 6. See
Audience.	204, 2/5, 0. 00
	1 001 0
Distemper in the Ear.	1. 324, 5
Fars to bear, &c.	i.63
Ear in Poetry. i. 217,	275. iii. 262, &c.

Earth: Vol. 3. Еe

Earth: System of the Earth, bow a part of some other Sys-
tem. ii. 19. Another Earth, or World. i. 282. Our Re-
lation to mere Earth and Soil. iii. 144, &c. Sons of
Earth. iii. 146, 7
Education. See University, Academy, School, Tutor.
Effeminacy. i. 314. ii. 186. iii. 186
Effeminate Wit. iii. 166, 7
EGYPT. See ÆGYPT.
Elephant. iii. 221
Eloquence. i.8. Leprofy of. i.160. Corruption of. iii.22
Eloquence and other Arts depend on Liberty. i. 219, 20.
See Liberty.
Embassadors from Heaven, in what sense. iii. 336, &c. From
the Moon. iii. 339, &c. Apostolick Commission, Embassy,
Succession. iii. 337, &c.
Emblematical, nothing of that kind to be directly mingled in
an Historical Piece. iii.381. An Instance from RA-
PHAEL. iii. 382
Emperors, Roman. i. 24, 133, 222, 28. Convert Emperors.
i. 133. iii. 78
Empirick. i. 163, 235
Enchanter. i. 348, 49. See Conjurer, Priest, Magi.
Engineer of Letters. iii. 16, 17. In Philosophy and Sciences.
iii. 134
Engine: Court-Engines. iii. 174
Engine: Court-Engines. iii. 174
Engine: Court-Engines.  ENGLAND, a Conquest: whence to be fear d. iii. 148, 9
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See
Engine: Court-Engines.  ENGLAND, a Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, a Conquest: whence to be feard.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  iii. 152, 3  iii. 152, 3
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd
Engine: Court-Engines.  England, a Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admird  Wit of our English Ancestors.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. Date England.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Liberty.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. D. a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectines of English Poets.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectness of English Poets.  i. 263. iii. 258, 50, 64, &c.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England a Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectness of English Poets.  i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c.  English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines.
Engine: Court-Engines.  ENGLAND, a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  iii. 148, 9  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour. English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty. English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectness of English Poets. i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. Data Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour. English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectines of English Poets. i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines.  Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social. i. 310, 11
Engine: Court-Engines.  England a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectness of English Poets.  i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c.  English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines.  Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social.  i. 310, 11  Enthusias: Definition of the natural fort, &c. iii. 30, 31.
Engine: Court-Engines.  ENGLAND, a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour. English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd Wit of our English Ancestors. English Liberty. English Poetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectness of English Poets. i. 216, 22 English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social. i. 310, 11 Enthusiasm: Desinition of the natural fort, &c. iii. 30, 31. Enthusiasm of boly Souls. iii. 68. Legitimate and basland
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. Data England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour. English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. Englowent: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social. i. 310, 11 Enthusiasm of boly Souls. iii. 68. Legitimate and basland fort. i. 53. iii. 67. Rais'd from Internals. ii. 270, 71.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. Da Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Liberty. (See Muses.) Uncorrectines of English Poets.  i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c.  English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines.  Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social.  i. 310, 11  Enthusiam: Definition of the natural fort, &c. iii. 30, 31.  Enthusiam of boly Souls. iii. 68. Legitimate and baslard fort. 153. iii. 67. Rai'd from Internals. ii. 270, 71.  iii. 90. From Externals. iii. 149, 90, 91. Philosophical
Engine: Court-Engines.  England a Conquest: whence to be fear'd.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines. Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English inhospitable Humour. English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors. English Liberty. English Liberty. English Doetry. (See Muses.) Uncorrectiness of English Poetry. English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines. Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social. i. 310, 111 Enthusiasm: Definition of the natural fort, &c. iii. 30, 31.  Enthusiasm of boly Souls. iii. 68. Legitimate and bastard fort. i. 53. iii. 67. Rais'd from Internals. ii. 27, 71. iii. 90. From Externals. iii. 41, 90, 91. Philosphicasl Enthussum. Iii. 81. Prophetical. iii. 67, 8. Poetical.
Engine: Court-Engines.  England. Da Conquest: whence to be fear d.  Old-England. iii. 150, 51. Late England. ibid. See Britain.  Church of England. See Church, Divines.  Englishmen, Fellow-Citizens, Countrymen. iii. 144, &c. Name whence brought.  English, inhospitable Humour.  English Authors in general. i. 265. Speeches and admir'd  Wit of our English Ancestors.  English Liberty.  English Liberty. (See Muses.) Uncorrectines of English Poets.  i. 263. iii. 258, 59, 64, &c.  English Divines. iii. 122. See Divines.  Enjoyment: deceitful kind. i. 309. Sincere. i. 311. Social.  i. 310, 11  Enthusiam: Definition of the natural fort, &c. iii. 30, 31.  Enthusiam of boly Souls. iii. 68. Legitimate and baslard fort. 153. iii. 67. Rai'd from Internals. ii. 270, 71.  iii. 90. From Externals. iii. 149, 90, 91. Philosophical

INDEA.
Lover, Hero, Virtuoso, &c. ii. 400, &c. 430. iii. 31.
Universal, or in all.
Enthusiasms of different Sorts. iii. 41. Comprehended in the
Romish Church. iii.90, &c. Vulgar sort, and more re-
fin'd. ibid. Enthusiasm divine. i.53
Modification of Enthusiasm. i. 17. Various Operation. i. 48,
&c. Enthusiasm at second hand. i.43
Enthusiasm justify'd. i. 53, &c. ii. 57, 394, 5, 400, 1, 8. iii.
28, &c. Ravage of Enthusiasm. i. 89. Antidote to
Enthusiasm. i.55
Virtue it-felf a noble Enthusiasm. iii. 33, 4
Enthusiasm a natural and honest Passion. iii. 37, 8. Soft and
lovely. ii. 218, 19. Enthusiasm works differently, by Fear, by Love. iii. 38, 9. Its amorous Lineage. iii. 38. Con-
trary and miraculous Effects of Enthusiasm. iii. 40
Enthusiasm catching, communicable, imparted. i. 44, 5. iii. 29,
30, 84. See Melancholy, Prophecy.
Sociable Enthusiast.
Enthusiast itinerant. i. 287. Epicureans, Enthusiastical A-
theifts. i.52. iii.64, 5
Enthusiastick Inebriation. iii. 66, 7
Envy, unnatural Passion. ii. 165
Ephesian Worshipers. iii. 83, &c. Zeal for their Church.
ibid.
EPICURUS, his Connivance in matters of Vision and Fana-
ticism. i. 48, &c. Recognition of the Force of Nature, and
Natural Affection. i. 117, 18. Toleration of Natural En-
thusiasm. i. 48, &c. iii. 32, &c.
Epicurus, primitive Father to some conceal'd Moderns. i. 117.
Love and Religion cruelly treated by Epicurus. iii. 31, &c.
Nature, a Deity to the Epicurean Atheist. i. 52. iii.64.
See Enthusiasm, Atheism.
Epicurean Atomist. i. 301
Epicurean Hypothesis. iii. 32, 35, 69
Epicurean Sect tolerated.
Vulgar Epicurism. ii. 126
EPIMENIDES. iii. 238
Epistles: Tully's Epistles. iii. 20. Seneca's Epistles.
iii. 22, &c.
Epistolar Style. iii. 17, &c.
Epistle Dedicatory. See Preface.
ERGAMENES (King) destroys a Hierarchy. iii. 49
Esop. iii. 206
Essays. i. 163. Essay-Writing. ibid. See Miscellany.
ETHIOPIA. See ÆTHIOPIA.
EUPHRANOR, Painter. i. 144, 340
The second secon
F Funtar

water the second plant of the second of the
EURIPIDES. i. 244, &c. iii. 141, 240, 313
Executioner. See Magistrate. Excellency. See Titles.
Evcellency See Titles
D. d. d. Ittes.
Exemplars, in the Writing-Art. i. 192, 206
Exercises. i. 191. See Academy.
Eyes: fitted to certain Lights. i. 62
Eye in Painting. i. 135, 235, 336. Eye in Painting loft, how?
i. 344
D:4 : 1 D
Distemper in the Eye. i. 324, 5
Harmony to the Eye.
Eye debauch'd.
F.
TABLES us'd by Wisemen and Moralists. i. 63. iii. 205, 6.
See Parable, Mythology.
Fable of the Man and Lion. ii. 188. Of the Travelling Dogs.
iii. 207, 8
Truth of Fable. See Truth.
Fact. Matter of Fatt, bow judg'd by Zealots. i. 43, 4, 55,
147 & Matter of Fast in the Language of the Suber.
147, 8. Matter of Fact, in the Language of the Super-
fitious. 1.44
Matters of Fact, unably the sincerely related, prove the worst
fort of Deceit. i. 346. See Truth.
Faction, Spirit of. i. 114
Fair, Bartl'my. i. 28
Fair, Beautiful. i. 139. See Beauty, Decorum, Numbers.
Fair, Species of. i. 139
Fairys. i. 6
Faith (religious) antient, modern. i. 6, 7. Implicit Faith.
Taken (resignous) whitens, modern. 1. 0, /. Impices Taken.
i. 94. iii. 231. Definition. iii. 73, 4. Extension of Faith.
i. 5, &c. Att of Faith. ibid. Faith on any Terms.
1 26 Heroich Faith iii 224 Religious Faith dehen-
i. 36. Heroick Faith. iii. 334. Religious Faith, dependent on what? i. 39. Historical Faith. iii. 72. Personal.
aent on what? 1.39. Historical Faith. 111.72. Personal.
iii. 73. Faith National, Hereditary, entail d by Law.
i. 344, 62. iii. 103. Faith in Travellers, Romancers,
Legends. i. 344, &c. Rule of Faith. iii. 318, 19, 22, &c.
See Belief.
Rule of Faith (Treatise of Archbishop Tillotson) eited.
iii. 329, &c.
. Chinese, or Indian Faith. i. 344, 5. Historical, Critical Faith.
iii. 22
Confession of Faith, the Author's. iii. 315. Gradual Decay
of the Evidence relating to the Matters of our Faith.

Fanaticks, antient. i. 47, &c. Compar'd with modern. ibid.

Fanatick errant. ii. 330. See Lymphaticks.

Fanaticks

Fanaticks in all Churches and Religions. i. 50. iii. 38. Fanaticism, its true Character. ii. 329, 30. Fanatick Sense and Judgment of Scripture. iii. 237. Popish Fanaticism. iii. 92, 3, 239, &c.

Fancys apostrophiz'd. i. 188. Sophisters, Impostors. ibid. Government of Fancy. i. 308, &c. ii. 231. Fancy: ber Assault, Combat, Fortress. i. 311, &c. 320, &c.

Fancys, Sollicitresses, Enchantresses. i. 312, 13. Reprimanded, question'd, examin'd, dismis'd. 1. 325, &c. Disagreement with Fancy, makes the Man himself; Agreement, not himself. i.325, &c. Lady-Fancy cross'd by a What next? i.326. Fancys in a Tribe. i. 321, 27. Florid Fancy. iii. 177. Power of Fancy in Religion. iii. 68. See Humour.

Farce. i. 150. iii. 6, &c. See Fescennin, Atellan, Parody.

Fasces. i. 16. See Magistrate.

Fashion. See Modes, Custom.

Father of a Country. 1.37, 321 Fathers of the Church disputing and disputed. iii. 327. Industrious in suppressing all Scripture or Arguments of their

Adversarys which made against them. iii. 320, &c. 330, &c. Burning Method of Roman and Greek Fathers, Bishops, &c. ш. 239, &с.

Favourites. i. 192. ii. 138. See Court.

Fear, Passion of. i. 294. ii. 55, &c. Description by Des Cartes. i. 294. Its Root and Cure. i. 295, &c. Fear of Death. ii. 140, &c. How improv'd or abated. i. 314, &c. iii. 196, 7, 203, 4

Fear and Hope in Religion. ii. 55. See Future State, Rewards

and Punishments. Ferments. See Humours.

Fescennin (Plays.)

Fiction. See Fable. Figure, principal in a Picture, to govern the reft. iii. 374

Flattery in Devotion. i. 34. See Devotion, Sycophant.

Fly. ii. 18., See Spider.

Fools: the greatest, who? 11. 231 Foot-ball. i. 187. iii. is

Force and Arbitrary Power destructive of all Arts. i. 219, &c.

Form, outward, in a Figure, to give place where the inward is describ'd. iii. 367

Formality.

Formalists. i. 12, 13, 174, 335. iii. 97, 8. The Author himself a Formalist. iii. 135

Foreigners: Treatment of them by different Nations. iii. 153, &c. See Hospitality. Free Thought. See Thought. Free Writer. 11.7 Free States. i. 238, &c. Freedom of Wit. i. 69. (See Wit, Discourse, Debate.) Consequence of a Restraint. French Authors. 1.335. Theater. iii. 6, 7, 8 French Criticks. See Bossu, Criticks. Friend: knowable, unknowable. i. 284. Friend of Mankind. 11. 247 Friendship: real Good. ii. 238, &c. Comprehends Society and Mankind. ii. 239, &c. Friendship bow prevalent and

Mankina. 11. 239, &C. Priendjosp bow prevalent and diffusive.

Friendship, Christian, Heathen. i. 98, &c. (See Charity, Hospitality, Disinterestedness.) Friendship its own Required.

ward.

Fucus, Mask or Vizard of Superflition.
Fungus.

Future State. i. 18, 97, &c. ii. 236, 7. iii. 302. See Rewards

and Punishments.

G.

Gallante.

Gallantry, Original and Progress. i. 272, 3, 331, 2.

ii. 194, &c. iii. 253. Devout Gallantry. i. 20, 362, 3.

Gallantry and Heroick Power of Faith. iii. 334. Merit in the Gallant World. i. 331. See Ladys, Chivalry, Novel.

Gallows. i. 127. iii. 177. See Jail, Gardens. iii. 167. See Palace.

Aulus Gellius cited.

Generation: Natural Instinct in the Case.

Generation: Natural Inflinct in the Cafe. ii. 412
Genius, or Guardian-Angel. i. 168, 9
Genius of the World. ii. 245, 284, 95, 343, 47, 352, &c. See

111.234

Deity.
Genius, not sufficient to form a Writer or Poet. i. 193. iii. 258.

English Author would be all Genius. 1.233. iii. 258. Fashionable Affectation of a Genius, without Correctness, in our English Writers. i. 263. iii. 258, 9, 64, &c. See English Poets.

Gentleman: Character of a Gentleman. i. 135. iii. 156, &c. (See Breeding.) Amufements of Gentlemen more improving than the profound Researches of Pedants. i. 335.

Fine Gentleman, owing to Masters.

i.191
Gibbet

Gibbet. i. 125. See Jail, Gallows, Hell.
Gibbets and Rods succeed to Charity and Love, when. iii. 115
Giddiness in Life. 1.322
Gladiators: Barbarity of Gladiatorian Spectacles. i. 269, 70.
iii. 256, 7
Gladiatorian Penmen.
Giais. See Looking-Giais.
Glazier.
Glory: Asting for Glory's fake, how far divine? 1.38
GNOSTICKS, antient Hereticks. iii.75,6
God: God and Goodness the same. i. 33, &c. 40, &c.
Nothing in God but what is God-like. i. 33, &c. Question
concerning his Being, what Iffue? ibid. and 39, 40. See Deity, Attributes, Praise.
God, what? ii. 10. What Idea given of God in certain Re-
God, what? ii.10. What Idea given of God in certain Religions. ii.13, 14. Ill Character of a God: Its Confe-
quences in respect to Morality. ii. 47, &c. How God can
be said to witness for bimself to Men. ii. 333, 4
be faid to witness for himself to Men.  ii. 333, 4  Belief of a God, consider'd as Powerful.  ii. 55.  As Worthy and Good.
thy and Good. ii. 56 GONDIBERT. iii. 341, 2
Good : how predominant in Nature ii 216 17 What is
Good: bow predominant in Nature. ii. 216, 17. What is truly Good. ii. 225, 237, &c.
Good of the Whole. i. 40. Private Good, what? i. 203.
See Interest, Pleasure.
Good, what? Where found? i.308, &c. Good and Happiness.
ii. 227. iii. 196, &c. Opinion of Good. ibid.
Goods of Fortune, and Goods of the Mind compar'd. ii. 432,
Goodness, Divine. i. 23. Opinion of Goodness creates Trust.
1.04. 11.334. 111.114
Goodness: what, in a sensible Creature? ii. 21
GORGIAS LEONTINUS. i.74
GOTH. i. 86, 89. Gothick Influence in Philosophy and Re-
ligion as well as Arts. 1.350, 51. Gothick Government.
in. 150, 51. Gothick Notion. i. 86, 9. Gothick Poetry.
i. 217, 18. Gothick Architecture. i. 236
Gothick Conqueror, conquer'd by spiritual Arms. iii. 90, 91
Gothicism. See Barbarism, Barbarians.
Government absolute. (See Absolute.) Free Government or
Constitution. i. 216. Definition. iii. 311, 12. Origin
or Rife of Civil Government: Ridiculous Account. 1.109.
(See State of Nature.) Natural Account. i. 110, &c. 236, &c. Civil Government conforming and subordinate.
i. 110, 336. Defy'd, insulted, embroil'd. i. 363. iii. 89
1. 110, 330. Doly in injusted, charlet a. 1.303. 111.09

INDEX.
Grace. (See Decorum.) The naturally graceful. i. 135.
(See Beauty, Numbers.) Grace and Action in Human
Bodys. i. 190
Grace. See Titles.
Grammar: Grammatical Rules necessarily applicable to Scrip-
ture of whatever kind. iii. 229, &c.
Grandees. See Ministers.
Grapes not from Thorns. i. 286
Gratitude. ii. 240, 41
Gratuity. i. 126. See Reward.
Gravity, try'd, prov'd. i. 11, 12. True and false. ibid. Of
the Essence of Imposture. i. 11. Convenient Gravity of
this fort. iii. 334. See Grimace, Formality, Solemnity.
GREAT BRITAIN, like to be the principal Seat of Arts. iii. 398
Great Men. See Ministers.
The Great (Great People) their Influence on Wit, and in
the literate World. i. 8, 210, &c. Their Character. ii.
137, 8
GREECE, Fountain of Arts, Science, and Politenels, 1, 210.
GREECE, Fountain of Arts, Science, and Politeness. i. 219. iii. 138, &c. Early Writers of Greece form'd the pub-
lick Taste. i. 263, 4. Grecian Religion. iii. 126, &c. 153,
A. Manners, ibid. 152, &c. See Athenians.
4. Manners. ibid. 152, &c. See Athenians. Greek Language, original Beauty and Refinement. iii. 138,
&c
GREGORIUS the Great. iii. 239, 40
Grimace, religious and zealot-kind. i. 65, 6, 74, 149. See
Gravity.
Grimace, from Constraint and Persecution. i. 84
Grotesque-Figures. i. 149
Guardian honest guben?
Character south?
H.
H. Alf-Jefters. i. 81
Half-Knave, thorow fool.
Half-Thinkers. iii. 300. See Thought.
Harmony, such by Nature, not by Fashion or Will. 1. 252.
Natural Harmony, how advanced. i. 238. Harmony,
Rules of. i. 140. See Mulick.
Haunt. See Specter.
Heart, unfound, bollow. i. 43. A Heart in Lover's Language.
1.137. Descent on the Territorys of the Heart. 1.355.
Heart merely buman. i. 358. Heart after the Pattern of
Heart merely human, i. 358. Heart after the Pattern of God Almighty. ibid. Numbers of the Heart. iii. 34.
Wisdom of. 1.277. See Beauty, Character.
Heart makes the Philosopher. iii. 161
Heathen-Charity. See Charity. Heathen-Church. See Church.
Heathen-Church. See Church.
Hell

Hell. III. 177, 8. See Devil, Gallows, Jall.
Heraldry. 1. 362, 3
Herald of Fame. i. 225
HERCULES. ii. 188
Judgment of Hercules, the Subject of it. iii. 349, 50. The
principal Figure in the Piece. iii. 358. His different
Appearance in the several Parts of the Dispute. iii. 350,
51, 59, 60
Herculean Law. 1. 267
Hereaster: A Question with a Sceptick. ii. 236, 7. See Fu-
ture State.
Heretick by Birth. iii. 104. Good-humour'd Man properly no
Heretick. iii. 105
Hermit, never by himself. i. 175
Hero: Philosophick Hero. i. 194, 98. Hero of the black Tribe.
i. 349
Heroick Prince: a Character and Story. i. 176, &c.
Heroick Virtue. See Virtue.
Heroick Sign-Post. i. 225
Heroism and Philanthropy. i. 113. Heroism in Faith. See
Volunteer, Faith.
HERODOTUS. iii. 247. Cited. iii. 43 Hierarchy. i. 86. iii. 48. (See Magi, Priest.) Its Power in
D. C. P. L. D. Wagi, Friend, 113 Fower in
Terria, Editopia, Egype. Ibid. Its Growth over the Civil
Persia, Ethiopia, Egypt. ibid. Its Growth over the Civil Magistrate. ibid. Acquistion of Lands and consequent
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Indulgence,
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Indulgence,
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esfect, and fatal to the Civil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hie-
Magistrate. ibid. Acquistion of Lands and consequent Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essen, and satal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethio-
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and satal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethio-
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Effect, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Effect in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Effect, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Effect in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Effect, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Effect in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Effect, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Effect in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and satal to the Civil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Com-
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and satal to the Civil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel it the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And afterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensweness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Af-
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. It Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensoveness, Majessy and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Affested Pretenders, Imitators, and Copiss after these Origi-
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehessiveness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Assected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copiss aster these Originals.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and satal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And afterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensweness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Asselved Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensiveness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Assets of Pectad Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  History compar'd with Poetry.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensyeness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Asserbensyeness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Asserbensyeness, mitators, and Copists after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historical Truth. See Truth.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essed, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essed in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And afterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehessiveness, Majessy and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Assected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copils after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historian. i. 122, 189. Disinterested. i. 224, 5. See Poet. Historian Istuth. See Truth.  History of Criticks. i. 240, &c.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehenspunglis, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Assected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historian i. 122, 189. Disinterested. i. 224, 5. See Poet. Historical Truth. See Truth.  History of Criticks.  Mr. Hobbes.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Essel, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Essel in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &c. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehenspunglis, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Assected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists after these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historian i. 122, 189. Disinterested. i. 224, 5. See Poet. Historical Truth. See Truth.  History of Criticks.  Mr. Hobbes.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensweness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Asset Pected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists aster these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historical Truth. See Truth.  History of Criticks.  Mr. Hobbes.  1. 240, &c.  Mr. Hobbes.  1. 205, 221. His Character. i. 208. iii. 32, 334.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensweness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Asserbengiveness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Asserbengiveness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &cc. Asserbengiveness, imitators, and Copists after these Originals. iii. 122, 189. Distinterested. i. 224, 5. See Poet. Historical Truth. See Truth. History of Criticks. i. 240, &cc. Mr. Hobbes. ii. 205, 221. His Character of his Works. ii. 196, &cc. 41.
Dominion. ibid. Certain Law, Permission, or Induspence, necessarily producing this Esset, and fatal to the Givil Magistrate. iii. 44, 5, 78, 9. Establishment of the Hierarchy over the Monarchy, or State in the Egyptian, Ethiopian, Babylonian Empires. iii. 48, 9. Parallel Esset in the Roman. iii. 78, 9, 88, &cc. Roman-Christian and Catholick Hierarchy: its Growth under the Universal Roman Monarchy. iii. 90. And asterwards over the barbarous Nations. iii. 91. Its Prevalency, Policy, Comprehensweness, Majesty and Grandeur. iii. 92, &c. Asset Pected Pretenders, Imitators, and Copists aster these Originals.  History compar'd with Poetry.  Historical Truth. See Truth.  History of Criticks.  Mr. Hobbes.  1. 240, &c.  Mr. Hobbes.  1. 205, 221. His Character. i. 208. iii. 32, 334.

Homerical

Homerical Characters or Personages. i. 196, 7, 207. iii. 260,
&cc. Homer understood how to lye in Perfection. i. 346.
iii. 260, &c.
Honest in the dark. i. 125
Honesty, its Value. i. 121. Honesty and Harmony reside to-
restly is raise. 1.121. Honesty and Harmony regule 10-
gether. i. 208. See Virtue, Integrity.
Honesty the best Policy. i. 132. iii. 204, 5
Honours. See Titles.
Point of Honour. ii. 194, 5
Auctions or Sales of Honour. iii. 168, 9, 208, 9
Hope and Fear in Religion. ii. 55, 57, &c. See Future State,
Reward and Punishment.
HORACE cited, passim——Passages of Horace explain'd.
i. 51. (viz. Sat. v. ver. 97.) iii. 202. (Epist. vi. lib. i. bis)
iii. 249. (Epist. xx. Sat. 1. lib. ii, &c.) Also bis Epistle
to Augustus (lib. 2.) i. 269, 70
Horace, best Genius, and most Gentleman-like of Roman
Poets. i. 328. His History, Character. ii. 224. iii. 202,
248, &c.
Horse. Hound, Hauk, &c. See Beast.
Hobby-Horfe. i. 217
Horseman and Horsemanship. i. 193
Hospitality: what kind of Virtue. ii. 166. Antient, Hea-
then. iii. 143, 4. (See Charity, Friendship.) Inhospita-
ble Disposition or Hatred of Foreigners, what Sign? iii.
153. Inhospitality, English. iii. 152, 3
Hot-cockles. iii. 293
Hound, Horse. See Beast.
Humility, what Virtue, in Religion, and Love. i. 331, 2
Humour: Good-Humour, best Security against Enthusiasm.
i. 22, 55. Force of Humour in Religion. iii. 95, 98, 108,
&c. Ill-Humour, Caule of Atheilm. 1.23
Good-Humour and Imposture, Enemys. 1. 32. Good Hu-
mour, Proof of Religion. ibid. Of Wit. 74. A natural
mour, Proof of Religion. ibid. Of Wit. 74. A natural Lenitive against Vice. i. 128. Specifick against Superstition
and Enthulia (m
Humour and Fancy, ill Rule of Taste. i. 338, &c. iii. 165, &c. lll Rule of Good and Ill. ibid. and iii. 200, 201
Ill Rule of Good and Ill ibid and iii, 200, 201
Humours, as in the Body, fo in the Mind. i. 14
Hydrophobia. i.50
Hypocrites. i.94
Hypothesis. See System.
Fantastick Hypothesu. ii. 190. iii. 160
Hypotheses, Systems, destroy'd, blown up. 1.88
Religious Hypotheses multiply'd. iii. 47, &c.

I.

JAIL. i. 125. iii. 177. See Gallows.

JANUS: Janus-Face of Zealot-Writers.

i.66

Ideas, fimple, complex, adequate, &c. i. 287, 8, 299, &c.

(See Wetaphylicks.) Comparison of mere taeas and arti-
culate Sounds, equally important. 1.288, 303. Examina-
tion of our Ideas not pedantick, when? i. 312. True and useful Comparison, Proof, and Ascertainment of Ideas.
useful Comparison, Proof, and Ascertainment of Ideas.
i. 299, &c.
Ideal World. iii. 211
Ideas innate. i. 49, 354. ii. 43, &c. 412. iii. 36, 214, &c.
Not innate, of what kind.
Ideas of the World, Pleasure, Riches, &c. what? i. 301.
See Opinion, Fancy.
Identity. ii. 350, &c. iii. 192, &c.
Idol; Idol-Notions, Idolaters. i.60, 357
Јеритнан. іп. 124
Jest: true, false. i.74, 81, 128, 9. See Ridicule.
JEWS, a cloudy People. i. 29, 30, 282. iii. 55, &c. 115, 16.
Sullen, bitter, persecuting, ibid. Their Character by God
himself. iii. 55. Jewish Understanding. i. 282, 3. Dis-
position towards the darker Superstitions. iii. 124. Jews,
a chosen People. i. 357. iii. 282. Left to Philosophy for
Instruction in Virtue. i. 101
Jewish People, originally dependent on the Egyptians. iii. 51, &c.
Their Rites, Ceremonys, Learning, Science, Manners, how
far deriv'd thence. ibid. How tenacious and bigotted in
this respect. ibid. Spirit of Persecution and Religious
Massacre, propagated from bence. ibid. iii.60, &c. 80, &c.
86, &c. (See Persecution.) Jewish Princes. iii. 116, 24
Ill. whether really existent in the Universe. ii. o. 10. Abso-
Ill, whether really existent in the Universe. ii. 9, 10. Abso- lute Ill, what? ii. 20. Relative Ill. ibid. & 21. The
Appearances of Ill no Argument against the Existence of
a perfect sovereign Mind. ii. 363, 4. No real Ill in
Things. ii. 364
Appearance of Ill necessary. ii. 288, 9
Imitation Poetical. i. 193. See Poet. Works of Imitation,
how to be regulated. iii. 389, 90
Imperium in Imperio.
Impostors, speak the best of Human Nature. i. 94. See
Goodness.
Imposture arraign'd. i. 10. Hid under Formality. i. 74.
Essence of Imposture. i. 11. Imposture fears not a grave
Enemy. 1.31. Strangely mix'd with Sincerity, Hypocrify,
Zeal, and Bigotry. ii. 324, 5

Indian Musick and Painting. i. 242, 340. Indian Princes
late Embassadors.  Indolence. i. 310, 18, 19. Its dangerous Consequences. ii.
158, &c.
Informers. i. 126
Ingratitude, a negative Vice. ii. 167
Inhumanity not compatible with Good-Breeding. ii. 163. Un-
natural. ii. 164
Inquiry concerning Virtue, Deity, &c. See Vol. ii. Treatise I.
& i. 297. Occasion of this Treatise. ii. 5, &c. Its
Defense. ii. 263, &c.
Inquiry, Freedom of. i. 34
Inquifition. i. 20, 186. iii. 103
Inquisitors. i. 65. Self-Inquisitor. i. 186
Inspiration. i. 7, 45. (See Prophets, Poets.) Inspiration a
Divine Enthusiasm. i. 53. Atheistical Inspiration. iii.
64. True and False, alike in their outward Symptoms.  1.53. Inspiration credited, bow?  iii.40
1.53. Inspiration credited, bow? 111.40 Judgment of the Inspiral concerning their own Inspiration.
iii. 63, 74, 5, 245. See Poets, Sibyls.
Instinct, from Nature. ii. 411, 12. See Ideas.
Intelligent Being: What contributes most to his Happiness. ii.
100, 1
Interest governs the World, a false Maxim. i. 115, 17, 18.
Self-Interest. ii. 80. Rightly and wrong taken. i. 281,
&c. iii. 302, 4, 5. Unwifely committed to the care of
&c. iii. 302, 4, 5. Unwifely committed to the care of others. iii. 159. How form'd. i. 296. Vary'd, steer'd.
ibid.
True Interest either auholly with Honesty or Villany. i. 131,
172, &c. Judgment of true Interest. i. 307, 8. iii.
7 Dice and C 1 10 Min 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Disinterestedness real, if Virtue and Goodness be such. i. 98
JOB. 11. 34, 123 IONAH, Prophet. iii. 118, &c.
Joseph, Patriarch, bis Education, Character. iii. 57, 8
Joshua. i. 356, &c.
JOVE. ii. 47, 8, 203
Journalists : Journal des Savans de Paris. iii. 18, 20. Histoire
des Ouvrages des Savans. 18. Nouvelles de la Repub-
des Ouvrages des Savans. 18. Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres. ibid. Bibliotheque Choisie. ibid. &
20. See Bibliotheque Choisie.
Irony. i. 71. See Banter, Raillery.
Ists. iii. 47
ISOCRATES. iii. 280
ITALIANS, Buffoons. i. 72, 129. Italian Wit and Authors.
i. 335, 46
Italian Tafte, the best in Painting, Musick, &c. i. 338, 40
Judgment,

Judgment, preliminary Right. i. 12. Previous Judgment. 1.54 JULIAN (Emperor) i. 25. iii. 86, &c. His Letter to the Bostrens. ibid. IUPITER. See TovE. Just and Unjust acknowledg'd. ii. 420 JUSTIN, (Historian.) 111. 54, 7 JUVENAL, explain'd. i. 103, &c. Cited. i. 70, 106, 126,

253. iii. 23, 4, 42, 50, 178, 274

K. K IND (Species) Union with a Kind. ii. 78. Oppos'd by ii. 79. Kings. See Princes, Monarchy, the Great, a Court.

Knave, natural and civil. i. 109. By what Principle different from the Saint: or bow distinguish'd from the bonest i. 102, 126, 7, 130, 31, 172, 3

Knave incapable of Enjoyment. i. 130. Betrays himself, iii. 305

however able. Knave, bas no

Knaves in Principle, in Practice. i. 93, 4. Knave, has no Quarrel with Religion. ibid. Half-Knave, thorow-Fool. i. 131, 2. ii. 173. Zealot-Knave. i. 132, 3. (See Zeal.) Court-Knaves. iii. 168, 69, &c. Knaves, Friends to Moderation, in cubat fense. i. 115. Knave young, middle-ag'd, old.

iii. 178 Knavery, mere Dissonance and Disproportion. i. 207, 8. See

Dishonesty. Knavish Indulgence, the Consequences. i. 121, 130, &c. 172, 310, 11. iii. 302, 5. Knavish Religion. iii. 125. See

Religion.

Knight-Errantry. i. 20. See Chivalry, Gallantry. Knights-Templar, growing to be an Overmatch for the Ma-gistrate. 1.86. Extirpated bid. See Magophony, Hierarchy.

Knowledg: first Principle, previous. i. 41, &c. 54, 269, 334 Knowledg of Men and Things, true Philosophy, how learnt. i. 122, 3

Adys, fainted, worship'd, deify'd. i. 273, 331, 2. ii. by Tales and Impostures. i. 347, &c. Type or Prophecy of this in our antient Stage-Poet. ibid. See Superstition, Sex, Women.

Lampoons. Lands. (See Property, Agrarian.) Religious Land-Bank. iii.

44, &c. Latitude

iii. 297, &c.

Latitude of Thought.

and Fall.

Virtue.

Wit, Freedom.

Latitudinarians.
Laugh balf-way. i. 81. Both ways. i. 129. Laugh wrong-
turn'd. iii. 296. (See Ridicule.) Men not to be laugh'd
out of their Wits. i.96. Men laugh'd out of, and into
Religion. iii. 291. Difference in seeking what to laugh at,
and what deserves Laughter. 1.128
Laugh, mutual, and in turn.  1.149
Laws, Royal Counsellors in our English Constitution. i. 212.
Guardian-Laws. i. 219. Religion by Law establish'd.
i. 362. iii. 71, 103, 231, 315, 16, 337, 38. (See Rites,
Mysteries, Revelation.) Heraldry by Law establish'd.
i. 362
Herculean Law. i. 267
Laziness. i. 310. See Indolence.
Learning: Passion for Learning or Science, rank'd with natural
Affection. ii. 104, 5
Legitimate Work or Piece, in Writing. i. 336. iii. 2, 26
Leo (St.) iii.91
Letters. See Epistles.
Leviathan-Hypothesis. i. 88. See Mr. Hobbes. Wolf.
Liberal Arts. See Arts. Liberal Education. ii.65. Liberal
and illiberal Service. ii.55, 65
Liberty of Criticism. iii. 266, 316. See Criticks.
Liberty civil, philosophical or moral, personated. 11. 252, 3.
Abuse of the Notion of Liberty in Morals and Govern-
ment. iii. 305, &c. Liberty of the Will. i. 178, &c. 184,
&c. Liberty or free Disposition to follow the first Motion
of the Will, is the greatest Slavery. i. 211. ii. 231
Liberty Philosophical, Moral. ii. 252, &c. 432, &c. iii. 201,
4, 307, &c.
Protestant Liberty. See Protestant.
Liberty: (See Government, Constitution, English, British.)
Its Patrons, Well-wishers. i.8. Consequence of its Rise
203 1 actions, Frest-wighers. 1.0. Conjequence of its Rije

Living, false sense of the Phrase. i. 124. Living fast, false application of the Phrase. i. 315, 16. ii. 126, 7. Life sometimes a Misery. ii. 141. Over-Love of Life, contrary to the Interest of a Creature. ii. 141, &c. Future Life: The Belief, of what advantage? ii. 60, &c.

Life-its Value. i. 121, 24, 302. Living well or good

Liberty in Conversation. i. 75. Falsly censur'd. i. 10. See

Prejudice against Liberty. 1.89. Arts, Sciences, and Virtues, its Dependents. 1.64, 72, 96, 220, 21. See Arts, Science,

i. 219, &c.

Lineage of Philosophy and Poetry. i. 239, 40, 253, &c. iii. 132,
37, &c.
Livy, the Historian, i. 47. 8
Logick, of modern Schools. i. 286, 7, 334, 50, 51
Looking-glass, vocal. i. 171. Magical Pocket-Looking-glasses.
i. 195. Looking-glass to the Age. i. 199, 202, 5. False
Looking-glass.
Love. (See Charity.) Love of Friends. ii. 238, 9
Love of Mankind. ii. 241, 2
Love of one's Country. iii. 143, &c. Love of Order and Per-
fection. ii. 212
Love imperfect and narrow, generous and equal. iii. 143, &c.
(See Affection.) Publick Love. i. 37. (See Publick.) Love,
highest, noblest. ii. 211, &c. Divine Love. ii. 244, 5.
See Enthusiasm.
Love, dangerous Sophister. i. 183, 4. Passion of Love in the
Sexes. i. 176, &c. Subject the most affecting, in the Pas-
sion of Love between the Sexes. ii. 105, 6. Flattery of
Love. i. 138. Religious Love between the Sexes. iii. 38.
Love cruelly treated by Epicurus. iii. 31, 2
Self-Love. ii. 58. Its Effects in Religion. ii. 58, 9. Silly
reasoning about Self-Love, by pretended Wits. i. 90, 118.
&c. See Self.
Religion and Love. i. 331, 2. Galante Love, and religious
Charity of a certain kind, compar'd. iii. 115
Lover, Martyr. See Martyr.
Lover solitary. i. 174. Story of a Heroick Lover. i. 176, &c.
Lover's Pursuit and Enjoyment, of what kind. i.309. See
Enjoyment.
Luke (St.) cited, commented. iii. 245
LUCRETIUS. i.52, 118. iii. 32
Luxury. i.310, 15, 319, &c. ii.147, &c. iii.199, 200,
304, 5
Lycurgus.
Lyes, judiciously compos'd, teach Truth in the best manner.
i. 346. Homer perfest in this Science. ibid. and iii. 260,
61, 2
Lymphaticks, i.co. cr. See Fanaticks, Enthuliasm.
Lymphaticks. i. 50, 51. See Fanaticks, Enthusiasm. Lysias, Orator. iii. 280
M.
Machine (in Epick and Dramatick.) i.359. World a ii.337
Madness: real Madman, who? i. 321, &c.

MÆCENAS. i. 220, 270. iii. 21, 249, 50 Magi of Perfia, &c. i.85. Their Power. iii. 48. See Hier-

Magi-

	Magicians. See Magi.
	Magick, moral. i. 136. Magick of Enthusiasm. iii. 20
	Magistrate, his Duty and becoming Part in Religion. i. 10, 16
	19. ii. 261. iii. 104, &c. Executioner to the Priest, when
	i.66. iii.110. A Dresser. i.83. Dress'd in bis turn
	ibid. See Government, Hierarchy.
	Civil Magistrate, insulted. i.363. iii.89. Controul'd. iii
	44. Over-aw'd. iii. 47. Depos'd, sentenc'd. iii. 48,
	Magnificence, true and false. i. 130
	Magophony, Perfian. i.85, &c. Ethiopian. iii.49. Euro
	pean and Christian. i. 85, 6
	Mahometism. iii. 104. Mahometan Clergy. iii. 239
	Malice, only where Interests are opposed. i. 39, 40. None in
	the general Mind—nor in mere Nature. ibid
	Malignity, Passion unnatural. ii. 169
	Man: a good, an ill. ii. 21. Formidable, in what sense. ii. 94
	Subject to Nature. ii. 302. Why no Wings. iii. 302, 3
	Man's Excellency different from that of a Brute. ii. 304, 5
	Why Man has not the same Instincts which are in Brutes
	ii. 308, 9. Whether sociable by Nature. ii. 311, &c
	Whether a Man can be accounted a Wolf to a Man. ii. 320.  Absurdity of that Saying. ibid. Man's Dignity and Interest
	ii. 425. Different Manners of Men. ii. 429, &c.
	Mankind, how corrupt. ii. 198, 201
	Manners: Poetic Manners and Truth. iii. 260, &c. See Poet,
	Truth.
	MARSHAM. Chron. Can. iii. 52, &c. 124
	Martyrdom. i. 26, &c. iii. 40, 1
	Martyrs for Atheism. i. 90. iii. 64-Pro and Con, for any
	Martyrs for Atheism. i. 90. iii. 64——Pro and Con, for any Opinion. iii. 40, 41. Amorous, Heroick, Religious Martyrs.
	ii. 106. iii. 34
	Mask. See Carnival.
	Mass. i. 26
	Maffacre. See Magophony.
	Masters in Exercises and Philosophy. i. 191. Masters in Me-
	chanicks. See Mechanicks.
	Young Masters of the World. i. 106, 211
	Mathematical Demonstration in Morals. See Morals.
	Mathematicks. i. 19. Delightful, whence. ii. 104, 5. Ne-
	ceffary. i. 289, 90. Modeft. ibid. Matter, Whole and Parts. ii. 368. Not capable of real Sim-
	plicity. ii. 351, 2. Not conflitutive of Identity. ibid.
	Substance material, immaterial. ii. 353, 4
	Matter and Thought, how mutually affecting or productive.
	ii. 296, 7, 369
1	MAXIMUS TYRIUS, cited ii. 295. iii. 32
	11.293. 11.74

INDEA.
Mechanicks, Masters in. i. 235
Mechanick Forms, Beautys. i. 137. See Palaces.
Mechanism—human. i. 115, 294. Divine. ii. 336, 7
MEDEA. in 313
Meditation Rural-Philosophical. ii. 344, &c.
Meditations publish'd. 1.164. Meditation imposing; conceited,
pedantick. 1.164, 5, 343
Meditation in the praise of a Deity. ii. 344, &c. Upon the
Works of Nature. ii. 366, &c. Upon the Elements. ii. 376,
&c. Upon the Variety of Seasons and Climates. ii. 383,
&c.
Melancholy, a pertinacious and religious Complexion. iii.67
Melancholy in Religion, Love. i. 13. Power of Melancholy
in Religion. iii. 66. Devout Melancholy. i. 22, 32, 44.
iii 6 2 Treatile of Melanchely iii an Sas Policion
iii. 67, 8. Treatises of Melancholy. iii. 30. See Religion,
Enthusiasm.
Memoirs. i. 163. Memoir-Writing. i. 200; 224, 346. See
Miscellany.
Memory, 70 Eupen moreulov. i: 143
MENANDER. 1. 246. iii. 238
Mental Enjoyment, whence. ii. 101, 117, &c.
Mercenariness, i. 126. See Reward.
Merit in believing. See Belief.
MESSIAS. iii. 78. See Monarchy.
MESSIAS. iii. 78. See Monarchy.
ME S S I A S. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphylicks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4
ME S S I A S. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphylicks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or
ME S S I A S. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks.  i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  iii. 210, 11
MESSIAS. iii. 78. See Monarchy. Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140 Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4 Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known. iii. 210, 11 Metaphyficians, their Character. i. 291
MESSIAS. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4.  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyfical Articles of Belief:  i. 306, 7
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficial Articles of Belies.  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficial Articles of Belief:  MILO.  i. 306, 7  MILON.  i. 276, 358, 9
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians of Belief:  i. 306, 7  MILO.  MILTON.  i. 276, 358, 9  Mimes. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  i. 201  Metaphyficians of Belief:  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mimickery. i. 106. Mimographer.  ibid.
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  i. 201  Metaphyficians, their Character.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mimes. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  ibid.  Mind, free. i. 140.—— a Kingdom. iii. 205. Beauty of
ME s s 1 A s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  i. 201  Metaphyficians, their Character.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mimes. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind, free: i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyfical Articles of Belief:  i. 306, 7  MILON.  MILTON.  ii. 304  MILTON.  Mimckery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind, free: i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyfical Articles of Belief:  i. 306, 7  MILON.  MILTON.  ii. 304  MILTON.  Mimckery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind, free: i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  i. 201  Metaphyficians, their Character.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  iii. 205. Beauty of the Mind. i. 137. Value of a Mind. ii. 440. iii. 168, 205. Its inward Proportion.  Mind: particular Minds prove an Universal one.  Universal Mind, bow provid.  ii. 290, 91
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charatter.  Metaphyficians, their Charatter.  Metaphyficians, their Charatter.  i. 201  Metaphyficians, their Charatter.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind, free. i. 130.——— a Kingdom. iii. 205. Beauty of the Mind. i. 137. Value of a Mind. ii. 440. iii. 168, 205. Its insward Proportion.  Mind: particular Minds prove an Universal one.  Universal Mind, bow proved.  ii. 290, 91  Minister of State concernd
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  i. 291  Metaphyfical Articles of Belies:  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304  MILTON.  Mimes. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind; free. i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyfical Articles of Belies.  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304.  MILTON.  Millton.  Mimckery. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  iii. 205. Beauty of the Mind, free. i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyfical Articles of Belies.  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304.  MILTON.  Millton.  Mimckery. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  iii. 205. Beauty of the Mind, free. i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  Metaphyficians, their Charaster.  i. 291  Metaphyfical Articles of Belies:  i. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 304  MILTON.  Mimes. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind; free. i. 130.————————————————————————————————————
METAPHORICA SEE MONARCHY.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4.  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  METAPHYSICAL STREET ST
ME s s 1 a s. iii. 78. See Monarchy.  Metaphor, or Metaphorick Style or Manner. i. 243, &c. iii. 140  Metaphyficks. i. 289, 299, 301. ii. 354. iii. 193, 4  Metaphyficks, necessary Knowledge of nothing knowable or known.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  Metaphyficians, their Character.  i. 201  Metaphyficians, their Character.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILO.  ii. 306, 7  MILTON.  ii. 276, 358, 9  Mines. i. 193. iii. 285. See Imitation, Mimickery.  Mimickery. i. 196. Mimographer.  Mind, free. i. 130.—a Kingdom. iii. 205. Beauty of the Mind. i. 137. Value of a Mind. ii. 440. iii. 168, 205. Its insward Proportion.  iii. 83  Mind: particular Minds prove an Universal one.  iii. 290, 91  Minister of State. i. 37, 192. Ministers of State concern'd for their Character and Memory. i. 225. Conduct necessary to preserve them. i. 225, &c. Claim of the People over them. i. 227. Dangerous Conceit of Ministers and Great Men.

Ministry: good Ministry in England. iii. 148. The new, the old. iii. 208. Ill and flavish Ministry, of what consequence. iii. 148, 9 Miracles, scriptural, traditional. i. 6. Modern. i. 44. iii. 70. Christian, Moorish, Pagan. i. 345, 47, &c. Past, present. ii. 331. The Danger of believing new Miracles. ii. 328, Whether Miracles can witness for God or Men. ii. 331, &c. Mere Miracles insufficient Proof of Divinity, or Revelation. ii. 333, 4. iii. 114. Merry Miracle. iii. 123 Mirrour. See Looking-glass. Misanthropy: what kind of Passion. ii.165. Sometimes, in ii. 166. iii. 153 a manner, national. Miscellanarian Authors, their Policy and Art. iii. 288, 9 Vol. iii. p. 1, 2, &c. MISCELLANYS. Miscellaneous Memoir, Essay-Writing, Style and Manner. ibid. and iii. 95, &c. 225, 6. See Essay, Memoir. Miscellaneous Collections, annual. 111.274 Mode: Modes of Religion. i. 84 Model: current Models of Religion. i.84. Models for Poetry and Writing. i. 206. See Exemplar.

Moderation Philosophical. iii. 37. When in fashion with the . Zealots of every Party. iii. 110, 11. Moderation difclaim'd. 111. 342 Moderation in a Writer. i. 166 Monarch: Grand Monarch now; and of old in Greece. i. 223 Monarchy. See Hierarchy. Monarchy universal. i. 216, 17, 220, &c. iii. 23. (See Barbarians, Tyranny.) Absolute Monarchy, destructive of Arts, Manhood, Reason, Sense. i. 219, &c. 237, &c. iii. 23, 77, &c. World groaning under the Roman Monarchy. iii. 77, 8. Hopes of a Divine Deliverer or Messias from hence. ibid. See Emperor, Roman. Monarchs. Monosyllables in files or strings. iii. 265. Clash or clattering Rencounter of them in our Language. ibid. Monster: Monstrous Imaginations. i. 60. Monstrous Objects and Tafte. i. 344, 47, &c. iii. 157 Moon: Embassadors from the Moon. iii. 339. Moon and Planets. ii. 373, &c. Traveller from the Moon. ii. 198 Moor: Moorish Hero. i. 347, 8 Moor of Venice (Play.) i. 347, &c. Morals: Rule and Distinction of Revelation. 1.298. Difference about Morals. i. 70. Morals inter-vove with political religious Institutions. i. 87. Brought into disgrace. i. 90. (See Charity.) New Forgers of Morals. i. 133. Moral

> i. 136 Morals

Magick.

## INDEX. Morals and Government bow related. i. 106, 8. Morals

effential to Poetical Performance. i. 278. See Manners, Poetick Truth. Morals mathematically demonstrated. ii. 173, &c. and iii. 194, &c. 212, &c. See Philosophy. Moral Sense, Rise of it. ii. 28, &c. 53, &c. Foundation in Nature. ii. 413, &c. Whether it can be perfectly loft in any rational Creature. ii. 41, &c. Impair'd by opposite Affection. ii. 44. Not by Opinion merely. ii: 45. Corruption of moral Sense. ii. 45, 6. Causes of this Corruption. ii. 46, &c. Rise of moral Sense, antecedent to the Belief of a God. ii. 53, 4 Moral Inquirys, why out of fashion. ii. 185 Moral Excellence. i. 39. Moral Venus and Graces. i. 337, 8. Moral Species. See Species. Moral, the Word, in Painting, signifys the Representation of the Passions. iii. 379 The MORALISTS (viz. Treatise V. p. 181, &c.) criticiz'd. 111. 284, &c. Moralists, the fashionable sort. i. 80, 124. See Virtue, Philofophy. MORE (Dr.) iii. 65, &c. Moroseness. i. 23 MosEs. i. 356, &c. Character and Life. iii. 52, 5, 7, 8, 116, 246 Mountebanks, modern Prometheus's. 11. 205 Mountebanks. See Empiricks. MUMMIUS. 1.272 Muse. i. 4, 8. Divine, Orthodox. i. 359. iii. 229. Muses what, in the Heathen Creed. i. 6, 7. British Muses. i. 215, &c. In their Cradle. i. 217, 262, 3. Lisping Speech. ibid. Hobby-Horse and Rattle. ibid. Muses, Tutoresses. i. 220. Favourites. i. 224. Chief Recoribid. ders. Muses degraded by Epicurus. 111.32 Muses personating the Passions, Virtues, and Vices. 1.313, &c. Profane Mistresses in respect of facred Letters. Musick, Barbarian. i. 242. Just, real, independent on Ca-price or Will. i. 353. When best relissed by the English. iii. 308. See Harmony. Musician, asham'd of Praise from the Unskilful. i. 42. Delighted with Examination and Criticism. 1. 234, 5 Musician-Legislators. 1.237, 8

Mystery makes any Opinion become considerable. i.91. Gives

Mysterys by Law establish'd. i. 359, 60. Religious Mysterys.

rife to Partys, Sects.

ibid.

Mystery debated. iii. 10, 11
Sacred Mysterys inviolable with our Author, and, as such,
un-nam'd by him. 111.70,71,315
Mysterys the most absurd, bow introduc'd into the Church.
iii. 333, 4
Mystical Love. ii. 211, 243
Mysticks. ibid. Consequences of their indiscreet Zeal. ii. 271
Mysticks. i. 175. See Quietists.
Mythology. i. 359. Mythological or Fabulous Style of our
Bleffed Saviour. iii. 122, 3
A particular temperature of the later
N.
A TAstiness. See Cleanliness.
Aftinefs. See Cleanlinefs. National Church. i. 17. See Church.
National Opinion. i. 9
Natural Affection, confess d. i. 92. See Affection.
The Natural and Unnatural in Things. iii. 213, &c.
Natural Ideas. See Ideas, Instinct.
Nature, its Energy. ii. 359, 60. Nature in Man. ii. 300.
In Brutes. ibid.
Nature's admirable Distribution. ii. 306, 7
State of Nature, imaginary, fantastical. i. 109. ii. 310,
&c. See Society.
Nature, Divinity with Epicurus. iii. 64. See Epicurus.
Power of Nature in moral Actions and Behaviour. 1.92. ii.128. Naturam expellas Furca. iii.216. Nature will
not be mocked in 274. Has a frong Party quithin our
not be mock'd. i.354. Has a strong Party within our- selves. ibid. Makes reprisals on her Antagonists. ibid.
Prerogative of Nature. ibid.
NERO. i. 25, 105. iii. 23
Nobility, Polish-English. iii. 150. Young Noblemen. i. 103, &c.
Young Noblemen, English. iii. 168, 9, 172, &c. 216, &c.
Nose: a Nose (Discernment or Sense) in Morals, Life, &c.
i. 125 (See Sense, Taste.) Noses counted. i. 148
Novels, Sweet natural Pieces, highly in vogue. ii. 194. iii. 254.
See Gallantry, Chivalry.
Numbers and Proportion. i. 139, 336. Numbers of Life. i. 141.
See Proportion, Beauty.
Nympholepti. i. 50. See Fanaticks.

O.

Economy of the Animal Races. ii. 92, &c. 131, &c. 300, &c. 318, &c. iii. 220, &c. See Society.

Olympicks, antient, modern. i. 269. Olympick Games, and Congress of Greece.

#### INDEX. Omnipotence, what? i. 39, 40. ii. 10, 11, 57, 71, &c. 203,

Opinion (see Doctrine, Hypothesis) National, or by Inheri-

359, 60, 64. What not.

tance. i. 9. ii. 103. Governour, and Govern'd. i. 185.
Ground of Passion. i. 294, &c. Principle of Conduct.
i. 307, 8. Opinion all in all. ii. 435, 37, &c. iii. 186, 7,
196, &c. Freedom in examining our own Opinions, as
well as the Opinions of others. i. 60, 61. Corrupt Opinion,
Cause of Wrong. ii. 32, 3. Opinion and Fashion, suppos'd
measure of Virtue and Vice. i. 80, 352, 3. ii. 417, 18.
Life regulated by Opinion. ii. 435, &c.
Oracle. i. 126. Divine Oracles Guardianship. i. 360. Hea-
then and Christian Oracles. ii. 330, 31. iii. 232, &c.
Oration. See Rhetorick, Declamation, Preaching.
Orator. i. 161. Orators. i. 268
Order: Principle of Order Universal. ii. 362. Love of Order.
ii. 212. Study and Contemplation of it, a natural Joy,
Inclination, and Affection in Man. ii. 105
Order and Providence. ii. 276
Order in Writing. See Style.
Ornament independent, to be cautiously employ'd in the Action
of Hercules. iii. 384. The Emblematick and Historical
not to be confounded. iii. 384, 5. An Objection concerning
it answer'd. iii. 385. False Ornaments to be avoided.
Orthodoxy: casual, fortunate. iii. 104, &c. Orthodox Muse.
i. 359
Orthodox, Divine, or Churchman. iii. 10, 11
Orthodoxy of the Author. iii. 70, 71, 315 Osiris. iii. 47
OVID, cited.
The sale of the sa
P. P. C.

PACE. See Amble.
Pageant of State. i. 204. Court-Pageant. iii. 185 Pain and Pleasure mix'd. 11. 234, 5 Paint. See Fucus. Painter of History, to fix his Date. iii. 353. Not at liberty to mingle Actions of different Dates. ibid. Test of bis Judgment. iii. 357. Not to make his Action Theatrical, but according to Nature. iii. 368. The Same Qualifications necessary in him as in a Poet. Painters: Ill Painters compar'd with like Poets. i. 225, 6. Painter put to bis Shift. 1. 204, 5

Painters: Raphael. i.338. iii.230. Carache. i.338 Painters after the Life. iii.294. Face-Painters. i.144, 5, Painting and Painters. i.142, &c. Master-Painter,
i. 197, 206, 227. Battel-Painter. i. 202. See Artists, Statuary.
Painting. False Taste in Painting. 1.338. True Taste bow gain'd. 1.338, 9. Dignity, Severity, Austerity of the Art.
i.340, &c. Style in Painting. ii.186. Simplicity and Unity of Style and Colouring. i.143, 4, 341, 2. Unity
and Truth of Design. The Eυσύνοπ or. ibid. and 354. Greatness. i. 144. Antient Masters. i. 144, 340, &c.
False Taste and Corruption of the Art, whence. ibid. Gro- tesque Painting. iii. 6. Imposture in Painting. iii. 230.
Pretended Heavenly Style, and Divine Hand disproved, ibid. The Progress Painting is like to make in England.
Painting of History, the Regulation of it. iii. 399
Palaces and their Ornaments. i.139. iii.173, 184, &c. See Beauty.
PALESTINE, the Country: its Superstitions. iii.124. See Syria, Jew.
PAN. i. 15, 16. Panick Fear. ibid. Panick Rage or popular Fury. ibid. Religious Panick. ibid. and iii. 66, 69.
Panick Fear for the Church. iii.83, &c. Panick Zeal. ibid. & 69. i.43, 4
Panegyricks the worst of Satires. i. 226. Panegyricks, English.
1.200, &c. Panegyrick Games, 1.200. Herculean Law.

or Club-Method in Panegyrick. i. 267. Panegyricks modern.

PARIS, Judgment of, bow distinguish'd from that of Hercules.

Passion: Genealogy of the Passions. i. 116, 295. Study of the Passions. i. 295, 97. iii. 31. Belle Passion. i. 5. He-

Human and weak Passions deify'd. i. 38. ii. 256. iii. 306, 7 Passion, how the Change of it may be expressed in a Subject.

Parables, double-meaning to amuse.

Parafites. i. 35. See Sycophants.

Parody. i. 198, 246. See Comedy.

roick Passion of the Devout. i. 19.

Passions. ii.92, &c. See OEconomy.

Patentees for Authorship. 1.335. For Religion.

PARACELSUS.

Parterre. See Palace.

Patent: Letters-Patent.

Patch-work.

Passion too strong or too weak.

iii. 274

iii. 359

iii. 355, 6

iii. 5 iii. 338

iii. 338 Patria :

O Economy of the

i.63 i.287

Patria: Non ille, &c. i. 123. Dulce & Decorum. i. 102.
The word wanting in our Language. iii. 149
Patriot. i. 101, 2. Bought and fold. iii. 170, &c. Patriots of
the Soil.
Patrons, modern. i. 229, 68, 304
PAUL (St.) bis Character. i. 30. iii. 74, 75, 83, &c. Style.
iii. 83, &c. 337. Cited. i. 26, 102, 281. iii. 238, 45
St. Paul allows to the Heathen their own Prophets. iii. 238.
Cites their Poets with Honour. ibid.
Pedagogue. i. 72, 3. See Tutor, Pedant.
Pedant baited. iii. 14
Pedant and Pupil. i.64, 122, 3
Pedant. See Pedagogue, Zealot, Scholastick, University.
Pedantry a Milstone. i.67. Pedantry in Conversation. i.70
Pedantry oppos'd to true Knowledg. i. 122, 3
Pencil, Sacred, or Heaven-guided. iii. 230. See Painting.
Penmen, Gladiatorian.
People, naturally good Judges of the Poet. i. 278. Also of
Architesture Painting &c iii 102 2
Architecture, Painting, &c. iii. 402, 3 Perfection, of Workmanship. i.332, 37
Perfection, of Workmanship.  Peripatetick Philosophy. Genius. i. 256. Author de Mundo.
ii. 214. iii. 263, 4
Persecution. ii. 35. iii. 115. In Arcadia. i. 21. Unknown to
Terrecution. 11.35. III.115. In Arcadia. 1.21. Chambon to
the solite Hanshow Would is abb its ves a House heaven
the polite Heathen-World. ii. 166. iii. 154, 5. How begun.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews. Romish Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romish Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews. Romilh Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6 Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews. Romish Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews. Romith Perfecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84. Persius.  i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persius. i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers'd in Sculpture.  iii. 380.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84  Persils. Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persils. i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380  Persuasion, Goddes. i. 237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  ii. 84.  Persius.  i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380.  Persusion, Goddess. i. 237, &c. Mother of Mussick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84  Persilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persilas.  i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380  Persulasion, Goddess.  iii. 370  other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  iii. 310
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  iii. 93, 4, 103, 6  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persius.  i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380.  Persuasion, Goddess. i. 237, &c. Mother of Mussek, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  iii. 310  Petronius, cited.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1.84  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persius.  1.162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380  Persuasion, Goddes. 1.237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid. Sister to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  Petronius, cited.  Petronius, cited.  Petulancy: wanton Mischievouspies unnatural.  ii. 164
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84  Persilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Perssilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 38. Persulan Goddes. i. 237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid. Sister to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into subatever Opinions.  Petranius, cited.  ii. 310  Petulancy: wwanton Misschiewoussness unnatural.  ii. 164.  Phænomena in Scripture. i. 282. Moral Phænomena.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  ii. 93, 4, 103, 6  Persection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84  Persection, Empire and Hierarchy.  iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  iii. 380  Persuasion, Goddesi. i. 237, &c. Mather of Mussick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  iii. 310  Pettronius, cited.  Petulancy: wantom Mischievoussness unnatural.  Phenomena in Scripture. i. 282. Moral Phanomena.  ibid.  Phallico. i. 250. See Farce.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1.84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persian.  1.162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perfipective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  1ii. 380.  Perfuation, Goddess. i. 237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  1.102.  Petulancy: wanton Mischievousmess unnatural.  Phenomena in Scripture. i. 282. Moral Phænomena.  Phallico. 1. 250. See Farce.  Phenix-Sees.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1. 84  Persils. I. Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persils. i. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it reversid in Sculpture.  iii. 380  Persussion, Goddes. i. 237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid. Sister to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  Petronius, cited.  1. 192  Petulancy: wanton Mischiewoussels unnatural.  Phallico. i. 250. See Farce.  Phenix-Seet.  i. 27  Phillp.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romith Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  i. 84  Persilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Perssilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Perssilan Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers' d in Sculpture.  iii. 188, 312, 13  Persuasion, Goddess. i. 237, &c. Mother of Mussich, Poetry and other Arts. ibid. Sister to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into subatever Opinions.  Pettanicy sited.  Petulancy: wantom Misselvevousness unnatural.  Phallico. i. 250. See Farce.  Phenix-Seet.  Phenix-Seet.  Phillogrifts.  i. 249  Philologrifts.
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1.84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persius.  1. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  1ii. 380.  Persuasion, Goddess.  1. 237, &c. Mother of Mussch, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into vubatever Opinions.  1. 192  Petulancy: wanton Mischievoussels unnatural.  Phænomena in Scripture.  1. 282. Moral Phænomena.  1. 194  Phallico.  1. 270. See Farce.  Phillosopists.  1. 241, 46. ii. 295  Philosophers, savage.  1. 90, 94, 350, &c. See Clown. Moral
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Perfection, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Perfection of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1. 84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persian.  1. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it reovered in Sculpture.  iii. 380.  Persuasion, Goddess. i. 237, &c. Mother of Musick, Poetry and other Arts. ibid. Sister to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into whatever Opinions.  Petronius, cited.  Petronius, cited.  Petulancy: wanton Mischievousmess unnatural.  Phenomena in Scripture. i. 282. Moral Phanomena.  Philosophers, sevage. i. 90, 94, 350, &c. See Clown. Moral Philosophers of a modern fort, more ignorant and corrupt
i. 25. iii. 60, 86, &c. See Ægypt, Jews.  Romilh Persecution, of any other the most tolerable, and of best Grace and Countenance.  Persecution of Features, Airs, Complexions, Miens.  1.84.  Persian Empire and Hierarchy. iii. 48. See Hierarchy.  Persius.  1. 162, 170, 71, 89, 315, 30. iii. 158, 312, 13  Perspective, the Rules of it revers d in Sculpture.  1ii. 380.  Persuasion, Goddess.  1. 237, &c. Mother of Mussch, Poetry and other Arts. ibid.  Sifter to Liberty. ibid. Men persuade themselves into vubatever Opinions.  1. 192  Petulancy: wanton Mischievoussels unnatural.  Phænomena in Scripture.  1. 282. Moral Phænomena.  1. 194  Phallico.  1. 270. See Farce.  Phillosopists.  1. 241, 46. ii. 295  Philosophers, savage.  1. 90, 94, 350, &c. See Clown. Moral

Philosophers, their Original and Rise. i. 240. Posterior in Birth to Poets, Musicians, Criticks, Sophists. ibid. iii. 136, 7. Philosophers themselves, Criticks of a double kind. i. 240, &c. Philosophers, their antient Schools dissolv'd. iii. 79
Philosophers and Bear-Garden. ii. 9, 11, &c.
Philosophy-modern. i. 122, &c. iii. 308. — Antient. i. 18, 122, 3. — Home-spun. i. 43, 364. Mastership in Lise and Manners. iii. 159. Its state and Liberty in the antient World. i. 18. Philosophical Speculations innocent. i. 96. See Hypothesis, Doctrine.

Philosophy, ewhere confin'd now-a-days. i. 333. ii. 184. Its Study incumbent on every Man. i. 322, &c. ii. 438, &c. Philosophy speculative and practical. i. 292, &c. Vain, or solid. i. 297, &c. Guide to Virtue in all Religions. i. 101, 2.—Balance against Superstition. i. 18. Philosophy Judg of Religion. i. 297, 8.—Of her-self, and of every thing besides. ibid. Majesty of Philosophy. i. 298, 99. Philosophy appeald to by all. i. 285. Standard or Measure of Trus, Friendship and Merit in Men. ibid. &c. Genuine and salse Fruits. i. 286, 7. Unbappy Mixture or Conjunction of Philosophy with Religion. iii. 61,76,7. Monstrous Issue and Product of this Union.

Dry Philosophy. iii. 191. Vocal Philosophy. i. 287. Ideal

Philosophy. See Idea.

Lincage of Philosophy and Poetry. (See Lineage.) Philofophy of the Woods. Physician. iii. 428 Physician. iii. 181 Physicians in the Body-Politick. i. 14, 16

Physiologists. See Metaphysicians.

Picce (Work, Freatife) legitimate, illegitimate. i. 336. iii. 2
PILATE (Pontius.)
Planets: fee Moon. Planetary System. ii. 19, 370, &c.
Plate, embos'd with Sctyrs, Fauns, &c. proper to accompany the Figure of Pleasure.

PLATO. 1.54. ili. 77, 247, 80. Cited. 1.53, 4
Platonifts, latter fort. 1.18

Plays (Theatrical) how frequented. i. 265. See Comedy, Tragedy, Theatre. Plays (vulgar) fee Foot-ball, Hotcockles.

Pleasing Sensetients.

1. 123, 4, 315

Pleasure: substitute our Good. i. 308. ii. 226, &cc. iii. 200, &cc.

All Pleasure not to be reckou'd as Good. ii. 220, 30.

Enjoyments of Reason, not really comprehended in the Notion of Pleasure. ii. 232, 3. Pleasure no Rule of Good. i. 309, 339, 40. Pleasures of the Mind greater than those of the Body.

Body. ii. 99, 100. Senfual Pleafure, who the properest Judg of it. ii. 102, 3. Senfual Pleafures dependent on focial and natural Affection. ii. 126, &c. Distasseful, inconstant, and insupportable autibout it. ii. 129, 30. Unnatural Pleafure in general, its Effects. ii. 168, 9. Pleafure (Luxury) ii. 147, 8. See Luxury. Understanding in Pleasure. i. 140. Rule and Order in

Pleafure. 1. 140. Nate and Order the Pleafure. ibid. Men of Pleafure, for d to acknowledg Virtue. i. 140. See

Poets.

Pleasure, follicites Hercules in opposition to Virtue. iii. 350. Is first heard. iii. 352. Her Figure to be drawn filent. iii. 369. Her Posture and Ornament. iii. 370, 71

PLINY cited.

Plum: Cant-word among rich Knaves.

i. 144. iii. 280

PLUTARCH. i. 334. Cited. i. 41, 54. iii. 126, 27, &c. 280

Pneumatophobia. iii. 64 Poem Heroick, Epick. (See Homer.) i. 356, &c. iii. 259,

&c. Not to be model'd on Holy Writ. i. 356, &c.
Poet: Character of a Poet and Poetry from Strabo. i. 208, 252. Poet, second Maker. i. 207. Poet, Herald of Rame.

i. 225. Ill Poets everse than ill Painters.
i. 225, 6
Poets preserable to most Philosophers.
i. 122. iii. 307, 8.

More instructive than Historians.
i. 346. Morality of Poets.
i. 137. iii. 308, 9. Poets acknowledg Virtue.

136, 7. Strongest Party on Virtue's side.

1. 316, 17
Poets, Enthusias.
1. 4, &c. iii. 66, 23.2. Friends to Revelation.
1. 4, &c. French Poets.
1. 218. Modern Poets or poetical Writers affected, and salse in their Draughts or Imitations.
1. 204. iii. 289, &c. Conceited, combin'd.
11ii. 273, &c. Injudicious.
1. 207. Impotent.
11ii. 276, &c.
11ii. 276, &c.

Audience forms the Poet. i. 264. Poet, bow far of necessity a Philosopher, and true to Virtue and Morals. i.

Divine or Orthodox Poets. i. 7, 359. iii. 18, 231, &c. Orthodox Mock-Poets. ii. 240, 41. Poets Fanaticks. i. 240, 41. Poets Fanaticks. ii. 240, 41. Poets Fanaticks. iii. Poets Fanaticks. iii. 240, 41. Poets Fa

Poets in/pir'd.

i. 7, 51. iii. 66, 228, &c. 238
Poet. See Author.

Poetes, English.

Poetical Enthusasm. i. 21. Poetical Genius. i. 161. Poetical Imitation. i. 193, &c. Poetical Truth. See Truth.

Poetick Science.

Poetry: (See Muses.) Lineage of Poetry and Philosophy.
(See Lineage.) Sacred Wit and Poetry. iii. 118. Indiffe-
rent Poetry, detestable. iii. 283. Art of Poetry (an Eng-
lish Poem.)
Poetry Epick or Dramatick, incompatible with orthodox Divi-
nity. i. 356, &c.
Point, Gingle or Pun. i. 335
Paints of Wit.
Point of Honour. ii. 194, 5. See Gallantry, Duel.
Poison to Reason.
Policy, British and Dutch: Turkish and French. i. 80
Politeness, owing to Liberty. i. 64, 72, 96. (See Liberty.)
Flux and Reflux of Politeness. i. 271, 2
Politicians. i. 188, 9
Politicks, part of Morals. ii. 184, 5
Polytheist: Definition. ii. 11
Pope (Clement XI.) iii. 241. See Gregorius, Leo.
Popery. See Rome, Church, Priest, Mass.
Polt-way of Writers. See Writers, Correctness.

Power, Balance of.

Praile of the Deity.

i. 41, &c. Qualifications for fuch Praile.

ibid. Value of Praile or Glory from the Ignorant. ibid.

Value of ore d Praile or Applause. ibid. True Praise bow learnt.

Preaching. i. 70, 73, 4, 134, 166. iii. 97, 8, 287. Elegant and groß. iii. 112, 13. Faßionable and unfaßionable. ibid. Solemn, melancholy. i. 134. Variously bumour'd, alternate, high and low. iii. 130. See Declaration, Pulpit.

Pre-conception. ii. 307, 412. See Anticipation.

Prefaces, Dedications, &c. i. 200, 231, 304. iii. 27. Preface become a word to fignify Excuse. i. 329, 30

Prelate. i. 6. See Bishop.

Pre-sensation. See Pre-conception.

Press: Printing-Press. i. 305. See Printer.

Priests, consecrated by the Magistrate. i. 362. iii, 337. Their Faction, Sedition, and Engagement of Mankind in their Quarrels. iii. 51, 59, 60, 80, 86, &c. 342. Their Love of Blood. i. 28. Propagation and Increase of the Priesthood: Manner and Consequence. iii. 44, &c. Model of the Ægyptian and Asiatick Priesthoods; and Disserted from the European, or that of Greece or Rome. iii. 44, 49. See Hierarchy.

Prince: see Absolute. Story of an Heroick Prince. i. 176, &c.
Princes, use the plural Style, whence. i. 210, &c. Prince-Authors.
i. 213, 14

Princely:

odelse el colo del la colo del	
Princely: fee Royal.	T. S. C. C.
Principle: one univerfally active Principle.	ii. 364, 5
Printer. iii. 16. See Bookfeller, Amanuenfis.	
Printing, free.	i. 305, 6
Prodicus.	ii. 253
PROMETHEUS, poetical Solution of the Phænomeno	
	92, 201, 2
Poet a Prometheus.	i. 207
Proof. See Criterion, Test.	10000
Prophet, the name allow'd to Heathens.	iii. 238
Prophets, passive Organs. i. 28. Modern Prophe	ts. i. 46.
&c. Compar'd with antient.	ibid.
Prophecy catching. i. 45.——The evil as well	as the good
Spirit. ibi	d. iii. 116
Prophecy or Prophet-errant, processional, saltant.	
Naked Prophecy.	ibid.
Property, Dominion founded in.	iii. 49
Proportion, and Symmetry founded in Nature; not in	
Fancy. i. 353. See Symmetry, Architecture.	· I
Protestant Authors.	iii. 18
Protestant Liberty. iii. 235, 6, 319	ALCOHOL: STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS
Publick. i. 37. See Constitution.	, 550, 600.
Publick Affemblys. See Affemblys.	
Pulpit. i. 31. iii. 255, 265, 287. See Preaching.	
Punishments and Rewards, of what use in the Sta	e i 126
ii. 63, 4. In Familys. ii. 65. In Religion.	
Puns : fee University, Point.	11.05,0
Pupil: fee Royal, Pedant, Tutor.	
Puppets, in Dialogue. iii. 292. See Dialogue.	
Puppet-show.	i. 28, 9
PYRRHO, PYRRHONIST. ii. 355. iii. 194,	
Sceptick.	
Pyrrhus.	i. 325, 6
PYTHAGORAS. iii. 77,	127, 203
Pythagorean Sect.	i. 18
Pythian-God. i. 126 Prophetes: see Sibyl.	
the same with the same of the same in the	
Q.	
OUEEN Elizabeth.	iii. 150
Quibble. See Pun, Point.	111111
Quietifts.	iii. 38, 92
The second secon	100

R Aillery, fober Use of it. 128. Desember Raillery. i.
62. Opposition to Banter. i. 63. iii. 225. Gross
fort and resin'd. i. 63, 5. iii. 225. (See Ridicule.)
Socratick Raillery.
Raillery

Raillery affected by grave Doctors. i. 65. iii. 291. Grim Raillery. ibid. (See Burlesque.) Spirit of Raillery why prevalent in certain Conversations. i.95. Why carry'd into the Extreme. i.72. Nothing proof against Raillery but what is bonest and just. Rake, a better Character than that of certain grave and thoughtful Gentlemen. Reader courteous, uncourteous. i. 303, 4 Reading, wrong Choice and Manner. i. 341, &c. Multiplicity of Reading. i. 342, 3. Task-reading. ibid. Surfeiting. i. 344. Polite Reading and Converse, chief Qualifications in a Character. i. 364. Gothick and barbarous Reading. 1. 344, &c. Realist in Morality. ii. 267, 8 Reason, its Nourishment, Health. i. 69, &c. Its Antidote, Poison. i. 91. Reason Correctrix of the Fancys, &c. i. 322, &c. Intendant, Mistress, House-keeper. ibid. Reafon quitted: for what Reason? When? How? iii. 299, &c. Reason confined: what effect? i.71,77 Reasoning: Habit of Reasoning alone can make a Reasoner, i. 69, 71, 77 Records: Recorders, Compilers, Registers in Sacred Matters. i. 360. iii. 231, &c. Ruld by Law. Rehearial (Comedy.) i. 259. iii. 277, 81 Religion, Virtue, bow ally'd, founded, deriv'd, maintain'd. See Treatise IV. viz. The INQUIRY, first of Vol. ii. Religion: a publick Leading, or National Church. i. 17. Religion by Law established. i. 362. iii. 71. (See Law.) Disferences in Religion. i. 79. (See Modes, Models.) Reli-gious Antipathy. i. 18. ii. 96. iii. 40, 60, 80, 257. Religious Passion. iii. 35, 6. Different Aspects of Religion, according to the Views or Aspects of Divinity. iii. 29. Power of Fancy or Imagination in Religion. iii. 68. Religion consider'd as a Passion. ii. 88, 9. Its Influence. ii. 51. Religion antient-Grecian. iii. 126, &c. Roman, Egyptian, Syrian. iii. 41, 2. Where first it grew unsociable. ii. 387, 8. Religion cruel Enemy to Virtue, by what means. ii. 256. Religion liberal, illiberal. ii. 272, 73. Knavish Religion. i. 126, 7, 132, 3. iii. 125, &c. True Foundation of Religion. ii. 269, 70. Religion betray'd. ii. 279. Over-laid. i. 97. Exhilaration of Religion. iii. 95, 123. Different Faces or Representations of Religion, with what defign. iii. 130, 31. Uniformity in Religion. See Uniformity.

Relish, false, fatal to Painting and the other Arts. iii. 390

ii. 59

Retire-

Refignation, devout, false.

Resolution: see Will.

ii. 223, 4

1. 267, 8

III. 41 ROMB

Retirement, agreeable, necessary.

Worthys.

Romance: See Novel.

Revelation judg'd by Morals. 1. 298. What previous and antecedent. i. 39. ii. 333, 4. See Authority. Revolution, the late happy one. Revolution in the World and Nature. ii. 20, 214, 15, 367, 380, 81. In our-felves, i. 284, 5. ii. 236, 350. See Rewards and Punishments, of what use in the State. ii. 63, 64. In Familys. ii. 65. In Religion. ii. 65, 6, 273 Future Rewards and Punishments: wrong inforcement. i. 97, 8. ii. 69. Virtue for Reward, not worth rewarding. ibid. Reward most deserv'd, when unsought. i. 100. No Goodness or Virtue in Nature, if no Motive besides Reward. i. 98. A Knave not the less such, when Reward and Punishment alone make him bonest in outward Behaviour. i. 125, &c. 171, &c. Consciousness, only Reward of Friendship. i. 100. See Mercenariness, Disinterestedness, Rhetoricians. iii. 140 Rhetorick: fee Declamation, Preaching. Rhetorick, in what part of a Discourse its greatest Energy shou'd be employ'd. iii. 353 Rhythmus: false and true.
1. 217, 18. iii. 263, 4
Ridicule, its Rule, Measure, Test. i. 11, 12. (See Test.) Appeal to Ridicule. i. 61. Affectation of it by Pedants. i. 65. See Banter. Ridicule ridiculous, when half-way, lame, or leaning to one fide. i.81. Injudicious and imposing, when far strain'd, and beyond its size. i.83. &c. Nonsensical, when rais'd from Contrarys, Nothing ridiculous, but what is deform'd. i. 128. · not capable of being ridicul'd. ibid. & 129 Right and Wrong. ii. 33, 4. In Nature, not from Opinion, Will, or Law. ii. 35. See Opinion, Virtue. Rites or Rituals by Law establish'd. Rites, Ceremonys, Habits, Processions, Pomp, their use and effect in Religion. 111. 91, 2 ROGER, Sir Roger. ш. 276 Roman Eloquence, corrupted. 111. 22, 3 Roman Monarchy. See Monarchy. Roman Empire, Rise and Fall. 1. 219, &c. Roman Emperors. iii. 41, 78, 90, 242. (See Cæfars) Roman

Romans old, rais'd from Barbarity by Greece. i. 223, 269, 270, 72. Their gradual Refinement. i. 251. Growth of

Heathen Religion under the Romans.

### INDEX. ROME old. i. 219, 21. iii. 234. Rome modern. i. 338.

Royal Preceptor. i. 214. See Prince.
Royal Pupils. i. 106, 211, 12
Rule. (See Law.) Rule of Dispatch. i. 267
Rufticks. i. 190
S.
CAcrifice human. ii.35. Familiar to the Inhabitants of
the Palestine. in. 124. (See Abraham, Jephtha.)
Sacrifice of Forms, Natures. See Subordination.
Sadducee. iii. 77
Saint-on what terms? iii. 127. Female Saints. iii. 38.
Saint-Protectrices. 1. 273
Saint-Errantry. i. 20
SALOMON British. i. 214
Salvation : fee Saving.
Saracen's Head. i. 362
Satirs, Roman: their Origin. i. 258, g. See Atellan, Fef-
cennin.
Satir, English. i. 266. Spirit of Satir. iii. 109
Satirick and Comick Genius, Style. 1. 258, &c.
Satirifts, true to Virtue. i. 141. iii. 23. See Poet.
Savage: see Goth.
Savages. i. 90, 94
Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians.
Savages.  Savageness, Inroad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  i. 85
Savages. i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions. i. 85 SAUL. 1. 45. iii. 116, 17
Savages. i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions. i. 85 SAUL. Scandal. i. 45. iii. 116. 17 Scandal.
Savages.  Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  SAUL.  Sauls.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17. Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.
Savages.  Savageness, Inroad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the
Savages.  i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17 Scandal. Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.
Savages.  i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 85 Saul. Scandal. Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Subject. Silverial Conversation.  i. 68, 9, 78, &c.
Savages.  i. 90, 94  Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  i. 85  SAUL.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Convertation.  Scepticifin, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.
Savages.  i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Inroad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17 Scandal. Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Conversation. Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason. Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason. Scepticism, support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.
Savages.  i. 90, 94 Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians. Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17 Scandal. Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject. Subject. Sceptical Conversation. Scepticist, Support to Reason. ii. 68, 9, 78, &c. Scepticist, Support to Reason. iii. 326 Scepticist, foshionable fort. ii. 206. Defence of Scepticists.  iii. 71, &c. Partial Scepticist cause of Vice and Folly.
Savages.  Savagenes, Inroad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 85 SAUL.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Conversation.  Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticism, fashionable fort. ii. 206. Defence of Scepticism.  iii. 71, &c. Partial Scepticism cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)
Savages.  Savagenes, Invoad subence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  i. 85 SAUL.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Conversation.  Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticism, support to Reason.
Savages.  Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17. Scandal.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Subject.  Scepticiff Conversation.  Scepticiffm, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Sce
Savages.  Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving—of Souls. i. 19—of Complexions.  i. 85 SAUL.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Converfation.  Scepticisis, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticisis, fashionable fort. ii. 206. Defence of Scepticism.  iii. 71, &c. Partial Scepticis cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)  Scepticisis Ready against the Dogmatical Spirit. i. 95. Sceptical Wit, Apology.  Scepticis of a Reverend Divine.
Savages.  Savagenes, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 85 Saul.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Conversation.  Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticism, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticism, Saphionable fort. ii. 206. Defence of Scepticism.  iii. 71, &c. Partial Scepticism cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)  Scepticism, Remedy against the Dogmatical Spirit. i. 95. Sceptical Wit, Apology.  Scepticism of a Reverend Divine.  Scepticks, the Advantages of their Philosophy.
Savages.  Savageness, Inroad vubence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17. Scandal.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Subject.  Scepticiff, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  iii. 71, &cc. Partial Scepticist cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)  Scepticistm, Remedy against the Dogmatical Spirit. i. 95. Sceptical Wit, Apology.  Scepticist, the Advantages of their Philosophy.  Sceptick tersonated. iii. 295. Modern Sceptick degmatize.
Savages.  Savageness, Inroad whence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Sceptical Conversation.  Scepticiss, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiss, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiss, Joshandble fort. ii. 206. Defence of Scepticiss.  iii. 71, &cc. Partial Scepticiss cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)  Scepticiss, Remedy against the Dogmatical Spirit. i. 95. Sceptical Wit, Apology.  Scepticiss, the Advantages of their Philosophy.  Scepticks, the Advantages of their Philosophy.  Sceptick personated. iii. 295. Modern Scepticks dogmatize.  ii. 230, 31. Real Sceptick. ibid. & 236, 7. Christian
Savages.  Savageness, Inroad vubence. i. 96. See Barbarians.  Saving of Souls. i. 19 of Complexions.  i. 45. iii. 116, 17. Scandal.  Scandal.  Scene, of the Story of Hercules, to be laid in the Country.  iii. 376. To have nothing in it to call the Eye off from the Subject.  Subject.  Scepticiff, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, Support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  Scepticiffm, support to Reason. ibid. See Reason.  iii. 71, &cc. Partial Scepticist cause of Vice and Folly.  i. 81. (See Thinking.)  Scepticistm, Remedy against the Dogmatical Spirit. i. 95. Sceptical Wit, Apology.  Scepticist, the Advantages of their Philosophy.  Sceptick tersonated. iii. 295. Modern Sceptick degmatize.

True Scholar, or Man quell-read, reads few Authors. i.

342, 3 Scholaftick.

Scholaftick. i. 67. (See Style.) Scholaftick Brood. iii. 80. Scholastick Weapons. iii. 296 School: inferior Schools of Arts and Exercises, teach Truth

and Nature better than some higher. i. 333, &c. Sciences in general. i. 289, 90. Mock-Science. i. 287. Science

of Articulation. ibid. Science: see Art.
Scripture, Judgment of. i. 146, 7. \_\_\_\_\_ Criticism. iii. 72, 3. Scripture Sacred and Profane. iii. 231, &c. Sacred History, Characters, Scripture, subject to human Criticism, Philosophy, and Rules of Art. i. 147. ii. 268, 69, 333. iii. 229, &c. Scripture interpolated, suppress d, controverted, manag'd. iii. 320, &c. 330, &c. (See Fathers of the Church.) Variety of Readings, controverted Passages, Books, Copys, Catalogues. iii. 322, 3,

111.234

Scripture, fragil, volatil.

SCYTHIAN. See Goth, Anacharfis. Sea: Sea to drink.

111. 207, 8

Secular. See Arm.

Sedition. See Faction.

Self: A Man when himself; when not himself. i. 324, 5. (See Revolution, Identity.) What makes a Man himself. ii. 253, 4. (Self-Love. See Love.) True Self-Love depends on Knowledg of Self. i. 121, 282, &c. Self-Knowi. 170. iii. 189, 192, &c.

Selfishnes. i. 115, 117, &c. ii. 23, 291. Destructive of Self-Enjoyment. i. 315. iii. 302. Improv'd by certain Philosophers. i. 124, &c. Folly of the Endeavour. ii. 128 Self-Inspection. i. 196. Acknowledgment of a better Self. i. 281.

Self-Reverence. i. 171, &c. Self-Abasement. i. 331, 2. iii. 125, &c. See Sycophants, Interest.

SENECA, his Character, Genius, Style.

iii. 22, &c.

Sensations. See Pleasure, Pain.

Sense impair'd. ii. 32. Sense in Morals, Life. i. 132. iii. 204, 5. See Tafte, Nofe.

Common Sense, various Signification. 1.78, &c. Common Sense, bonest Sense. i. 132. iii. 204, 5

Sense, equivocal, in Painting, to be avoided in the Story of Hercules. 111.370 Sensus Communis interpreted. i. 103, &c.

Sermon, Law of. ii. 282. See Preaching.

Sexes. See Love, Women.

Fair-Sex, seduc'd by Tales, Impostures. i. 347, &c. Inclin'd to monstrous Loves, according to our antient Poet. ibid. (See Superstition, Ladys.) Won by appearance of Submission and Tenderness. iii. 115. Exposition of the Modesty

SOLON. SOPHOCIES.

INDEX.
of the Sex in barbarous Nations. 1. 273, 4. Better Con- duct of the more polite. ibid. Prerogatives of the Fair-Sex.
ii. 194. Writings. ii. 194, 5. iii. 254. Taste and Hu- mour. ii. 271, 73. iii. 166, 256
SEXTUS EMPIRICUS cited. i. 87 Shepherds: fee Arcadia.
SIBYL. i. 46. iii. 232. Sibylline Scripture. iii. 227, 232, &cc.
Sight, fingle, fimple. 7d'Eugovon or.  i. 143 Silence, to be distinctly characterized in the Figure of Hercules,
during the Contention. iii. 361 Simplicity: fee Style.
Sinner against Good-Breeding. i. 166. Against Grammar. ibid.
Sins. i. 166. iii. 177 Slavery: Court-Slavery. i. 139. ii. 116, 17. iii. 168, &c.
208, 9. Slavery of Vice. iii. 307, &c. 311. Slavifb Principles and Spirit. iii. 148, 168, 251, 2, 306, 310,
Smithfield. &c. i. 28
Social Animals. iii. 220, 22 Social Enjoyment: see Enjoyment.
Social Affection: see Affection. Society (see Tribe, Government) Early State and Progress of
Society, i. 236. Natural Growth of a Society, or National Community. i. 110, 11. Principle of Society, na-
tural. i. 107, &c. Prov'd from Sedition, War. i. 112, 13. From the greatest Opposers of this Principle. i. 89,
90, 92. From its force in ill, as well as in good Passions. 1. 16. Society in Nature; not from Art or Compact. 1. 109.
(See Nature.) Religious Orders, or Societys.
SOCRATES. i. 31, 254. iii. 214, 244. See Raillery. i. 192, &c. 205, 6
Socraticks: their Characters. 1. 254, &c. Soil, Climate, Region. iii. 146, &c.
Patriots of the Soil.  Solemnity: Follys and Amusements become solemn. i. 81. See
Gravity, Imposture. Soliloquy, see Treatise of, viz. Vol. i. p. 153.
Solitude, &c. i. 174. ii. 223; &c. Solon. iii. 246

Sophifts once honourable, and of highest Dignity. i. 240. So-phists Language-Masters. iii. 140. First Teachers of Philosophy. iii. 137. Sophistry. i. 74. See Imposture.

Sot:

i. 244

0 . 0 10 . 0	
Sot: Sottishness.	1. 309, 10
Soul: two Souls in Man.	1. 184, 5
Sounds articulate.	i. 288, 303
Space, Vacuum. i. 301. Space, Plenitude, Su	bstance, Mode,
Matter, Immateriality. See Metaphyficks.	
Species: Interest of a Species. ii. 16. A whole	E Species. Sub-
Servient to some other. ii. 18. Species of Fa	
(See Fair, Beauty, Decorum.) Moral Speci	es or Athearan
ces, overbearing all other. ii. 10	O iii 22 &c
Specters.	i 60 iii 200
SPENCER, de Legibus Heb.	i. 60. iii. 299
	iii. 55, 6
Spider.	11. 18
Spirits: Judgment of others. i. 54.	
Fear of Spirits, in an odd sense. See Pneum	
Animal Spirits confin'd.	i.71
Spleen. i. 20. Objected to Criticks and Satirifts.	111. 108,9
Stage of the World.	ii. 184
Stage, English. i. 271, 75, 6. iii. 255, 6, 2	89, 90: See
Drama.	AND STREET
Stage allow'd to instruct as well as the Pulpit. i	. 361. iii. 255
Standard of Manners, Breeding, Gentility. iii. 170	. &c. Stand-
ard of Wit, English. i. 265. iii. 272, &c.	
moral Rectitude. i. 107, 298, 3	
Statuary, Lysippus.	i. 227
Statuary and Statuarys. See Painters,	A 1. 22/
Statuary, with other Arts and Letters, deftro	"I by antiont
Bishops of Rome and Greece.	iii. 239, &c.
Statute against Criticism.	ii. 269, 278, 9
Statute of Mortmain, and Repeal, among the A	ntients. 111.45,
49, 50, 79. See Hierarchy.	(wasaw?
Statutes. See Laws.	A laboration of
Storys (Old Wives.) i. 6. Told up and down.	i. 37
Storks.	iii. 80
STRABO cited. i. 208	, 252. iii. 153
Styles and Manners of writing, the several kind	
255, &c. Didactive, Preceptive Style. i	. 25. iii. 285.
Scholastick, Pedantick. i. 256, &c. iii. 141.	Metaphorick.
i. 242, 3. iii. 140, 261, 2, 337. Methodic	k. i. 256. &c.
Simple. ibid. and iii. 21, 2, 141, &c. Subli.	
276. iii.285. See Sublime, Comick, T.	ragick Farce
Bombaft.	
	ting Painter
Heavenly Style in Painting. iii. 220. See Pair	iii roa
Style of our bleffed Saviour.	iii. 122, 3
English Style in Prose and Verse. iii. 264,	
Gouty Joints, Darning-Work, &c. iii. 264	,5. Discord,
Dissonance. ibid. See Monosyllables.	

Gg

Subjects,

Vol. 3.

# INDEX. Subjects, Multiplication of them in a Piece perplexes the Ordón-

nance of a Work.

Decorum. Synods.

SYRIA: its Religion. iii. 41, 2.

Sublime. iii. 140
Sublime in speaking. i. 8, 335. False and True. i. 241, &c.
(See Bombast.) Sublime of Characters. i. 336. Of
Actions. iii. 34. Sublime in Things. See Beauty, Ad-
miration.
Subordination necessary in Nature. ii. 214, &c.
What requir'd to make it perfect. iii. 383
Succession: Church-Succession. i. 360. iii. 338
Succession of Wit and Humour. i. 253, &c. See Lineage and
Genealogy.
Superstition. ii. 166. (See Enthusiasm, Priest, Miracle, Ma-
gi, ÆGTPT, Hierarchy, Tales.) Difference between
Superstition and Enthusiasm. iii. 39. Anti-superstitious
Passion, or Counter-Enthusiasm. i. 88, &c. iii. 64, 5
Superstition, Fear. i. 295. iii. 65. Superstition the most en-
flaving and worst of Vices. iii. 305
Female Superstition. 1.348, 9. iii.48. See Ladys.
Picture or Character of Superstition. iii. 125, &c.
Superstition destructive of Moral Restitude. ii. 46, &c. The
Superstitious are willing Atheists. i. 126, 28. Unable to
believe as they defire. ibid.
Quantity of Superstition answers to the number of religious
Dealers. iii. 46, &c.
Supinenels, proper for the Figure of Pleasure. iii. 371
Surgeons, spiritual. iii. 95, 106
Surgery in Politicks and Religion. i. 16, 17. iii. 106. Inward
Surgery. i. 156, &c.
SWEDEN. See DENMARK.
Sycophants in Religion. i. 35. iii. 125, &c. See Beggars,
Flattery.
Symbol Cas Tof Croad Watch word

System: a Fool by Method and System. i. 290. See Hypothesis.

Systems imposed by Authority.

System of the World. ii. 287. Particular Systems, and their single Parts united in one System.

ii. 19, &cc. 286

Symmetry. i. 353. iii. 263. Real. iii. 168, 180. See Beauty,

i. 360, &c.

See Palestine, Jews, A-

Ablature, specifically distinguish'd. iii. 347, 8. The Design
of it shou'd be immediately apparent. iii. 378
TACITUS cited. iii. 53, 4, 253
Tail: Works or Pieces without Head or Tail. See Works.
A Tale: its Use, upon occasion. ii. 202, 3
Tales: Love of Tales and monstrous Storys; its Affinity with
the Passion of Superstition. i. 348, 9. Tremendous Tale-
tellers. ibid,
Talkers. i. 167
TARTAR. See Goth.
Tartar-Notion. i. 86
Taste: Explanation of a right Taste in Manners, Morals,
Consument iii . 60 See In West and Incomite home
Government. iii. 163, &c. In Wit and Ingenuity, bow
rais'd and improv'd. 1.239, &c. 250, &c. A Tafte in
Morals, Life. i.355. iii. 176, &c. (See Sense, Nose.)
Moral Tate on Soula book acquired
Taste in inward Beauty and Characters, founded in Nature.
i.336. iii.303
True Take or Fudament in life hoon gain'd i 228 0
True Taste or Judgment in Life, bow gain'd. i. 338, 9.
Lies in our own power. iii. 186
Virtuolo-Taste. i. 135
Ruin of Taste from Multiplicity of Reading. i. 342, &c.
Tafte barbariz'd. 1.344
Reformation of Tafte, great Work. i. 354
Good Taste in the polite World. iii. 154, &c.
TAYLOR, Biftop, cited. i. 99, 100. iii. 40, 41, 318, &c.
326, 7
Temper, the truly divine. i. 37. Best or worst in Man. ii. 96.
What makes a good Tomber is and an The fitted
What makes a good Temper. ii. 114, 15, 17. The fittest
Temper for Judgment. 1.12, 32, 3
Temperance: bow valuable. ii. 248, &c. Set in opposition to
Avarice and Ambition. 11.251, 2
TERENCE. i. 334. iii. 184, 263
Terra Incognita. i.344. iii. 210
Test: Religious Tests, Problems, &c. i. 60, 61. See Symbol,
Creed
Test of Ridicula in 20 22 62 (See Criterion) Test of
Test of Ridicule. i. 11, 30, 31, 61. (See Criterion.) Test of
Gravity.
Testimony, buman. 1.45, 148. ii.331. Divine. ii. 333, 4
Theater. See Stage-Play.
Theism: bow it tends to promote Virtue. ii.71, 2. Compar'd
in that respect with Atheism. ii.72, &c. Theism to what
oppos'd. ii. 209. Faith of Theism. ii. 358
Theist: the Belief of a perfett Theist. ii. 11. Theists, nominal,
real. ii. 267, &c.
G g 2 Theogony.

INDEA.
Theogony, Theology, Heathen and Christian. i. 359, &c. See Divinity.
Theology. i. 359
Thinking: Free-Thinking. iii. 297, &c. Free-Thinkers. ibid.
Half-Thinkers, a forry Species. iii. 300. Dishonesty a
Half-Thought. iii. 297, &c. Under-thinking, or Short-
thinking, its Nature, Cause and Consequences. iii. 301, &c.
See Scepticifm.
Thorns: Grapes not from Thorns. i. 286
Thought, whether able to produce Matter. ii. 296, 7
THUCYDIDES. iii. 247
TIBERIUS. i. 105
TILLOTSON (Archbishop) cited. iii.329, &c.
Time, Points of; the Judgment of Hercules capable of being
divided into three. iii.350. The proper Circumstances of
each. iii. 251. Objections against a fourth. ibid.
Time, a future, may be express'd by enigmatical Devices.
111. 353
Tire-men. i.84
Title of a Work, last determin'd.
Titles. 1. 203, 4
Toilette, a General's.
Toleration, (See Persecution, Liberty) when and on what
account oppos'd. iii. 110, 11. When admir'd and recom-
mended. ibid. See Charity.
Top (Child's Top) i. 187. Works without Top or Bottom. See
Works.
Tragedy, Genius of. i. 218, 19. (See Euripides.) Prior to
Comedy. i. 244, &c. iii. 140, 41
Tragedy, modern: Love and Honour. i. 276. (See Play,
Theater.) English Tragedy. iii. 61, 2. Moral and Virtue
of Tragedy. i. 317, 18. iii. 309
Tragi-Comedy. iii. 7
Tragick Aspect of certain Divines. i. 66, 74
TRAJAN. i. 228
Traveller, or Travel-Writer in form. i. 346, 7. History of
certain travelling Gentlemen. iii. 99, &c.
Treachery: Negative Vice. ii. 167
Treatise. See Piece.
Trial. See Proof, Criterion, Test.
Tribe: Formation of a Clan or Tribe. i. 110, 11. Of federate
Tribes, mixt Colonys, &c. ibid. and 236, &c.
Trustee. See Guardian.
Provability III I also an an an an an in District a Tinks

Truth bears all Lights. i. 11, 30, 31, 61. — Ridicule, a Light, or Criterion to Truth. i. 61. Truth injur'd by over-much Discovery. i. 62. Face of Truth suffers by Masks. i. 84, 5

Truth

# INDEX. Truth (See Beauty) powerful. i. 4. Principal even in Fable and Fiction. ibid. Poetick Truth. i. 142, &c. 193, &c.

336, 7, 354, 5. iii. 180, &c. 259, &c. 282. Plastick or Graphical Truth. i. 146. iii. 181. Historical, Critical, Moral, Philosophical and Religious Truth. ibid. and iii. 181, &c. (See Revelation, History.) Magna, & prævalebit. 1. 148 Truth of Work. i. 261, &c. Truth of Asions. ibid. Verum atque Decens. iii. 162. Strength of Perception no fure Ground of Truth. iii. 68 Truth, Historical, to give way to Poetick or Probable in Painting. iii. 372, 3, 5 Truth, Poetick, presupposes Prognostication. iii. 354 TURKS. i. 26. Turkish Policy, destructive of Letters. i. 226. iii. 235 Turn. See Vicissitude. Tutor. See Pedagogue. Tutor and Pupil. i. 211. The Age not to be tutor'd. i. 67 Tyranny. i. 107. Worship'd. i. 219. See Absolute, Arbitrary, Force. iii. 37 Tyro's in Philosophy. II. Ndermining or Sapping Method in Wit and Philosophy. Understanding and Eyes fitted to so much Light, and no more. i.62. Plot of Mankind against their own Understanding. iii. 101, &c. Uniformity in Religion, bopeful Project. i.19. How practiiii. 89, 90, 103, 4, 6, 318, 19, 343 Unity in the Universe. Universe. ii. 212. iii. 224 University-Wit. i. 64. See Pedant. University-Learning. ii. 286, 298, 334, &c. University-Chair. ii. 258. iii. 287 Modern Universitys not very fortunate in the Education of Youth. i. 333, &c. Urbanity. 1.72 V. 7 Anity. i. 206 VARRO. 111. 234, 280 VENUS: the Venus, Venustum, or Grace in Things. i. 138, 337. See Decorum. Every one a VENUS. i. 138, 9 Vice: Artifice of Vice. i. 174. Vice in Opinion. ii. 34, 5. Causes of Vice. ii. 40. Most essential Part of Vice. ii. 97,8 Vice. See Slavery. Vicishtude: Law of Discourse and Conversation.

View.

View. See Sight.
Virgil. i. 46, 7. ii. 223, 343. iii. 233
Virtue, Honesty, and Justice in Nature; not from Will or
Law, i. 100, 252. Nothing to do with Falkion or
Vogue, ibid. and ii. 25. Independent of Opinion, and
above the World. i. 262. Virtue, the Truth and Sym-
metry of Manners. See Symmetry, Musick, Harmony,
Proportion.
Beauty of Virtue. i. 140
Virtue, Fashion and Name only in the Sense of some fashionable
Moralists. i. 80, 92, 124, &c. 352 Less a Sufferer
by being contested than betray'd. i. 96, 7. Over-laid by
its Nurses. ibid. Under-prop'd. ibid. Forfeited. ii. 34.
Trial of Virtue. ii. 36, 7. Degrees of Virtue. ii. 38, 9.
Causes of Virtue. ii. 40. Virtue degraded and defac'd. ii.
254, 5. See Religion.
Virtue made mercenary. i. 97. Heroick Virtue. i. 101
Virtue and Morals demonstrated. See in Vol. II. Treatise IV.
and in Vol. III. pag. 194, &c.
Virtue incapable of being ridicul'd. i. 128, 9. See Jest, Rail-
lery, Ridicule.
Virtue, ber Figure in the Piece. iii. 364. To be drawn stand-
ing. iii. 362. How habited. iii. 363. Her proper Atti-
tude. iii. 364. Her Palace not to be inserted. iii. 377
Virtuofi. iii. 156, &c. 182, ii. 183, 394. Mock-Virtuofo, or
Virtuosi. iii. 156, &c. 182. ii. 183, 394. Mock-Virtuoss, or Pedant of the kind.  Virtuosi and Philosophers compar'd.  iii. 156, &c.
Virtuofi and Philosophers compar'd. iii. 156, &c.
Virtuofo-Lovers. i. 137, 185, 6. ii. 183, 394
Virtuoso-Passion. iii. 184
Virtuoso-Tafte. See Tafte.
Virtuofoship, a step towards Virtue. 1. 333. iii. 161. Science
of Virtuoso, and that of Virtue, almost the same. i. 338
Visionarys: See Fanaticks.
VITRUVIUS. iii. 181
Volunteer in Faith. i. 6. In Morals. i. 194
Vossius (Is.) de Viribus Rhythmi. iii. 263
W.
AR: Passion of Heroick Spirits, why? i. 112, 13. England Seat of War, whence fear'd. iii. 148, 9
VV England Seat of War, whence fear'd. iii. 148, 9
117 1 . 1

VAR: Passion of Heroick Spirits, why? i. 112, 13.
England Seat of War, whence fear'd. iii. 148, 9
Watch-maker.
Watch-word in Divinity.
Whitchall, when to be rebuilt, a noble Subject for Architecture.
iii. 400, 401

Whole. A Whole and Parts. i. 143, 207. ii. 284. iii. 259. The Whole, a System compleat. ii. 286, 7. iii. 348

Will, Freedom of. i. 185. Resolution and Will, a Nose of Wax. ibid. Top or Foot-ball. i. 187. Will infur'd, afcertain'd. ibid. Readiness to obey the first Motion of Will, is Impotence and Slavery. ii. 231 Will and Power no Rule of Good or Just. i. 107, 124. See Arbitrary. Will (Testament) Power and Practice of the Priesthood, in making Peoples Wills. iii. 79, 88 Wisdom, in permitting Folly. 1.13, 14. Wisdom as well as Charity begins at home. 1. 180 Wife-men of Greece. Wit: mere or sheer Wit. iii. 2, 3. Mannerly Wit can burt no honest Cause. i. 96. Orthodox Wit. iii. 291. Lay-Wit. ibid. Bottom of Wit enlarg'd. iii. 4. Lineage of Wit. See Lineage. Separate Provinces of Wit and Wisdom. iii. 6. Generation and Succession of our National and Modern Wit. iii. 260. Freedom of Wit, a Cure to false Wit. i. 19, 64. Liberty of Wit. i. 69. See Liberty, Freedom. Liberty of Wit and Trade parallel. i. 69. False Wit, how prov'd. i. 74. Men frighted, not laugh'd out of their Wits. 1.06 Wit and Humour. See Treatise II. viz. Vol. I. pag. 59, &c. and iii. 97, &c. Wits or Poets, Offspring of. iii. 274. Wits by Patent. ibid. Stratagem of affected Wits. 111.300 Witches. i. 148 Wolf: Silly Comparison of Man and Wolves. i.88, 93, 118. ii. 320 Women. See Sex, Lady. Women Spectators, Judges of Combats, Duels, Amphitheatrical Spectacles, Masculine Games. i. 272, &c. ii. 195. Judges of the State, and Poetical Performance. i. 271, &c. Flattery of their Taste by Poets. i. 271, 76. iii. 259, 60 Silly Women won by Preachers. 1.348, 9. For sake courteous Knights for black Enchanters. ibid. Follow the Hero of a black Tribe. Women who live by Prostitution. ii. 128 . Wonder, Wonderment. i. 144, &c. ii. 324, &c. See Admi-

Work. (See Piece.) Truth of Work.

i. 261, &c.

Works without Head or Tail, Beginning or End. i. 145, 6.

iii. 8, 25. What contributes to the Perfection of a Work.

ii. 186

Workman. See Artifan.

World, iii. 33. See Universe.

ration.

Worship,

INDEX.
Worship, vitious. ii. 35
Worth and Baseness acknowledg'd. ii. 420, 21
Wrestler. i. 193
Writer. See Author.
Antient Writer de Mundo. iii. 263, 4
Just Writer, an able Traveller, or Horseman. iii 26. Mo-
dern Writers: their Foundation, Polity, State, Mystery. iii.
2, 3, &c. 272, &c. See-saw of modern Writers. iii. 26.
Post-way. ibid.
Writings: See Memoir, Essay, Miscellany.
Writing: Fastionable Model of Writing. iii. 25. See Correct-
neis, Incorrectneis, Critick, Penmen.
Wrong: Right and Wrong, what. ii. 31, &c. See Right,
Virtue.
and the land of th
Course Product of Mr. W. Street Line Course
XENOCRATES.  i. 252, 3  XENOPHON. i. 334. iii. 248. His Commentarys.
AENOPHON. 1.334. III. 248. His Commentarys.
i. 224. His Genius, Character, Style. 1. 254, 5. iii. 248
Z. wedling of All
Fal and Knavery. i. 132, 3. ii. 325. iii. 125. Impru-ii. 68
Zeal, Compound of Superstition and Enthusiasm. iii. 39. Of-
fensive and Defensive. iii. 82, 3, 6, &c. See Bigotry,
Perfecution
Amorous Zeal. iii. 38
Zealots, bear no raillery. i. 60. Pretend to railly others. i. 61.
Character of modern Zealots. iii. 218, 19 Zealot-Writers, their Grimace. i. 65, 6.—Picture. ibid.
Zealot-Writers, their Grimace. i. 65, 6. Picture. ibid.
Affectation of Pleasantry and Humour. ibid. and iii. 291.
Character of a Zealot Author. i. 67. Anti-Zealots. i. 91.
iii. 64, 5.
Zealous Charity for the Conversion of our Neighbour, how far
suspicious. 111. 107, 8, 110, 11

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