

Letters from a Moor at London to his friend at Tunis. Containing an account of his journey through England. With his observations on the laws, customs, religion, and manners of the English nation. Likewise remarks on the publick charities, with curious memoirs relating to the life of Mr. Sutton, founder of the Charter-House. A description of Bedlam. With serious reflections on self-murder. The whole interspersed with historical remarks and useful observations.

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LETTERS

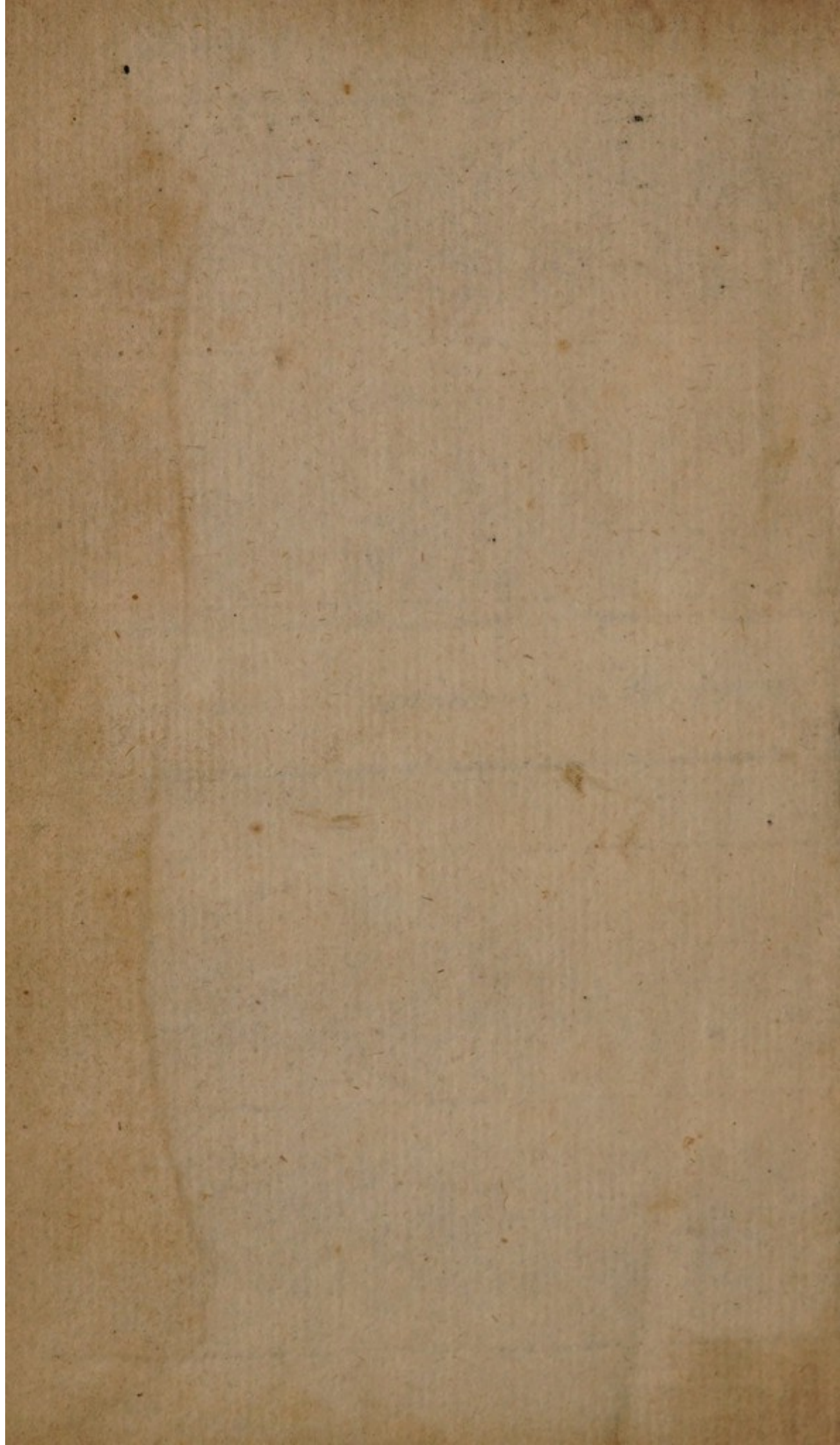
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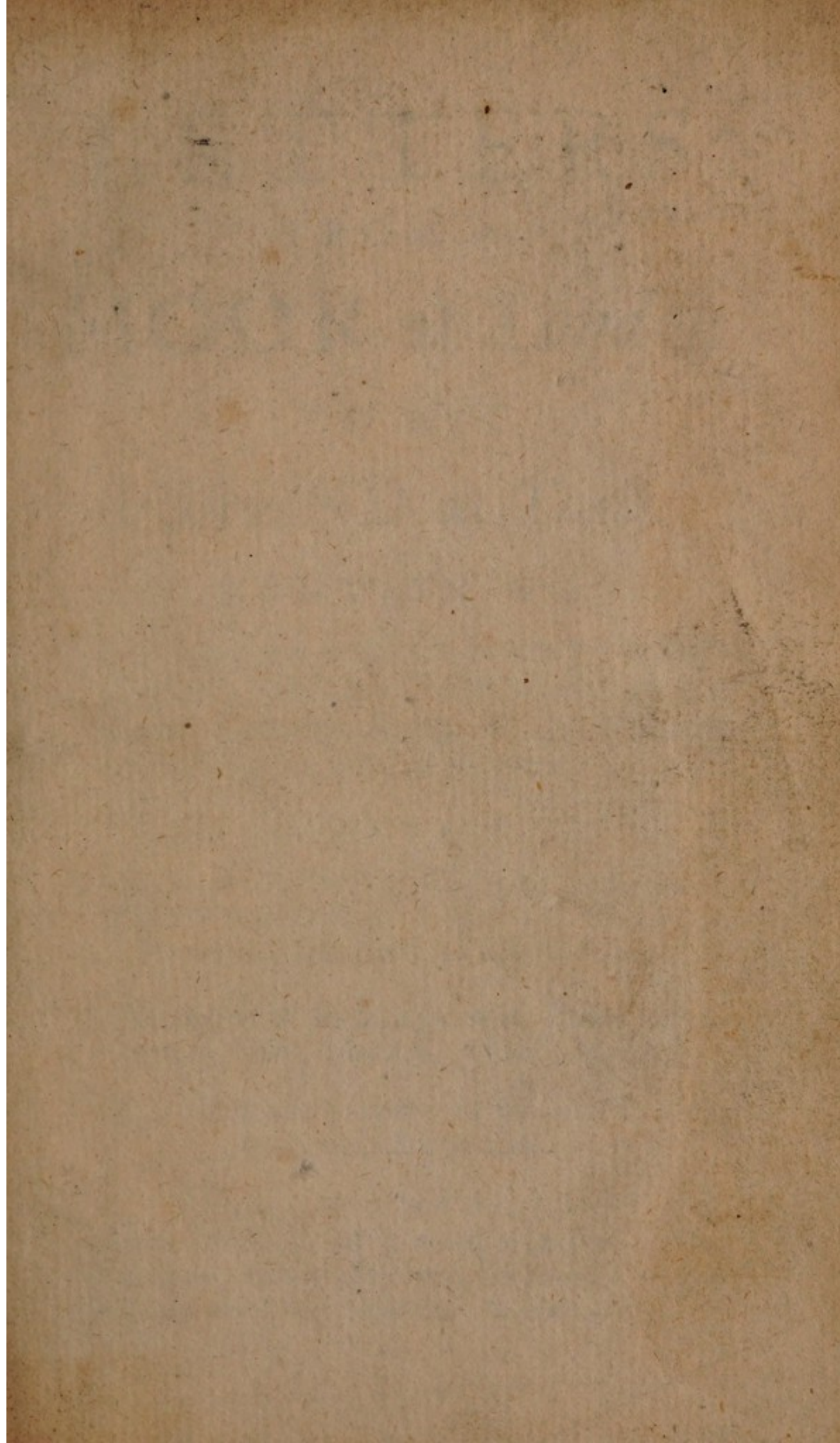
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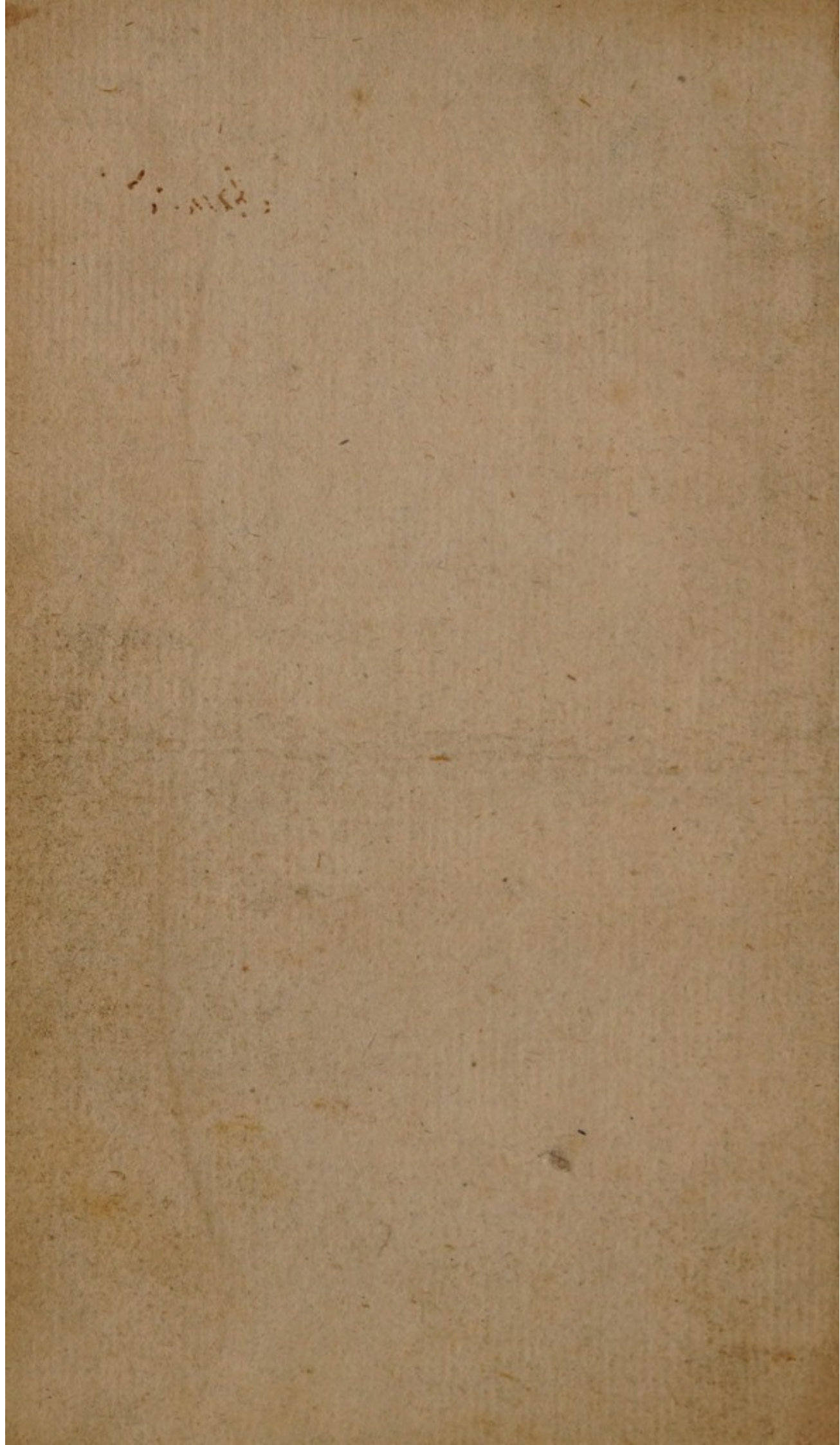
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17992

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LETTERS
FROM A *James Davison*
MOOR at *London*
TO HIS
FRIEND at *Tunis*.

C O N T A I N I N G

An Account of his Journey through
England, with his Observations on the
Laws, Customs, Religion, and Manners
of the ENGLISH NATION.

L I K E W I S E

Remarks on the Publick Charities, with curious
Memoirs relating to the Life of Mr. SUTTON,
Founder of the CHARTER-HOUSE.

A Description of BEDLAM, with serious Reflec-
tions on Love, Madness, and Self-Murder.

The whole interspersed with Historical Remarks
and useful Observations.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BATLEY and J. WOOD, at the *Dove* in *Pater-*
Noster-Row ; and RICHARD WELLINGTON, at the *Dol-*
phin and Crown without *Temple-Bar*. M.DCC.XXXVI.

LETTER
FROM
MOOR at London
1792
TO HIS
FRIEND at York





LETTER I

S I R,



THE tempestuous weather we met with at sea, made me despair of ever seeing my own, or any other country ; but after a long and dangerous voyage I am at last arrived safe at London. The distance of time since I left you, has, I fear, almost made you forget me. I would have sent to you much sooner, if I could have entertain'd you with something worth perusing ; but you may easily imagine I must be some time in a strange country before I could presume to send you any tolerable account of the manners and customs of the People. There are innumerable more difficulties in travelling than are imagin'd : at one's
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first setting out, we then think of nothing but pleasure and delight; but were it not for the novelties one meets with to divert the mind, the fatigues would be intolerable. Strange customs, religion and laws, the manner of diet, the loss of the Society of one's intimate friends, makes one seem in a desert amidst thousands of People. But I begin now to be a little acquainted, and can converse in the English language to be understood. My chief employment is in learning the nature of the English constitution, and the manners of the People. In compliance therefore with your request and my promise, I here send you the best account I am able of the kingdom of England. I shall neither burthen you with trifles, nor omit any thing material; the country abounds with so much diversity, that I shall be ever sending something new. I expect you will send me a particular account of the Transactions at home; for notwithstanding I here meet with occurrences which daily employ my thoughts, yet the impression my dear native country and friends has made in my mind, will always find the first place. When I consider the ties of friendship, the many agreeable hours of conversation, the topics upon which we us'd to discourse, and what infinite Satisfaction I receiv'd, makes me at some times like a child wean'd from the breast; my spirits as it were sink within me, and seem to languish and pine after their native air. But reason assists me in these melancholy hours, refreshes my drooping soul, and soon makes me alive again. I am conscious my time will not
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be lost, and all my toil and labour will be rewarded, by the knowledge and experience I shall gain ; which will afford me an infinite satisfaction, when Providence, who guides and directs us, shall vouchsafe to send me a safe return to my dear friends and native country.

I PROCEED now to give you some account of England, and did intend to begin with the city of London ; but I have since alter'd my resolution. In this Letter therefore you'll find some account of its ancient inhabitants, climate, government, and titles of honour enjoy'd by the present inhabitants, with such necessary observations as shall occur to my mind.

I have taken a great deal of pains to inform my self concerning the original of the English people ; but all to no purpose ; for there are such diversity of opinions upon this subject, that none are to be depended upon ; some imagine them to be originally created here ; but their religion instructing them, that there was once an universal deluge, in which the whole world was destroy'd, except a man call'd Noah, and his family, they from thence conclude, all nations in the world are descended from this Noah and his sons, and of course the people of this island ; for you must understand, that the Christians, though at so wide a distance from the Jews in opinion, yet acknowledge the Jewish traditions ; I take much delight in searching into the mysteries of religion ; and shall hereafter communicate such strange accounts as will astonish you ; but you must wait with patience till then, because what I intend to

write will be from my own knowledge and observation.

THE English, or British people before the Roman conquest, were rude and barbarous ; they painted their bodies, and covered their nakedness with plates of iron, which was more esteemed by them than gold to other nations. They were governed by several kings, one independent on the other. They worshipped various deities, and are said to have had recourse to unclean spirits to gratify their private revenge. They sacrificed human flesh, which ceremony was performed by their Druids or Priests, whose office was much rever'd. They were the instructors of youth, the interpreters of sacred rites ; and their decisions in all controversies and offences were deem'd sacred ; those who refus'd obedience to their decrees, lost their privileges, and were excommunicated the Church. They had no ceremony of marriages ; living together in common ; but this custom was observ'd, that the man who had a maid's virginity was the reputed father of all the children she bore. They were brave in war, not apt to quarrel, impatient of injuries, and resolute in revenging them. Their habits were generally made of skins, and huts their habitations. Thus much for the ancient Britains.

THE English are now a very polite people, of excellent conversation, good learning and sense, much addicted to melancholy and self-murder, of which I shall hereafter speak more at large ;
they

they delight much in dress, and envy each other's greatness, from the highest to the lowest ; they are very stubborn, insomuch that the children will undergo severe beating, and not be made to acknowledge a fault at last. This temper is sometimes attended with ill effects among the poorer sort of people ; for rather than submit they'll lose their livelihood. They are stout soldiers, if they have good provisions, but very dead-hearted when in want : They are in general rich, and of course luxurious. They have much show of religion without practice, and notwithstanding the kingdom abounds with innumerable temples, it is esteem'd witty and pleasant conversation to ridicule their Deity. Let these general observations satisfy you for the present, I shall now proceed to give you a description of the country.

ENGLAND is divided from Scotland by the rivers Tweed and Solway. It is surrounded with Water ; from Weymouth, in the county of Dorset, to Berwick upon Tweed, the last town in England, it is about 280 miles long ; and from St. David's Head in the county of Pembroke, to Yarmouth in Norfolk, 260 miles broad. It is of a triangular Form, and in circumference about 1000 miles.

It is divided again into two Parts, *viz.* England and Wales ; for notwithstanding the Welshmen are govern'd by English laws, they retain their original language to this Day. The Severn, a large and navigable river, divides the two countries ; tho' anciently it is said to be divided by a large ditch eighty miles long, dug by Offa king of

the Mercians. No Welshman was to pass this ditch on pain of losing his right-hand.

ENGLAND is situated in a delightful and temperate climate, the summers not too searhing, nor the winters too cold ; it is well watered with rivers, many of which are navigable, as the Thames, the Severn, &c. it has frequent and pleasant showers of rain, which makes the earth very fertile ; and no labour is wanting to improve nature by the English husbandmen ; land, which not many years since was woods and almost deserts, is now either pasture or arable ; fens and marshy grounds are made capable of producing great crops of grain ; and in a dry season the farmers of them get great profit. Notwithstanding the vast increase of people in this kingdom, were it not for the great quantities of wheat which are exported, its price would be so low, as to render the farmers incapable of paying their rents. Pasture lands have been likewise wonderfully improved ; the number of cattle in this kingdom, is almost incredible, were one not an eye witness. I shall not wonder to hear you doubt the truth of it ; for there is no nation in the world produces the like quantity ; and it may very justly be said, that no people whatever eat so much flesh as Englishmen. The chief grain produced here, is wheat, rye, barley, oats, pease, beans, and tares ; the chief cattle for eating are oxen and sheep. Fish is likewise plentiful, both from the fresh and salt water ; such as Cod, haddock, turbut, plaice, flounders, &c. as are in the fresh water, salmon, trout, perch, barbel, eels, roch, dace, gudgeons, carp,

carp, and tench, with many other sorts, which are very delicate ; and abundance of shell-fish. Here is also venison, but it is either upon the King's-chases or forests, or confin'd to the parks and enclosures of the nobility and gentlemen of large estates ; which makes it very dear. Here are plenty of fowl both tame and wild, as partridges, pheasants, woodcocks, snipes, ducks, teal, widgeon, &c. and for tame fowls, there are turkeys, geese,, ducks, pidgeons, &c. in short, the country abounds with every thing necessary for the support and pastime of its inhabitants. Excellent horses are bred here, whether we consider them for swiftness, beauty, or labour. The latter sort are of infinite service in conveying goods in the inland country ; for tho' here are several navigable rivers, yet in many places the people are obliged to have their goods sent them by land carriage, which makes this city abound with very commodious inns for the reception of carriers ; the different counties being chiefly supplied with necessaries from London, which is a sort of Magazine to the whole kingdom. Here are abundance of stage-coaches, for the convenience of travellers ; there being scarce a town of note in the kingdom, but has a stage belonging to it ; such a number of carriers and stages must therefore necessarily require abundance of able horses, which the people take great care to breed ; and there are several fairs where the dealers buy them, prrticularly one every week in London, which is kept in a spacious place, call'd Smith-field.

You would be surpriz'd to see how the gentlemen admire the horses bred for swiftness ; more care being taken for the support of them than for many poor families ; and by the excessive delight I have observ'd some gentlemen take in them, it is much to be doubted whether the loss of a favourite horse would not cause more grief than the loss of a wife or an only son. These creatures afford the nobility and gentry great diversion during the summer season. The vast sums of money depending on their swiftness, renders it deserving the title of, *The game of horse race* ; there is no game more destructive than this ; tradesmen pursue it, and ruin pursues them.

The earth in many places is well stor'd with mines of lead, tin, iron, and some of silver. The tin mines are very serviceable to this kingdom, and the Profits arising from them very considerable. Here are likewise great plenty of coal mines. In these mines or pits vast numbers of people are employed ; they are a sort of subterraneous creatures, being the greatest part of their lives bury'd under ground ; and run great hazards of losing their lives ; you may imagine something of the nature of these mines, and the lives of those who work in them, from the following narration, which is an incontestible truth.

ON Friday the 17th of November, 1735, as Joseph Smith, aged upwards of sixty, Edward Peacock, Abraham Peacock his son, all of the parish of Beeton, and Thomas Hemins, of Mangotsfield, all coal-miners, were wedging out the
coal

coal in a coal-mine, near Mile-hill in King's-wood, (rented by lease of Thomas Chester, Esq; by Joseph Jefferies, Edward Willmot, and Thomas Nash) on a sudden a prodigious torrent of water bursted out of a vein, that all of them were in immediate danger of death, not knowing whither to go to escape their dreaded fate, for want of their lights, which were all extinguished by the water, every man therefore shifted for himself as providence directed him. Such was their consternation and horror, that go which way they would, danger was near them, either of drowning or breaking their necks, the mine being sixteen fathom deep, with many slants and craggy places. In this distress they crawl'd, sometimes on their hands and knees, from place to place to avoid the water; and getting to a rising ground, they continued there some time, when proceeding farther, they at length came to what they call in the mines a hatching, a high slant from whence coal had been dug, and in which the boy had secured himself, making lamentable moan, and giving himself up to death. The three men came together by calling to each other. In their way to the hatchin Joseph Peacock found a bit of beef and a crust of bread, weighing as they suppos'd in all about four ounces, which they equally divided. The boy's situation being the most secure, they continued there to the time of their relief, and made the boy fetch them water in his Hat, as best knowing the way, which was but a poor little by the time he return'd with it; but the water falling considerably, it became so

dangerous to have a supply, that the boy could not be prevailed on to fetch any more, which forced them to the necessity of drinking their own urine, and chew some chips, which Joseph Smith had cut from a coal-basket he accidentally found ; which being all gone, and the old man losing his knife, they could get no more from this basket. Being all ready to perish for want of moisture, Joseph Smith chew'd a piece of his shoe, which not answering his end, he took a resolution of endeavouring to come at the water ; in which attempt he tumbled twice, and would have been drown'd each time, had not Edward Peacock ventured to save him. What with the heat of the place they were in, the sinell of their urine, the nauseous fumes of their own bodies, their want of water, meat, &c. during so long a time, cannot be look'd upon otherwise than a miracle at their being alive. One would think it impossible four persons should sustain life after so long a hardship, and with only the small portion of four ounces of meat and bread.

TOWARDS the close of their deplorable misery, which was till Monday the 17th of November 1735, ten days from the bursting of the Vein, they were taken out of their dismal cell ; the old man, Joseph Smith, began to yield to nature, and grew delirious ; and indeed the rest gave over all hopes of relief, and began to decline too by weakness ; tho' being healthy young persons could have held out several days longer.

AT the first bursting of the vein, there were four other boys in the same mine, but being at what
they

they call the tip of the work, and hearing the noise of the water, made the best of their way to a rope, crying to the people on the surface to pull them up, which was not so speedy but the water was at the last boy's heels, who as the other three were haling up, catch'd hold of one of his companion's feet, and all got safe to the top.

THIS being nois'd in the neighbouring hamlets, great numbers of people resorted daily to the pit, and divers colliers ventur'd down at different times, in order to relieve their unfortunate brethren; but perceiving a black damp in the work, which they reckon the most dangerous, and admitting of no lighted candle, were as often obliged to return, till providence had ordered others to a more successful attempt, viz. Sampson Phipps, Thomas Somers, Moses Reynolds, and Thomas Smith, son to old Joseph Smith, who prudently carried down a parcel of coals on fire, which so draughted the damp, that they got their miserable brethren, except Thomas Bolison, who was all the time missing and suppos'd to be drowned.

WHEN they were brought into the open air, their sight entirely failed them for some time, and were all weak and feeble; but after having some comfortable refreshment, they all walk'd to their respective homes, to the great surprize of the people present.

BEING told the long time of their calamity, they were under a consternation, not thinking it had been above five or six days.

THE morning of their never-to-be-forgotten preservation, Thomas Smith, son to old Joseph Smith,

Smith, intended to bespeak a coffin for his father and his mother had made preparation for his funeral. You must excuse the formality of this relation, it being of a very particular nature.

THERE are many thousand people, whose whole support depends upon the coal-trade; and the great number of ships employed, are a sort of nursery to the royal navy of England.

THE English government is form'd upon the finest model in the world; it is an hereditary limited monarchy, and govern'd by laws and customs of its own making. A wise and good king reigns with pleasure; his Subjects contributing with a ready mind to the support of his honour and dignity: If a foreign prince was to menace or insult a British king, the whole nation would be in flames, to revenge the injury. A certain prince in Europe, whose obligations to the English nation are well known, is sensible of this truth.

IF a king on the other hand, endeavours to destroy or even infringe on the liberties of the subject, he becomes the most miserable of men. His people then become obstinate, and so far from granting extraordinary supplies, will not grant necessary ones. He is hated, his court abandoned by men of spirit and honour, and none but flatterers, fools, and base cowards attend him. The spirit of the English people plainly discovers itself, by taking a short view of the reign of king Charles the first; that prince, tho' in himself, a good and pious man, yet by a few wrong steps in government, and opposing and dissolving

solving his parliaments, embarras'd the nation in a domestic bloody war, and himself at last fell a sacrifice. His unhappy son, king James the second, contrary to the advice of his elder brother Charles the second, and the fatal consequence which attended his father, run into the most destructive schemes which could possibly be form'd ; priests were his counsellors, Rome his darling, and bigotry destroyed his reason. His subjects grew jealous, of their liberties ; they plainly perceiving the constitution in danger of being subverted, form'd themselves into bodies, invited the prince of Orange, who marry'd king James's daughter ; he accepted the invitation ; ran the hazard of the Seas, sav'd this kingdom from destruction ; the father-in-law abdicates, the prince of Orange is made king, tyranny is destroy'd and liberty restor'd. Thus the man who governed so great a people lived to hear himself branded with the character of a run-a-way, and saw another in possession of a kingdom he might with honour have enjoyed.

IN this revolution of government no blood was spilt, nor any cruelties exercis'd ; the Prince of Orange however at his first landing was somewhat terrified, the English gentlemen not joining him so soon as he expected, and the unhappy fate of the duke of Monmouth being still fresh in his Memory, created in him much uneasiness.

NOTWITHSTANDING he was invited here by the Voice of the Nation to protect them in their ancient rights and privileges, and must have fell a sacrifice to King James, had the English prov'd

prov'd faithless; yet a late famous Historian *Of his own Times*, Dr. Gilbert Burnet, bishop of Salisbury, endeavour'd to prove his *Right of Conquest*; for which he was very much censured, and the discourse in which he endeavoured to prove it was burnt by the common hangman.

IN this the true Spirit of the English plainly discovered itself; for where would have been the difference between submitting to the arbitrary power of King James, and the conquest of the Prince of Orange? King James acted at least under the shadow of law, but a Conqueror imposes what laws he pleases upon his captives, and makes them submit to the yoke of slavery; for can there be greater slaves than a conquer'd people? Thus much for the politicks and religion of bishop Burnet.

THE Kings of England have great homage shewn them by their subjects; they stile themselves in the plural number, *We*; they are spoke to by the title of *Your Majesty*, and *Sir*. They are serv'd on the knee, and have all the honour paid them which can possibly be imagin'd. Their persons are so sacred, that it is High Treason to conspire or imagine their death: even to kill any of their chief officers, as the Judges executing their office, or to counterfeit the King's coin or seal, is deemed High Treason. For the better security of their persons, they have cup-bearers, carvers, and other sworn officers to be their tasters; likewise guards, both horse and foot, to watch and attend their Royal persons both night and day, who are the most compleat and best cloath'd

cloath'd men which perhaps any King in Europe can boast of ; and great care is taken by his present Majesty to prevent their receiving any abuse : which makes them perform their duty, and preserve their Sovereign, not as mercenary troops, but as faithful servants and loyal subjects. In case of sickness, no physick out to be given their kings, without mature advice ; and every subject is bound to defend and protect their royal persons with both life and fortune.

At the coronation of a King, he is anointed with oil, and invested with a priestly garment, and made capable of spiritual jurisdiction, and is an external Bishop of the Church, supreme Pastor of England, and Defender of the Faith. He has not only the right of ecclesiastical government, but hath also the tenths and first fruits of all spiritual livings.

THE King, by his royal prerogative, and without act of parliament, hath power to make war or peace, contract leagues, and send ambassadors ; to grant commissions, to dispose of ships of war, ammunitions, castles, fortresses, magazines, ports, havens, &c. He has power to coin money, and may by his letters patents erect new bishopricks, universities, colleges, hospitals, and free schools ; he may grant charters to cities or towns, and endue them with particular privileges. He may erect new courts of judicature where he pleases, make forests, chases, &c. may grant letters of mart, call, prorogue, adjourn, and dissolve parliaments at his royal pleasure ; tho' this last use of his power is attended with fatal effects,

fects, as has been before observ'd. He is the fountain of honour, he creates nobility and makes gentry. He appoints all his officers both for sea and land, also magistrates, bishops, and other officers of church and state. He hath power to pardon criminals, after being capitally convicted by a due course of law.

THE power of the King being thus extensive, and too much to be executed by any one man; his Majesty therefore appoints some of his most worthy and faithful subjects to be his Privy Counsellors, who meet twice a week, *viz.* Sundays and Thursdays; every one there gives his opinion concerning national affairs. They are sworn to the utmost of their powers and abilities truly to advise and counsel the King, and to keep secret his Majesty's counsels. But lest there should be some traitors among them, the King selects a few out of these, which is call'd a cabinet counsel, in whom his Majesty confides in a more particular manner.

THE King's court is freed from the jurisdiction of any other except that of the lord steward; and in his absence to the treasurer and comptroller of the King's household, with the steward of the marshalsea, who by virtue of their offices may hear and determine treason, felony, and all misdemeanours committed within the court. The King's palace is deemed so sacred, that no insolencies are suffered therein. Striking is not only forbidden, but attended both with corporal and pecuniary punishments; if blood be drawn, the right hand is to be cut off,

off, the execution of which is performed with great ceremony, in the following manner; the sergeant of the King's wood-yard brings to the place of execution a square block, a beetle, staple, and cords to fasten the hand; the yeoman of the scullery provides a great fire of coals by the block, where the searing irons, brought by the chief farrier, are to be ready for the chief surgeon; cold water and vinegar are brought by the groom of the faucery; the chief officers of the pantry and cellar are likewise to be ready, one with a cup of red wine, and the other with a manchet, to offer the criminal. The sergeant of the ewry is to bring linnen to wind about the arm; the yeoman of the poultry brings a cock to lay it on, the yeoman of the chandlery sear'd cloths, the master cook a sharp dresser-knife, which at the place of execution is to be held upright by the sergeant of the larder, till execution be perform'd by an officer appointed for that purpose. After this the criminal shall be punished during life, and fin'd at the King's pleasure.

THE dominions of the king of England are at present very large, for besides the kingdoms of England and Scotland, or Great Britain, and Ireland, there are many islands adjacent, as the isles of Orkney, or Orcades, in number thirty-two, which are seated against the northern cape of Scotland; the isles of Shetland, also under the Scottish dominions. The Hebrides in number 44, seated westward of Scotland. The Sorlings lying in the western cape of Cornwall. The Sporades

Sporades, being several isles dispersed about the British seas; the chief of these are, Man, seated betwixt England, Scotland and Ireland; Jersey and Garnsey, on the French coast; Wight adjoining to Hantsire; Portland, part of Dorsetshire; Stepeholms and Flathom in Somersetsire; Aibbre in Cheshire; Denny in Monmouthshire; Cadley in Pembrokehire; Anglesey, which is one of the Welsh counties; Sheppey in Kent: Northey, Ofey, and Horsey in Essex; Ferne, Cocket, and Holy-Isle in Northumberland; with many others. In America he has very large dominions; as Virginia, Maryland, New-York, New-England, Newfoundland, Carolina, Georgia; all these are on the continent; he has likewise several isles, as Jamaica, Barbadoes, Bermudas, Antigua, &c.

THE king's revenue for the support and dignity of the crown is very great; his subjects readily granting every thing he in reason desires; by which means his power and strength is dreaded both by sea and land. No prince in Christendom dare attack him; for the loss of one battle would be their ruin, they having nothing but the Sea to fly to.

THE queen of England, during the life of the king, has as much state as any queen in Christendom; the conspiring her death, or attempting to violate her chastity, is high treason. She is the second person in the realm, and hath her court and officers apart.

THE king's eldest son is born duke of Cornwall, and enjoys all the profits of the said duchy.
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He is likewise created prince of Wales. It is high treason to conspire his death ; he has a great deal of respect shown him, as being next heir to the crown. He lives in great magnificence and splendor, and has his several officers.

THE younger sons of the king have their titles from creation not birth ; as dukes, marquises, or earls, according to the pleasure of the king.

THE daughters of the kings of England are stiled princesses ; and the title of *Royal Highness* is attributed to all the kings children ; who are much respected and honoured.

THE servants in ordinary to his majesty, are not only privileged from serving parish offices where they dwell, but are also protected from arrests and imprisonments ; but they are not by this means protected from law, and at their pleasure to take up goods, and defy their creditors to sue them for payment ; redress is to be obtain'd from the Board of Green-Cloth ; for the king himself, being the fountain of justice, and defender of his subjects rights, it is not to be suppos'd he will protect his own servants in villany.

THE degrees of honour in England are dukes, archbishops, marquises, earls, viscounts, bishops, barons, knights, esquires, and gentlemen.

THE nobles of each degree take the right of precedency according to their seniority of creation, except those who hold offices under the king ; as the lord chancellor, lord president of his majesty's council, lord privy seal, lord high chamberlain, &c.

THE

THE privileges of the English nobility are very great; their persons are freed from all arrests, outlawries, or attachments; they may in their journeys to court, being summoned thither, or to parliament by the king's writ, letter or messenger, kill one or two deer out of the king's park; and the like may be done at their return. They give not their evidence upon oath, but upon their honour. They are try'd by their own peers; with many other valuable privileges.

A DUKE is next to the king in honour; he is created by patent and cincture of sword, imposition of a cap, and coronet of gold on his head, and a verge of gold put in his hand. This dignity was at first conferred upon the most brave in war, but is now hereditary; he is stiled *The illustrious, most high and noble Prince, or his Grace*. The armoial ensigns by which they are distinguished from other nobles, is the coronet on which the helmet stands, viz. a ducal crown flowre.

ARCHBISHOPS are the next in dignity; but more particularly the archbishop of Canterbury; his title is *Primate and Metropolitan over all England*; he is stil'd *His Grace*; likewise *The most Reverend Father in God*; he has great privileges and authority; he appoints the lent-preachers, has power to keep courts of judicature concerning ecclesiastical affairs; as *the court of arches, the court of audience, the court of faculties, the prerogative court, and the court of peculiars*: he hath the power of all probats of wills, and granting letters of administration where the persons deceased has left five pounds or upwards out of the diocese.

diocese where he died. He has power to make the wills of all such persons within his province intestate, and to administer their goods either to their relations, or to pious uses, according to his own discretion. He has power to grant publick notaries, and appoint guardians; he may likewise grant to sick or ancient People dispensations to eat flesh in the time of prohibition.

A MARQUIS is created by a cincture of a sword, imposition of a cap of honour, with a coronet, and delivering of a patent into his hand. He is stil'd, *The Right Honourable*. His coronet is part flowered, and part pyramidal pearled, the flowers and pearls being of equal height.

AN earl is created by a cincture of a sword, a mantle of state put upon him by the king, with a cap and coronet upon his head, and a patent given into his hand. He is stil'd, *The Right Honourable*. His coronet is pyramidal, pointed and pearled, having flowers intermixed, but much shorter than the pearled points.

A VISCOUNT is created with the same ceremony as an earl, he is stil'd, *The Right Honourable*. His coronet is only pearled, with a close row of pearls.

BISHOPS are likewise peers of the realm; but in the reign of king Charles the second, there was a hard struggle, whether they had a right to vote in capital cases; but they at last were confirmed in their privileges; by which means the duke of York, afterwards king James the second, gain'd his point; and he requited the bishops for the

the service done him, by honouring them with the tower!

A BARON is created by patent, is stil'd, *The Right Honourable*; his coronet hath but six large pearls about it; whereas the viscounts is thick beset.

BARONETS were created by king James the first of England; they were by their institution to maintain within the province of Ulster in Ireland for three years thirty foot soldiers at eight pence a day; instead of which they now answer a thousand pound to the king, at their first creation. They bear the arms of Ulster in the most convenient place of their escutcheon. This is indeed an hereditary honour, but not entitled to the privileges of the nobility; if they sit in parliament, they are chose as commoners of England. A person who receives this honour, ought to be of good reputation and family, at least of three descents, and be possess'd of an estate of at least a thousand pound a year.

KNIGHTHOOD is a very ancient and honourable order, and is supposed to be bestowed on none but men of worth and merit; and altho' their honour dies with them; yet their heirs, tho' not worth ten pound a year, may keep greyhounds, setting dogs, and nets for taking pheasants and partridges; and are entitled to all the privileges of game; if they are in holy orders, may hold more than one benefice.

THERE are various degrees of knights, viz. knights of the garter, knights, baronets, knights of the Bath, and knights bachelors.

KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS of the garter, or of St. George, is an order of the most honour of any in England, making them companions with kings and emperors. It is the most ancient and honourable order in Christendom ; it was instituted by the victorious king Edward the third, in the twenty third year of his reign, and by him called knights of the blue garter. He appointed his successors, the kings of England, as chief, and the number to be twenty-five other knights, so that with the king, there are twenty-six ; which number is never to be increased. The solemnity of making these knights is performed at Windsor, where the great king Edward, the founder, was born ; and the ceremony is performed with great magnificence. There are belonging to this order fourteen secular canons, who are priests, thirteen vicars, and twenty-six poor knights, who are maintained by the college ; there are likewise the prelate of the garter, the chancellor of the garter, the register, the principal king at arms, called garter king at arms, and the usher of the garter. The mark of distinction they wear in common, is a blue ribbon or garter, with the figure of St. George and the dragon fix'd to it ; they likewise wear a blue garter about their leg, richly adorn'd, with these words in gold letters *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, shame be to him that evil thinks.

UPON the left side of their breast, upon their outward garment, they wear a silver star, of rich embroidery ; but on festival days they are to wear a surcoat, a mantle, a high black velvet cap,

cap, a collar of SS's, with other badges of honour and magnificence. This is an order of great esteem in foreign countries, whose kings have ever thought it an honour to be admitted into the fellowship. None under nobility were admitted into this order till of late years.

A KNIGHT Banneret is of much honour and renown, it is conferred by the king under the royal standard display'd, for some signal service performed in war.

KNIGHTS of the Bath are ancient and honourable, they are so termed on account of their bathing before the honour is conferred; they are commonly made at the coronation of a king or queen, or the installment of a prince of Wales. They wear a scarlet ribbon cross their shoulder; they are made with much ceremony; and at present the order is adorn'd with some of the principal men in the kingdom.

A KNIGHT Bachelor is a degree of honour which was anciently conferred upon those who were valiant in war, it is now frequently conferred upon those who wait on the king with congratulations upon any extraordinary occasions from the different counties; as likewise upon the sheriffs and aldermen of London; very few being lord-mayors without this honour. The ceremony is performed thus; the person to be knighted kneels down, the king puts a drawn sword on his shoulders bids him arise Sir Thomas, Sir Tobiah, Sir Aminadah, &c. according as their names are; some of these knights have an utter aversion to a drawn sword, which made one of them,

them in such haste to get from under it, that he mentioned his surname instead of his christian, and he was accordingly dubb'd Sir ---- It is an honour at present of no great repute; it is so far flighted by some gentlemen, that they avoid an opportunity of its being conferred on them.

AN esquire is an honour either made so by the king or else by birth or office. Those made by the king are supposed to have merited it for their noble parts, or some publick undertaking; those by birth are the sons of viscounts, barons, the younger sons of dukes, marquises, and earls, the eldest sons of baronets and knights; those by office, are persons in a genteel employment under the king; as also sheriffs, justices of the peace, mayors, &c. but those who have acquir'd estates are generally called esquires.

GENTLEMEN are the last degree of honour in England, they are such either by their families; or who have by industry and trade acquired a sufficient support. They are companions for any degree, even the first nobility. It is a term so much in esteem at present, that you cannot confer a greater honour upon any man, of what distinction soever, even the King himself, than to say, *He is a compleat Gentleman*; and you cannot upbraid a nobleman with a more contemptible character than to say, *He is no Gentleman*.

THE gentlemen in general are kind and humane, affable and courteous to every one; charitable in their opinions, and ready to excuse an Error; easy of access, and ready to do good offices.

I SHALL now give you a description of the common people of England, who divide themselves into a great many classes, or distinctions ; first the merchants, then the wholesale traders, shopkeepers, artificers, or mechanicks, who value themselves much upon the reputation their occupation bears among mankind, and lastly labourers and hir'd servants : the most contemptible among artificers are taylors, which I am much surpriz'd at ; for none are more useful ; they keep us from the rigour of the weather. And I have likewise observ'd several people, the English call beaux or butterflies, whose whole recommendation consists in their taylors equipment.

It has afforded me much diversion to hear artificers talk about their art, each of which will exert the honour of his profession, till blows decide the quarrel. They in fact value themselves as much upon their professions as any nobleman in the kingdom does upon his peerage.

THE merchants of England are generally as accomplish'd gentlemen as any in the kingdom ; the opportunity they have of conversing and trading, not only with their own nation, but likewise with foreigners, added to a liberal education, improves them very much ; and makes them have as general a knowledge of men and things as they have of trade.

THE shopkeepers are a gay sort of people, of a genteel education, and delight much in pleasure, of which I shall give you a more particular account in the description of London.

THE middling tradesmen, as the artificers are generally term'd, are well behav'd men, live a regular and temperate life, are very useful members to the commonwealth; and men of much integrity.

THE lowest class of the English are very brutish and barbarous, much of the nature of their Bull-dogs; they are insolent and abusive, and much addicted to ridicule and scandal; they are very treacherous to one another, insomuch that if one has entrusted his friend with a secret, the first quarrel discovers all; they are affronting to strangers; much addicted to drunkenness, it being common to see them, both men and women wallowing in the streets, and dying drunk; they laugh at the misfortunes of their neighbours, and triumph over misery; they are indeed very laborious, and in that capacity of great service to the commonwealth.

THESE are the most general observations I have hitherto made. I shall in my next give you a particular account of the city of London; which I am confident will afford you a great deal of pleasure and amusement. I wish you long life, health, and happiness; and am

Your most faithful friend,

and servant.



LETTER II.

S I R,

I Shall in this Letter fulfil my promise in giving you a description of London, which is a large and populous city, situated on a rising ground in a healthy and pleasant air, upon the banks of the river Thames ; it abounds in riches, and enjoys a great many privileges : it is a sort of kingdom within itself, being governed by officers of its own chusing, and laws of its own making ; it is of so great antiquity, that some think it was built by Brute the Trojan ; but it is in general allow'd to be rebuilt by King Lud, and by him call'd Luddestown.

THE buildings are generally very sumptuous, and the number almost incredible. But I must observe to you, that London, commonly so called, includes Westminster, which is a large city adjoining to it ; but they are generally understood as one place.

LONDON

LONDON is prodigious populous, and abounds with all things both for the necessities of life, and for the indulging pride and luxury. The merchants send to all parts of the world to bring here what the country can't produce. There are great numbers of ships continually going out and coming into the river Thames; yet it is always full, and may be properly call'd *The island of Ships*. Here I observ'd the manufactures of England in great quantities pack'd up for exportation, and the consumption is so great, that there is a business particular for packing. This consumption of their own manufactures employs great numbers of artificers, who are the most industrious people in the world; for they frequently set apart fifteen or sixteen hours out of twenty four to labour: And although the people value themselves much upon their liberty, yet they are a sort of voluntary slaves; but the profit arising from their labour, feeds their avaritious tempers, and makes their toil a pleasure.

THE river Thames is of the utmost importance, for the support and grandeur of London, as well as the preventing pestilential distempers; for there are drains or common-sewers in every part to convey the dirt and filth into the Thames, which purges itself by its constant and regular tides. Upon this river are constantly employed some thousands of watermen, who ply in little boats, for the convenience of passengers; for there is but one bridge near London; so that unless you cross the water, instead of a quarter of a mile, you must go seven or eight miles; and till

of late years there was not a bridge within ten miles of that of London, which is call'd Kingston-bridge : But now there is one about five or six miles, which is call'd Fulham or Putney-bridge, they being two villages on each shore ; and it takes its name indifferently from either of them. London-bridge is the perfect representation of a city, there being lofty houses built upon it, inhabited by variety of trades, and seems as it were to grow out of the Thames. This bridge separates London from Southwark, as likewise Middlesex from Surry. Near the bridge, or rather Grace-church-street, is a Monument of stone erected, on account of a fire which almost consum'd the whole city of London. There is an inscription upon it, which charges that dreadful conflagration upon the Roman Catholick christians ; but concerning this there are various opinions ; and therefore I shall say nothing particular. Grace-church-street is one of the most capital streets in the city, where are four cross ways, which lead to four different parts of England, viz. Bishopsgate-street, which leads to the North ; Leadenhall-street to the East ; Cornhill quite through the city to the West, and Grace-church-street to the South, where it is join'd by Thames-street, so called from its situation on the banks of the Thames, from Puddle-dock to Tower-dock, which is about a mile in length. In this street are a great many wharfs for receiving goods brought by water carriage, the chief of which are timber and coals : here are likewise several wholesale traders ; but particularly cheesemongers.

mongers. The east part is the most noted, both on account of the Custom-house, and its nearness to the ships.

IN this street is a great fish market, call'd Billingsgate, where the citizens and their wives sometimes make a jovial company to eat oysters, which are brought in great plenty. Here is likewise a sort of exchange for dealers in the coal trade, where masters of ships and lightermen meet, and trade for vast sums of money in that commodity. The height of their exchange time, or what they call a full gate, is about twelve a-clock at noon: The place where they meet is call'd Roomland. A little farther towards the East, or the tower of London, is a corn-market call'd Bear-Key, which is kept every Monday, but the wheat here sold is consum'd chiefly by the distillers; the meal of which the bread is made is either bought in wheat at the country markets, or at the meal market in Thames-street, call'd Queenhith, which lies Westward of this corn market. Queenhith is commodiously situated for trade, it being so near the Thames, that the barges lie close to the ware-houses, into which the meal is unloaded with much ease. It is a pleasant sight to observe the number of barges which are sometimes at Queenhith, and the vast quantities of meal they bring to market; which is the best sort; for the country people send the best of all sorts of their commodities to London. These barges come from the west of England, as Guilford, Abingdon, Reading, Oxford, &c. and are from thence call'd west country barges.

At this market the bakers buy their meal, which is kept twice a week, but Monday is the general market day, very little business being done at any other time. The meal is sold chiefly by factors, who are accountable to the farmers for the goods consign'd to them: The factors give credit to the bakers, who make their payments in about a month after the goods are delivered. The London bakers make very fine and well tasted bread; and the poorest people generally eat the same sort as those of the greatest distinction.

AT the east end of Thames-street is the tower of London; which may properly be called a town; for it contains several streets; it is of a large circumference, and is surrounded by a high wall and deep ditch, but very little water in it, and is a place of no defence; there are indeed cannon planted all round, and some upon the tower wharf; but are of no other service than celebrating the birth day of the king, and other royal holidays. At the entrance of the first gate are kept the Lions and other wild beasts, which are presented by the emperor of Morocco, or any other persons; in this place the lions sometimes whelp. Here are likewise some foreign birds of prey.

IN this tower are preserv'd several very curious and valuable things, viz. the several crowns, scepters, and other ensigns of royalty of this kingdom.

THE imperial crown, with which all the Kings and Queens of this nation have been crown'd since Edward the confessor, in the year

1042. An attempt was once made to steal this crown out of the tower.

THE royal septre with a cross on the top, in which is a jewel of inestimable value ; it is held by the kings or queens in their right hand at their coronation ; and in their left hand is held the globe of the world.

THE diadems which Queen Mary and Queen Anne wore in their procession to the coronation. The rich crown of state, which the kings and queens wear on the throne, when they pass acts of parliament, in which is an emerald seven inches in circumference, the finest pearl in the world, and a ruby of very great value.

A rich crown made for the coronation of Queen Mary, consort to King William the third. Two fine sceptres and the golden eagle.

THE little armory, or magazine of small arms, where there are all manner of fuzees, carbines, halberts, pikes, bayonets, pistols, and swords, for sixty thousand men.

THE two sides of the room are adorn'd with pilasters of pikes and pistols, whose intercolumns are chequer'd work of carbines and pistols ; with swords and bayonets, representing the waves of the sea.

HALFMOONS, semi-circles, and a target of bayonets.

THE form of a battery in swords and pistols.

SUNS, with circles of pistols.

A pair of gates in halberts and pistols.

THE witch of endor.

BACK-BONES of a whale in carbines, and a fiery serpent, Jupiter and the Hydra in bayonets.

THE star and garter of that order, represented in pistols and swords.

THE white tower is the magazine for powder.

IN the horse armory are fifteen of the English kings on horse back, in fine rich armours.

THE Mint, or office for coining money, makes a large street ; there are several officers belonging to the Mint, which find employment enough from the prodigious and constant flux and reflux of money. The famous Sir Isaac Newton was master of the Mint till his death.

IN this tower are kept the records of the nation, where any person may examine them from eight a-clock to twelve in the morning, and from two to six in the evening.

THE office of ordinance is kept here.

THIS tower is a prison for persons of quality ; but people of a lower rank are sometimes confin'd here. It is a place where several great personages have been beheaded ; though Tower-hill, which lies adjacent, is the general place. The executioner is the common hangman, and an ax the beheading instrument ; with which the hangman sometimes makes two or three blows before the head is struck off ; which is very shocking to behold.

NEAR the tower is a house where are sold variety of foreign birds and beasts, of which the English people are very fond, and will give an extravagant price. There are fellows who paint
the

the English birds, give them strange names, and sell them at a great rate. I have my self seen a bird of this kind sold for above forty times its real value.

FROM Tower-hill I went Northward to the Minories, which is an healthy street, from whence there is a fine prospect of the hills on the South side of the Thames. This street was once inhabited by gunsmiths, but the English having enjoyed a long peace, that trade is much lessened. From the Minories I again cross'd Tower-hill, and went to St. Katherines and Wapping. These places are inhabited chiefly by sea-faring men, and trades depending upon shipping. A great part of St. Katherines and Wapping has been consum'd by fire; which has at the same time by its vicinity to the Thames, done much damage to the ships. I went along this place till I came to Shadwell-dock, which is considerably more than a mile, so that the Tower only dividing them, from Puddle-dock to Shadwell-dock, which is about three miles, is a continued line on the banks of the Thames. From hence I went through New-street to Shadwell-market, which is the poorest market about London. I then found myself in Ratcliff-high-way, which is a long street, beginning at East-smithfield near the Tower, and reaches to Limehouse; a place like Wapping, inhabited by sea-faring men, and trades depending upon shipping. There is lately built a very handsome new church; by which I pass'd in my way to Stepney, or Stebon-heath, an adjacent village, much frequented by sailors, where great numbers

numbers of them are married. Here are several genteel buildings, which are inhabited chiefly by merchants and captains of ships. In Stepney-church-yard there are several tombs with inscriptions to the memory of sea-officers. And here I must acquaint you with one very great fault of the English nation ; which is, that the monumental inscriptions, which ought to be in the best language, are sometimes hard to be understood, and very bad spelt. Near to Stepney or rather Limehouse, is a village call'd Poplar : which although adjoining to London, is as reserv'd as if many miles distant from any city.

AT Mile-end, which is a pleasant place near Stepney, there are several genteel houses inhabited chiefly by sea captains. Here are likewise several alms-houses ; but particularly one belonging to Trinity-house, for masters of ships, and their widows, which is very commodious ; and where the old people may end their days in peace and quietness, and sit down with pleasure to recite the various fortunes of those whose dependance is upon the uncertainty of the winds and seas.

FROM Mile-end I came in a direct line to White-chapel, which is a very spacious street, and of great trade. Here is kept a hay-market, great numbers of carcase or wholesale butchers live here, who serve the petty butchers with meat ; they likewise kill abundance of oxen for the sea service. White-chapel leads directly to Aldgate, which is the extreme part of London, towards the east ; on the left is Fenchurch-street, which

which leads to Grace-church-street, cross which is Lombard-street, a place well known for the residence of bankers. In this street is the Exchange-alley, which leads to Cornhill, over against the Royal Exchange. This alley is famous for stock-jobbers, more particularly noted in the south-sea year, 1720. where the world was in a manner turn'd upside down. Abchurch lane likewise joins to Lombard-street, famous for an eating-house, viz. Pontack's, where you may be serv'd with provisions of extraordinary price ; at this house are kept many publick feasts ; and here many of the nobility and gentry meet to regale themselves. The general post-office is in Lombard-street, and is the best in Europe. It is a large building in an oblong square ; the court is pav'd for merchants to walk in, while the letters are delivering out ; the entrance into this court is by a very noble gate.

On the right is the board where the governors sit to determine all matters relating to letters sent to all parts of Europe, the plantations in America, as likewise to the different parts of Great Britain and Ireland. On the left is a large room for receiving and delivering all foreign letters. There is a long room fronting the gate where the clerks of every road in England, and their letter-sorters under them, receive and distribute all the letters directed to any part of Great Britain and Wales. In the back-court is the letter-carriers office, who have each their stations assigned them, and with great convenience convey the letters in a few hours to all parts of the city. This

This office is under the direction of two governors ; there is a comptroller to each office, foreign and domestic ; a treasurer, an accountant general, a secretary with his clerks ; clerks for foreign letters, and for every particular great road in England.

All affairs relating to this office are conducted with the utmost order and regularity. But many letters are lost on account of wrong or simple directions. I happened one day to be in company, when the subject of conversation was on the manner some ignorant people directed their letters ; and a gentleman in company related the following superscription on a letter, *To my ever-honoured mother, a washerwoman, up two pair of stairs, London.* You may very easily imagine that this washerwoman's quality would not discover her lodgings ; but it was suppos'd that her son had been once in London, at his mother's lodgings up two pair of stairs, and living himself in a small village where every inhabitant is known, concluded it was the same at London, where one may live many years as a lodger, especially in the high streets, and be known by scarce any one.

LOMBARD-street leads directly to the Poultry, where there is a prison call'd *The Poultry-Compter*, in which debtors are confin'd ; for it is the custom of the English nation to confine mens bodies for very small sums of money, by which means they are render'd incapable either of paying their debts, or even supporting themselves ; and here are great numbers of officers daily

daily employ'd to seize such unhappy debtors, who have no more compassion than a tyger leaping upon his prey. I am surpriz'd the wisdom of the English parliament can't find out ways and means to regulate the affairs betwixt debtors and creditors, without depriving men of their natural liberty during their whole lives; and by that means become useless members to the commonwealth, and their families a burden to the nation.

A little further, turning down a street on the right hand, there is another prison call'd *Wood-street Compter*, so call'd from the place it stands in; and serves for the same purpose as that in the *Poultry*.

IN these prisons people are confin'd who commit riots or disorders in the streets in the night-time, particularly common whores and pick-pockets, of which this city abounds. In the evening these prostitutes begin to appear, and have their walks from Charing-cross to Aldgate, which is about two miles. Here are several taverns who for profit indulge these women in their lewdness; for they cause the men who go with them to spend a great deal of money, and rob them of their watches and any other valuables they have. These women are the vilest prostitutes in nature; I have heard such unaccountable stories of their lewdness, the relation of which is enough to shock a modest ear. But I must observe to you, my friend, that many of the young English noblemen and gentlemen are accessory to the ruin of these unhappy

happy creatures; for they employ pimps and procurers to delude them to their embraces; and after they have been glutted with debauchery, turn them into the world with a lost character and abandon'd by their friends.

FOR suppressing riots, guarding the city, and preventing lewdness, there are in every parish a great number of watchmen, who are under the direction of constables, and serve the office for one year only: but this office is sometimes abus'd by hir'd constables, who make gain of debauchery, by the tribute they receive from scandalous prostitutes.

ADJOINING to the Poultry is Cheapside, a very spacious street, with lofty buildings, near which there is a good market: in this street is a beautiful and lofty church, call'd *St. Mary le bow*, the architecture of which is very much admir'd. This street is inhabited chiefly by shop-keepers, who generally live in the high streets of London, such as Fleet-street, Cheapside, Cornhill, &c. these people make a very genteel appearance, and live in an expensive manner; their wives and daughters dress exceeding fine, and take much pleasure; in the winter they frequent plays, balls, opera's, &c. and during the summer-season have their country-houses or genteel lodgings. But this grandeur very often sinks into poverty and misery; for there is such an inconsiderate pride attending most of them, that they cannot bear to see their neighbours or acquaintance go beyond them either in dress or grand living, tho' possess'd of ten times more fortune.

fortune than themselves. I have found, by a very nice observation, the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of making these dainty dames think of circumstances, till they find themselves overwhelm'd in misfortunes, and their husbands dragg'd to a jail.

I lodge at the house of a good reputable shop-keeper, whose wife is a very pretty behav'd genteel sort of a woman. They have till of late liv'd a very comfortable and happy life; but now their behaviour to each other, nay their very countenances are alter'd. I was very much surpriz'd to see such indifference between them, and was so free to ask my landlord the meaning of it. Ha! says he, with a deep sigh, the alteration is too visible to be conceal'd; and I will frankly tell you the whole occasion of it. My wife was some time ago paying a visit to an acquaintance of her's, the furniture of whose house was entirely new, and pleas'd my wife very much. Every night at going to bed this fine furniture was the subject of her conversation, and the conclusion was, *I wish, my dear, you would change our furniture for such, it won't cost so much.* Her continual teasing made me at last consent; but the very next morning, I had the unwelcome news brought me, that a man who was that day to have paid me a considerable sum of money, was become a bankrupt. You may imagine that this news shock'd me very much. I told my wife immediately of it, and at the same time that she must be content with the furniture she had already; at
which

which she flew into a violent passion, saying it was nothing but a pretence : and from that time the alteration you have observ'd took its rise.

THIS story affected me very much ; for I have a great regard for the family ; and therefore expostulated with my landlady concerning the unreasonableness of her demand ; but no arguments could prevail upon her to think rationally ; and she continu'd resolute to pursue the destruction of herself and family.

HERE are continually such ups and downs, or various turns of fortune, that the winds and waves are not more uncertain than the circumstances of the merchants and tradesmen of the city of London.

BUT to return : on the right from Aldgate before-mention'd, I came into Leadenhall-street, where is one of the finest markets in Europe for all sorts of provisions ; as likewise a leather market. In this street is the East-India-house, a noble and magnificent building ; the publick buildings in general, were they not so much obstructed by the number of houses adjoining to them, would appear like splendid palaces.

FROM Leadenhall-street I came into Cornhill, in which the Royal Exchange is situated. The founder of this famous building was Sir Thomas Gresham, a merchant of London, who likewise built Gresham college. This Exchange was proclaimed *Royal* by order of Queen Elizabeth, by an herald with sound of trumpet. The Royal Exchange was consumed by the dreadful fire in the year 1666 ; it was rebuilt by order
of

of King Charles the second, who laid the first stone; it cost the city and mercers company, who were executors to Sir Thomas Gresham's will, about fifty thousand pounds. It is a very handsome building, with proper conveniences to shelter the merchants from rain, who have their walks according to their different trade and nation; and it is here very easy to find out any merchant you have business with.

IN the middle of the square is a statue of King Charles the second, erected on a pedestal eight foot high, upon which is the following inscription :

*Cæsari Britannico, Patriæ Patri,
Regum Optimo, Clementissimo, Augustissimo,
Generis Humani Deliciis,
Utriusque Fortunæ Victori,
Pacis Europæ Arbitro,
Marius Domino ac Vindici.*

HERE are likewise several other statues, in the niches, of the Kings and Queens of England, adorned with their ensigns of royalty.

IN this Exchange one may meet with people of almost every nation. From about one to near three a-clock it is like a fair; and the adjacent coffee-houses are continually throng'd with merchants, stockjobbers, captains of ships, brokers, tradesmen, artificers, and vast numbers of people of various occupations who have business with them. I have seen here some of the English nobility, who generally look down with contempt

contempt upon the citizens of London ; but I am told the love of gain will sometimes allure a few of them, either to stockjob, or marry a rich wife, which may easily be done, the London ladies being very fond of a title.

IN the Royal Exchange are a great number of Shops, which were once of great note, and much frequented by the ladies to buy their decorations ; but they are now mostly shut up, and the whole appears like a desolate place. Destruction seems to reign in the upper part ; but in the lower part riches and grandeur.

ON the north side of the Royal Exchange is the Bank of England, a very noble building of stone, where with safety may be deposited any sums of money ; and to see the cash which is daily receiv'd and paid here, one would imagine it the depository of the whole world. Near the Bank, but more towards the East, is the South-Sea-house, a handsome brick building.

THE Bank of England is situated in Threadneedle street, and comes westwardly to a point at Stocks-market with Cornhill and Lombard-street into the Poultry before-mention'd, and then into Cheapside, at the end of which, on the left, is St. Paul's Church-yard, so called on account of St. Paul's cathedral being here situated ; and at the right is Newgate-street, which leads directly through Holborn, to the Oxford road, as Bishopsgate-street is the road to Cambridge.

ST. Paul's cathedral is a very stately building, being esteem'd the finest outside of any church

church in Europe. It is situated in an area of about six acres of ground, and environ'd by a very strong and beautiful ballustrade of iron, erected on a wall of free stone. This building is entirely disengaged from any other; it stands upon the highest ground in the city, and is seen from all the adjacent hilly countries many miles round, from whence it seems to join the very heavens.

T H E R E are to this cathedral three gates, viz. the North, the South, and the West; but the West is by much the more grand; and leads into the area, where is a statue of the late Queen Anne, whose conquests, under the command of the great duke of Marlborough, made her famous all over the world. The former part of this Queen's reign was crown'd with honour and happiness; but she is said to have been at last betray'd in a most base and scandalous manner by a new sett of favourites, and at the same time meeting with much opposition from many of her subjects, was the cause of her death.

T H E statue of this Queen is in marble, and very well done, with a crown on her head, a sceptre and globe in her hands, and adorn'd with royal robes, and ensigns of the garter. Round the pedestal are likewise four fine figures in marble, representing Great Britain, France, Ireland, and America; the whole being very beautiful, and a great ornament to the city.

F R O M this area you ascend to the portico by very noble stone steps, inrailed with iron, where

where near a hundred men may walk up abreast.

THE Portico is supported with twelve pillars, and its gallery by eight; and here the history of the conversion of St. Paul, the patron of this cathedral, is curiously carv'd in bas-relief. This saint was at first a great persecutor of the Christians, but is said to have been miraculously converted.

ON each side of the portico is a very handsome tower, in the one is a great clock, which serves for a direction to set the clocks and watches of the citizens right; and by its height and bigness is heard in a still night, not only in the different parts of the city, but many miles round. I heard a story related of a centinel upon duty at Windsor-castle, which is twenty miles from London, who being accus'd of sleeping, in his defence said he heard St. Paul's clock strike thirteen instead of twelve, which is said to have been prov'd by several People in London; and the centinel was thereupon acquitted. I must confess this story seems incredible; but when the height and bigness of the bell is consider'd, and the situation of the two places, being near the Thames, it is not impossible.

IN the other tower is only one bell, which tolls for divine service, but design'd for a chime of bells, with which the English people are very much delighted; and there are in many churches in London, as in several other cities and towns in England, a peal of eight, ten or twelve bells,
which

which are all set a ringing on the birth-days, &c. of the royal family of England; but this famous cathedral has no melodious bells to sound the joy which is due to state-holidays.

You may remember, Sir, I told you in my first letter, that I intended to send you not only a particular account of places, but likewise to intermix my letters with such observations as occur'd to my mind; which are as useful and pleasant as the description of places: I shall therefore make some observations upon bells and bell-ringers, who are so excessively devoted to this laborious exercise, that they will travel many miles for the pleasure of ringing a new or famous peal of bells. There is a church in this city, call'd St. Michael's, near the Royal Exchange, where there is a ring of twelve heavy bells: and I saw a company of ringers come out of this church after having labour'd at the ropes about six hours, with their hands almost tore to pieces, and their faces like dead corpses: upon these bells they had rung several thousand different changes, which they are taught arithmetically. I must confess there is something very lofty and grand in the sound of many bells in London, particularly those of St. Mary le Bow in Cheapside, which have so elevated my soul, that I have been carry'd for a time, as it were, into another world of glory and happiness, and enjoy'd a kind of pleasure beyond expression. But these very bells which produc'd such a solid joy in me, cause some people I have convers'd with, to sink into a deep melancholy. So great

a difference there is in the effects produced on mankind by sounds!

BUT to return to St. Paul's cathedral; from the steps before mention'd, on the West end, I enter'd a great gate, which leads to the choir, or place where divine worship is performed: the cupola is finely painted by Sir James Thornhill, and contains the history of St. Paul in figures bigger than life; it is esteem'd a fine piece of painting, and is what the artists call *Chiaro Oscuro*; but I must confess its beauties are to me invisible. After I had walk'd about some time, divine worship began, to which I was very attentive; every thing appear'd very grand and solemn; the musick joining the voices of the priests, added very much to the solemnity, and inspired me with such a holy zeal, that I was almost ready to become a Christian. But I was very much surpriz'd when I observ'd the gestures of the priests, and could scarce believe my own eyes. They appear'd with no regard to the sanctity of the place; one had a key upon his finger swinging it about; another display'd his finger adorn'd with a fine diamond ring, holding his hand in the most advantageous posture to display its whiteness; his flowing hair at the same time was curl'd in a manner capable of rivalling the greatest beaux. In short those whose office is to instruct the people, and attend the altars of the Divine Being, generally sacrifice themselves to the company of ladies, or the acquisition of worldly grandeur.

UPON

UPON observing the indecent Gestures of the priests in this cathedral, I made a very curious enquiry concerning the present state of religion in England ; which I find to be thus : The Church of England, or Christian religion re-form'd, as by law establish'd, is the national Church. For directing and teaching this religion, there are three classes of men ; first the Arch High-Priests and High-Priests, who are call'd Arch-bishops and Bishops ; secondly, Priests ; and thirdly, Deacons, who are the lowest class. The office of the High Priests is very considerable, having the care of all the Priests under their Diocese or jurisdiction : these High-Priests make visitations, and inspect the lives and conversations of all inferior ones ; and are to see that all things are conducted with decency and order ; but this office of High Priest admits of translation : the method of which is as follows ; when a High Priest dies, the King causes another to be made in his room ; and if the High Priesthood is one of the best sort, that is, a rich one, then a High Priest of a lesser income will endeavour to to be translated ; but upon no other view : for I never could hear of any Bishop who was translated to lessen his income. This mercenary way of proceeding has been the subject of much drollery among all degrees of people. Now if a Christian High-Priest was translated, in order to undertake a dangerous voyage to propagate the Christian Religion in foreign countries, among a rude and barbarous people, then indeed translation would be praise-worthy :

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but

but it is now upon a level with a shopkeeper, who removes to another habitation, with a view of increasing his fortune. This, my friend, is a true account of the translation of the High Priests of England. They have likewise another way of getting money; which is, at the same time they are made High Priests, to hold a profitable benefice *in Commendam*.

THE Priests are the next in office, and many of them have good estates arising from their Priesthood; and are generally very proud and covetous; they are so much addicted to pride, that they will scarce use people with common good manners, when they are solicited for favours; but the most fawning sycophants themselves, when they attend men in power, to get preferment in the Church.

THE Deacons are the lowest degree among the English clergy; and many of them are a sort of religious slaves; for the priests who get into favour with great men, get possession of two, three, or sometimes more livings; and give these poor wretches a trifling sum to execute their office. This, Sir, is such a bare-fac'd imposition, such a scandalous prostitution of the very foundation of the Christian religion, which I have taken a great deal of pains to search into, that I have been often surpriz'd with what face it can be done. Thus the poverty of the inferior Clergy, and the pride, luxury and covetousness of the rich, have caus'd the whole Priesthood to fall under a general contempt; and of course religion, which has run into a vast
number

number of sectaries and divisions: and among the more learned and judicious part of the English people, the very name of Christianity is almost forsaken, and *The Doctrine of Morality* is their darling Opinion. This, my friend, is the best account I can give you of the present state of the Christian religion in England, which is undermined by its very teachers, who flinch from the structure they ought to support: and when the pillars or supports of a building become rotten, the whole must inevitably fall to destruction: thus rotten and almost destroy'd is the Christian Religion in England, and is become a common jest: the priesthood is by the people call'd a good or bad trade, according to the profits the priests get by their office.

To speak my sentiments freely, the Christian religion is at so low an ebb in England, that nothing but a thorough reformation of the Priests can save it from utter destruction. I do not pretend to the spirit of foretelling future events; but the nature and reason of things make this plain to demonstration.

I will not trouble you with letters of too great a length, but entertain you with something new and delightful. I have been a little indispos'd with a slight fever, but am now perfectly recover'd. I wish you health; and desire you not to let time or distance lessen your friendship for me, which I esteem more than all the blessings of life; it is a happiness the English people seldom enjoy, yet none more capable of noble and generous sentiments: but

these good qualities are generally buried in self-interestedness, covetousness, and mean cunning ; which are the destruction of a sincere and inviolable friendship. Here are numbers who make profession of an inviolable friendship, with no other view than making a property of a generous good-natur'd heart. This is treachery of the basest kind, and is a prevailing vice with those the English call KNOWING ONES.

I intended to conclude my letter before this time ; but cannot pass over one cruel action of a dissembled friendship without observation.

You may remember I told you the uncertainty of tradesmens circumstances, which is verify'd in the following relation of two shopkeepers, who spent a large fortune very soon, through negligence and extravagance ; a particular acquaintance of one of them was a good-natur'd man, and worth money ; a bait was laid for him in the following manner : his pretended friend has a note of hand for value receiv'd given by his companion ; but he has great occasion for present money, therefore desires of his honest generous friend cash for the note, which was accordingly done ; and then both of them went off. These are called Note-Coiners ; and some men, before their characters are blasted, wrong people of a great deal of money this way. Such stratagems, one would scarcely believe in the power of man to invent ! But true it is. I remain

*Your constant and undissembled
Friend.*



LETTER III.

S I R,

HAVING concluded my last letter with an account of the KNOWING MEN OF ENGLAND, I shall in this proceed to a farther description of the city of London, which affords more matter, both for moral observations and amusement than any city in the world. I left off at the description of St. Paul's cathedral by the interruption I met with from its priests. But now to proceed: On the East side is a free school for the education of youth in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues, which is call'd St. Paul's school.

THE South-side is inhabited by variety of trades belonging to household stuff, as upholsterers, chair-makers, screen-makers, &c. but the North-side is chiefly inhabited by booksellers, and on account of their vicinity to this grand cathedral deal chiefly in theology: the booksellers

for the most part live in clusters; whereas the generality of other tradesmen avoid living too near together, lest their different interests should prevent either from thriving. This city is likewise well stock'd with printers, who meet with good encouragement from the liberty of the press; and they perform their work with much beauty and expedition. Printing is attended with good and bad effects; for it both propagates vice as well as knowledge.

ON the North-side is likewise a commodious building, call'd *The Chapter-House*, where the Priests assemble, and consult together concerning the settling religious disputes, and regulating the church; but the King being their supreme governor, does not think it convenient to give this ecclesiastical council too much liberty; it being very much fear'd by the English people, especially the Dissenters from the Church of England, who are both numerous and rich, that if the priests had an unlimited power in ecclesiastical affairs, they would soon set the whole kingdom in a blaze. These things having been well consider'd by men of wisdom and power, this ecclesiastical council is but a shadow. The English people, especially the most learned and thinking, are of opinion, that priests of all religions are for grasping at power, and therefore are well pleas'd that the King maintains his authority in this point, and clips the wings of those who would otherwise fly beyond the bounds of reason, or even humanity.

ON

ON the West end is a great bookseller's shop, and facing it a much greater toyshop ; for many of the English young gentlemen delight more in toys than books, and very justly acquire the character of being *Compleat Coxcombs* ; there these butterflies with their ladies assemble to trifle away both their money and time. In and about the city of London are abundance of these trifling shops ; from whence you may reasonably conclude here are a great number of rich and trifling people to support them.

ANOTHER great folly attends the English nation ; for tho' its grandeur consists in trade, yet the baseness of many of the prime people is so great, that they will make a tradesman undergo the greatest distress and uneasiness, by not paying them their lawful demands ; and give the labour of the industrious for presents to Italian singing eunuchs.

WHEN I am got out of London, I shall confine myself to the description of places ; but this city abounds with so many scenes worthy speculation, that I cannot pass them over unobserv'd.

FACING the west end of St. Paul's cathedral is a prison for debtors, call'd Ludgate, and is of great antiquity. This leads to Temple-bar, a place whereon are fix'd the heads of traitors, who are first hang'd, their bowels flung in the fire before their faces, their hearts taken out, and expos'd to the view of the spectators, then cut in quarters, and at the disposal of the King, who formerly order'd them to be fasten'd to the

city gates : but of late years it has been thought sufficient to stick their heads upon a high pole, and suffer their quarters to be buried, being on hot days very offensive to the citizens.

It would take up much time, and make a large volume, to give you a description of every particular relating to the city of London ; but I cannot pass over the most material, without making some observations worth remarking : that which now particularly attracts my attention is a building on the North side of London, which is the hospital of Bethlehem, but vulgarly call'd *Bedlam* ; where are a great number of such objects of pity as would melt a heart of flint, every one of which are depriv'd of their reason. The people of England in general are more subject to madness than any nation in the world ; and it may very properly be term'd, *The English Malady*.

IN this place is a scene worthy the observation of the greatest philosopher ; here are some poor wretches who have lost their reason by an excessive study in religious affairs, and generally fall into deep melancholy or despair. 'Tis a fatal mistake to attempt the knowledge of things beyond human capacity ; and inconsistent with the very nature of a divine being to expect a knowledge from mankind more than their faculties will admit of. Some again fancy they have sin'd against the Holy Ghost, and distract themselves with the notion of being abandon'd by God ; at which their thoughts are hurry'd into horror and despair ; and believe their doom is, *to be hung*

hung up by their tongues in hell, to be tormented by a fallen angel, call'd the Devil, with fire and brimstone, and to suffer the acute pains such a fire must create, never to be consum'd. And some Christians are of so wild an opinion, as to imagine this horrible sentence is pass'd, by a Divine Being, even upon children before they are born.

OTHERS again, by disappointments and losses in trade, and the fear of poverty, become most exasperate against all the world, themselves, curse their God, and thus die in the bitterness of their anguish. There are two cumbent statues as one enters the great gate, which finely represent both melancholy and rage.

THERE are many other causes which produce madness; and the poor wretches here confin'd, entertain you, each with their different relations, and the cause of their confinement; but some are so outrageous, that they must not be seen, and who lie in chains to prevent their doing mischief.

THERE are a great number of people in England who commit self-murder; but many more would do it, were it not for this hospital, and the great number of private mad-houses, by their confinement in which they are prevented.

No people in the world have more occasion for philosophy than those of England, yet none have less; for as the greatest part of them depend upon the uncertainty of trade, which is known to be only a lottery, they ought to think of the worst that can happen, and prepare themselves

accordingly : but when their circumstances run pretty smooth, they are too apt to live luxurious ; and their common proverb is, *Nô't to make two wants of one.* Thus they live without calculating either their income or expences : what pleases their appetites they will have ; they know not what ground they tread upon, nor do they endeavour to know : they find themselves in mire and bogs, when they are dreaming of delightful gardens *in terra firma.* Thus when losses and disappointments attack them, they are lost in a wood, and struck with amazement ; they have no exalted notions of philosophy to support themselves under the various dispensations of providence, nor any regard to the fundamental rules of their own religion, which afford them the greatest comfort in a state of poverty and distress : which is a plain demonstration of what I before observ'd, that the English people make a fine show in their churches, without any real devotion.

P O V E R T Y is dreaded more by the English than any other nation ; the very apprehension of it so intoxicates the minds of some, that they destroy themselves, by despairing of the common necessities of life, when in possession of a plentiful fortune. A tradesman of good repute told me, that he had once thoughts of destroying himself, when an apprentice, for fear he should be unsuccessful when in trade for himself. Thousands in fact murder themselves with anxiety ; for tho' they do not directly make use of a rope, a pistol, a knife, or leap into the water ; yet
they

they teaze and vex themselves to such a violent degree, that they fall into a complication of distempers, which cuts off their days like fruit blasted with unseasonable winds. Between luxury and anxiety the greatest part of the English people are destroy'd in the meridian of their years. It is an innate principle among them to dread poverty, tho' they live voluptuously ; for they are in a manner begotten and conceiv'd in anxiety and trouble. But it is my opinion, that many self-murders and miseries might be prevented, were those who possess large estates, and bury their money in iron graves, under the protection of innumerable locks and bolts, to be charitable in their life-time towards the distressed ; it would save a great many unhappy wretches from distraction and ruin, and those greedy misers become worthy members to the commonwealth : but instead of these noble and generous sentiments, sordid avarice and oppression take place, till death begins to stare them in the face ; and then, quite terrified at the apprehension of approaching damnation, they in a hurry and confusion of mind leave their fortunes to publick charities, when they know not how their money will be dispos'd of, nor they possess it any longer. Rich people may relieve the real distressed with discretion, do much good without lessening their fortunes, and make their relations happy after them, by leaving a good fortune and example.

It is a sad way of thinking for those people whose religion denounces eternal misery against

against the covetous and oppressors, that when they die, they may escape that punishment, by leaving their money to an hospital, and depriving their relations of what by the ties of blood they ought to enjoy. To relieve the distressed is a God-like virtue, when it proceeds from a generous and merciful disposition ; but it is no virtue to give when we can no longer keep.

IT is true, there are a great number of publick charities in England ; but the fear of hell's punishments from a life either of vice or oppression, is the real foundation of most of them.

BUT to return to the melancholy mansion of lunatics ; it is a magnificent building, in an airy situation, in a place call'd Moorfields ; every thing in this house is kept decent and clean ; and a convenient number of servants employ'd to take care of their unhappy charge, who are, according to the rules of the house, to exercise no cruelty.

AFTER walking here for some time, the first object I particularly remark'd, was a beautiful genteel young girl, about seventeen years of age, whose madness proceeded from an excess of pride and love : the first cause was evidently seen in every gesture ; for she walk'd with an extraordinary air of grandeur, and her eyes discover'd the scorn of her heart ; but when her slighted affection gain'd the ascendant, her pride fell like the tail of a peacock, and she melted into tears and lamentations. I was very much mov'd at her misfortune : for the struggles that nature must endure, when an extravagant slighted
love,

love, and intolerable pride are the antagonists, must certainly be very great. What surpriz'd me very much, was, that the people made sport of her, and insulted her loss of reason; which, I must confess, shock'd me very much.

I made very particular enquiry how it happen'd that this young beauty was slighted in love; for I think she was as fine a woman as ever I beheld. I was inform'd, that her father liv'd in a reputable manner, and had bestow'd upon his daughter a very genteel education. She was not insensible of her charms, and being of a haughty disposition, thought of nothing less than some man of figure for a husband. Her fortune indeed was small; but she imagin'd her beauty made sufficient amends for her want of money. She likewise dress'd exceeding well; which is a method the young women make use of to allure men of fortune: but where one woman makes her fortune this way, I verily believe twenty are made whores. The young maid, who is my present subject, look'd down with scorn and contempt upon every man in an equal station of life with herself; which wrong way of thinking I have observ'd to prove very prejudicial to the English women; for by this means they frequently overstand their market, and die old maids, or take up with much worse than they before had despis'd: and sometimes, when they can get no body to marry them, they will rather submit to be whores, than not be made as wise as their mothers.

IT happen'd one day a gentleman of great fortune and family din'd at the Father's house ; and he being a gay brisk man, in the flower of his youth, seeing a pretty girl at table, made several fine speeches concerning her beauty ; and complimented the father upon his having so beautiful a daughter. Her mother being dead, and she the eldest, was housekeeper and mistress in chief ; and lived without controul : In these circumstances she was left at liberty to act as she pleased ; she began not to be so pert about the house, and left the family affairs unregarded. She devoted her time chiefly to reading romances, and talk'd of nothing but Love. The impresson this young gentleman had made in her mind, began now to spring up apace ; and she was ever talking of him. In short her love grew to such a pitch at last that she could no longer conceal it : She imagin'd all this gentleman had said to her was the pure effects of a tender passion for her ; but he thought of her no more : For it is the custom of the English young gentlemen to make fine speeches to all the women they converse with ; and the weakness of the sex, mix'd with some share of vanity, makes them believe all these fine speeches due to their beauty and merit ; for none think themselves ugly ; and therefore believe any thing. This unhappy maid waited with impatience day after day, expecting her beloved to repeat his compliments and tokens of affection ; but alas ! all in vain : No longer able to contain the violent emotions in her breast ; she was at last compell'd to unfold the secret of her soul, and

and write him a letter to declare the violence of her love.

THIS of itself was enough to make a proud woman distracted. But what can be imagin'd after the gentleman had read her letter, seal'd it up again, and sent it back with this answer at the bottom; *I am surpriz'd at your impertinence!* Horror and despair seiz'd her at once, and she could no longer maintain her reason. Her countenance was a mixture of rage and tenderness; pride and love were for ever struggling, and had got entire possession of her. A gentleman who was with me, wonder'd at the impresson this object made upon my mind; he seem'd to make a jest of me, and smil'd at my weakness, as he was pleas'd to term it. I told him that such objects were deserving pity, for that to be depriv'd of reason was the greatest misfortune mankind could be afflicted with. Ah! says he, if people will be fools they must take it for their pains; a fine story indeed, go mad for love! I repeat the expressions as near as possible; but it is impossible to tell you his manner of speaking. We reasoned and argued a long while upon this subject; but he still insisted that as madness proceeded from indulging our passions, it deserved no pity. But observe my dear friend, the revolutions of life, the very man, who condemn'd these miserable objects as unworthy pity, fell at once into the same state; he was a merchant, and his chief substance was at sea; he receiv'd news of a ship's safe arrival, richly laden; and his expectations were upon the highest pinnacle: but alas! a storm arose, drove
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the ship to sea ; which sprung a leak, and all the men and cargo were lost. He had treated his friends upon his good fortune, looking upon all things to be safe. In the midst of all his merriment news arrived of the ship's being lost, which first caus'd a manifest sinking of the spirits, a death-like countenance, and then turn'd to a raving madness, and he continued about a fortnight in that condition ; during which time he rent his very heart to pieces, through the violence of his passion. I am something particular in relating this to you, both for his want of compassion to an unhappy object, and a man's vain boasting of his own steadiness.

WERE you to see the number of English people confin'd for lunacy in this publick hospital and the private mad-houses, you would be surpriz'd ; but much more so, when you observ'd the actions of those who perform their usual business were little better than mad.

I could entertain you with innumerable instances of the mad people ; but as the story before related first struck me, with its remarkable consequence, I concluded it worthy your observation. But however in this Bedlam there are Kings, whose crowns and sceptres are straw, and whose dominions a dark room, and whose subjects a million of fancies ; but I must tell you, my dear friend, that there are sometimes real Kings as mad as these imaginary ones ; whose dominions ought to be confin'd to a dark room, to keep them from doing farther mischief. Here are again numbers of people who are continually building

building castles in the air; but many more of these builders out of Bedlam than there are in. In another place, you'll see a forlorn wretch who has over-studied himself; there he sits like one thunderstruck and will speak to nobody. A little farther you see a man laughing at every body, and by the satisfaction which seems in his mind, would make one almost wish to be mad. I had like to have forgot one very remarkable circumstance, as I was leaning near one of the windows, making my observations, a good sprightly man comes to me, sir, says he, look at that man, pointing to one at a little distance, he's afflicted with the most surprizing madness you ever knew in your life; he'll be quite civil one day, and the next day be oblig'd to be lock'd up; and then he'll talk of hell and damnation, and the lord knows what strange things; the wonderful effect of lunacy! The man seem'd to me by his dress a philosopher, and an observer of mankind: But on a sudden he was strangely agitated, and said, *I am call'd to the regions of immortality; I fly upon the wings of air;* away he runs, crying out, *see how I mount, I mount,* and left me almost astonish'd at the suddenness of his flight. The unfortunate gentleman whom I just told you of, who was with me, whilst we were talking about the different objects which represented themselves to us, told me a story, which goes currently for truth, that about the time King James the second left his kingdom, and the prince of Orange came in his stead, some gentlemen and ladies were in Bedlam to see these unfortunate people,

when

when coming to the door of one of their rooms, the madman enquir'd of one of the gentlemen, who was an officer and in his military dress, who he fought for; the gentleman answer'd for the prince of Orange; then says the madman, I fight for King James, to the perdition of rebels; and bids him draw: the gentleman to see what he would do, or perhaps to oblige the ladies, drew his sword; the madman takes a straw, and says, now have at ye, and broke his straw against the door. Hold, says he, I've broke my sword; then he steps back, catch'd up his ordure vessel, and flung it full upon the gentleman; now, says he, go and tell the prince of Orange, that you are a shitten soldier.

THE Charter-house is another noble charity; situated in the north west part of London. It maintains eighty decay'd gentlemen, viz.

GENTLEMEN by birth, but reduc'd to poverty.

GENTLEMEN who have born arms in the service of their country, either by land or sea.

GENTLEMEN that have serv'd in the household of Kings and Queens; and thro' age or infirmities can serve no longer. And

MERCHANTS, who by piracy or shipwreck are become destitute.

A Free-School for educating forty poor boys, who are either bound apprentices to trades, or sent to the universities.

THE governrs of this hospital are generally gentlemen of the first character, and their number fix'd. The governors have a master under them, who is to be unmarried, above forty years old when he accepts the office, and is incapable of any other preferment, either in church or state.

THE apartments are neat, the gardens pleasant, and surrounded with a high brick wall.

HERE is a handsome square, which takes its name from the hospital. It is the entire gift of one Mr. Sutton, whose life I think worthy your attention ; and which I here send you. You will likewise by this be informed of the animosities and hatred among the christians.

THOMAS SUTTON, esquire, founder of King James's hospital in the Charter-House, was born at Knaith in Lincolnshire, in the year of our Lord 1531, which was the four and twentieth year of Henry the eighth.

THOUGH he was born, rather to give honour to his family, than to borrow any from it ; yet his blood was conveyed to him thro' many noble Saxon veins in Cheshire, Lancashire, and Worcestershire : For notwithstanding the Danish and the Norman conquests, yet in the time of the latter, we find one of this family sheriff in those parts, a person of a fair and honourable esteem in the world : And this advantage a Man well descended has above all others, unless he degenerates, that the great actions of his ancestors will not let him sleep until he has out-done the original.

THE

THE course of this ancient family, like the river Alpheus, a while ran silently under ground, while at last it sprang up in Lincolnshire, in the time of Henry the Seventh, under Dudley, as notorious for cruelty and exactions, as our founder is for mercy and compassion.

HIS father was Edward Sutton, son of Thomas Sutton, servant to Edward the fourth. His mother was Jane Stapleton, the daughter of Robert Stapleton, esquire, of the most generous and worthy family of the Stapletons in Yorkshire. Ancestors not so low, that his descent should be a shame to his virtues ; nor yet so great, but that his virtue might be an ornament to his birth.

MR. COX, afterwards Dr. Cox, almoner to King Edward the sixth, and bishop of Ely under Queen Elizabeth, brought him up three years at Eaton, four years in Magdalen and Jesus Colleges in Cambridge ; to each of whose children, surviving at his death, Mr. Sutton gave ten pound for a legacy : and as a thankful acknowledgment of the benefits he received from those places of good learning, he nobly bequeathed five hundred marks to Jesus college.

SOON after he was placed in Lincoln's-Inn, as a student, that he might want no part of learning becoming a gentleman. Not long after, almost tired with a sedentary life, desire of travel increasing with his knowledge, he went to visit foreign nations, and obtained the perfection of several languages.

HALF a year he tarries in Spain, two in Italy, one in France, and then he passes into Holland,
and

and the Low-Countries; from whence after a year or two spent in the Italian Wars * (for he was at the sacking of Rome, under the duke of Bourbon) he returned, accomplish'd with experience and observation: Then he was admitted to the earl of Warwick and the earl of Leicester's Service. To the former he was a steward, to the latter a secretary; and to both he approved himself so able and faithful, that they declared him fit for more publick employments; as after appeared by their helping him to farm the Northern coal-mines, and that upon no other security than his own word.

HE was quickly spy'd out by his wife and noble sovereign Queen Elizabeth, one who knew where to bestow her favours, and who deserved her bounty; by her he was made master of the ordinance at Berwick, which office he enjoyed fourteen years; in token whereof there are two peices of ordinance carved in stone, and set upon the chimney-piece, in the great hall in the Charter-house.

THEN he was chosen pay-master to the northern army; and afterwards one of the commissioners for the sequestration of the Lands of the northern rebels; in opposition to whom he shewed himself a wise man in disposing so advan-

* This seems to be a mistake, for the sacking of Rome was in the Year 1527, which was four Years before the Founder's Birth, who as is said before, was born in 1531. See *Thuanus in libro primo*, where he says, *Eodem tempore* (sc. 1527.) *Columnia a Cæsare instigati Romam occupant, & Clementem in Mausoleo Hadriani obsident nec multo post totis viribus Romam item est duce Borbonio, & urbe impetu capta & direpta.*

tageously of the Berwick Forces : And a valiant man in his actions and conduct.

SOME years after he became victualler to the navy, and some Garrisons in the Low-Countries ; one of which was Ostend, which by the help of some fishermen, he relieved very strangely, and to his own great advantage : To which town he left in his will one hundred pound.

LASTLY, he was a commissioner for prizes, under the earl of Nottingham, lord high admiral of England, who gave him letters of mart against the Spaniards, from whom he took a ship richly laden, worth twenty thousand pounds.

HAVING by these profitable employs laid a foundation of a good estate, upon some misunderstanding between him and the northern nobility, he retires to London, to enjoy and improve it ; where his riches increased, and came upon him like a tide, by the just arts and methods which he used.

HE brought with him to London the reputation of a mighty monied man, insomuch that it was reported, that his purse returned from the north fuller than Queen Elizabeth's Exchequer : Here he was made a freeman, citizen, and girdler of London.

HIS payments were thought as sure as her pensions ; the readiness of his money, and the fairness of his dealing, laid the grounds of a mighty reputation ; for now he is look'd upon by all men : he has the first refusal of the best bargains of sales and mortgages, which were more frequent in a dead time of money, as that was.

HERE

HERE possibly he got acquaintance with several lords servants, whom he remembers in his last Will, and piously relieves them.

HE was also resorted to by the citizens for money; and indeed Mr. Sutton became the banker of London: Being called upon so much, that he was persuaded to help others too, in the putting out of their money. Once he thought of setting up a bank in London, like that in Amsterdam; where people might take up money at so moderate an Interest, as should not eat out their labour, nor waste the heart and life of trade, by making the care, pains, and ingenuity of the borrower, sweat and toil for the sole benefit of the lender: Therefore he lodged a hundred pound in some honest mens hands to lend to the poor weekly or monthly, by small sums upon good pawns, while he lived; and when he died, he left a thousand pound to the chamber of London, to be yearly lent to ten young tradesmen without use. Besides, he ordered his executors to abate half a year's interest to all his debtors, when they call'd in his money.

THUS did this great man wax rich and known, which made him to some evil-minded persons, the object of envy: and he finds not the shadow of that charity in the world, which he shew'd in substance and reality.

SOME urge that he served himself to much upon the hopes many had entertained of being his heirs: by receiving those gifts, which some covetous friends, *miserunt in hamo*, by easily purchasing those lands which they expected should
return

return with interest. I do not understand the unreasonable presumption of men, to name and adopt themselves their neighbours heirs, and if they confirm it not, they shall be branded with injustice : The wisdom of the serpent is as well required, as the innocency of the dove. He that strives to outreach his friends, is justly caught in his own snares.

OTHERS strongly believe he was the subject of Ben. Johnson's mirth : which, if it were true, is no real scandal to this good man, when all things just and honourable, sacred and of good report, are shamefully exposed to the lewd affronts of a bold and licentious stage. Besides, 'tis probable the poet never intended what they think. For in that age several other men were pointed at, and who was the true person, was then a matter of doubt. If the poet design'd to injure the fame of Sutton, he was first of all an ungrateful wretch, to abuse those hands which afforded him bread, for he allowed him a constant pension : And secondly, he disowned his very hand writing, which he sent to our founder, in vindication of himself in this matter.

IN the late unhappy times *, another sort of enemy appears, and will hardly suffer this pious benefactor to lie quiet in his grave : The revenue made a great noise, and prov'd something melodious to the ears of the commanding party ; therefore they endeavour to find out a way to

* The rebellion in England, in the reign of King Charles the first, when the people cut off that King's head in form of justice.

subvert the house, foundation and all. No better plea than the old popular argument, used before against his sacred majesty King Charles the first of ever blessed memory; Popery! Popery! 'Tis presently whisper'd about, *That Sutton died a papist: that the house was built upon naughty popish ground; that all the walls were full of tapers and crosses; that it was designed to jesuitical ends and purposes; that there was a great vault underneath, which reach'd almost to Islington, and (for ought they knew) it might be full of powder and malignants, plots and superstition, all conspiring against the good old cause.*

AT this time Edward Cresset, master of the hospital, by his interest in that party, interposed and laid that storm, for which he received publick thanks from the lords the governors, *Anno 1660.*

THIS freak hardly deserves consideration; especially proceeding from that sort of men. Mr. Sutton was too well known for this project to take effect: He was an honest and religious Protestant, constant and exemplary upon all occasions at the publick service of God; regular and strict in family duties, accusom'd to prayer, reading the scriptures, and very sollicitous in his choice of a holy and learned chaplain: His thoughts were usually heaven-ward; in his ejaculations frequently desiring God, *That as he had bountifully blessed him with a plentiful estate, so he would be pleased to direct him in the disposal of it.* This he has been often over-heard to say, walking in his garden. His thoughts were not only divine, but his usual company were ministers of God's word; for

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there

there is no writing scarce of his, to which there is not the hand of a divine or two : or else he visited the fatherless and widows, the impotent and indigent, and in a great measure kept himself unspotted from the world.

Now that which seems most wonderful is this, that men professing the protestant religion, should endeavour to pull down one of the greatest monuments of the reformed religion, it being the common argument whereby we use to prevent the papists extravagant relations of good works.

HAD he been a red-letter man, Mr. Knott the Jesuit (in his answer to Dr. Potter's book, call'd Charity Mistaken) would never have vented this following reproach : *But he must be crucified between these two :*

Do your hospitals deserve so much as to be named ? Have you any thing of that kind, in effect, of particular note ? saving the few mean nurseries of idle beggars, and debauched people ; except Sutton's hospital, which (as I have been informed) was to receive no profit till his death : Who also died without children, brother, sister, or known kindred ; so that peradventure, it was escheated to the King, &c. At length he says, He could tell us of the Annunciata at Naples, which spends three hundred thousand crowns, viz. above eight thousand pounds per Annum, feeds and cures one thousand sick persons ; nurses and entertains three thousand sucking children, &c. Then he gives a hint of another famous hospital in Rome, called Saneto Spirito. To both which instances Mr. Fuller does as reproachfully reply, by saying, That the infamous
disease

disease of Naples might well cause the erection of so mighty a structure ; and as for that at Rome, the wonderful plenty of unlawful Issues, children basely born, did require so great a receptacle.

I question not but both are to blame, for where-ever we find any sparks of goodness and piety, though they lodge in the breast of a Turk or Jew, Papist or Protestant, yet it is but common justice to afford every man is due praise.

'TIS easy also to discover the jesuit's mistakes : For first, Mr. Sutton intended to reside upon his benefaction, as master of it ; though it pleased God sooner to take him to himself to admit him into the Land of Promise.

THEN his kindred were known far and near, for Simon Baxter, son of his sister Dorothy, endeavoured to overthrow the settlement of the estate, as being next heir at law.

HIS other objections concerning penuriousness, shall be answer'd in another place. Here now I could to the purpose recriminate, but that I am sensible it is disingenuous and uncharitable ; and widens the breaches of Christendom.

LET the froward world endeavour to defame and calumniate, to bespatter all that is good and laudable ; yet certainly, we ought to rise up in the vindication of him, who taught us to speak, to proclaim his charity by which we live ; to commend that temperance which affords us affluence and plenty ; to admire his self-denial, who was to do little less than a miracle, to feed a multitude.

THERE are few such usurers who design to receive their interest in heaven; few such benefactors, whose comprehensive bounty embraces all mankind, from the cradle almost, to the grayest head; from the tender and helpless youth, to the most impotent and infirm old age.

HAD our founder gained that by unlawful Usury, which he disposed to pious uses (which is a sin almost to suppose, unless we had evidence) yet restitution is the best sign, and the greatest testimonial of sincere repentance; and where particular restitution cannot be made to the parties wronged, God requires it should be given to relieve the poor.

THUS Zaccheus, Luke xix. 8. upon his repentance and conversion, made an overture of restitution to all that he had wronged, nay fourfold, and gave half of his estate to Souls that were in want; this is recorded for our example.

BUT this accusation can lay no hold on Mr. Sutton; for his estate was gotten by trade and offices, and never laid out for interest until his years admonished him to quit his business, and leave it for younger and more active people, who could not undertake it unless he lent them money: And what injury did he to any man to let him have that at *6l. per Cent.* which he was able to improve to *30 or 40 per Cent.* Besides in his latter time his money was chiefly laid out upon annuities.

IT was observed, that when he lent money, he would enquire how it was spent, and if he found that it was laid out for necessaries, food, and

and raiment, he never could be persuaded to take any use. No doubt but he rose by the steps of thrift and frugality, by being diligent in a lawful calling; nor was he prodigal because he intended to be magnificent.

OBSERVE this story which is told of his parsimony: Whilst he was busied in foreign trade and commerce with other nations, he contracted a familiar acquaintance with a merchant, his companion in travel; who, though he did equal Sutton in trade, yet had not so well learned the elements of thrift: For when on a journey he called for his pint of wine, Sutton called for a gill: And for every other liquor doubled the quantity. At length this merchant dies, and by computation leaves an estate of fifty thousand pounds; which report coming to Sutton's ears, he said, *Alas! I always pitied him, I thought he would die no rich man.*

THIS was, in the person of his friend, to correct the surfeits and extravagancies of a profuse age: For a rich man is no ways happier than another man, but that he has more opportunities ministred unto him of doing more good than his neighbours. Therefore Diogenes asked of the thrifty man but a half-penny; of the prodigal a pound; the former he said might give him often, but the latter would shortly have nothing to give. Good husbandry is the fuel of liberality. He chose rather to deny himself in his superfluities, to retrench vain expences, that he might be able to refresh others in their day of sorrow; not to

take from others wants, that he might riot, and rejoice in their miseries.

THE fame and credit of our generous founder, brought him to share in many offices at the court, and at the Custom-house, where they had occasion for his money : For when an industrious man has once rais'd his fortunes to a considerable pitch, he then grows rich apace, by sharing in the constant labours of many of the under sort of men.

HE was a sharer in several publick farms, a partner in foreign adventures, especially in Muscovy and Hamburgh ; infomuch that he had no less than thirty agents abroad.

THUS he toil'd and wrought, as if he coveted all ; and gave away, as if he desired nothing : He looked upon himself as the steward of the great God, thriving as all should, not for himself but others : Unwilling to lavish what he could spare from his own occasions, on pride or ambition, the luxury and vanity of a trifling world, when God appointed it to be the portion of his fellow-creatures.

MR. SUTTON, according to the methods of wise men who mean to be wealthy, appointed his ordinary expences to be but half of his incomes, when they were at the lowest ; and when they increased he ordered a third part, and at the highest, he determined to be charitable to an eighth part, or thereabouts, while living : When his estate was two thousand pound *per Annum*, he designed one thousand for himself and family, in house-keeping and board-wages ; two or three hundred pounds for charity, four hundred pounds
for

for law and phyfick, and many other neceffaries; the reft for extraordinary emergencies, not thinking it any way difhonourable, to have a perfonal infpection over his own affairs.

HE was happy in a wife, as well as eftate, which was advanced by her near twenty thoufand pounds. She was the Lady Popham, and fo enjoyed the wealth of great rich Popham. He had no iffue by his beloved wife, for God Almighty had defigned him a numerous train of children, to be adopted into his family, and nurfed up tenderly, as if they came from his own loins.

HIS addreffes were manly and taking, his difcourfe clear and full of eloquence: He did not interrupt his refolutions with fearfulness and too much caution, nor deprive himfelf of the great instrument of action, truft or belief. Thefe good qualifications, with the glad circumftances of a large fortune, and a long age, near eighty years, in a peaceable and flourishing reign (after the troublefome days of Queen Mary, and before the late unhappy rebellion) could not but confpire to make him confiderable.

THE benefices that were in his patronage, he dearly bought, that he might beftow them upon men fit to be burning and fhining lights in the church of God; one of which divines was Dr. Fish, of Hallingbury in Effex, who has often testified Mr. Sutton's integrity in this point: He received his prefentation of him, *Anno Dom. 1610.* and heard him fay, *That he never defired any*
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thing

thing of a minister of God's Word, but his Prayers, and the due performance of his office.

HE was a good parishioner where he had land and no living; as well as a good patron where he had both: Encouraging all people by his early presence at church; doing good offices, as repairing churches, and decently adorning those holy places, *where God has said his name shall dwell.*

HE was remarkable for the compassion and relief he bestowed on the widows and children of good ministers: And this more particularly incited to by the excellent examples he had seen of charity of this nature in the Low-countries.

HE was very temperate, moderating his natural appetite by abstinence; he was sober and vigilant, and moderate in all his recreations: The outward ornaments of his body were clean and becoming, neither starch'd or curious, neither careless or nice. These were not so properly the comforts of his soul, as the sweetness of his life; hence proceeded health of body, clean strength, a good complexion, and a graceful and affable disposition.

As a master, he was careful and diligent to enquire how his servants performed their labours, for the dust of the master's shoes is the compost to improve the soil: And his love appeared to his servants by making a comfortable provision for them; for at this day many of the tenants to the house, are descended from those who were servants to the founder; and the common reason they give of their good bargains, is, *That they hold them as rewards of their ancestors service.* Yet it lies

lies in the power of the governors to advance the rent, which in some places has been done, though with great moderation; and this rather to quicken than dishearten the tenants.

IT is not intended by this character of Mr. Sutton, that he should be free from all blemish; that he should be another Bonaventure, in whom, some affirm, Adam did not sin. All things have a mixture of corruption here below, nay, it is riveted in our very nature: The fairest figure must have some flaws, and the most beautiful image some unhappy strokes; therefore he, as all other men, was subject to the like passions: Whatever were his failings, common charity should endeavour to hide his infirmities, who was content to spread his garments over so great a multitude.

AFTER a num'rous train of worthy and religious actions, in a good old age, within one of eighty years, he died at Hackney, in the county of Middlesex, Decem. 12. *Ann. Dom.* 1611. He had for some time laboured under a feverish distemper, which wasted him away, and brought him into a lingering consumption; this attended with frequent and sharp fits of the stone, and violent assaults of the cholick, made him surrender up his soul to that God, on whose power the life of all depends.

FROM Hackney he was removed Dec. 16. to Dr. Law's house (one of the executors mentioned in his will) in Pater-noster-row, and from thence was conveyed to his grave with all the pomp and solemnity, which might become the funeral of so great a man: Six thousand people attended his

corps through the city, whose passage lasted six hours; until they came to Christ-church, where his body lay till his foundation at the Charter-house was finished (which was about three years) *Anno Dom. 1614.* from whence he was in a decent manner removed, Decemb. 12. in the afore-said year: Upon which day is duly kept an anniversary commemoration, a sermon is appointed with a gratuity to the preacher. The first who preached on that occasion was Mr. Percival Burrell, Minister of the house, upon Luke vii. 5. *He hath built us a Synagogue:* The sermon was printed *Anno Dom. 1629.*

AFTER sermon the auditors repair to the publick hall, where the bounty and magnificence of our noble founder is gracefully set forth in a latin oration, by a youth of the foundation, whom Sutton has taught to speak.

THUS have we brought our founder to his place of rest; where, in the chapel, on the north-side is a noble monument, erected by his overseers, with this following inscription on a fair marble-stone, in golden letters.

Sacred to the glory of God.

In grateful memory of Thomas Sutton esquire, late of Castle-Camps, in the county of Cambridge, at whose only cost and charges this hospital was founded and endowed with large Possessions, for the relief of poor men and children: He was born at Knaith in the county of Lincoln, of worthy and honoured parentage: He lived to the Age of seventy nine years, and deceased Decemb. 12. 1611.

THE

THE Charter-house is undoubtedly a noble foundation for one man ; but I have been informed it has been abus'd, by admitting gentlemen's sons, who have no just plea for partaking of charity. But by the best enquiry I could make, I found most publick charities to derogate from their original intent. I remain

Your constant Friend.



LETTER IV.

S I R,

IN my last letter I gave you a very particular account of a private man ; but the charity he gave being of great repute in England, I concluded it well worth your reading ; I shall now go on with an account of some more hospitals and publick buildings.

HERE are many other publick charities worth noting, particularly one near the Charter-house,
call'd

call'd Christ's-hospital, founded by King Edward the sixth, who dy'd very young : Children are either put apprentices to trades, sent to sea, or the universities, as bests suits their capacities. And this hospital has produced men of great character and learning, as likewise many eminent merchants and navigators.

NEAR this is St. Bartholomew's-hospital, for the cure of sick and lame people ; adjoining to it is a building for the governors to discharge and admit patients, &c. fit for the palace of a King. A report goes current, that the devil was in this place when it was building ; for that the neighbouring windows were broke all to pieces by stones seen to fly from it, when upon the strictest search no person could be found any where in the place.

ST. THOMAS'S-HOSPITAL, on the south-side of the river Thames, is an hospital of much the same nature as St. Bartholomew's.

NEAR this is Guy's-hospital for incurables : Mr. Guy rais'd his fortune from a very low state of life, to be one of the greatest money'd men in the city of London ; and left several good legacies to his relations, besides this hospital.

A great number of children both girls and boys are likewise provided for by parishes or societies, who are cloath'd according to the will of their benefactors ; they are call'd *Charity Children* ; and many of them have better education than the children of their benefactors ; but few will own the place of their education, when they get out of livery :

HERE

H E R E is likewise another charity call'd, *The London-Workhouse*, in Bishopsgate-street.

B R I D E W E L L, near the river Thames, was formerly a royal palace ; but now a publick work-house ; where abundance of young men serve their apprenticeships. It is a house of correction for street walkers, of whom I gave you some account before. Here they are brought in their fine clothes to beat hemp, and receive the correction of the house. It is likewise a prison for disorderly apprentices.

B E S I D E S these, almost every parish has a publick charity-building, which is rather compulsion than charity ; for the parish officers have a power of raising money for the relief of the poor. These are call'd *Workhouses*, and are under the care of a master and mistress: And subject to the inspection of parish officers. These places are a sort of prisons, where you cannot have admittance to see any person without a particular licence ; gentlemen and tradesmen who are reduced to necessity, and left destitute of friends, are here very charitably made companions for beggars and blackguards !

T H E governors of these places are very often an illiterate ignorant set of men, and know not any difference between a person of good family and education ; and the greatest scoundrel in nature. And to be confin'd to keep company with those people who are one's aversion, disturbs the mind as much, as to be cramm'd with nauseous food does the stomach. Therefore rather than suffer such confinement, and be compell'd to keep
such

such disagreeable company, many have chose to be starved, or at once destroy'd themselves.

HERE are likewise excellent publick grammar-schools, viz. Westminster, St. Paul's, Merchant-Taylors, and Mercers-hall; as for private schools both for grammar and qualifying youth for trade and business, they are almost innumerable.

THIS city is likewise adorned with many publick buildings, some of which I have before-mentioned, viz. such as belong to united traders.

SION-COLLEGE, near Bethlehem, is a very commodious building, tho' in a remote part of the city. The institution of this college is upon a noble foundation, viz. *For the glory of God, the good of his church, for redressing inconveniences in it; maintaining truth in doctrine, and love in conversation one with another.* But such foundations are generally too good for the superstructure.

GRESHAM-COLLEGE, founded by Sir Thomas Gresham, who built the Royal-Exchange; the design of this college is for improving youth in divinity, the civil-law, astronomy, geometry, rhetorick, physick, and musick; and in term-time lectures are read every morning in latin; and in the afternoon in English; and any gentleman may be admitted.

IN this college the famous Royal Society, founded by King Charles the second, kept their assemblies; but removed, on some differences between them and the professors in the college. It is now kept in a place call'd Crane-court, in Fleet-street, where they have built a repository for their curiosities.

THE

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, is composed of the greatest body of men of quality and learning in most European countries, of any academy in the world; they have made great improvement in natural and experimental knowledge; the progress they make is published to the world in their monthly transactions.

THIS society is govern'd by a president and twenty council, and any gentleman may be admitted a member, by giving some proof of his capacity to the president and council.

THE curiosities of this society are not so great as some others; but they have not yet had time enough to make the finest collection; the greatest part of their rarities are put up into boxes, and the birds and beasts hang round the room.

IN the boxes are several mummies and anatomical matters, relating to men and beasts; serpents and birds; eggs and descriptions of nests; all sorts of fishes, insects, woods, branches and leaves; nuts and fruits; roots, mosses and mushrooms; plants; animal bodies putrify'd; corals and other marine productions; gems; gold, silver, copper, tin, lead and iron, antimony, mercury, and other metals; with salts, sulphurs, and earths.

HERE are several things concerning chemistry; instruments relating to natural philosophy; to the mathematics and mechanics; with other curiosities: But I don't remember I saw here any curious pictures; yet no art deserves the inspection of the ingenious more than painting.

THIS

THIS society has at present a fine library ; and its members are so much increased by men of fortune and learning, that I believe it will in time be the best in England.

FOR regulating their affairs, they have a treasurer, who receives and pays what money they order ; a secretary, who receives all letters of information, projects, inventions, and propositions that are sent from all parts ; as likewise a register, or recorder, who enters all their experiments and proceedings.

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, is a very beautiful and magnificent building, consisting of a square court, into which one enters by a sort of a triumphant arch. Above the gate is the theatre for manual operations in surgery : there is a cupola over this theatre, which commands a prospect of the whole city.

THE theatre has six circular seats one above another, there is a particular seat for the president, for him who reads the lecture, and for the operator.

OVER the hall door is a fine figure of King Charles the second, with this inscription : *Utriusque fortunæ exemplar ingens. Adversis rebus Deum probavit : prosperis seipsum. Collegii hujusce, 1682.*

THIS college is govern'd by a president, four censors, a treasurer, a register, and fifty two fellows.

THE censors have power to search apothecaries shops, and prove the medicines. Here the poor have advice gratis ; and medicines from their dispensaries.

GUILD-

GUILDHALL, is the London town-house, an antique building, almost in the center of the city. Here the Lord mayor, aldermen, and common council meet to regulate affairs relating to the city. In this hall are kept several courts of law, as likewise the chamberlain's office, whose power is very great in relation to suits between tradesmen and apprentices, granting of freedoms, &c. The great hall is adorn'd with the pictures of some kings and queens, and several judges at full length in their proper habits. In this place the citizens chuse their members of parliament.

THE Excise-office is in the Old-jury, near Guildhall, it is govern'd by several commissioners, it has likewise a treasurer, accomptant, auditor, comptroller, and many other inferior officers.

THIS is the most extensive office in England; there are such a number of inferior officers, called Excisemen, belonging to it, that they come at the knowledge of the private affairs of most of the families in England; for they have power to seize goods upon the roads upon suspicion of not paying duty; and to enter and examine peoples houses at discretion.

THE people of England have an utter aversion to excises; and when an attempt was made to put wine and tobacco under the inspection of the excise, I was in London; and thought the inhabitants would have taken up arms in opposition to it; such was their fury and resentment; and that law was dropt.

I NEVER saw people make more rejoicings in my life, than were upon this account; the monument was illuminated, bonfires, ringing of bells; and all demonstrations of joy that could be shown upon some great deliverance; and this example was followed by the different counties in England; and became a general thanksgiving. You must know, when the city of London are resolved unanimously to oppose any measures they think destructive to trade, all other powers are cautious of what they are about: For to attack the trading body of the nation, is to assault its foundation. The trading men of England being in general rich and brave, and will suffer no power upon earth to deprive them of their lawful gains, or invade their privileges. The grand rebellion in England would not have run to such a height as it did, if King Charles had not disoblig'd the city of London.

I will give you the reason why the citizens opposed this law in so violent a manner; by the law of England no person can be found guilty of any crime, without being try'd by twelve men, who are called a jury. These men must all agree in their opinion before a prisoner can be convicted; they are lock'd up together in a dark room, without fire, candle, or any necessaries of life till they all consent to bring in the prisoner guilty or not guilty. The judge and jury very often disagree; for when it is the opinion or partiality of a judge to find the prisoner guilty, if the evidence does not appear sufficient to the jury; the judge may hold his tongue; this is a valuable privilege
to

to Englishmen ; and if a prisoner has any cause to suspect that any of the jurymen will give their verdict with partiality, he has a right to challenge them, that is, to object against them.

Now in relation to excises, the commissioners are the judges ; and they are try'd by their accusers. I leave you to determine whether such privileges are worth contending for ; and what disgrace it would be to part with what their ancestors have with so much bravery and judgment secur'd.

THE expulsion of the excise scheme is annually observ'd ; and a chief magistrate of the city of London met with the greatest indignity and ridicule for attempting to oppose the populace in their rejoicings. His house was assaulted, and all his windows broke to pieces by stones of a very large size ; for though the English people show much duty and respect to their governors, yet when they are thoroughly exasperated, they show the greatest indignities to the greatest persons. This has been their rule from the earliest account of time I can meet with in their best historians.

COMPANY-HALLS are buildings belonging to particular trades, where they assemble the day a Lord-mayor takes possession of the city ; many of these halls are grand and magnificent buildings, several of the London companies having very large estates.

I HAD almost forgot to tell you, that there is an office depending on the general Post-office, which conveys letters to all parts of the city several times a day, which costs no more than one penny ; and for the convenience of the inhabitants,

habitants, there is scarce a street any where in or about this great city, but has an office for taking in these letters; and notwithstanding this great convenience, there are porters at the corner of almost every great street, who get a comfortable livelihood by carrying goods and letters.

HERE are several colleges or inns of court for the statute and common law, and one for the civil law.

THE college for the civil law is called Doctors-commons, a noble building, divided into several courts, where the doctors of the civil law, with their proctors reside.

HERE is kept the court of admiralty for trying causes betwixt nation and nation, in relation to trade; as likewise a spiritual court, which is independent upon the common and statute law of the nation.

NEAR Doctor's-commons is the heralds office, where the records of the coats of arms of all the families and names in England are kept, when granted, and on what account.

IT is govern'd by the Earl Marshal of England, who has under him three kings at arms; viz.

GARTER, whose business wholly relates to the sovereign and the order of the garter, and the ranks of the nobility, who insist much upon precedence.

CLARENCIEUX, whose office relates to all gentlemen under the degree of a baron, on the south-side of Trent.

NORROY, beyond Trent to Scotland.

THERE

THERE are fix heralds and four pursuivants under these kings; and fix proctors are allowed to plead causes relating to coats of arms that are try'd before the earl Marshal, or his deputy.

HERALDRY is here observ'd with great strictness; a duke, a marquis, an earl, a viscount have each of them distinct coronets, a description of which I gave you in my first letter. No person dares put these marks of distinction on their seals or coaches, but such as are of that degree, on severe penalties, which is under the immediate inspection of this office.

WHEN a king or queen is crown'd, the peers wear their coronets and their robes, in which they make a very magnificent appearance.

THE nobility in general give motto's to their arms; and any gentleman may give a motto or device; but not that of the eldest branch of the family, without their consent.

THE mottoes of the nobility allude either to their names, undertakings or exploits; the duke of Schomberg, who came to England with the prince of Orange, gave for his motto, *quo fata vocant*, WHERE DESTINY CALLS ME; and the lord Cutts, who was made a peer for his service in the army, had for his motto, *sanguine & sudore*, BY BLOOD AND SWEAT. This lord Cutts, on account of his desperate exploits, was nick-nam'd, *The Salamander*.

THE duke of devonshire's motto is, *Cavendo tutus*, their names being Cavendish.

THE heralds office is finely disposed with a pav'd court, and has a library worth observing.

HERE

HERE are likewise several inns of court or colleges for the study in the common law.

THE TEMPLE, so called from its being the monastery, of the knights templars. It resembles a town rather than a college, it being very nobly built, on the banks of the Thames, and has a fine garden, whose walls are wash'd by the tides of that great river. Here are two large squares, besides several small paved courts, with chambers for the gentlemen who come here to study.

THERE are five gates to this college, which are shut up at very regular hours. In this temple no person, whether student or not, can be arrested for debt, or taken out for any crime, without the permission of the heads of the college.

HERE is a regular table kept for the students; but they are not obliged strictly to attend it. The church is very noble, and the portico full of ancient monuments of knights templars.

LINCOLN'S INN, is likewise a noble large college, it has a very grand square in which is kept the stamp office. There is a fine large garden, full of statues, and a terras walk, which commands Lincoln's-inn-fields, which will be one of the finest places about London.

To Lincoln's-inn there is a chapel, the windows of which are finely stain'd, and look very beautiful.

GRAYS-INN, near Lincoln's-inn, is likewise the representation of a town, here being two
noble

noble large squares, a large garden with a Terras walk, which commands a fine prospect.

HERE are several other inns of court, or colleges; as, Bernard's, Staple's, Furnival's, Thavvy's, Lyon's, Symon's, Clifford's, Clement's and New-inn, which are at a small distance one from the other, most of them being in or near Holborn.

WESTMINSTER-ABBEY, the cathedral of the city of Westminster; but you may remember I told you London and Westminster were generally taken for one city; but they are nevertheless under quite different governments. London is govern'd by a Lord mayor; who, during his mayoralty, is stiled *Right honourable*, a court of aldermen, and the common council or the representatives of the whole city; but Westminster, by its government resembles more an university than a city; for here are no mayors or aldermen; but it is govern'd by the dean and chapter of the Abbey-church of Westminster, who chuse a high-steward out of the principal nobility; who has under him an under-steward and high bailiff.

THE Abbey-church of Westminster is generally the repository of the ashes of the kings and queens of England, is a very reverend pile of building; and strikes with a sort of awe when one first enters. It contains such a number of royal monuments, as well as those of other great men, that it would make a large volume to give you a particular description of them all, with the inscriptions upon them.

KING

KING HENRY the seventh of England join'd a very sumptuous chapel to this abbey; which contains a great number of royal monuments; and here Don Pedro de Ronquillo, who was ambassador from the court of Spain to that of England, lies unburied; his corpse being arrested by his creditors, and kept till redeem'd by his relations.

IN the body of the church are abundance of fine monuments, among which is that to the memory of the great Sir Isaac Newton, a man who had the character of being the greatest philosopher of this age.

THE monument of Admiral Shovel, which I think a very odd one, he being in a large Perriwig, finely comb'd out, and his body partly naked; for the tokens of mature age are made very visible.

IN this abbey lie the bodies of Kings and Queens, peers and peeresses, divines, poets, musicians, physicians, warriors, and politicians; all make one common dust: Here is an epitaph on Mr. Prior, who was both a poet and politician, which is a very just satire on human dignities.

*Heralds and courtiers by your leave,
Here lie the bones of Matthew Prior,
The son of Adam and of Eve;
Let Bourbon or Nassau go higher!*

BOURBON and Nassau, being two great families in Europe are here shown the insignificancy of grandeur when life is gone; and that all mankind are originally from one descent.

WEST-

ment of the whole nation ; for as the kingdom of England is under the direction of king, lords, and commons ; so the city of London is under the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council. It is divided into twenty six wards, each of which is govern'd by its alderman, out of which a lord mayor is chosen every year. Here are likewise two sheriffs, whose power is very considerable ; and before an alderman can be chosen lord mayor, he must serve the office of sheriff.

THE lord-mayor of London is generally a knight, is supreme judge of all causes within the city ; and the two sheriffs execute justice under him. He appears in publick in great state, with his scarlet robes, the sword and mace carried before him, with his proper officers attending him. His coach is very grand, and when he appears abroad, a stranger would take him for the King. His sword-bearer, huntsman, and water-bailiff are places of very great profit. He keeps a very magnificent table, and the day he takes upon him the mayoralty, is honour'd at dinner with the most principal officers of state, and nobility in the kingdom, and sometimes by the king himself. His sword-bearer's table is likewise a very good one, being allowed a sufficient support to maintain it. A story is related by an english historian, that Sir Henry Picard, a lord mayor of London, entertain'd at dinner four kings at one time, viz. of England, Scotland, France, and Cyprus, and after dinner won most of the four kings money ; which had like to occasion a quarrel betwixt him and the king of Cyprus.

THE

THE solemnity of the lord mayor's being sworn into his office is very grand; the twelve companies of London, out of one of which he must be chosen, and others who have barges, accompany him to Westminster, with trumpets sounding, and other musick, and streamers with the royal arms, and those of the several companies flourishing; and guns firing from either shore of the river Thames, both going and coming. After his return from Westminster, he makes a grand procession thro' the city, attended by the aldermen in their robes, the sheriffs, and the companies of London in their livery gowns. He is preceded by a fine body of city guards, who make as grand an appearance as the best of the Kings forces, and thoroughly understand the military discipline.

THE lord mayor is supreme judge of the court for trying criminals, which is kept in a place called the Old-baily. This is one of the fairest courts in the world, and gives a prisoner all the opportunity to clear himself. The witnesses against the prisoner are very strictly examined by the judge; who sits both to do justice to the King and the Subject, and takes particular care to prevent any malicious prosecutions; and a servant has as much justice as the master. If a prosecution appears to be carried on with a malicious view, the court grants a copy of the indictment, by which means the prisoner has damages granted in common law. I heard myself a tryal of two servants, when they were both acquitted; and the woman servant had a

copy of her indictment granted, notwithstanding her master was prosecutor, who was a very considerable man, have a large estate, and the title of a baronet.

L O N D O N affords so many different objects, that I think I cannot leave it; but however I am at present got into St. James's Park, which is a sort of refreshment from the thick air of the city. Here the nobility and gentry walk to get them a stomach before dinner, as likewise in the evening; the royal palace of St. James's, being here situated, it must of course abound with people. It is much frequented on Sundays by tradesmen and their wives and children, who come here to take an airing. But one thing I must observe to you, that when I sat down upon any of the benches to rest my self, I generally found more French than English; or else that the natives had forsaken their own language, and took delight in talking that of their neighbours. But the liberties the English people enjoy, invite abundance of strangers to settle here, and get their livelihood.

H E R E is a fine walk call'd the Mall, half a mile in length, at the upper end of which is the house of the Duke of Buckingham; but now that title is extinct, the last dying a minor. Near the middle the dutchess dowager of Marlborough lives; which favour of building a house there was granted to the late duke, on account of the great military services he had done his country. This lady is very antient and rich, and
devotes

devotes the greatest part of her life to acts of charity.

FROM the Mall is a prospect of Westminster-abbey, and the banquetting house; the former is the place where the Kings are crowned, and the latter where King Charles the first was taken out and beheaded. Which occasion'd me abundance of reflections concerning the instability of human affairs. It put me in mind of the wise Solon, who told Cræsus, when he ask'd him who was the happiest man, *That no man could be happy before death*; which Cræsus afterwards experienced when he was taken prisoner by Cyrus, and sentenc'd to be burnt: And King Charles the first of England experienc'd the same, when his head was upon the block. But when Kings are in the height of glory, surrounded by a splendid court, they can scarcely believe such an alteration in human affairs to be possible.

Your's with Fidelity.



LETTER VI.

S I R,

I SHALL in this letter give you some farther account of Westminster, and then I think to take my leave of the town. The old palace of the Kings of England I have taken no notice of; which tho now it is intirely neglected by the royal family as a palace; yet the High-court of parliament and other courts of justice are kept here. The entrance into this palace is thro' a great hall, without any pillars to support its roof, which is of Irish oak, and butteressed at the top very artfully.

As you enter this hall on the right, is a pair of stairs which leads to the court where the barons of the Exchequer sit to decide all causes relating to the revenue; and equity.

On the left is another pair of stairs which leads to the office of Exchequer, where the publick money of the nation is received and paid.

NEAR

NEAR the middle of the hall, on the right, is the court of Common-pleas, which decides causes betwixt man and man.

AT the upper end of the hall, on the right, is kept the court of Chancery; and on the left that of the King's-bench. The first for trying causes in equity, and the latter for criminal causes, and pleas of the crown.

IN this hall the Kings and Queens entertain their nobility at their coronation.

AT the upper end of it on the left, is a pair of stairs which leads to the apartments above.

THE first room call'd the court of requests, is convenient for those who have any business with either houses of parliament; and as you go some steps higher is the house of commons, which is a very compact room, with little apartments adjoining for the convenience of the Speaker and other members

NEXT the court of Requests is the painted chamber, where conferences are held between the two houses of parliament upon extraordinary affairs; and here is a gallery for the lower house to come up without being crouded.

THE furthest room leads through a passage to the house of Lords, hung with fine tapestry, representing the Spanish Armado in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

BEHIND the office of the Exchequer, towards the Thames, are genteel apartments for the chief officers belonging to it.

THE Auditor of the Exchequer has a noble apartment adjoining to, and under the house of
F 4 commons,

commons, with a fine garden opening to the Thames.

THE four tellers, whose employment is both honourable and profitable, have likewise their several apartments.

THIS whole building was once the palace of the Kings of England; and the several courts and apartments before mention'd declare its ancient grandeur.

ADJOINING to it is Westminster-abbey before mention'd.

I SHALL now give you an account of some particular houses of the ancient and principal nobility, with the most remarkable places of their abode; and then conclude my letter.

SOMERSET-HOUSE, in the Strand, has been in possession of the Crown ever since its first founder, the Duke of Somerset was beheaded. King Charles the second added a very grand apartment; which is a Dowry-house for ever for the Queens of England. There are to this house very pleasant gardens, situated on the banks of the Thames, which makes them very pleasant, and much frequented by genteel sort of people. It was in this house that the Chevalier de St. George, who set up for King of Poland, resided in the reign of Queen Anne: And the masquerades here made by the Duke d'Aumont, then Ambassador from France, were suppos'd to be done for the Chevalier's diversion.

THE SAVOY, so called from its being built by Peter Earl of Savoy. Eleanor, wife of Henry the third, bought it of the fraternity of Mont-joy,

Joy, and gave it to Edmund Earl of Lancaster her son, whose posterity had it for a seat, till Henry the seventh made it an Hospital. It had once particular privileges; and its neighbourhood is at present call'd *The Duchy liberty*; where no person could be arrested; but those privileges are now lost, and it has no other than enjoying, within the walls only, the privileges of other royal palaces.

It is a large square building. The French protestants have the use of one of the churches in its square, and the rest is govern'd by a Master and four divines, whose allowance is in the manner of colleges. Here are likewise many apartments for lodging foot-soldiers.

EXETER-HOUSE, built, by the eldest son of the famous Cecil, lord Burleigh, great minister of state under Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have resolved, that no one should see him die; and notwithstanding, when he lay very ill, and at the point of death, there were several people in the room, he talk'd to them, till he found his last breath departing; and turning himself, died without any one's seeing him. Exeter-house now makes an Exchange; but you may remember I told you, that the Royal Exchange in the upper part was in a manner desolate, and all other Exchanges undergo the same fate; the milliners, &c. who chiefly inhabited them, being remov'd to great shops in the most capital streets.

NORTHUMBERLAND-HOUSE, is a noble square court, with a garden running down to the

river side, and the whole a princely and noble building.

LEICESTER-HOUSE, in Leicester-square, but generally call'd Leicester-fields, was the residence of the present King of England, when Prince of Wales, and is a very magnificent palace. In this square are the houses likewise of some of the principal nobility and gentry in England. The middle of it is planted with trees, and railed round, which affords a sort of rural prospect to the houses.

BUCKINGHAM-HOUSE, which I mention'd before, is most delightfully situated in the upper end of St. James's Park, fronting the Mall; and behind the house is a fine garden, a terras-walk which affords a beautiful prospect, and a little park with a pretty canal.

THE court yard which fronts the park, is spacious, in which is a round basin of water lin'd with free-stone, with the figures of Neptune and his tridents; the offices are commodious; the stair-case is large and finely painted; and in the hall is a marble statue of Cain slaying his brother Abel.

THE apartments are noble, the furniture rich, and adorn'd with many fine pictures. The top of the house is flat, and commands a prospect of London and Westminster; and the country for many miles round.

THE figures of Mercury, Secrecy, Equity and Liberty, front the park, and the four seasons the gardens. There are four inscriptions on this house, but two very particular ones well

well adapted; that fronting the park is, *Sic fiti lætantur lares*; thus the household gods delight themselves: and fronting the garden, which commands the country, *Rus in urbe*, The country in a city.

THE father of the late minor who died being a man of great knowledge, I think his epitaph, wrote by himself, is worthy your perusal,

*Pro rege sæpe, pro republica semper.
Dubius, sed non improbus, vixi.
Incertus morior, sed inturbatus.
Humanum est errare, & nescire,
Christum adveneror, Deo confido,
Omnipotenti, benevolentissimo.
Ens entium, miserere mei.*

Thus Englished.

Much for my KING, but for my COUNTRY
more.

DUBIOUS I liv'd, but was not profligate.

I die UNCERTAIN, yet I die RESIGN'D.

All human race is ignorant and frail.

CHRIST I adore, IN GOD ALONE CON-
FIDE,

Who is almighty and most merciful.

O thou FIRST CAUSE and principal of beings!

Pity my frailties, and have mercy on me!

MARLBOROUGH-HOUSE, built by the greatest General of the age, the late duke of Marlborough, whose prudence and success in war
made

made him famous all over the world, is a grand edifice, but more confin'd than that of the Duke of Buckinghamshire. The court is very spacious and finely pav'd. In this house, the battles of Hochstet, Blenheim, with the taking marshal Tallard prisoner, are finely painted; as also Prince Eugene of Savoy, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Cadogan, and Marechal Tallard, to the life.

THE KING'S PALACE at St. James's joins to this; it has no such great appearance for the palace of a prince; it consists of two squares or courts, and the rooms of state are majestick and large; every thing within is much nobler than would be expected from its outward appearance.

THERE are abundance of genteel squares in the city of Westminster.

GROSVENOR-SQUARE, is a very noble one, inhabited by the first nobility, and I think the most pleasant place about London.

HANOVER-SQUARE, is likewise a fine pleasant place, inhabited by some of the first rank.

St. JAMES'S-SQUARE, near the park, is a fine place, has a basin in the middle, and the houses very magnificent.

GOLDEN-SQUARE, is not very large, but well built, rail'd in, and planted in the middle with trees.

SOHO-SQUARE, is large and regular, and began by the Duke of Monmouth, who was beheaded for rebelling against King James the second of England. In the middle is the statue of King Charles, the Duke of Monmouth's father.

ther. It is planted with trees, with neat walks rail'd round.

COVENT-GARDEN-SQUARE, is a noble Piazza, in this square is a very fine church, as likewise a play-house; much resorted to by the English people; but their dramatick pieces are now much neglected, and the most ridiculous nonsense introduc'd; such as Harlequin turn'd into an old woman selling pears; Harlequin coming out of an egg; Harlequin running away with mens wives; but the most diverting scene is to see a number of English cuckoldes applauding Harlequin when he runs away with a man's wife; in short Harlequin is such a hero among the English, that nothing can be done without him; he kips, dances, runs about, but says nothing; all's done by dumb signs and motions: This Harlequin wears a fool's coat, a deform'd face, a wooden sword, and has such a number of wooden actions, that all these theatrical performances are fit for nothing but to divert wooden heads.

THERE are three other theatres in London and Westminster, one in Drury-lane, a place very remarkable for whores and pick-pockets; one in Goodman's-fields near the tower of London; one in the Hay-market, which is much the least, and was once a French theatre.

IN the Hay-market is an Italian theatre, which the English prodigiously encourage: This place is much frequented by the most principal people, and half of them don't understand what they hear. It is one of the prettiest banks for
the

the performers you can imagine ; for here they have *ready money* for *Fa-la-la's* ; besides many fine presents. And when a new *Fa-la* arrives with any character, it is the most unfashionable, ungenteel, ill-bred thing imaginable not to make him a present ; the ladies are not fit for conversation till they have done it. I don't doubt, my friend, but you'll think this preposterous ; but it is very true. For, as I observ'd to you before, they'll sooner make a tradesmen go without his lawful demands, than lie under that terrible scandal, of not making a present to a famous new Italian singer ; and these *Fa-la's* are sometimes made companions for many of the greatest persons in the kingdom, tho' I don't tell you the wisest. I leave you to make what observations you think proper.

BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, situated on a high ground, in an open free air, has several genteel houses and inhabitants.

RED-LYON-SQUARE, is but small, neither is its appearance genteel ; there is near it a much finer place, call'd Ormond-street, and very well inhabited.

QUEEN'S-SQUARE, is adjoining to Ormond-street, and commands a fine prospect, of the level ground on the north side of London, as likewise of two villages about four miles distance, call'd Highgate and Hampstead, situate upon two healthy pleasant hills, where the citizens of London resort for the recovery of their healths.

LINCOLNS-

LINCOLNS-INN-FIELDS, near Holborn is an open airy place, and is now making one of the finest squares in England, if not in the world. I cannot give you a particular account of it, till finished; but there is no doubt the inhabitants, being generally people of honour and fortune, will not be wanting in making it as compleat and grand as such a noble spot of ground will permit, and render it the wonder and amusement of future ages.

THERE are several villages about London, where the citizens have lodgings, such as Hackney, Dalston, Shacklewell, Kingsland, Newington, Kentish-town, &c. but Islington is the chief, which is about a mile in length, and the greatest part of the houses are lett into lodgings: This place is a perfect hospital to the city of London, where the people are carried to die when the doctors can do no more for them.

THROUGH this village the New-river runs, which supplies the greatest part of the cities of London and Westminster with water. This river is but a sort of guttur, yet by its constant supply from its spring and the river Lee, supplies those cities beyond what can be imagin'd. It rises at Ware in Hertfordshire, about twenty miles from London; but by its various turnings and windings, thro' meadows and gardens, hills and dales, makes about fixty miles. It is in some places a leaden cistern only, supported with strong pieces of oak. The New-river is really a very great curiosity, tho' but little regarded for such; but well known for the profits

fits arising from it. It ends at a rising ground near London, which commands a prospect over the city, to the counties of Surrey and Kent.

I shall in my next give you some general observations, and then bid farewell to London for some time, to partake of the recreations the country affords. I am,

Your's without Dissimulation.



LETTER VII.

S I R,

LONDON is the most open and free place for conversation, I believe, of any in the world. Here religion, law, politicks, and every subject is debated upon with as much freedom as if every citizen was a peer or senator of the realm. The actions and measures of the Government are criticiz'd upon, and censur'd every week in the publick news-papers. A prime minister of state is no more regarded than the meanest

meanest servant; and all his actions are very nicely observ'd. No treaty or alliance is made but what comes under the inspection of these weekly politicians; and sometimes they are wrote by men of the greatest character and capacity in the kingdom. Every administration has its advocates and opposers; and the people are always jealous of the prime minister, lest he should at one time or other betray the liberties. The Kings of England are seldom level'd at, but their prime minister always. He is watch'd with a thousand eyes, and is in continual jeopardy, both for fear of disgrace from his master, and the censure of the people: When a prime minister falls, it is all at once; for no sooner is he abandon'd by the King, but he falls a sacrifice to the people; and from the highest dignities sinks into the lowest disgrace, and very often nothing but life can make atonement for his past actions. But the prodigious power and profits a prime minister enjoys, are such alluring baits, that there are never wanting numbers of people who endeavour to steer at the helm.

THE present prime minister of England is a man of good parts, but gives little encouragement to ingenious men; he is very much hated by the people; the common fate of prime ministers!

THE coffee-houses are the general places of resort for politicians, being sure to see all the news-papers there. The ridiculous nonsense that one hears from some, is enough to surfeit a man of sense; for every cobbler in England is a politician, and looks upon himself, as an Englishman,
to

to have a right to censure or approve all actions of state, as they appear for the good of the commonwealth, or destructive to it. I have seen several of the very lowest class of mankind standing round a cobbler's-stall to hear the learned sole-mender debate upon every paragraph in a political news-paper, and his hearers become friends or foes to the government, according to the doctrine deliver'd from the **POLITICAL COBLER**.

THERE are several houses adjacent to the city of London, famous for both religious and political disputes ; and I must confess I have sometimes heard very nice arguments upon both subjects ; by men of some learning, but more capacity and experience. There one may hear the christian religion extoll'd by some as the happiest tidings ever declared to mankind ; by others condemn'd, as introducing strife, malice, and effusion of blood. They talk without the least reserve.

THE common discourse of these places would be esteemed the greatest blasphemy in some christian countries, and the disputants punish'd with the most exquisite torments.

THE most noted of these places are near Clerkenwel, as **THE LONDON-SPAW**, **THE CHERRY-TREE**, **SADLER'S-WELLS**, **SIR JOHN OLDCASTLES**, **LORD-COBHAM'S**, with many others of less note. It is worth the while of any foreigner to visit these houses sometimes : for a man can go no where to form a more general knowledge of the capacities, manners, tempers, religion and politicks of the English nation than at the fore-mentioned places.

THERE

T H E R E is a round table in a publick room, where every man drinks separately ; yet all in one company, here a man may begin a discourse, or make objections, as he thinks proper ; and considering the diversity of opinions, every man behaves with abundance of decorum and good manners, however different their sentiments. And if any one behaves rudely or indecently, he is excommunicated the general company, and no one takes notice of him. There is in short, more matter of speculation in these places than can be imagin'd by a person unacquainted with them.

H E R E are an infinite number of clubs, at taverns, coffee-houses, punch-houses, and ale-houses. White's chocolate-house in St. James's-street, on account of its genteel accommodations, and its vicinity to the court, is much frequented by the great men of the nation, who have a club there.

CLUBS or societies, for recreation and amusing one's time in an evening, are in great esteem from the first peer, to the poorest labouring man ; these clubs have orders for relating the behaviour and manners of the members ; and if they cause disturbances, or refuse to obey their articles or laws, they are excluded.

BIRTH-NIGHT-CLUBS, are much in vogue, where every member on his birth-night spends something extraordinary, or gives a small treat.

H E R E are several other clubs or societies ; as the Free-masons, who are very numerous, many of whose members are of the first rank.

T H E

THE HUM-UMS, the GEORGIANS, the HURLOTHRUMBO's, the LUMBER-TROOP, with many others : But the Free-mason's club is the most noted of them all, tho' much hated by the English women on account of their false notion of it ; for they think every man is subject to an unnatural lust to make himself a compleat member : But they are compos'd of some of the best accomplish'd men in England, for learning, bravery, and manly friendship.

THE LUMBER-TROOP, are pretty numerous, consisting chiefly of citizens ; they give a great sway in publick elections ; and very often turn the balance.

I have now, I think, sent you the most general account of the city of London, I can ; if any thing hereafter occurs worth communicating, I shall not fail to do it ; and am,

Your Friend, and Servant.

LET-



LETTER VIII.

S I R,

I set out from London the day after I sent you my last letter, from Bishopsgate-greet, which as I observ'd to you before, is the road to Cambridge. The first village I remark'd was Tottenham-high-cross, about four or five miles from London, situated on a hill, with abundant of pleasant houses, built in a very commodious genteel manner. From hence I soon reach'd Theobalds, in Hartfordshire, once the seat of King James the first, and the place where he dy'd. It is a pleasant house, finely situated, near the river Lee, which divides Essex from Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

FROM hence I soon arriv'd at the town of Ware, which is of no great consideration, and remarkable for a great bed being there, and is
the

the place from whence the new river, which supplies the city of London with water, has its rise.

I met with nothing remarkable till I arriv'd at Cambridge, the way to which from Ware is very bad travelling.

THE town of Cambridge is very incommodiously situated, being low and dirty; and the houses but very indifferently built; but it being near a river, and abundance of marsh lands, it affords much recreation, both for fishing and fowling, to the students of colleges and the townsmen.

THE university and town are two distinct corporations, and there are two representatives in parliament for each of them. They have their separate privileges; but when a mayor is chosen he takes an oath to conserve and preserve the privileges of the university.

THE colleges in this university are very commodiously built for the reception of the students, who are kept under very regular discipline, as to eating and drinking, hours for study, going to bed at night, and rising in the morning. The scholars are seldom permitted to go into the town; and when they have leave to go, are oblig'd to return to their respective colleges by nine a clock at night. They are carefully watch'd by their officers, call'd proctors, chosen every year, whose business is to inspect the behaviour of the scholars. After college hours, they have power to search all publick houses, and punish whosoever they find, without distinction.

THIS

THIS keeps the scholars intent upon their studies, and prevents many disorders their headstrong youth would occasion in the town ; for in both the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, there is a sort of inbred animosity between the students and the tradesmen.

THIS university is governed by a chancellor, who is always a peer of the realm,

A high steward,

A vice chancellor, who is chosen out of the heads of the several colleges every year.

EVERY college has its particular independent governor.

EVERY kind of learning has its professors ; as Divinity, Law, Physick, Mathematicks ; Hebrew, Arabick and Greek ; Astronomy, experimental Philosophy, and Casuists ; here are persons of learning and capacity chosen every year to read lectures ; Rhetoric, Logic, and the Mathematics.

THE professors of Divinity, Law, Physick, and Mathematicks, are obliged to read to their students four days every week, besides the tasks of the ordinary professors in each college ; and if the scholars neglect their lectures, they are confin'd and punished.

IN this university a youth must study three years before he can be admitted a batchelor of arts, and must answer all matters proposed to him by any master of arts or others. But here I must observe to you, that some ingenious young men are put back thro' malice, by a master's proposing some puzzling question, which in conscience
and

and reason, can't be suppos'd possible for a young student to answer ; and if answer'd, is of no real service : And this sometimes proceeds from some smart joke or pun, which has been put upon an old crab of a master. But these men, above all others, ought to be guided by reason, not passion or resentment ; and attribute any such sallies of wit to be the effect of a ready genius uncultivated, and not a design to injure or insult any one. But age has its foibles as well as youth.

AFTER a young student is admitted batchelor of arts, he must continue his studies three or four years more, before he can arrive to be master of arts ; and many years more before he can be admitted to the degree of a doctor.

THIS university has sixteen colleges, some of which, most worth remarking, I will give you some account of.

JESUS-COLLEGE, was founded by Malcolm IV. King of Scots, earl of Cambridge and Huntingdon, in honour to a French Queen, call'd St. Ranegundis, wife to Lothair, King of France, in regard to an inviolable alliance between the French and Scots ; he endow'd it for a nunnery out of the third penny he received from the county of Cambridge by inheritance.

THE lands of Cambridge being in process of time forfeited, the nuns were forced to leave the house ; and Henry the seventh of England converted it into a college in honour of St. Ranegundis, and put it under the protection of the bishop of Ely.

IT hath receiv'd many benefactions ; it has a provost, sixteen fellows, and twenty two scholars ; and chiefly educates clergymen.

KING'S-COLLEGE, was founded by Henry VI. and its conspicuous and venerable chapel strikes one with admiration in entering the town.

THIS college chapel is a very long and large room, without any pillars to support its roof ; and its choir adorned by King Henry VIII. has exceeding fine carv'd work in wood ; and the glass painting adds a great beauty to it.

THE whole building, roof and all, is of freestone, with the crown, coronet, and other ensigns of honour of the house of Lancaster, curiously cut in stone in several places, its founder being of the house of Lancaster.

I think it an amusement not unworthy your perusal, to send a copy of the founder's, King Henry the sixth's will, which shews the greatness of his design.

The will is as follows :

AS touching the dimensions of the church of my said college of our Lady and St. Nicholas of Cambridge, I have devised and appointed, that the same church shall contain in length two hundred and eighty eight foot of Assise, without any isles ; and all of the wideness of forty foot. And the length of the same church from the west end unto the altars, at the choir door shall contain one hundred and twenty foot, and from

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the provost's stall unto the Grece, called *Gradus Chori*, ninety foot, for thirty five stalls on either side of the same choir, answer to LXX fellows, and ten priests conduits, which must be *de Prima Forma*. And from the said stalls unto the east end of the said church, twenty two foot of Assise: Also a Rere dosse bearing the rood loft, departing the choir, and the body of the church, containing in length forty foot, and in breadth fourteen foot.

THE walls of the same church to be in height ninety foot, imbattelled, vaulted, and chare-roofed, sufficiently butteraced; and every butterace fined with finals.

AND in the east end of the same church shall be a window of nine days; and betwixt every butterace, a window of five days; and betwixt every of the same butteraces in the body of the church, on both sides of the same church, a closet, with an altar therein, containing in length twenty foot, and in breadth ten foot, vaulted and finished under the soil of the isle windows. And the pavement of the church to be enhanced four foot above the ground without; and the height of the pavement of the choir, one foot and a half above the pavement of the church.

AND the pavement of the altar three foot above that.

AND on the north side of the choir a vestry, containing in length fifty foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, departed into two houses beneath, and two houses above; which shall contain in height

height twenty two foot in all, with an entry from the choir vaulted.

AND at the west end of the church a cloyster-square; the east pane containing in length one hundred and seventy five foot, and the west pane as much.

THE north pane two hundred foot, and the south pane as much; of the which, the deambulatory thirteen foot wide, and in height twenty foot to the corbill-table, with clear stories and butteraces with finals, vaulted and embattelled; and the ground thereof four foot lower than the church ground.

AND in the middle of the west pane of the cloyster, a strong tower, square, containing twenty four foot within the walls; and in the eight, one hundred and twenty foot to the corbill-table and four small turrets over that, fined with pinnacles; and a door in the said cloyster inward, but outward none.

AND as touching the dimensions of the housing of the aforesaid college, I have devised and appointed in the south-side of the said church a quadrant, closing to both ends of the same church; the east pane whereof shall contain two hundred and thirty foot in length, and in breadth, within the walls, twenty two foot: In some panes middle, a tower for a gate-house, containing in length thirty foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, and in height forty foot, with three chambers over the gate, every one over the other.

AND on either side of the same gate four chambers, every one containing in length twenty five foot, and in breadth twenty two foot ; and over every of these chambers, two chambers above of the same measure, or more, with two towers outward, and two towers inward.

THE south pane shall contain in length two hundred and thirty eight foot, and in breadth twenty two foot within, in which shall be seven chambers, every one containing in length twenty nine foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, with a chamber, parcel of the provost's lodging containing in length thirty five foot ; and with a chamber in the east corner of the same pane, containing in length twenty five foot, and in breadth thirty two foot ; and over every of all these chambers, two chambers ; and with five towers outward, and three towers inward. The west pane shall contain in length two hundred and thirty foot, and in breadth within twenty four foot ; in which, at the end towards the church, shall be a library, containing in length one hundred and ten foot, and in breadth twenty four foot : and under it a large house for reading and disputations, containing in length forty foot ; and two chambers under the same library, each containing twenty nine foot in length, and in breadth twenty four foot. And over the said library, a house of the same largeness for divers the wardrobe-stuff of the same college.

IN the other end of the same pane, a hall, containing in length one hundred foot, upon a
vault

vault of twelve foot in height, ordained for the cellar and buttery; and the breadth of the hall thirty six foot, on every side thereof a bay-window.

A N D in the nether end of the same hall, towards the middle of the pane, a pantry and buttery, every of them in length twenty foot, and in breadth seventeen foot; and over that, two chambers for officers.

A N D at the nether end of the hall, towards the west, a goodly kitchen. And the same pane shall have inward two towers, ordained for the ways into the hall and library: And in every corner of the said quadrant shall be two corner towers, one inward, and one outward, more than the towers above rehearsed. And at the upper end of the hall the provost's lodging, that is, to wit, more than the chamber for him above specify'd; a parlour on the ground, containing thirty four foot in length, and twenty two foot in breadth; and two chambers above of the same quantity. And westward closing thereto, a kitchen for him, a larder-house, stables, and other necessary housings and grounds. And westward beyond these houses, and the said kitchen, ordained for the hall, a bakehouse, a brewhouse, and other houses of office; between which there is left a ground square of eighty foot in every pane for wood and such stuff: And in the middle of the said large quadrant shall be a conduit goodly devised for the ease of the same college.

A N D I will, that the edification proceed in large form of my said college, clean and substantial,

tial, setting a part superfluity of too great curious works of entail and busy moulding.

A N D I have devised and appointed, that the precinct of my said college, as well on both sides of the garden from the college to the water, as in all other places of the same precinct, be inclosed with a substantial wall of the height of fourteen foot, with a large tower at the principal entry against the middle of the east pane out of the high street. And in the same tower a large gate; and another tower in the middle of the west end of the new bridge; and the same wall to be crested, embattell'd and fortify'd with towers, as many as shall be thought convenient thereunto.

A N D I will that my said college be edify'd of the most substantial and best abiding stuff, of stone, lead, brass, and iron, that may best be had and provided thereto.

CLARE-HALL, is a fine neat building of free-stone, very commodious and beautiful. It consists of two spacious squares, with a fine library-room, built of free-stone, supported by a row of pillars, which makes it a very magnificent building.

W H A T I have already wrote is sufficient to give you a just idea of the grandeur of this university; so shall not trouble you with an account of every particular college. It is undoubtedly a great and ancient nursery of learning, as the following character from King Arthur plainly demonstrates.

ARTHUR,

ARTHUR relying on the regal power
received from God, to all his servants

GREETING,

Forasmuch as almighty God, through the mercy of his clemency, without any antecedent merit, has bestow'd on me the sceptre of a king; I willingly return to him some part of what he has given. Being therefore guided by his grace, for the love of the heavenly country, and the health of the souls of my predecessors, Kings of Britain, for the advancement of the publick welfare of my kingdom of Britain, and the spiritual benefit of the scholars continually studying at Cambridge, by the advice and consent of all and singular the prelates and princes of the same kingdom, with licence of the apostolick see; I by this present writing enact and firmly decree, that the aforesaid city of scholars, in which hitherto my predecessors, through the grace of the founder, have received the brightness of knowledge, and the light of learning, be exempt from publick taxes, and burthensome works; that the doctors and scholars there may adhere to the study of literature undisturb'd, as Lucius, the glorious king of Britain, decreed, embracing christianity, by the preaching of the doctors of Cambridge. Wherefore the doctors and scholars of Cambridge are to remain in perpetual tranquility, safe and defended by regal privileges, with their families and estates, from all secular servitudes, as also from regal taxes, great or small.

THIS charter was wrote about twelve hundred years ago, and King Arthur sent it by his nephew to the rector of the schools, whose name was Rynol.

FROM the best account of time I can gather, this was an university five hundred years before that famous one of Oxford.

THIS university has abundance of fine libraries; and every college endeavours to out-vie each other both in collecting antient manuscripts, and likewise in modern books.

THIS town gives the title of Duke to the eldest sons of the Kings of England.

THE county of Cambridge lies low and marshy; and produces excellent butter, and abundance of good grain.

MAY the great director of all human affairs, be your constant guide, and bring me safe to enjoy the conversation of my friend, who is, constantly in my mind. I often think of my friends and native country, and sometimes even resolve to return sooner than I design'd; but am now determin'd to stay some time longer; and shall always send you the accounts of my travels. I am

Your Friend and Servant.

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LETTER IX.

S I R,

I SET out from Cambridge soon after I wrote my last letter to partake of the pleasures of New-market, which is more famous for horse races, than any grandeur of the town: For it consists only of one street. I never thought my time better spent than I did at this place. Here all mankind are upon a level, from the first peer to the poorest peasant. The farmer, the grafter, the farrier, and the ploughman, bets money with *his Grace*, *his Lordship*, *Sir Thomas*, &c. with as much freedom as if there was no distinction; and sometimes *Hob* proves too sharp for *his Grace*.

IN the morning the horses are led over the grounds to air them, and make a pretty sight; but when they come to start for the plate, to see

what attention there is in every face, in expectation of the great wagers depending, is something worth observation. When a race is over, I can give you no better an idea of it, than the decision of a battle. For here are such a number of horse and foot, in such confusion, some galloping away full-speed; others seizing their betts, like conquerors their spoil; while the losers look like disconsolate prisoners; the whole in short is a scene very difficult to be express'd to the life; but I am sure would divert you much to see.

As soon as the races were over, I return'd to Cambridge, where I am acquainted with two or three ingenious men; here I staid a few days; in which time, I must confess, I was entertain'd in a most polite and genteel manner by the students.

FROM Cambridge I cross'd the country to Bedford, which is the county town of Bedfordshire, it is an old built town; in a low ground, and on each side a river, like the city of London; it is pretty large, has five churches, but very few people of any distinction; for notwithstanding it has a great many inhabitants, I don't remember I saw one coffee-house.

FROM Bedford I took a ride to Luton, which is in Bedfordshire, tho' very near Hertfordshire, the place called *Luton Downs* is a wild sort of land, yet the greatest part of it very well manur'd. These downs lie very open to the country; and I have some very particular reason to remember them, for a man well mounted attack'd me pistol in hand, and took away my money. These sort of robbers the English call
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Highwaymen, or collectors upon the roads: The man indeed us'd me very well; he only said, DELIVER YOUR MONEY, SIR; but I had not been us'd to such language all the time I had been in England; nor did I use to part with my money in any such manner; but upon my hesitating, he elevated his pistol close to my breast and repeated the same words, with an additional *Damme*; and I was oblig'd to pay him contribution.

IN this country are several fine seats; and the noblemen and gentlemen have greater influence over the country people than the King has over the citizens of London, who are the most resolute people in the world in the defence of their liberties and properties.

THE Duke of Kent has a fine seat: Admiral Byng has another: The Duke of Bedford has likewise a fine seat, but very old.

BEDFORDSHIRE is a pleasant country for sport; especially for fish and wild fowl; having abundance of fens or marshes; here are good store of hares and some partridges; but in the general I can't say I think it a pleasant country.

AMPTILL, a pretty market town, about four or five miles from Bedford, is much pleasanter than the county-town.

THE town of Bedford sends abundance of veal, ready kill'd to London, which is near fifty miles; the carriages set out from Bedford about six-a-clock on Friday morning, and bring their goods to Newgate market in London, on Saturday morning by three or four-a-clock;
and

and the Londoners are fond of country meat : Swine's flesh particularly is very much esteem'd for being fed in the country : because abundance is fed about town, and reckon'd not so sweet : But observe, my friend, the cunning contrivances of mankind to get money. In order to sell this London-fed pork at a good price and quick market, the owners, or their servants, dress themselves with the air of country people, sell their meat as such ; and when it comes to table, is the finest country pork in the world ; for the English people are very fantastical both in diet and dress ; and like or dislike thro' conceit.

IN the county of Bedford, near a place call'd Woburne, is a sort of earth which petrifies wood.

BEDFORDSHIRE does not afford much variety, it has no city, nor any town of considerable note.

I SET out from Bedford for Northampton, which is very pleasantly situated ; and the county town of Northamptonshire. This is a famous place for leather and making shoes ; and near it are great numbers of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats.

I HAD not been long here before particular business engag'd me to come to London.

IN my way I baited at Dunstable, a place where abundance of travellers stop ; tho' I think not a pleasant town ; it is situated upon a dry chalky ground, where no springs can be found ; but they have large ponds of standing water, which the inhabitants told me were scarce ever dry,

dry, that supply the town very well. It has a great many inns, and is much frequented, it being in the high road from London to the north west of England. I happen'd to be here one market day, where are brought plenty of corn, cattle, and provisions. I eat some larks here, because it is reckon'd the best town in England for plenty of those birds, and the best way of dressing them; I think they deserve it; for they really pleas'd me very much. This town is in Bedfordshire.

THE next place of any note I arriv'd at was St. Albans, in Hertfordshire, a very ancient town, seated upon a hill: It is very populous, but the inhabitants something rude in their manners. Abundance of Roman coins, and other antiquities have been found here in the earth, which are worthy the observation of a stranger. I was inform'd, that it was once a very great corn-market, but that the small-pox being very brief there, spoil'd their market; and now a place call'd Hemel-Hempstead, about five miles from St. Albans in the same county, is the greatest corn-market in that part of the country. St. Albans abounds with inns; and is chiefly govern'd by inn-keepers, apothecaries and lawyers, of which professions the mayor and aldermen generally consist.

My curiosity led me to stay a little longer than I would otherwise have done, from a great character I heard of the husbandmen in this county, who are reckon'd the best in England, and produce the finest wheat.

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I THEREFORE set out from St. Albans to Hemel-hempstead, the great corn-market, which indeed answer'd my expectations. Abundance of black cherry trees also grow in this country in the open fields and hedges; and the earth seems to be plow'd by mathematical rules.

FROM Hempstead I went to Barkhemstead, which was once a fine town, and had a good market; it was at this place the English nobles met to shake off the Norman yoke. It is now of no great repute; but is a very pleasant town.

LANGLEY-ABBEY, a place of no great repute, but is the town where Nicholas, surnamed *Breakspear*, afterwards bishop of Rome, was born. And of him there is no great matter to boast of; for he was a man of such a proud spirit, and ecclesiastical tyranny, that he made Frederick the Roman Emperor hold his stirrup.

WATFORD, is a large town, seated on a pleasant river, and has a large market every Saturday.

BEING near the extreme part of Hertfordshire, near the county of Middlesex, I was determin'd to see the other side of the country; therefore struck over to St. Albans again; from whence I went to Hatfield, which is but an indifferent town, but the Earl of Salisbury has here a noble seat, which was once a palace for the Kings of England; it is a fine building, pleasantly situated, for prospect, air, and water, and has a fine park.

FROM

FROM Hatfield I was resolv'd to go to Hitchin, which is a large town, I think the last in Hertfordshire on that side, being on the confines of Bedfordshire: In my way thither I stopt to refresh my self at a village, where I was inform'd a man was, by his own last will and desire, bury'd in the loft of a barn, which was the oddest whim I ever heard of.

HITCHIN is a large town, has a good corn-market, and is very populous; but the people very uncouth in their manners, as indeed they are all over Hertfordshire, unless the gentlemen; for as I observ'd to you before, the English gentlemen are for the most part polite and good natur'd.

I now made the best of my way to Hertford, the county town, seated on the river Lea, and is very pleasant; I saw nothing here particular; and having refreshed my self, I mounted again for London, in the very same road I set out from thence, except that at Kingland, within two miles, I crossed the road to Islington, and so to town. I am very much pleas'd with my journey, and have all the time enjoy'd an excellent state of health.

Your Friend.

L E T-



LETTER X.

S I R,

YOU will think it long, I don't doubt since you had a letter from me ; but the business which call'd me to London, engag'd me longer than I expected. But I am now again resolv'd to take a little pleasure. A particular acquaintance of mine has a Yatcht, which gives me a great opportunity of seeing the country on each side the river Thames ; and as it is now the pleasant season, I frequently accept his invitation ; and shall therefore send you such observations as I have made in these little voyages.

ADJOINING to London is a pleasant place call'd Lime-house, near which our yatcht generally lies, opposite to Lime-house is Deptford, a very populous town, inhabited chiefly by seamen. Here the King has a Dock for building ships for the Royal Navy, with store houses for
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ammunition, and other necessaries proper for a fleet.

GREENWICH in a manner joins to Deptford; it is a large and pleasant town, inhabited by abundance of gentry, and is a place of great resort. It was anciently the residence of the Kings and Queens of England. Here the famous Elizabeth, that warlike Queen of England, was born. The palace is but small, and is now inhabited by the governor of Greenwich hospital, which looks more like a palace than any building in the whole kingdom. Its situation, nobleness of architecture and spaciousness, is beyond what can be imagin'd. I don't wonder when a stranger sees such an hospital as this, that he says, *The Kings of England live in cottages, but the beggars in palaces.* The hall of this hospital is painted by Sir James Thornhill, who painted the cupola of St. Paul's. In this place old and disabled seamen are well provided for.

HERE is a pleasant terras on the banks of the Thames; the seamens lodgings are compos'd of two wings, with a large area in the middle. Behind this hospital, is a small, but most delightful park, with various walks, well stock'd with deer, and much frequented by genteel people. It is likewise much noted for a place of rendezvous in holy-day time for servants, both men and women; and here many young girls, elevated with pleasure and a little liquor, are easily persuaded to surrender their virginity at discretion. And I have often wonder'd

der'd that people would suffer their children to go at such times, where they are under the greatest temptations.

UPON a hill in this park is a house built by King Charles the second, for making astronomical observations, which he furnish'd with telescopes, and other instruments fit for the purpose, and for the better making these observations. From the top of this house is a fine prospect, not only of the city of London, the counties of Kent, Middlesex, and Surry; but likewise of the river Thames, which affords a delightful prospect, to see the ships every tide going out and coming in, bringing home the treasures of foreign nations, and carrying out the manufactures of their own.

BLACKHEATH, lies behind this park, and is delightful both as to situation and prospect; for it is very near the Thames, but upon a great ascent, and is reckon'd as healthy a spot of ground as any in England. Upon this heath is a very noble seat built by Sir Gregory Page. This heath is famous for being the place where the Danish camp lay; and here several bloody battles have been fought.

UPON this heath Wat. Taylor, an ignorant mean fellow, muster'd a hundred thousand men. He was, as I learn from English history, kill'd by one Sir William Walworth, a lord mayor of London, under pretence of making a treaty. Wat. Tylor was indeed a rebel, but when a treaty is on foot, I cannot think it honourable privately to stab a man under pretence of an accommodation.

commodation. Another rebel nam'd Jack Cade in the reign of Henry the sixth; and Michael Joseph a backsmith, in the reign of Henry the seventh, made this heath the field of battle.

NEAR this village is a place call'd Charleton, where is yearly kept a rude sort of sport, and is called Horn-fair. I was very desirous of seeing this part of Kent: but the tide would not permit; we therefore went aboard the Yatcht again, and in an hour's time arriv'd at WOOLWICH; which for its convenient situation on the banks of the Thames, and the great depth of water, is the place where abundance of large ships of war are built. It is likewise a magazine for bombs, carcasses, mortars, and all kind of necessaries for the sea service.

THERE is nothing worth remarking as we sail'd down the river till we arriv'd at Gravesend, unless a place call'd Daggenham on the Essex shore where the Thames made a breach, and overflow'd all the neighbouring lands, and drowned many cattel. This breach was at first but small, and might have been done at a small expence; but it at last became a publick concern; and the parliament of England took it under their inspection. It was compleated by Captain Perry, a man well known in other parts of the world for performances of this kind; but is now dead.

GRAVESEND is a middling sort of a town, where outward bound ships take in their provisions; and here their ships are search'd, but this search is only a custom; and a well coin'd compli-

compliment does it at once. However, all outward bound ships must stop here. The manner of stopping them is thus: As soon as the centinel sees a ship among those riding in the road, he fires his musquet, which is as much as to say, *Bring too*; if no notice is taken of this, the centinel fires again, which is as much as to say, *Why don't you bring to?* If the ship stops not then, he fires again; which means, *That if they bring not too immediately, they must be made.*

IF all this will not do, the gunner of the fort fires a piece of cannon, tho' without ball: if the ship stops not then, the gunner immediately fires at them again with shot, which is a signal to Tilbury fort, on the opposite shore, in Essex; and they immediately let fly upon her with all the force they are able. And the situation of this fort is such, that they can reach a ship a long way; for they have a great many guns, and it is a regular fortification.

AT Gravesend we put a-shore, and din'd: we met with excellent provisions; and very good liquors; after dinner we smoak'd a pipe of tobacco, and join'd company with some gentlemen, who were facetious and good-natur'd, and very merry in conversation: one of them told the following story, of a robbery committed on Gad's-hill, not far from Gravesend, a noted place for robbing sea-men, when they have just receiv'd their pay: About four a-clock in the morning the robbery was committed by one Nicks, who immediately after he had done it,

it, came to Gravesend, where he waited an hour before he could ferry over to Tilbury in Essex, then he rode through a part of that county, as far as Chelmsford, where he stopt half an hour to refresh his horse; then he rode thro' the county of Essex, over the downs to Cambridge, and thence to Huntingdon, where he bated himself and his mare about an hour, and they keeping the north road he arriv'd at York, about eight in the evening. He immediately put off his boots and riding clothes, and went dress'd to the bowling-green; where, among the other gentlemen, was the lord-mayor of York, whom he singled only, and offer'd to lay an odd bett with concerning the bowls then running; and likewise to ask him what a clock it was, which was either a quarter before or after eight a-clock; he took care also to bring in such discourse as should make the lord-mayor remember the day of the month as well as the hour of the day.

MR. NICKS was afterwards try'd for the robbery; the man who was robb'd swore to the robber, the place, and the time. The whole case turn'd upon this single point, *Whether it was possible that a man could commit a robbery at four a-clock in the morning at Gad's-hill in Kent, and be upon the bowling-green at York the same evening?* The jury thought it morally impossible; and therefore acquitted him; the two places being above a hundred and fifty miles distant.

FROM Gravesend we steer'd our course to Sheerness; which is a large and strong fortification,

cation built by King Charles the second, on the island of Shippey.

WE now turn'd our course up the river Medway, and went ashore resolving to see as much as we could of the county of Kent; which abounds with the richest yeomen of any county in England.

ROCHESTER, was the first place we arrived at, which is indeed an ancient city, but of very little note at this time; but the river Medway makes amends for the city; it being the chief in England for preserving the Royal Navy.

CHATHAM, is near Rochester, upon the Medway, and here is a fine large dock for the King of England's ship's. The magazines for cordage, sails, and other materials for ships are disposed in an excellent manner; and it is esteem'd the compleatest place of its kind in the whole world.

IN the reign of King Charles the second, the Dutch burnt two ships lying in the river Medway; but it is now too well guarded to suffer any more such indignities.

WE then resolv'd to see Feverham, the burial place of King Stephen, the only one of that name that ever wore the crown of England. It has a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and two fairs yearly which continue ten days each. 'Tis a populous and wealthy place, situated in the pleasantest part of Kent, and has water-carriage for their goods.

ABUNDANCE of apples, cherries and oysters are sent from this town to the London markets, there being small vessels on purpose to attend the trade

trade and passengers, which are call'd Fever-sham Hoys.

FROM Feversham we went to a hill called Boughton, which is about four miles from Canterbury; from whence that city is plainly seen; and the whole country within a few miles of London.

CANTERBURY, is a city of great antiquity, it having been built near three thousand years; it is situated in a very fertile country; and has a profitable trade in the silk manufacture, introduc'd by the French, who were drove out of their native country on account of their religion; which is surprizing, that a wise and politic prince, who in all probability had no religion at all himself, would banish his subjects for differing from the general church, and with them an advantageous branch of trade.

This city has a fine cathedral, near which the French or Walloons have a church. It likewise gives title to the arch-high-priest of England, who is stiled, *His grace the Lord archbishop of Canterbury.*

THE city in general makes but an indifferent figure; and is more remarkable for its antiquity, than its present grandeur. Here John, Henry the second, and Edward the first, all Kings of England, were married.

EDWARD the black Prince, of great renown among the English, was here buried; as was Henry the fourth and his Wife.

CANTERBURY is well stored with provisions,
and

and cheap; it has two markets every week, viz. Wednesdays and Saturdays: It has about fourteen churches.

CANTERBURY is govern'd by a mayor, court of aldermen, and recorder, and sends two deputies to the grand court of the nation. Its ancient grandeur is very much eclips'd by the shocks of fortune; and many casual fires, that have at times almost consum'd the city.

WE were now determin'd to see Dover, which is commodiously situated on the sea, and has prodigious high cliffs, which command both the sea and all the adjacent country; it has a strong castle and fortifications, so that it is a strong place both by art and nature; it has likewise a commodious haven.

DOVER is a place of good trade, not only on account of its being a sea-port, but likewise for its situation, it being so near France, that gentlemen come here to take a trip over and back again in a short time, the whole passage being about twenty miles. It has two markets every week, with very good provisions.

ALONG this shore are several other forts, castles, and corporate towns.

SANDWICH, one of the cinque-port towns; a place of no great strength; it hath two markets a week, viz. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. About nine hundred years ago, the Danes were overthrown at this place by Ethelstone, son to King Egbert, who took nine of their ships. This town hath undergone the fortune of war,
it

it having been once destroy'd by the Danes, and thrice taken and burnt by the French.

DEAL, is a member of the town and port of Sandwich ; to secure which, there are three castles, viz. Deal, Sandown, and Womar. It was here that Julius Cæsar the Roman Emperor landed, when he invaded Britain. Fordwich is also a member of the port of Sandwich ; it is situated upon the river Slower, over which there is a bridge : But I could not learn, that this place was of any signification ; and its pride consists in having good trouts.

RECULVER, a place frequented by fishermen ; here is a church whose lofty spire serves for a sea mark ; and here they told us the second King of Kent was buried.

RUMNEY, another of the cinque port towns, situated in a marsh of about fourteen miles in length, which is very famous for fattening cattle ; this marsh is the gift of the ocean. All the cinque port towns enjoy particular honours and privileges.

AT Romney we fell into company with some very merry gentlemen, who told several instructive and comical stories. One of them particularly told us a story concerning Vortiger, King of Britain ; who being at war with the northern people of this island, sent to Hengist, a Saxon, for assistance, with which Vortiger gain'd the victory ; but Hengist was so delighted with the country, that he could not find in his heart to return ; and therefore requested that he might stay, for that he was so delighted with the country

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that

that he could be satisfi'd to live in a house which should require no more land to be built upon, than what a hide of leather could cover. Vortiger readily granted this, thinking the request too small, to admit of any design. Upon the ground this hide of leather encompass'd, Hengist built a castle; for he caus'd the hide to be cut into the smallest thongs possible, with which he encompass'd as much ground as served his purpose, and from thence it was called *Thong-Castle*.

HYTHE, another of the cinque ports. Here are some thousand bones and skulls of a gigantick size, which are kept in a room in very good order; being the remains of the Danes kill'd in a battle before the Norman Conquest. It has an indifferent market on Saturdays. The town is govern'd by a mayor and jurats, under whose care here are two hospitals.

BEING determin'd to rest ourselves here, I am willing to send you as soon as possible what progress I make, which when you come to collect will be sufficient to give you a general knowledge of the kingdom of England; and a particular one of what is worthy observation. I remain

Your constant and faithful Friend.

LET-



LETTER XI.

S I R,

WHEN I was in London, I us'd to hear much commendation of Rye-fish, for they are esteem'd the best that comes to Billingsgate-market ; and being not a great way from this town, I was resolv'd to see it. Rye is in the county of Suffex, the ready way from London to Normandy, which makes it very convenient for the smuggling trade, that is, selling goods without paying duty to the King ; as indeed all the ports and towns which lie convenient for trade with France do the like. It is a *cinque Port*, inhabited chiefly by fishermen, yet is govern'd by a mayor and jurats; and it has two markets every week, viz. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

IN this port King George the first was put safe ashore in his return from Germany, when the English people expected to hear of his being at the bottom of the sea; for it was in the winter season, and prodigious stormy weather.

I SHALL give you an account of two or three places in Kent, and then take my leave of it. Notwithstanding Canterbury is an ancient city, yet Maidstone has the vogue of the country. Here are kept the assizes, the courts of justice, as likewise the place for electing members of parliament; and is the grand resort for the gentry; and the ladies appear at church on Sundays with the splendor of a court.

THE river Medway is navigable to this town for hoys, which bring to London vast quantities of cherries; the county of Kent, particularly this part of it, having the finest cherry-orchards in England; and you would be amaz'd to see what quantities are brought to London in a plentiful season.

TUNBRIDGE-WELLS, remarkable for its waters: tho' I must confess I think there are waters near London, equally as good, call'd *New-Tunbridge-Wells*; the latter have been much resorted to by people of the greatest distinction, when one of the royal daughters of England drank them; but when that princess left of drinking, the company in a great measure left of coming: For the English people are very whimsical and fantastical. I drank these waters my self that season, and began pretty early in the year; the first morning the princess came, there was
but

but little company ; I was seriously amusing myself with a pipe of tobacco, sitting upon a bench in a walk, where she took two or three turns, by which I had the opportunity of viewing her well, and hearing her talk ; I never saw a more pleasant countenanc'd lady in my life, nor one of a sweeter disposition. Her address was majestick, yet she behav'd with the greatest affability imaginable ; and I plainly discover'd, that persons bred up in the splendor of a court, can take pleasure in talking with people of less figure than is found there ; where ceremony takes place of the sweets of conversation and real friendship. I have often been amaz'd, that crown'd heads don't find means sometimes to converse with their common subjects *incognito* ; they would often receive a greater pleasure by it than they can imagine.

A MERRY, mad, whimsical inoffensive sort of a gentlemen, is a constant visiter at these Wells ; and styles himself *Knight of New-tunbridge-wells* ; he makes verses, sermons, speeches to the ladies, admires them prodigiously ; but he imagines he is engag'd to a young lady of quality, who attended the Princess, and therefore proceeds no farther than complaisance in his way. But there is to every publick place of resort in England, either a fool or a knave, but generally both.

BUT to return to Tunbridge-Wells in Kent, it lies in a bottom between two hills, one called mount Sion, and the other mount Ephraim, both abounding in houses and gardens for the reception of those who come to drink the waters, or for the pleasures of the place.

THE well is large, pav'd, and surrounded, with a large wall ; here is pav'd walks, one side of which is inhabited by shopkeepers, coffee-men ; and on the other side is a good market.

I can't say much to this place ; we indeed rise in the morning and go to the Wells ; at nine go home to dress, at ten some go to church and some to coffee-houses ; then to the walks, where musick is continually playing ; and in these walks all sort of people are to be met with ; and conversation is free for every one, provided decency and good manners are observ'd.

As Tunbridge is a place of much resort, gamesters, sharpers, intriguers, fortune-hunters, fops, fools, beaux, &c. are here in swarms ; and a great many gamesters find their account : for notwithstanding there are very severe laws in England against gaming, yet the people have such an inclination to it, that no laws can restrain them.

I will give you a general account of the county of Kent, and then proceed ; it is of a fat soil, which makes its yeomen rich ; here is plenty of cattle, fish, fowl, and fruits, ; hops in great plenty. The inhabitants distinguish their county in the following manner ; the upper part healthy but not wealthy ; the middle both healthy and wealthy ; and the lower part or marshes, wealthy but not healthy, the people being continually subject to agues ; but these Lowlands are remarkable for the men having many wives. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.

L E T-



LETTER XII.

S I R,

BEING quite tir'd of Tunbridge, the diversion there not suiting my disposition, we set out for Lewes, the road to which is very bad ; it is a fine pleasant town, well built on the banks of the river, within twelve miles of the sea. This town is well inhabited both by gentlemen and tradesmen, is govern'd by two constables, and sends two burgessees to parliament.

F R O M this town we rode in full view of the sea, on a fine even ground, for above twelve miles, to Bright Helmston, a poor fishing town, on the very edge of the sea.

F R O M hence we came to Shoreham, which is chiefly inhabited by ship-carpenters, ship-chandlers, and other trades depending upon shipping.

I saw nothing in this country worth remarking, till we came to Chichester, a city in a plain

country, on the banks of a river, which at a small distance from it dischargeth itself into the sea.

IN this city is a cathedral, whose spire is seen at some distance upon the sea. There were several stones of a large size forc'd out of this steeple by lightning, into the streets, but did no damage, tho' their weight would have dash'd the strongest house in the town to pieces, if they had fell upon it.

THE people of this city are something superstitious; and many of them believe, that when their High-Priest is to die, a heron gives notice of it, by sitting upon the pinnacle of the spire of the steeple.

WHILST we were in this city, a merry sort of an old man, fell into company, who diverted us very much by mimicking the French-horn, and many other entertaining things: For he call'd the notes of various birds, with something he put in his mouth, but would not let us see what it was: He told us it was an instrument of such a nature, that he could have a hundred guineas for the sight of it; and that he durst not make one like it on pain of death; for that a number of them would call the birds out of the air, the beasts out of the field, the fishes out of the water, and even the dead out of their graves: These wonderful qualities rais'd our curiosity, and one of the company wager'd a bottle of wine it was impossible. The old fellow prov'd the virtues of his instrument thus: As to the first article a gentleman he knew, who was blind, would
not

not only give a hundred guineas to have a sight of it, but even a thousand; the instrument he play'd upon was only a sixpence, and as it is the current coin of this kingdom, it is death to make one like it; as to the other qualities of calling the birds, &c. he said all things obey'd the call of money; therefore a number of his instruments would command any thing; and as to the raising the dead out of their graves, the grave-diggers, we were inform'd, would oblige the surgeons with dead bodies, for a handsome gratuity. We allow'd our friend had lost his bottle, and the old man made us very merry.

FROM Chichester we pass'd by the earl of Scarborough's seat at Stansted, surrounded with thick woods. From this house are seen the harbour of Portsmouth, the ships at Spithead, as likewise St. Helens. Spithead has been of late years famous for a peaceable and noble fleet, where gentlemen and ladies us'd to be very magnificently entertain'd, without fear of a broadside being given them; the goddess of the sea having here seem'd to fix her amorous abode.

FROM the Earl of Scarborough's seat, we soon reach'd Portsmouth, which is the largest fortification in England. This place is situated in such a manner, that it is the best security to the navy of any port in England; the entrance into the harbour is safe, but very narrow, guarded on both sides with plat-forms of cannon, particularly on the *Point*, where there is a brick plat-form built with two tier of guns, one over another, and which can fire so in cover, that

the gunners cannot be beaten from their guns, or their guns easily dismounted.

THE other is from the point of land on the side of Gosport, where are two batteries.

BEFORE any ships can enter this port, they must likewise pass the cannon of the main plat-form of the garrison; and also another at South-sea castle; so that it seems next to impossible for any ships to force their way into this harbour.

THIS town is also very strong by land, the works being very large and numerous; and several additions made about the docks and yards, which tho' in some measure independent one of another, yet they cannot easily be separately attack'd, while they are in the possession of one master.

THE docks and yards are the perfect representation of a town, there being large rows of houses built at the publick charge, for the principal officers of the place, especially the commissioner, the agent of the victualling office, &c.

PORTSMOUTH, besides its being a fortification, is a fine flourishing corporation. Peace is commonly suppos'd to bring plenty; but war enriches this town, on account of the vast concourse of people, both mariners and others, who have business here at such times. But the building of the navy being much increas'd, and a great part of it done here, makes a continual trade.

THE government of the corporation is like most others, and independent of any military force,

as much as if there was no garrison there; for the English people are very jealous of their civil rights, and cannot endure to see more military men than are absolutely requisite; and they are kept under strict discipline with regard to the civil magistrate: the governors of all fortified places are sensible of this; therefore take great care to avoid disputes.

THE country from Portsmouth to Southampton lies very low, and is full of creeks and inlets to the sea and rivers, all the way to Southampton; and we ferry over three times in about eighteen miles; besides going over one bridge at Titchfield. Our first ferry was from Portsmouth to Gosport, from thence to Titchfield, where we pass a river. Four miles farther we pass another river at Busselton, which is narrow, but very deep; and is a yard for building ships of war.

FROM hence when we are opposite to Southampton, we pass another creek, which is both broad and deep.

ON the opposite bank stands the ancient town of Southampton; on the other side of which is another river; so that this town is situated upon a point running out into the sea, between two fine rivers, both navigable some way into the country, which are very useful for bringing down timber; for the river on the west side of the town comes by the edge of New Forest; here we saw a prodigious quantity of timber, of an uncommon size, lying on the shore of the river for above two miles, where it is left
to

to be fetch'd by the builders at Portsmouth dock as they have occasion for it.

SOUTHAMPTON is an old large town, well inhabited, tho its trade as well the town itself, is very much damaged; for London swallows up the trade of most places in England. It is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, and burgessees, and sends two burgessees to parliament.

WE now chang'd our rout, and came to Petersfield, remarkable for its great number of inns, which is certainly an advantage to travellers, and are of great service if one happens to be indispos'd: For the towns and villages in England are in general well stor'd with inns, and the towns are seldom very far distant from one another.

THE Duke of Bolton has two very fine seats in this country, one between Alton and Alresford, and one at Basing. Alton is a small market town, of no note, neither is there any considerable manufacture in all this part of England; except a little druggert and shalloon making.

FROM Alton we came to Farnham, which is a large populous market-town, seated on the river Wey: Its market is remarkable for the vast quantity of corn bought here, but particularly oats and barley. Near this town King Edward subdu'd the Danes, and made a great slaughter of them.

FROM Farnham we went over Bagshot-heath, and Windsor forest, which is a vast tract of land within twenty miles of London, quite barren, the soil being sand. Upon this forest
grows

grows nothing but a little heath, as it is call'd, upon which a few small sheep feed; and here and there are a few scattering houses, and it is computed, that here are about an hundred thousand acres of barren land in this forest, in the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire.

BUT near this forest is a town call'd Windsor, very delightfully situated on the banks of the Thames, in a wholesome and pleasant air; it is govern'd by a mayor, and other sub-officers, sends burgesies to parliament, and hath a market on Saturdays.

HERE is a Royal palace and a castle, which on account of its height and situation commands a most delightful prospect; the castle is seen at a village about four miles from London, call'd Hampstead, a very pleasant place, and which I mention'd in a former letter, tho' I forgot to mention the seeing this castle or the ships under sail in the Thames, and which is very pleasant; and of a clear day one may see upon this hill forty miles up and down the Thames, besides a fine prospect of the country all round.

IN the castle have been born several Kings, Queens and Princes; among whom was King Edward the third, who had John King of France, and David King of Scots prisoners here at one time. In this castle the ceremony of Knights of the garter is solemniz'd with the utmost state imaginable.

HAVING some business at Guilford, which lies in the road from London to Chichester and
Portsmouth

Portsmouth, we went from Windsor to stay there a day or two.

GUILFORD, is finely situated both for pleasure and profit, on the river Wey, which is navigable for barges quite up to the town. In this river are abundance of sluices for the more ease to force the barges when heavy laden for London. Here it was that the English Saxon Kings had their palace. The assizes for the county are very often kept in this town, which is full of inns and taverns, and well stock'd with all sorts of liquors and provisions.

NOT far from Guilford is a place call'd Godalmin, of note for a woman who brought forth rabbits; she deceiv'd some eminent men by her tricks, particularly a surgeon to King George the first: But she was at last discover'd, and put into the house of correction, to be punish'd for an impostor.

THERE is a cross road from Guilford to London, which being by much the pleasanter, and not frequented by coaches and carriers we took that way. From Guilford to Leather-head is ten miles; from Leatherhead to London, over Banstead downs fifteen, which is twenty five miles from London; tho' I paid for a letter at Guilford as thirty miles; but the computed miles and post-miles differ all over England, and in some places very much.

FROM Guilford to Letherhead the road is in a manner lin'd with gentlemens seats, which lie chiefly on the West side of the road, and their parks and gardens almost touch one another.

IT

It being the pleasant season, we staid some time at Epsom, which is a very pleasant town, all the houses having gardens and trees before their doors, and like a grove; it is in the form of a semicircle, in the middle of which is a plain that opens to the Downs.

THIS place is remarkable for its fine air and mineral waters, and is much frequented by the citizens of London; and here is variety of fish, flesh, fowls and fruit brought to one's door every morning.

IN this town are raffling shops and musick for the diversion of the ladies; as likewise two bowling-greens for the diversion of the gentlemen. Some of the ladies at this place will game very much: But it is indeed grown a fashionable vice among the English ladies to game; and many of them practise it in a shameful manner, throwing away their substance to sharpers, and sacrificing the happiness of their families.

EPSOM, when we consider it as a place of publick resort, is very free from censure and observation; and you may keep company here as at London, without your company knowing or designing to know where you lodge; for every one, or the generality, at least, think it sufficient to mind their own business.

IN the morning gentlemen go to the wells, or perhaps take a game at bowls.

AFTER dinner they ride out upon the Downs, which are very fine, and remarkable for producing the best mutton, but not very large, of any place in England.

AT

AT night some play at cards, some raffle in the long-room, and others conclude the evening with a glass of wine at the tavern, and the conversation of good company.

ON Sundays in the afternoon the company generally go to a delightful place about six miles off, called Box-hill, where is no house, but arbors cut out in box-wood on the top of the hill, from whence in a clear day is a prospect over the wild of Suffex, besides an unbounded one in Kent; and some thro' the assistance of glasses, and knowing the situation of places, have plainly seen the town of Holfham, Ash-down forest, the Duke of Somerset's house at Petworth, and the south downs. Upon this hill one may have all manner of refreshments for money; for that is the life and soul of every thing; and in this wood we often insensibly lose our company, in a sort of labyrinth of box-wood, which affords a pretty sort of diversion.

THIS place was first planted with box-wood by Thomas Earl of Arundel, who design'd to build a house there; but here being no water, alter'd his resolution, and built one at Albury, but a little way off.

IN the neighbourhood of Epfom are several good seats. At the extremity of the village the Lord Guilford has one called Durdans, which was built out of the materials of Nonfuch, a Royal palace in the neighbourhood, built by Henry VIII. King Charles the second gave it to the Dutches of Cleveland, who pull'd it down
and

and fold the materials. It is now built of free-stone. It has two fronts, one to the gardens and another to the Downs, both which are very noble; the apartments are very regular, and in the garden is a most delightful grove; the variety of birds warbling their notes, the gentle whispering of the trees, and every little pleasure that soothes the heart to softness and love is here to be found; and is remarkable for the loves between a nobleman and his lady's sister.

THE Lord Baltimore has a house with very fine gardens; the house indeed is old. Here are many other genteel houses.

ABOUT six miles from Epsom in the way to London is Wimbleton, once the seat of the Duke of Leeds. Here are three several fine prospects from the garden, which has the most variety of any garden I ever saw; for you cannot turn one way or other, but your eye has always something new, which is a very great amusement, and employs one's attention a long while.

THIS house was built by Sir Thomas Cecil, son to that great statesman, Lord Burleigh, who was prime minister to Queen Elizabeth, when the Spanish Armada came to invade England.

PUTNEY is a large village, adorn'd with a great many pretty little seats, with gardens, fish-ponds and groves; the whole place is so very pleasant, that it seems to be one continu'd garden. Here is a fine airy place call'd Putney-common, very commodiously situated to take an airing

ing in a morning ; but the misfortune is, it is frequently haunted by robbers.

FROM Putney I cross'd the bridge to Fulham, a town of no great note, except for its being the residence of the High-Priest of London ; near which an inferior priest hang'd himself for want of the common necessaries of life. I mention'd to you before what irregularities there are among the priests, on account of the strange disproportion of their maintenance.

CHELSEA is next to Fulham. Here is a college for wounded and decayed soldiers, and is a fine regular building, it consists of a body and two large wings. In the area, which opens to the Thames, is the statue of King Charles the second ; and from its front on the other side is a large place for the soldiers to walk in.

The little rooms where the soldiers lie are in proper galleries, kept very clean ; and every thing is conducted with the utmost regularity.

THIS village is adorn'd with abundance of fine houses ; and notwithstanding it is not above two or three miles from London, is one of the pleasantest places in England ; and one would never imagine one's self to be so near London, by the place, which is finely situated on the banks of the Thames, in the way to Fulham. These houses command a fine prospect into the county of Surrey.

WE are now again got to London, where I shall stay a short time to transact some affairs ; and then we purpose to take another little voyage

age in the yatch, and afterwards take a circuit
from the Essex shore. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.



LETTER XIII.

S I R,

MY business being over, and my former companions at leisure, we again set sail, and were very merry, having a pleasant voyage. But I can't say, that I met with any thing material in our voyage, than what I before told you.

BEING tir'd of the water we were resolv'd to take the pleasures of the shore, and accordingly we landed at Yarmouth, situated on the river Yare ; it is a clean town, and a place of some strength. The key, which lies towards the continent, is a fine street, very long and very large, with good houses fronting it.

IN the harbour there were a great number of colliers and fishing boats, and here is two great seasons in the year for fishing, for Makarel in
the

the spring, and Herrings at the conclusion of the summer season. Here are abundance of Herrings dry'd, of which there is a vast consumption every year in the city of London.

THIS town is oblig'd by its charter, granted by King Henry the third, to send a hundred herring pies yearly to the King, wheresoever he is. The custom is observ'd to this day, and thus contriv'd. The town sends a hundred herrings, baked in twenty four pies, to the sheriffs of Norwich, who deliver them to the lord-mayor of East Charlton, by whom they must be carried to the King. Accordingly an indenture is drawn up every year, that the lord-mayor of the place aforesaid received those pies, and oblig'd himself to convey them to the King.

HERE is a great concourse of people to buy herrings at Michaelmas fair, as it is call'd, which continues all the month of October. The cinque ports, by an old custom, appoint certain commissioners to attend it, who join with the magistrates of the town, and hold a court during the fair, to determine all matters of controversy, to execute justice, and to keep the peace.

THE town is govern'd by two bailiffs and a recorder, aldermen and common council. It has three fairs in a year, and a market every Saturday, and as well serv'd with provisions as any place in the country.

YARMOUTH maintaineth a peere against the sea, at the annual expence of three thousand pounds, yet has no estate to do it, as many corporations have. It is well inhabited, and a great
resort

resort for seamen, being a port town, and the ready passage to Holland for the packet-boats and other vessels.

THE curing of herrings is indeed a very considerable trade to this town; but that is not all; for the merchants have a great trade for exporting them to Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Messina, and Venice; as also to Spain and Portugal; and take the opportunity at the same time of exporting great quantities of Stuffs, Camblets, &c. made at Norwich and places adjacent: They likewise have a considerable trade with Holland for their woollen manufacture; and send over large quantities every year. They have likewise a considerable fishing trade, to the north sea for cod; and to Norway and the Baltick for deals, oak, oars, pitch, tar, hemp, flax, canvas, sail-cloth, and all manner of naval stores, which they consume chiefly in their own port; where a great number of ships are built every year. They have of late very much improv'd the coal trade between Newcastle and the Thames; and in short have taken all the measures they are able to make themselves rich.

THE streets are all streight from north to south, with lanes or alleys crossing them in strait lines, which makes it as regular a built town as any in England, and seems to be contriv'd for one compleat building.

THE market place is in the street towards the sea side, and is very broad; in this street likewise stands the church, whose lofty spire serves for a sea mark.

FROM

From Yarmouth we resolv'd to go to Norwich, which is a large city ; but not peopled in proportion to its bigness ; when compar'd with London. It is famous for weaving stuffs and crapes, in which trade a great number of factors in London get a handsome livelihood, and several of them are very rich : The commodities of this city are used all over the world, and bring great riches to the city. It is commodiously situated on the river Yare, over which there are several bridges. This river runs to Yarmouth, and the ~~re~~ dischargeth itself into the sea.

THIS city is about six miles in circumference, has a very spacious market place, and the houses round it well built, and the shops full of goods. Here are twelve gates and thirty four parishes besides the cathedral, which is a fine building with a lofty spire. Some of the churches are cover'd with thatch, and all of them crufted with stone, curiously cut.

ROUND the close of the cathedral is the bishop's palace, with the prebends houses.

THE Dukes of Norfolk, hereditary marshals of England, have a palace in this city, but do not reside here ; for this is a Roman Catholick family ; and the generality of Norwich being quite of a contrary opinion, the inhabitants shew them but little respect ; and the English nobility love a good deal of homage, especially from tradesmen. 'Tis however kept in very good repair ; for the Roman Chatholicks are always in expectation of having their religion get the upper hand in England ; tho' I must confess, I think with no great reason

reason; yet they never had a better prospect than at present, the priests of the national church for the most part regarding money more than religion; by which means the Romish emissaries have gain'd a great number of Profelytes, whole families at once.

FROM the old castle which stands upon an eminence, and is now the county jail, is a fine prospect of the city and country adjacent; near this castle is the shire-house, where the assizes are kept.

HERE are two churches for the Dutch and Flemmings, who first brought the worsted manufacture to this city, and they have many privileges, which are justly preserv'd.

THE market cross is very lofty, built of freestone, after the manner of a piazza. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the market days: It has likewise two fairs every year, on the twenty fourth of August, and the sixth of December.

It is a very pleasant city, being an intermixture of trees, houses, and orchards.

THIS city is govern'd by a mayor, recorder, steward, two sheriffs, twenty four aldermen and a common council, with a town clerk, sword-bearer, and other inferior officers. The mayor is sworn in his office on Midsummer-eve with great pomp and solemnity.

THE sheriffs are also annually elected, one by the court of aldermen, and the other by the freemen; and the aldermen chose by the freemen of each ward.

EIGHT wardens of the worsted weavers are annually chose, four out of the city, and four out of the adjacent country, who are sworn to take care that no frauds are used in spinning, weaving, or dying the said stuffs.

HERE are four hospitals, and many meeting-houses of all denominations. When we were in the city, there were scarce any body to be seen; but as it consists chiefly in working people, they were in their rooms and garrets at their daily labour; but we were told that on a Sunday it had quite a different appearance, for that all the doors were throng'd with men, women, and children.

AND I think it in this place very proper to observe to you, what advantage these working people are in general to the English nation; they just get enough to keep life and soul together, as their phrase is, while great numbers of people who have some fortune, but more cunning, get estates out of their industry. I am,

Your Friend,

L E T-



LETTER XIV.

S I R,

WHEN we were at Norwich, the common discourse was about Sir Robert Walpole, who who is first minister of state to the King of England; he had here both friends and foes; but we were however inform'd that he had a very fine seat in the county of Norfolk, call'd Houghton-hall. My curiosity led me to see it, and I must confess, though I staid but a short time there, I saw enough to amaze me. Every thing is in the most grand manner, the gardens, house, painting of an extraordinary value, for I was inform'd Sir Robert employ'd gentlemen to collect for him the best painting that could be bought, either in England or in foreign nations; furniture, &c.

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nothing

nothing, in short, but was very grand and magnificent, even the very lanthorn.

THIS grandeur occasion'd in me abundance of reflections ; that a gentleman from a private estate, and that but small, should arrive at such prodigious grandeur. But when we consider the vast places of profit a prime minister of England enjoys, and the power he has of disposing of places of profit to others, it is not so much to be wonder'd at.

THE son of this gentleman is a peer of England, but the father a commoner.

SIR ROBERT WALPOLE is a representative for the town of Lynn Regis in Norfolk, which is a large well built town, of great antiquity ; it was incorporated by King John ; its privileges enlarged by King Henry, in consideration of their services against the out-law'd barons ; such as the election of a mayor, &c. Twelve aldermen, a recorder, a sword-bearer, and other officers were added to the charter by King Henry VIII. with the election of burgeses. It is pretty well inhabited by merchants and tradesmen : It has two markets a week, Thursdays and Saturdays.

WE now bent our course to St. Edmund's Bury, so call'd from its being the burial place of King Edmund the martyr, who was shot to death by the Danes, who first ty'd him to a tree, and then stuck his body full of arrows gradually, for not renouncing the christian faith. This has been the curse attending all religions, that they presume to compel men to think like themselves, or punish them with death. But as the soul or
mind

mind of man is certainly accountable to none but a supreme being, who gave him that soul ; so it is undoubtedly the utmost affront to God, to put those to death to whom he gives life to, for not thinking as ignorant, wilful, or ill-natur'd, men shall compel them. I don't speak of any particular religion ; but the superstitious, proud, ill-natur'd, and conceited of all sorts. For as the comfort and satisfaction of life consists in an interruption of thought, so to deprive a man of that pleasure is to rob him of every thing that is valuable to him in the world.

BUT to return to St. Edmund's Bury ; it is a fine large large town, built upon a rising ground, in an exceeding good air, inhabited by abundance of gentry. Here are a great many good inns, and two coffee-houses, and one tavern. Here is an old Abbey and two other churches, which are scarce sufficient to contain the inhabitants, who are very numerous.

THIS town is govern'd by an alderman, a recorder, with other sub-officers, enjoys many privileges, and sends burgeses to parliament, and is the assize town for the county of Suffolk. It has a great corn market on Saturdays, which is generally the standard of the whole county of Suffolk ; here is likewise great plenty of fish, pigeons and wild fowl. It has three fairs in a year, but that on St. Matthew's day is by much the greatest ; for it continues a fortnight, and is frequented by some of the best company in the whole kingdom.

THIS fair is kept in a place call'd Angel-hill, betwixt the abbey and the town, near which are many of the most considerable gentlemen's houses. To this fair the nobility and gentry come every afternoon, where they divert themselves till it is time to go to the play, which is acted every night; and then to the assemblies, which is always kept at some gentleman's house, during the time of the fair, which is very remarkable for beautiful women; and this is a proper time for intrigues and marriages; and is more properly a market for ladies than merchandizes.

AFTER the diversion of the fair was over, we took a ride to view the neighbouring country, which is very pleasant and delightful. Here we saw several fine seats: Easten-hall, the seat of the Duke of Grafton, Chevely, the seat of the lord Dover, with several others, adorn'd with fine gardens, parks, and every thing that can form pleasure and delight.

I P S W I C H is the first place of any consideration we met with after leaving St. Edmund's Bury; it is a very large town, situated on a rising ground, on the banks of the river Orwell or Gyppe, near which the fresh and salt water meet.

IN this town are four wards and twelve parishes; the streets are large, the houses old and out of repair, and very indifferently tenanted.

I P S W I C H is a town corporate, govern'd by two bailiffs, twelve port men, out of which the two bailiffs are annually chose, twenty four common

common council, a recorder, town clerk, with several other sub-officers. It has three markets every week, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, to which are brought plenty of fresh butter, with all sorts of provisions.

It has two fairs yearly, on Good-Friday, and St. George's day.

HERE is a good market place, with shambles built by cardinal Woolsey, whose father was a butcher in this town, and the son prime minister in the reign of King Henry the eighth, who had both a butcher's and a blacksmith's son, the greatest men in the kingdom; but both fell into disgrace; and lord Cromwell the blacksmith's son was beheaded.

CARDINAL WOOLSEY laid the foundation here for a very magnificent college, but never finished it. The inns are good, and all manner of provisions cheap. It was once a place of good trade, ships of a large size having been built here; but it is now quite neglected, and the harbour dry'd up. It is a town without inhabitants, a river without water, and streets without names.

HAVING order'd our yacht to wait for us at Ipswich, we resolv'd to go aboard, and take a little pleasure upon the water, we therefore left Ipswich in the county of Suffolk, and directed our course to Harwich, in the county of Essex; which is a fine sea port town, strengthened by nature as well as art; three parts of it being encompass'd by the sea and the river Stower.

THE town is indeed but small, but very populous ; it consists of three streets, which are very neat and clean, the houses not extraordinary built ; but the inns are very commodious ; but provisions are dear, it being greatly resorted to by strangers, on account of the packet boat coming here from Holland.

HARWICH is govern'd by a mayor, annually chose out of eight aldermen, who with twenty four capital burgeses, constitute the corporation. The mayor has power to keep admiralty courts, which have jurisdiction over all naval affairs ; as also for return of writs, fines, &c. It has a market every Tuesday, and two fairs yearly, on the festival of St. Philip and Jacob, and St. Luke.

THE King has a very good building yard here for ships, with a conveniency for store-houses, cranes, launches, and all other necessaries. The harbour is so spacious, that there have been at one time a hundred sail of men of war, besides four hundred sail of merchant ships.

ABOUT half a mile from the town is a pleasant walk, call'd Beaconhill, where is a light house, from whence there is a prospect of the coast of Suffolk and Essex, the town of Harwich and part of Essex, with the men of war riding at the gun fleet.

AT the foot of this city is a well which turns wood into metal, of which the best copperas is made.

NEAR this town a bloody battle was fought between the English and the Danes about nine hundred years ago.

FROM

FROM Harwich we hir'd horses to Colchester, which is a city of great antiquity, having been built near two thousand years. Here Luicus, Helena, and Constantine her son, the first christian emperor and empress, were born. It is very commodiously and pleasantly situated on the south side of the river Coln, about six miles from the sea, on the rise of a hill, stretching itself from East to West. It has ten parish churches, the buildings in general good, and the inns commodious.

THIS is the most populous town in the county of Essex; and the most noted in England for bays and says; a vast quantity of which stuffs the Spaniards carry to their settlements in America.

IN this manufacture all the neighbouring villages are employ'd, in carding, spinning and weaving.

THIS place suffer'd prodigiously during the war with Spain, many thousand poor people being depriv'd of their livelihood, and oblig'd to live upon charity. It has likewise a great trade for oysters, being esteem'd the best in England; they are sent to London in barrels, and from London sent as presents to gentlemen who live in the inland countries.

AT the bottom of this town there runs a little river call'd Coln, with three bridges over it, which in three miles course makes their harbour, call'd Vevnoe, where the custom-house is kept, and their shipping comes.

IN this town great numbers of the Dutch inhabit, having a church allowed them for divine worship in their own language ; for they are great supports to the bays and fays trade.

WEDNESDAY, Friday, and Saturday, are their market days, the twenty fourth of June, the twenty fifth of July, and the thirteenth day of October, their fairs are kept.

COLCHESTER is govern'd by two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, a recorder, town clerk, with other sub-officers.

THE river is navigable for ships of burthen, within three miles of the town, and in that part call'd *The Hithe*, which is close to the houses, it is navigable for hoys and small barges.

FROM Cholchester we came to an old village call'd Kildane, where the English began the massacre of the Danes, and entirely freed them from those foreign masters.

FROM Kildane we came to a little market town call'd Witham, pleasantly situated with good inns, and abundance of gentlemens seats round it ; amongst which is Newhall, built by King Henry the eighth. Here is an avenue of trees a mile long and very broad. The house is very spacious, but having had many masters, and of course suffer'd many alterations ; it is now an irregular building, but has a large and noble park.

QUEEN ELIZABETH gave it to her favourite the earl of Essex ; but he having the misfortune to lose his head, it had various masters afterwards.

Upon

Upon the restoration of King Charles the second from an exile to a throne, General Monk, who had a great share in that restoration, and on that account made Duke of Albemarle, purchased it for himself, but at his death left it in great disorder, and disputed among his relations.

IN two hours from Witham we arriv'd at Chelmsford, a very pleasant town, situated between two rivers, in the centre of the county of Essex: here the courts of justice are kept. They have a market once a week, which is on Friday; to which great plenty of provisions, corn, &c. are brought.

'Tis a well built town, not very large, but populous, it being on the high road from London to the East. The inns here are very commodious; the inhabitants dress genteel, and in general delight much in visits to one another; by which means 'tis a place of general scandal, especially among the women; tho' I must tell you, Sir, scandal and reflection is a too prevailing vice among the English women in all places.

FROM Chelmsford we went through a little market-town call'd Ingerstone, a pleasant village call'd Brentwood; a market town call'd Rumford, near which is an old house formerly belonging to Queen Elizabeth, and is call'd Giddy-hall.

From Rumford, we went to Wanstead, near which is a very fine house, with large and pleasant gardens, built by the Earl of Tinley. This house is in Epping-forest, which is a spacious
I 5 place,

place, upon level ground for many miles, well planted with trees and stock'd with deer.

BUT not far from this house there is a much pleasanter, the gardens at least are, tho' not so large. This house belongs to Sir Fisher Tench.

THIS spacious forest at Epping is royal, but seldom regarded by the royal family.

ON the other side the river Lea, is a royal chace call'd Enfield; in which the ranger hath a very sumptuous lodge; upon the borders of this chace are abundance of pleasant seats; particularly one built by Major General Franks, which commands a most delicious prospect, not only of the country for many miles round; but likewise the city of London.

AT the entrance of Epping forest is a very commodious inn, where we staid about two hours, and refresh'd ourselves, and set out for London: From the Green-man, we went thro' Leighton-stone, a very pleasant village, with a great many genteel houses, chiefly belonging to the citizens of London.

WE then went thro' Stratford, a very large and populous village; inhabited chiefly by citizens during the Summer.

Bow, is the last village in Essex or rather in Middlesex, for the greatest part of it is in Middlesex; here is a strong stone-bridge over the river Lee, which divides the two counties.

MILE-END, which I mention'd in a former letter, was the next place we arriv'd at, and from thence to London. I am

S I R, Your Friend and Servant.

L E T-



LETTER XV.

S I R,

I HAVE taken another little voyage in our Yacht. The fame of Scarborough, a place much frequented by the nobility and gentry, on account of its waters, has invited us to see it. We sail'd down the river with a fair wind, by Tilbury fort, Leigh, and Harwich, on the coast of Essex; Aldborough, Dunwich, on the coast of Suffolk, Galston, Yarmouth, Winterton, on the coast of Norfolk. Blankney, Lincolnshire, Spurn Lighthouse, Burlington, Flamborough head, Fylo on the Yorkshire coast; and then to Scarborough; which is in the form of a crescent towards the main ocean, of which there is an unbounded prospect from all parts of the town, which is built on the declivity of a high hill, on the top of which is an ancient castle

castle, which is now gone to ruin ; but from its situation and remains, we may conclude it was once as strong a fort as any in the kingdom.

THE town is wall'd and moated round, except where it joins to the castle or the sea. The castle is of a vast extent, and stands on a lofty promontory, which runs far into the sea. There are computed to be upwards of two hundred sail of ships belonging to this place, employ'd in different branches of trade ; the fishery upon this coast being very considerable ; particularly the herring, turbot, ling, cod-fish, haddock, fluke, whiting, mackrel, and lobsters, great quantities of which are sent every season to London.

THE cliffs upon which the castle stands are of such a prodigious height, that they serve for a sea-mark to the ships that sail from the northern seas, and is generally the first land-mark they discover.

THE sea shore at low tide is here like a bowling green, where is horse-racing, and other diversions. For here a great many of the gentry, both in coaches and upon saddle-horses take an airing in a morning.

SCARBOROUGH has been noted several years for its spaw, by the gentry of the north parts of England ; as Tunbridge, Epsom, or the Bath for the southern.

THIS water issues from the bottom of a large cliff, about a quarter of a mile from the town. They are cathartic and diuretick, and at the time of drinking them communicate a sensible
alacrity

alacrity and cheerfulness to the mind, and vigour to the body.

THE spaw is kept by a deform'd sort of a wretch, call'd Dicky Dickinson; but on account of the familiarity with which some of the prime people talk to him, gives him an opportunity of lashing them more than they like, for he has some share of wit. This Dicky Dickinson rents the well from the corporation, and has built two houses for the conveniency of the company. As soon as any one enters the room, five shillings is paid, and the person's name wrote in Dicky's book, after which they have the free use of his retirements.

AT this place both gentlemen and ladies bathe in the sea. The ladies have gowns and guides; and on the shore there are two little houses to retire to for dressing themselves.

THE town is populous, well built, being for the most part, uniform, neat, and commodious. The lodgings are reasonable and well furnish'd. From the long room is a prospect over the sea, and one may sit in the windows, and see the ships sailing at several leagues distance. There is a ball in this room every evening, and the gentlemen pay one shilling each. Here is likewise gaming, without which it would be no publick place of resort; for as Geneva is the life and soul of the poor people of England; so gaming is the life and soul of the rich, without which they could not live; yet their bad luck very often makes them hang themselves. 'Tis a sort of infectious delirium.

IN

IN this town are several ordinaries, which consist of ten or twelve dishes, and the price one shilling. Ladies pay their reckoning here as well as gentlemen; for there is wine generally drank after dinner; but I have been at ordinaries in other places where the ladies pay their reckoning; and indeed it is very reasonable; for perhaps one man has three or four women with him, and another is by himself; and some women, and those not a few, will drink their glass as free as any man, and be very encroaching upon good nature.

SCARBOROUGH is govern'd by two bailiffs, two coroners, four chamberlains, and thirty six burgeses. It has one church, one Presbyterian and one Quaker meeting.

AFTER staying at Scarborough three or four days, we embark'd again for London, from whence I now write this account of our voyage.

Your constant Friend,

L E T.



LETTER XVI.

SIR,

HAVING made a party of pleasure with three or four gentlemen, we set out from London to see the house of the Duke of Chandos, which is about ten miles distant from that great city.

THIS house, avenues, gardens, statues, painting, shew the fine taste and genius of the master. The chapel hath a choir of vocal and instrumental musick; his musick plays while he is at dinner; and is serv'd by gentlemen in very grand order; and is more magnificent than some sovereign German princes.

WE went to the great avenue from the town of Edgar by a fine iron gate, with ballustrades of iron on each side, and two neat lodges in the inside. This avenue is near a mile long, in
the

the middle of which is a round basin of water, it fronts an angle of the house, and shews two fronts at once.

TURNING a little to the left, we came to the great court, which leads to the salon and great stair case, and a little farther to the left to another court, which leads to the back stairs. The house is built of free stone, with four fronts.

THE east front is towards the Parterre and great canal; the west towards the gardens; and the south looks through a great area, the offices and stables are down another large avenue which ends in a mountain.

THE north front is finely adorn'd with pilasters and columns of stone; above every window in each front is an antique head neatly engrav'd; and upon the top of all the fronts are statues as big as the life.

THE Salon is supported by marble pillars, painted by Bellucci, as is likewise the great stair case, which is all of marble; the steps are of a great length, each step one piece of marble. This stair case leads to the apartments fronting the parterre and grand canal, which are plaster'd and gilt by Pargotti and the cielings painted by Bellucci. These apartments lead to the Duke's dressing room and library, fronting the gardens; from thence we descend by another pair of stairs finely painted, and ballustrated to the top of the house with iron, to a court which opens into the great area to the east; on the right of which is the chapel, and on the left the kitchens; and

and at a small distance on each side are the stables; and the bottom of the area is inclosed with ballustrades of iron.

THE library is a fine noble room, with a good collection of books. The chapel is exceeding neat, finely painted, gilt, and plaster'd: Here is a handsome altar piece, and a neat organ. The Duke and Duchess have a fine gallery, with a door into it from the apartments above, and a stair-case that descends into the body of the chapel, the windows of which are finely painted.

IN that court which opens into the dining-room is a very spacious dining-room, in which is a very grand side-board of plate; and at the end of it is a room for the musick.

THE Parterre fronting the west is separated from the great avenue and the great court that leads to the stair-case, by ballustrades of iron.

THERE is a large terras walk from whence one descends to the Parterre which hath a row of gilded vases or pedestals on each side of the great canal: In the middle, fronting the canal, is a gladiator; and through the whole Parterre there are abundance of statues as big as life.

THE canal is very long, notwithstanding there is no water to supply it, but what comes from Stanmore, about two miles off.

THE gardens are very large, and kept in fine order; and it being divided by ballustrades of iron, instead of walls, one has a prospect of the whole at once from all parts of the garden or parterre.

THERE

THERE are very curious bee-hives in the kitchen garden, made of glass, through which one may see the workmanship of those industrious animals.

THIS fine building and gardens are watch'd by eight sergeants of the army, who go their rounds at night, and call the hours; they also attend the Duke to chapel.

THE whole is very magnificent; and may become a prince; there being above a hundred servants.

THE English nobility in general live in the greatest splendor imaginable; you may then easily imagine what the grandeur of a King of England must be, when many of his attendants and the officers of his household are of the best noble families. I remain,

Your constant friend.

L E T.



LETTER XVII.

S I R,

BEING now near the road to Oxford, we determin'd to see that famous Univerſity, ſo ſtruck over from Cannons to Uxbridge, which is a large and populous town well accommodated with inns, and all ſorts of houſes of entertainment; at the end of it is a river, where abundance of people go from London to angle in; it being remarkable for its large Gudgeons, a fiſh much admir'd. This town is govern'd by two bailiffs, two conſtables, and four headboroughs. It has a market on Thursdays, and is well furniſh'd with all ſorts of proviſions; and notwithſtanding London is ſupply'd with moſt ſort of eatables from the country; yet the towns and villages within thirty miles of London are ſupply'd with butter and cheeſe from thence; the
citizens

citizens having shops, to which they come every market-day.

FROM Uxbridge we came to Beaconfield, situated on a dry hill, is a good town, and well accommodated with inns.

WE then cross'd to Aylesbury, which is a pleasant town, situated on a small hill, on a branch of the river Tame, encompass'd with rich meadows and pastures, in which a vast number of sheep are fatted. It is the principal town in the county of Bucks, and here the Assizes are generally kept; tho' Buckingham is generally call'd *The county town*.

FROM hence we went to Oxford, that University so famous all over the world.

OXFORD is a place of great antiquity, being consecrated to the sciences by the ancient Britains, and translated here from Creek-lade, a town in Wiltshire, and was the residence of the Druids, or Priests, which I mention'd in one of my first letters. But it is not my present design to search into antiquities without authority, which is all guess-work at best, and serves rather to create disputes than be of any service.

IT has undoubtedly suffer'd great calamities in common with other places, from the Saxons and Danes; but when the kingdom was a little settled, King Elfred built here three colleges for the study of divinity, philosophy, and other liberal arts, and sent his son Ethelward thither as an example for young noblemen; which had its desir'd effect; for it drew them from all parts
of

of the kingdom: It now began to hold up its head, and flourish apace; till at last it arriv'd to its present grandeur; it being a fine city, adorn'd with well-built houses. It has seventeen colleges and seven halls.

THE three colleges which King Alfred built have been for many years reduc'd to one, which is call'd *University College*.

BALIOI-COLLEGE, was founded by Devirgilla, daughter of Alexander the third, King of Scots, and wife to John Baliol, of Bernard-castle in Yorkshire, and mother to that John Baliol who contested the crown of Scotland with Robert Bruce.

ABOVE the great gate, as one enters the court, are the Royal arms of Scotland, and those of the family of Baliol, and yet there was never any provision for Scotsmen in this college, till John Warner, bishop of Rochester in the reign of King Charles the second, in the year 1668. settled four Scots fellowships, and endow'd them with eighty pounds a year. The library of this university contains the best collection of ancient manuscripts of any private library in the university. Before this college the bishops Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer after being pronounc'd guilty of heresy by the scholars, were burnt with their books. So that you may see, my friend, to what unaccountable heights the superstitious and hot-headed run in religious disputes. If Christians burn Christians for differing in some religious matters, what encouragement has a man to be a Christian? The Christians have complain'd
much

much of persecutions, yet no religion persecutes them more than they do one another.

MERTON COLLEGE was founded by William de Merton, lord chancellor to King Henry the third ; it was first erected at Maldon, near Kingston in Surrey, and translated to Oxford ten years after by the same founder.

EXETER COLLEGE was founded by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, who was lord high treasurer to King Edward the second : It has received several benefactions from the city of Exeter and the county of Devon ; and was design'd for the benefit of the western counties.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, was founded by Robert Eglesfield, a private clergyman, chaplain to Philippa, King Edward the third's Queen ; 'tis said he built this house upon his own land, and at his own expence ; but desiring Queen Philippa to be his patroness, he call'd it Queen's-hall. The founder dy'd before it was finished ; but it has receiv'd several royal benefactions. It has been rebuilt of free-stone, and is now esteem'd the most beautiful college in the university.

NEW COLLEGE was founded by William of Wickham, bishop of Winchester, the same who is said to have built Windsor-castle, rebuilt the cathedral church at Winchester, and the fine school there ; the scholars of which are the nursery of this college.

LINCOLN COLLEGE, was founded by Richard Flemming, arch-bishop of York ; but compleated about sixty years afterwards by Thomas Rotherham, bishop of Lincoln ; of which place

place Richard Flemming was bishop, before he was translated to York.

ALL-SOULS-COLLEGE, was founded by Henry Chicheley, arch-bishop of Canterbury, but very much improv'd by Cardinal Pool.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, was founded by William Wainfleet, bishop of Winchester. Very little addition has been made to this college since its first foundation; except a new apartment added by one Mr. Clark, who was many years a member of parliament for this university. Colonel Codrington gave to this college ten thousand pounds and a good collection of books. It was at this college King James the second might have been convinc'd of his error, and sav'd his crown; for he found his subjects would not be compell'd to any thing. Here he told them, *He was their King, and would be obey'd!* but he found to the contrary: For the English people will obey neither King nor any body else, when they find their liberties invaded.

BRAZEN-NOSE-COLLEGE, was founded by William Smith, bishop of Lincoln; but finished by Richard Sutton Esq; a Cheshire gentleman: It is a pretty sort of a building, consisting of a cloyster, chapel, publick hall, and a square for lodgings.

CORPUS-CHRISTI COLLEGE, is a beautiful building, and founded by Richard Fox, bishop of Winchester, who was the instrument of bringing the Stuart family to the throne of England, by making up a marriage between the daughter of King Henry the seventh of England, and

and James the sixth of Scotland, from a branch of which family the present King of England is descended.

CHRIST-CHURCH COLLEGE, was founded by Cardinal Woolsey, who being disgraced by King Henry the eighth, could not finish it; but that King however finished it, and settled a very large income to maintain it. The royal school at Westminster is a nursery to this college.

TRINITY COLLEGE, begun by Thomas Hatfield, bishop of Durham, but finished by Sir Thomas Pope, lord mayor of London, about a hundred and eighty years since. It makes a grand appearance, its chapel is pav'd with black and white marble, wainscotted with cedar and walnut tree inlaid, and adorn'd with curious paintings.

THE second court is a spacious square of free-stone.

SAINT JOHN'S COLLEGE, first founded by arch-bishop Chicheley; but was suppress'd among other religious houses, in the reign of Henry the eighth, who was a strange mortal in religion, regarding it no more than as it serv'd his own purposes; but was nevertheless stil'd *Defender of the Faith* by the bishop of Rome; which then indeed serv'd the bishop's purpose, King Henry pretending to be a great stickler for religion.

It was afterwards made into a college by Sir Thomas White, a wealthy alderman of the city of London. This college consists of two handsome squares, the piazza's of which were built by arch-bishop Laud, who was beheaded by that rebellious

bellious party, in the reign of King Charles the first, father to King James above-mentioned, who lost his crown. The people in King Charles the first's reign were so intoxicated with the notion of liberty, that nothing would satisfy them but the blood of their King; and took his life away with as much unconcern as if he had been a common house breaker or a pick-pocket. No people in the world pretend more loyalty to their King than the English, and none regard it less when they begin to be pinch'd.

JESUS-COLLEGE, for the Welchmen, is said by some to be founded by Hugh Price, Esq; a Welch gentleman; others say it was founded by Queen Elizabeth; but it seems very strange, that so late a foundation should puzzle people who was the founder. It is however a college for the Welchmen, who are a jest to the scholars in the other universities; Jeering the Welchmen is in general us'd among the Englishmen, who hang their patron St. David on his festival day, with the utmost disgrace in every corner of the streets about London; which I am very much surpriz'd at; for I really think the Welch are as brave and generous a people as ever I met with, and can see nothing in them that deserves such treatment.

WADHAM COLLEGE, founded by Nicholas Wadham Esq; and Dorothy his wife, sister to the lord Petre of Essex; who endow'd it with a considerable maintenance. The family of the Petre's reside now in Essex, and are very rich, but make no great figure in the nation, on account of denying the authority of the national church.

THE Theatre and printing house at Oxford are of free-stone, supported by columns of pillars, and finished by Sir Christopher Wren, who built St. Paul's; it cost fifteen thousand pounds, which was chiefly paid by arch-bishop Sheldon. 'Tis esteem'd one of the finest piles of building in the world.

THE printing-house was once in the upper part of the theatre; and notwithstanding there was such a prodigious weight, the printing letters being all solid metal; and the force of the presses very great; yet this curious piece of architecture was supported by the geometrical order of its building. The present printing-house was built by Mr. Basket the King's printer; but London is the chief place for printing, as indeed it is for every thing else.

THE Musæum Ashmoleanum is also a curious building. In this Musæum is a fine collection of curiosities, Roman antiquities and medals.

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, is a very extraordinary one, and much larger than any university in Europe can boast of; and is most remarkable for its vast number of oriental manuscripts.

To this library Dr. Radcliff an eminent physician, left forty thousand pounds, to build a new room for the disposition of the books. This Dr. Radcliff was so remarkable a man in the knowledge of mankind, that it is said he would upon first sight determine whether a person could live or die; and particularly I was told, that being sent for to prescribe for a young lady who was somewhat indispos'd; as soon as he came into the

the room, look'd upon her, and with a surly accent said, *That she must think of a coffin instead of a husband, for that in two or three days she would certainly die.* This young lady he knew was upon the point of marriage ; and told her the worst without hesitation ; for in three days she certainly dy'd.

ANOTHER instance I was told, that being in company at a tavern with some gentlemen drinking a chearful glass ; he looks at one of the gentlemen, *Sir, says he, go home and make your will, for you will soon be very ill, and certainly die before morning.* The gentleman was much surpriz'd, declaring he was never in a better state of health in the whole course of his life ; but he was at last perswaded to take a chair, in which he was taken very sick before he could reach home, and according dy'd before morning. The method Dr. Radcliff took to make himself known in the world, is something very merry. He hir'd men out of service, who had got livery-clothes, to go to the most noted coffee-houses, and enquire whether Dr. Radcliff was there ; he being so much call'd upon, every one thought he must be an eminent man, tho' perhaps he had not had a patient for a week : and thus he rais'd himself. He would likewise order his own servant to fetch him out of church in the midst of the service, when every one was intent upon their prayers, which would make a strange whispering, *Dr. Radcliff is sent for, &c.* Thus you see, my friend, what arts the most ingenious men are oblig'd to make use of, before they can make their just

merit known to the world. And I may venture to say, that many a great and useful genius is lost in England, for want of money, friends, or some lucky turn to make themselves known.

THERE is a fine physick garden belonging to the university of Oxford, consisting of about five acres of ground ; which contains many thousand useful plants, for the improvement of botanical studies, and vegetative philosophy

THUS Sir, I have given you the best description I can of this seminary of learning, which is known by report all over the world. But one thing I can't help observing to you, which is, that the young noblemen here are under very little restriction, by which means they neglect their studies, and live a life of debauchery ; and are by this means very unfit for conversation when they set out upon their travels. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.

L E T-



LETTER XVIII.

S I R,

THE fame of Woodstock, the seat of the victorious Duke of Marlborough, rais'd our curiosity to see it ; being but a small distance from Oxford. It is call'd Blenheim-house, on account of the great victory obtain'd at Blenheim, against the French, by that great general.

It stands in a large park, famous for being the place where King Henry the first of England built a palace, and kept a beautiful mistress, call'd *Fair Rosamond* ; whose skin was of such an extraordinary clearness, that it is said, the colour of the liquor she drank might be seen as it went down her throat : she was poison'd in her bower by Queen Eleanor ; but it is nothing extraordinary

for a wife to vent her malice upon her husband's mistress ; besides, as the circumstances of this story vary, and is foreign to my present purpose, I shall go on with the description of the place as it is at present.

WE ascended to the house through a long and large avenue, over a bridge of one arch, from which we came into an open court ; on the right were the stables and offices belonging to them ; and the kitchen, brewhouse, bakehouse, wash-house on the left ; each hath a spacious court piazz'd, for the convenience of the servants passing from one office to the other. There is a great gate at the entrance of these courts, each under a handsome tower.

AN open gallery, supported by pillars, joins these offices to the body of the house. This front of the house with the offices make a semi-circle : Over the door is the figure of Pallas, and behind here are two slaves chain'd, bigger than life ; over the open galleries which join the offices are nine fine statues on each side.

THE front towards the garden is very large and noble ; which we enter'd by a great common hall, which is to be all painted, and a spacious salon behind it, and a gallery above for musick, which is open to both. The great gate or portico from the court comes into the hall, and that of the ground is the salon.

ON the right from the hall we pass'd by several arches supported by pillars, to a large and long gallery, in which the duke design'd to place a fine parcel of pictures from Italy ; and those he brought

brought himself from Germany and Flanders. From the end of this gallery which fronts the garden, are nine noble state-rooms, exceedingly rich furnished; the door cases of different sorts of marble. From these state rooms the Duke's and Dutchess's apartment reach to the gallery which joins to the kitchens.

IN the dining room of this apartment is a bow window, from which are several pleasant prospects; and the long galleries are so contriv'd, that when the doors of the state rooms are open, you may see from one into another, and through the whole into the garden.

THERE is a mathematical stone stair in each wing, which leads to the apartments above; but there is no large stair-case.

THE gardens are very large, containing above twenty acres of land, in which is a large gravel walk, large enough for a coach to drive freely. About the middle of this walk, on each side, are two large basons of water, with water-works.

IN these gardens are nine or ten different prospects through avenues in the park; and from the cupola on the top of the house is a fine prospect for twenty miles round.

WE are told that in Woodstock park is an eccho, which in calm weather returns seventeen syllables distinctly, and in the night-time twenty.

THE town of Woodstock joins to the park, about half a mile distant from Blenheim-house, which is a neat town, with good inns, and is much resorted to by foreigners, on account of

seeing this famous seat. The town is well pav'd, and sends two members to parliament.

It has a market every Tuesday, and has three fairs in a year.

IN the town of Woodstock *Edward the black Prince* was born.



LETTER XIX.

S I R,

WE left Blenheim, with a design to go to Bath, and going over a fine down, in two hours arriv'd at Helthrop, a fine seat of the Duke of Shrewsbury ; pleasantly situated upon an eminence in the middle of a park.

FROM hence we rode over a pleasant Down about twelve miles long ; from whence we had a fine prospect of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, and Warwickshire. Within six miles of Gloucestershire is a place call'd Burtuphill, where we had an extensive view over the vale of Esham, above Worcester city, which we resolv'd to see. This vale is esteem'd one of the finest spots of land

land in the kingdom of England ; being one continu'd scene of plenty ; tho' in the winter time it is a very bad way for strangers.

WORCESTER, is pleasantly situated upon the banks of the Severn, over which is a fine stone bridge ; it is a place of great antiquity, and has felt the severe effects both of war and fire. It was first built by the Romans, to secure themselves against the assaults of the Britains, who possess'd all the land on the other side of the Severn. It is govern'd by a mayor, sheriff, six aldermen, seventy two common council men, two chamberlains, a recorder, town clerk, and other sub-officers. The streets are the most pleasant of any town I have seen in England.

FROM Worcester we went to Shrewsbury, which is a fine pleasant clean town, and may vie with many cities, both for its populousness, largeness of streets, and neatness of building, both publick and private. It is a town design'd by nature for strength, and was once so by art ; but as this island is now free from foreign wars, its whole strength depends upon shipping : therefore all inland fortifications are entirely neglected.

SHREWSBURY is a place of great resort, both by English and Welch, where both speeches are talk'd ; and it is common, when people are bargaining for goods, to speak part English and part Welch. This town enjoyeth a considerable trade for clothes, cottons, and frizes, and variety of other commodities. Here are three markets in a Week, Wednesdays for provisions, Thurs-

days for Welch cottons, great quantities of which are sent to London, and Saturdays for provisions, which are very cheap.

It is the grand market between England and middle Wales. Here is a large free-school for the education of youth.

It is govern'd by a mayor, twenty four aldermen, and forty eight common council men, a recorder, steward, and town clerk ; and hath two printing-houses.

FROM Shrewsbury we went to see St. Winefred's well in Flintshire, one of the Welch counties.

It is a place of great note for people to bathe in, it being esteem'd a sovereign remedy for diseases of the body. It is visited by pilgrims of all nations, who come here to pay their devotions to St. Winifred, who was a beautiful young virgin, much solicited by a prince of this country, to submit to his lust ; but after many solicitations to no purpose, he despair'd of ever gaining his ends ; therefore took the opportunity at this place when she was alone, to surprize and ravish her ; then murder'd her, and cut off her head : and out of the spot of ground where this virgin was murder'd, sprung forth a spring, which remains to this day, with so rapid a stream, that at a small distance it is able to drive a mill. Moss of a sweet and pleasant smell grows in this well, which the country people told us was St. Winefred's hair. But according to the history of this virgin painted on a glass window, in a chapel at the head of this well, her head was set
on

on again by one St. Beuno. These head-fetters would be clever sort of folks in our days. But I leave you to make what judgment you please, both on the original of the well ; as likewise St. Beuno. This place is generally call'd *Holy Well*.

FROM hence we turn'd our course to Chester, one of our company having business in that city. It is likewise call'd West-chester on account of its situation in the west of England. It is a place of great antiquity, said to be built by one Leon Gauer, a huge giant, that liv'd beyond the moon ; and who subdu'd the Picts ; but I look upon such stories to be all fabulous, a great part of which has nothing but verbal tradition and wives tales to support them ; the truth being lost in a course of time.

CHESTER is however at present a fine city, pleasantly situated on the river Dee, over which is a fine stone bridge with seven arches, at each end of which is a gate. Its form is quadrangular, and about two miles in circumference, enclos'd with a wall of some strength. It hath four gates, according to the four cardinal points, viz. East-gate, which is esteem'd one of the finest gates in England, Bridge-gate, Water-gate, and North-gate, which last is made use of as a prison for debtors. There are three other gates of less note call'd Posterns ; and on the wall are watch-towers, and broad battlements for placing pieces of cannon.

ON the south part towards the bridge is a castle situated on a rocky hill, in which is a
Shire-

Shire-hall, resembling that of Westminster; where all matters of law in this county Palatine are heard and determin'd, having particular officers of their own, viz. a Chamberlain, a Justice for the Common-pleas of the crown, two Barons of the Exchequer, Sheriff, an Escheator, and other officers. At the end of the hall is an Exchequer for the county. About the middle of Water-gate-street, is the King's custom-house, which is likewise call'd, The King's store-house.

THIS city is not the most beautiful, but it is a great place of trade, particularly the cheese factory; and here people generally take shipping for Dublin the capital city of Ireland; tho' Holy head in Wales, is the place where the packet boats, from Ireland arrive at.

IT is supply'd with fresh water from the water tower at the bridge, thirty five yards high, and eight broad. Along the chief streets are rows with shops on both sides, built in such a manner that one may walk when it rains ever so fast, without being wet; tho' the open buildings in London are more healthy than these.

THE King of England's eldest son is always Earl of Chester.

IT is govern'd by a Mayor, and two Sheriffs, twenty four Aldermen, a Recorder, town Clerk, Sergeant of peace, four Sergeants, and six Yeomen; and here is once a year a show in some manner resembling that of the Lord Mayor's of London. This city sends two members to
par-

parliament; and is the only city or borough in the county that sends any.

EDGAR, an ancient King of England, had a palace in this city, to which he was row'd by seven Kings from among the Scots and Britains; while he, as their supreme lord, steer'd at the helm.

THERE is a very odd ceremony observ'd in this city every year among the musicians, which is worth notice, and had its original as follows:

RANULPH, the sixth earl of Chester, after the Norman Conquest, gain'd many advantages over Lewellen, prince of Wales; but was at last forc'd to take refuge in the castle of Rathen, from whence he sent to the constable of Chester for assistance, who call'd all his friends together, and desir'd them to make as large a body as they could, and go with him. Ralph Dutton, his son-in-law, assembled all he could, and among the rest the musicians; and then march'd out with the constable against the Welchmen, who were surpriz'd at such a number of musicians, thinking there must be a great army at hand; and therefore immediately fled.

THE earl being by this contrivance deliver'd out of danger, granted to the aforesaid Ralph Dutton and his heirs, the ordering all musicians within the county of Chester, which has been enjoy'd and observ'd by his heirs in the following manner.

EVERY Midsummer-day, which is call'd, *The meeting of minstrels*, the heir of Dutton, or his steward, hangs out his banner, or arms, where
the

the feast is kept; then he dispatches a drummer to give notice in the streets, for all persons to appear at the place appointed, between the hours of ten and eleven in the forenoon. Most of the gentlemen of the county being then mounted, all musicians that desire liberty to play in this city or country, play before them, with trumpets sounding; the steward carrying a staff in his hand, with the banner of Dutton, borne before him by one of the chief musicians; and after him a man dress'd in imitation of an herald. At some distance comes the lord or heir of Dutton, and at East-gate makes a proclamation; after which they proceed to St. John's Church, where the steward calls for all the loud musick, who kneel down and play several solemn lessons; which done, divine service is read; after which the steward entertains them nobly; and in the afternoon empannels a jury among them; where he gives them a charge, *To enquire concerning any treason against the King, Prince or Earl of Chesterfield; and whether any man has exercis'd his instrument without licence from the lord of that court; whether any one is guilty of misdemeanours, or whether any amongst them have spoke disrespectfully of their lord and patron, the heir of Dutton.* After the jury have given their verdict, licences are granted to all, who are thought worthy, to use their musical instruments within the said city and county palatine for one whole year.

Not far from the city of Chester is the forest of Delamere, where once was a city, but has
many

years been reduc'd to ruin : the place where it stood being by the inhabitants now call'd, *The Chamber of the Forest*. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.



LETTER XX.

S I R,

WE embark'd on board a sloop at Chester down the river Dee, and sailing along the Cheshire coast arriv'd at Liverpoole which is a fine place of trade, commodiously situated on the river Mersey, but the water is salt. Here is a fine safe harbour for ships, here being four fathom water at low tide ; and this river is navigable many miles into the country, and affords abundance of all sorts of fowl and fish, great plenty of which are brought to market every Saturday : As likewise corn, cattle, sheep, horses, and variety of all sorts of provisions. Here are particularly vast quantities of Smelts, which

is a fish much in esteem, and here you may frequently buy as many of them for a penny as you can in London for five shillings. It is an ancient corporation, is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, recorder, town clerk, and common council. Those who are free of this town have a privilege of being freemen of the city of Bristol; as likewise of Waterford and Westford, in Ireland.

THERE are in Liverpool abundance of very wealthy merchants, whose houses are finely built; their chief trade is to the West-Indies; the commodities proper for that country being here cheaper than in any other part of England. Near the town-house is a convenient exchange for merchants.

PRESTON; at this place the people wear such fine cloaths, and are so very haughty in their manners, that 'tis call'd *Proud Preston*. It is situated on the side of a river, over which is a fine stone bridge, its streets are large, and open, and finely pav'd, and the houses well built, and it hath three markets weekly, viz. Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

IN this town are held the courts of chancery, and offices of justice for the county palatine of Lancaster. It is govern'd by a mayor and twenty four common-council.

MANCHESTER, is a town of great antiquity, is large, beautiful and well inhabited. Here is a great trade for linnen and woollen cloths, and cottons. It has a fine collegiate church, a college, and market place, and has a fine market
on

on Saturdays, both for the commodities of the town, as likewise for provisions of all sorts.

LANCASTER, the county town, is pleasantly situated on the side of a river, over which is a fine stone bridge with five arches. Notwithstanding this is the county town it is very little frequented, being chiefly inhabited by farmers and the poorer sort of country people.

WE now proceeded on our journey thro' the inland countries, and first into Staffordshire, where we rode over many heaths and moors, the whole country being a barren sort of a place. Here are abundance of conies and deer; and it has plenty of rivers abounding with fish, and are frequented in the winter-season by all sorts of water-fowls, and Swans in great plenty. It is likewise a fine country for hawking and hunting.

STAFFORD is the county town, situated amongst meadows, on the river Sowe, over which there is a bridge. The streets are large and pav'd, and the buildings pretty good. There is a fine square market place; in which is the Shire-hall, and serves for a market-house; it has likewise a free school. It has a market on Saturdays, which is well serv'd with corn and provisions.

LICHFIELD, is a city and county of itself, situated in a pleasant champain country, is of great antiquity; and was once call'd, *The field of dead bodies*, on account of the great number of Christians slain by order of Dioclesian the Roman Emperor. It is near an ancient Roman way
call'd

call'd *Watling street*, which enters this county about *Falsley* into *Shropshire*; and *Skeneld*, which leads thro' it into *Warwickshire*. The buildings are indifferent, the streets pav'd and kept clean, and is much frequented by gentry. Here is a free grammar school for the education of youth, and an hospital for the relief of the poor.

It is govern'd by two bailiffs, a sheriff, a recorder, town clerk, and other sub-officers. Here are two markets, viz. on Wednesdays and Fridays, to which are brought plenty of corn and provisions.

NEW-CASTLE-UNDER-LINE, is a large town, the streets broad and pav'd, but the houses are low and generally thatch'd. I make particularly mention of this place, because there is another New-castle in *Northumberland*, call'd *New-castle upon Tyne*.

WE took a long tour thro' all this part of England, into *Derbyshire*, *Warwickshire*, *Lincolnshire*, *Yorkshire*, the bishoprick of *Durham*, *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, and *Westmoreland*.

DERBYSHIRE, is seated near the middle of England, but inclining towards the north, which in some parts produces very good corn and grass, which feeds great numbers of sheep which are brought to London market. Here is likewise good barley, and a great deal of this country ale is drank in London. The river *Derwent* divides this county into east and west; on the east is coal, and on the west lead mines.

DERBY

DERBY is the county town, and of the most note, situated on the the river Derwent, over which is a stone-bridge. It is a large, populous, well frequented and rich town. The chief trade here is for barley, which is made into malt, and brings considerable profit. Here is a fine hall of free-stone, where the assizes are kept. It is govern'd by a mayor, fourteen brethren, fourteen common council, a recorder, town clerk, &c. and enjoys great privileges; its inhabitants being free from toll at London.

It has three markets in a week, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; but the Friday market is much the greatest, for corn, cattle, and provision.

CHESTERFIELD, is pleasantly situated between two small rivers. It is a town of great antiquity, and is govern'd by a mayor, six aldermen a recorder, six brethren, twelve counsellors, and two chamberlains. Here is a fine large market place, to which are brought large quantity of corn, lead, and all sorts of provisions every Saturday.

NEAR this town was a battle fought by King Henry the third and his rebellious barons, in which Robert de Ferrers, the last Earl of Derby of that Family, was taken prisoner, and stript both of honour and estate; and nothing left him but his life, which is of very little value, when a man is depriv'd both of his honour and fortune.

THERE are in this county two great bridges over the river Trent; Swarkeston bridge is near

a mile in length, and hath thirty nine arches; but a great deal of it is rather a cause-way than a bridge.

BURTON bridge has thirty five large stone arches, and is much better than Swarkeston.

AT this bridge Edward the second routed the Earl of Lancaster and many of the barons.

THERE are in Derbyshire several mineral waters, particularly Buxton wells, where in the compass of eight or nine yards issueth out of a rock nine springs, eight of which are warm, and one cold. They are very pleasant to bathe in; but those in Somersetshire are much more frequented by the nobility and gentry than these, and much better accommodated with lodgings and entertainment.

IN Kidlaſton park is a well, much of the nature of that of Knaresborough in Yorkſhire, which is good for old ulcers, and is taken both inwardly and outwardly.

AT Quarndon, about a mile and a half from Derby are two ſprings, much of the ſame nature of thoſe at Tunbridge in Kent, and the ſpaws in Yorkſhire, being as ſtrong of the mineral, and as effectual in operation.

NEAR Wirkſworth there is a warm ſpring, and a cold ſpring, ſo near each other, that one hand may be put in the cold, and the other in the warm at the ſame time.

WHILE we were in this county, we thought it would not be like travellers without ſeeing *The Peak*, thoſe wonders in nature; ſo famous all over the world.

THE

THE first wonder shown us here, was a high hill, call'd mount Tor, which shoots out such plenty of stones, that the noise of them are heard at some miles distance; yet the mountain seems never to decay, though it hath continu'd so time immemorial.

ELDON'S-HOLE, or *The bottemless Pit*, is the next our guide shew'd us, which is a terrible opening of the earth almost a mile deep, and is narrow at top and bottom, and wide in the middle. We were told, that the famous earl of Leicester, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, hir'd a man to go down in a basket, ballasted with stone, to try the depth of it. After they had let him down about three hundred yards, they pull'd him up senseless and speechless, and he dy'd of a phrensy a few days after.

THE next wonder is *Weeding Well*, or *Tide's Well*, a spring which ebbs and flows as the sea does; it is about a yard in diameter, and its depth much the same. But the learned are divided in their opinions concerning the true rise and fall of this spring, and some deny it has any communication with the sea.

POOL'S-HOLE, next engag'd our attention, a cave, at the foot of a large mountain, call'd Coitmoos; the entrance into which is by a small arch, so low, that those who will venture into it must creep upon all fours for some time; but then it is of a considerable height, and like the roof of a large cathedral. On the right is a hollow cavern, call'd *Pool's chamber*, where we went over ridges and rocks of stone, where are

many representations of art and nature, produced by the petrefying water continually dropping from the roof and sides of the rock: Here is curious fret work, much like some sea shells; organ and choir work; the figures of animals, as a Lion, a Dog, with many other beasts, which the mind may suggest, much like those we see in the fire, of a winter's evening; with which children will divert themselves for a long time, producing so many things, till at last a Salamander comes, and frightens them all. This Peak is undoubtedly a strange sort of a place, but then the figures occasion'd by the petrefying water before mention'd, are the mere effect of imagination.

A little farther we came to the pillar of the Queen of Scots, which is as bright as alabaſter; we went on farther to a steep ascent, near a quarter of a mile high, which terminates near the roof in a hollow, call'd *The Needle's eye*; here the guide places his candle, which looks like a ſtar in the firmament.

THERE we fir'd a piſtol, the noiſe of which was ſo much increaſed by the hollowneſs of the cave, that it ſeem'd to be the report of a cannon.

HAVING now got as far as we could, we return'd another way, through many ſmall currents of water. As ſoon as we came out of this dark cavern, ſome poor women met us with water and herbs to cleanſe us from any filth that might be lodg'd on our clothes.

THERE

THERE are various conjectures about the name of this cave, some say, that Pool, who gave it that name was a notorious thief, who being outlaw'd, fled from justice, and took up his residence here. Others again suppose he was some hermit, who resolving to live a melancholy life, retir'd into the cell, where I must confess he might live melancholy enough.

Now we come to *The Devil's arse of Peak*, a phrase much us'd by the English, when they go in search of a place which proves further and more difficult to be found than expected.

It may indeed be call'd *The Devil's Arse*; for no human creature would live in it; and yet it seems to be some old hermit's cave; so strange an antipathy had some men to the world, that they had rather live in a most dismal cave, without convenient food or raiment, than converse with mankind.

THIS *Devil's Arse* is a wide subteraneous cavern, running under a hill near Castleton; its capacious at the entrance; but grows more narrow the farther we go in. The top of it is high, and appears like a fine arch, with stones of various colours and somewhat resembling the buttocks of a man; and therefore call'd *The Devil's Arse*. But whether the Devil's arse was ever seen I leave you to judge; or whether any man living knows what shape he is of? or of what he is made? and whether he has any arse or not? But however, *The Devil's Arse* it is call'd; and from it there drops a sparry water, which petrefies like that in *Pool's-hole*.

WITHIN

WITHIN the arch are several small buildings where poor people inhabit, and are ready at all times to attend such travellers who are desirous to search into these satanical territories.

AFTER we had got a little way into this cave, we found it very dark and slippery, by reason of a current of water which runs along it, and here the rock hangs so sloping that we were oblig'd to stoop. But after we had pass'd this place and a brook adjoining, the arch open'd itself again, and brought us to a second current with large banks of sand; and here we come to a third current, which is impassable, and then the rock closes.

THERE goes a report that a shepherd travel'd over all these currents and caverns, and arriv'd in a plentiful country, with fine rivers and verdant meadows and pastures. But these rivers and pastures could never induce any body to venture to take possession of them; such stories being in general look'd upon as fabulous.

THE river Avon runs in many turnings and windings thro' the whole county of Warwickshire, in which is great plenty of iron, wood, and wool; and *The vale of Red-horse* produces abundance of corn.

COVENTRY is the greatest town of trade in this county, and noted for stuffs. Notwithstanding this town is in Warwickshire, yet is of it self a county incorporate, and has a court for hearing causes, and trying felons. It is a very neat city, well built, and the court kept in good order. Here is a cross of very curious
workmanship,

workmanship, of which the inhabitants are very proud. It has a great market on Fridays, for corn, cattle, and provisions.

THIS city having in ancient times committed some offence against one Leofrick Lord of this part of the country, he impos'd very severe taxes upon them; but the wife of the said Leofrick, nam'd Godiva, rode thro' the city naked in the middle of the day, to restore them their liberties, and ease them from their heavy taxes. This, tho' a penance few modest women would perform, yet she did it with much cheerfulness, imagining the good she did to the inhabitants made sufficient amends for her breach of modesty in exposing her naked body.

I CAN'T account for the opinions of those times; but I'm sure it would be an amazing thing now, for a prince first to load his subjects with intolerable taxes; and then disgrace himself so far, as to suffer his wife's naked body to be expos'd, to take them off again. 'Tis an accountable way of lessening taxes! But every age has its customs; and what is done now, tho' unregarded by ourselves, may be the wonder of future ages.

WARWICK, is a town of some note, with spacious streets and well-built houses; it has a free school, a good hospital for decay'd gentlemen, and a very stately market-house built of free-stone, supported by several pillars. It is govern'd by a mayor, twelve brethren, twenty four common council, a recorder, and other sub-officers.

NEAR Warwick is a place call'd Guy-cliff, very delightfully situated amongst groves and brooks; and here the famous Guy Earl of Warwick built a chapel after many noble exploits, as killing a wild boar, a very mischievous cow, &c. and here he lies bury'd, after retiring from the world for some time before he dy'd.

FROM Warwickshire we went thro' Harborough into Leicestershire, a town, seated on the Welland. It has a pretty good market on Tuesdays for corn, cattel and provisions.

WE pass'd thro' Rutlandshire, which is the smallest county in England, into Lincolnshire.

LINCOLN is an ancient city, pleasant situated on the side of a hill, on the river Witham, over which are several bridges; King Edward the third fix'd this place to be his staple mart for wool, leather, and lead.

IN this city Vortimer, who often had repell'd the Saxons died, and was interr'd; though his desire was to be buried in the sea-shoar; imagining the very thoughts of his ghost would frighten the Saxons from making any farther attempts upon Britain.

NEAR this city the famous Prince Arthur beat the Saxons; as did Edmund Ironsides the Danes, with a very great slaughter.

HERE was likewise a great battle fought between King Stephen and the earl of Chester, in defence of Maud the Empress; in which the King being taken prisoner, was sent to Bristol, and there laid in irons.

ANOTHER battle was fought between King Henry the third, and his disloyal Barons, in which the King routed the barons, and took many of them prisoners.

THIS city is pretty well inhabited, and has a very good market on Fridays, well stor'd with all sorts of provisions; and the shops well stock'd with various sorts of useful commodities, both for dress and furniture. Its cathedral is one of the finest in England, and of such a height, that it may be seen at thirty or forty miles distance.

LINCOLN is govern'd by a mayor, two sheriffs, twelve aldermen cloth'd in scarlet, a recorder, town clerk, four chamberlains, a sword-bearer, four serjeants at mace, &c. It is a county of itself, and is call'd, *The county of the city of Lincoln.*

STAMFORD, seated on the river Welland, on the edge of Northamptonshire, and the road to Yorkshire; is a town of great antiquity; for in the time of Edward the third here was a college for the professors of the arts and sciences.

THE inhabitants have a considerable trade for malt, and free-stone.

IT is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, recorder, and sub-officers; it is the grand resort of the gentlemen and ladies, who have a great many seats in this part of the country.

HERE are two markets in a week, Mondays and Fridays, yet the latter most considerable for corn, living cattle, and all sorts of provisions; that on Mondays being but little regarded.

THIS is the best town in Lincolnshire.

THE west and north parts of Lincolnshire are very fertile and pleasant, abounding with rich pastures, from whence the finest oxen in England are fatted, and brought to Smithfield-market in London; but the east and south parts are fenny and barren, but produce plenty of fish and water fowl. The air in these parts is very unwholesome, occasion'd by the thick fogs which rise from the fenny ground; and here are several salt water inlets and sands, which make it dangerous travelling.

HAVING made what observations we could in this county, we proceeded to Yorkshire, which is the largest county in England; and in a fine healthy clear air, the inhabitants are particularly noted for being very sharp and cunning.

BUT I forgot to observe to you one thing worth notice, whilst we were at Leicester; which is, that from this town *Crook-back'd Richard* march'd with great pomp and force to Redmore, near Bosworth, where a bloody battle was fought betwixt him and Henry of Richmond, for deciding the differences between the houses of York and Lancaster; in which battle Richard was slain, and left the victorious Henry master of the field and the English dominions. The next day the body of Richard was brought to Leicester with the greatest ignomy, being laid naked cross a horse's back, much torn and mangled; it was afterwards buried in the Grey-Friars of Leicester, which being afterwards destroy'd his Sepulchre,

chre, which was a stone chest, serves at an inn for the horses drinking trough.

BUT to return to Yorkshire, after passing the Humber, Hull was the first place we arriv'd at, which is sometimes call'd *Kingston upon Hull*. It is a large town, well built, and the streets pav'd. It is a town of good trade, and much resorted to by merchants; and Hull has a street much resembling that part of Thames-street near London-bridge, where are sold pitch, tar, cordage, sails, and all other necessities for ships, here being a Custom-house and Key, and is not inferior for trade to any in England, except London and Bristol. It is seated on the mouth of the river Hull, where it falls into the Humber; and is a place of great strength, both by sea and Land. This was the first place that shut its gates against King Charles the first.

It is a town and county of it self, and is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council.

It has shambles with provisions every day in the week; and has a great market every Saturday.

IN these seas are taken great plenty of herrings, which are profitable to the inhabitants.

YORK is the first city in England in priority, next to London.

IN this city Severus the Roman Emperor kept his palace, and here died; his body being burnt to ashes, according to the custom of those times, and sent to Rome, where it was put among the monuments of the Antonines.

HERE likewise Constantius dy'd, and his son Constantine was proclaim'd Emperor.

IT is a beautiful city, adorn'd with many buildings, both publick and private, very populous, and a great resort for gentry, and wealthy tradesmen. The minster or cathedral is a very magnificent building. It is not only a place of great trade, but is likewise pleasantly situated on the river Owse, over which is a stone-bridge with five arches, one of which is very large. It is a place of great strength, but was reduc'd by the parliament forces in the reign of King Charles the first, after the King's forces, under the command of Prince Rupert, were defeated at Marston Moor, not far from York; in which victory Oliver Cromwell, afterwards protector of England, had a great share.

THIS battle gave the decisive stroke; the the King's forces made no figure afterwards, but lost ground every where. The success was for some time on the King's side; but Oliver at last quite routed them.

YORK is govern'd by a lord mayor, like London, has twelve aldermen in scarlet, two sheriffs, twelve common council men, eight chamberlains, a recorder, town clerk, sword bearer, and common serjeants, who with a great mace goes on the left hand of the sword, as at London.

Here is plenty of provisions every day in the week; but Thursdays and Fridays are the market days.

AT Coninsborough, there was a bloody battle fought between the English Saxons and the Britains;

tains ; where Hengist, captain of the Saxons, was slain.

AT a small town call'd Sherborne, we were told a story of a gentlemen who was much addicted to gaming ; and being resolv'd to hazard his whole estate with another gentlemen, appointed a place with their swords drawn upon the table, with only each his servant present. The former had lost all he had, except his estate, call'd *Sherborne* in Gloucestershire, at which time his footman perceiving a looking-glass behind him, in which his antagonist could see every card he had in his hand, said to his master, *Sir, do you see the glass behind you ?* Then shut the door and run away ; which sav'd his masters last stake : This is such a traditional story, that we were told the very boys in Gloucestershire, when their last play-thing is at stake, say, *Sherborne is up !*

WHEN we were at Whitby, the people told us a story of a lady Abbess of this place, whose life was so innocent, that she wrought miracles ; and in particular, that this place being at that time infested with snakes, she conjur'd them by her prayers all into the sea. There are indeed stones sometimes found in the sea sands, near this place resembling snakes, without heads ; which might induce ignorant people to beleive St. Hilda pray'd their Heads off, and flung their bodies into the sea, which as an everlasting memorial were turn'd into stone. But some people are more apt to give credit to these miraculous stories, than either you or I, my friend ; for there is scarce a town in England of which the

more ignorant sort of people have not some strange stories to relate.

THIS town of Witby is commodiously situated on the river Esk, over which is a wooden-bridge, it has a considerable trade for butter and allom. To this place there are at least an hundred sail of trading vessels; and here is a fine custom-house; as likewise a good market on Saturdays, well serv'd with fish, flesh, and fowl.

NEAR Whitby is Mulgrave-castle, pleasantly situated in a park near the sea.

AND further along the shore is a place call'd Skeningrove, a small town, but well inhabited by fishermen. Near this place, or rather Hunt-cliff, at low water, rocks are seen, about which the seal fish come in great shoals; and here they sleep and sun themselves in hot weather; and it has been often observ'd, that one of these fish is always awake, watching as a centinel, to give notice when any danger approaches, which he does by flouncing and flinging himself up and down till he has awak'd them all; and they immediately disappear.

GISBOROUGH is the first town in England where allom was made; it is at present of no great note, but has however a market on Mondays for provisions.

AT a little distance from this town is *Gunsbery* or *Roseberry-Topping*, an high pyramid, which serves as a land mark for sailors.

THE vale of Ridale is in this part of Yorkshire, which is so large as to contain twenty three parish Churches.

RICH-

RICHMOND is a well inhabited town, situated on the river Swall ; over which there is a stone bridge ; this is a very rapid river, being rather a torrent than a stream ; it was very sacred amongst the antient English for being the place where Paulinus the first archbishop of York baptiz'd above ten thousand men in one day, besides women and children.

It is a town corporate; the houses well built, many of free-stone, has a spacious market place, and the streets are well pav'd. It is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen. Here is a court of record for all actions, both real and personal, without limitation of any sum. The trade of Richmond consists chiefly in stockings, and woollen caps for seamen.

IN this part of Yorkshire are many desert fort of places ; such as *Swale-dale* forest, *Applegarth* forest and *Deep-dale*.

I think Beverly is as pleasant a town as any I saw in Yorkshire, where is a passage into the Humber for boats and barges, which is a great advantage for the carriage of goods. It is a large built town, in which are two parish churches and a minster ; and is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen ; is well inhabited both by gentlemen and tradesmen, and has a market on Thursday and Saturday, well serv'd with provisions.

HERE John de Beverly, arch-bishop of York, was buried about a thousand years ago ; who being weary of the world, resign'd his bishoprick, and at this town ended his days in a holy and private manner. But I cannot learn, that there is any

probability of another arch-bishop of York being weary of his bishoprick ; but numbers always gaping for that or any other ; it not being customary for High-priests in these ages to be weary of the world ; but on the contrary, to grasp at every thing they can lay hold of. For though the Christian Religion promises the greatest rewards to people who lead a good and holy life, and abstain from the pleasures and advantages of this world ; yet most people now, from the example of their teachers, make use of an old proverb ; *That a bird in Hand is worth two in the bush* ; therefore make the most they can of this world ; and trust for what is to come in the next. This my friend, is the real and undisguis'd state of christianity in England, from the most impartial and just observations I can make.

NEAR BOROUGH-BRIDGE, which is on the high road, and on the river Yare, are four large stones plac'd in a direct line, like so many pyramids, which by the learned are suppos'd to be erected by the Romans, as a memorial for some great victory ; but the ignorant country people call them *The Devil's bolts* ; and foolishly imagine he us'd them to shoot at ancient cities to destroy them ; and that there anciently stood a city near this place call'd *Is vrium Brigantum*, which the Devil demolish'd with these stones.

RIPPON is a place well inhabited by gentry, and has a great market every Thursday for cattle, corn, provisions, and particularly for wool. It is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen. Here is a fine cathedral, famous in ancient days,
for

for trying women's chastity ; there being a narrow hole in the close vaulted room, under ground, thro' which all chaste women could easily pass ; but the kind and loving stuck fast. And these preposterous trials were then taken for certain signs of the lewdness or chastity of women.

I HAVE given you the best account I am able of this county, which is larger than many principalities in Europe, being eighty miles long from Flamborough-head in the East to Horn-castle in the West ; and from Horn-hill in the South to the river Tees in the North, seventy miles broad ; the whole circumference being about three hundred miles.

HAVING taken our leave of Yorkshire we proceeded to the bishoprick of Durham, whose bishop has royal privileges ; the chief city is call'd Durham, which is pleasantly situated upon an easy ascent, and almost encompass'd by the river Weare, over which are two large stone bridges, built by William *The Norman conqueror*. It is inhabited by abundance of gentry and rich tradesmen, with many good buildings both publick and private, and has a spacious market place, to which plenty of provisions are brought every Saturday.

HERE is a cathedral representing Westminster Abbey, with two spires and a lofty tower in the midst. The bishop's palace is a spacious castle situated on a high hill. In this city are several hospitals and a fine library.

NEAR Durham is *Nevil's cross*, where a bloody battle was fought between the English
and

and the Scots in the year 1346, in which David Bruce, the Scottish King, was taken prisoner by a private foldier, nam'd Copland, who had two hundred pounds a year settled upon him during life for his great services in that battel.

THE bishoprick of Durham was rais'd by Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfarne, a small island on the coast of Northumberland; and from him anciently call'd *St. Cuthbert's patrimony*. He was a man of so holy a life, that the Kings, nobility, and gentry of England, us'd to go and pay their devotions at his tomb, imagining his body lay uncorrupted; and as a mark of their faith, gave very liberally to the church. A custom much practis'd in ancient times but now entirely laid aside; the English people having quite left off making saints, and paying adoration to dead bodies and tomb-stones.

DURHAM is very unpleasant in winter time, being subject to many sharp and piercing winds with abundance of frost and snow; yet nature seems to have made amends for these inconveniences by the great plenty of excellent coals which supply the want of the kind influence of the sun; but in summer-time the weather is fine and clear, tho' their harvests are later in these Northern than in the other parts of England.

FROM the bishoprick of Durham we pass'd the Tyne over a fine bridge to Gates-head, the suburbs of Newcastle, which is a fine town on the rising of a hill, with good buildings, and a great number of rich inhabitants; it lying very

very commodious for trade; and it is almost incredible to see the vast number of ships going to and coming from London, that great city being chiefly supply'd with coals from Newcastle. It was anciently call'd *Monk-chester*, being once possess'd chiefly by Monks; but Robert, son to William the conqueror, knew better than to let a place so well situated for a fortification be a receptacle for drones; therefore built a castle; and from thence it was call'd *New-castle*. It is a town and county of itself, govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder and other sub-officers. The people are very genteel in their manners; and affect much the dress and behaviour of the Londoners. The key is very commodious for the safety of ships; near which is the custom house. It is a place of great strength, and the river so well defended, that it is almost impossible for an enemy to come up to the town, and besides it is dangerous coming in, and at sometimes impracticable for those who perfectly understand the situation of it, there being dangerous rocks.

MORPETH is a fine town situated on the river Wensbeck, and has the best market in Northumberland for provisions, corn, and all sorts of living cattle which are bought by people from several parts of the kingdom.

BERWICK, is a place of great strength both by art and nature; but is a town of it self, being neither in England nor Scotland, tho' it stands on the North or Scottish side of the Tweed, which divides the two kingdoms: it is almost

almost furrounded by the sea and the Tweed. It has very often had new masters; it being on the confines of the two countries, sometimes the Scots and sometimes the English possess'd it. But the English have had possession of it ever since Edward the fourth. It has been of no great consequence since the union of the two crowns, and less since the union of the two kingdoms.

It is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, and burgeses, has a great trade for Salmon, of which the Tweed abounds, and has a market every Saturday with plenty of provisions. There is a stately bridge over the Tweed, consisting of fifteen arches.

THERE have been several bloody battles fought between the English and Scots near this place. At Otterburn the Scots gain'd a compleat victory over the English: At Alnwick the King of Scots was taken prisoner, and presented to King Henry the second; with several other battles, in which both nations were victorious at different times; but the Scots are now entirely in subjection to the crown of England; and send members to the parliament held at Westminster. Their religion is indeed different, as to point of worship, which they still retain as their national church; esteeming that of the church of England to be superstitious: But it is a common thing for a great many people to stumble at trifles, and pass over the most material parts of religion without any concern. I have known some people in London, whose
consciences

consciencs won't permit them to swear allegi-
allegiance to the present King of England; yet
be guilty of the basest actions in private life;
such as a man of common honesty would be
asham'd of.

HAVING seen every thing worth observation
in Northumberland, we set out for Carlisle, the
capital of Cumberland, which is a very ancient
city, and in a flourishing condition in the time
of the Romans; but upon their departure, it
suffer'd much by the Scots and Picts. Egfrid
King of Northumberland wall'd it about; but
it was afterwards quite demolish'd by the Danes,
and lay in a ruinous condition for about two
hundred years.

WILLIAM RUFUS at last built a castle here,
and settled a colony of Flemings to secure this
coast. Henry the first, brother and successor
to Rufus, establish'd a bishoprick; and then it
began to flourish apace.

IT is pleasantly situated on several rivers,
which encompass it, except towards the south;
for on the east is the river Peterill, on the
west Caud, and on the north the channel Eden,
which receiveth the other rivers, and after a
small course dischargeth itself into the sea.

CARLISLE is a well built city, adorn'd with
a very fine cathedral, tho' some part of it is
much defaced by the parliament forces in the
reign of King Charles the first; here being
guard-houses built for the foldiers in garison.

IT is govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen,
two bailiffs. Here is a good trade for fustians;
and

and on Saturday, which is market-day, corn, wool, with several other commodities, as likewise all sorts of provisions, are brought here in great plenty.

AT a little distance westward of Carlisle, at Burgh upon the sand, within the very Feyth, where the salt water ebbs and flows, the English and Scots fought at full sea with their fleets; and at the ebb with their horse and foot; which prov'd a bloody battle; and King Edward the first was slain.

COCKERMOUTH, is a place of pretty good trade for broad-clothes; it is situated in a low ground, between the rivers Derwent and Cocker, which almost encompass it; and over these rivers are two good stone bridges; it has a pretty good market on Mondays for corn; is a long town, and well inhabited. Here are two fairs in a year, to which all those who want either servants or services come to provide themselves; tho' the same custom is observ'd at Perith, and most other towns in this part of the country.

THE like custom is observ'd at Waltham-abbey in the county of Essex, about thirteen miles from London, to which, not only those who have occasion to hire servants; but many others resort; and it is remarkable that the debauch'd and rakish young gentlemen from London, come here to see the young neat country girls, they having much occasion for their service, but generally hire them but for a short time. I need not explain my self any further, for no doubt, Sir, you understand me.

WHITE-

WHITEHAVEN, seated on a creek of the sea, is a place of good trade for salt and coals; as likewise for fish: The inhabitants of this place are generally in good circumstances, for they trade to Ireland, Scotland, Chester, Bristol, and other places, and have several vessels belonging to the town. Here is a very good custom-house, and an excellent harbour for small ships, which may ride with safety in the greatest storms.

AT Wulstey castle, are said to be the works of one Mitchael Scot, who led a reclusive life, and study'd the mathematicks, and other abstruse arts; the common sort of people in the neighbourhood took him for a Necromancer, or one who studies the black art, or in plainer terms, one who holds a correspondence with the Devil.

IN the dark and superstitious ages, every man who had a greater share of knowledge than common, was a conjurer, a necromancer, a heretic, or had some other very frightful name; and must for his superior knowledge be burnt at a stake.

THESE idle stories are not entirely lost in England, especially among the more ignorant sort of country people; who teach the children, either their own, or those they nurse for others, such strange stories of necromancers, the Devil, raw-head and bloody-bones, &c. that I heard a gentleman declare in company, notwithstanding he was thoroughly convinc'd of the stupidity of such idle stories, yet the frights and fears he had

had undergone when at nurse, made him have a sinking of his spirits, in spite of all his reasoning, when he was in the dark and alone. But the English people having of late very judiciously set such education aside, spirits, hobgoblins, the Devil, &c. are not so often seen as they us'd to be.

P E R I T H or Penrith is seated under a hill call'd Perith-Fell, near the rivers Eimont and Lowther. It is a large well built town inhabited by tradesmen, especially tanners. Here is a fine church and a large market-place, to which every Tuesday is brought corn and live cattle, and all sorts of provisions,

At Salkeld on the river Eden, are erected seventy seven stones as a trophy of some great victory; they are in height about ten feet, and one fifteen. They are now by the country people call'd *Long Megg and her Daughters*. Here are likewise great heaps of Stones, under which they told us was the bodies of slain men.

KENDALE is the chief town in Westmoreland; it is large, well built and populous; it has a good trade for cotton and coarse woollen cloth, as likewise for druggets, ferges, hats, worsted, stockings, &c. in which manufactures the poor are employ'd, both in town and places adjacent.

It is pleasantly situated in a good air, on the west side of the river Can or Kent, over which are three bridges, two of stone and one of wood, which last leads to a place where once was a castle, in which Catherine, the sixth wife to King Henry the eighth was born. The town is
built

built in form of a cross, having two long streets which cuts through each other in the middle. Here is a fine large church, supported by five rows of pillars, with several apartments, in which are several fine monuments. On one side of the church-yard is a free-school, which is a fine large building, well endow'd; and sends poor scholars to Queen's-College in Oxford.

KENDALE is govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen, twenty common-council men, a recorder, town clerk, with other sub-officers; and the mayor, recorder, and two of the senior aldermen are always justices of the peace for the corporation, and keep their quarterly sessions. Here are likewise kept the sessions of the peace for the county, call'd *The barony of Kendale*. This town has some companions of tradesmen, like those in London, viz. The mercers, shearmen, cordwainers, tanners, glovers, taylors, and pewterers, each of which have their hall or place of assembly for electing officers, and regulating their affairs. It has a good market on Saturdays, for corn live cattle, and all sorts of provision.

KIRBY-LAUNSDALE, seated on the banks of the river Lon, and in the pleasant and rich vale of Lonsdale, is a large well built town, with a fine church and a large stone bridge. It is the best town in Westmoreland next to Kendale; and has a large market on Thursdays well serv'd with provisions, and has some trade for cloth.

IN this county is the largest standing water in England call'd Winder-meer, or Winander-meer,

meer, which is very broad and deep, and ten miles long, in which are great plenty of fish, such as jacks, trouts, pikes, perch, and Eels. It has a clear pebbly bottom, which made some people imagine it was pav'd with stone.

AT the east side of this lake Eofred, King of Northumberland, slew the two sons of King Elwold, about a thousand years ago, that he might secure the kingdom to himself and his posterity, But if a crown can't be obtain'd without massacres and murders, I tell, you my friend, a crown so obtain'd must press very heavy upon the brain.

N E A R Ridale-hall is a great lake call'd Ridale water, in which are several islands.

DUNMAILE-RAISE, is a mountain over which we pass'd from Kendale to Cockermouth. In the road side are a great heap of stones, which divide this county from Cumberland; these stones are suppos'd to be put together by Dunmaile a king of Cumberland, as a mark for the bounds of his kingdom, or else by some others, for some remarkable action perform'd by him; or else for some victory obtain'd against him; but history leaves us in the dark: so every man forms what judgment he thinks proper in these affairs.

APPLEBY, is a town pleasantly situated, but not very populous, and the buildings indifferent. The inhabitants are generally very idle and poor, having no manufacture to employ them.

It contains one broad street, which is on an easy ascent; at the top of which is a castle almost surrounded with the river. Notwithstanding it is

is at present a place of no great note, yet it is very ancient; King Henry the second granting it the same privileges as the city of York enjoy'd, and were to go toll free in all places except London and York; and these privileges were confirm'd by King John. Here is an hospital consisting of a mother, who must be the widow of a deceas'd clergyman, with twelve sisters, eleven of which must be widows, and one old maid, founded by the lady Clifford about the year 1651. She likewise bestow'd seven hundred pounds in repairing the church, underneath which, in a vault she is buried, having erected her tomb-stone before her death. She likewise purchased lands for keeping the said church in constant repair; as likewise the school-house, town-hall, and bridge.

THIS corporation was originally govern'd by a mayor and two bailiffs; but now by a mayor and twelve aldermen. It has a market on Saturday for corn and provisions.

KIRBY-STEPHENS, divides Westmoreland from Yorkshire, is a good market-town, and hath a considerable trade for making stockings.

ORTON is a poor market town, seated amongst heaths; and the inhabitants say, they have not so much as a stick or a bough to hang a dog on.

ON Stainmore-hill is a cross erected on a peace concluded between William the conqueror and Malcolme, King of Scotland; on condition that Cumberland should belong to Malcolm: And that the subjects of each kingdom might know their limits, a stone cross was erected here, which is call'd *Reere-cross*, or *The cross of Kings*; for

for on the south side the arms of Englands were engraven, and on the north those of Scotland.

BETWEEN Lowther-bridge and Eamont-bridge, is a large round circle of ground, in the midst of which is a fine plain; the country people told us it was the place where the knights of *The Round-table* kept tilts and tournaments, here being two opposite passes to make their approaches in, and they now call it *Arthur's Round-table*.

IN this county of Westmoreland we saw several ruins of castles, with forts and trenches, which by the several pieces of coin and other antiquities, seem to have been places of some strength when the Romans were masters of this country.

THE people in all these northern countries are very strong and healthy, much inur'd to labour, and generally live to a good old age. Their speech is different from the south or northern parts; for the people of every county in England have a different accent in their voices, and some vary so much, that a north country-man, and a west country-man can scarcely understand one another.

I HAD almost forgot one town we were at which is Nottingham, a place worth remarking, situated on the river Leane, which at a quarter of a mile distance falls into the Trent; and over these two rivers are two stone-bridges. This is a fine laege town, the buildings very noble, and the streets neat and clean. Here is likewise a spacious market place; and at the west

well side of the town is a castle; from which there is a delightful prospect, and was once not inferior to any in England, both for strength and magnificence; but it was depriv'd of its strength in the wars between King Charles the first and his parliament. Before the Norman conqueror reduc'd this kingdom to one monarchy, Ethelred, King of the West-Saxons, with Burthred, King of the Mercians, part of whose dominions was in this county of Nottinghamshire, brought a powerful army to attack this town, then in the possession of the Danes, who having in vain made use of all their art and strength were oblig'd at last to raise the siege: This castle is now the seat of the Duke of Newcastle.

HERE we saw abundance of strange vaults or cellars, hewed out of rocks, to which we descended by many steps or stairs; and I must confess I began to think my self going to *the Devil's arse of Peak* again.

ON the walls of one of these cellars we were shown the passion of Christ, cut by David the second King of the Scots, who was there imprison'd. But I think they did not use the King well to put him in such a hole. However this advantage might attend his majesty, that without trouble he would have had no religion; and in this cellar he might learn the ready way to heaven. For it is the receiv'd doctrine among many Christians, that God punishes good men on earth with affliction and trouble to make them entirely forsake this world, and look for a better. But I must tell you very
freely

freely, my friend, that few christian Kings would leave their splendid palaces, and retire into one of these Nottingham cellars for their nearest way to heaven.

CELLS and Hermitages are quite out of doors in England; and the pleasures of this world are so much admir'd that many people destroy themselves because they can't have enough to enjoy them. Voluntary poverty and a hut in a wilderness are things no ways lik'd at present.

NOTTINGHAM is govern'd by a mayor, six aldermen, two sheriffs two chamberlains, and other sub-officers. It is well inhabited, and for an inland town enjoys a good trade. Here is a market on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, but the last the most considerable, for corn, cattle, provisions, and various sorts of goods.

HAVING taken our leave of all this part of England, we embark'd on board a vessel at White-haven, in order for Bristol, the next town to London in the whole kingdom for trade. At Bristol I intend to take up my quarters for some time; from whence you may next expect to hear from me. I remain,

Your constant and undisguised Friend.

L E T-



LETTER XXI.

S I R,

AFTER being about fourteen days in a rough and boisterous sea, called the Irish sea, we at last arriv'd at Bristol, which is a large city, seated between the rivers Avon and Frome. It in some measure resembles London, the river Avon dividing this as the Thames does London and Southwark. As London is in itself a county, Bristol is the same, and each of these cities have two sheriffs. One side of London bridge is in Middlesex, the other side in Surrey; one side of the bridge at Bristol is in Gloucestershire, the other in Somersetshire. Upon London bridge are abundance of houses and shops, which resemble a large street of great trade rather than a bridge; at Bristol there is a bridge much of the same nature. London is a place where ac-

M

quaintance

quaintance, friends, and relations will often sacrifice one another for money; but the Bristol people exceed the Londoners much, for they are not only very covetous, but cruel in nature; and were not the laws of England to restrain them would regard no more killing a man than they would a dog; for they snarl at one another much like those creatures. They are, in short, for the most part, an ill natur'd surly people: but I met here with some few of as much humanity and good nature as any other parts of the kingdom.

BRISTOL was by the ancient Britons call'd *Caerdernant-Badon*, that is, *a sweet and delightful city*; and its situation and buildings both publick and private, deserve that character. There are common sinks and sewers that carry off the filth of the streets into the river Avon, as those of London carry the filth into the Thames; but at Bristol they make use of no carts, but carry away their filth in sledges. It is a city of great extent, containing eighteen parish churches, besides a cathedral, of whose grandeur indeed I can't say much. It had a castle which was demolish'd by Oliver Cromwell, and is now built into streets call'd Castle-green and Castle-street. Here is a good port, and the principal key stands upon the From, which brings in ships of a large burthen; for at Spring-tides here is forty foot water. It is a place of great trade, and has abundance of rich merchants and tradesmen. The merchants trade to all parts of the known world by sea; and the shop-keepers have a vast trade
into

into Shropshire, Wales, and many other counties.

By the best observations I could make the citizens of Bristol drive as great a trade, and are as rich as those of London. The women have a particular privilege and advantage above other cities, where a woman becomes free of any place by marrying a freeman; but here a foreigner becomes free by marrying a citizens daughter; whereas in London a woman loses her's; but the Bristol women are remarkable for being crooked. I was told that Queen Elizabeth granted them this privilege, to get them husbands.

BRISTOL is govern'd by a mayor, court of aldermen, two sheriffs and other sub-officers, which are cloth'd in scarlet, as those of London.

HERE is a charity, call'd Colston's hospital, which is the largest, next to Sutton's at London, of any in England for a private man, where above a hundred poor lads are cloth'd and maintain'd after the manner of Christ's hospital in London, founded by King Edward the sixth.

ADJOINING to the cathedral, is a square or green where are several fine houses, and is by much the most genteel part of the city. Here the merchants and rich tradesmen have their little pleasant seats not far from the city in the same manner as those of London.

NEAR this city are hot springs, call'd *The Hot Well*, which are very much frequented, being for some distempers esteem'd more than Bath, and there is this difference between them, that

Bath waters are good for nothing unless us'd upon the spot, and Bristol improve in virtue by being kept.

WHILE we were at Bristol we resolv'd to take two or three days pleasure to see something of Herefordshire, which is a very fertile country, the hedges bearing apples.

HEREFORD, is delightfully situated among meadows and rich corn fields, and almost encompass'd with rivers; but the city itself is but indifferently built, and for the most part dirty. It is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council, a recorder, town-clerk, and other sub-officers. Here are three markets a week, viz. Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; Friday for cattle, sheep and hogs, and the others for grain. It is likewise a famous place for making gloves, which are sent in great quantities to London, and other parts of the kingdom.

IN this county is a place call'd Marclehill, which kept moving for three days together; in which time it got four hundred yards from its former situation, and carry'd along with it twenty six acres of ground; it made so great a noise in its journey, that it terrify'd all the neighbouring inhabitants, bearing down every thing that it met with. But it being uncommon in our days to have these traveling mountains, I leave you to credit such stories as you please.

HERE is likewise a place call'd *Bone-well*, wherein the bones of small fishes are constantly found, but never a fish to be seen.

A N D between Sutton and Hereford, in a common meadow call'd *The Wergins*, were plac'd two large stones of at least three tons weight, which a short time after the beheading of King Charles the first were mov'd at a considerable distance, without any one's knowing by what means ; therefore the country people imputed it to Devil, they having a notion that Oliver Cromwell had dealings with that infernal spirit ; and an English historian of some credit seriously says, he certainly had, which made him so successful in a bad cause. These stories I likewise leave to your self, to believe as you think proper.

HAVING learnt as much as we could of Herefordshire, we bent our course into Gloucestershire, being determin'd to make the most of our time we could.

G L O U C E S T E R is the capital city in this county ; and lyeth as it were stretch'd along the river Severn, over which there is a bridge. Here is a pretty cathedral, in which King Edward the second, who was murder'd by his wife, is bury'd ; as likewise the body of Lucius the first christian King.

G L O U C E S T E R is a county within itself, is govern'd by a mayor, two sheriffs, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other sub-officers : This city is well supply'd with all sorts of commodities, and has a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, for corn, cattle, and all sorts of provisions.

A T a place call'd Alney-isle, near this city Edmund Ironside, King of the English Saxons,

and Canute the Dane, fought in single combat; and at last agreed to part the kingdom, till treason depriv'd King Edmund of his life, and left the Dane sole monarch.

CIRCESTER or Cirencester, is a noted town, and a place of great antiquity; here being Roman coins, checker work pavements, and engraven marble stones frequently dug up; which are plain proofs of its antiquity.

THIS town was once consum'd to ashes by a stratagem of Gurmund, captain of the Danes, who ty'd fire to the wings of sparrows, and then immediately let them fly; who settled in the holes about the houses, and thus consum'd it. And it is sometimes on that account call'd *The sparrows city*. Its chief trade consists of wool and yarn, a market for provisions which is kept on Friday; and one on Monday for corn.

TEWKSBURY is likewise a town of some note for woollen cloths, as likewise for the best mustard in the kingdom.

NEAR this place a most bloody battle was fought in the year 1471. between the houses of York and Lancaster; wherein the Lancastrians were entirely overthrown and a vast number slain, but a greater number taken prisoners, many of which were beheaded. And here young Prince ward, the only son of King Henry the sixth, who was a youth about twelve years old, had his brains dash'd out in a most shameful and scandalous manner.

HEROD's cruelty is look'd upon as a very barbarous action for destroying innocent children,
in

in order to murder Christ, who he thought would have dethron'd him. Yet you see, my friend, that no scruple was made to dash out the brains of a King's son, to make a throne easy of access.

I HAVE heard much talk of a kingdom of glory, since I have been in England ; but I never could find, but that upon the most strict unprejudic'd and impartial scrutiny, the kingdom of grandeur and riches was the Alpha and Omega of most men.

THIS I write to you my friend, as the true sentiments of a sincere heart.

BUT to return : Cirencester is situated on and between the rivers Severn, Avon, and the Swilfat, over each of which is a bridge. It is well inhabited, and well provided with corn and cattle.

BARKLEY is a small town, seated on a branch of the Severn. Here was once a nunnery, in which a confederate of Earl Goodwin, got the lady abbess and several of her nuns with child ; after which the earl told the affair to the King, by which means madam abbess and her virgins were turn'd out ; and then Earl Goodwin begg'd it for himself. Tho' I must confess, I think it a treacherous action, if it was done with design ; as one may naturally suppose it was : For notwithstanding women may resolve to live a recluse life, in a state of virginity, yet they are flesh and blood, and when resolutely and artfully attack'd, I believe most women must at last surrender at discretion. I don't mention this to lessen

a woman's chastity, but the difficulty there is in withstanding the efforts of nature.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE is as pleasant and fruitful a county as any in England; apples, pears, and plumbs grow in the highways and lanes; without grafting; and are of an excellent good taste. Abundance of cattle are here fed, with great flocks of sheep whose wool is particularly fine, of which great quantities of cloth is made, and sent into other foreign countries.

NOTWITHSTANDING Herefordshire is the most noted county in England for cyder, yet Gloucestershire and Worcestershire produce as good, and is drank in as great plenty, it being the common draught for all sorts of people, as malt liquor is at London and other places.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE likewise produces abundance of iron and steel, particularly in the forest of Dean,

WE are now setting out for Bath, of which place I shall give you some account in my next. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.

L E T-



LETTER XXII.

S I R,

I HAVE now taken my residence for a short time at Bath, which is a place of great antiquity, seated on the river Avon, over which it hath a stone-bridge. This city lies in a low ground; but with several fine hills adjoining, out of which spring the waters so much fam'd for their virtues, and of such prodigious advantage to the city.

BATH hath had several names on account of the waters; by Ptolomy call'd *Hot-waters*, by Antoninus *The waters of the Sun*; by the Britons *The city of Palace water*; and by the Saxons *The city of sick people*. But it does not deserve that name at present; for it is more frequented for custom and pleasure, than for the cure of

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distempers: It is indeed remarkable for making barren women conceive, which they will certainly do here, if 'tis possible; for no methods are wanting. These waters are of such a wonderful efficacy in barren causes, that women have here conceiv'd without the assistance of their husbands. But then I leave to you, my friend, to judge with whose assistance they must conceive.

H E R E is abundance of intrigue and gaming; and I am much surpriz'd, that the English ladies are so much addicted to gaming; for the gentlemen entirely throw off all breeding and good manners; and treat them with the same roughness as they would any other person in gaming; no regard being shewn to their Sex. Here a young lady lost all her fortune, which was very considerable; and then hang'd herself in her own chamber. But the women are so bewitch'd to this vice, that if they were sure to be ruin'd, and the gallows, as the consequence, put before their eyes, I believe they could not refrain from gaming.

V I S I T S are here paid and receiv'd in a very free manner; it being common for gentlemen to wait upon the ladies in their bed-chamber before they be up in a morning. Here is a gentleman, who is a sort of master of the ceremonies; he is of neither birth nor estate, but has always plenty of money; and much in favour with the ladies; keeps the best company, and is the director and supervisor of all parties of pleasure. He appears in dress as rich as a nobleman. He is of so much service to the town, that at his arrival the bells
ring,

ring, and as much joy appears, as if he was their King.

THE company generally rise early in the morning, to drink the waters, then walk about till prayer time; and they for the most part go to church in their morning dishabille. After church they go home to dress; then to the walks to get them a stomach for their dinner; and to furnish them with table-talk; which for the most part is upon dress and scandal.

THE walks are behind the church, spacious and well shaded, with variety of shops, particularly those for toys; without which abundance of people would be at a loss to divert themselves, and trifle away their time.

PEOPLE of all ranks, except the first quality, go promiscuously into the King and Queen's baths, which have a communication with one another.

THE manner of going into these baths is very particular; two chairmen come to your bed side; the landlord where you lodge supplies you with a gown, at the bath you are again stripp'd, and a sort of canvas bag put upon you, which is wore all the time of bathing. The chairmen afterwards carry you back in the same manner they brought you.

THE water seems very warm at first going in; but is much warmer in the Queen's bath, where the great spring rises.

THE cross bath is but moderately warm. On the sides of it are sixteen stone seats; and the end galleries for musick and the spectators; under which

which are two flips, one for the gentlemen and the other for the ladies. This is the smallest bath, but the most frequented by people of the first quality.

THIS bath was beautify'd and enclos'd for the reception of King James the second's Queen, who came here to be made fruitful, which she accordingly was; for in nine months a Prince of Wales was born; but both King James and his Queen were oblig'd to move out of the kingdom; and their Prince of Wales is now in Italy. This is he whom we heard landed at Scotland, where he had a great party, as likewise in England in the reign of King George the first; but they were routed both in England and Scotland at the same time; and so this *Bath Prince of Wales*, whose mother had a sanctify'd smock sent her by the Virgin Mary at Loretto, to forward his birth, was oblig'd to get off as well as he could; and gain'd such a character for cowardice, that his party in England has droop'd prodigiously from that time; and now dwindled to nothing, except a few people call'd *Non-jurors*, who are very much diminish'd, and the remainder much despis'd and ridicul'd. So that the present King of England reigns quite undisturb'd; except some jars and quarrels between a few of the great men concerning taxes and the publick administration of affairs, which are very freely debated in the weekly News-papers; which I mention'd in a former letter.

BUT to return: Here is a hot bath, so call'd, because it is much hotter than the other: 'Tis
walk'd

wall'd in, but not so much us'd as the cross bath. These two baths are in the midst of the street on the west side of the city; near them is an hospital for relieving poor people who come there for the recovery of their health. The largest bath is the King's, and it stands near the cathedral, in the heart of the city; and is inclos'd with a wall. Here are several crutches hung up as memorials of the cures perform'd upon such who came cripples, but recover'd sufficiently to leave their crutches behind them. And here are such a number of poor people, who come partly for relief and partly for cure, that *The sturdy beggars of Bath* are a common proverb: Though the English beggars in other places, but particulrrly at London, are sturdy and impudent enough; for they will frequently abuse people for not giving them money; and when they have got any they spend it it rioting and drunkenness. An acquaintance of mine desir'd me to go along with him to see the behaviour of the beggars; which I accordingly did: The house they us'd was somewhat about St. Giles's, London: And such a company was certainly never seen. Here they appear'd in all their counterfeits; and were telling one another how much they got the day before; for it was a grand festival; at which time a great many people receive the sacrament, and are mighty charitable. Here I saw a fellow with only a blanket to cover his nakedness, hugging a wench who was a young wanton huffy, but the day before resembled a sick old woman. The naked fellow had the art of trembling, as if he
had

had an ague ; but was now merrily toping his dram of Geneva. Here they all exercis'd ; but it would quite spoil their trade of begging, if many well dispos'd people were to see these lazy drones and villainous imposters.

BUT to return to Bath ; the buildings are neat, the streets well pav'd, but narrow ; and here are many courts and alleys to which coaches can't come. Here are chairs, in which for sixpence people are carry'd from one part of the town to the other, within the walls.

THE Duke of Chandois, whose fine house of Cannons I gave you an account of, has here built a street of fine houses. On the north side of the town a school is erected, which is maintained by the charitable contributions of strangers ; upon whom the livelihood of the greatest number of people at Bath depend ; for were it not for the waters, the town would soon be ruin'd.

HERE is likewise a theatre and pleasant walks, for the company, with raffling shops along the side ; with a ball room, to which are pleasant gardens down to the river, and nothing is wanting to make the place agreeable to the company : And I think the people at Bath are the most affable and polite of any place in England I have seen ; for they have good nature in their very faces ; but at Bristol, which is but at a small distance, you would be surpriz'd at the difference ; but I have before told you the manners of the Bristol people, which are rude to the last degree. I am,

S I R,

Your Faithful Friend and Servant.

L E T-



LETTER XXIII.

S I R,

I SHALL in this letter give you some account of the places I was at in this part of England ; and first,

WELLS, situated on the foot of a hill, where are several springs and wells, from which this city takes its name. It is indeed but small, yet well inhabited, and the buildings generally good. The cathedral is a fine pile of building, as likewise the bishop's palace, which is built in the manner of a castle, being fortify'd with walls and a mole, with several pretty houses for the prebends, and other priests belonging to the cathedral.

THIS

THIS city is govern'd by a mayor, seven masters, sixteen burgesſes, a recorder, town clerk, and other ſub-officers ; and has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, with all ſorts of proviſions very cheap.

CANESHAM, is much inhabited by maulſters, which makes it very unpleaſant, it being always full of ſmoke ; it has an indifferent market on Thuſdays.

TAUNTON is moſt pleaſantly ſituated among fine meadows, on the river Thane, over which there is a fine bridge. The ſtreets are ſpacious, and the place well inhabited both by gentlemen and trademen, particularly clothiers, who have a very conſiderable trade. It has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, to which is brought plenty of corn, with fiſh, fleſh, and fowl.

BRIDGWATER, is ſituated on a river, over which is a fine ſtone-bridge ; it is a large town, and populous, and has a great market on Thuſday for corn and proviſions. It gives title to a duke, ſends two members to parliament, and is govern'd by a mayor, with other ſub-officers.

THE riches of Somerſetſhire conſiſt chiefly in corn and cattle ; and about Mendip-hills and Bradfield-downs are rich lead mines.

AT St. Vincent's rock there are ſeveral ſtones reſembling diamonds, commonly call'd Briſtol ſtones, ſome of which have a fine luſtre.

WE went thro' this country into Wiltſhire, directly to Salisbury or New-Sarum, pleaſantly ſituated on a river. The ſtreets are large and ſpacious, and the cathedral is a fine ſtructure, having

having as many gates as months in the year, as many windows as weeks, and as many pillars as days in the year. It has a very lofty spire, which is seen at a great distance round the country; it has likewise a large cloyster finely wrought, near which is the bishop's palace. This city is encompass'd with open fields and plains; in which, at about six miles distance from the city, is as surprizing a piece of work, call'd Stone-henge, consisting of a large number of unwrought stones, esteem'd one of the greatest rarities in England. These stones are suppos'd to be rais'd by the ancient Britons as a perpetual monument of the valour of Ambrosius Aurelianus, who took upon him the Imperial purple robe of Britain, when the Roman Empire declin'd. He succour'd a languishing country, and by the assistance of Prince Arthur vanquish'd powerful armies; but was at last slain in battle upon this plain.

THIS tradition seems to be of some authority; for at the town call'd Ambresbury, situated on the river Avon, mens bones have been dug up; and the town seems to take its name from Ambrose: and here many British Kings were bury'd. In this place Alfritha, wife to King Edgar, built a nunnery, to expiate that horrid crime of murdering her son-in-law; and in this nunnery Queen Eleanor, widow to King Henry the third, renounc'd all worldly pomp, and devoted herself to a holy life.

SOME people are of opinion, that the stones before mention'd are not hewn out of a rock,
but

but artificially made of sand ; and by some conglutinous matter incorporated together ; but these things are all imaginary ; and every one pleases himself in forming his own judgment.

WILTON is the county town, yet a very mean place ; but however, here the sheriff keeps his monthly courts ; and the knights of the shire are chosen.

THE Devizes is a large town and very populous ; has a large market on Thursdays for horses, cattle, and corn ; as likewise for several sorts of goods and provisions.

COLNE, situated on a river of the same name ; it is built on a stony ground, and is a very poor town. At this place, about eight hundred years ago a provincial council was held to settle the disputes between the monks and priests concerning a single life, and whilst they were debating upon the matter, the convocation-house fell down, and many noblemen, priests and gentry then present were kill'd or wounded.

MARLBOROUGH, is situated on a chaulky ground, near Savernake-forest, and Alburne-chace. It is govern'd by a mayor and burgessees, and has a great market on Saturdays for corn, mault, provisions, and especially for cheese ; but Cheshire, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire are the most noted counties for good cheese, as Suffolk is for the worst sort. The great Duke of Marlborough, whom I have mention'd before took his title from this place.

MALMESBURY pleasantly situated on the river Avon, is a good borough town, govern'd by

by a mayor and aldermen; and has a good market on Saturday for corn and provision. These are the most remarkable places in Wiltshire; which is a pleasant and fertile inland country.

I SHALL now proceed to Dorsetshire, the chief town of which is Dorchester, pleasantly situated on the south side of the river Froome, the buildings are very compact; and the inhabitants generally in good circumstances; here being a good cloth-trade; as likewise a good trade for beer, which is very much drank in London, and in great esteem.

THIS town is govern'd by two bailiffs, eight aldermen, a recorder, two clerks, two sergeants, and other sub-officers. Here is a free school for the education of youth, and an almshouse for the relief of poor people.

WEYMOUTH is seated on the river Wey, on the opposite bank of which stands Melcombe, or Melcombe-regis: These two places were formerly always at strife, both enjoying the same privileges of the haven; but the judges and courts were at last quite tir'd with their continual suits; therefore they were incorporated into one body by act of parliament in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and are under the government of a mayor, and aldermen. Immediately after their union they built a bridge cross the river for the more convenience of the inhabitants. These united towns enjoy a good trade; but Melcomb is the best situated, and of course more inhabited. The markets which are o

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Tuesdays and Fridays are well provided with all necessaries.

NEAR to Weymouth, southerly, is the isle of Portland, which is a place of great strength as well by art as nature, being environ'd by inaccessible rocks, except at the place of landing, where there is a strong castle call'd Portland-castle; and almost opposite to it on the land side towards Weymouth, is another, call'd Sand-foot castle, which two command all ships that pass into the road. The ground is very good for corn, and indifferent for pasture; but so destitute of wood and other fuel, that the inhabitants make their fires of dry'd cow-dung. On the south side of this isle stands the church, so near the sea, that the church yard banks are rais'd almost to an incredible height to secure the church from the fury of the waves. And there we saw Portland race, which is the meeting of two tides; and the force of both is so great, that it is dangerous passing over it in the calmest weather. In this island are plenty of corn and cattle; and several quarries of stone.

LYME, or Lyme-regis, is a good sea-port town, well built on both sides of a river, over which there is a bridge. It is govern'd by a mayor, who is a justice of peace during his mayoralty: Near Lyme is a small village call'd Charmouth, where the Danes twice landed their forces, when they came to subdue this isle.

SHAFTSBURY, is in the northern parts of the county of Dorset towards Wiltshire; situated on a high hill in form of a full bent bow. Here
is

is a very serene and healthy air; but no water, except what is brought from the foot of the hill. At this town King Edward the second was buried; and being canoniz'd a saint, his shrine was so much frequented, that from him it was call'd Burgus St. Edward.

AT this place likewise dy'd Canute the Dane, who made himself first master of England.

IT is a large thorough-fare market town, and has a good market on Saturday for corn, flesh, and living cattle. It is govern'd by a mayor, and twelve aldermen.

HERE is a very old custom observ'd to preserve the fair, the townsmen carry to the green a thing they call a besome; being a frame of wood richly adorn'd with gold, jewels and ribbons, which is carry'd by one of the sergeants, the mayor and aldermen attending with musick, dancing, and various sorts of diversions; and here they present the lord of the mannor's bailiff with a raw calve's head, bread, beer, and a pair of gloves, as homage due for their water.

WIMBORNE Minster is a town of more antiquity than beauty; it being the place where Lutle Burga built a nunnery, after having sued a divorce from her husband the King of Northumberland; and from the splendor of a Queen betook herself to the religious life of a solitary nun.

CRANBORNE is a pretty market town, here being a chace which extends itself almost to Salisbury.

BETWEEN Cranborne and Wimborne is a wood call'd Harley; of which places the country people have this proverb; *When Harley has no hares, Cranborne no whores, and Wimborne no poor, then the World will be at an end.*

P O O L is a pretty good sea port and market town; and is enclos'd on all sides, except the north by the sea.

WARKAM is the most ancient town in Dorsetshire, seated between two rivers, and was once a good harbour for ships; but is now almost gone to decay.

WE travel'd thro' Dorsetshire into Devonshire, whose chief city is Exeter, very pleasantly situated upon an easy ascent, on the river Ex, from whence it took its name, and over which there is a fine stone bridge. It is a place of good trade. It was formerly of such strength that the ancient Britains maintain'd it against the Saxons for near five hundred years.

It is govern'd by a mayor, twenty four aldermen, a recorder, town clerk; and other sub-officers; hath a market on Wednesday and Friday for provisions; and has a great trade for ferges.

PLYMOUTH is a good sea port town. Here is a harbour where ships may ride without hazard of the seas or enemies; it being a place of very great strength. It is well inhabited, has a good trade, and is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council. It has a market on Mondays and Thursdays, furnish'd with all sorts of provisions, and live cattle.

FROM

FROM this port the famous *Black Prince* set out for France to maintain his father's right ; attended with the Earls of Warwick, Oxford, Suffolk, and Salisbury, the Lord Chandois, with many other of the nobility and gentry ; and after gaining a great victory over the King of France at Poictiers, he return'd hither with the French King and many of the nobility his captives.

FROM this port the great Admiral Drake and Mr. Candish, set out for their discoveries of unknown parts of the world ; and here lord Howard, high admiral of England in the year 1588. beat the Spanish fleet. It is a general rendezvous for shipping ; for here the outward bound ships stop to take in fresh provisions ; and the homeward stop to pay their welcome to their native soil.

DARTMOUTH is likewise a good port town, well inhabited, and is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen.

TOTNESS, situated on the Dert, and Tiverton on the Ex, are both good market towns ; and the latter has a good trade for cloths.

BEDFORD is commodiously situated on the Towridge, over which there is a large stone bridge, under which a vessel of sixty tons may pass.

DEVONSHIRE is in general a barren country ; the ground is manur'd with lime, rags, and sand, which they have from the sea shore. But its barrenness is in some measure recompenced by its rich lead and tin mines, and the great quantity of fish taken from the sea-coasts.

WE

WE went from Devonshire into Cornwall, the most western county in England, which thrusts itself as it were into the sea.

THE air is very fine and healthy ; but subject to storms in the winter season. The country is in general full of hills and rocks, but crufted over with a shallow earth ; which is for the most part barren, but then it produces great quantities of stone and slate for building ; as also copper and precious stones, call'd Cornish diamonds ; but it is most remarkable for its tin mines, which bring immense riches. These tin mines are discover'd by stones lying on the surface of the earth, or cover'd with a little earth, which they call *shoad*, as fallen from the *great load*. If the load where the tin lies is a foot and half broad, it is reckon'd a rich work ; but except many loads run together, it seldom exceeds a foot.

IF the work is large, and requires many hands, they have an overseer or captain who allots each man to his proper work ; also to fix pumps for drawing off the water.

IN working these lead mines, the earth sometimes falls in, by which several people have been kill'd ; and the damps that arise are very prejudicial. I gave you a very singular instance of working in mines in a former letter.

BEFORE the tin is brought to perfection it passes through many hands ; for after it is dug up in the stone it is broke to pieces, and carry'd to the stamping mill to be broke smaller ; and if the stones are moist, they are dry'd by the fire in an iron grate or cradle. From the stamping
mill

mill it is carry'd to the crazing mill, which bruifeth it to fine fand ; but inftead of the crazing mill they ufe wet ftampers ; then they wafh the earth from the tin. After this is done, every owner carries his proportion to the blowing houfe, where it is melted, and caft into pieces of three and four hundred weight; on which the owners fet each their proper mark ; and then it is carry'd to the place of coinage.

THE towns for coinage are Truro, Helfton, Liftwithiel, and Liskerd; and the times of coinage are about Midfummer and Michaelmas.

THE tanners have great privileges ; fuch as keeping courts, call'd *Stannery courts*, in which all controverfies are decided, when either plaintiff or defendant deals in black and white tin ; and they cannot be fued in any other court.

THE chief officer is call'd, *The warden of the Stannery*, who acts both as judge in law, and chancellor in equity.

THE Cornifh men fpeak a fort of language of their own ; and a traveller after refiding fome time in London, will be as much at a lofs to underftand them, as if he had never been in England. They are great wrefllers: *The Cornifh hug*, a way of throwing a man, being much practis'd in other parts of England. They are much inclin'd to feafting and merry making, and are for the moft part of an hofpitable difpofition.

THIS country has very few places of note, yet fends more members to parliament than any county in England ; for there are many good

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towns

towns in England that send none, yet in Cornwall if there is but two or three thatched houses, it sends members to parliament.

FALMOUTH is indeed a good harbour for ships, where a hundred sail may safely ride at anchor: At the entrance into it is a rock, which the inhabitants call *Crage*; but is of no detriment; for when the tide comes in, it discovers it self by a pole fix'd on it; and at low water it is plainly seen.

It is a town of good trade, govern'd by a mayor, and has a good market on Thursdays for corn and provisions.

TRURO, seated on a branch of Falmouth haven, is pretty large and well inhabited; this being the place where the Western assizes are held; it is govern'd by a mayor, and has two markets a week.

A great part of this country runs along the sea coasts; at *The Nafs point* the land thrusts itself into a promontory, at the south west of which is *The Lezard point*; a great mark for seamen.

LAMORNY point is the most western part of this county, and the kingdom of England; and here the land stretches itself to a point between the Irish and British seas.

HAVING now got to our journey's end; after staying a short time in this country, a letter was dispatch'd to have our yatcht in readiness at Falmouth; and after having sail'd by a great part of the English coast, at last we arriv'd at
London;

London; where I am at present in a good state of health, and much pleas'd with my travels.
I am,

S I R,

Your Friend and Servant.



LETTER XIV.

S I R,

I HERE send you some general remarks upon the English nation. Their Kings are, or may be, the most great and happy men upon earth, if they aim not at absolute authority; but when once they attempt it, their happiness is lost, if not their crown.

THEY have three fine palaces within twelve miles of one another, viz. At St. James's, Kensington, and Hampton-court; the latter most delightfully situated on the banks of the Thames, in a country which consists chiefly of rich pastures and fine seats, the houses in every village being built like palaces.

PLENTY is in most parts of the kingdom, and industry every where ; but the artizans and working men in London are the most laborious in the whole kingdom ; the country people in general not being so covetous, but allow themselves several recreations. The people are good-natur'd, in common life ; but very much the contrary when favours are ask'd ; and from good-nature become very surly : They are very much given to usury, and will do nothing without a reward, for those that do services thro' a principle of generosity, are often laugh'd at by the very persons they have serv'd : Therefore in most cases the English make sure and lawful bargains for whatever they undertake. They are apt to overreach one another in trade ; and will do little actions for profit.

THEY have a great many laws, yet few know what they are, but the profess'd lawyers ; who make prodigious advantage of the law ; inso-much that people are afraid of what ought to be their protection ; looking upon the law as a devouring monster.

THE kingdom abounds with churches ; besides vast numbers of what they call meeting-houses, frequented by Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, Independents, and innumerable other denominations of religion. Every man is tolerated to worship God in what manner he pleases, except the Roman Catholicks ; yet they are under the sanction of foreign Ambassadors, and increase prodigiously.

THE worship of the national church is an excellent form ; yet custom has made it so familiar, that the people gossip, take snuff, observe dress ; and in short are guilty of a thousand little indecencies the whole time of divine service ; some indeed are very quiet, and sleep instead of praying. No regularity is observ'd ; some kneeling, some standing, some sitting, and some laughing.

I have not been a little surpriz'd at the stupidity of the English people, for reading the Jewish laws in their churches, as sacred, and disregarding their own, which are the solemn ties and rule of the kingdom. I here send you some of these Jewish laws, with what remarks I have made upon them.

IF a man entice a woman that is not betrothed, and lie with her ; he shall surely endow her to be his wife.

THIS law is not regarded : For if a man debauches a woman with her own consent, no farther recompence is made, than that the man shall take care of the child, if the woman brings forth : Parish law indeed obliges the man to marry a woman he gets with child, provided he can't give security for its maintenance.

RABBITS, hares, and swines flesh are forbidden : yet the English reckon all these dainty dishes : The lapwing is likewise forbidden, yet esteem'd as fine food, and eat accordingly ; mice and snails are forbidden, yet administred medicinally.

THE foreskin of a male-child is to be cut round; yet never observ'd.

EVERY year the people are to be cleansed from their sins, which is never regarded.

NO man shall eat blood; the English people transgress this law in two respects; first, they eat the blood; and secondly they eat the blood of swines.

THE corners of mens beards are not to be touch'd; the English shave all their beards off.

THE priests shall not make baldness upon their heads, nor shave off the corners of their beards; they both make bald their heads, wear as pretty perriwigs as any men; and give the barbers as trouble much in shaving their beards, as any beaux in the kingdom.

THE priests shall not take a wife that is a whore; a noblemen's chaplain will often marry his master's cast-off whore to get a good benefice.

THE daughter of a priest that playeth the whore shall be burnt with fire. The priests daughters are so remarkable for being whores, that it is a common proverb among the English, *A parson's daughter to make a whore.* Neither is their punishment greater than any other whores.

A high priest shall not marry a widow. The high priests make no scruple of it, provided the widow is rich.

NO man to be admitted into the priesthood, that hath any blemish, or is lame, hath any thing superfluous, or that is broken footed or broken handed,

ded, crook back'd, a dwarf; if he has the scurvy or scabs, or has his stones broken, he is likewise forbidden the priesthood.

THE priests have as many blemishes as any men; several are lame both in body and mind, and have abundance of superfluities; the broken handed or broken footed are not deny'd the priesthood; there are several crook-back'd priests, and dwarfs, for the stature is not regarded; the scurvy or scabs are no hindrance; and they never examine whether a priest's stones are whole or broken.

THE owners of the field are not to clear the corners of it, neither are they to take the gleanings, but leave them to the poor. The corners of all fields are clear'd as much as possible; and the poor have not the gleanings.

EVERY seventh year the land is to lie uncultivated; and not so much as the natural produce to be gathered; this law is so far from being observ'd, that the land shall not lie uncultivated for twenty years, if it will produce any thing that will turn to gain.

YE shall eat no manner of fat, of ox, sheep, or goat. This is so far from being observ'd, that many people eat scarce any thing but fat.

IF a man is jealous of his wife the priest shall charge her with this oath: If no man hath lain with thee, be thou free from this bitter water that causes the curse; but if thou hast lain with another man besides thy husband, The Lord make thee a curse among the people; and thy thigh to rot and belly to swell. The woman is to say Amen,
Amen,

Amen, and then to drink the bitter water. All this is not regarded in the least, nor any credit given to the bitter water; nor I believe by few so much as thought of.

IF any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her, and give occasion of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid. Then shall the father of the damsel and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel's virginity, unto the elders of the city in the gate. This is such a preposterous law, that it would be reckon'd obscenity in any other book than the Bible; and a man would be look'd upon as a brute to think of exposing the secrets of the female sex, so far as to have the tokens of his wife's virginity made a show.

WHEN men strive together one with another, and the wife of the one draweth near for to deliver her husband out of the hand of him that smiteth him, and putteth forth her hand, and taketh him by the secrets: Then thou shalt cut off her hand: thine eye shalt not pity her. This the English people would call an impudent and malicious action; yet no person dare cut a woman's hand off for so doing.

HE that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord.

A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord, even to his tenth generation.

ALL people have liberty to enter into the congregation of the Lord, without being ask'd any questions, either concerning their stones or their privy members. And if bastards were excluded to the tenth generation, one fourth part of the whole kingdom would be excluded.

THERE are abundance more of these insignificant laws read in their churches, but the laws of the kingdom never read in them. Besides a sett of the English statutes costs too much money for many people to purchase. Instead therefore of reading the Jewish laws, every parish ought to have the laws of England compleat, chain'd in a proper place in their church, where every one might have the liberty of referring to them upon any occasion. And every Sunday, or publick holiday, the priest should read one of these acts; and when a new one is made, as there are generally several every sessions of parliament; they ought to be publickly read in all churches and places of worship; by this means no one could plead ignorance; which numbers may now do with a great deal of truth. The English are undoubtedly a wise people in making laws; but I think their wisdom deficient in their method of communicating them to the publick.

THUS my dear friend I have given you a general account of the English nation, as to their manners, laws, customs, description of the country, and every thing worth notice which has occur'd to me. I

I intend very shortly to set out for my native country, to enjoy the pleasure of conversing with my old hearty friends.

THUS wishing you health, happiness, long life, and all the enjoyments the earth can afford. I remain

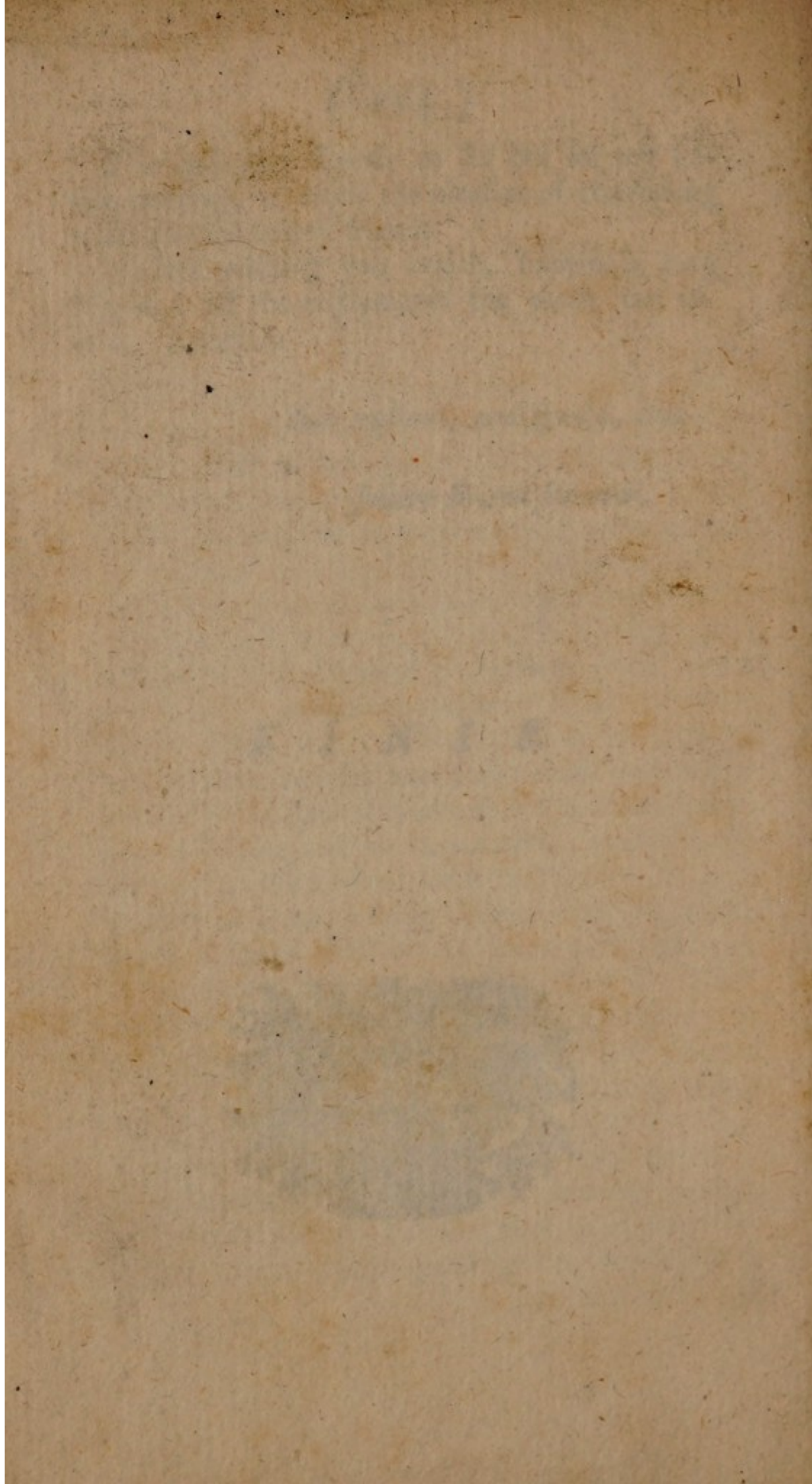
Your constant, undisguis'd, and

sincere Friend for ever.

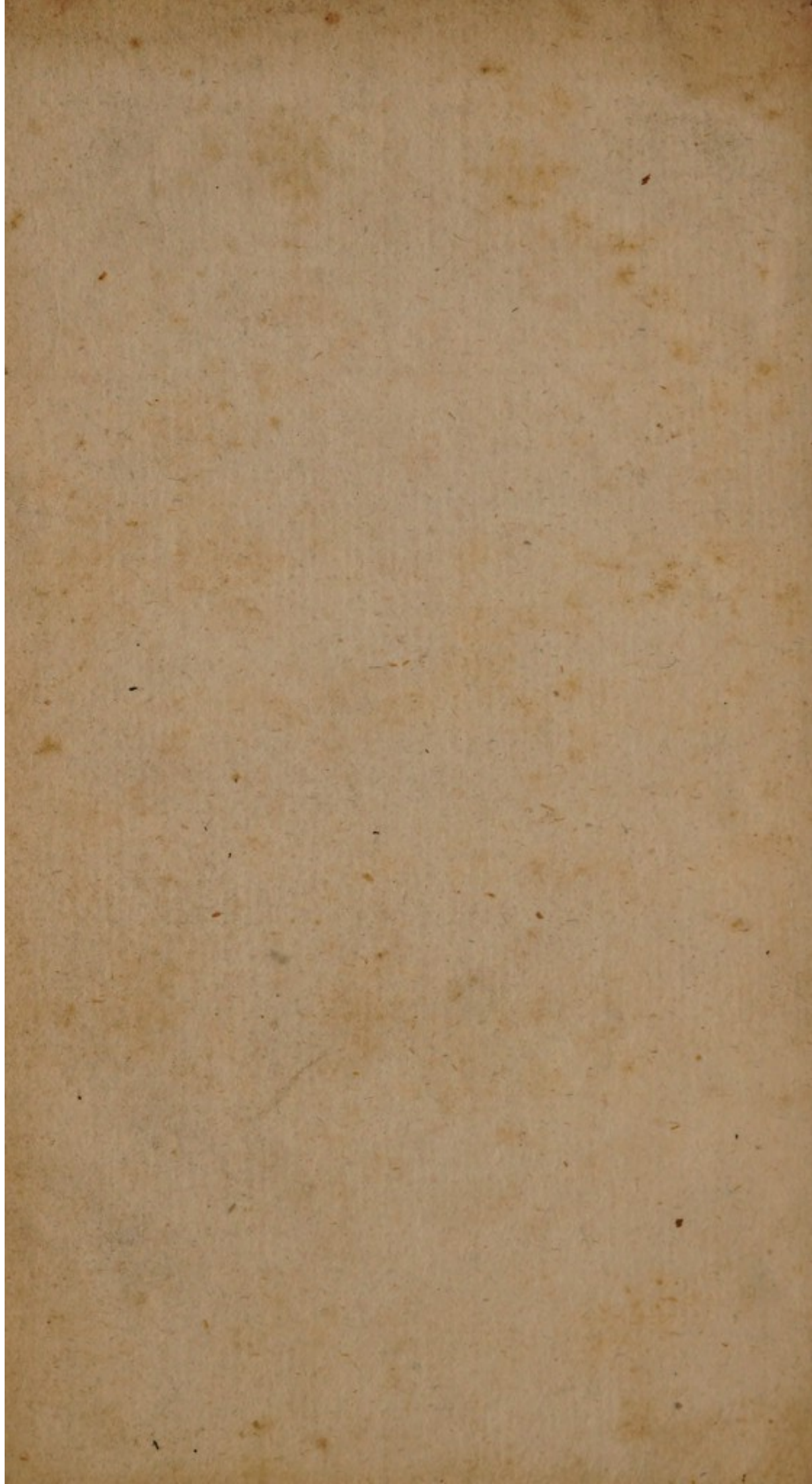
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