

M0013798: Easton: Human Longevity, 1799: dedicatory poem

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TO THE

Oldest Man Alive.

WHO'E'ER thou art, of whatsoever station,
Kindly accept this humble Dedication;
And may You long the envy'd boon enjoy,
Pure Nature's choicest gift, without alloy!—
But while to You I dedicate my Page,
O, might THEY listen—THEY of Younger Age!
Who careless now, beneath the morning beam,
Glide swiftly down Corruption's fatal stream.
May THEY peruse, with profitable care,
My Book—and learn, from each example there,
To follow Nature, in her frugal plan,
And thus to lengthen out their little span!
Not Galen's skill, or Æsculapian rules,
The pride of learning, or the boast of schools;
But Temp'rance, Exercise, and all the train
Of sober virtues, chase disease and pain:—
So shall my humble labours merit praise,
And future PARRS be blest with honor'd days!

Salisbury, Oct. 1, 1799.