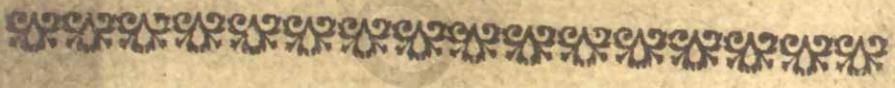


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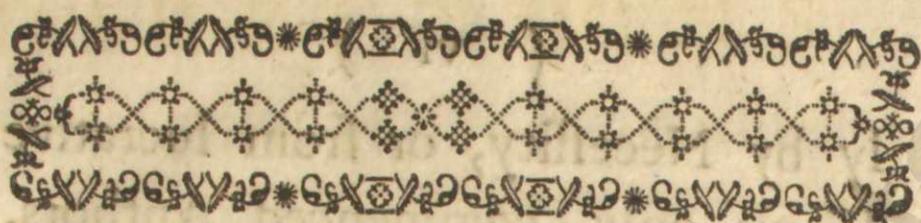
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MDCCLXXII

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T H E

# P R E F A C E.

**T**HE short Essay here offered to the Reader's Perusal, is intended by the Author, to be a Help to him in the Choice of Books, which are worthy of his Notice in the several Subjects they treat of. Something of this Sort seems to have been long wanted, and the prodigious Encrease of Books, within these last fifty Years, makes it more necessary to distinguish those Writers, who have with Success, by their Merit, obtained a valuable Character, from those, who have merely

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ly by Necessity, or from lucrative Views only, commenced Authors, and taxed the Publick at too dear a Rate, for their trifling and ignorant Performances. The Author is far from offering his Tract as a compleat Work, or a faultless Performance, but he believes, (short as it is,) it may rather be redundant in Authors, than any Way deficient in pointing out those of Merit. The Heads on which he has been shortest, are Divinity, Physick, Law, Mathematicks, Astronomy, Gardening, Heraldry, and other Arts; but, that those who apply themselves to any of these particular Studies, (the three first of which have Writers in Abundance,) may know where to find a fuller Account of the Authors on those Subjects, I have here mentioned

ed the Books which will best acquaint them with the several Performances, and the just Character they deserve, which are as follow : For Divinity, Bray's *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, 8vo. Wilkin's on Preaching, Bp. Beveridge's *Thesaurus Theologicus*, 4 vols. and Boswell's Method of Studying, 2 vols. 8vo. For Physick, Boerhaave's Method of Studying Physick, and James's Medical Dictionary. For Law, Mr. Worrall's Law-Catalogue, which is a very compleat List of Books, and some sensible Gentleman of the Profession, will give a Character of the Books worth having. For Mathematicks, &c. the Authors cited in Mr. Chambers's Dictionary, Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, Coates's Dictionary of Heraldry, will, I believe, answer

the Purpose. If some abler Hand shall enlarge my Plan, it may be of greater Use : as it is, to those who read in their own Language only, this may be of some Service ; for their Use alone it is intended, and the Author, who has by a long acquaintance with Books, become in some Degree fit for this Work, would be glad hereby to be useful to others.



# DIRECTIONS

F O R

The proper Choice of AUTHORS,  
to form a LIBRARY.

**M**ANY persons who have a great delight in reading, and are unacquainted with any language, but English, are at a loss for want of some directions in the choice of proper Authors, on the several subjects which would improve the understanding and correct the judgment, as well as please the imagination at the same time. To assist such persons is the design of this small performance, by giving a series of the most esteemed books in History, Divinity, Morality, Poetry and Polite Literature. As to Arts and Sciences, I have been very short; for whoever studies any particular Science, whether Law, Physic, Mathematics, Astronomy, &c. will naturally apply to some sensible person skilful in them, for his recommendation of proper Authors to instruct him therein. Having had an acquaintance

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with

with many persons both of learning and judgment, (whose opinions upon most Authors of our nation I have repeatedly heard), and having read a great many myself with pleasure, I hope I am in some degree fit for this task, which I shall endeavour impartially to perform. My design also, is not for a compleat Library of a great expence, but to suit persons of a moderate fortune.

*History* is the most pleasing and useful study, and herein, that of our own country we should be best acquainted with. *Geography* and *Chronology* must be joined thereto, and may justly be called the Eyes of History; for the knowledge of time and place, when and where any great events have happened, is as necessary as to know by whom they were performed.

## G E O G R A P H Y.

For *Geography*, I would recommend Salmon's Geographical Grammar, 8vo. his Gazetteer, 12mo. and his Modern History, 3 vols, fol.—The New General Atlas, with Senex's Maps, fol.—or, The Compleat System of Geography, with Bowen's Maps, 2 vols. fol.

C H R O-

## C H R O N O L O G Y.

And for *Chronology*, Dr. Blair's, or Mr. Talent's Chronological Tables, fol.—Strauchius' Chronology, by Sault, 8vo.

## G E N E R A L H I S T O R Y.

As to *General History*; The Universal History, in 21 vols. 8vo. and the continuation of it, called Modern History, in 46 vols. 8vo. are a Library of themselves. The first work is more accurately performed than the continuation; but the plan being executed by different hands, is not done so well as could be wished, the frequent repetitions taking up too much room, and perspicuity is not so well observed as it should be; they are indeed proper for a capital Library; but to readers in general I would strongly recommend Rollin's Ancient History, 10 vols. 8vo. or in smaller size.—History of the Arts and Sciences of the Ancients, 4 vols. 8vo.—Prideaux's Connection of the Old and New Testament, 2 vols. fol. or 4 vols. 8vo. Both these Authors abound with judicious reflexions, are very entertaining, and deserve the attention which their merit will procure.—Sir Walter

Raleigh's *History of the World*, deserves the same character. The best edition is in 2 vols. fol. with his life by Oldys; but the former editions of his history are equally compleat, (except in his life) only some better printed than others; those in 1677 and 1687, are best printed.

#### G R E C I A N H I S T O R Y.

For the *Grecian History*, Stanyan's *Grecian History*, 2 vols. 8vo.—Archbishop Potter's *Greek Antiquities*, 2 vols. 8vo. are particularly suitable.

#### R O M A N H I S T O R Y.

The *Roman History* is so well and judiciously wrote by Rollin, in 16 vols. 8vo. and continued by Crevier, in 10 vols. 8vo. as to deserve the preference.—Next to this, Mr. Hook's *Roman History*, in 3 vols. 4to. which is a valuable work.—For such who cannot afford the price, Mr. Echard's *Roman History*, in 5 vols. 8vo. may suffice.—With pleasure you will read the ingenious Vertot's *Roman Revolutions*, 2 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Middleton's *Life of Cicero*, 3 vols. 8vo. an elegant and entertaining work.—The *Manners and Customs*

Customs of the Romans, 8vo.—and that useful work, Mr. Basil Kennett's Roman Antiquities.

Several of the Ancient Historians, of late years well translated, are very deserving a perusal; namely, Herodotus, by Mr. Littlebury, 2 vols. 8vo.—Thucydides, by Hobbes, 2 vols. 8vo. and since more accurately by the Rev. Mr. Smith, with valuable notes, in 2 vols. 4to.—Xenophon's life of Cyrus, by Ashley, 2 vols. 8vo.—Xenophon's Expedition of Cyrus, by Mr. Spelman, 2 vols. 8vo.—Dionysius of Halicarnassus his Roman Antiquities, 4 vols. 4to. by the same Mr. Spelman, an excellent scholar, whose learned and ingenious notes deserve great commendation.—Diodorus Siculus, by Booth, fol.—Polybius, by Mr. Hampton, in 4to. or 2 vols. 8vo.—Appian, by Dryden, fol.—Arrian, by Rooke, 2 vols. 8vo.—Josephus, by Mr. Whiston, with large and useful notes, in fol. or 4 vols. 8vo.—

For the Latin Historians, Livy's History, 6 vols. 8vo. by Mr. Hay.—Tacitus, by Sir Henry Saville and Dryden, 3 vols. 8vo. or  
12mo.

12mo. a more just translation than Mr. Thomas Gordon's, in 2 vols. fol. or 4 vols. 8vo. whose large political discourses annexed, should be read with great caution; his sceptical principles being very freely propagated in all his writings, his style too bombast, yet he is ingenious I own.—Sallust, by Gordon, 4to. or Mr. Rowe, 8vo.—Suetonius, by Hughes, 2 vols. 12mo.—Cæsar's Commentaries, by Col. Bladen, 8vo.—And these I think are all the ancient historians an English reader would chuse, or need to peruse.

#### JEWISH HISTORY.

For the *Jewish History*, since our Saviour's time, Mr. Basnage's History, fol. is the only one.—For their religion, ceremonies, and customs, Leo. Modena in 12mo. and Bundy's Introduction to the Scriptures, 2 vols. 8vo.

#### MODERN HISTORY.

After the ruin of the Roman empire, several separate kingdoms were formed, and other lesser monarchies arose; for whose history, and the more modern times distinctly, please to read Puffendorf's Introduction to the History of Europe, 2 vols. 8vo.—Campbell's Present

State

State of Europe, both of them very judicious works, and deserve a repeated reading.—Eresnoy's Method of Studying History, with a catalogue of Historians, 2 vols. 8vo. an useful book.—Ockley's History of the Saracens, 2 vols. 8vo.—Sir Paul Rycaut's Turkish History, 3 vols. fol. or the Abridgment in 4 vols. 8vo.—Voltaire's General History of Europe, 3 vols. 8vo. a good work and prettily wrote.—History of Germany, 2 vols. 8vo.—Stanyan's Account of Swifferland, an ingenious writer.

## S W E D E N.

Puffendorf's History of Sweden, 8vo.—Verrot's Revolutions of Sweden, 8vo.—Bishop Robinson's Account of Sweden.—Voltaire's History of Charles XII. 8vo. These are Authors of merit.

## D E N M A R K.

We have no good distinct history in English: Lord Moleworth's Account of Denmark, an ingenious work.

## R U S S I A.

Perry's State of Ruffia, 8vo —Consfett's History

tory of Ruffia, 8vo.—Present State of Ruffia, 2 vols. 8vo.—Voltaire's History of the Czar Peter, 2 vols. 8vo. that truly great man.

## P O L A N D.

Dr. Connor's History of Poland, 2 vols. 8vo.—History of Poland under Augustus II. by Parthenay, 2 vols. 8vo.

## H O L L A N D.

History of Holland, 2 vols. 8vo.—Bentivoglio's Wars of Flanders, fol.—Temple's account of the Netherlands, 8vo. an entertaining work.—Burrish's Batavia Illustrata, on the Dutch Trade, 8vo.—Description of Holland, 8vo.

## F R A N C E.

Mezeray's History in fol.—Daniel's History, 5 vols. 8vo. are worth perusing.—Davila's History of the Civil Wars of France, 2 vols. 4to. or one vol. fol. and Duke de Sully's Memoirs, 3 vols. 4to, or 5 vols. 8vo. are both most excellent works, and deserve a frequent reading by Ministers of State as well as private persons. They are indeed authors beyond the  
common

rank, especially Sully. Voltaire's age of Lewis XIV. and his History of the late War with France begun 1741, 8vo. He is a most lively and entertaining writer, but his volatile imagination too often runs away with his judgment, and sometimes misrepresents truth. He cannot be quite relied on in facts relating to religion, to which he is no great friend, though as a man of humanity, he is a thorough enemy to persecution, bigotry and tyranny.

#### SPAIN and PORTUGAL.

Mariana's History of Spain, fol. a good author.—Lady's Travels into Spain, by Madam Du Nois, 2 vols. 12mo.—Account of Portugal, by Dr. Colbatch, 8vo.—Vertot's Revolutions of Portugal. All Vertot's historical writings deserve a careful reading; he is a first rate author.

#### ITALY.

Guicciardini's History, in 10 vols. 8vo. a valuable author.—Nani's History of Venice, fol.—Machiavel's History of Florence, 8vo. an author, whose character has been traduced,

ed, by his real principles being misunderstood, a great genius, a faithful historian.—Giannone's History of Naples, 2 vols. fol. a valuable author.—Rycaut's Lives of the Popes, fol.—Mr. Bower's History of the Popes, 7 vols. 4to. An ingenious gentleman, and I hope a real Protestant.—Farneworth's Life of Pope Sixtus V.—Gordon's Life of Pope Alexander, and Cæsar Borgia, fol. both worthy of a careful perusal.—But above all, Father Paul's History of the Council of Trent, fol. An Author by no means to be wanting in any collection; his subject important, his performance equal, in which Popery is fully detected in its arts and fraudulent conduct.—To which if you add Limborch's History of the Inquisition, by Dr. Chandler, you will have satisfaction enough as to the Papal History and artifices.

GREAT-BRITAIN, SCOTLAND,  
*and* IRELAND.

For our own country, it will be proper to be more copious. As to its description, Camden's Britannia, by Bishop Gibson, 2 vols. fol. claims the first place justly, being an excellent work.—Tour through Great Britain,  
4 vols.

4 vols. 12mo.—England's Gazetteer, 3 vols. 12mo.—Camden's Remains, 8vo.—Ray's English Proverbs, 8vo. These all deserve to be had for their real usefulness. Bishop Nicolson's English, Scotch, and Irish Historical Libraries, fol. is a most useful work, as it contains an account of all the historical writers worth notice (to his time in 1714) relating to those kingdoms, and its particular counties by whom described. Stowe or Maitland's History, in 2 vols. fol. of the great and opulent Metropolis of London, which with Westminster and Southwark, are but as one city, are either of them an useful and curious work.—London and its Environs, in 6 vols. 8vo. is a pretty work, but injudiciously stuffed up with a list of obscure lanes, alleys, &c. which in a second edition it is hoped will be left out, or put at the end in smaller print.

We have yet no very good history of our own country, nor I fear ever shall.—The bias on the mind of every Writer, to him perhaps imperceptible, misleads him in his reflections, and the turn he gives to facts. The least exceptionable I think is Rapin's  
 C 2 History,

History, with Tindal's continuation, in 5 vols. fol. or 28 vols. 8vo. Rapin is a very good Writer, and more impartial than any I have met with. Smollet's History is in a lively style, his characters strongly painted, but his unhappy bias is too evident. Mr. Hume's History, in 6 vols. 4to. or 8 vols. 8vo. has its merit as an ingenious work ; but his visible disesteem for religion, and his carelessness in some facts, make it not so valuable a work, as so capable an Author might have rendered it. For a short history, Mr. Kimber's in one volume 8vo. is the best.—Bishop Kennet's Collection of English Historians, and his own continuation, in 3 vols. fol. is a very valuable work. Baker's Chronicle, fol. is a very proper book for a young person to read ; his method is good.—Salmon's Chronological Historian, 2 vols. 8vo. is a very useful manual. Those who would know well our ancient constitution in church and state, must read Selden's Discourses on the Laws and Government of England, by N. Bacon, fol. an excellent work.—Tyrell's History of England, 5 vols. fol.—and Dr. Brady's History 3 vols. fol,

S T A T E

## STATE AFFAIRS.

For understanding minutely *State Affairs* from Henry VIII. to the Revolution, you may consult the following works published from original manuscripts. Dr. Hayne's and Mr. Murdin's State Papers, from Henry VIII. to James I. 2 vols. fol.—Dr. Forbes's State Papers in Q. Elizabeth's reign, 2 vols. fol.—Sir Philip Sidney's State Papers, 2 vols. fol.—Sir Anthony Bacon's State Papers, by Dr. Birch, 2 vols. 4to.—Sir Ralph Winwood's Memorials, 3 vols. fol.—Lord Strafford's Letters, 2 vols. fol.—Secretary Thurloe's Collection of State Papers, 7 vols.—Duke of Ormond's Life and Letters, by Carte, 3 vols. fol.—State Tracts in King Charles II. and James II's reign, 2 vols. and in King William's reign, 3 vols. fol. But these collections are more suited to a nobleman's Library, than a moderate Collection.

Some particular authors there are, who have copiously treated of interesting times.—The Reformation from Popery is so important an æra in our history, as deserved the accurate account which Bishop Burnet's history

tory of it in 3 vols. fol. has given. It is a most valuable work ; those who cannot afford to purchase it, should buy his abridgement of in 8vo. or 3 vols. 12mo. His style in all his writings is easy, clear and familiar. An author, I think, that will be more esteemed, as he is more read. The accurate Mr. Strype, in his Annals of the Reformation, 4 vols. fol. and his Memorials of it, 3 vols. fol. has cleared up many facts. Bishop Stillingfleet's Church History, fol. a truly great learned and good man, with Dr. Inett's continuation in 2 vols. are the best account of ancient times. Mr. Collier's Church History, 2 vols. fol. comes to Charles II's reign ; is a good style and well methodized : but his partiality is too visible to every reader.

For our unhappy dissensions in the reign of Charles I. Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, is the finest work, the best edition is in 3 vols. fol. it is also in 6 vols. 8vo. his continuation of it lately published in one volume fol. with his life, or in 3 vols. 8vo. are extremely deserving of a careful perusal. His style is masculine, elegant and persuasive, and  
though

though we cannot help observing too strong a bias to Charles I. yet we can scarce avoid forgiving both him and his hero whilst we read him. On the same side, are Lord Holles's Memoirs, 8vo. — Sir Philip Warwick's Memoirs, 8vo. On the contrary Side, Gen. Ludlow's Memoirs, fol. or 3 vols. 8vo. Dr. Harris's Lives of James I. Charles I. Oliver Cromwell, and Charles II. 2 vol. all 8vo. are all worth reading, being well wrote. The accurate and authentick memorials of Sir Bulstrode Whitlocke, fol. deserve attention. Rushworth's Historical Collections, 8 vols. fol. have many valuable papers in them. Mr. Drake's Parliamentary History in 24 vols. 8vo. is a curious and valuable work, and necessary to be read by all who would rightly understand our constitution, which it fully explains. Chandler's Parliamentary debates of Lords and Commons, from 1660 to 1742, in 22 vols. 8vo. is also an esteemed work.— Anchtell Grey's Collection of Debates, in 10 vols. 8vo. is authentick and valuable. Bishop Burnet's History of his own Times, 4 vols. 8vo. deserves a frequent reading. The cavils which have been published at it by Swift, Higgons and Salmon, being in general  
3 groundless

groundless and trifling. It is indeed a valuable work.

Lord Bolingbroke's Dissertation on Parties, 8vo. his Remarks on English History, 8vo. and his Political Tracts, 8vo. are all I can recommend of that elegant and noble author. Sir William Temple's Memoirs, 2 vols. and Letters, 3 vols. 8vo. deserve reading; he is a fine writer, and may be depended upon. Wellwood's Memoirs 12mo. is a very proper book, and a pretty sketch of our affairs from 1588 to 1688. Echard's History of the Revolution, 8vo. I would also recommend to the reader. The Critical History of Sir Robert Walpole, 8vo. by Mr. Ralph, is well wrote.

#### SCOTLAND.

For *Scotland*, Buchanan's History, in 2 vols. 8vo.—Melvill's Memoirs, 8vo. a faithful and accurate writer, and Robertson's History, 2 vols. 4to. or 8vo. all well deserve a careful reading, and are, (especially the last) very entertaining. Maitland's History, 2 vols. fol. a fuller account, but not of equal Esteem.

#### IRELAND.

## I R E L A N D.

For *Ireland*, Sir James Ware's History, fol. Sir Richard Coxe's History, 2 vols. and Dr. Warner's History in 4to. are the best we have. It is a pity Dr. Warner did not meet with encouragement to compleat his work.

## P E E R A G E.

Collins's *Peerage* of England, 6 vols. English Baronetage, 5 vols. Lodge's *Peerage* of Ireland, 4 vols. an accurate work ; and the *Scotch Compendium*, 12mo, are very useful books.

## N A V A L H I S T O R Y.

Our best *Naval History* is Mr. Lediard's, 2 vols. fol. to which add Dr. Campbell's *Lives of the Admirals*, 4 vols. 8vo. an entertaining work, as every thing is, which that ingenious gentleman has published.

## T R A D E.

As to the *Trade* of these kingdoms, the following writers deserve attention, Dr. Davenant's *Pieces*, 7 vols. 8vo. Child on *Trade*, 12mo. Gee on *Trade*, 12mo. British Mer-

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chant,

chant, 3 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. Locke, on Coin, 12mo. Cunningham's History of our Taxes, 8vo. Lockyer on our East India Trade, 8vo. Stevens on the Spanish West India Trade, 8vo. Plan of the British Commerce, 8vo. But the two most compleat works are Mr. Anderson's History of Commerce, 2 vols. fol. and Postlethwayte's Dictionary of Commerce, 2 vols. fol. both justly in esteem. Sir William Petty's Essays in Political Arithmetick, 8vo. are excellent on that subject.

#### B I O G R A P H Y.

The Lives of eminent Men, are a very entertaining and useful part of knowledge. Mr. Bayle's Historical Dictionary, in 5 vols. fol. and the *Biographia Britannica*, in 7 vols. fol. are the most compleat works on this subject, and deserve a place in a Library. But being of a high price and voluminous, the generality of readers may be well entertained by an abridgement of those two works, with several additional lives, called, A new Biographical Dictionary, in 11 vols. 8vo. which though it has too many errors, both of the Authors and Printers, yet is a very useful work :

For

For some very eminent persons, both of antiquity and modern times, we should have their lives at large. Plutarch's lives, 8 vols. with Mr. Rowe's supplement, 8vo. Stanley's Lives of the Philosophers, fol. or 4to. Dr. Prideaux's Life of Mahomet, 8vo. and Xenophon's Memorable Things of Socrates, may suffice. All of them works deservedly in esteem.

Of the Moderns, The Life of Erasmus, by Dr. Jortin, 4to. Bishop Wickham, by Dr. Lowth, 8vo. Cardinal Woolsey, by Mr. Grove, 4 vols. 8vo. Archbishop Cranmer, by Strype, fol. Dean Collet, by Dr. Knight, 8vo. The learned Grotius by Burigny, 8vo. Lord Bacon, by Mallet, 8vo. Bishop Bedell and Sir Matthew Hale, by Burnet, 8vo. The great Mr. Boyle, and the pious and judicious Abp. Tillotson, by Dr. Birch, both in 8vo. Chillingworth, by Desmaizeaux. Dr. Samuel Clarke, by Mr. Whiston. All are faithfully wrote, and well deserve reading for the eminence of the persons. Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniense*, 2 vols. fol. being an account of all the writers educated at Oxford. Ward's Lives of the Professors of Gresham College, fol. are works

of merit and use. Mr. Horace Walpole's Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, 2 vols. 8vo. and his Anecdotes of eminent Painters, 3 vols. 4to. are both of them very ingenious, entertaining, and useful performances.

### TRAVELS and VOYAGES.

*Travels and Voyages* are so instructive and agreeable a study, many should have a place in the Library of those who can afford the expence. The most valued collections are, Hakluyt's, in 2 vols. fol.—Purchas's Pilgrims and Pilgrimage, 5 vols. fol.—Churchill's Collection, 6 vols. fol. planned by Mr. Locke, and Dr. Harris's General Abridgment of Voyages and Travels, both by Foreigners and English, very accurately and elegantly improved by Dr. Campbell, in 2 vols. fol. is justly a most esteemed and entertaining work.

### *Travels round the* WORLD.

For particular *Travellers round the World*, Lord Anson's Voyage, 4to. or 8vo. a most judicious work and elegant in style.—Dampier's Voyages, 3 vols. 8vo.—Cooke's Voyages, 2 vols. 8vo.—Woods Rogers's, 8vo. As these and the following travellers are in general esteemed

teemed for their fidelity, accuracy, and the entertainment they give, so a particular remark on each is unnecessary.

## E U R O P E.

For *Europe*, the best are Keyser, 4 vols. 4to. or 8vo. justly esteemed.—Mr. Blainville, 3 vols. 4to. a judicious and entertaining author, and deserves to be better known than he at present is.—Mr. Wright's Travels, 4to. very accurate.—Montfaucon's in Italy, fol. or 8vo.—Mr. Ray's, 2 vols. 8vo.—Tournefort, 2 vols. 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo.—Miffon, 4 vols. 8vo. an entertaining but careless writer.—Dr. Edward Brown, fol.—Busbequius in Turkey, ambassador to the Grand Seignior. Grelot to Constantinople, 12mo.—Bishop Burnet, 12mo. deserves often reading.—Mr. Addison, 12mo.—Dr. Patin, 12mo. all very justly esteemed. The Grand Tour of Europe, 4 vols. 12mo. by Mr. Nugent, a very useful book.—Baron Polnitz's Memoirs, 4 vols. 8vo. or 5 vols. 12mo. is a very entertaining account of Germany chiefly.—Lady Wortley Montague's Letters, 3 vols. and Dr. Smollett's Travels, 2 vols. lately published, will entertain you much.

A S I A

## A S I A.

Authentic and in esteem are all the following travellers: Mr. Sandys, fol.—Sir Thomas Herbert, fol. 1677.—Thevenot, fol.—Tavernier, fol.—Sir John Chardin, fol. and two additional volumes, in 8vo.—Sir John Fryer, fol.—Sir George Wheeler, fol.—Mr. Chishull, fol.—Dr. Shaw, a curious and accurate man, fol. or 4to.—Mr. Drummond, fol.—Mr. Le Bruyn, 3 vols. fol.—Bishop Pocke, 2 vols. fol. whose numerous drawings in 200 copper plates, renders it still more valuable.—Ysbrant Ydes, 4to.—Mr. Hanway, 2 vols. 4to. full of judicious and sensible remarks, which well deserves a frequent perusal.—Mr. Bell, 2 vols. 4to.—Norden, 2 vols. fol. or in 8vo.—Rauwolf, &c. by Ray, 2 vols. 8vo.—Maunderell, 8vo.—Ovington to Surat, 8vo.—Knox's History of Ceylon, fol.—Hamilton's Voyages, 2 vols. 8vo.—Le Comte's Travels, in China, 8vo.—Jesuits Voyage to Siam, 8vo.—D'Arvieux and La Roque, to Arabia, 12mo.—Pitt's to Mecca, 12mo.

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## A F R I C A.

Astley's Collection of Voyages, 4 vols. 4to.  
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 8vo.—Kolben on the Cape of Good Hope,  
 2 vols. 8vo.

## A M E R I C A.

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 Don Ant. Ulloa, 2 vols. 8vo. an excellent work. Charlevoix, 2 vols. 8vo.—Ellis to Hudson's Bay, in an elegant style, 8vo.—Walters to the Isthmus of Darien, 8vo.

*History and Description of Particular Countries.*

In A S I A.—The best are Duhald's China, 2 vols. fol. or abridged in 4 vols. 8vo.—Loubere's Siam, fol.—Scheuchzer's Japan, 2 vols. fol.—Strahlenberg's Account of Siberia, 4to. History of the European Settlements in East India, 2 vols. 8vo. an excellent work.

In A F R I C A.—Dampier's Description of it  
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by Ogilby, fol. and Ludolphus's History of Ethiopia, fol. are justly esteemed.

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The Religious Ceremonies of all Nations, 7 vols. fol. Montfaucon's Antiquities, 7 vols. fol. Ruins of Palmyra, fol. Ruins of Baalbeck, fol. Stewart's Antiquities of Athens, fol. are all elegant works, and deserve a place in the Libraries of the curious.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, MATHE-  
MATICKS *and* ASTRONOMY.

A little knowledge in *Natural Philosophy*, *Mathematicks*, *Astronomy*, and the other Arts, would be agreeable to most readers, and in some degree useful to all. I shall be concise on these heads, and only mention those most in esteem, and which afford, in an easy manner, useful knowledge. Chambers's Dictionary of Arts, 2 vols. fol. and the Supplement, 2 vols. fol. Keill's *Natural Philosophy*, 8vo. Maclaurin's *Account of Sir Isaac Newton's Discoveries*, 8vo. or 4to. Ward's *Introduction to Mathematicks*, 8vo. Ray's *Wisdom of God in the Creation*, 8vo. Derham's *Physico and Astro-Theology*, 2 vols. 8vo. Whiston's *Theory of the Earth*, 8vo. Burnet's *Theory of the Earth*, 2 vols. 8vo. ingenious, but on false principles; but the style and thoughts are so beautiful, it deserves reading. Fontenelle's *Plurality of Worlds*, 12mo. Harris's *Astronomical Dialogues*, 8vo. *Religious Philosopher*, 3 vols. 8vo. *Nature Displayed*, 7 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. Mr. Harris's *Use of the Globes and Orrery*, 8vo. or

Dr. Watts's Use of the Globes, 8vo. All these deserve reading, and are very justly in great esteem.

P H Y S I C K.

For *Physick*, Mackenzie on Health, 8vo. Cornaro on Health, 12mo. Cheyne on Health, 8vo. Arbuthnot on Air and Diet, 2 vols. 8vo. Dr. Mead's Medical Precepts, 8vo. Fuller's *Medicina Gymnastica*, 8vo. Cheyne's English Malady, 8vo. Shaw's Practice of Physic, 2 vols. 8vo. Quincy's Lexicon, 8vo. Mr. Boyle's Receipts, 12mo. Gerrard's Herbal, fol. 1636. Pomet on Drugs, 4to. Tournefort's Herbal, 2 vols. 4to. But temperance and a virtuous life, with a kind and obliging wife, (for a wife can render a husband happy or miserable, if he is of a lively quick temper,) these united, are the surest preservatives of health, and on which we may justly expect God's blessing.

G A R D E N I N G.

Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, fol. or the Abridgement in 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo. His Gardener's Kalendar, 8vo. Lawrence on Gardening

dening, 8vo. Evelyn's Sylva, fol. Mortimer's Husbandry, 2 vols. 8vo. Duhamel's Husbandry, 4to. New System of Husbandry, 4 vols. 8vo. Bradley's new Improvements in Planting and Gardening, 8vo. Tull's Husbandry, 8vo. Whoever intends to make either Husbandry or Gardening his employment or amusement, may have a variety of proper authors on those innocent and useful subjects, by the recommendation of persons skilful therein, too numerous to give them a place here: and the same may be said of Physic and other Sciences.

P A I N T I N G, S C U L P T U R E, *and*  
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penny on found Building, fol. Langley's  
prices of Bricklayer's work, 8vo.

### HERALDRY.

Guillim's Display of Heraldry, fol. or the  
Abridgment, 2 vols. 8vo. Kent's Grammar  
of Heraldry, 8vo. Coates' Dictionary of He-  
raldry, 8vo. Synopsis of Heraldry, 12mo. Dug-  
dale's ancient Usage of bearing Arms, 12mo.

### COOKERY.

Mrs. Glas's Art of Cookery, 8vo. Cha-  
pelle's Compleat Cook, 8vo. are most esteemed.

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As to the *Mechanick Arts*, Moxon's *Me-  
chanick Exercises* in 4to. 2 vols. for the 8vo.  
edition is not so compleat.

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Coehorn, and Vauban, on Fortification. Gray's  
Art of Gunnery, 8vo. Robin's on Gunnery,  
8vo. Muller's Works on that Subject, 5  
vols. 8vo. Many others may be added.

### MUSICK *and* DANCING.

These can only be learnt by practice.—For  
the

the Theory, Dr. Smith's Harmonics, 8vo.—  
 Avifon on Musical Expression, 8vo.—Morley  
 on Musick, fol.—Malcolm on Musick, 8vo.—  
 Holder on Harmony, 8vo. are all in esteem.  
 Effex's Compleat Dancing Master, 4to. the  
 best I believe.

### D I V I N I T Y,

The most important of all knowledge, and  
 the easiest understood, so far as will conduce  
 to our happiness here and hereafter, but not  
 the easiest to practise. To bear and forbear  
 are the chief things to be put in practice.  
 The practical and historical parts of the Holy  
 Bible cannot be too often read, and will sel-  
 dom want a commentator. Some parts ap-  
 pear obscure, but are explained best by com-  
 paring them with other passages. Some help  
 may be necessary, for which let me recom-  
 mend Bishop Patrick and Dr. Lowth on the  
 Old Testament, 4 vols. fol. or those who  
 cannot afford these, Dr. Pyle on the Old Tes-  
 tament, 4 vols. 8vo. and on the Epistles, 2  
 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Clarke's excellent paraphrase  
 and notes on the Gospels, 2 vols. 8vo.—Mr.  
 Locke's judicious work on St. Paul's Epistles,  
 in 4to.—Mr. Pearce and Hallet on the re-  
 maining

maining Epistles, 4to. Those who would consult more fully, may have recourse to Dr. Whitby on the New Testament, 2 vols. fol.—Dr. Doddridge on the New Testament, 6 vols. 4to. which two have with most learning and judgment explained the same. Bishop Pearson on the Creed, fol.—Bishop Burnet on the 39 Articles, fol.—Mr. Chillingworth's works, fol. These three learned and sensible authors, though necessary only to a divine, yet well deserve to be read by every serious person. Mr. Burkitt's Practical Exposition of the New Testament, fol. is very proper for a family book. For other practical authors, to enforce Religion as an active principle, we have many excellent writers. I shall only recommend some few of the most judicious, and who best deserve a perusal. Dr. Clarke on the Catechism, 8vo.—his Sermons, 8 vols. 8vo.—Lucas's Enquiry after Happiness, 2 vols. 8vo.—Lowth's Directions for reading the Scripture, 12mo.—Bishop Patrick's Advice to a Friend, 12mo.—Goodman's Winter Evening Conference, 8vo. his Penitent pardoned, on the parable of the prodigal son, 8vo.—West on the Resurrection, 8vo.

8vo.—Bishop Sherlock's Trial of the Witnesses, 8vo.—Dr. Jortin on the Christian Religion, 8vo.—Religion of Nature delineated, 8vo.—Locke's Reasonableness of Christianity, Burgh's Dignity of Human Nature, 4to.—And of our many Preachers, greatly superior in that talent to all other nations, (too many to be here recited) the following excellent writers should be read, Archbishop Tillotson's Sermons, 3 vols. fol. or 12 vols. 8vo.—Archbishop Sharpe's Sermons, 7 vols. 8vo. or 12mo.—Bishop Sherlock's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo.—Dean Sherlock's Sermons, 2 vols. 8vo. Bishop Atterbury's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Whichcot's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo. If you add to these, Dr. Stanhope on the Epistles and Gospels, 4 vols. 8vo. and Mr. Nelson on the Feasts and Fasts, I believe you will have no occasion to purchase more on this subject, unless your own curiosity should lead you to enter into the controversies between the Church of England, the Catholics and Dissenters. But this I neither advise, nor shall therefore mention the writers upon it; only Dr. Middleton's Letter from Rome, is so ingenious a performance I cannot omit it.

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

For *Ecclesiastical History*, Echard's in fol. or 2 vols. 8vo.—Whiston's Sacred History, 6 vols. 8vo.—Dupin's Ecclesiastical History, 8 vols. fol. or abridged in 4 vols. 12mo. The best yet extant is Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, in 2 vols. 4to.

## MORALITY.

Authors herein are so numerous, and the taste of readers so various, I shall only mention those who have been universally esteemed. Seneca's *Morals* by Lestrange, 8vo.—Epictetus's *Morals* by Dr. Stanhope, 8vo.—Antoninus's *Meditations*, by Collier, 8vo.—Collier's *Essays*, 3 vols. 8vo.—Plutarch's *Morals*, 5 vols. 8vo.—Lord Bacon's *Essays*, 8vo. Charron on *Wisdom*, by Dr. Stanhope, 3 vols. 8vo.—Paschall's *Thoughts*, 8vo.—Cicero's *Offices* by Dr. Cockman, 12mo.—Gentleman's Library, 12mo.—Ladies Library, 3 vols. 12mo.—Dean Bolton on the *Employment of Time*, 8vo. and his *Letters on the Choice of Company*, 8vo. are two most excellent treatises, and very entertainingly written; the reader will be pleased they were pointed out particularly.—Mr. Locke's *Es-*

say on the Human Understanding, 2 vols. 8vo. his Conduct of the Understanding, among his posthumous works, 8vo. both excellent treatises. Dr. Watts's Logic, 8vo. and his Improvement of the Mind, 8vo. a valuable author, and deserving to be read. Lord Bacon's Works, 3 vols. fol. and Mr. Locke's Works, 3 vols. fol. should be in every Gentleman's Collection.

#### G O V E R N M E N T.

Sidney on Government, fol. by Dr. Birch. Milton's Political Works, by Dr. Birch, 2 vols. fol. or 4to.—Locke on Government, 8vo. and Bishop Hoadly on Government, 8vo. are sufficient, I believe. For the *Law of Nations*, Grotius on War and Peace, with Barbeyrac's notes, fol.—Puffendorf's Law of Nature, with Barbeyrac's notes, fol.—Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, 2 vols. 8vo.—Wood's Institute of the Civil Law, fol.—Domat's Civil Law, with Dr. Strahan's Notes, 2 vols. fol. But this head is rather unnecessary for the generality of readers; But members of parliament and gentlemen of fortune should be well read herein.

#### E N G L I S H L A W.

A very few, and yet some few, are necessary

fary for gentlemen, who do not intend to study it as a profession. The best are Wood's Institute of the Common Law, fol.—Dr. Blackstone's Commentaries, 4to.—Cay's Abridgment of the Statutes, 2 vols. fol.—Mr. Burn's Justice, 2 vols. 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo. Every Man his own Lawyer, 8vo.—Law Quibbles detected, 8vo. a very necessary book. Sir Matthew Hale's Pleas of the Crown, 2 vols. fol.—Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown, fol.—St. Amand on the Legislative Power, 8vo. a very judicious work. Pettyt's *Jus Parliamentarium*, fol. — Gurdon's History of the High Court of Parliament, 2 vols. 8vo. Pettyt's Rights of the Commons, 8vo.—Sir Richard Atkyn's Parliamentary Tracts, 8vo. a sensible writer.

#### ENTERTAINMENT.

Books of *Entertainment*, as so called, are a very numerous class, in which too many noxious and libertine doctrines are apt to be either encouraged or excused. I will endeavour to keep as clear of these as I can, for the sake of the Fair Sex especially. This class may be justly subdivided into works of Wit and Humour;

mour, or of fictitious Life, called Novels, which are some grave, some jocose.

WIT and HUMOUR.

For *Wit and Humour*, the best I know are as follows: Don Quixote, by Smollett, 4 vols. 12mo. The truest master of humour, mixed with judicious reflections is Cervantes.—Gil Blas, 4 vols.—Fielding's Joseph Andrews, 2 vols.—Tom Jones, 4 vols.—Amelia, 4 vols. the most commendable of all he wrote.—Pompey the little.—Dr. John Echard's Works, 8vo.—Sprat's Observations on Sorbier's Voyage, 8vo.—Dr. King's Miscellanies, 2 vols. 8vo.—Mr. Hildrop's Works, 2 vols. 12mo.—Boyle against Bentley, 8vo.—Colley Cibber's Life, 12mo. these five last are sterling wit. Dr. Swift's Works, and Dr. Smollett's Novels, cannot be omitted, perhaps, without being deemed a neglect: yet so much indelicacy are mixed with these Gentlemen's entertaining talents, that I cannot recommend them so much as I could wish: no Authors want more to have their works corrected, to render them truly valuable.

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3 vols. 12mo. Pomfret, 12mo. Philips's Cyder, &c. 12mo. Garth's Dispensary, 12mo. Waller's Poems, 12mo. Sir John Denham, 12mo. Mr. Somerville, 8vo.— Charles Cotton, 12mo. Butler's Hudibras, 12mo. Mrs. Leaper, 2 vols. 8vo. extremely fit for young ladies, as is also Mrs. Rowe, 2 vols. 12mo. and Moore's Fables for the Female Sex, 8vo. Visions in Verse, for young Persons, by Dr. Cotton of St. Alban's, a very ingenious performance, 12mo. Mr. Herbert, 12mo. Doddsley's Miscellaneous Collection, 6 vols. 12mo. being some of the best productions of the present times. Mr. Shenstone's Works, 2 vols. 8vo. a truly poetical genius, very tender. Dr. Akenfide's Pleasures of Imagination, 8vo. Minor English Poets, 3 vols. 12mo. Mr. Christopher Pitt's Poems, 8vo. Mr. Walter Harte's Poems, 8vo. Sir Richard Blackmore's Creation, a fine poem, justly commended by Mr. Addison. Dr. Young's Works, 4 vols. 12mo. Thomson's Seasons, &c. 4 vols. 12mo. Mr. John Hughes's Poems, 2 vols. 12mo.

I should be sorry to have omitted any ingenious Poet's works, but we have so many

valuable ones of our nation, that it would take up too much room to name them all : I believe the above are the most eminent, and against which no exception can lie, as to the moral turn of them ; to which I have endeavoured to have regard in all the Works of Wit and Humour.

### DRAMATICK WRITERS.

As to our *Dramatick Writers*, these are so numerous, and yet so few whose writings are fit for young persons, that they will soon be named ; Shakespeare is, beyond doubt, the first genius of this species : his works have been so often published, I hardly know which edition to recommend ; you may choose either Mr. Theobald's, in 8 vols. 12mo. or Mr. Warburton's, in 8 vols. 8vo. or Mr. Johnson's, in 8 vols. 8vo. these have their several admirers. Ben Johnson's Works, fol. or 7 vols. 8vo. by Whalley. Beaumont and Fletcher, 7 vols. 8vo. with notes. Rowe's Plays, 7 vols. 12mo. Mr. Cibber's Plays, 4 vols. 12mo. Mrs. Cent-Livre's Plays, 4 vols.— Shadwell's Plays, 4 vols. Otway's Othello, and Venice preserved. Farquhar's Plays.— Southerne,

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For some account of our Poetic and Dramatick Writers and their works, Jacob's Lives of the Poets, 2 vols. 8vo. Cibber's Lives of the Poets, 5 vols. 12mo. Mr. Warton's ingenious Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope. Lord Orrery's Life of Swift, 8vo. and Dean Swift's Memoirs of Dean Swift, 8vo.

For our Language, the best Dictionary is Mr. Johnson's, 2 vols. fol.—For common use, Dyche's Dictionary, by Pardon, 8vo, or Bailey's Dictionary, 8vo. Dr. Lowth's English Grammar, 12mo. and Mr. Harris's Hermes, 8vo.

I here finish this List, and my Observations, conscious it is far from a compleat Performance,

mance, which indeed would be a large work, if attended with proper criticisms on all the authors and their works. Such as it is, I can truly say, I have no where either commended an author without merit, or censured any person's writings through partiality, or any private view ; desirous to give no offence, and to be of use as far as I can. Having submitted this Essay to the opinion of some very sensible Gentlemen, who have encouraged its publication, I have consented thereto ; and I wish it may meet with candor and a favourable allowance from the Reader.

N. N.

April 25th, 1766.

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A

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