

T H E

Letter - Writer :

CONTAINING

A variety of epistolary correspondence on different Subjects.

(IN THREE PARTS.)

viz.

Duty and Friendship.

Love, Courtship and Marriage.

Business and the Death of Relatives.

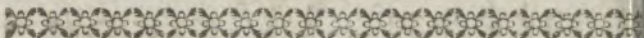
To which are added,

Supercriptions and Addresses for Letters.

*The whole forming a useful Companion for the
Youth of both Sexes.*

S T I R L I N G :
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PART I.

ON DUTY AND FRIENDSHIP.

A Son's Letter at School to his Father.

Honoured Sir,

I AM greatly obliged to you for all your favours; all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for the same. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all conspire to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement, and your satisfaction, and to shew myself, upon all occasions,

Your most obedient,

and ever dutiful Son,

ROBERT REID.

Letter from a Youth at School to his Parents.

Honoured Father and Mother,

YOUR kind letter of the 24th instant, I received in due time, and, soon after, the things you therein mentioned, by the carrier, for which I return you my sincere thanks. They came very opportunely for my occasions. I hope soon to improve myself at school, though I own it seems a little hard and irksome to me as yet; but my master gives me great encouragement, and assures me, I will soon get the better of the little difficulties that almost every boy meets with at first, and then it will be a perfect pleasure instead of a task, and altogether

together as pleasant and easy as it is now irksome and hard.

My humble duty to yourselves: and I beg the favour of you to give my kind love to my brothers and sisters, and remember me to all my friends and acquaintance: which is at present all from,

Your very dutiful and obedient Son,

CHARLES GOODENOUGH.

A Letter of Excuse to Father or Mother.

Honoured Sir, or Mother,

I AM informed, and it gives me a great concern, that you have heard an ill report of me, which I suppose, was raised by some of my school fellows, who either envy my happiness, or by aggravating my faults, would be thought to seem less criminal themselves; though I must own I have been a little too remiss in my school business, and am now sensible I have lost, in some measure, my time and credit thereby; but, by my future diligence, I hope soon to recover both: and to convince you that I pay a strict regard to all your commands, which I am bound to, as well in gratitude as duty, and hope I shall ever have leave, with great truth, to subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful Son

WILLIAM COLLINS.

From a young Apprentice to his Father, to let him know how he likes his place, and goes on.

Honoured Sir,

I Know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business, and my master seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and hope

I shall

I shall answer in time, your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shewn me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress's part as on my master's that every servant, as well as I, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a chearful sweet tempered woman, and rather heals, breathes than rives them; and the children, after such examples, behave to us all like ones own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish, when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does, and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress; and then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are; and as you, Sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours and my good mother's prayers for, honoured Sir, and Madam,

Your very dutiful Son.

To a Young Lady, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of a bad Character.

Dear Niece,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, not long since deceased, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you, rather by letter than by word of mouth, that the town rings of your unguarded conduct, and the

the too great freedom that you take with Mr. Trip-
bit. You have been seen with him (if fame
lies not) in the side boxes of both theatres, at the
blue-coat hospital on a Sunday night, and after-
wards at a certain tavern, not a mile from thence,
which is a house (as I have been credibly informed)
of no good repute. You have both, moreover,
been seen at Ranelagh assembly, Vauxhall gardens,
and what is still more flagrant, at Cupar's fire works.
Don't imagine, niece, that I am in the least preju-
diced, or speak out of any private picque; but let
me tell you, your familiarity with him give me no
small concern, as his character is none of the best,
and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner
towards two or three very virtuous young ladies of my
acquaintance, who entertained a too favourable
opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have
no great expectation from your relations, and he
has an annuity, as 'tis reported, of 200*l.* a year
sett him by his uncle, that you may be tempted to
imagine his address an offer to your advantage.
'Tis much to be questioned, however, whether his
intentions are sincere; for notwithstanding all the
fair promises he may possibly make you, I have
heard it whispered, that he is privately engaged to
a rich, old, doating lady, not far from Hackney.
Besides, admitting it to be true, that he is really en-
titled to the annuity above mentioned, yet it is too
well known that he is deeply in debt; that he lives
beyond his income, and has very little, if any regard
for his reputation. In short, not to mince the mat-
ter, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting
of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and
frailty are the constant topics of his raillery and
sarcule.

All things, therefore, duly considered, let me
prevail on you, dear Niece, to avoid his company as
you

you would a mad man; for notwithstanding, I still think you strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irparably lost, by such open acts of imprudence. As I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare, I flatter myself you'll put a favourable construction on the liberty here taken by

Your affectionate Friend,
and affectionate Aunt.

Advice from a Father to a young Beginner, what Company to chuse, and how to behave in it.

Dear Robin,

As you are now entering into the world, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business, the frequent occasion you will have for advice from others, will make you desirous of singling out, among your most intimate acquaintance, one or two, whom you would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of these, your utmost care and caution will be necessary; for, by a mistake here you can scarcely conceive the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for you to make a judgment of those who are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world. For he who has by his own indiscretions undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a landmark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow.

Old age is generally slow and heavy, youth headstrong and precipitant; but there are old men who are full of vivacity, and young men replete with discretion; which makes me rather point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom you should

ould choofe to affociate: though, after all, it is never failing good fign to me of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors choofe his company, and he delights in theirs.

Let your endeavours therefore be, at all adventures, to confort yourfelf with men of fobriety, good fenfe, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one that fays, A man is known by the company he keeps. If fuch men you can finglet out, while you improve by their converfation, you will benefit by their advice. And be fure remember one thing, that tho' you muft be frank and unretyed in delivering your fentiments, when occafions offers; yet, that you be much readier to hear than to fpeak; for to this purpofe it has been fignificantly obferved, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therefore, by obfervation and modeft filence, fuch a ftore of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worfe figure than they do: and endeavour to benefit yourfelf rather by other people's wifdoms than your own. How muft thofe young men expofe themfelves to the contempt and ridicule of their seniors, who having feen little or nothing of the world, are continually thurting out, by open mouths and clofed ears, all poffibility of inftruction; and making vain the principal end of converfation, which is improvement? A filent young man makes, generally, a wife old one, and never fails of being refpected by the beft and moft prudent men; when, therefore, you come among ftangers, hear every one fpeak before you deliver your own fentiments; by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid expofing yourfelf, as I have known many do, by fhooting out vanity and inconfiderable bolts which they would have been glad to recal; when, perhaps, a filent genius

genius in company has burst out upon them with such observations, as have struck consciousness and shame into the forward speaker, if he has not been quite insensible of inward reproach.

I have thrown together, as they occurred, a few thoughts which may suffice for the present, to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I hope you will constantly, from time to time, communicate to me whatever you shall think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you; for I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me. And of this, you may be assured; for I am, and ever must be,

Your affectionate Father.

From a Father to a Son, on his negligence in his affairs.

Dear Jemmy,

YOU cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs gives me. Remissness is inexcusable in all men, in none so much as a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality.

Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted: quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreation, and apply to your counting house with diligence. It may not yet be too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect, therefore, your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expences; and then see which of the latter you can and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverished trader is put to, for the remainder of his life, which too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered; the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how, on the contrary, from being born to creditable expectations he sinks them into the lowest classes of mankind, and exposes them to the most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction beyond the present hour, if in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he comes to reflect. Think seriously of these things, and in time, resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your mind; comfort to your family; and which will give, at the same time, the highest satisfaction to,

Your careful and loving Father.

To a Friend, on occasion of his not answering his Letters.

Dear Sir,

IT is so long since I had the favour of a line from you, that I am under great apprehensions in relation of your health and welfare. I beg you, Sir, to renew to me the pleasure you used to give me in your correspondence; for I have written three letters to you before this, to which I have had

had no answer, and am not conscious of having any way disoblighd you. If I have, I will most willingly ask your pardon; for nobody can be more than I am,

Your affectionate and faithful friend and servant.

In Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

YOU have not, cannot disoblige me; but I have greatly disoblighd myself, in my own faulty remissness; I cannot account for it as I ought. To say I had business one time, company another, was distant from home a third, will be but poor excuses, for not answering one of your kind letters in four long months. I therefore ingenuously take shame to myself, and promise future amendment, and that nothing shall ever, while I am able to hold a pen, make me guilty of the like neglect to a friend I love. Forgive me then, my good, my kind, my generous friend; and believe me ever,

Yours, &c.

PART II.

ON LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

From a young Man just out of his Apprenticeship, to his Sweetheart, a Servant in the Neighbourhood.

Dear Sally,

I Have been long in love with you but was afraid to tell you. When I go with you to Bagnigge, or Sadler's Wells, I am almost like a fool, and altogether unfit for company. I think of you all day, and at night I dream of my dear Sally. I am well settled in work, and my wages are eighteen shillings

lings every week You and I can live on that, and I shall bring it home untouched on Saturday evening I will not go to any alehouse, but as soon as my work is done return home to my dearly beloved Sally. I hope, my dear, you will not be angry, for I am really in love. I cannot be happy unless you are mine. I was afraid to mention this to you, but if you will leave an answer at my lodgings, I will meet you next Sunday, after dinner, at the Shepherd and Shepherdess, when we will take a walk to Hornsey-house and drink tea. How happy shall I be to hear from my charmer; but a thousand times more to think she will be mine.

I am, my dear, your real lover.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,

I Received your very kind letter, but I don't know what to say in answer. Although I would be glad to marry, yet you men are so deceiving, that there is no such thing as trusting you. There is Tom Timber, the carpenter, and Jack Hammer, the smith, who have not been married above six months, and every night come home drunk, and beat their wives. What a miserable life is that, Jack, and how do I know but you may be as bad to me! How do I know but you, like them, may get drunk every night, and beat me black and blue before morning! I do assure you, Jack, if I thought that would be the case, I would scrub floors and scour saucepans as long as I live. But possibly you may not be so bad, for there is Will Copper, the brazer, and Jack the ass man, who are both home bringing husbands, and have every day a hot joint of meat and a pot of beer. I know not yet what I shall do; but as I like a walk to Hornsey, I will

I will meet you at the Shepherd and Shepherdess on Sunday after dinner, and then we will talk more of the matter.

I am, dear Jack,

Your most humble servant.

From a respectful Lover to his Mistress.

Dear Madam,

I HAVE long struggled with the most honourable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man: I have often tried to reveal it personally; as often in this way, but never, till now, could prevail upon my fears and doubts. But I cannot longer struggle with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet, hitherto, more than I have endeavoured to reveal it. I never entertain the hope to see you, without rapture: but, when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated as I ought, I am utterly confounded. What can this be owing to, but a diffidence in myself, and an exalted opinion of your worthiness? And is not this one strong token of ardent love? Yet if it be, how various is the tormenting passion of its operations? Since some it inspires with courage, whilst others it deprives of all necessary confidence. I can only assure you, madam, that the heart of ~~no~~ never conceived a stronger, or sincerer, passion than mine for you. If my reverence for you is the crime, I am sure it has been my sufficient punishment. I need not say my designs and motives are honourable: who dare approach so much virtuous excellence, with a supposition that such an assurance is necessary? ~~When I am ready to stand the trial of the~~ ~~fact of my duty.~~ Condescend, madam, to embolden my respectful passion, with one favourable line;

ne; that if what I here profess, and hope further
to have an opportunity to assure you of, be found
to be unquestionable truth, then my humble ad-
dress will not quite be unacceptable to you; and
thus you will for ever oblige dear Madám,

Your affectionate admirer,
and devoted Servant.

The answer.

Sir,

If modesty be the greatest glory of our sex, surely
it cannot be blame worthy in yours. For my
own part, I must think it the most amiable quality
either man or woman can possess. Nor can there
be, in my opinion, a true respect, where there is
not a diffidence of one's own merit, and an high
opinion of the person's we esteem

To say more on this occasion, would little be-
come me: to say less, would look as if I knew not
how to pay that regard to modest merit, which mo-
dest merit only deserves.

You, Sir, best know your own heart; and if you
are sincere and generous, will receive as you ought
his frankness from,

Your humble Servant.

*From a young Tradesman, lately entered into Business,
to his Father, asking his consent to Marry.*

Honoured Sir,

YOU know that it is now above a year since I
entered into business for myself, and finding
it daily increasing, I am obliged to look out for an
agreeable partner, I mean a wife: there is a very
worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom
I have been some time acquainted. They are in
good circumstances, and have a daughter-an amia-
ble

ble young woman, greatly esteemed by all who know her; I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained the parents' consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent; but I hope that, upon the strictest enquiry, you will find her such a person, that you will not have any objection to a match so advantageous. I, on every occasion, endeavour to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you was pleased to prescribe for my conduct. The parents are to pay me five hundred pounds on the day of marriage, if the event should happen to take place, and as they have no other children, they whole of their property becomes ours at their death. In what ever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer in the mean time is impatiently expected,

By your dutiful son.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Son,

I RECEIVED your letter, and my reason for not sending sooner is, that it being an affair of great importance, I was willing to proceed therein with the utmost caution. I wrote to Mr. Johnson, my attorney in New Inn, desiring him to enquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with; and I am glad to hear his account does not differ from your own. I hope you do not think that I would desire to see you one moment unhappy. Your reasons for entering into the marriage state are every way satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that the person on whom you have placed your affections is so deserving. When you have fixed the wedding day, I will come to London to be present at the ceremony.

ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend your business with the same diligence you have hitherto done, and if you should live to an old age, you will then be able to retire from trade with honour, both to yourself and family.

I am, dear son, your affectionate father.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents, desiring their Consent to marry.

Honoured Father and Mother,

I Have sent this to inform you, that one Mr. Wood, a young man, a cabinet-maker, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage: I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore have sent this by William Jones, your neighbour, who called on me, and will inform you particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been set up in business about two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but do not choose to give him any promise until I have first heard from you: whatever answer you send shall be obeyed by,

Your affectionate daughter.

The Parents' answer.

Dear Child,

WE received your letter by Mr. Jones, and the character he gives of the young man is so agreeable, that we have no objection to your marrying him: begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state, before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each other, you must be either

ther happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life in which the best of men's tempers may be ruff'd, on account of loss or disappointments; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping; and never affect to appear superior to your station; for although your circumstance may be easy, yet, while in trade you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbours may despise you for a while, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge, that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all remember your duty to God, and then you may cheerfully look for a blessing on your honest endeavours. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of
Your loving father and mother.

From a Lady, after Marriage, to her Cousin, unmarried.

Dear Cousin,

I Have now changed my name, and instead of liberty, must subscribe wife. What an aukward expression, say some? How pleasing, say others. But let that be as it may, I have been married to my dear Charles these three months, and I can freely acknowledge that I never knew happiness till now. To have a real friend to whom I can communicate my secrets, and who, on all occasions is ready to sympathize with me, is what I never before experienced. All these benefits, my dear cousin, I have met with in my beloved husband. His principal care seems to be to do every thing possible to please me: and is there not something called du-

y incumbent on me : Perhaps you will laugh at the
 word duty, and say that it imports something like
 slavery ; but nothing is more false ; for even the
 life of a servant is as pleasant as any other's. when
 he obeys from motives of love instead of fear. For
 my own part, my dear, I cannot say that I am un-
 willing to be obedient, and yet I am not command-
 ed to be so by my husband. You have often spok-
 en contemptuously of the marriage state, and I be-
 lieve your reasons were, that most of those whom you
 knew were unhappy : but this is an erroneous way
 of judging. It was designed by the Almighty that
 men and women should live together in a state of
 society, that they should become mutual helps to
 each other ; and if they are blessed with children,
 to assist each other in giving them a virtuous edu-
 cation. Let me therefore beg that my dear cousin
 will no longer despise that state for which she was
 designed, and which is calculated to make her hap-
 py. But then, my dear, there is two sorts of men
 you must studiously avoid, I mean *Misers* and *Rakes*.
 The first will take every opportunity of abridging
 your necessary expences, and the second will leave
 you nothing for a subsistence. The first, by his pe-
 nuriousness, will cause you to suffer from imagin-
 ary wants : the second, by his prodigality, will make
 you a real beggar. But your own good sense will
 point out the propriety of what I have mentioned.
 Let me beg that you will come and spend a few
 weeks with us ; and if you have any taste for rural
 and domestic life, I doubt not but you will be
 pleased.

I am, your affectionate Cousin,

Congratulating a Person upon his Marriage.

Sir,

THE news I received of the happy change of your condition, did not a little revive me from the melancholy, that is too much accustomed to oppress my spirits, especially upon the knowledge of the happy election you have made of one whose discretion, parentage, and good education, must be suitable to your humour. In which satisfaction, as a true friend, I am not wanting to participate in civility, being very much pleased that you have now divided the power which you had obtained over my affections, honouring your second self, with that equality of respect, that was heretofore entirely your own: for certain it is, that your good and ill fortunes stand with me in an equal balance; in which, as a true friend, actually or reciprocally, I must interest myself, being persuaded you will make no more doubt of it, than of the passion I have to serve you in the quality of,

SIR,

Yours and your Lady's
very humble Servant,

J. R.

PART III.

ON BUSINESS AND THE DEATH OF RELATIVES.

From a Country Chapman beginning Trade, to a City Dealer; offering his Correspondence.

Sir,

THE time of my apprenticeship with Mr. Walker of this town being expired I am just going to begin for myself in Preston, having taken a shop there for that purpose. And as I know the satisfaction

in you always gave to my master in your dealings; make an offer to you of my correspondence, in expectation that you will use me as well as you have done him, in whatever I may write to you for. And this I rather expect, as you cannot disoblige Mr. Walker by it, because of the distance I shall be from him; and I shall endeavour to give you equal content with regard to my payments, &c. Your speedy answer, whether or not you are disposed to accept of my offer, will oblige,

Your humble servant.

In answer to the foregoing.

Sir,

Have received yours of October 20th, and very cheerfully accept the favour you offer me. I will take care to serve you in the best manner I am able, and on the same footing with Mr. Walker, not doubting you will make as punctual returns as he does, which entitles him to a more favourable usage than could otherwise be afforded. I wish you success with all my heart, and am,

Your obliged servant.

An order for Goods, covering a remittance.

Sir,

Receive inclosed, a Bill value Twenty Pounds six shillings ster. in full of my accompt to this date. Please send per first Vessel for this place, 2 chests Congoa Tea at 4s 6d. per lb 4 cwt. Raw Sugar, at about 90s. and a puncheon Molasses, which place to acct of,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

In answer—Following the Invoice.

Sir,

YOUR favour of the 4th current, came duly
 hand, covering a Bill, value Iwenty Pound
 six Shillings ster. which is placed to your credit
 full, and for which I thank you. Above, you have
 Invoice of goods agreeable to order, sent to the
 Wharf, to go by the Eliza, Capt Watson. Hoping
 they will arrive safe and yield satisfaction, and waiting
 your future orders,

I am, Sir,

Your obliged servant.

An offer of assistance to a Friend, who has received great losses by a Person's Failure.

Dear Sir,

I Am exceedingly concerned at the great loss you
 have lately sustained by the failure of Mr. Potter.
 I hope you behave under it like the man of prudence
 you have always shown yourself, and as one who
 knows how liable all men are to misfortunes. As
 I am really desirous of giving you consolation,
 I cheerfully offer my service to answer any present
 demand, and you are at liberty to draw upon me
 to the amount of 200l. which you may have the use
 of for a twelvemonth or more, if your affairs require
 it. In accepting of which you will give great
 pleasure to

Your sincere Friend.

The Friend's answer, on accepting the generous Offer.

My Dear Friend,

I AM at a loss to find words to express the grateful
 sense I have of this instance of true generous
 friendship. My loss indeed is heavy; but I find
 that so kind a friend is capable of making it light.
 I thank

Thankfully accept of a part of your generous offer, I am ready to give you my bond for 100l. pay-
in a year. This sum is all I shall have occasion
; and if I did not know I could then return it, I
ould not accept of your favour.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most faithful,

and obliged humble servant.

*a Country Correspondent, requesting a Balance of
accmpts.*

Sir,
FIND myself unavoidably obliged, by a present
exigence, to desire the favour of your balancing
accmpt between us. For, though matters
ve run into some length, I would not have ap-
ed to you, had I known how to answer my pre-
t occasions so well any other way. If it does not
you, Sir, to pay the whole, I beg you will re-
me as much towards it as you can, without
judice to your own affairs, which will greatly
ge,

SIR,

Your humble Servant.

The answer.

Sir,
AM very glad it is in my power to send you im-
mediately the inclosed draught for L. 100, on
accmpt between us, and will, in a few days,
ait the balance of your whole demand, which
be accompanied with a fresh order.

I am very sincerely,

Your most humble Servant.

To a Young Gentleman on the Death of his Father

Dear Sir,

I KNOW no part of life more impertinent than the office of administering consolation: I will not enter upon it, for I cannot but applaud your grief. The virtuous principles you had for the excellent man whom you have lost, have wrought in you as they ought, to make a youth of three or twenty incapable of comfort, upon coming into the possession of a great fortune. I doubt not but you will honour his memory by a modest enjoyment of his estate; and scorn to triumph over his grave by employing in riot, excess, and debauchery what he purchased with so much industry, prudence, and wisdom. This is the true way to shake the sense you have of your loss, and to take away the distress of others upon the occasion. You cannot recal your father by grief, but you may revive him to your friends by your conduct. I am, &c

*From a Gentleman, whose Wife was lately dead, &c
Clergyman in the Neighbourhood.*

Reverend Sir,

YOU have often, both in public and private, enlarged on those comforts and consolations which Christianity affords to the afflicted; and if ever they were necessary to one under those circumstances they must be to myself. About seven, last night my wife died in child-bed, and I am left the desolate parent of five young children. Had I seen the excruciating tortures under which she pined, it would have reminded you of the emptiness of that curse pronounced upon our first parents for their rebellion against God. When she saw the kingdom of terrors approach, she was all resignation to the divine will, and left this lower world in

the manner, and with the same cheerful alacrity, if she had been going to visit a friend, or attend service of her Maker. Overwhelmed with grief, I entered her chamber, when she exerted the full remains of strength, and spoke to me as follows:

My dear,
I am now going the way of all flesh, but God, everlasting God, will be your comfort. When I first became your's I looked for all the happiness consistent with the state of human nature in this vale of tears; and I must confess my highest wishes have been gratified, and your tenderness has been more than I could expect. You may have some faults in my conduct, but I do assure you (and this a time to dissemble) they were altogether voluntary. My principal study was to obtain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God have been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer. Here she fainted——looked wishfully at me, and shed a tear over her dear children, who were crying by her bed——she attempted to speak, but in vain. At last, fixing her eyes towards heaven, she repeated those beautiful words, “Into thy hands I commit my soul, for thou hast redeemed me, O thou God of my salvation,” and then closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk for some time in the deepest distress, looking on the dear departed remains of my beloved spouse, and endeavouring to comfort myself, by persuasion, the cries of her orphan children. At last I recollected that I had still a friend left to me, to whom I might, with a view of consolation, open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may hinder you from visiting me,

me, and if so, let me beg that you will in the meantime; favour me with a few lines. At present every sort of consolation will be acceptable, but whatever comes from you will be doubly so. I know not what to write; excuse incoherence and impropriety from one whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.

I am, &c.

SUPERSCRPTIONS AND ADDRESSES FOR LETTERS

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty—*Sire, or Majesty, it please your Majesty.*

To his Grace the Duke of B.—*My Lord Duke, May it please your Grace, or Your Grace.*

To the most Noble, the Marquis of H.—*My Lord Marquis, your Lordship.*

To the Right Hon. the Earl of H.—*My Lord, your Lordship.*

To Sir James H.—*Bart. Hon. Sir.*

To the Hon. Col. P. or the Hon. Admiral W.—*Hon. Sir.*

To Major or Capt. or Lieut. or Ensign P.—*Sir.*

To the Reverend Mr. J. H.—*Reverend Sir.*

To J. C. Esq.—*Sir.*

To Mr. J. H.—*Sir.*

F I N I S.