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Silva or, a Discourse of Forest-Trees and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesty's Dominions...together with an historical account of the Sacredness and Use of Standing Groves

Evelyn, John

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To the reader.

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T O T H E
R E A D E R.



AFTER what the Frontispiece and Porch of this Wooden Edifice presents you, I shall need no farther to repeat the Occasion of this following Discourse: I am only to acquaint you, That as it was delivered to the Royal Society by an unworthy Member thereof, in Obedience to their Commands; by the same it is now re-publish'd without any farther Prospect: And the Reader is to know, that if these dry Sticks afford him any Sap, it is one of the least and meanest of those Pieces which are every Day produc'd by that Illustrious Assembly, and which enrich their Collections, as so many Monuments of their accurate Experiments, and publick Endeavours, in order to the Production of real and useful Theories, the Propagation and Improvement of Natural Science, and the Honour of their Institution. If to this there be any Thing subjoined here, which may a while bespeak the Patience of the Reader, it is only for the Encouragement of an Industry, and worthy Labour, much in our Days neglected, as haply reputed a Consideration of too sordid and vulgar a Nature for Noble Persons and Gentlemen to busy themselves withal, and who oftner find out Occasions to Fell-down and Destroy their Woods and Plantations, than either to Repair or Improve them.

BUT we are not without Hopes of taking off these Prejudices, and of reconciling them to a Subject and an Industry which has been consecrated (as I may say) by as good, and as great Persons, as any the World has produced; and whose Names we find mingled amongst Kings and Philosophers, grave Senators and Patriots of their Country: For such of Old were Solomon, Cyrus, and Numa, Licinius, surnamed Stolo, Cato, and Cincinnatus; the Piso's, Fabii, Cicero, the Plinies, and thousands more whom I might enumerate, that disdained not to cultivate these Rusticities even with their own Hands, and to esteem it no small Accession to dignify their Titles, and adorn their Purple
a with

with these rural Characters of their Affections to Planting, and Love of this Part of Agriculture, which has transmitted to us their venerable Names through so many Ages and Vicissitudes of the World.

*See Petrarch
de Remed.
utriusque for-
tunæ, Lib. i.
Dial. 57.*

THAT famous Answer alone which the Persian Monarch gave to Lyfander, will sufficiently justify that which I have said, besides what we might add out of the Writings and Examples of the rest: But since these may suffice, after due Reproofs of the late impolitick Waste, and universal Sloth amongst us; we should now turn our Indignation into Prayers, and address ourselves to our better-natur'd Countrymen; that such Woods as do yet remain entire, might be carefully preserved, and such as are destroy'd, sedulously repaired: It is what all Persons who are Owners of Land may contribute to, and with infinite Delight, as well as Profit, who are touch'd with that laudable Ambition of imitating their Illustrious Ancestors, and of worthily serving their Generation. To these my earnest and humble Advice should be, That at their very first Coming to their Estates, and as soon as they get Children, they would seriously think of this Work of Propagation also: For I observe there is no Part of Husbandry, which Men commonly more fail in, neglect, and have Cause to repent of, than that they did not begin Planting betimes, without which, they can expect neither Fruit, Ornament, or Delight from their Labours. Men seldom plant Trees till they begin to be Wise, that is, till they grow Old, and find by Experience the Prudence and Necessity of it. When Ulysses, after a ten Years Absence, was return'd from Troy, and coming home, found his aged Father in the Field planting of Trees, he asked him, Why (being now so far advanc'd in Years) he would put himself to the Fatigue and Labour of Planting that which he was never likely to enjoy the Fruits of? The good old Man (taking him for a Stranger) gently reply'd; I plant (says he) against my Son Ulysses comes home. The Application is obvious and instructive for both Old and Young: And we have a more modern Instance, almost alike that of the good old Laertes. Here then upon the Complaint of learned Persons and great Travellers, deploring the Loss of many rare and precious Things, Trees and Plants, especially instancing the Balsam Tree of Gilead (now almost, if not altogether failing, and no more to be found where it grew in great Plenty) He applies himself to young Eperous, to consider it seriously, and to fall a planting while Time is before them, with this encouraging Exclamation. Agite, ô Adolescentes, & antequam canicies vobis obrepit, stirpes jam alueritis, quæ vobis cum insigni utilitate, delectationem etiam adferent: Nam quemadmodum canicies temporis successu, vobis infciis, sensim obrepit: Sic natura vobis inserviens educabit quod telluri

telluri vestrae concredetis, modò prima initia illi dederitis, &c. *Pet. Bellonius De neglecta stirpium Cultura. Problema ix.*

MY next Advice is, that they do not easily commit themselves to the Dictates of their ignorant Hinds and Servants, who are (generally speaking) more fit to Learn than to Instruct. Male agitur cum Domino quem Villicus docet, was an Observation of old Cato's; and 'twas Ischomachus who told Socrates (discoursing one Day upon a like Subject) That it was far easier to Make than to Find a good Husbandman: I have often prov'd it so in Gardeners; and I believe it will hold in most of our Country Employments: Country People universally know that all Trees consist of Roots, Stems, Boughs, Leaves, &c. but can give no Account of the Species, Vertues, or farther Culture, besides the making of a Pit or Hole; casting and treading in the Earth, &c. which require a deeper Search than they are capable of: We are then to exact Labour, not Conduct and Reason, from the greatest Part of them; and the Business of Planting is an Art or Science (for so Varro has solemnly defined it) and that exceedingly wide of Truth, which (it seems) many in his Time accounted of it; Facillimam esse, nec ullius acuminis Rusticationem, namely, That it was an easy and insipid Study. It was the simple Culture only, with so much Difficulty retrieved from the late Confusion of an intestine and bloody War, like that of Ours, and now put in Reputation again, which made the Noble Poet write,

Vide & Cur-
tium, Lib. vii,
&c.

De R. R.

How hard it was
Low Subjects with illustrious Words to grace!

Verbis ea vincere magnum
Quam sit, & angustis hunc addere rebus honorem!
Georg. iii.

*Seeing, as the Orator does himself express it, Nihil est homine li- In agris erant
hero dignius; there is nothing more becoming and worthy of a tunc Senato-
Gentleman, no, not the Majesty of a * Consul. In antient and best res. Cic. de
Times, Men were not honour'd and esteem'd for the only Learned, Senect.
who were great Linguists, profound Criticks, Readers and Devou- * Silvæ sunt
rers of Books; but such whose Studies consisted of the Dis- Consule dig-
courses, Documents and Observations of their Fore-Fathers, an- na. See this
tient and venerable Persons; who (as the excellent Author of the of the Poet
Rites of the Israelites, Cap. xv, &c. acquaints us) were obliged interpreted,
to instruct and inform their Children of the wonderful Things Scaliger, L. i.
God had done for their Ancestors; together with the Precepts c. i. Poet.
of the Moral Law, Feasts, and Religious Ceremonies: But taught P. Nennius,
them likewise all that concerned Agriculture, joined with Sueton. Jul.
of perpetual Practise, in which they were, doubtless, exceedingly in Lipsium
knowing; whilst during so many Ages, they employed themselves Tacit. iv.
almost continually in it: And though now a-days this Noble Art Annal. 27.
be for the most part left to be exercised amongst us by People of concerning the
grosser and unthinking Souls; yet there is no Science whatever Quæstors Of-
which*

which contains a vaster Compass of Knowledge, infinitely more useful and beneficial to Mankind, than the fruitless and empty Notions of the greatest Part of Speculatists; counted to be the only Eruditi and Learned Men. An Israelite, who from Tradition of his Fore-fathers, his own Experience, and some modern Reading, had informed himself of the Religion and Laws which were to regulate his Life; and knew how to procure Things necessary: Who perfectly understood the several Qualities of the Earth, Plants, and Places agreeable to each Sort, and to cultivate, propagate, defend them from Accidents, and bring them to Maturity: That also was skill'd in the Nature of Cattle, their Food, Diseases, Remedies, &c. which those who amongst us pass for the most learned and accomplished Gentlemen and Scholars, are, for the most part, grossly ignorant of, look upon as base, rustick, and Things below them, is (in this Learned Author's Opinion) infinitely more to be valued than a Man brought up either in wrangling at the Bar, or the noisy and ridiculous Disputes of our Schools, &c. To this Sense the Learned Modena: And 'tis remarkable, that after all that wise Solomon had said, that All was Vanity and Vexation of Spirit (among so many Particulars he reckons up) he should be altogether silent, and say nothing concerning Husbandry; as, doubtless, considering it the most useful, innocent, and laudable Employment of our Life, requiring those who cultivate the Ground to live in the Country, remote from City-Luxury, and the Temptation to the Vices he condemns. It was indeed a plain Man (a Potter by Trade) but let no Body despise him, because a Potter (Agathocles, and a King was of that Craft) who, in my Opinion, has given us the true Reason why Husbandry, and particularly Planting, is no more improved in this Age of ours; especially, where Persons are Lords and Owners of much Land: The Truth is, says he, when Men have acquired any considerable Fortune by their good Husbandry and Experience (forgetting that the greatest Patriarchs, Princes, their Sons and Daughters, belonged to the Plough, and the Flock) they account it a Shame to breed up their Children in the same Calling which they themselves were educated in, but presently design them Gentlemen: They must, forsooth, have a Coat of Arms, and live upon their Estates; so as by the Time his Son's Beard is grown, he begins to be ashamed of his Father, and would be ready to defy him, that should upon any Occasion mind him of his honest Extraction: And if it chance that the good Man have other Children to provide for, This must be the Darling, be bred at School, and the University, whilst the rest must to Cart and Plow with the Father, &c. This is the Cause, says my Author, that our Lands are so ill cultivated and neglected. Every Body will subsist upon their own Revenue, and take their Pleasure,

Palissy, le
Moyen de de-
venir Riche.

TO THE READER.

Pleasure, whilst they resign their Estates to be managed by the most Ignorant (which are the Children whom they leave at home, or the Hinds to whom they commit them) When as in Truth, and in Reason, the more Learning, the better Philosophers, and the greater Abilities they possess, the more, and the better are they qualified to Cultivate and Improve their Estates: Methinks this is well and rationally argued.

AND now you have in part what I had to produce in Extenuation of this Adventure; that Animated with a Command, and Assisted by divers worthy Persons (whose Names I am prone to celebrate with all just Respects) I have presumed to cast in my Symbol; which, with the rest that are to follow, may (I hope) be in some Degree serviceable to him (whoe'er the happy Person be) that shall oblige the World with that compleat System of Agriculture, which as yet seems a Desideratum, and wanting to its full Perfection. It is (I assure you) what is one of the Principal Designs of the ROYAL SOCIETY, not in this Particular only, but through all the Liberal and more useful Arts; and for which (in the Estimation of all equal Judges) it will merit the greatest of Encouragements; that so, at last, what the Learned Columella has wittily reproached, and complained of, as a Defect in that Age of his, concerning Agriculture in general, and is applicable here, may attain its desired Remedy and Consummation in This of Ours.

SOLA enim Res Rustica, quæ sine dubitatione proxima, & quasi consanguinea Sapientia est, tam discentibus eget, quam magistris: Adhuc enim Scholas Rhetorum, & Geometrarum, Musicorumque, vel quod magis mirandum est, contemptissimorum vitiorum officinas, gulosius condiendi cibos, & luxuriosius fercula struendi, capitumque & capillorum concinnatores, non solum esse audivi, sed & ipse vidi; Agricolationis neque Doctores qui se profiterentur, neque Discipulos cognovi. *But this I leave for our Peruk'd Gallants to interpret, and should now apply myself to the Directive Part, which I am all this while bespeaking, if after what I have said in the several Paragraphs of the ensuing Discourse upon the Argument of Wood (and which in this Edition coming Abroad with innumerable Improvements and Advantages (so furnished, as I hope shall neither reproach the Author, or repent the Reader) it might not seem superfluous to have premised any Thing here for the Encouragement of so becoming an Industry. There are divers Learned, and judicious Men who have preceeded Me in this Argument; as many, at least, as have undertaken to Write and Compile vast Herbals, and Theatres of Plants; of which we have some of our own Countrymen (especially the most Industrious and Learned Mr. Ray) who have (boldly I dare affirm it) surpassed any, if not all the Foreigners that*

Prefat. ad P. Silvium; which I earnestly recommend to the serious Perusal of our Gentry.

Et mihi ad sapientis vitam proximè videtur accedere. Cic. de Senectute.

are extant : In Those it is you meet with the Description of the several Plants, by Discourses, Figures, Names, Places of Growth, Time of Flourishing, and their Medicinal Virtues; which may supply any Deficiency of mine as to those Particulars; if forbearing the Repetition, it should by any be imputed for a Defect, though it were indeed none of my Design: I say, these things are long since performed to our hands: But there is none of these (that I at least know of, and are come to my Perusal) who have taken any considerable Pains how to Direct and Encourage us in the Culture of Forest-Trees (the grand Defect of this Nation) besides some small Sprinklings to be met withal in Gervas Markham, old Tuffer; and of Foreigners, the Country-Farm long since translated out of French, and by no means suitable to our Clime and Country: Neither have any of these proceeded after my Method, and so particularly, in Raising, Planting, Dressing, and Governing, &c. or so sedulously made it their Business, to specify the Mechanical Uses of the several Kinds, as I have done, which was hitherto a great Desideratum, and in which the Reader will likewise find some things altogether New and Instructive; and both Directions and Encouragements for the Propagation of some Foreign Curiosities of Ornament and Use, which were hitherto neglected. If I have upon occasion presumed to say any thing concerning their Medicinal Properties, it has been modestly and frugally, and with chief, if not only, respect to the poor Wood-man, whom none I presume will envy, that living far from the Physician, he should, in case of Necessity, consult the Reverend Druid, his * Oaks, and his Elm, Birch, or Elder, for a short Breath, a green Wound, or a sore Leg; Casualties incident to this hard Labour. These are the chief Particulars of this ensuing Work, and what it pretends hitherto of Singular, in which let me be permitted to say, there is sufficient for Instruction, and more than is extant in any Collection whatsoever (absit verbo invidia) in this Way and upon this Subject; abstracting things practicable, of solid Use, and material, from the Ostentation and Impertinencies of divers Writers, who receiving all that came to hand on trust, to swell their monstrous Volumes, have hitherto imposed upon the credulous World, without Conscience or Honesty. I will not exasperate the Adorers of our antient and late Naturalists, by repeating of what our Verulam has justly pronounced concerning their Rhapsodies (because I likewise honour their painful Endeavours, and am obliged to them for much of that I know) nor will I (with some) reproach Pliny, Porta, Cardan, Mizaldus, Cursius, and many others of great Names (whose Writings I have diligently consulted) for the Knowledge they have imparted to me on this Occasion; but I must deplore the Time which is (for the most part) so miserably lost in pursuit of their Speculations, where they treat upon this Argument: But the World is now advised, and (blessed be God!) infinitely

* Nè Silvæ
quidem, hor-
ridiorque na-
turae facies
Medicinis ca-
rent, Sacra
illa parente
rerum om-
nium, nul-
quam non
remedia dis-
ponente ho-
mini ut Me-
dicina, fieret
etiam solitu-
do ipsa, &c.
Hinc nata
Medicina, &c.
Hæc sola na-
turae placuerat
esse remedia
parata vulgo,
inventu faci-
lia, ac sine
impendio, ex
quibus vivi-
mus, &c. Plin.
Lib. xxiv. c. i.

infinitely redeemed from that base and servile Submission of our noblest Faculties to their blind Traditions. This, you will be apt to say, is a haughty Period; but whilst I affirm it of the Past, it justifies, and does Honour to the Present Industry of our Age, and of which there cannot be a greater and more emulous Instance, than the Passion of his Majesty to encourage his Subjects, and of the Royal Society (his Majesty's Foundation) who receive and promote his Dictates, in all that is laudable and truly emolumental of this Nature.

IT is not therefore that I here presume to instruct Him in the Management of that great and august Enterprize of resolving to Plant and repair his ample Forests, and other Magazines of Timber, for the Benefit of his Royal Navy, and the Glory of his Kingdoms; but to present to his Sacred Majesty, and to the World, what Advices I have received from others, observed myself, and most industriously collected from a studious Propensity to serve as one of the least Intelligences in the ampler Orb of our Illustrious Society, and in a Work so necessary and important.

AND now since I mention'd the Society, give me leave (worthy Reader) as a Member of that Body, which has been the chief Promoter of this ensuing Work, and (as I stand obliged) to vindicate that Assembly, and consequently the Honour of his Majesty and the Nation, in a Particular which concerns it, though (in appearance) a little foreign to the present Subject.

I will not say, that all which I have written in the several Paragraphs of this Treatise, is New; but that there are very many new and useful Things, and Observations (without insisting on the Methods only) not hitherto delivered by any Author, and so freely communicated, I hope will sufficiently appear: It is not therefore in behalf of any Particular which concerns myself, that I have been induced to enlarge this Preface; but, by taking this Occasion, to encounter the unsufferable Boldness or Ambition of some Persons (as well Strangers as others) arrogating to themselves the being Inventors of divers new and useful Experiments, justly attributable to several Members of the Royal Society †.

SO far has that Assembly been from affecting Glory, that they seem rather to have declined their Due; not as ashamed of so

† Consult
Hist. Roy. Soc.
and their Re-
gisters.
The Laws
of Motion,

and the Geometrical Streightning of Curve-Lines were first found out by Sir Christopher Wren and Mr. Thomas Neile.

The equated isochrone Motion of the Weight of a Circular Pendulum in a Paraboloid, for the regulating of Clocks, and the improving Pocket-Watches by Springs apply'd to the Ballance, were first invented and demonstrated to this Society by Dr. Hooke; together with all those new and useful Instruments, Contrivances, and Experiments, Mathematical and Physical, publish'd in his Posthumous Works by the most accomplish'd Mr. Waller, Secretary to the Royal Society: And since those, the incomparably Learned Sir Isaac Newton, now President of the Royal Society; Mr. Halley, the worthy Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford; Dr. Grew; and several more, whose Works and useful Inventions sufficiently celebrate their Merits: I did mention the Barometer, to which might be added the prodigious Effects of the Speculum Ustorium, surpassing what the French pretend to, as confidently, or rather audaciously, they do, and to other admirable Inventions, injuriously arrogated by Strangers, tho' due of right to Englishmen, and Members of this Society; but 'tis not the Business of this Preface to enumerate all, tho' 'twas necessary to touch on some Instances.

numerous and fair an Off-spring; but as abundantly satisfied, that after all the hard Measure, and virulent Reproaches they had sustain'd, for endeavouring by united Attempts, and at their own Charges, to improve Real Philosophy; they had, from Time to Time, cultivated that Province in so many useful and profitable Instances, as are already published to the World, and will be easily asserted to their Authors before all equitable Judges.

THIS being the sole Inducement of publishing this Apology, it may not perhaps seem unseasonable to disabuse some (otherwise) well-meaning People, who led away and perverted by the Noise of a few Ignorant and Comical Buffoons (whose Malevolence or Impertinencies entitle them to nothing that is truly Great and Venerable) are, with an Insolence suitable to their Understanding, still crying out, and asking, What have the Society done?

NOW, as nothing less than Miracles (and unless God should every Day repeat them at the Call of these Extravagants) will convince some Persons of the most Rational and Divine Truths (already so often and extraordinarily established) so, nor will any thing satisfy these unreasonable Men, but the Production of the Philosopher's-Stone, and Great Elixir; which yet were they Possessors of, they would consume upon their Luxury and Vanity.

IT is not therefore to gratify these magnificent Fops, whose Talents reach but to the adjusting of their Perukes, courting a Miss, or, at the farthest, writing a smutty or scurrilous Libel (which they would have to pass for genuine Wit) that I concern myself in these Papers; but, as well in Honour of our Royal Founder, as the Nation, to assert what of other Countries has been surreptitiously arrogated, and by which they not only value themselves abroad, but (prevailing on the Modesty of that Industrious Assembly) seek the Deference of those, who whilst it remains still silent, do not so clearly discern this glorious Plumage to be purely ascitious, and not a Feather of their own. — But still, What have they done?

THOSE who perfectly comprehend the Scope and End of that Noble Institution, which is to improve Natural Knowledge, and enlarge the Empire of Operative Philosophy, not by an Abolition of the Old, but by the Real Effects of the Experimental; Collecting, Examining, and Improving their scatter'd Phenomena, to establish even the Received Methods and Principles of the Schools (as far as were consistent with Truth and Matter of Fact) thought it long enough, that the World had been imposed upon by that National and Formal Way of delivering divers Systems and Bodies of Philosophy (falsly so call'd) beyond which there was no more Country to discover; which being brought to the Test and Trial, vapours all away in Fume and empty Sound.

THIS

T O T H E R E A D E R .

ix

THIS Structure then being thus ruinous and crazy, 'tis obvious what they were to do, even the same which skilful Architects do every Day before us; by pulling down the decayed and sinking Wall to erect a better, and more substantial in its place: They not only take down the old, reject the useles and decayed; but sever such Materials as are solid, and will serve again; bring new ones in, prepare and frame a Model suitable to so magnificent a Design: This Solomon did in order to the Building of the Material Temple; and this is here to be pursued in the Intellectual: Nay, here was abundance of Rubbish to be clear'd, that the Area might be free; and then was the Foundation to be deeply searched, the Materials accurately examined, squared, and adjusted, before it could be laid: Nor was this the Labour of a Few; less than a much longer Time, more Cost and Encouragement than any which the Society has yet met withal, could in reason be sufficient effectually to go through so chargeable a Work, and highly necessary.

A long Time it was they had been surveying the Decays of what was ready now to drop in pieces, whatever Shew the Outside made with a Noise of Elements and Qualities, occult and evident; Abhorrence of Vacuum, Sympathies, Antipathies; substantial Forms, and prime Matter courting Form; Epicycles, Ptolemean Hypotheses, magisterial Definitions, peremptory Maxims, speculative and positive Doctrines, and Alti-sonant Phrases, with a thousand other precarious and unintelligible Notions, &c. all which they have been turning over, to see if they could find any Thing of sincere and useful among this pedantick Rubbish, but all in vain; here was nothing material, nothing of Moment mathematical, or mechanical, and which had not been miserably sophisticated, on which to lay the Stress; nothing in a manner whereby any farther Progress could be made, for the raising and ennobling the Dignity of Mankind in the sublimest Operations of the Rational Faculty, by clearing the Obscurities, and healing the Defects of most of the Physiological Hypotheses, repugnant, as they hitherto seemed to be, to the Principles of real Knowledge and Experience.

NOW, although it neither were their Hopes, or in their Prospect to consummate a Design requiring so mighty Aids (environ'd as they have been with these Prejudices) yet have they not at all desisted from the Enterprize; but rather than so Noble and Illustrious an Undertaking should not proceed for want of some generous and industrious Spirits to promote the Work, they have themselves submitted to those mean Employments, of digging in the very Quarry; yea, even of making Brick where there was no Straw, but what they gleaned, and lay dispersed up

c

and

and down : Nor did they think their Pains yet ill-bestow'd, if through the assiduous Labour, and a Train of continual Experiments, they might at last furnish, and leave solid and uncorrupt Materials to a succeeding, and more grateful Age, for the building up a Body of real and substantial Philosophy, which should never succumb to Time, but with the Ruins of Nature, and the World itself.

I N order to this, how many, and almost innumerable have been their Trials and Experiments, through the large and ample Field both of Art and Nature? We call our Journals, Registers, Correspondence, and Transactions, to witness; and may with Modesty provoke all our Systematical Methodists, Natural Historics, and Pretenders hitherto extant from the Beginning of Letters to this Period, to shew us so ample, so worthy, and so useful a Collection. 'Tis a Fatality and an Injury to be deplored, that those who give us hard Words, will not first vouchsafe impartially to examine these Particulars; since all ingenuous Spirits could not but be abundantly satisfied, that this Illustrious Assembly has not met so many Years purely for Speculation only; though I take even that to be no ignoble Culture of the Mind, or Time mispent, for Persons who have so few Friends and slender Obligations to those who should patronize and encourage them: But they have aimed at greater Things, and greater Things produced, namely, by emancipating, and freeing themselves from the Tyranny of Opinion, delusory and fallacious Shews, to receive nothing upon Trust, but bring it to the Lydian Touch, make it pass the Fire, the Anvil, and the File, till it come forth perfectly repurged, and of Consistence. They are not hasty in concluding from a single, or incompetent Number of Experiments, to pronounce the Ecstatic Heureka, and offer Hecatombs; but, after the most diligent Scrutiny, and by degrees, and wary Inductions honestly and faithfully made, to record the Truth, and Event of Trials, and transmit them to Posterity. They resort not immediately to general Propositions, upon every specious Appearance; but stay for Light, and Information from Particulars, and make Report de Facto, and as Sense informs them. They reject no Sect of Philosophers, no methanick Helps, except no Persons of Men; but chearfully embracing all, cull out of all, and alone retain what abides the Test; that from a plentiful and well-furnish'd Magazine of true Experiments, they may in time advance to solemn and established Axioms, General Rules and Maxims; and a Structure may indeed lift up its Head, such as may stand the Shock of Time, and render a solid Account of the Phænomena, and Effects of Nature, the aspectable Works of God, and their Combinations; so as by Causes and Effects, certain

tain and useful Consequences may be deduced. Therefore they do not fill their Papers with Transcripts out of Rhapsodists, Mountebanks, and Compilers of Receipts and Secrets, to the Loss of Oil and Labour; but, as it were, eviscerating Nature, disclosing the Refforts, and Springs of Motion, have collected innumerable Experiments, Histories, and Discourses; and brought in Specimens for the Improvement of Astronomy, Geography, Navigation, Opticks; all the Parts of Agriculture, the Garden and the Forest; Anatomy of Plants, and Animals, Mines and Oars; Measures and Equations of Time by accurate Pendulums, and other Motions, Hydro- and Hygrostaticks, divers Engines, Powers and Automata, with innumerable more luciferous Particulars, subservient to human Life, of which Dr. Glanvil has given an ample and ingenious Account in his Learned Essay: And since in the Posthumous Works of Dr. Hooke, lately publish'd by the most obliging Mr. Waller, already mention'd.

THIS is (Reader) what they have done; and they are but Part of the Materials which the Society have hitherto amass'd, and prepared for this great and illustrious Work; not to pass over an Infinity of solitary and loose Experiments subsidiary to it, gathered at no small Pains and Cost: For so have they hitherto born the Burden and Heat of the Day alone; Sapping and Mining to lay the Foundation deep, and raise a Superstructure to be one Day perfected, by the joint Endeavours of those who shall in a kinder Age have little else to do, but the putting and cementing of the Parts together, which to collect and fit, have cost them so much Solitude and Care. Solomon indeed built the glorious Temple; but 'twas David provided the Materials: Did Men in those Days insolently ask, What he had done, in all the Time of that tedious Preparation? I beseech you, what Obligation has the Royal Society to render an Account of their Proceedings to any who are not of the Body, and that carry on the Work at their own Expence amidst so many Contradictions? It is an Evil Spirit, and an Evil Age, which having sadly debauch'd the Minds of Men, seeks with Industry to blast and undermine all Attempts and Endeavours that signify to the Illustration of Truth, the Discovery of Impostors, and shake their sandy Foundations.

THOSE who come (says the Noble Verulam) to enquire after Knowledge, with a Mind to scorn, shall be sure to find Matter for their Humour; but none for their Instruction: Would Men bring Light of Invention, and not Fire-brands of Contradiction, Knowledge would infinitely increase. But these are the Sanballats and Horonites who disturb our Men upon the Wall: But, let us rise up and build, and be no more discouraged. 'Tis impossible

possible to conceive, how so honest, and worthy a Design should have found so few Promoters, and cold a Welcome in a Nation whose Eyes are so wide open: We see how greedily the French, and other Strangers embrace and cultivate the Design: What sumptuous Buildings, well furnish'd Observatories, ample Appointments, Salaries, and Accommodations, they have erected to carry on the Work; whilst we live precariously, and spin the Web out of our own Bowels. Indeed, we have had the Honour to be the first who led the Way, given the Ferment, which like a Train has taken Fire, and warm'd the Regions all about us. This Glory, doubtless, shall none take from us: But, whilst they flourish so Abroad, we want the Spirit should diffuse it here at Home, and give Progress to so hopeful a Beginning: But, as we said, the Enemy of Mankind has done us this Despite; it is his Interest to impeach (in any sort) what'er opposes his Dominion; which is to lead, and settle Men in Errors as well in Arts and Natural Knowledge, as in Religion; and therefore would be glad, the World should still be groping after both. 'Tis he that sets the Buffoons, and empty Sycophants, to turn all that's Great and Virtuous into Raillery and Derision: 'Tis therefore to encounter these, Neh. iv. 17. that like those resolute Builders, whilst we employ one Hand in the Work, we, with the other, are obliged to hold our Weapon, till some bold and gallant Genius deliver us, and raise the Siege. How gloriously would such a Benefactor shine! What a Constellation would he make! How great a Name establish! For mine own part (religiously I profess it) were I not a Person, who (whilst I stood expecting when others more worthy, and able than myself, should have snatch'd the Opportunity of signalizing a Work worthy of Immortality) had long since given Hostages to Fortune, and so put myself out of a Capacity of shewing my Affection to a Design so glorious; I would not only most chearfully have contributed towards the freeing it from the Straits it has so long struggled under; but sacrificed all my Secular Interests in their Service: But, as I said, this is reserved for that gallant Hero (who'er it be) that truly weighing the Noble and Universal Consequence of so high an Enterprize, shall at last free it of these Reproaches; and either set it above the Reach of Envy, or convert it to Emulation. This were indeed to consult an honest Fame, and to embalm the Memory of a greater Name than any has yet appeared amongst all the Benefactors of the Disputing Sects: Let it suffice to affirm, that next the Propagation of our most Holy Faith, and its Appendants (nor can his Majesty or the Nation build their Fame on a more lasting, a more glorious Monument; the Propagation of Learning, and useful Arts, having always sur-
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viv'd the Triumphs of the proudest Conquerors, and Spillers of human Blood) Princes have been more renown'd for their Civility to Arts and Letters, than to all their sanguinary Victories, subduing Provinces, and making those brutish Desolations in the World, to feed a salvage and vile Ambition. Witness you Great Alexander, and you the Ptolemies, Cæsars, Charlemain, Francis the First; the Cosimo's, Frederick's, Alphonfus's, and the rest of Learned Princes: Since when all the Pomp and Noise is ended; they are those little Things in black (whom now in scorn they term Philosophers and Fops) to whom they must be obliged, for making their Names outlast the Pyramids, whose Founders are as unknown as the Heads of Nile; because they either deserved no Memory for their Virtues, or had none to transmit them, or their Actions to Posterity.

IS not our Royal Founder already panegyriized by all the Universities, Academists, Learned Persons, divers Princes Ambassadors, and Illustrious Men from abroad? Witness besides, the many accurate Treatises and Volumes of the most curious and useful Subjects, Medicinal, Mathematical, and Mechanical, dedicated to his Majesty as Founder; to its President, and to the Society, by the greatest Wits, and most profoundly knowing of the European World, celebrating their Institution and Proceedings: Witness, the daily Submissions and solemn Appeals of the most Learned Strangers to its Suffrages, as to the most able, candid, and impartial Judges: Witness, the Letters and Correspondencies from most Parts of the habitable Earth, East and West-Indies, and almost from Pole to Pole; besides what they have received from the very Mouths of divers Professors, Publick Ministers, great Travellers, Noblemen, and Persons of highest Quality; who have not only frequented the Assembly, but desired to be incorporated and ascribed into their Number; so little has his Majesty, or the Kingdom been diminished in their Reputation, by the Royal Society, to the Reproach of our sordid Adversaries: Never had the Republick of Letters so Learned and Universal a Correspondence as has been procured and promoted by this Society alone; as not only the casual Transactions of several Years (filled with Instances of the most curious and useful Observations) make appear; but (as I said) the many Nuncupatory Epistles to be seen in the Fronts of so many Learned Volumes: There it is you will find CHARLES II. placed among the Heroes and Demi-Gods, for his Patrociny and Protection: There you will see the numerous Congratulations of the most Learned Foreigners, celebrating the Happiness of their Institution; and that whilst other Nations are still benighted under the dusky Cloud, such a refulgent Beam should give Day to this blessed Isle: And certainly, it is not to be supposed that all these Learned Persons, of so many, and divers Interests, as well as Coun-

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tries,

tries, should speak, and write thus out of Flattery, much less of Ignorance; being Men of the most refined Universal Knowledge, as well as Ingenuity: But I should never end, were I to pursue this fruitful Topick. I have but one Word more to add, to conciliate the Favour and Esteem of our own Universities, to an Assembly of Gentlemen, who from them acknowledge to have derived all their Abilities for these laudable Undertakings; and what above all is most shining in them of most Christian, Moral, and otherwise conspicuous, as from the Source and Fountain, to which, on all Occasions, they are not only ready to pay the Tribute and Obsequiousness of humble Servants, but of Sons, and dutiful Alumni. There is nothing verily which they more desire, than a fair and mutual Correspondence between so near Relations, and that they may be perpetually flourishing and fruitful in bringing forth (as still they do) Supplies to Church and State in all

* Since this Epistle was first written and published, the University of Oxford have instituted, and erected a Society for the promoting of Natural and Experimental Knowledge, in concert with the Royal Society, with which they keep a mutual Correspondence: This I mention, for that some Malevolent had so far endeavour'd to possess divers Members of the University, as if the Society design'd nothing less than the undermining of that, and other illustrious Academies, and which indeed so far prevail'd, as to breed a real Jealousy for some considerable Time: But as this was never in the Thoughts of the Society (which had ever the Universities in greatest Veneration) so the Innocency and Usefulness of its Institution has at length disabus'd them, vindicated their Proceedings, dissipated all Surmises, and, in fine, produced an ingenuous, friendly, and candid Union and Correspondence between them.

its great Capacities: * Finally, that they would regard the Royal Society as a Colony of their own planting, and augere it Success: And if in these Labours, and arduous Attempts, several Inventions of present Use and Service to Mankind (either detecting Errors, illustrating and asserting Truths, or propagating Knowledge in natural Things, and the visible Works of God) have been discover'd, as they envy not the communicating them to the World; so should they be wanting to the Society, and to the Honour of divers Learned and Ingenious Persons (who are the Soul and Body of it) not to vindicate them from the ambitious Plagiary, the Insults of Scoffers and injurious Men: Certainly, Persons of right Noble and subact'd Principles, that were Lovers of their Country, should be otherwise affected; and rather strive to encourage, and promote Endeavours tending to so generous a Design, than decry it; especially, when it costs them nothing but their Civility to so many obliging Persons, though they should hitherto have entertain'd them but with some innocent Diversions. To conclude, we envy none their Dues; nay, we gratefully acknowledge any Light which we receive either from Home, or from Abroad: We celebrate and record their Names amongst our Benefactors; recommend them to the Publick, and what we thus freely give, we hope as freely to receive.

THUS have I endeavour'd to vindicate the Royal Society from some Aspersions and Encroachments it hitherto has suffered; and shew'd under what Weights and Pressure this Palm does still emerge:

And

And if for all this I fall short of my Attempt, I shall yet have this Satisfaction, that tho' I derive no Glory from my own Abilities (sensible of my great Defects) I shall yet deserve their Pardon for my Zeal to its Prosperity.

ΕΠΙΚΤΕΤΟΣ, κθ.

Φιλοσοφίας ἔπιθυμῆις; ἄριστοῦ αὐτῶν, &c.

Wouldst thou be a Philosopher? Prepare thyself for Scoffs: What, you are setting up for a Virtuoso now? Why so proud I pray? Well, be not thou proud for all this; but so persist in what seems best and laudable; as if God himself had placed thee there; and remember, that so long as thou remain'st in that State and Resolution, thy Reproachers will in time admire thee: But if once, through Inconstancy, thou give out and flinch, διπλὴν ποροσλήψῃ καταγέλωτα, thou deservest to be doubly laugh'd at.

Lord VERULAM, Instaur. Scient.

Some Men (like Lucian in Religion) seek by their Wit, to traduce and expose useful Things; because to arrive at them, they converse with mean Experiments: But those who despise to be employ'd in ordinary and common Matters, never arrive to solid Perfection in Experimental Knowledge.

THE Changes and Alterations in the several Chapters and Parts throughout this Discourse, with the Additions and Improvements, have often obliged me to alter the Method, and indeed to make it almost a New Work.

J. EVELYN.



ADVER.