

# LETTERS

Written TO and FOR  
PARTICULAR FRIENDS,  
On the most  
IMPORTANT OCCASIONS.

Directing not only the Requisite  
STYLE *and* FORMS

To be Observed in WRITING

## Familiar Letters;

But How to

THINK and ACT *Justly and Prudently,*

IN THE

COMMON CONCERNS

OF

## HUMAN LIFE.

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CONTAINING

One Hundred and Seventy-three LETTERS;

None of which were ever before Published.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for C. RIVINGTON, in *St. Paul's Church-yard*;  
J. OSBORN, in *Pater-noster Row*; and J. LEAKE, at *Bath*,

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M. DCC. XLI.



# P R E F A C E.



THE following Letters are publish'd at the Solicitation of particular Friends, who are of Opinion, that they will answer several good Ends, as they may not only direct the *Forms* requisite to be observed on the most important Occasions; but, what is more to the Purpose, by the Rules and Instructions contained in them, contribute to *mend the Heart*, and *improve the Understanding*.

NATURE, PROPRIETY OF CHARACTER, PLAIN SENSE, and GENERAL USE, have been the chief Objects of the Author's Attention in the penning of these Letters; and as he every-where aimed to write to the *Judgment*, rather than to the *Imagination*, he would chuse, that they should generally be found more *useful* than

## P R E F A C E.

than *diverting* : Tho', where the Subjects require *Strokes of Humour*, and *innocent Raillery*, it will be seen, perhaps, that the Method he has taken, was the Effect of *Choice*, and not merely of *Necessity*.

The Writer is no Friend to long Prefaces ; but it may be necessary, however, to say, what he has *aimed at* in this Performance ; and to leave his *Merit* in the *Execution* of it, to proper Judges.

He has endeavour'd then, in general, throughout the great Variety of his Subjects, to inculcate the Principles of *Virtue* and *Benevolence* ; to describe *properly*, and recommend *strongly*, the SOCIAL and RELATIVE DUTIES ; and to place them in such *practical* Lights, that the Letters may serve for Rules to THINK and ACT by, as well as Forms to WRITE after.

Particularly, he has endeavoured to point out the Duty of a *Servant*, not a *Slave* ; the Duty of a *Master*, not a *Tyrant* ; that of the *Parent*, not as a Person morose and sour, and hard to be pleased ; but mild, indulgent, kind, and such an one as would rather govern by *Persuasion* than *Force*.

He

## P R E F A C E.

He has endeavour'd to direct the young Man in the Choice of his *Friends* and *Companions*; to excite him to *Diligence*; to discourage *Extravagance*, *Sottishness*, and *Vice* of all Kinds.

He has aimed to set forth, in a Variety of Cases, to *both Sexes*, the Inconveniencies attending *unsuitable Marriages*; to expose the Folly of a *litigious Spirit*; to console the *Unhappy*; to comfort the *Mourner*: And many of these by Arguments, tho' *easy* and *familiar*, yet *new* and *uncommon*.

With regard to the Letters of *Courtship*, the Author has aimed to point out such Methods of Address, to a young Man, as may stand the Test of the *Parents Judgment*, as well as the *Daughter's Opinion*; and, at the same time, that they should not want the proper Warmth of Expression, which Complaisance, and Passion for the beloved Object, inspire, (and is so much expected in Addresses of this Nature) they should have their Foundation laid in *common Sense*, and a *manly Sincerity*; and, in a Word, be such as a *prudent Woman* need not blush to receive, nor a *discreet Man* be ashamed to look



## P R E F A C E.

back upon, when the *doubtful Courtship* is changed into the *matrimonial Certainty*.

With this View he has also attempted to expose the *empty Flouishes*, and *incoherent Rhapsodies*, by which *shallow Heads*, and *designing Hearts*, endeavour to exalt their Mistresses into *Goddeses*, in hopes of having it in their Power to sink them into the Characters of the *most Credulous* and *Foolish* of their Sex.

*Orphans*, and *Ladies of independent Fortunes*, he has particularly endeavour'd to guard against the insidious Arts of their *flattering* and *selfish Dependents*, and the *clandestine Addresses* of *Fortune-hunters*, those Beasts of Prey, as they may well be called, who spread their *Snares* for the *innocent* and *thoughtless* Heart.

These, among other no less material Objects, have been the Author's principal *Aim*: How well he has *succeeded*, must, as has been hinted, be left to the Judgment of the candid Reader.

T H E



T H E  
C O N T E N T S  
O F T H E  
L E T T E R S.

- I. *T*O a Father, against putting a Youth of but moderate Parts to a Profession that requires more extensive Abilities. Page 1
- II. From an Uncle to a Nephew, on his keeping bad Company, bad Hours, &c. in his Apprenticeship. 5
- III. From a Widow-Mother, in Answer to her Son's complaining of Hardships in his Apprenticeship. 9
- IV. From an Uncle to the Youth, on the same Occasion. 11
- V. From an Apprentice to an Uncle, about a Fraud committed by his Fellow-Apprentice. 12
- VI. The Uncle's Answer. ibid.
- VII. Advice from a Father to a young Beginner, what Company to chuse, and how to behave in it. 13
- VIII. General Rules for agreeable Conversation in a young Man. From a Father to a Son. 16
- IX. An elder to a younger Brother, who is in Love with a young Lady of great Gaiety, &c. 18
- A 4
- X. An

# C O N T E N T S.

X. <i>An elder to an extravagant younger Brother.</i>	Page 20
XI. <i>To a young Man too soon keeping a Horse.</i>	21
XII. <i>Against a sudden Intimacy, or Friendship, with one of a short Acquaintance.</i>	25
XIII. <i>A young Man in Business, to a Father, desiring Leave to address his Daughter.</i>	26
XIV. <i>To the Daughter, (on the Father's Allowance) apprising her of his intended Visit.</i>	27
XV. <i>From a young Lady to her Father, acquainting him with a Proposal of Marriage made to her.</i>	28
XVI. <i>The Father's Answer, on a Supposition that he approves not of the young Man's Addresses.</i>	29
XVII. <i>The Father's Answer, on a Supposition that he does not disapprove of them.</i>	30
XVIII. <i>The young Gentleman to the Father, apprising him of his Affection for his Daughter.</i>	31
XIX. <i>From the Cousin to the Father and Mother in Commendation of the young Gentleman.</i>	32
XX. <i>From the Father, in Answer to the young Gentleman.</i>	33
XXI. <i>From the young Gentleman to his Mistress, on her Arrival at her Father's.</i>	35
XXII. <i>From a Brother to his Sister in the Country, upbraiding her for being negligent in Writing.</i>	36
XXIII. <i>In Answer to the preceding.</i>	37
XXIV. <i>From the Daughter to her Mother, in Excuse for her Neglect.</i>	38
XXV. <i>From a Son-in-law to his Wife's Father, acquainting him with his Wife's Illness.</i>	ibid.
XXVI. <i>From a Country Chapman beginning Trade, to a City Dealer, offering his Correspondence.</i>	39
XXVII. <i>In Answer to the foregoing.</i>	40
XXVIII. <i>From a Maid-servant in Town, acquainting her Father and Mother in the Country, with a Proposal of Marriage, and asking their Consents.</i>	ibid.
XXIX. <i>From the Parents, in Answer to the preceding.</i>	41

XXX.

# C O N T E N T S.

XXX. From the same, acquainting her Parents with her Marriage.	Page 41
XXXI. Recommending a superior Man-servant.	42
XXXII. Recommending a Wet-nurse.	43
XXXIII. Recommending a Cook-maid.	ibid.
XXXIV. Recommending a Chamber-maid.	44
XXXV. Recommending a Nursery-maid.	ibid.
XXXVI. A Father to a Son, to dissuade him from the Vice of Drinking to Excess.	45
XXXVII. The same Subject pursued.	47
XXXVIII. From an Apprentice to his Master, begging Forgiveness for a great Misdemeanour.	49
XXXIX. The Master's Answer.	50
XL. From an Apprentice to his Friends, in Praise of his Master and Family.	51
XLI. Another from an Apprentice, where the Master is too remiss in his own Affairs.	52
XLII. To a Country Correspondent, modestly requesting a Balance of Accounts between them.	53
XLIII. In Answer to the preceding.	ibid.
XLIV. A more pressing and angry Letter from a City Dealer on the same Account.	54
XLV. In Answer to the preceding.	55
XLVI. To a young Trader generally in a Hurry in Business, advising Method as well as Diligence.	56
XLVII. From a Son reduced by his own Extravagance, requesting his Father's Advice, on his Intention to turn Player.	59
XLVIII. The Father's Answer, setting forth the Inconveniencies and Disgrace attending the Profession of a Player.	60
XLIX. To a Brother too captious to bear himself the Ridicule he practises upon others.	61
L. To a Friend, on his Recovery from a dangerous Illness.	63
LI. On the same Occasion.	ibid.
LII. In Answer to the preceding.	64



# C O N T E N T S.

LIII. <i>To a young Lady, advising her not to change her Guardians, nor to encourage any clandestine Ad-dress.</i>	Page 64
LIV. <i>From a Mother to a Daughter, jealous of her Husband.</i>	67
LV. <i>The Subject continued.</i>	68
LVI. <i>From a tender Father to an ungracious Son.</i>	71
LVII. <i>The Son's dutiful Answer.</i>	74
LVIII. <i>To a Friend, on Occasion of his not answering his Letters.</i>	76
LIX. <i>In Answer to the preceding.</i>	ibid.
LX. <i>From a Father to a Son, on his Negligence in his Affairs.</i>	77
LXI. <i>The Son's grateful Answer.</i>	78
LXII. <i>A young Woman in Town to her Sister in the Country, recounting her narrow Escape from a Snare laid for her on her first Arrival, by a wicked Pro-curefs.</i>	79
LXIII. <i>To a Daughter in a Country Town, who en-courages the Address of a Subaltern [A Case too fre-quent in Country Towns.]</i>	84
LXIV. <i>Of Expostulations from a grave Friend to a young Man, on his slighting and irreverent Behaviour to his Father.</i>	86
LXV. <i>Against too great a Love of Singing and Mu-sick.</i>	90
LXVI. <i>From a Daughter to her Father, pleading for her Sister, who had married without his Consent.</i>	93
LXVII. <i>The Father's Answer.</i>	94
LXVIII. <i>To a Brother, against making his Wife and Children the constant Subject of Praise in Conver-sation.</i>	95
LXIX. <i>From a Father to a Daughter, in Dislike of her Intention to marry at too early an Age.</i>	97
LXX. <i>From a Father to a Daughter against a frothy, French Lover.</i>	99
LXXI. <i>A modest Lover, desiring an Aunt's Favour to her Niece.</i>	100
	LXXII.

# C O N T E N T S.

LXXII. <i>The Aunt's Answer, supposing the Gentleman deserves Encouragement.</i>	Page 101
LXXIII. <i>The Answer, supposing the Gentleman is not approved.</i>	102
LXXIV. <i>From a respectful Lover to his Mistress.</i>	ibid.
LXXV. <i>The Answer.</i>	103
LXXVI. <i>A humourous Epistle of neighbourly Occurrences and News, to a Bottle-Companion abroad.</i>	104
LXXVII. <i>From a Nephew to his Aunt, on his slow Progress in a Courtship Affair.</i>	108
LXXVIII. <i>The Aunt's Answer, encouraging him to persevere.</i>	110
LXXIX. <i>A Gentleman to a Lady, professing an Aversion to the tedious Forms of Courtship.</i>	111
LXXX. <i>The Lady's Answer, encouraging a farther Declaration.</i>	112
LXXXI. <i>The Gentleman's Reply, more explicitly avowing his Passion.</i>	113
LXXXII. <i>The Lady's Answer to his Reply, putting the Matter on a sudden Issue.</i>	114
LXXXIII. <i>A facetious young Lady to her Aunt, ridiculing her serious Lover.</i>	ibid.
LXXXIV. <i>Her Aunt's Answer, reprehending her ludicrous Turn of Mind.</i>	117
LXXXV. <i>From a Gentleman to his Mistress, resenting her supposed Coquetry.</i>	119
LXXXVI. <i>The Lady's angry Answer.</i>	120
LXXXVII. <i>The Gentleman's submissive Reply.</i>	121
LXXXVIII. <i>The Lady's forgiving Return.</i>	122
LXXXIX. <i>Ridiculing a romantick Rhapsody in Courtship.</i>	123
XC. <i>Against a young Lady's affecting manly Airs ; and also censuring the modern Riding-habits.</i>	124
XCI. <i>A Father to a Daughter, relating to three Persons of different Characters proposed to him, each for her Husband ; with his Recommendation of one in Years.</i>	126

XCII.

# C O N T E N T S.

XCH. <i>Her Answer, dutifully expostulating on the Case.</i>	Page 129
XCIII. <i>His Reply, urgently enforcing, but not compelling, her Compliance with his Desire.</i>	130
XCIV. <i>To a rich Widow Lady with Children, dissuading her from marrying a Widower of meaner Degree, who has Children also.</i>	133
<i>Instructions to young Orphan Ladies, as well as others, how to judge of Proposals of Marriage made to them without their Guardians or Friends Consent, by their Miliners, Mantua-makers, and other Go-betweens.</i>	136
XCV. <i>From the young Lady, to the clandestine Proposer of the Match.</i>	141
XCVI. <i>To a young Fellow who makes Love in a romantick manner. By the Hand of a Friend.</i>	142
XCVII. <i>Another less affronting on the same Occasion.</i>	143
XCVIII. <i>Another still less severe, but not encouraging.</i>	ibid.
XCIX. <i>To rebuke an irregular Address, when it is not thought proper wholly to discourage it.</i>	144
C. <i>Another for a Lady referring to a Guardian, or chosen Friend.</i>	ibid.
CI. <i>Another to the same Purpose.</i>	145
CII. <i>From a Town-Tenant to his Landlord, excusing Delay of Payment.</i>	ibid.
CIII. <i>From a Country Tenant to the same Purpose.</i>	146
CIV. <i>The Landlord's Answer.</i>	ibid.
CV. <i>A threatening Letter from a Steward on Delay of Payment.</i>	147
CVI. <i>The poor Tenant's moving Answer.</i>	ibid.
CVII. <i>The Steward's Reply, giving more Time.</i>	148
CVIII. <i>The poor Man's thankful Letter in Return.</i>	149
CIX. <i>An Offer of Assistance to a Friend, who has received great Losses by a Person's Failure.</i>	150
CX. <i>The Friend's Answer, accepting the kind Offer.</i>	ibid.
CXI. <i>The Friend's Answer, supposing he has no Occasion for the Offer.</i>	151
CXII. <i>Of Consolation to a Friend in Prison for Debt.</i>	ibid.
CXIII. <i>In Answer to the preceding.</i>	153
CXIV.	



# C O N T E N T S.

CXIV. <i>To a Person of Note, in Acknowledgment of great Benefits received.</i>	Page 154
CXV. <i>Another for Favours of not so high, yet a generous Nature.</i>	155
CXVI. <i>An Excuse to a Person who wants to borrow Money.</i>	ibid.
CXVII. <i>On the same Subject.</i>	156
CXVIII. <i>Another on the same.</i>	ibid.
CXIX. <i>To a Friend, in Compliance with his Request to borrow a Sum of Money.</i>	ibid.
CXX. <i>Another on the same Occasion, limiting the Payment to a certain Time.</i>	157
CXXI. <i>To a Friend, on a Breach of Promise in not returning Money lent in his Exigence.</i>	ibid.
CXXII. <i>To a Friend, who had promised to lend a Sum of Money, to answer a critical Exigence, and drove it off to the last.</i>	158
CXXIII. <i>The Answer, excusing the Pain he had given his Friend by his Remissness.</i>	159
CXXIV. <i>To one who, upon a very short Acquaintance, and without any visible Merit, but Assurance, wants to borrow a Sum of Money.</i>	160
CXXV. <i>A Gentleman to a Lady, who humourously resents his Mistress's Fondness of a Monkey, and Indifference to himself.</i>	161
CXXVI. <i>A Sailor to his betrothed Mistress.</i>	162
CXXVII. <i>Her Answer.</i>	164
CXXVIII. <i>A Sea-Officer to his Wife.</i>	165
CXXIX. <i>A Wife to her Husband at Sea.</i>	166
CXXX. <i>To a Father, on his Neglect of his Childrens Education.</i>	168
CXXXI. <i>From a young Maiden, abandon'd by her Lover for the sake of a greater Fortune.</i>	171
CXXXII. <i>From a Gentleman to his Mistress, who seeing no Hopes of Success, respectfully withdraws his Suit.</i>	173
CXXXIII. <i>From a Lady to a Gentleman, who had obtained all her Friends Consent, urging him to decline his Suit to her.</i>	174
	CXXXIV.



# C O N T E N T S.

CXXXIV. <i>The Gentleman's Answer to the Lady's un-</i> <i>common Request.</i>	Page 176
CXXXV. <i>The Lady's Reply, in case of a Prepossession.</i>	177
CXXXVI. <i>The Lady's Reply in case of no Prepossession,</i> <i>or that she chuses not to avow it.</i>	178
CXXXVII. <i>A Lady to a Gentleman of superior Fortune,</i> <i>who, after a long Address in an honourable way, pro-</i> <i>poses to live with her as a Gallant.</i>	179
CXXXVIII. <i>A Father to a Daughter in Service, on</i> <i>hearing of her Master's attempting her Virtue.</i>	181
CXXXIX. <i>The Daughter's Answer.</i>	182
CXL. <i>To a Gentleman of Fortune, who has Children,</i> <i>dissuading him from a Second Marriage with a Lady</i> <i>much younger than himself.</i>	ibid.
CXLI. <i>The same Subject pursued.</i>	185
CXLII. <i>Against a Second Marriage, where there are</i> <i>Children on both Sides.</i>	188
CXLIII. <i>Against a second Marriage, where there are</i> <i>Children on one Side, and a Likelihood of more.</i>	193
CXLIV. <i>Advising a Friend against going to Law.</i>	197
CXLV. <i>To a young Lady, cautioning her against keeping</i> <i>Company with a Gentleman of bad Character.</i>	200
CXLVI. <i>From a Mother to her high-spirited Daughter,</i> <i>who lives on uneasy Terms with her Husband.</i>	201
CXLVII. <i>A Lady to her Friend, a young Widow Lady,</i> <i>who, having bury'd a polite and excellent Husband, in-</i> <i>clines to marry a less deserving Gentleman, and of un-</i> <i>equal Fortune.</i>	205
CXLVIII. <i>From a Gentleman, strenuously expostulating</i> <i>with an old rich Widow, about to marry a very young</i> <i>gay Gentleman.</i>	209
CXLIX. <i>From a young Lady in Town to her Aunt in</i> <i>the Country. 1. Describing the Tower, Monument,</i> <i>St. Paul's, &amp;c.</i>	212
CL. <i>2. Describing other remarkable Places in and about</i> <i>London and Westminster, which are generally shewn</i> <i>to Strangers.</i>	214

# C O N T E N T S.

CLI.	3. Describing Chelsea Hospital, and Kensington Palace.	Page 217
CLII.	4. Describing Greenwich Park, and the Passage to it by Water.	218
CLIII.	5. Describing Bethlehem Hospital.	220
CLIV.	6. Diversions of Vaux-hall described.	222
CLV.	7. An Account of Westminster-Abbey.	225
CLVI.	8. Account of Westminster-Abbey continued.	228
CLVII.	9. On a Concert or Musical Entertainment.	232
CLVIII.	10. On the Diversions of the Play-house.	234
CLIX.	11. The Play, and the low Scenes of Harlequinery after it, described and exposed.	236
CLX.	From a Country Gentleman in Town, to his Brother in the Country, describing a publick Execution in London.	239
	Five Letters which passed between an Aunt and her Niece, in relation to her Conduct in the Addresses made her by two Gentlemen; one a gay fluttering military Coxcomb, the other a Man of Sense and Honour.	242
CLXI.	1. From the Aunt to the Niece, desiring her Niece's own Opinion of the two Lovers.	ibid.
CLXII.	2. The Niece's Answer: Describing the Behaviour of the sensible Lover.	243
CLXIII.	3. Continuing the Description of the Behaviour of the same Gentleman; which occasions a Love-quarrel.	245
CLXIV.	4. From the same: Describing her fluttering Pretender.	248
CLXV.	5. From the Aunt, containing solid Advice and Cautions on this Occasion.	250
CLXVI.	From a Lady to her false Lover, who after having braved all his Friends Expostulations, at last is persuaded to abandon her for another of larger Fortune.	253
CLXVII.	From a Gentleman to his Lady, whose Over-niceness in her House, and uneasy Temper with her Servants, make their Lives uncomfortable.	255
CLXVIII.	From a Gentleman who in a small Fortune experiences the Slights of his Friends; but being suddenly	denly

# C O N T E N T S.

- denly reputed to be rich, is oppressed with the fawning  
Caresses and Adulation of those who had before neg-  
lected him.* Page 258
- CLXIX. *From one Brother to another, on the rash Mar-  
riage of a beloved Daughter of one of them, to a  
profligate young Fellow.* 262
- CLXX. *The afflicted Father, in Answer to the precede-  
ing.* 264
- CLXXI. *To a Father on the Loss of his Son, who died  
under Age.* 265
- CLXXII. *To a Father, on the Loss of a hopeful Son,  
who died at Man's Estate.* 267
- CLXXIII. *To a Widow, on the Death of her Hus-  
band.* 270

