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## A N S W E R

TO THE

### COUNTRY GENTLEMAN'S LETTER

T O A

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

[ PRICE TWO SHILLINGS. ]



Entered at Stationers Hall.

### ANSWER

TO THE

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T O A

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

WITH

A REVIEW OF THE CHARACTERS OF THE

Dukes of Norfolk, Portland, and Northum-Berland;

The Houses of DEVONSHIRE and RUSSEL;

Lords Thurlow, Campen, Loughborough, Kenyon, and North;

To which are added those of

Mr. PITT, Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan;

Dukes of RICHMOND and LEEDS, and the Marquis of BUCKINGHAM;

Lords CHATHAM, SYDNEY, and HAWKESBURY;

Sir George Yonge, and Mr. Dundas.

WITH AN

ADDRESS TO THE KING.

#### L O N D O N:

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<sup>&</sup>quot; Chiefs out of War, and Statesmen out of Place." POPE.



#### A

# Candid Examination, 3c.

The late rapid succession of interesting events has been productive of two pamphlets, one entitled, "Four Pleasant" Epistles, to a very exalted Subject in his "Majesty's Dominions; the most unpatriotic Man alive; the most artful Man" alive; and, Second Childhood;" but as the nature of this publication has not hitherto attracted the notice of the public, I shall resign it to its sate.

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The other, "A Letter from a Country "Gentleman to a Member of Parliament," has attained a greater degree of reputation. The style of it is superior, and the author affects to conceal the partial tendency of his arguments beneath the thin veil of pretended candour; yet, when stripped of style and affected moderation, the estimation of it will be but fmall, and the credit of it will diminish in proportion to the time and attention bestowed in the perusal. It is a piece of goods of flimfy texture, which, though pleasing to the eye, in the wear will be found unfubstantial and unferviceable. After the author has, by way of prefatory address, avowed his distance from the scene of action, after declaring how unqualified he is to judge on the present moment, after indulging in the parade of difinterestedness.

ness, in preferring native woods to power never proffered, and wealth unattainable, he proceeds to inform and enlighten that confidential Friend, to whose communications he owns himself indebted for all the knowledge he poffefses: generously grateful, he endeavours to cancel the obligation; he restores to the parent river, the stream too scanty to fertilize the sterile region of his brain, and thence diverted into a new channel, we find its dimpling current devoted to, the amusement and advantage of the public. In these opinions (which he is pleased, with a happiness rarely found in his composition, to term curious effusions) with equal facility and celerity, he diminishes the national debt, and increases the income of the revenues. Alliances he forms, and extends the limits of commerce; relieves the distresses

of the people, and pleafantly describes the fatisfaction they enjoy under what he himself calls, "a most burthensome and unparalleled weight of taxes."-Awakened from this idle dream of fanciful political prosperity, by the late calamitous situation of his Majesty, with the rapidity of Lunardi, after a transient glance at the Marine Pavilion, and Carleton House, he pursues Mr. Fox across the seas, to pilfer, a phrase from Tunius, and amuse his readers with scenes of ancient magnificence, beneath Italian skies. Thence he returns with equal celerity, to express his surprise that the fecond defire of his heart is not equally general with the first wish of his mind, to vent his indignation that the administration of Government was not to proceed without some change in the persons who composed it: that the proposed Regent,

Regent, animated with generous and just refentment, grateful for former attentions, fatisfied of the ability, and convinced of the integrity of those with whom he has long lived in the habits of confidential intercourse, thought proper to prefer them to persons who, in the hour of diffress, were deaf to his repeated applications; who willingly administered no relief to his unpleasant fituation; who did step beyond the bounds of all decency and common sense, and placed themselves in wanton oppofition to the reasonable wishes of the Heir Apparent; who ever have been prompt and ready to cherish and foment every difference between the Father and Son; and who, wrapt up in a fastidious contemplation of their own importance, are callous to domestic misery, and dead to the gentler impulse of a feeling heart.

If fuch is the description, if such has been the respective conduct of either Party, then this unbiassed candidate for literary fame, acknowledges the intentions of the Prince sufficiently justified. Distant and sequestered indeed must be his boasted woods, if no whisper has pervaded the stillness of their shade of ungraceful acquiescence, of cold and tardy compliance, of the Minister confenting to relieve, when he could no longer effectually oppose! ----But it is not the least curious part of these curious effusions, that the author has thought proper to dedicate a portion of his performance to the fuggesting of what he never has heard, and what he never means to affert. If the affluence of that fituation he is so backward in infinuating, if the difinterestedness of that disposition he is so diffident in describing, did not screen.

screen him sufficiently from the imputation, one would be apt to imagine this the necessitous manœuvre of some garret pamphleteer, defirous of spinning out his pamphlet to a few more pages, especially fince it is accompanied by a rude and undigested mass of inconsistency and incongruity, which, if possible to lick into any shape, may not improperly be termed, Training for an Heir Apparent. One moment he is advised to a state of tranquil dignity; the next he is called from behind the curtain, as a fituation unworthy of his rank, and inadequate to his elevated prospects. He is told somewhat more is expected of him than the negative qualification of infipid virtue; and he is dragged upon the stage, for the important purpose of listening in tooth-pick indolence, and unimpassioned silence, to the rhetorical harangues of debating fenators,

nators, whilst the provinces of his destined empire, whilst the happiness of his future subjects, become a facrifice to the rash spirit of speculative youth, and the petulant obstinacy of dogmatical age. This happy mixture of pro and con, this alternate recommendation of placid retirement and active interference, reminds me fo strongly of a noble Marquis's speech on the Commercial Treaty, that I should be inclined to attribute the present performance to his versatile pen, were there not instances to be found in it of praise without alloy, a weakness never to be ascribed to his impartial disposition; indeed, the mention of Lord Melcombe's diary would of itself be sufficient to destroy such a surmise: the deceased writer of that diary and the noble Marquis seem to have been framed of such congenial mould, that I am convinced the

the warmth of the Duke of Richmond would as foon betray him into an invective against Lord Rawdon, as the Marquis of Lansdown be prevailed upon to remind us of the character of Lord Melcombe. The fame manly contempt of public opinion, the fame prudent regard to folid emolument, the fame ready barter of principle for profit, of parliamentary influence for ministerial situation: but Lord Melcombe had only fubservient members and rotten boroughs to bring to market. The Marquis ruled at a more auspicious period, and possessed that opportunity which the other could only wish for; his rapid accumulation of fortune proves how steadily and dexterously he availed himself of it. That therefore this quoted diary should be obnoxious to the political Mentor of our ministerial Telemachus, that even some

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pages should prove offensive to the eye of royalty, will not be a matter of furprife to those who recollect what they contain. But in what instance can the history of Frederic be repugnant to the feelings of George Prince of Wales? That he has read it, is more than probable; and it is equally probable, thence he determined how to shape his conduct on a late glorious, though trying occafion. In that history, he found filial concern for parental honour but a weak counterpoise to the suggestions of avarice. In that history he learnt that his royal grandfire, having embarraffed himfelf by princely magnificence, left behind him a load of debts and a crowd of creditors; and the petitions of the furvivors too plainly informed him what little attention had been paid to their distress, or the reputation of the royal debtor. His

own expenditure had already exceeded his income, and his mind was alarmed with the dread of posthumous difgrace, no longer trusting to delusive negociation, or ministerial finesse, he resolved, if the nation would not relieve him, the individual should not suffer. The designs of the architect, the pencil of the painter, and the chiffel of the statuary, were instantly discontinued. He appropriated the major part of his income to the difcharge of his incumbrances, and retired to the establishment of a private man. A generous public beheld with applause and indignation; and the united voice of the nation, in despight of paternal indifference, and official opposition, recalled him to the display of former splendour, and the exercise of princely munificence! The history of Frederic may indeed therefore tinge his cheek with  $C_2$ crimfon,

crimson, but it will be the suffusion of animated virtue, the glow of conscious superiority. The blush of shame belongs to those who have long since ceased to feel for the practice of every mean acquisition, for the indulgence of every sordid passion.

I will now follow the writer to his review of characters, in which he has feattered censure with the prudence and propriety of Messrs. Yorke and Brandling, and bestowed praise with that depth of discrimination which marks the ministerial panegyrics of Messrs. Drake and Rolle, which of these four gentlemen is the considerate friend honoured with his correspondence, is hard to determine. The position of each, in the great world, is nearly equal; and they are equally possessed from the qualifications

fications to form a right judgment of what they see and hear.

Congenial to the disposition of this quadruple alliance, and with a proper attention to female delicacy, the peculiar characteristic of his party, the author, in the front of his picture, has placed an amiable woman. "Of Mrs. F "I can venture to write with fome " knowledge; I have property not far " distant from Acton Burnell." Why this repeated obtrusion of property?— Does the author suppose it will add weight to his pen; or is he so distrustful of the intrinsic merit of his literary bantling, that he endeavours to fecure it a favourable reception, as the suppositious offspring of a wealthy parent?

But if my lord should own the happy lines, How the thought brightens, and the wit refines!

Orwas it the observation of the son of Sirach, "When a rich man speaketh, every " man holdeth his tongue, and look; " what he faith they extol to the clouds: " but if the poor man speaks, they " fay, What fellow is this?" That produced the oftentatious affertion, "I have property not far distant from Acton Burnell?" Yet, notwithstanding this boasted vicinity of Property, notwithstanding the habits of communication with her family, what does the promifed information amount to? That Mrs. F is of illustrious ancestry: that she has been twice married: that her husbands resided at Lulworth Castle, and Swinnerton: that her income is affluent, and her character is and ever has been respectable.

Quid dignum tanto feret bic promissor hiațu.

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The regard, and esteem, which the Prince entertains for this lady's many amiable qualities, are well known to the nation in general; but I deny this connexion is any longer considered as a political object of no trivial consequence, except in the pages of the author, the Boeotian brain of Mr. Rolle, and the incoherent ravings of Horne Took.

Exclusive even of the declaration of Mr. Fox, the laws of the country have placed an insuperable barrier to any engagement which ought to affect the minds of the people; and whilst the reputation of this object of party rancour is shielded by the visits and attention of the Dutchesses of Portland and Devonshire, whilst she partakes the respect and admiration of the most amiable of her own sex, she may look with calm contempt on the pointed arrows of malignant

nant envy, and the poisoned dagger of anonymous affaffination. It is indeed not unworthy of observation, to mark with what alacrity the writer before us affumes the arms he has declaimed against, and with what dexterity he wields them. The calumny of the Morning Herald excited the aftonishment and grief of every person in the kingdom, yet the language of the World and Times, pass, if not applauded, at least unnoticed.—To suspect impropriety of conduct in the Confort of the Sovereign, is the fuperlative degree of factious profligacy; but to affert it, without foundation, in the Son, is laudable and meritorious!——That the Queen, in a moment of affliction, which language is inadequate to describe, and which the confolation of an empire (for fuch is the happy expression of this Country

Country Gentleman) could not mitigate, should be menaced, or vilified, is the completion of infamy; but the Prince partaking of this domestic affliction, and embarrassed with the added cares of approaching empire, is a proper butt for the inflammatory shafts of subsidized hirelings, and official scurrility; nor is there a page of this arraigner of Opposition licenciousness, which does not teem with malevolent innuendoes, which does not hint a falsehood, or hesitate a libel. "Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione que"rentes?"

In answer, however, to his dark infinuations, I do deny that any engagements substift between the Prince and
Opposition which have not their foundation in the general advantage of the
empire; nor do I believe the Prince has
set his heart upon any future measure

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which does not tend to the apparent welfare of the people, and the increasing lustre of his own character: and I can truly affirm, that any gratification inconfistent with these (if such gratification can be furmifed to exist) would be received not only by the Duke of Portland and Mr. Fox, but Mr. Sheridan also, with constitutional coyness and steady opposition; nor is the preference of his Royal Highness to these gentlemen, and many others who have acted with them, founded in fervile compliance, and ready subservience, but has its fource in fimilitude of political opinion, a belief of superior talents and integrity, a fense of constitutional attachment, and a hope of future public fervice; nor will the people, I trust, conceive that hope ill-founded, when they review the characters of those men who are graced with

with the Prince's confidence, not in the infipid caricatures of the Country Gentleman, but in lines, though lefs calculated to ferve the purposes of party, yet more expressive to convey their genuine lineaments to impartial posterity.

The Duke of Portland has fo long perfevered uninterruptedly in the paths of probity and honour, as to have fecured the respect and veneration of his country. Whilst his rank adds dignity to the party he espouses, his unblemished integrity is a fufficient affurance of the rectitude of their intentions. Though possessed of no eminent qualities as a parliamentary fpeaker, he is endowed with a very confiderable portion of understanding, and found judgment. These qualifications, as they must annihilate all attempts to practife imposition, will ever render him agreeable as a leader, to men whose sole

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views are the public benefit, whose defigns require no disguise, and affect no concealment. The Country Gentleman, indeed, suspects his firmness, yet in those ridiculous rumours he endeavours to disseminate, describes him as resisting the weight of royal solicitation, and the insinuating influence of engaging eloquence. But it is a more solid proof of this quality that the embarrassments of his private fortune, originating in manly opposition to purse-proud oppression, supported by ministerial power, has never induced him to give a momentary presence to his own interest over that of the public.

Mr. Fox has indeed, for some years past, been the topic of political criticism, and party declamation; every species of attack that inveterate hatred could suggest, or malice invent, has been levelled against

against him; every little failing of private life, every weaknefs, inseparable from human nature, has been dragged into public with triumph and exultation, and the inadvertencies they could not find in the minister, they have endeavoured to fix on the man; but as the superior lustre of his abilities will diffipate the clouds of envy, fo will the whole tenor of his political conduct, when examined with candour, fufficiently refute the accufations of his imbecile calumniators. The coalition may still prove a subject for perfevering repetition to Mr. Martin, the East India Bill may still be used as a ready engine for fecret influence by the Marquis of Buckingham, but found policy will ever justify the first, and ardent spirit, with decifive regulation, characterize the last. It was no scheme of the day to postpone the hour of danger, it was no crude and

and undigested plan, but the strength of the child spoke the vigour of the parent's mind; not like the puny offspring of his impotent successor, imploring the doubt-ful assistance of explanatory bills, and declaratory acts. The most pointed objection ever urged against it, was, that it in some measure separated the executive power from the crown, an objection, since the late proposed Restrictions, which the advocates of administration will scarce be desirous of pushing sorward into public observation.

The coalition has given birth to a greater degree of party illiberality, and undifcerning clamour; and as those who more generally have recourse to it are incapable to speak on any other topic, it is a pity to deprive them of their little all, and reduce them to mortifying silence, and primitive insignificance. The administration

Itration of Lord North had been marked with every description of national distress and calamity, and the unbounded profusion that characterized the public expenditure, the improvident loans of that period, bore fatally too strong an appearance of wanton and intentional diffipation; that fuch an appearance should suggest fuspicion, and that that suspicion should be accompanied with a warmth of expression, is the great the inexpiable crime imputed to Mr. Fox. But when the noble lord retired from his splendid situation, the limited state of his fortune proved the cleanness of his hands; the strictest fcrutiny led to no trace of imputed corruption, and the grand objection, the idea of peculation, was totally and finally eradicated from the mind of his political competitor. When the duplicity of the Marquis of Lanfdown " gave the lie

"to his Sovereign's proclamation; "when he recorded as infamous the " ruling principle of the British govern-" ment," Mr. Fox retired from a fituation he could no longer retain with honour; he quitted it with avowed reluctance, to use his own words; he was not insensible to those distinctions which it gave him; he was neither incapable of vanity nor of ambition: he had the vanity to be pleafed with the applause of the good; he had the ambition to be ferviceable to his country: but there were considerations superior to his vanity and ambition, the confiderations of duty and of conscience. These had supported him against the resentment of the mean, the aversion of the great, the rancour of the vindictive, and the fubtilty of the base, the dereliction of friends, and the efforts of enemies.

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These considerations he was determined should support him still; and in his retreat he was accompanied by Mr. Burke, Mr. Montague, and Lord John Ca-Mr. Pitt accepted the relinvendish. quished situation of the latter; but when, in despight of secret influence, efficiency could no longer be attached to Lord Lanfdown, and the household troops, the fubfidiary bands who still fought under his banner, the partizans of Lord North, the difinterested volunteers of Mr. Fox, were equally balanced; a stagnation of government must have enfued, without a junction of two of the contending parties; the infidious artifices of the first, had been too recently experienced; and I defy the Country Gentleman to point out any line, confistent with true wisdom, but that which was adopted by Mr. Fox. He coalesced

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with Lord North: he placed him fingle in the cabinet, and gave him a fituation where his ready eloquence and accurate pen might contribute to the advantage of his country, and the facility of his disposition could no longer prejudice her interests.—With the writer before us, I agree there is very little apprehension of Mr. Fox becoming a dangerous character to Great Britain; but I deny the representative of Westminster to be either unpopular or fuspected; or that he is not endowed with the love of right, and determined to practife it throughout his existence; nor will I subscribe to the doctrine, that one pursuit of dangerous private tendency, like Aaron's rod, must fwallow up every public virtue. Should I be the incautious convert of fuch tenets, the memory of Lord Godolphin would infult my credulity: whilst history history is just to the worth of that nobleman, whilst the laurels flourish round his tomb. Mr. Fox need not dread becoming the object of universal distrust, though not insensible to the charms of beauty, and fometimes guilty of playing at cards. In short, we must all lament that a man fo highly gifted, should by royal prejudice be rendered useless to his country; that his splendid talents should be debarred of their proper exertion; that they should be confined to the cultivation of private friendship, instead of being called to public life, where they might fave a finking state, and render a falling people once more great and glorious. whether we review his unremitting opposition to the American war, his indefatigable application during the short period of his administration, his wresting from the Dutch our only trophy of a bloody E 2

bloody and unfuccefsful conflict, or the alacrity with which he quitted what it was dishonourable to retain, we may impartially pronounce, Mr. Fox ought to possess the esteem of a patriotic sovereign, and that he is justly entitled to the confidence of a discerning people.

Lord North was not only an unfortunate, but an unequal minister; and with propriety, perhaps, may be added some share of criminality in submitting to secret influence, and permitting his name to be used to measures he no longer approved. As a statesman, his penetrating judgment was frequently borne down by the specious suggestions of a Dundas or a Jenkinson. As a financier, he was the dupe of the interested representations of a Harley or a Drummond. His credulity has been properly rewarded by the subsequent gratitude of those gentlemen;

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but that easiness of disposition was incompatible with the character of a great minister; yet his unceasing good-humour, his lively repartee, and pointed eloquence, will ever be remembered in the Commons with unabated pleasure; and the poverty with which he retired from twelve years ministerial opportunity, will sufficiently attest the integrity of his heart; nor do I think, in the annals of history it will be imputed to him as a crime, that, in the mild spirit of Christianity, he reconciled himself to a parliamentary opponent.

The Duke of Norfolk possesses rank, fortune, manly understanding, and parliamentary influence; to these might have been added, extensive beneficence, and unbounded liberality. No bigot to any religion, he is conscientiously attached to the one he professes, though

in withdrawing from his former persuafion, he withdrew not his countenance from those of his connections who thought proper to continue in it. · His active mind allows him not to moulder in ease, or vegetate in indolence; and his patriotic disposition would not suffer him to remain a calm spectator, whilst the interests of his country were devoted to ruin, and the facred barriers of her constitution were wantonly trampled upon: yet his peculiar moderation in political pursuits, his temperate language in debate, have even extorted from churlish authority, and legal pre-eminence, an unqualified acknowledgement of high respectability and undeviating candour. That in various parts of the kingdom his property should be employed in striking off the fetters of freeholders, and emancipating subjected boroughs; that 7 7 3

that at Carlifle and Heretord it has been fuccessfully opposed to the menaced wealth of a Harley, and the overweening arrogance of a Lowther, will never be confidered as partaking of that weaknefs which annexes confequence to a stud of horses, or kennel of hounds, until the conciliating address of his Grace, the firmness of his principles, are confounded with the equestrian skill of a jockey, and the rustic resolution of a fox-hunter. When the prefumptive heir to the Norfolk estates and title is described in his pretentions to an Herefordshire heiress, as bartering with a popish conveyancer, and antiquated governess, the charge becomes too ludicrous for ferious refutation: but it was referved for this discerning writer to mark with opprobrium, to instance as a depravity, the exercise of ancient hospitality, the enviable enviable accompaniment of focial qualities, with the perfevering practice of private virtue. On the demise of his Grace's former wise, his ready renuncition of certain claims was no infignisistant proof of his private integrity; and his public may be found in his steady attention to parliamentary reform, and his repeated efforts to purify that fountain of political corruption.

In the House of Cavendish, hereditary dignity and acknowledged virtue are endeavoured to be counteracted by the imputation of political weakness; and this imputation is folely sustained by an anonymous writer having withdrawn from it his respect, whilst the name of Russel, dear to the annals of this country, becomes the object of his assiduous calumny and unwearied slander. An inconsiderate corporation bargain, an injudicious

judicious motion in the House of Peers may amuse for a moment, but will be lost in the recollection that the ancestors of the Duke of Bedford, with their fortunes, supported the sinking liberties of their country, and sealed their principles with their blood. Nor can the known independence of the Duke of Northumberland be shaken by the surmise of indisposition never before heard of, or the insinuation of promotion never yet aspired to.

But if this combination of found judgment, unblemished reputation, and opulent dignity, is not sufficient to infure national confidence, and communicate popular importance, let us follow the author to those who possess the more intrinsic qualifications of profound knowledge, and elevated genius, though

denied the lustre of ancestry, and the less enviable gifts of fortune.

Edmund Burke's transcendent abilities, and erudition, will ever claim respect and attention; and though they have added but little to his fortune, have extended the limits of his fame. Instead of wasting his talents in idle theory, he brought them into practice; whatever is beautiful may be found in the mild purity of his private life; whatever is fublime in his public difinterestedness, and contempt of wealth; fuperior to the airy reputation of an elegant effayift, he absented himfelf from the paths of science and the refearches of philosophy, to establish the happiness of millions, and affert the general rights of mankind. Whilst Great Britain acknowledges the bleffings of a prudent and œconomical reform; whilst the exults in the national character vindicated

the reputed perfecutor of princes, the ravager of provinces, and exterminator of a people; whilft these survive in her records, the name of Burke cannot be consigned to oblivion:

Semper honos, nomenque tuum, laudesq; manebunt.

Lord Loughborough's ready eloquence, and legal knowledge, will always give weight to his political approbation; how far his animated reprobation of the conduct of ministers respecting the Middlesex election is remembered with gratitude by Mr. Wilkes, the subsequent conduct of that gentleman allows us to doubt; but it will never be forgotten or disregarded by the great body of his constituents. As a pleader, the practice of Lord Loughborough at the bar was of

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the most extensive kind; and, as a judge, his decisions have been received with general satisfaction and desergence.

Mr. Sheridan has indeed rifen to importance by an unprecedented combination of abilities; every obstacle paternal fituation could oppose, every shackle contracted circumstances could rivet, have diffolved before the refiftless blaze of his capacity, the inexhaustible fire of his genius. To posses clear comprehension, with lively wit; found judgment, with brilliant fancy; historical information, with classical erudition: to blend constitutional knowledge with dramatic composition; to excel as an author, and an orator; to have acquired the palm of eloquence, and wreath of poetry, establishes such an exalted pre-eminence of fituation, that the aching eye of admiration

ration with difficulty looks up to. On that auspicious night when the groans of Afiatic mifery awakened his compassion, when the perversion of delegated authority arouzed his indignation, what eye but was alternately melted into tears, or inflamed with honest resentment! The dictates of interest for a moment were forgotten, the supercilious voice of authority was mute, even the hardened front of Major Scott confessed the impression, and shrunk abashed from the piercing ray of conviction.—That to indulge in sportive pleasantry, to beguile the House from tedious wranglings into a chearful fmile, should appear highly criminal in the Country Gentleman, we can readily believe, and as readily his readers will acquit him of exciting such fensations: but when he afferts that an ironical ironical figure, or farcastic retort, would have been considered by the late Speaker, Onslow, as degradatory to the proceedings of Parliament, he violates the sacred memory of the dead, and tramples on the speeches of a Chestersield, and a Pulteney;

How can I Pulteney, Chesterfield, forget! Whilst Roman spirit charms, or Attic wit?

But if the transmitted repartees of those statesmen, if the lines of Pope exceed the narrow limits of his reading, I will not infult his ignorance with the Philippics of Demosthenes, or the orations of Cicero; should he think the perusal of these would contribute to adorn future political correspondence, the applicable quotations of that Greekling, Lord Belgrave, prove how capable he is to instruct

him

him in the former, and the blooming Lords of the Treasury still tingle under the discipline which imprinted on their memories the latter.—That the income of Mr. Sheridan is not adequate to his merit, will always be as freely confessed as fincerely lamented; but in his abilities he has a stake in this country superior to shady woods, and Acton Burnell acres. If the apostacy of the infignificant Mornington was rewarded with a feat at the Treasury Board, if the superficial talents of the venal Eden were not thought too dear at 60001. per annum, and the fubfequent embaffy to Spain, what doubt is there but Mr. Sheridan might readily break the bands of private enthrallment? But his integrity will be found to correfpond with his ability; nor can it leffen his reputation that he prefers the clamours of importunate creditors to the reproaches proaches and execrations of a deferted and indignant people; and I reject, with contempt, the malevolent afpersion, that his Grace of Portland should have hesitated at an efficient situation for this gentleman, and in the moment of his country's distress, have endeavoured to divide from her side the abilities best calculated to restore her declining vigour, and re-irradiate her waining splendor.

Thus, when Mr. Fox reviews his political phalanx, in which are enrolled the names of Howard, Bentinck Cavendish, Russel, and Percy; in which are to be found the eloquence, the legal knowledge, the genius of a Burke, a Loughborough, and a Sheridan; when he adds the titles and hereditary possessions of Fitzwilliam, Carlisle, Derby, Hertford, and Spencer; the independent

dent minds, and extensive property of a Coke, Crewe, Wyndham, Pelham, and Powys, he must feel his bosom glow with conscious exultation, and await with considence the attack of Prætorian bands, and hireling legions, tho marshalled by Sir George Howard, and led to battle by a rhetorical Minister, a stubborn Chancellor, a silent Chief Justice, and Lord Camden, in rusty and marvellous ill-favour'd armour:"

Quamvis, Pontica pinus, Jactes et genus, et nomen inutile; Nil pictis timidus navita puppis Fidit.

That nobleman was once indeed followed by confidence, and looked up to by admiration; it was in the cause of Liberty alone he took the field, and he raised his buckler to shield her from in-

G fult:

fult: but certain late weaknesses incline us to suspect the heart or head; and when he promoted an arbitrary suspension of the laws, as only a tyranny of forty days, he stained the fair reputation of his former deeds, and contracted the gratitude of a succeeding generation, who will think his services already amply repaid, since we find him President of the Council, and his son a Lord of the Admiralty, and a Teller of the Exchequer.

Lord Kenyon's profundity of legal knowledge and determined integrity, I shall suffer to pass without investigation; but I should have as soon expected a panegyric on his dress, as an eulogium on his patience; and I am still at a loss to discern why this active administrator of justice was introduced, to lengthen a letter already too long, and the Secretaries

of state, and of war, the first Lord of the Admiralty, the Master-General of the Ordnance, and the Treasurer of the Navy, passed over in uninterrupted filence. Did the ludicrous recollection of Tommy Townshend, deter from hazard the title of Lord Sydney, when in opposition he was considered as having some personal merit, and as not infensible to the charms of displaying it? "It is a good leg, Master Tommy, " but I cannot now stay to praise it." The Duke of Leeds must not passunfung. He dreffes well, understands music, and gives good dinners; and these are the utmost qualifications I ever heard assigned to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Sir George Yonge possesses also some share of musical reputation; but as this gentleman is supposed to hold his place

by a very uncertain tenure, fince the recovery of his Majesty's health he has prudently relinquished every idea of Sunday concerts. Lord Chatham is certainly First Lord of the Admiralty, and as certainly brother to the Minister; but I leave these feeble exotics, who can exist only in the warmth of a court, for plants of more vigorous growth, and hardier extraction.—The Duke of Richmond was long a member of Oppofition; and, with an intemperance of zeal, an exuberance of rage, directed the shafts of his invectives, not against the heads of Ministers, but the heart of his Sovereign !—That his violence has of late fubfided, is not entirely to be ascribed to official gratification, but partly may be accounted for from the record of private occurrences; and it is fupposed the shade of the late General Sir Iohn

John Clavering would be scarce less appalling to his sight, than the remonstrance of Lord Rawdon proved to his ear. If inadvertence hurries him into offence, no man is more ready to apologize; his strength of judgment, his attachment to public economy, are sufficiently attested in his wife and parsimonious Fortification scheme.

Harry Dundas entered life with a prudent determination, which he has adhered to invariably. Inconfistency and hypocrify are the only political crimes I firmly believe his character unstained with. He accused Sir Thomas Rumbold, and facilitated his escape. He arraigned Mr. Hastings, and endeavoured to defend him. He acted with Lord North to the last moment of his power, and was the first to traduce him; and all this he has done with so persect

an attention to his own advantage, that I never heard the most distant infinuation against his consistency; whilst his open contempt of public opinion, his avowed disregard to even the shadow of reputation, has equally delivered him from the imputation of hypocrify.

Vendidit hic auro patriam, dominumque potentent Imposuit, fixit leges pretio atque refixit.

With these I shall serve up two more characters, which, though omitted in the banquet of the Country Gentleman, will not, I hope, be unacceptable to the palates of political guests. The Marquis of Buckingham and Lord Hawkesbury. The first abroad, the acknowledged representative of our gracious Sovereign; the last at home, the reputed representative of his ungracious savourite.

An eafy fortune, powerful connections, and fome reputation for ability, accompanied the Marquis into public life: the death of Lord Temple increafed the first, and added dignity to the fecond; but the strength of the last has gradually declined, and at length given way to less honourable substitutes, crafty machination, and intriguing cunning. Could fecret influence be held a matter of indifference in this country, the Marquis might be confidered as minimus in maximis, et maximus in minimis; the just odium which attended his unconflitutional interference, drove him from ministerial importance in Great Britain; nor has a greater degree of popularity awaited his administration in Ireland. It is not by an indefatigable inspection amongst cinders, by the petty retrenchment of a few fuperfluous faggots, that the public expendi-

expenditure ought to be circumscribed, or national character degraded. The Irish are a generous, a hospitable, and a discerning people, and could not fail to trace in the littleness of public conduct, the weakness which fullies private. On the late death of his father-in-law, ere the funeral obsequies could well be solemnized; ere the corpfe was cold in the grave, with indecent haste the Marquis exposed to fale the house in town, the materials of the feat in the country, the paling of the park; and, it is reported, even the fish in the canals did not escape the searching eye of rapacious avidity.

Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo, Domi ac nummos contemplor in arcâ.

Hence every species of contempt has attended his steps without doors, and every

every stigma of invective has marked his character within; and we are yet to learn how long it will be deemed prudent to continue in office a Lord-Lieutenant whom the debates of the House have attested to be a man of supercilious demeanor, narrow capacity, and sordid disposition.

Lord Hawkesbury's modest virtues have ever shunned the public eye; Lord Bute sirst drew him from obscurity, and promoted him from critical essays to political disquisitions; his attachment is acknowledged to have been invariable, from the very moment of his emerging into savour, to the present hour of his superintending the Duchy court of Lancaster, and adding dignity to the peerage. As a steady friend, and an active agent, he has justified the choice of his discerning Mæcenas. Should their correspondence,

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by any accident, hereafter be subjected to the perusal of the public, it will doubtless eclipse the ungarbled letters of Lord Chesterfield, and the celebrated Diary of Bubb Doddington.—As a Financier, public report is in favour of him; but the loans and pecuniary negociations of Lord North, whose Sully he was ever supposed to be, are but an indifferent corroboration of it. His confequence is believed to flow from a higher fource. To possess the second place in the royal bosom, to be the channel of communication with him who still retains the first, are circumstances which must render Lord Hawkesbury a character of no small importance in the government of this country, and give him. a greater degree of confideration than what arises from his knowledge of foreign treaties, or his reputed skill in

finance.

finance. As a speaker, he is cautious and unassuming; as a statesman intelligent and indefatigable; and though better qualified for official situation, than any of those with whom he acts; yet that particular recommendation which first diverted to him the rays of regal bounty, will constantly preclude him from the considence of the people.

Lord Thurlow has for a long time been the general subject of ministerial panegyric; and it is fortunate these accumulated praises have been heaped on a modest mind, which might have rendered a less dissident disposition assuming and supercilious. Comprehensive understanding, strong systematic judgment, commanding eloquence, and stubborn integrity, form no despicable prologue to unqualified dignity, and consummate wisdom. Yet it would not have been unacceptable is

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fome few moments had been employed in substantiating his pretensions to these aggregated qualifications. Is his confummate wisdom to be found in the injudicious origin of the Dutch war; or his systematic judgment and comprehensive understanding in the approbation of Lord Lansdown's subsequent peace? Even his boafted ftubbornness yielded to the appointment of Pepper Arden; and his commanding eloquence, during his long continuance in the Commons, was heard without envy or admiration. On his accession to the Lords, I confess myself at a loss to account for his sudden acquisition of this qualification; -was it granted him in his patent for the peerage, or annexed to the possession of the great feal? Or is not the reputation of it rather founded on the more decent demeanor and polished language of those noble personages,

personages, ill calculated to contend with illiberal invective and assuming declamation?

"This is fome fellow

- Who, being prais'd for bluntness, doth affect
- " A faucy roughness."

When the ever to be lamented indifposition of his Majesty awakened the appearance of Lord Thurlow's long dormant feelings; when he called forth tears, long strangers to his cheeks, I sympathized with his concern, and acknowledged the ARDUOUSNESS of the effort! but when to Lord Rawdon's constitutional doubt, he replied, " What lord " dares invade the rights of the King?" I despised the evasive orator, and laughed at the impassioned exclamation. man attempted, no lord dared to invade the rights of the King; but it was the duty

duty of every peer, boldly and dispasfionately to have examined what rights remained attached to him during the melancholy hour of his infanity. With Lord Thurlow's unqualified dignity I own myself unacquainted; but I am not entirely a stranger to his unqualified arrogance. And to his integrity I subscribe, if it implies nothing more than that he religiously keeps the eighth commandment of the Decalogue, whilst he glories in despising the third, and WANTONLY invades the tenth. His neighbour's wife, or maid-fervant, may indeed prove temptations, but of the ox and the afs I readily acquit, and believe him as incapable of coveting the Abelard characteristic of the first, as the patient refignation of the last.

From this dreary defart of his public virtue, I now turn to the more limited walks

walks of private life; and it is with regret I obtrude on paths which ought in general to be facred from the scrutinizing eye of prying curiofity. The dissipation of a Secretary of State, the conviviality of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, provided the public business suffer not, will never long engage the national attention; but fome decency of exterior, some sense of moral duty, ought furely to accompany the keeper of the King's conscience; yet where are thefe to be found? in blafphemous execrations, or infidious feduction? His temperance is inscribed on the Bacchanalian board of Lord Weymouth, and his chastity is engraved on the recording monument of Miss Lynch. That youth should be the votary of pleafure, that manhood should acknowledge the dominion of the passions, may perhaps

haps excite our concern; but it is with disgust we view the palsied limbs of hoary age, tottering from the licentious table of excess to the vulgar embraces of fenfual proftitution. Even our vices frequently admit of fome palliation. Festive wit may delude into intemperance, and female elegance fan the expiring flame of declining life; but here, " Luxuriam autem in isto hanc nolite co-" gitare: est enim quædam, quanquam " omnis est vitiosa atque turpis, tamen " ingenuo ac libero dignior. Nihil apud " hunc lautum, nihil elegans, nihil ex-" quisitum (laudabo inimicum) ne mag-" nopere quidem quidquam, præter li-" bidines, fumptuofum.—But believe " him not capable of this species of lux-" ury; for though every description of " it is base and vicious, yet there is one " kind

- " kind more becoming the gentleman,
- " and more fuitable to a liberal mind;
- " but with him nothing is genteel, no-
- "thing elegant, nothing polished (I
- " will praise my enemy), nor is he indeed
- " extravagant in any thing but his lusts."

Mr. Pitt commenced his official career under the aufpices of Lord Lanfdown, and accepted a fituation relinquished by Lord John Cavendish, and a connection renounced and reprobated by Messrs. Fox, Burke, and Montagu. He employed the powers of his rhetoric to varnish over the measures of his new friend, who opposed American independence here, at the very moment it was announced there by the King's proclamation, and a letter from himself—when this ground was abandoned as untenable, when that independence was not only granted, but

an immense tract of country annexed to it, Mr. Pitt was found amongst the minority who supported a peace, voted by the House inadequate and dishonourable; after an ineffectual struggle, he was compelled, with his patron, to retire from ministerial importance, to be restored again by the unconstitutional interference of the Marquis of Buckingham. The integrity of the Commons was, however, inflexible; they refolved "That his continuance in trusts of the " highest responsibility was contrary to " the principles of the constitution, and " injurious to the interests of the King " and his Country;" and this resolution was followed by a fpeedy and premature diffolution. The candid, the open manner in which this measure was executed, is sufficiently attested by the veracity of Mr.

Mr. Bankes's declarations, and the fincerity of the Speech from the Throne; nor was it on this occasion considered as too great a facrifice to immolate the reputation of his friend, or expose the dignity of his fovereign. On the refumption of business, the affairs of the East India Company first demanded attention; against the claims of that Company Mr. Fox had proceeded by storm. These Mr. Pitt was content secretly and clandestinely to sap, whilst the Trial by Jury, that bulwark of British Freedom, was shaken by his crafty and baneful machinations. His Bill was full of dark defign and fecret influence; it menaced the delinquents of Asia, and virtually screened them; every accufation was to be preferred by the Company, or the Attorney General, and peculation was admonished I 2

monished to court the connections of the great, and gratify the expectations of the fordid.

Is it necessary, in his unprecedented and unconstitutional support of the Westminster scrutiny, to recall his vain and ungenerous attempt to embarrass his political antagonist? or expedient to enquire how steadily or resolutely he promoted a Parliamentary Reform? on that occasion the Ministers of the State, and the Servants of the Crown, were fuffered with impunity to follow their own inclinations: the confidential even cousin, and newly created peer, Lord Camelford, was heard without reproof, and received without indignation; but an opposition to the late Restrictions was attended by the difmissal of a military officer; and as the first proof of his recovery of reason, his Majesty was induced

duced to discard from his favour, and divide from his side, an old and faithst fervant.

I will not enter into a discussion of the Fortification scheme, that chimera of a heated imagination and Quixote brain; the Minister's judgment in defending it, can only be justified at the expence of his fincerity. Still less am I inclined to waste a moment on the ridiculous fate of his Irish Propositions, contrived with such happy ingenuity, as to be equally repugnant to the inclinations, and prejudicial to the interests of both kingdoms. And could an acquiescence in them have been obtained. I fear the mischiefs arising from them would fcarcely have been compensated by the advantages of the Commercial Treaty, recorded as they are in the distresses of Birmingham,

Birmingham, and the unparalleled bankruptcies of Manchester.

That our Funds have acquired a degree of stability, and an increase of value during fix years peace, cannot, I think, be fairly ascribed to the ability of Mr. Pitt, but the discernment with which he embraced the fleeting opportunity to restore unanimity to the Dutch, and reestablish the rights of the Prince of Orange; his prompt resolution to cooperate with Prussia, is a monument of his vigor and fagacity, which envy ought not to approach, or party invade. This praise shall be his pure and undiminished, nor will I suffer the reputed councils of a Chancellor, the whifpered influence of a Hawkesbury, to blast the folitary laurel which, as a Minister, adorns his unprolific brow. As a speaker his merit is obvious; and may doubtless rank amongst the first with those whose superficial understandings are more eafily captivated by the specious blandishments of the rhetorician, than impressed by the energetic language of the orator. But I cannot confider this fingle quality, accompanied with one proof of a vigorous or discerning mind, sufficient to counterbalance a long train of fucceffive errors and reputed failures; nor can I review his fallacious support of the Parliamentary Reform, his countenance of the Fortification scheme. without questioning the purity of his heart: or the inefficient clauses of his East India Bill, the rude mass of his Irish Propositions, without arraigning the foundness of his head: and when to these is added that intriguing spirit which marked his accession, I must exclaim claim in words applied to his Prototype Augustus:

Adolescentem, laudandum, ornandum, tollendum.

Thus far, with no inconfiderable degree of weariness, have I followed the footsteps of the Country Gentleman. I now leave him to the cultivation of his fictitious fields, and the enjoyment of his ideal woods. I leave him in full poffeffion of the fatisfaction arifing from the King's PERFECT recovery, and of the triumph that Doctor Willis or his fon STILL remain at Kew. Though I may regret that fome moments, which might have been appropriated to pleasure ro improvement, have been devoted to the contemptible effusions of a writer whose knowledge of language is instanced when he afferts, "Confo-" lation

" lation to be no mitigation of afflic-" tion;" and whose morality decries Christian forgiveness in a statesman, and contemns insipid virtue in a Prince; yet I shall not think myself entirely unrewarded, should this Pamphlet fall into the hands of any person weak enough (if any fuch weakness can exist) to have been impressed by his misrepresentations. To remove these impressions is perhaps the greatest advantage to be derived from the efforts of an obscure individual like myself; but it would be the utmost extent of my ambition, the highest praise of my life, could I as readily dispel delusion, and eradicate error from the partial breast of the mifguided monarch. This indeed cannot be hoped from anonymous publication; but I will give way to the vision of the moment; I will yield to the transient dream K

dream of imaginary greatness, I will fancy myself elevated to the observation of the Sovereign, and called upon to deliver my sentiments, and contribute my advice.

If, amidst the tumult of exultation; if, amidst popular acclamations, and congratulatory compliments, the small voice of truth can be heard, may I prefume that it will be equally acceptable to the feelings of your Majesty, as it neceffarily must conduce to the happiness of your subjects. The language of fincerity is not to be read in luminous infcriptions; nor is the approbation of a people to be found in fulfome addresses; even the shouts of a giddy and applauding populace, are often as infincere as the protestations of a Minister, or the panegyrics of a parasite. Innumerable addresses accompanied the baneful and destruc-

destructive measures of James II.; and his return to the capital was hailed by an unthinking multitude, ready to adopt the hopes, and embrace the fortunes of his more prosperous competitor: but it is on the actions of a king, or the records of his reign, that permanent popularity is founded.—If he has confulted the true interests of the country; if he has extended the limits, and exalted the glory of the empire; he may depend on the loyal exertions of his people; he may rely on their affections, and confide in their attachments. Nor will this rule be less applicable to his Ministers. How far therefore your Majesty ought to be fatisfied with the present plaudits of the crowd, it will be painful to me hereafter to examine; but I shall not hefitate to pronounce they afford but small matter of triumph to your Ministers,

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and lend them but a cafual, instable, and artificial support. The whole tenor of their conduct, during the continuance of your indisposition, was subversive of the principles of the constitution, inimical to the interests of the people, derogatory to the character of the Prince, and dangerous to your Majesty's future prospects of happiness; and these aftertions are established by a hasty review of the proposed limitations. In weakening and dividing the executive power, they destroyed the boasted balance of the Three Estates; and in virtually creating a Fourth, they enfured diffension, and razed the very foundations of govern-Here then were subverted the principles of the constitution.—By a perseverance in this system, they would have exposed the nation to every species. of diffress arising from an inefficient administra.

ministration.—In this they were inimical to the interests of the people.—Exclusive of the suspicion they endeavoured to attach to the conduct of the Heir Apparent, they placed him in a responsible fituation, without powers fufficient for the maintenance of his dignity, or the fupport of his ministers. They allowed him the pomp of regency, but denied the effential requisites. Every shackle was imposed on his manly capacity, every gratification of a royal disposition, every exertion of munificence was prohibited, and he was to behold the courage of the foldier, the fagacity of the statesman, pass away without ornament or reward !—By the imbecillity which must have attended fuch a government, they strove to cloud with doubts the auspicious expectations of a future reign; and thus their conduct duct was derogatory to the character of the Prince.

But when they afferted that an efficient auministration could be framed under these limitations;—when they declared that powers still remained adequate to every purpose of government, they impressed the minds of your subjects with just and general consternation !- If a Regent (whose duration is uncertain) thus limited, thus restricted, can give weight and stability to his designs, what is not to be apprehended from the Monarch himself possessed of the dignity of the peerage, the patronage of the houshold, and the perfuafive emoluments of patent places and pensions? Your Majesty's Ministers have not hesitated to describe the influence of the crown as fearfully enormous. They have alarmed the minds, and excited the fuspicions of your

your people, and have annexed a degree of terror to the exercise of your royal prerogative, which cannot fail at least of endangering your suture prospects of happiness.

And what in return are the advantages they bring to the foot of the throne?— Hollow professions of attachment to your person, and an injudicious and interested zeal for the honour of your Confort.—Why, Sir, will you thus fuffer them to infult your understanding? No powers could have been granted to the Prince but what must have ceased on the proof of your recovery.—When you approve these reproachful limitations; -these unnecessary precautions, you wound not the reputation of your Son, but proclaim the weakness of your own judgment. This is no Eastern court; here is no Turkish seraglio; your perfon

fon could not have been immured by confidential mutes, or fubservient eunuchs; and it would have been equally difficult to have concealed from his fubjects, the restoration of the Sovereign's reason, as to have secluded from them the chearful rays of the fun, or to have denied them the re-animating warmth of his beams.

Nor have these men been less inattentive to the real honour of your Confort, than regardless of your Majesty's true welfare. Why was the name of this illustrious Person dragged into debate, but to strengthen the battle of inordinate ambition. or fecure a fortress for its retreat! Hence has this amiable pattern for her fex been reprefented in the hour of domestic affliction, as feeking confolation in stipulations for patronage, and pretenfions to power.—From my heart,

I believe

I believe the Queen incapable of intentionally injuring the interests of the country;—but we well know the insidious arts of a Minister;—we are not unacquainted with the weakness of a woman.

Even the short period since your providential recovery has not escaped the blafting breath of unwholesome councils; and the first acknowledgment of the clemency of the Almighty, is found in the instance of a vindictive spirit, and implacable disposition. But insensible to your reputation, the First Lord of the Treasury maintains a fastidious silence, and the difmissal of Lord Lothian is left to the newly discovered responsibility of Sir George Yonge, and the prattling promptitude of Colonel Phipps;—reflect, Sir, how far fuch characters can command the approbation of confiderate

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and difcerning minds. Be not buoyed up with the vain idea that you are the idol of your people; trust not implicitly in illusive protestations and intemperate acclamations. When the inflexible Aurelian became the victim of deluded conspiracy; when the virtuous Probus fell a martyr to momentary rage; the tears of a people, the lamentations of an empire, attended them to the tomb. But when the inane and stupid Claudius sunk beneath the artifices of his daring confort, his fate was received with cold indifference, or undifguifed exultation. The magnificence of his aqueduct, the importance of his haven, were lost in the weakness of his disposition, the imbecillity of his character; and Rome rejoiced that the dignity of the empire had escaped the degrading authority of a contemptible ideot.

Review,

Review, Sir, in the melancholy annals of national calamity, the invariable features of your own government; compare the state of Britain at the moment of your accession, to the late hour of defeat; her people impoverished, her resources exhausted, her armies captured, and her provinces dismembered; and then listen to the ready flattery of Sir Joseph Banks, and the obsequious suggestions of a Saturnian reign.

But should your Majesty condescend to inquire what course can be steered, what system can now be adopted? I would boldly reply; cease to tread the winding and thorny paths of secret instruce, conside no longer in specious professions of personal attachment, divide not from your councils men of unquestionable capacity, estrange not your countenance from the ancient nobility

of your realm; but above all, restore to your considence and affections a Son, whose unexampled moderation has secured to him the admiration of the people, and *bereaster* may you reign FELICIOR AUGUSTO, MELIOR TRAJANO.

FINIS.