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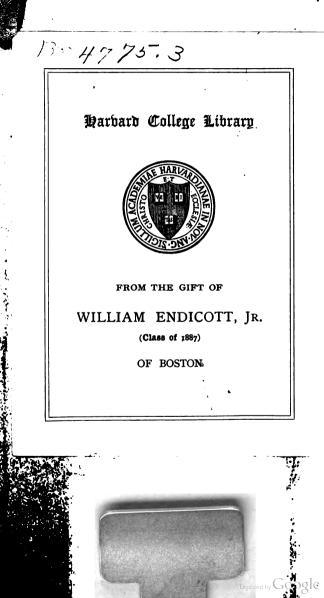
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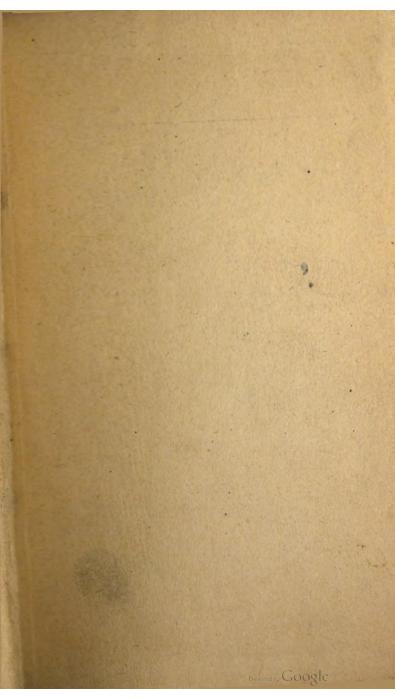
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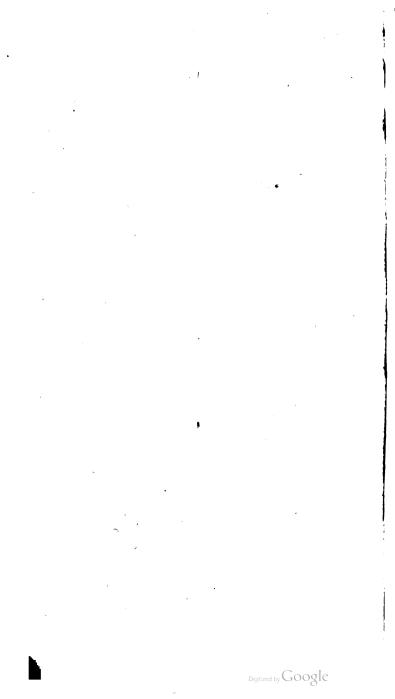
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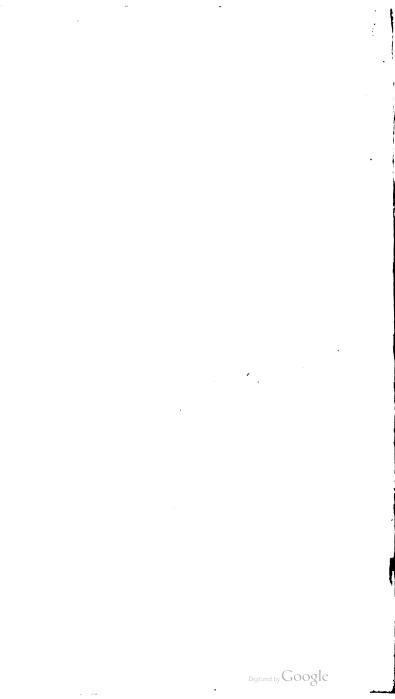






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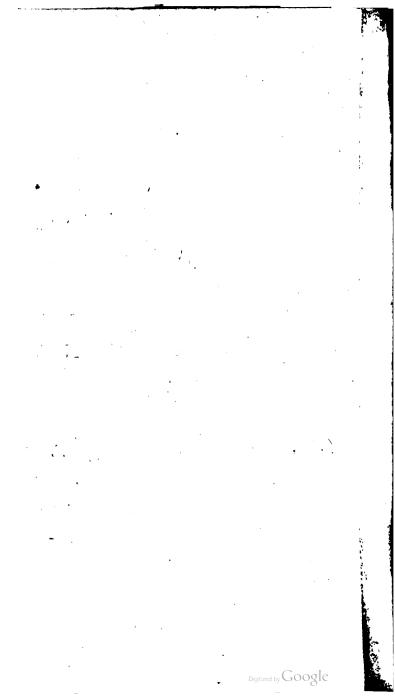
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REVIEW

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TOTHE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

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EARL of Burlington,

Knight of the Moft Noble Order of the Garter.

My Lord,



HE defign of this dedication is not to do honour to you, but myfelf; neither is it made by choice, but neceffity: for, as I always intended to infcribe

these papers to the greatest genius, and most finish'd judge, 'twas impossible I could address them to any body else.

Were they upon any other fubject but architecture and publick ornaments, I should think my felf oblig'd to make some apology for the liberty I have taken; but, as they

DEDICATION.

they treat of those only, the publick would believe that no apology could justify me for not making you their patron.

You, my Lord, have, in a manner, a natural right to all acknowledgments of this kind; 'tis owing to you that tafte and elegance are fo much the fashion, and so well understood; your example has given a fanction to science; and even the vanity of being like you, has made as many converts to its cause, as a thorough love, and veneration for its excellencies.

I can't tell under which class of admirers I am to be rang'd, but this I am certain of, I only defcribe what you execute, and, like the critick to the poet, only apply the rules in theory, which you reduce into practice.

After this confession, my Lord, I know it will be expected that my remarks should bear in them the same characteristicks of harmony and beauty, as distinguish the compositions on which they are founded; or else it will be said I have set up a standard to condemn myself. I know there is much reason to be assured of this confequence; but as every body will grant my first principles right, they may compliment my judgment so far at least, and, if I have err'd in the application, it may be recollected still in my favour, that few

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DEDICATION.

pupils make a figure in company with their mafter.

At a time, my Lord, when fo much money is lavifh'd in building, and too often with fo little pretence to beauty, or magnificence, it could not be unfeafonable to publifh fome hints on a fubject fo frequently employ'd, and fo feldom underftood: I grant, indeed, if buildings could be read as eafily as books, there would be no need of any comment of mine, and your Lordfhip's plans would be of more fervice to the world, than the most refin'd fpeculations. But as few have a like talent of laying out their fortunes with propriety, or making their own private judgment a publick ornament, I have ventur'd to warn them of the danger of attempting what they are not equal to, or declaring their weakness at their own expence. Folly in building is one of the most

Folly in building is one of the most lasting reflections on a man's character, because 'tis not only universally known in his own time, but is often perpetuated thro' many generations.

It is incumbent, therefore, on every man of quality and fortune, to weigh very ferioufly every undertaking of this nature, and not precipitate himfelf into an expence, that neither convenience, or grandeur can juftify.

The

DEDICATION.

The way to do this moft effectually, is to confult the models your Lordship has oblig'd the publick with, and then they will learn that beauty is first founded in fimplicity, and harmony; and magnificence in propriety of ornament, and nobleness of imagination.

I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's Most Obedient,

And Most Devoted

Humble Servant,



PREFACE.

BEING

An Essay on TASTE.



HAT we understand by taste, is the peculiar reliss that we feel for any agreeable object; and is more or less perfect, according to the degree of judgment we employ in distinguishing its beauties. It ought al-

ways to be founded on truth, or veri-fimilitude at least; but we often find it to be only the child of opinion, or the mere result of accident. True taste is not to be acquir'd without infinite toil and study; and we are generally too indolent to accept of an advantage on such terms. This is the real occasion, why a false one is so apt to prevail, and, on

a division of mankind, would number three to one in its own favour. All men are fond of being esteem'd witty, wise, or learned; but are willing to procure their reputation as eafily as possible. They have sense enough to obferve how cheaply this is acquir'd by humour and fashion, to the prejudice of true understanding, and genuine politeness; and bow zealous we are in promoting the follies we in-tend to practife. Like men of much ambiti-on, and narrow fortune, we counterfeit the gaiety we can never purchase; and frugally flatter ourselves, that our tinsel will be mistaken for the real gold it was intended to imitate. I am forry 'tis in my power, to appeal to numberless facts for, the truth of this affertion. Nothing is jo common, as the affectation of tafte; and hardly any thing is fo feldom found. Indeed the misfortune is infec-tious, and variety of incidents agree to make it almost universal. Bad principles of edu-cation, when young; an ill choice of acquaintance at entering into the world; the ignorance of those that undertake to inform us, and continual prejudices of our own. But the frequency, or confirmation of an evil, should never discourage us from endeavouring to sur-mount it; and if 'tis grown quite desperate, there is the more necessity for opposing it with the greater vigour. There is so much depends on a true taste, with regard to elegance, and even to morality, that I can't refift the temptation

PREFACE.

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tation of throwing in my mite to the publick; and recommending, to the utmost of my power, what I judge to be of so much advantage. The design of schools, the use of universities, the benefit of conversation, should all centre in this great point; and no one can properly be stiled a gentleman, who has not made use of every opportunity to enrich his own capacity, and fettle the elements of taste, which he may improve at leifure. There are numbers of perfons, who may justly claim reputation for a fingle excellence, that in all others are defective, and inconsiderable, for the want of this general accomplishment. A good taste is the heightner of every science, and the polish of every virtue : 'tis the friend of sciety, and the guide to knowledge: 'tis the improvement of pleasure, and the test of merit. By this, we enlarge the circle of enjoyment, and refine upon bappiness. It enables us to distinguish beauty, wherever we find it, and detect error in all its disguises. It obliges us to behave with decency and elegance, and quickens our attention to the good qualities of others : In a word, 'tis the affemblage of all propriety, and the centre of all that's amiable.

Truth and beauty include all excellence; and together with their opposites, are the only objects for the exercise of our censure, or admiration. The rightly distinguishing of them, is the proof of a good taste, and what naturally leads to the perfection of judgment and apa 2 prehension.

prebenfion. Truth, Should be confider'd as the defign in painting; and beauty, the colouring and decoration. Falfebood and deformity, are the contrasts of the groupe; and to be able to detect the one, we should be capable of admiring the other. The mind, which is always employ'd in contemplating the first, or condemning the last, will be partial in its knowledge, and unjust in its decision. Prejudice, on either fide, is foreign to a good taste; and yet, thro' the frailty of human nature, both may meet in the same person together.

To acquire that excellence perfectly, therefore, we must be impartial in our enquiry, and cool in our judgment; quick to apprehend, and ready to determine what is an error, and what a beauty; carefully examining, when we condemn, if the defect is not in our mind; and when we praise, whether we truly understand the object of our approbation. Many a mistake has been made by not observing this rule. Beauties have been censur'd, for want of understanding; and errors extoll'd, because in the masque of truth. To reduce these bints into practice, I would

To reduce these bints into practice, I would again observe, that the influence of a good taste is to be extended much farther than is generally imagin'd. 'Tis not confin'd only to writings of every kind, but intimately regards painting and sculpture, comprehends the whole circle of civility and good manners, and regulates life and conduct, as well as theory

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theory and speculation. In every one of these relations, 'tis always to be observed, both in judging and acting. For want of it, in all, we daily see a thousand absurdities, that politeness would be asham'd of, and reason condemn. Pertness passes for wit; dulness for decorum; lewdness for bumour; dissimulation for bonour; and vanity for every accomplishment. 'Tis bard to determine whether there is an

'Tis bard to determine whether there is an eternal difference in the effence of fouls, or whether they exert themfelves, more or lefs vigoroufly, in proportion to the delicacy of the organs of the body they inform; or whether the force of education, habit, or fociety, gives a fuperior turn to the genius that possifies thefe advantages.

'Tis certain there is a wide difference in men, and, whatever is the caufe, fome are diftinguish'd by so many perfections as almost elevate them above the rank of their fellow-creatures, and set them at an awful distance for the vulgar of mankind to wonder at. But how great soever is the capacity, infinite toil and labour are necessary to form it into beauty, and regularity; so many difficulties are to be furmounted, so many mortifications are to be endur'd, and such a labyrinth of knowledge is to be struggled thro', that, were not ambition to prompt us, and vanity to flatter, scarce one in a thousand would have the courage to undertake so arduous a task, and not one in five bun-

bundred of them, bave the refolution or address to accomplish the end they had in view. The very prospect would frighten us from attempting it; or passion, or indolence binder our attaining it: but very few arrive even at the point they propos'd. None can say they have finish'd their journey; knowledge is infinite, and, when mortality has spun out its latest thread in the pursuit, we look forward with aftonishment at the unbounded scene before us, and backward with contempt at the little portion our whole lives could compass. Nature seems to have done as much for us as we can do for ourselves, and the utmost of our endeavours can be little more than to regulate, and polifb the bints that arife from her. What is learning but a collection of that knowledge which nature had inspir'd? and what politeness, but a refinement on those pleasures which she has distated? Let us look upon the grave and serious among the sulgar, and we shall see oeconomy and morality in miniature, and both as perfect as is needful to their circumstance. Let us observe the frolick and gay, and their pleasures are the same as ours, and have the decorings of elegance as well. Has refin'd and modish luxury a single enjoyment that they don't admire, and impersectly imitate? Let us pursue this thought a little farther, and we shall find our poetry, painting, statuary, and musick indulg'd among them; and, as in their original.

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nal, labouring for perfection. What gathers together the numerous crowds that listen to a wretched Jong in every street; but the rapture which poetry never fails to inspire, and that softness of beart which engages the attention, and charms every faculty ? Wby are their walls hung with fourvy pic-tures; but because their hearts delight in every imitation of nature, and whatever they are fond of they are willing to posses? For statuary they have images of wax, and earth, and clay, in abundance, made fine with painting and gilding, to atone for the want of true beauty, and real excellency. How many of them are so inchanted with musick, as to make it the business of their lives, and sometimes practife it with fuccess? All in general bear witness to its power, and, like Amphion's stocks and stones, are transported with barmony. Such is the mechanical influence that the rudest sketch of beauty and pleafure has upon the most low and uncultivated minds, and so general is the confession of all mankind in their favour ! I think I may be indulg'd too in recommending this thought to men of education and quality. Itbink fuch studies, and such employments would afford them more satisfaction than the prefent mode of diversions, and would be far more worthy of their characters. Nature, 'tis plain, points them out to their confideration, and their own stations in life should make them their inseparable companions. But instead of that, I speak it with great concern, there are very few who have not strove to mortify their relish for them, and done a violence to nature, in compliment to fashion. Gaming and borse-races are now the amusements in vogue; and there are few who have courage enough to declare against them, even the' they are contrary to their inclinations. True politeness seems in disgrace viii PREFACE.

grace with mankind, and'tis abfurd to be its advocate. Where is the perfon who glories in being her admirer, in stemming the torrent of barbarism in In abandon'd age, and doing justice to learning and virtue? Where is the guardian genius to merit, its nurse, its patron, its friend, its father? Hence it is, that folly and affectation become universal; and elegance and knowledge are so little regarded. The man, with half a head, appears as wife now, as Janus of old, with two. The imaginary difference of stature, between the moderns and the antediluvians, is bardly more remarkable, than the real diminution of the wit of this age, in comparifon with the last. We are quite degenerating to Lilliputians; a race of Dapperwits; and there is not above a bair's breadth difference, between us and our leaders. If any of my readers should be vain enough to dishelieve me, I refer him to my pupils for demonstration. In short, the man who ventures barely to recommend a good taste, is gaz'd at as a monster; the growth of another clime; and without question we should be glad of a new Don Quixote, to destroy bim as an enemy to our repose.



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grace with cate. Whe admirer, .n abandoi and virtue its nurse, i it is, tha and elegan The man, as Janus rence of j tediluvian real dimis fon with Lilliputi is not ab us and o be vain a pupils fo ventures at as a and wit. Don Q repose.

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REVIEW

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Publick BUILDINGS, STATUES and ORNAMENTS of LONDON and WESTMINSTER.



S nothing contributes more to the grandeur and magnificence of a city, than noble and elegant buildings, fo nothing produces an heavier cenfure on a nation's tafte, than those which are otherwife : 'tis for this reason

highly laudable to ftir up the publick to an attention to fuch elegant and proper decorations as, thefe, not only in regard to the fame of the people in general, but their interest too. One of the B chief

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chief reafons why *Italy* is fo generally vifited by all foreigners of genius and diffinction, is owing to the magnificence of their ftructures, and their number and variety : they are a continual bait to invite their neighbours to lay out their money amongft them, and one may reafonably affert, that the fums which have been expended for the bare fight of those elegant piles, have more than paid the original charge of their building. This *Lewis* XIV. was fufficiently apprized of when he undertook *Verfailles*, and the company that fingle fabrick only has drawn into *France*, has made that crown ample amends for the expence of erecting it; and they have both the use and reputation of it ftill into the bargain.

'Tis high time therefore for us to look about us too, and endeavour to vie with our neighbours in politeness, as well as power and empire. Towards the end of King James I's reign, and in the beginning of his fon's, tafte made a bold ftep from Italy to England at once, and fcarce ftay'd a moment to visit France by the way. From the most profound ignorance in architecture, the most confummate night of knowledge, Inigo Jones started up a prodigy of art, and vied even with his master *Palladio* himself. From so glorious an out-fet, there was not any excellency that we might not have hoped to obtain ; Britain had a reasonable prospect to rival Italy, and foil every nation in Europe belide. But in the midft of thefe fanguine expectations, the fatal civil war commenc'd:

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menc'd, and all the arts and fciences were immediately laid afide, as no way concerned in the quarrel. What followed was all darknefs and obfcurity, and 'tis even a wonder they left us a monument of the beauty, 'twas to agreeable to their natures to deftroy.

Wren was the next genius that arole, to awake the fpirit of fcience, and kindle in his country a love for that fcience which had been fo long neglected: during his time a moft melancholy opportunity offered for art to exert itfelf, in the moft extraordinary manner: but the calamities of the prefent circumftance were fo great and numerous, that the pleas of elegancy and beauty could not be heard, and neceffity and conveniency took place of harmony and magnificence.

What I mean is this; the fire of London furnished the most perfect occasion that can ever har + pen in any city, to rebuild it with pomp and regularity : this Wren forefaw, and, as we are told, offered a scheme for that purpose which would have made it the wonder of the world. He proposed to have laid out one large street from Aldgate to Temple-Bar, in the middle of which was to have been a large fquare, capable of containing the new church of St. Paul's, with a proper diftance for the view all round it; whereby that huge building would not have been cooped up, as tis at prefent, in fuch a manner, as no where to be feen to advantage at all; but would have had a long and ample vifta at each end, to have reconciled <u>.</u> . B 2

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ciled it to a proper point of view, and give it one great benefit which, in all probability, it must now want for ever. He farther proposed to rebuild all the parish-churches in fuch a manner as to be feen at the end of every vista of houses, and dispersed in such distances from each other, as to appear neither too thick, nor thin in prospect; but give a proper heightening to the whole bulk of the city, as it filled the landscape. Laftly, he proposed to build all the houses uniform, and supported on a piazza, like that of Covent-Garden; and, by the water-fide, from the Bridge to the Temple, he had planned a long and broad wharf, or key, where he defigned to have ranged all the halls that belong to the feveral companies of the city, with proper ware-houses for merchants between, to vary the edifices, and make it at once one of the most beautiful and most useful fanges of structure in the world,-But, as I faid before, the hurry of rebuilding, and the difputes about property prevented this glorious fcheme from taking place.

In our own times an opportunity offered to ardorn the city, in fome degree; and though the fcarcity of ground in *London* will not allow as much beauty of fituation as one would defire, yet if the buildings were fuited to their place, they would make a better figure than they do at prefent. I have now the late new churches in my eye; amongft all which there are not five placed to advantage, and fcarce fo many which are built in

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in tafte, or deferve half the money which they have coft; a circumftance which must reflect on the judgments of those who chose the plans, as well • as the genius of the architects themselves.

No nation can reproach us for want of expence in our publick buildings, but all nations may for our want of elegance and difcernment in the execution. In the first place, there are very few of our fine pieces of architecture in fight; they are generally hid in holes and corners, as if they had been built by stealth, or the artists were asham'd of their works: or elfe they are but effays, or trials of skill, and remain unfinished, till time himself lays them in ruins. After this, 'tis unneceffary to mention that our structures are generally heavy, difproportioned, and rather incumbered than adorned : beauty does not confift in expence, or decoration; 'tis poffible for a flight building to be very perfect, and a coftly one to be very deformed : I could eafily name inftances of both kinds; but, as I propose to point out to my readers most of the edifices about town, that are worth confideration on either fide, I will not anticipate my defign, but exemplify my meaning, as I proceed, and leave the publick to make use of it as they pleafe.

To begin with the remotest extremity of the town: as there were no attempts, till lately, ever made there, to erect any building which might adorn it at all, there was the more necessfity to be more particularly careful that the first design of this

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this nature fhould not miscarry; and yet the four following churches which have been built at *Limebouse*, *Ratcliff*, *Horsley-down*, and *Spittle-fields*, tho' they have all the advantage of ground which can be defired, are not to be looked at without displeasure. They are mere Gothique heaps of stone, without form or order; and meet with contempt from the best and worst tastes alike. The last, especially, deferves the severest condemnation, in that 'tis built at a monstrous expence, and yet is, beyond question, one of the most absurd piles in *Europe*.

As a fabrick of antiquity, 'tis impoffible to pafs by the *Tower* without taking fome notice of it; particularly, as 'tis vifited fo much by the good people of *England*, as a place made venerable by the frequent mention which has been made of it in hiftory, and famous for having been the fcene of many tragical adventures: but I must caution those of my readers who are unskill'd in architecture, not to believe it either a place of ftrength, beauty, or magnificence: 'tis large and old indeed, and has a formidable row of cannons before it, to fire on rejoicing days.

• The Cuftom-boufe is a place, which by its ufe and fituation, can hardly fail of being vifited by ftrangers: I could have wifhed therefore, on that account, and likewife becaufe we are more famous for our naval affairs than any thing elfe, 'that this building had been more coftly and magnificent : it would make a feafonable impression on foreigners,

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ers, even at their landing, of the majefty and wealth of the *Britifle* nation: to which let me add that its fituation, by the water-fide, gives it a ftill juster claim to grandeur and decoration, and 'tis pity fo publick a building fhould want what is fo remarkably mift.

I am of opinion, if the directors of the *East-India* company had thought in this manner, they would have beftowed a greater expence on their *Howse*, than appears in it at prefent : 'tis certainly unworthy their figure in the trading world, and would better suit with the common life of a fingle director, than the pomp and state of the whole body. The fabrick indeed is built in taste; but there is not enough of it; and, if they had thought of adding a portico in the middle, 'twould have looked more like a finished building than it does now : we might have endured it at least, tho' we could not have praifed it.

The front of the church lately rebuilt in *Bifhops-gate-fireet* is, I think, more in tafte than most about town; the parts 'tis composed of are fimple, beautiful, and harmonious, and the whole deferves to be admired, for pleasing fo much, at so little expense.

Bedlam is very well fituated in point of view, and is laid out in a very elegant tafte; but, if I may prefume to find fault with it, the middle is not large, or magnificent enough for the whole, and, by being exactly the fame, both in fize and decoration, with the wings, feems even lefs, and more inconfiderable

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fiderable than it really is. Neither do the additions make any amends for this inconvenience, or appear of a piece with the reft: the near neighbourhood of *Moorgate* too is fomething of a blemifh to this pile, becaufe 'tis built in the fame ftile with it, and yet is fo far detached in its fituation, that it puzzles the fpectator to diftinguifh them afunder, or reconcile them to each other.----The late removal of the wall, and entrance farther from the building has a fine effect, and the ftatues on top can never be fufficiently admired, or praifed: I am of opinion no fabrick in *Europe* can boaft finer, either as to propriety of place, or excellency of workmanfhip.

From hence we may pais on to the South-Sea-House, and there we shall have some reason to wonder that, when the taste of building is so much improved among us, we see so little sign of it here : at the same expense, they might have raised an edifice, which would have charmed the most profound judges : beauty is as cheap as deformity, with respect to the pocket; but 'tis easier to find money than genius, and that's the reason so many build, and so few succeed.

The tower of St. *Michael's Cornbill*, tho' in the Gothique ftile of architecture, is undoubtedly a very magnificent pile of building, and deferves very juftly to be effected the fineft thing of that fort in *London*.

The Monument is undoubtedly the nobleft modern column in the world; nay, in fome refpects

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it may justly vie with those celebrated ones of antiquity, which are confecrated to the names of Trajan and Antonine. Nothing can be more bold and furprizing, nothing more beautiful and harmonious: the bas relief at the base, al-· lowing for fome few defects, is finely imagin'd, and executed as well: and nothing material can be cavill'd with, but the infcriptions round about it. Nothing, indeed, can be more ridiculous than its fituation, unlefs the reafon which is affigned for fo doing. I am of opinion if it had been raifed where Cheapfide-Conduit ftood, it would have been as effectual a remonstrance of the misfortune it is defign'd to record, and would at once have added an inexpreffible beauty to the vista, and received as much as it gave.

As fome people are ignorant enough to admire the Bridge merely because 'tis incumber'd with houses from end to end; 'twill not be amifs to obferve that nothing can be more rididiculous than this invention, nothing can poffibly offend the eye more, or extinguish fo many beauties as might take place, in cafe this popular nuifance was remov'd : fuppole the prefent ftructure of the Bridge below was still to continue as it is, there would, at least, be room for a magnificent breaft-work and baluftrade above, and the top would afford one of the fineft profpects in the world: on one hand a fleet of merchant-ships, equal in value and importance to half a nation; on the other, two of the most confi-

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confiderable cities of *Europe*, ftretching along the banks of a beautiful river, and ending with a diftant view of the adjacent landscape.

The Royal-Exchange is the next ftructure of any confequence which demands our attention, and here, as in most costly fabricks, there is formething to blame, and fomething to admire: a building of that extent, grandeur, and elevation, ought, without queftion, to have had an ample area before it, that we might comprehend the whole, and every part at once : this is a requifite which ought to be allow'd to all buildings, but particularly all of this fort; that is to fay, fuch as are form'd of very large parts; for in fuch a cafe the eye is forc'd to travel with pain and difficulty from one object to another, nay fometimes oblig'd to divide one into many parts; whereby the judgment is confus'd, and 'tis, with great-uncertainty, we come to any conclusion at Upon the whole, the entrance into this all. building is very grand and august; the two statues which adorn it are, in a particular manner, beautiful and admirable : but then the tower which arifes over it is a weight to the whole building, and is, at the fame time, broken into fo many parts, that it rather hurts, than pleafes, and, if reduc'd to one half of its prefent height, would harmonize abundantly better with the whole. The infide is light and airy, laid out in a very good flile, and finish'd with great propriety of decoration : I could with tho' that either

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ther the ftatues were executed in a better manner, or that the city would condefcend to excufe the fetting up any more: for nothing can be more ridiculous than to hurt the eye with a fault, in the affectation of a beauty.

The building, now erecting for the Bank, is liable to the very fame objection, in point of place, with the Exchange, and even in a greater degree too: 'tis monstrously crowded on the eye, and, unlefs the opposite houses could be pulled down, and a view open'd into Cornbill, we might as well be entertain'd with a prospect of the model, thro' a microscope: as to the ftructure itself 'tis grand and expensive; the architect has a very good tafte of beauty, and only feems to be rather too fond of decoration: this appears pretty eminently by the weight of his cornices, which appear, in my opinion, to be rather too heavy for the building; tho', upon the whole, both he, and his work, deferve abundantly more applause than censure.

'T is but natural, in this place, to lament that ways and means could not be found out to erect this building on one fide of *Stocks-Market*, and that which has been fo long talk'd of for the lord mayor on the other: two fuch magnificent ftructures as thefe, in conjunction with the church on the remaining fide, would have made this a kind of center of beauty to the city, and each had fet off and adorn'd the other: it must be prefum'd, of courfe, that the market would be remov'd, and

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and the whole area laid open with all the elegancy and decency which would be fuitable to fuch a delign. 'Tis imposfible to guit this place without taking notice of the equestrian statue rais'd here in honour of Charles II: a thing in itfelf fo exceedingly ridiculous and abfurd, that 'tis not in one's power to look upon it without reflecting on the taftes of those who set it up: but, when we enquire into the hiftory of it, the farce improves upon our hands, and, what was before contemptible grows entertaining. This statue was originally made for John Sobielki, king of Poland, but, by some accident, was left upon the workman's hands : about the fame time, the city was loyal enough to pay their devoirs to king Charles, immediately upon his reftoration; and, finding this statue ready made to their hands, refolv'd to do it the cheapest way, and convert the Polander into a Briton. and the Turk, underneath his horfe, into Oliver Cromwell, to make their compliment compleat. In this very manner it appears at prefent, and the turbant upon the last mention'd figure is yet an undeniable proof of the truth of the ftory.

The church in Walbrook, fo little known among us, is famous all over Europe, and is justly reputed the master-piece of the celebrated Sir Christopher Wren. Perhaps Italy itself can produce no modern building that can vie with this in taste or proportion: there is not a beauty which the plan would admit of, that is not to be found here

here in its greatest perfection; and foreigners very justly call our judgment in question for understanding its graces no better, and allowing it no higher a degree of fame.

The fteeple of *Bow* church is another mafterpiece in a peculiar kind of building, which has no fix'd rules to direct it, nor is it to be reduc'd to any fettled laws of beauty: without doubt if we confider it only as a part of fome other building, it can be efteem'd no other than a delightful abfurdity: but if either confider'd in itfelf, or as a decoration of a whole city in prospect, not only to be justified.but admir'd. That which we have now mention'd is beyond. question as perfect as human imagination can contrive or execute, and till we fee it outdone, we shall hardly think it to be equall'd.

In a place like London where fo many decorations are wanted, fo few are to be found, and even fo little room to encrease their number, one is forc'd to regret any opportunity which is neglected, or any space which is not improv'd as it ought. 'T is certain that no spot is better fituated for a statue, than that where *Cheapstide Conduit* lately stood, and as no king ever deferv'd that honour more from his people than the immortal *William* III. I think all party-disputes ought to have been dropt, and the whole city agreed to pay a compliment to themselves in doing that justice to him.

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We are now come as far as where the Conduit formerly flood in Cheapfide, and before I leave this place I think it proper to recommend the fleeple of Foster-lane to the attention of the passenger; 'tis not a glaring pile that strikes the eye at the first view with an idea of grandeur and magnificence; but then the beautiful pyramid it forms, and the just and wellproportion'd simplicity of all its parts, fatisfy the mind so effectually, that nothing feems to be wanting, and nothing can be spared.

Alderfgate is a building to heavy and Gothique, that it hardly deferves notice, unlefs for the fake of a bas relief of king *James* I. which tho' in an awkard and inelegant tafte, is a very tolerable piece of workmanship, and may challenge fome applause.

Farther down this ftreet is on the right hand a most delightful fine edifice, that declares the mafterly hand of Inigo Jones, and was formerly the refidence of the earls of Shaftsbury. An edifice that deferves a much better fituation, and greater care to preferve it from the injuries of time: but the politeness of the town is fo far remov'd from hence, that 'tis hardly poffible this fabrick shou'd be admir'd as it ought, or be kept in fuitable repair. Already it has been converted into a tavern, and made to ferve other mechanick uses, infomuch that the judicious spectator at once wonders how it came to be erected there, and laments its prefent de-The cay.

The new church in Old-firest is fo flight and trifling a building that it is not worth the trouble of a vifit; for which reafon we shall chuse rather to cross over to Smithfield, neglecting the Chartreux at the fame time, because the building is so entirely rude and irregular, that it admits of nothing like criticism: its situation indeed in the midst of a garden is fine, and the square in the front of it is at least kept in better order than most in town.

In Smithfield we shall see a vast area, that is capable of great beauty, but is at present destitute of all; a scene of filth and nastines, one of the most nauseous places in the whole town: "tis true, the use which is made of it as a market is something of an excuse for it, and in some degree attones for the want of that decency, which would improve it fo much: yet still 'tis my opinion that ways and means might be found to make it tolerable at least, and an obelisk, pyramid, or statue, in the centre, defended with handsome and substantial rails, would go a great way in so desirable a project.

On one fide of this irregular place is the entrance, not the front, of a magnificent holpital; in a tafte not altogether amifs, but fo erroneous in point of proportion, that it rather offends than entertains: but what is ftill more provoking, the building itfelf is intirely detach'd from the entrance, and tho' fo near a large and noble opening, is in a manner ftifled with the circumjacent

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jacent houses: 'tis indeed a building in a box or cafe; and tho' beautiful in itself and erected at prodigious expence, is fo far from giving pleafure to a judge, that he would rather regret its being built at all. 'Tis certain that where the ground will admit of it, publick buildings can hardly be too grand and magnificent; but where they can't be feen when finish'd, use and convenience only should be confulted, and a pile of rough stones from the quarry, would answer the end, as well as the marble of Egypt with the decorations of Greece or Rome.

Newgate, confider'd as a prifon, is a ftructure of more coft and beauty than was neceffary, becaufe the fumptuoufnefs of the out-fide but aggravates the mifery of the wretches within: but as a gate to fuch a city as London, it might have received confiderable additions both of defign and execution, and abundantly anfwer'd the coft in the reputation of building. The gate of a city which is erected rather for ornament than ufe, ought to be in the ftile of the antient triumphal arches, and it muft be allow'd that hardly any kind of building allow'd of more beauty or perfection.

The *Phyficians College*, a ftructure little known and feldom talk'd of, is a building of wonderful delicacy, and eminently deferves to be confider'd among the nobleft ornaments of this city; and yet fo unlucky is its fituation, that it can neyer be feen to advantage, nay feldom feen at all, and

and what ought to be confpicuous to every body, is known only to a few, and those too people of curiofity, who fearch out their own entertainments, and don't want for the impreffions of vulgar reports or common fame, to excite their attention or influence their judgments.

The hall of juffice at the Old Bailey, and indeed all the courts I have ever yet feen in England are justly to be excepted to, as wanting that grandeur, that augustness, that decency, and folemnity which ought to be infeparable from them, in order to give men in general a fuitable awe for the place, and strike offenders with a terror, even more forcible than the fentence they were to undergo. The form of a theatre agrees best with a place of this nature : that part of the building which is the stage, would answer exactly for the bench, the pit for the council, prifoners, &c. and the circle round it, for the spectators: but the present form of these affemblies is utterly opposite to this regularity, and inftead of reprefenting the whole in one grand and comprehensive view, divides it into meannefs and confusion.

The grand cathedral of St. Paul's is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent modern buildings in Europe; all the parts of which 'tis compos'd are fuperlatively beautiful and noble; the north and fouth fronts in particular are very perfect pieces of architecture, neither ought the

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the eaft to go without due applause. The two fpires at the west end are in a finish'd taste, and the portico with the ascent, and the dome that rifes in the centre of the whole, afford a very august and surprizing prospect; but still, with all these beauties, it has certainly yet more defects; and the pleasure we receive from the first is so much qualified and tam'd by the last, that we rather wonder how we can be pleased so much, than why we are displeased at all. But not to condemn in the gross, I'll take the liberty to touch upon a few particulars, and lay myself justly open to censure, in case I mistake, or blame in the wrong place. In the first place therefore, there is a most

notorious deficience in point of view; fuch a huge fabrick as St. Paul's ought at leaft to be furvey'd at the diftance of Temple-Bar, and the vifta ought to be confiderably wider than the front of the building. But this is fo far from the cafe here, that we can't fee it till we are upon it, and this defect is still made worfe by turning the edifice from the eye even where it can be view'd, for the fake of that ridiculous superstition of erecting it due east and west. In the next place, the dividing the portico, and indeed the whole structure into two stories on the outfide, certainly indicates a like division within : a circumstance abounding with abfurdities, and defeating even the very end of erecting it at all. If indeed the architect had been embarrafs'd to recon-

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reconcile the diftance and height of his columns, I am humbly of opinion that a light and proper *Attick* ftory had anfwer'd all ends both of ufe and beauty, and left him room to have enlarged his imagination, and have given an air of majefty to the whole: let me add that I apprehend the portico fhould have been farther projected on the eye, inftead of retreating from it, in order to have given a grand contrafte to the whole front, and aided the perspective within.

I fhall fay no more on the outfide than this, that according to my beft notions of regularity and order, the dome should have been raifed exactly in the centre of the whole, and that there fhould have been two corresponding steeples at the east as well as the west end, with all other fuitable decorations: if a view of the whole length of the building too could have been opened to the water-fide, it would have added greatly to its grandeur and magnificence, and have afforded a most noble prospect from off the river into the bargain. However odd or new the first of these propositions may seem, let any body take a view of St. Paul's from any of the neighbouring hills, and they will inftantly difcern that the building is defective, and that the form of a crofs is more favourable to fuperstition than beauty : in a word, they will eafily fee at leaft, that the dome, in its prefent circumstance, is abundantly too big for the reft of the pile, and that the west end has no rati-

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20 A Critical Review of the onal pretence to finer and more splendid decorations than the east.

Before we begin our examen of the infide of St. *Paul's*, it will not be amifs to caft an eye on the flatue in the area before it, erected in honour of the late queen. It flands exactly in the front of the building, tho' it feems by the odd fituation of *Ludgate-flreet*, to be on one fide, and is upon the whole modell'd in a tolerable tafte, and executed as well: the principal figure indeed, the queen herfelf, is an exception to this character; fuch a formal Gothique habit, and fliff, affected attitude, are neither to be endur'd or pardon'd; and there is not one of thofe round the bafe that does not juftly deferve the preference.

Whoever underftands the nature of publick ornamental buildings critically, always lays it down for a rule, that they cannot be too expenfive or magnificent; for which reafon St. *Paul's* is fo far from being admir'd for being fo grand and august as it is, that nothing is more common than to hear it cenfur'd for not being more fo. Every body knows that the fund which raifed it from its ruins to its present glory, was equal to any design of beauty or majesty; and as those who had it in trust went fo far towards this necessfary end, 'tis a thousand pities they did not carry it on much farther, and make this pile not only the ornament of *Britain*, but the admiration and envy of all *Europe*. St. Peter's

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at Rome was already built; a model which the most finish'd architect need not have been ashamed to imitate, and as all its particular beauties have been long publickly known and admir'd, I think it was incumbent on us to have equall'd it at least; and if we had excell'd it too, it would have been no more than might have been reasonably expected from such a nation as ours, and fuch a genius as Wren.

On these principles it is that men of taste and understanding are furpriz'd at entring this church, to fee fo many faults, and mifs fo many beauties: they difcover at once that it wants elevation to give it a proportionable grandeur, and length to affift the perspective : that the columns are heavy and clumfy to a prodigious degree, and rather incumber the prospect, than enrich it with fymmetry and beauty: half the neceffary breaks of light and shadow are hereby wanting, and half the perfpective in general cut off: at the fame time I don't deny but many parts of the decoration are exceedingly grand and noble, and demand very justly a fincere applause. The dome is without question a very ftupendous fabrick, and ftrikes the eye with an aftonishing pleasure : 'tis indeed one of those happy kinds of building that pleafe all kinds of people alike, from the most ignorant clown up to the most accomplish'd gentleman: but yet even here the judge cannot help taking notice that it bears no proportion to the reft of the Digitized by GOOGLE

building, and that after you have feen this, you can look at no other part of it; whereas a judicious builder would hufband his imagination, and ftill have fomething in referve to delight the mind, tho' nothing perhaps could be contriv'd to furprize after it.

For example, the very nature of a choir would not admit of any thing fo marvellous as the dome, yet it might have relieved the eye with fomething equivalently beautiful; the entrance in front might have been more noble and uniform; either compos'd of wood entirely, or marble; for the prefent mixture of both makes a difagreeable piece of patch-work, that rather difgusts than entertains: the opening on the infide thro' the prefent beautiful range of stalls, might have terminated in a much more magnificent alcove than we fee there at prefent, adorn'd with all the elegance and profusion of decoration: the altar should have been rais'd of the richeft marble in the most expensive taste; that it might have been of a piece with the reft of the church, and terminated the view of the whole, with all the graces of the most luxuriant imagination. All the intermediate spaces should have been fill'd up with the nobleft hiftorical paintings; all the majefty of frize-work, cornices, and carving, heighten'd with the most coftly gildings, should have been lavish'd to adorn it; and one grand flow of magnificent curtain depended from the windows, to finish Digitized by Goothus and adorn the fame.

Thus have I been free enough to give my impartial opinion of St. *Paul's*; I hope not too prefumptuoufly, and if ignorantly, let every reader's private judgment fet me right.

Fond as I am of gates, and indeed all forts of buildings that may be made publick ornaments, I can't help withing that *Ludgate* was intirely demolifh'd; for at prefent it only ferves to hide St. *Paul's*, which would be a far nobler termination of the ftreet, and actually wants a proper point of view to furvey it to advantage.

I own myself much pleased with the defign of filling up *Fleet-Ditch*; 'twill be turning a nuisance into an ornament; no place about *London* may be made a finer street, or is better situated for publick regards.

The fteeple of St. Brids's, at first fight, appears to a good deal of advantage; but on ever fo flight an examination, we conclude it wants variety, and the first and last order are almost the fame.

St. Andrew's, Holborn, has the advantage of a very good fituation, but then it deferves it as little as any modern church in the whole city. The tower is even below criticifm, but the infide of the building makes amends for the awkwardness of the out; and is really as neat, and well-finish'd, as the manner and taste it is form'd in will allow.

St. Dunstan's in Fleet-street is but an incumbrance to the way; without having any thing but

but deformity itfelf, it spoils the beauty of the whole ftreet, and hides the prospect of *Temple-Bar*, which would terminate the view very advantageously, and be seen almost as far again as it is at present. *Temple-Bar* is indeed the handformest gate about town, and deferves some degree of applause : if it has any fault, 'tis this, that the top being round as well as the arch underneath, the whole wants that contraste of figure which is so effential to beauty and taste. The statues on the out-fide are good, their only disadvantage is the hurry of the place where they are to be view'd, which makes it dangerous to be curious, and prevents the attention to them which they would otherwise command.

The structure of the Temple-Gate is in the ftile of Inigo Jones, and very far from inelegant; I wish I could fay the same of the different detachments of building which belong to it; but that is far from being in my power, nor ever can or will: the property is fo divided and fubdivided, that 'tis next to impossible that any agreement should ever be made in favour of harmony and decoration. 'Tis certain that nothing can be finer fituated than the Temple, along the fide of the river, and if we confider the elevation of the ground, and how far it extends, the most barren invention can't fail of conceiving the uses it might be put to, and the beauties it would admit of. At prefent there is but one thing which is worth observing in the

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the Temple, and that is the old church which belong'd to the Knights Templars of ferufalem, and the out-fide even of this is covered from the view, that the whole might be of a piece. The infide indeed is yet vifible, and may juftly be efteemed one of the beft remains of Gothique architecture in this city. The form of it is very fingular; you enter firft into a large circular tower, which a-top terminates in fomething like a dome, and has a very good effect on the eye; beyond, opposite to the entrance, the church extends itself in three isles, and is built and finish'd with as much elegancy and proportion as the taste of those days would allow.

From the *Temple* 'tis but a natural ftep to Lincoln's-lnn: but, by the way, 'tis worth a ftranger's curiofity to vifit the habitation of the Mafter of the Rolls; which is certainly built with elegancy and convenience, and can be blam'd in nothing but its fituation; which is undoubtedly as bad as the building itfelf is good.

Lincoln's-Inn may reafonably boaft of one of the neateft fquares in town; and tho' it is imperfect on one fide, yet that very defect produces a beauty, by giving a profpect to the gardens, which fill the fpace to abundantly more advantage. I may fafely add, that no area any where is kept in better order, either for cleanlinefs and beauty by day, or illuminations and decorum by night: the fountain in the middle is a very E pretty

pretty decoration, and if it was ftill kept playing, as it was fome years ago, 'twould preferve its name with more propriety, and give greater pleafure into the bargain.

The out-fide of the chapel, belonging to this fociety, is a very good piece of Gothique architecture, and the painting on the windows has a great many admirers within : in my opinion, indeed, it does not deferve quite fo much applaufe as it has receiv'd; becaufe the defigns are poor, the faces have little expression, and there is little reason, beside a blind regard to antiquity, to extol them at all. The raising this chapel on pillars, affords a pleasing, melancholy walk underneath, and by night, particularly, when, illuminated by the lamps, it has an effect that may be felt, but not defcrib'd.

The gardens are far from being admirable, but then they are convenient; and confidering their fituation, cannot be efteem'd too much. There is fomething hofpitable too, in laying them open to publick ufe; and while we fhare in their pleafures, we have no title to arraign their tafte.

As I find my bufinefs increase upon my hands, as I come nearer the polite end of the town, I shall be oblig'd to divide it into three distinct walks, that it may appear in something like method, and be a better guide to the stranger, or man of taste and curiosity: in the first I propose to go from *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields* to the end

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end of *Piccadilly*; in the fecond from *Temple-Bar* to *Weftminfter*; and in the laft from *Gray's-Inn* to *Grofvenor-Square*.

From the terrafs of Lincoln's-Inn Gardens, we have a profpect of one of the largeft fquares in Europe: it was originally laid out by the mafterly hand of Inigo Jones, and intended to have been built all in the fame ftile and tafte: but by the mifcarriage of this, and many other fuch noble defigns, there is too much reafon to believe that England will never be able to produce people of tafte enough to be of the fame mind, or unite their fentiments for the publick ornament and reputation. Several of the original houfes ftill remain to be a reproach to the reft; and I with the difadvantageous comparison had been a warning to others to have avoided the like miftake.

The Duke of Ancaster's house is built on the abovementioned model of Inigo Jones, but so elevated, and improv'd, as to make it more fuitable to the quality of the owner: there is great simplicity and beauty in the plan itself; as much harmony and proportion in the parts 'tis compos'd of, and the decorations are well fancied, and as well disposed. The architecture, which forms the entrance into the court-yard, is grand and noble, and as singular in its taste as happy in its effect.

Sorry I am that the houfe adjoining to this, fo lately rebuilt on the fame defign, is not like

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it in all particulars: the alterations which have been made in it are very far from improving it; and what it has gain'd in height, it has loft in proportion, and what is added of decoration, is deviating from fimplicity and beauty: the height of the roof is a blemish that the lowness of the wall and portal will hardly attone for. But, that the houfe fuffers in itfelf, by these illjudg'd refinements, is not all; it hurts the whole fide of the fquare, which these two houses are properly the centre of, and, if they had been uniform and regular, would have juftly appear'd an ornament to the whole; for 'tis my opinion that, in all fquares, there should be a capital building, in the middle of each fide, which fhould ferve to fix the eye, and give the better air of magnificence to the profpect.

But this is not the only quarrel I have to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; the area is capable of the higheft improvement, might be made a credit to the whole city, and do honour to thole who live round it: whereas at prefent, no place can be more contemptible or forbidding; in fhort, it ferves only as a nurfery of beggars and thieves, and is a daily reflection on thole who fuffer it to lie in its abandon'd condition.

Great Queen-street is another instance of our national want of taste; on one fide is a row of houses that Italy itself would not be assaudd of; on the other, all the variety of deformations that Publick Buildings, &c. 29 that could be contriv'd as a foil to beauty, and the opposite of taste.

Covent-Garden would have been, beyond difpute, one of the fineft fquares in the univerfe, if finish'd on the plan that Inigo Jones first defign'd for it; but even this was neglected too, and if he deferves the praife of the defign, we very justly incur the censure for wanting spirit to put it in execution. The piazza is grand and noble, and the super-structure it supports, light and elegant: the market in the middle may be a matter of much profit to the ground-landlord, for what I can tell; but I am sure 'tis a great nuisance with respect to the beauty and regularity of the square, and, in a great measure, defeats the very intent it was first calculated to ferve.

The church here is, without a rival, one of the most perfect pieces of architecture that the art of man can produce: nothing can possibly be imagin'd more fimple, and yet magnificence itself can hardly give greater pleasure: this is a strong proof of the force of harmony and proportion; and at the fame time a demonstration that 'tis taste and not expense which is the parent of beauty: if this building can be faid to have any defect, 'tis in the form and manner of the windows, which are not only in a bad gusto, but out of proportion too.

As to the theatres, there is not room to fay much of either: they have no fronts to the ftreet

freet to require grandeur or magnificence; and with regard to their infides, the old one appears to be belt calculated for the convenience of speaker and hearer, and the new for splendour and admiration: the extravagant largeness of the first gallery in one, is as great an abfurdity as the division in the middle of the other: the decorations on the frage on both, I am of opinion, might be much improv'd, and great care should be always taken not to decorate that fide of the house next the audience fo extravagantly. as to eclipfe the other: Keeping is necessary in all things, and the first exhibition of beauty should be in fo moderate a degree, as to leave continual room for additions, 'till the eye is entirely fatisfied, and reason bids you close the entertainment. The figure of a fatire over the pit, in the house at Covent-Garden, has an admirable propriety in it, and deferves more praife than all the painting belide.

Leicester-Square has nothing remarkable in it, but the inclosure in the middle, which alone affords the inhabitants round about it, fomething like the prospect of a garden, and preferves it from the rudeness of the populace too.

The ftables in the *Meuse* are certainly a very grand and noble building, but then they are in a very fingular tafte; a mixture of the Russick and the Gothique together; the middle gate is built after the first, and the towers over the two others, in the last. I will not take upon me

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to determine whether this is a fault or no, or whether any other kind of building 'would have fuited the purpofe as well: but this I am fure of, that unlefs the other wretched buildings are pull'd down, and the corresponding wings are made to answer the bulk already rais'd; unlefs the area is laid out in the most just and elegant manner, and the whole laid open to the ftreet, it will add a new reflection on our taste, for beginning fo many expensive undertakings, without finishing one.

I could with too that a view was open'd from hence to St. Martin's Church; I don't know any one of the modern buildings about town which better deferves fuch an advantage : the portico is at once elegant and august, and the steeple above it ought to be confider'd as one of the most tolerable in town: if the steps arifing from the street to the front, could have been made regular, and on a line from end to end, it could have given it a very confiderable grace : but as the fituation of the ground would not allow it, this is to be effected rather a miffortune than a fault. The round columns, at each angle of the church, are very well conceiv'd, and have a very fine effect in the profile of the building: the east end is remarkably elegant, and very justly challenges a particular applause. In fhort, if there is any thing wanting in this fabrick, 'tis a little more elevation, which I prefume is apparently wanted within, and would create

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create an additional beauty without. I can't help thinking too that, in complaifance to the galleries, the architect has revers'd the order of the windows, it being always usual to have the large ones nearest the eye, and the small by way of *Attick Story* on the top.

St. James's-Square has an appearance of grandeur fuperior to any other plan in town, and yet there is not any one elegant houfe in it; and the fide next Pall-Mall is fcandaloufly rude and irregular : 'tis from the regularity of the buildings only, the neatness of the pavement, and the beauty of the bason in the middle, that this beauty refults : if the houses were built more in tafte, and the four fides exactly correspondent to each other, the effect would be much more furprizing, and the pleafure arifing from it more just. Befide, I can never thoroughly applaud the bason itself, till 'tis finish'd as it ought, with a ftatue or obelifk in the middle, worthy of the place it was to appear in, and the neighbourhood it was to adorn.

St. James's Church is finely fituated, with regard to the profpect, on the north fide of the fquare; and if it had been built in fuitable tafte, would have appeared most nobly to fill the vista, and add a pomp to the whole view: but the builders of that pile did not trouble themfelves much about beauty, and I believe 'tis mere accident that even the fituation itself is fo favourable.

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We must now pass into Piccadilly, where we shall be entertain'd with a fight of the most expensive wall in England; I mean that before Burlington-Houle. Nothing material can be objected to it, and much may be faid in its praife. 'Tis certain the height is wonderfully well proportion'd to the length, and the decorations are both fimple and magnificent: the grand entrance is august and beautiful, and by covering the houfe entirely from the eye, gives pleafure and furprize, at the opening of the whole front with the area before it, at once. If any thing can be found fault with in this structure, 'tis this ; that the wall itfelf is not exactly on a line; that the columns of the gate are merely ornamental, and fupport nothing at all; that the rustick has not all the propriety in the world for a palace; and that the main body of the pile is hardly equal to the out-fide. But thefe may be rather imaginations of mine, than real imperfections; for which reafon I submit them to the confideration of wifer heads.

That fide of Arlington-street next the Green Park, is one of the most beautiful situations in Europe, for health, convenience, and beauty : the front of the ftreet is in the midft of the hurry and fplendour of the town, and the back in the quiet and fimplicity of the country. 'Tis not long fince too, that the whole row was harmonious and uniform, tho' not exactly in tafte; but now, under the notion of improvement.

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ment, is utterly fpoilt and ruin'd, and for the fake of the profpect behind, the view before is disjointed and broke to pieces.

'Tis impossible to furvey the ruins of Devonshire-House, without sympathizing with the noble owner, in deploring its destruction. Had his Grace's fervants recollected the master's motto, Cavendo tutus, it had ftill retain'd its antient fplendour; but as they did not understand the beauties of Inigo Jones's architecture, so they were not concern'd for its prefervation. 'Tis our happiness to have remember'd it as it formerly ftood, great in fimplicity, and elegant in plainnefs; and, as nothing could have been added to improve it, nothing could be fpar'd; except the prodigious number of chimnies on top, which were, indeed, a heavy, Gothique incumbrance to the whole. 'T is furprizing, indeed, after this fatal misfortune was over, and the statue of Britannia, in the pediment, had efcap'd the conflagration, that no one had the precaution to fecure it from farther danger : 'twas the only aggravation that could take place after fo fevere a calamity, that this beautiful piece was fuffer'd to be destroy'd, for want of due care to preferve it.

Between this and Hyde-Park-Corner, there is nothing more remarkable, except the fhops and yards of the Statuaries; and forry I am that they afford a judicious foreigner fuch flagrant opportunities to arraign and condemn our tafte. Among a hundred flatues, you fhall not fee one even tolerable.

lerable, either in defign or execution; nay, even the copies of the antique are fo monftroufly wretched, that one can hardly guess at their originals.

I will not lay the blame of this proftitution of to fine an art intirely on its professers; no, I rather attribute it to the ignorance and folly of the buyers, who, being refolv'd to have ftatues in their gardens at all events, first make a wrong choice, and then refolve to purchase their follies as cheap as poffible: this puts the workmen in a wrong tafte of defigning, and hafty, and rude in finishing: hence excellency is never thought of, and the master, like the Highwayman in the Beggar's Opera, is happy when he has turn'd his lead into gold.

I must confess, nothing is more amazing to me, than the ignorance of most of our gentry in the police arts, and in statuary particularly; which is fo flagrant, that, among the vaft number of statues, which are to be feen in the gardens of this nation, 'tis almost a miracle if you find one good one. Neither are we alone ignorant of the art itself, but even of the use of it too; for there are as few flatues well firmated as chofen; and too many have reafon to blufh both for the figure itfelf, and the end it was defign'd to answer.

Nothing can be more plain, than what is meant for decoration should be beautiful in itfelf, and plac'd with propriety too. What excufe

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36 A Critical Review of the cufe then can be made for the wretched things which we fee crowded on the eye, that shock, instead of affording entertainment?

In the first place, therefore, a statue should be good in itself; in the next, it should be erected to advantage; and, lastly, it should, in its own nature, be suited to the place. To compleat an area, end a vesta, adorn a sountain, or decorate a banquetting-house or alcove, is the just and natural use of statues: not to people a garden, and make a nuisance of what ought to be a beauty.

Neither is every good flatue adapted to every place: the equefirian flatue of a hero would fuit but ill with foothing falls of water, and all the foftnefs of *Italian* luxury; neither would the river-gods become the hurry and pomp of a nobleman's court-yard. Common fenfe, one would imagine, would preferve us from abfurdities, like thefe; and yet there are fo many proofs to the contrary, that we cannot be too fevere in our cenfure, or take too much pains to bring about a reformation.

To return to our fubject; I have now finish'd one of my walks from *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields* to *Hyde-Park-Corner*, and, according to promife, am now to go back to *Temple-Bar*, in order to comment on the most remarkable things in my way to *Westminster*.

The first thing I have to object to in the Strand, is the whole body of building that extends from

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the Butcher-Row to the New Church: fuch a Areet as the Strand, which is the grand channel of communication between two fuch cities as London and Westminster, could not be too large and spacious; and without this incumbrance, and that of Exeter-'Change, this ftreet would have poffess'd that advantage, in a very eminent degree ; at least from the Bar to York-Buildings; and if it had not been adorn'd with noble and majeflick structures, it would however have been confiderable for its length, and capacity of being improv'd: whereas now it is incumber'd, at its very entrance, in a most scandalous degree, and, to mend the matter, too, in complaifance to the superstitious custom of a due east and west situation, they have crowded the backfide of the church of St. Clement's into the face of the people, if I may be allow'd the expression; even tho' they had room enough to build it otherwife, and prevent fo capital a nuifance. Neither does the fabrick itfelf make any amends for this inconvenience, by its beauty and magnificence: there appears, to me, fomething very fantastick in the steeple, fomething clumfy and too heavy in the portico, and fomething poor and unmeaning in the whole frame.

The New Church in the Strand is one of the ftrongest instances in the world, that 'tis not expence and decoration that are alone productive of harmony and taste: the Architest of this pile appears to have set down with a resolution of making

making it as fine as possible, and, with this view, has crowded every inch of space about it with ornament : nay, he has even carried this humour fo far, that it appears nothing but a clufter of ornaments, without the proper vacuities, to relieve the eye, and give a neceffary contrafte to the whole : he ought to have remembred that fomething should first appear as a plan or model to be adorn'd, and the decorations should be only subordinate to that design; the embellishments ought never to eclipse the outline, but heighten and improve it. To this we may fafely add, that the dividing fo fmall a fabrick into two lines or ftories, utterly ruin'd its fimplicity, and broke the whole into too many parts. The steeple is liable to as many objections as the church, 'tis abundantly too high, and, in the profile, loses all kind of proportion, both with regard to itfelf, and the structure it belongs to. In fhort, this church will always please the ignorant, for the very fame reasons that it is fure to difpleafe the judge.

I am exceedingly pleas'd with the front of the first court of Somerfet-House next the Strand, as it affords us a view of the first dawning of taste in England: this being the only fabrick, that I know of, which deviates ever so little from the Gothique, or imitates ever so remotely the manner of the antients: here are columns, arches, and cornice that appear to have some meaning, and if proportions are neglected, if beauty is

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not perfectly understood, if there is a strange mixture of barbarifm and fplendour in it, the mistakes admit of great alleviations : in all probability the architect was an Englishman, and this his first attempt to refine on his predecessors: perhaps he had not opportunity to review the Italian models, or form his judgment on the plans of the antients : at all events the Duke. who was at the expence of this coftly undertaking, is to be applauded for fetting this glorious example of a tafte, till then unknown in the kingdom; for chufing fo charming a fituation, just in the middle of the bow, which the river forms between the Bridge and Westminster, commanding the profpect both ways, and looking direct on the fine hills of Surrey : 'tis not to be doubted but the new front next the gardens has greatly the advantage of the old; nothing can be conceiv'd more in tafte, or better calculated to answer the view from the water, and yet even here we have the mortification to fee it left unfinish'd; tho' a trifle more of charge would make it perfect; I mean according to the plan, on which 'twas originally defign'd : for, if the most was to be made of the fituation, 'tis capable of beauties, which very few others could allow. The inequality of ground, for example, leaving room to fhew the upper ftory of the court next the Strand, over the top of that belonging to the gardens; and what beautiful use might be made of fuch an advantage, I leave to the understanding architect to imagine. To

To be fure, 'tis very far from being an ill compliment to the nobility of those times, that fo many of them had their houses by the *Thames-Side*, from the *Temple* to *Whiteball*; and, I must confess, it gives me a little pain, that their fuccessors did not think it proper, to continue their residence on the fame spot: nothing could have been a nobler decoration to the prospect than a range of magnificent palaces, which, by this time, one might have reasonably expected would have been improv'd into taste, and magnificence.

York-Stairs is unquestionably the most perfect piece of building, that does honour to the name of Inigo Jones: 'tis plann'd in fo exquisite a taste, form'd of such equal and harmonious parts, and adorn'd with such proper and elegant decorations, that nothing can be censur'd, or added. 'Tis, at once, happy in its situation, beyond comparison, and fancied in a stile exactly fuited to that fituation. The rock-work, or russick, can never be better introduc'd than in buildings by the side of water; and, indeed, 'tis a great question with me, whether it ought to be made use of any where else.

Northumberland-Houfe is very much in the Gothique tafte, and, of course, cannot be suppos'd very elegant, and beautiful; and yet there is a grandeur and majesty in it that strikes every spectator with a veneration for it: this is owing intirely to the simplicity of its parts, the greatness of its extent, and the romantick air of the four

four towers at the angles. . The middle of the front next the Strand, is certainly much more antient than any other part of the building, and, tho' finish'd in a very expensive manner, is a very mean and trifling piece of work. It may ferve indeed to preferve the idea of the original pile, and acquaint the moderns with the magnificence of their fore-fathers; but then it breaks the uniformity of the whole, and might be fpared with more propriety, than continued.

I have taken no notice of the two Exchanges in the Strand, one of them has nothing in it to be observ'd, and the other can only be obferv'd to be defpis'd.

The statue at Charing-Cro/s has the advantage of being well plac'd; the pedeftal is finely elevated, and the horfe full of fire and fpirit; but the man is ill defign'd, and as tamely executed: there is nothing of expression in the face, nor character in the figure, and tho' it may be vulgarly admir'd, it ought to be generally condemn'd.

When I have ftood at this place, I have often regretted that fome fuch opening as this had not been contriv'd, to ferve as a centre between the two cities of London and Westminster, and from whence, particularly, the cathedrals of St. Paul's and the Abbey might have been feen, as the terminations of the two vifta's: I am of opinion that nothing in Europe would have had a finer effect; but now 'tis impossible it should ever take

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take place, and I mention it only by way of hint, that private property is, generally fpeaking, the only bar to publick ornament and beauty.

The new Admiralty was erected on a fpot of ground, which afforded the Architest room for all the beauties his imagination could fuggeft, and the expence it was rais'd at, enabled him to execute all that beauty in a grand, tho' fimple manner; how he has fucceeded, the building is a ftanding evidence; and very much concern'd I am to fee a pile of that dignity and importance, like to continue a lafting reproach of our national want of tafte.

I must ingenuously confess that the number of pretty little boxes, that are built on the ruins of *Wbiteball*, make me no fatisfaction for the loss of that palace; not that I believe it ever was a fine structure, but because it might have been so; because no piece of ground, so near two great cities, could afford a finer structure, with so noble a river on one side, and so beautiful a park on the other: and because *Inigo Jones*'s plan for rebuilding it is still forthcoming, and may be made use of to erect a structure equal to the fituation.

The majeflick fample he has given of his art in the *Banquetting-Houfe*, is a continued perfuafive to incline us to with for the reft of that magnificent pile, of which this was intended to be fo inconfiderable a part: to be fure if ever this could be effected, *Britain* might boaft of a palace

palace, which might excel even the proud *Verfailles*, and be as much visited too, in compliment to its superior taste.

I cannot leave this place without taking fome notice of the admirable cieling, perform'd by *Rubens*, which is beyond controverfy, one of the fineft things of the kind in *Europe*. 'Tis indeed not fo generally known as one could wifh, but it needs only to be known to be efteemed according to its merit. In fhort, it is but an ill decoration for a place of religious worfhip; for in the firft place, its contents are no ways a-kin to devotion, and in the next, the workmanfhip is fo very extraordinary, that a man muft have abundance of zeal, or no tafte, that can attend to any thing befide.

As there is very little probability that this T palace will ever be rebuilt, and thrown open to the Park, I can't help withing that the flation of the horfe-guards, and the adjoining military apartments were pull'd down, and others in a more confiftent and regular tafte, were erected in their room: I am of opinion that a fketch might be made of a flructure, partly in the ftile of the antients, and partly like fortification, which would have an admirable effect, and at once be fuitable to its ufe, and ferve as a noble decoration of the area before it. But this I fubmit intirely to the board of works, as perfons abundantly more concern'd in fuch a fchemthan I.

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Tho' the old Gothique gate, which ftands in the middle of the ftreet, and opposite to *Whiteball*, is without doubt, a fort of incumbrance to the way, yet it has fomething fo venerable in its figure, and has fo fine an effect on the landscape from the other fide of the *Park*, that I fhould lament as much to see it pull'd down, as to see a worfe erected in its room.

Tho' I did not defign to touch any more on the little edifices which are rais'd on the ruins of *Whiteball*, yet as fome few remarks may arife from another furvey of them, I will take the liberty of mentioning them a fecond time.

That which has made the most noife, and excited the most curiofity, is Sir John Vanbrug's; a fabrick erected in that gentleman's own peculiar tafte; that is to fay, a medley of the Gothique and Antique: a manner which he was remarkably fond of, and which indeed diftinguifhes his buildings from almost every other master's in the universe. I am very far from thinking it a proper model for others to follow, or that his authority is fufficient to justify it: to be fure nothing is more corrupt, nor can tend more to the degeneracy of true beauty; and yet fometimes, by the help of a lively fancy, it has a good effect, and would grace a landfcape better than any thing in a more regular and finish'd taste. I believe this little box of Sir Jobn's, might be diftinguish'd as a proof of this affertion; and if it had a proper point of view

view, would appear to a good deal of advantage.

The next is the Earl of *Pembroke*'s, which fome months ago, feem'd, at leaft, to be pretty, and wanted but little of being elegant; but now his lordfhip has thought proper to alter it in fuch a manner, that it would be hardly known by either of thefe epithets: to hide the whole front of a houfe, for the fake of the offices, is certainly fomething of a miftake; but thefe have neither manner, nor fo much as materials to render them tolerable.

The Duke of *Montagu*'s new house was intended to be plain and simple, but I prefume, at the fame time, beautiful and harmonious; and yet, with all submission to better judges, it appears to me heavy and infipid; loaded with roof, and incumber'd with irregular offices. I might add too, that the stone projection towards the *Thames*, is an excress which has neither taste nor ornament to recommend it: the alcove may answer very gracefully within, for what I can tell; but, without, I am positive 'tis a blemiss which hardly any convenience can pardon.

His Grace of *Richmond's* is next, and has greatly the advantage of its neighbour; there is fornething of manner, as well as fimplicity in this; it fatisfies the eye, and answers in the profpect: and yet even here the entrance is intolerable; not only because 'tis bad in itself, but because

caufe it hides all the lower part of the houfe, and of course spoils the proportion, without adding a single beauty to make an atonement.

Before I quit this place, I must take notice of the brasen statue, erected here in honour of James II. The attitude is fine, the manner free and easy, the execution finish'd and perfect, and the expression in the face inimitable : it explains the very soul of that unhappy monarch, and is therefore as valuable as if it commemorated the features and form of a hero. In short 'tis pity 'tis not remov'd to some more publick and open place, that it might be better known, and more admir'd.

We'll now ftep into the *Park*, where we fhall fee a houfe in the fineft fituation, with the whole canal and park in profpect; yet fo obfcur'd with trees, that except in the garrets, it can't have the advantage of either : furely there can be no excufe for fo egregious a miftake, but that the houfe itfelf is in fo wrong a tafte, that it was the owner's intereft to hide it.

Hard by, the new *Treasury* is erecting, and . if we may judge by the foundation, of ftone too: I hope it will be grand and magnificent; it will have a glorious area before it, and will be feen to the utmost perfection from the other fide of the park: whence the angles of these houses, the space before them, and the buildings behind them, form one of the beautifullest fcenes about town. But however, let it be ever fo ftately, and

and august, there will be much reason to regret, that as there are two new buildings on each fide of it, they were not contriv'd in the fame taste, and in the fame line; for by this means they would have ferv'd as wings to the centre, and form'd one grand and elegant whole.

About half way along the Mall, Westminster-Abbey appears over the tops of the trees, in the most picturesque manner imaginable: the fine green of the park itself, the canal, the island, and another city arising beyond all, is a view of such a nature as few places in the world can parallel.

Carlton-House, now belonging to his Royal Highnels, is most delightfully fituated for a place of elegant and courtly pleasure: but the building itself is tame and poor: hardly any place is capable of greater improvements, and hardly any place stands in more need of them.

Marlborough-House is another inftance of great expence, but no tafte: it confifts only of a range of windows or two; a certain quantity of unmeaning ftone, which was intended for a decoration, and a weight of chimnies over all, enough to fink the roof to the foundation. 'Tis certain the ground afforded the architect all the opportunity imaginable of exerting his utmost art and genius, and if he had, the very place itfelf would have fecured him the higheft applause.

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'Tis with no fmall concern, I am oblig'd to own that the palace of the British Kings is fo far from having one fingle beauty to recommend it, that 'tis at once the contempt of foreign nations, and the difgrace of our own: 'twill admit of no debate that the court of a monarch ought to be the centre of all politenes; and a grand and elegant out-fide would feem, at leaft, an indication of a like perfection within: we may fafely add, that this is necessary even in a political fenfe: for strangers very naturally take their impressions of a whole people by what they fee at court, and the people themfelves are, and ought to be dazzled by the august appearance. of majefty, in every thing that has any relation to it. I could with, therefore, that ways and means could be invented to bring about this neceffary point; that Britain might affert her own tafte and dignity, and vie in elegance, as well as power, with the most finish'd of her neighbours.

Buckingbam-House is a building that attracts more eyes, and has more admirers than almost any other about town; not that 'tis in fact the most beautiful, but because it appears fo; an advantage which it derives only from its fituation, and the liberty it allows the spectator of feeing it in what point of view he pleases. The parts which compose this pile are neither new nor surprising: the proportions are not absolutely perfect, the windows being remarkably too large

large and numerous; and the decorations feem poor and trivial: the flatues on top are wretched, and rather load than adorn the building; the colonnade which leads to the wings, is fluck on to the houfe without any plea for its connection, and the wings are both miferable in themfelves. and no ways a-kin to the house they belong to. Upon the whole, tho', it must be confess'd it has the appearance of taste and defign, and if 'tis not perfect, there are few houses that are more fo: the late Duke's judgment is certainly to be applauded much, for chusing his ground fo well. 'Tis owing to him that the house has at once the advantage of a triple vifta along the Mall, the air of Constitution-Hill, the prospect of Chelsea. Fields, terminated with the hills of Surrey, and a most delightful view of the Canal, with the landscape on either fide, and the Banquetting-House at Whiteball to finish and adorn the whole.

Many people may be of opinion that the Park, in its prefent negligent circumstance, is more beautiful than if methodiz'd with art, and decorated in a more grand and elegant manner: I must confess I am of a different fentiment, and should be pleas'd to fee it render'd as agreeable as the nature of its fituation, and the ufes it must answer will give leave: neither is it abfolutely neceffary that these refinements should, in any remarkable degree, interfere with its H prefent

present simplicity, or banish any one advantage it now enjoys.

To begin with the Green Park, for example; no-body will controvert, but that the agreeable variety of ground there, is capable of very extraordinary improvements; flopes might be contriv'd, with a very little expence, in a beautiful, and yet an unaffected tafte; bafons of water might be funk in various places, which would be no fmall addition to the landscape; new walks might be laid out, and trees planted in fuch a manner, as to make the whole appear natural and picturesque together.

In the lower park, near the end of the Canal, you have a view of the space between the Mall and the water, in which nature herfelf has marked a large femicircular break, that in fome meafure calls upon the fpectator to plead for improvement: this therefore I could wish to see turn'd into a terrafs, in the form it at prefent appears in, with a large gravel walk to lead from the Mall to its centre; the intermediate spaces to remain cover'd with wild grafs, as they are now ; from this terrafs I would have a regular flope continued to the flat below, with a flight of steps just in the middle, both for convenience and decoration : the flat fhould be covered with turf, with a statue in the midst, and a gravelpath round it. The walk by the fide of the Canal I would have gravell'd too, that it might at once adorn the scene by day, and afford a beautiful

beautiful evening retreat, in a fummer by moonlight, to enjoy the air and water in perfection.

'Tis perhaps unneceffary to mention that I would have the fides of the *Canal* kept in the most perfect repair, both to preferve the ground, and give the line all the advantage 'tis capable of. One would wonder indeed, that in the prefent management of the *Park* fuch a trifle as this fhould be neglected, when it could be done with fo little charge, and 'twould answer fo well in the effect.

With the regulations here propofed, 'tis eafy to imagine how beautiful a profpect the *Park* would afford from hence; especially when 'tis confider'd that the *Banquetting-House* ends the view on one fide, the *Admiralty* on the other, and the dome of St. *Paul's* between them both. Even as it shews at present, hardly any prospect appears so grand or beautiful; particularly in a calm, clearday, when the fun is descending, the water shouth, and the whole picture reflected from the surface, even with more graces than the original.

Rofamond's-Pond is another scene, where fancy and judgment might be employ'd to the greatest advantage; there is something wild and romantick round the fides of it, which a genius would make a fine use of if, he had liberty to improve it as he pleas'd: to be fure the banks of it ought to be kept in better repair, and if a Venus in the action of rising from the scene, with H 2 the

the Graces round her, was rais'd in the middle of it, it would neither be an improper or a useles decoration.

The Vine-Yard, and that whole fide of the *Rark* is, to be fure, most fcandalously neglected, and if 'tis not capable of fuch beauty as the other, 'tis the more necessfary to keep it decent; and art should be made to bestow what nature has deny'd.

The Bird-Cage-Walk is exceeding pleafant; the fwell of the ground in the middle has an admirable effect on the vifta; and the view from thence down to the Canal is perfectly fimple and agreeable : to be fure 'tis capable of as much improvement as the opposite fide, and that too pretty much in the fame tafte, tho' I would advife fomething different for the fake of variety : the circle of trees which grows there might be made the centre of, a very beautiful fcene, and become one of the most delightful arbours in the world: ---- I must not omit here, that from the last mentioned walk, Whitehall and St. Paul's are seen over the tops of the trees, in the illand, in a very pretty and picturefque manner.

The island itself is a spot of ground, which may be made one of the most enchanting summer retreats imaginable: as it is, 'tis a place of great beauty, and improv'd with some art; but then it wants to the full as much as it possesses: if one fide is like a paradise in miniature, the other

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other is a wilderness, and as the waters in and about it are fuffered to stagnate and putrify, they become almost as much a nuisance as an ornament: 'tis beyond question, that if the little channels which wander fo varioufly thro' this place, were directed properly, and kept fweet and pure, even that part of the island which is now a defart, would rival, if not furpais the other; and the fide next the Canal, with the advantage of that noble vifta, would be more beautiful than either: I would recommend too a proper and elegant management of the trees, the keeping the banks in the most finish'd repair, and, in a more particular manner, the erecting a grot, statue, or obelisk at the end of a little canal that fhoots up into the centre of the ifland on the weft fide.

The *Parade* I have already rouch'd upon, and therefore have little more to add on that fubje&: 'tis certainly a grand and fpacious area, and if it fhould ever be adorn'd with truly noble and august buildings, would not be efteem'd one of the most inconfiderable beauties about town. I can by no means think it a wrong place to erect an equestrian statue in, to the memory of some departed hero: such a decoration can be no where raifed with more propriety, and no fituation whatever would become it better: 'tis true the great and immortal *Naffau* has been once deny'd this piece of justice, but they were not foldiers who were guilty of so great an indignity;

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we may prefume, therefore, that one time or other, those gentlemen will refolve to pay this compliment to a monarch, they must all effeem, as his mighty genius and fuperior abilities deferved: a compliment which, tho' due to him, would do honour to themfelves, and wipe away a ftain which feem'd to reflect a national ingratitude and inelegance on us all.

As we have now done with the Park. 'twill be but proper to proceed on to Westminster; a city long famous for its antiquity, yet producing very little worthy of attention, and lefs of admiration. We will begin with the house on the left hand of King-street, and near adjoining to Privy-Garden: not that it is any way remarkable in itfelf, but because it has one of the most elegant irregular views before it of any house in town: the ftreet before it forms a very spacious and noble area; the fine Gothique gate, formerly mention'd, breaks the view on one fide, and the other is adorn'd with a profile of the Banquetting-House at Whitehall; between these the street is discover'd winding to Charing-Cros, and over the tops of the buildings there, the fteeple of St. Martin's, foftened by the diftance, ends the view, and marks the keeping of the whole.

And yet, with all these advantages, the house is a publick nuisance, as well as all those in Kingfireet, Channel-Row, and the intire space between: nothing in the universe can be more absurd

abfurd than fo wretched a communication between two fuch cities as London and Westminster ; a paffage which must be frequented by all foreigners; which is visited even by the fovereign himfelf many times a year; which is the road of all the jufticiary bufiness of the nation; which is the only thorough-fare to the feat of the legiflature itfelf, and the rout of our most pompous cavalcades and proceffions; furely fuch a place as this ought, at least, to be large and convenient, if not costly and magnificent; tho' in my opinion it ought to be made the centre of our elegance and grandeur : and to do this effectually, all the buildings I have complain'd of ought to be levell'd to the ground, and a fpace laid open from Privy-Garden to Westminster-Hall, on one fide, and from the west end of the Abbey to Story's-Gate on the other: this should be furrounded with stone buildings all in a tafte, raifed on a piazza or colonnade, with fuitable decorations : and the middle should be adorned with a group of statues, answerable to the extent of the circuit round it. 'Tis eafy to imagine what an effect fuch an improvement as this would have on the fpectator, and how much more agreeable 'twould be to the honour and credit of the nation.

I should farther defire too, to fee all the little hovels demolish'd, which now incumber the *Hall* and the *Abbey*, that those buildings might be feen at least, and if they could not be admir'd

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for their beauty, they might be reverenc'd for their greatness and antiquity. If St. Margaret's were remov'd with the reft, 'twould be yet a farther advantage; for then the fine chapel of *Harry* VII. would come into play, and be attended to as it deferves. I am very far from expecting, or even imagining that any of these alterations will ever come to pass: I mention them only to explode the miserable taste of our ancestors, who neglected, or did not understand these beauties; and that their descendants may grow wiser at their expence, and prevent the like cenfures from falling upon them.

To compleat this fcheme, I am fometimes inclined to wifh that the place which is now call'd *Hell*, was levell'd, and that the new *Parliament-Houje* fhould be erected there in its room; 'twould certainly have a noble effect on the profpect, and form a most admirable contraste to the antient edifices of each fide of it: I have indeed an objection or two to this part of the fcheme; first, I apprehend there is not room enough there for fuch a pile; and, fecondly, it would lose the advantage of a prospect from the river, which its present fituation might fo happily allow it.

At all events, however, I fhould be glad to fee this noble project put into execution: 'tis certain nothing can be more unworthy of fo august a body as the parliament of *Great Britain*, than the prefent place of their affembly: it must be

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be undoubtedly a great furprize to a foreigner, to be forc'd to enquire for the Parliament-Houfe even at the doors; and when he found it, to fee it fo detach'd in parcels, fo incumber'd with wretched apartments, and fo contemptible in the whole: I could with therefore to fee this evil remedied; to fee fo ufeful and neceffary a fcheme take place : and if it falls into the noble hands to execute, we have long been flatter'd to believe it would, there is no room to doubt but the grandeur of this appearance will answer the majeflick purposes 'tis to be employ'd in. The British tafte in architecture, is, to be fure, more obliged to that Nobleman, than any other perfon now living, and if Inigo Jones has any advantage, 'tis only in having lived before him...

'Twill be ridiculous and foolifh therefore; in me, to give the leaft hint for the conduct or improvement of any defign which he has engag'd in: I shall therefore fay no more than this, that I should be glad to have both houses under the fame roof, built on the fame line, exactly oppofite to each other, the feats rang'd theatrically; the throne in the midst of one femi-circle, the fpeaker's chair in the other; and that when the King made his speech, ways and means might be found to remove the partitions from between the two houses, and present the whole parliament of Britain at one view, affembled in the moft grand, folemn, and elegant manner, with ŧ. the

the Sovereign at their head, and all the decorations round them, which could firike the fpectator dumb with admiration, at the profufion of majefty, which fet off and adorn'd the whole.

After fuch a fcene as this has been prefented to the imagination, no other has importance enough to be attended to: I expect therefore that what has been faid of Westminster-Hall will meet with but a cool reception. That ftructure is remarkable only for being the largest room in Europe which has no column to support it: all that is excellent in it, therefore, is to be found in the contrivance and workmanship of the roof, and no doubt both are truly admirable: but as skill and contrivance are both thrown away, unless they are to be seen in effect, fo a room of half the extent of this, supported on beautiful pillars, and grac'd with fuitable cornices, according to the Antique, would excite a great deal more applause, and deferve it infinitely better.

I have already touch'd on the flovenly appearance of our courts of juftice: forry I am that *Weftminster-Hall* affords me fo many opportunities of renewing this complaint: 'tis, in my opinion, almost necessary they should be more pompous and magnificent, in order to inforce the respect which should ever attend on justice: I therefore take the liberty of recommending this thought to the fages of the law, and as I am convinced

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convinced very many of them are men of tafte, there is much reason to depend on them for a fuitable reformation.

I fuppofe my readers have already obferv'd, that during the courfe of my effays on this fubject, I have not contented myfelf with bare remarks on the ornaments I find finish'd to my hand; but that I have taken all opportunities, beside, of pointing out ways and means which either may, or might have been made use of to refine upon some, to adjoin others, and make the most of every situation for the beautifying and adorning the whole.

'Tis in this view I often mention things, which by the interfering of property can never take place : and hold myfelf excus'd, in the prefumption that a neglect in one particular, may be made a fpur to the improvement of another.

The new church with the four towers, at Westminster, is fituated in fuch a manner, with respect to Old-Palace-Yard, that it might have been feen from thence, at the end of a noble vista, to the greatest advantage imaginable: the fight of the towers over the tops of the houses, puts every body in mind of this, and 'tis with much regret that we lose such a beauty.

As to the building itfelf, 'tis in a very particular tafte, and has a great mixture of beauty and caprice in it: there are many parts of it which I approve, and many more which I condemn: 'tis to be fure a fatal miftake, to endea-

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vour at an excellence, and then err fo wide of the mark as to ftumble on deformity; all falfe ornaments become faults inftantly, and only ferve to make an abfurdity more confpicuous. If the Architect of this pile had once thought of this rule, I am perfuaded he would have been abundantly more chafte in his compositions, and cut his towers, like that of Babel, off in the middle.

Henry VIIth's chapel has an undoubted right to be taken notice of in a very particular manner, as being one of the most expensive remains of the antient English taste and magnificence: to be fure there is no looking on it without admiration; but then its beauty confists much more eminently in the workmanship than the contrivance; which is just the reverse of what it ought to be.

The proportion and harmony of a plan is the first grand fecret in building; nicety, and point in execution the last: thus it happens that the edifice before us has nothing in its form to furprize or charm; and all the expence of art, which is lavish'd away upon it, only excites pity that the subject deferv'd it no better.

I am very fenfible I run no fmall rifque of being cenfur'd for making fo free with fo celebrated a pile as this: but as I profefs myfelf clear of all prejudice, and only in purfuit of truth, fo I fhall take all the liberties which are of

of a piece with fuch a character, and refolve to be govern'd by reafon and judgment only.

On these principles, therefore, I will boldly affirm, that nothing could be more absurd than erecting this fabrick at the end of the *Abbey*; it now ferving only to spoil the symmetry of both, and make a botch instead of adding a beauty: if there were any point of view where both these pieces might be seen together, the truth of my affertion would be apparent, and as it is, a little imagination will answer the fame end.

Let us farther add that, by this unnatural conjunction, the whole magnificence of front, which might have been given to this coftly chapel, is entirely loft, and those who admire it most implicitly and devoutly, can't help enquiring for an entrance fuitable to the reft of the ftructure.

Let us for once then fuppose, that it had been intirely detach'd from the *Abbey*, and erected opposite to the *House of Lords*, with a fumptuous front to the ftreet; let us fuppose the new *Parliament-House* finish'd on the other fide, and the before-mention'd vista laid open to the new church, and the confequence would then be another group of beauties in building and decoration, which few cities in *Europe* could parallel.

By the many things I have faid of the advantage of fpace before a building, in order to add magnificence to the view, no body will wonder, I prefume, that I am for levelling the Gatekou/e, demolifhing a large part of Dean-Yard, and

and laying open the ftreet at the west end of the Abbey, at least, to an equal breadth with the building. I must frankly own nothing appears fo miferable to me, as fuch incumbrances round a grand or elegant building : they abate the pleafure of the profpect most exceedingly, and are real difadvantages to the builder's fame.

Westminster-Abbey is a fabrick of great antiquity, and challenges fome kind of veneration on that account: it is befides of prodigious bulk, and fills the eye, at leaft, if it does not fatisfy it: to glance at it in the landscape, without examining its parts, it pleafes tolerably well; to examine its parts, we are under a necessity of difliking the whole: if the height furprizes, we are out of humour with its form; and the fronts in particular ought to have role eminently above the reft, in order to have varied the lines, and given that grace it fo vifibly wants. We now rather think of a barn than a church; I believe this image is owing intirely to the extream sharpness of the roof, and if that was rectified, 'twould be greatly to the advantage of the building in general. It must be own'd indeed, that the west end was never finish'd, and there is much reason to believe that the two towers, on each fide of it, were defigned to give the elevation, 'tis now fo apparently defective in.

There is indeed a rumour about the town, that the Dean and Chapter still defign to perfect

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this fcheme, and raife the towers according to their first projection: but I think 'tis rather too late to begin, for unless they would new-cafe the church all over, the mixture of the new and old would have a worfe effect, than the defect we complain of, and make a fort of patch-work in building, which is ever offensive both to judgment and tafte.

As to the infide of the church, 'tis certainly more perfect and judicious than the out: the perfpective is ftrong and beautiful, and ftrikes the fpectator in a very forcible manner, as foon as he makes his entrance; and yet it owes the greateft part of its effect to a fault in fymmetry. 'Tis the exceeding height of the grand iffe which gives the aftonifhment; but if that was only in exact proportion to the reft of the parts, it would not be diffinguifh'd fo much, and yet would deferve much greater praife.

The late-erected organ has even interfer'd with this beauty, and broke the vista in the most injudicious manner imaginable: the iron grate below, 'tis true, makes fome amends, by prefenting us with a little view of perspective, which would make one of the best pictures in that ftile I ever faw; and the lights and shadows fall fo artfully, that the painter has nothing else to do but copy; 'twill hardly be in his power to improve.

As I have made Statues as well as Architesture, the fubject of this effay, as often as they have fallen

fallen in my way; and we are now in the *Abbe*, 'twill be unpardonable not to take a furvey of the most remarkable monuments there, and applaud and cenfure in turn, as occasion offers.

I shall begin with Sir Godfrey Kneller's, fituated at the lower end of the north ille; a thing defigned by Sir Godfrey himfelf, and executed by Ry/brack, and yet to far from answering the idea we might conceive of it from two fuch great names, that it hardly excites common attention or curiofity, unlefs to read the epitaph, which is exactly of a piece with the tomb, and as unworthy of Mr. Pope's genius, as the defign of that is of Kneller's pencil. One would have thought fo accomplish'd a master fhould have recollected at first fight, that a canopy is far from being a proper decoration in stone, and if it was, that tis so stale and trite an ornament, that the worft of his difciples would have rejected it with contempt. One might reasonably add, that Sir Godfrey had it in his power to diftinguish his own excellencies in the propriety of his ornaments; but those he has chosen may do as well for any body elfe, and belong no more to a Painter, than a Lord Chief Justice.

I fhall pass by a number of rude Gothique pieces, which instead of adorning really incumber the church, and be particular on such only, which either really excel, or were intended to do so by their founders.

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Among the first of these, we may very justly take notice of that erected to the memory of young Mr. Carteret: the thought it turns on is fine and poetical; no guardian is fo proper of a thing facred to memory as Time. and no bribe fo effectual to fecure him in its favour as merit : the epitaph he is made to difplay is in a fine tafte, and does honour to him who compos'd it, and him it alludes to: the buft of the young gentleman himfelf is beautifully fimple, and preferves a fine keeping with respect to the whole.

On the other fide of the fame ille, on the back of the choir, we fee another, in all refpects opposite to this: I forget the Lady's name in whofe honour 'twas erected, and if those who were at the expence of it could be forgot too, 'twould be fome advantage to their characters : the conceit of this monument is a front figure of a lady fpringing upwards from the ground, with a cherubim above her defcending to give her a lift; tho' by her attitude, 'tis impossible she should know any thing of the matter. Below her, hovering over the bale, is another as lame and wretched as the first, who unfolds as bad an epitaph, and compleats fo miferable a piece, that nothing but its next neighbour could keep it in countenance:

That belongs to the late Lord Kingsale, and is as fine as painting, carving and gilding can make it: but for its tafte, furely 'tis impossible that

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that any thing fhould be more remarkable: that nobleman is in a recumbent pofture, with a curious fuit of armour on, a delicate head of hair, and points to a very emphatical coronet near him, as the fum of all his glory; a very pretty bit of canopy dangles over him, a coat of arms most pompously emblazon'd glitters above that: two poor little boys, whom I pity prodigiously, bear up a most ponderous urn, with the additional weight of the statue into the bargain, and an important epitaph underneath all tells you, that it has been a privilege of the *Kingsale Family* to wear their hats before the King, time out of mind.

Doctor Chamberlain's monument is by many people thought one of the best pieces in the Abbey, and I own I am inclin'd to be of the fame opinion : to be fure every one of the figures is finely executed, and fome parts of the Doctor's, in particular, deferve fincere applause: I have no material fault to find with the order and difpolition of the whole, and the epitaph, to be fure, fays a great many fine things of the Doctor : yet still there wants a boldness and spirit thro' the whole; you can't blame 'tis true, but then you can't heartily praise : in every design where there are more figures than one, 'tis polfible to strike the spectator's imagination, as well as appeal to his judgment; and I muft be fo free as to own, that this piece has not that effect on me.

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As there is a buft of a late mulician in our way, dreft up in a beau peruke, and a fine lac'd cravat, he would take it ill if we did not pay our compliment to him as we pass'd by : for which reason I make him this acknowledgment; but for fear the heirs of another mulician should lavish away more money to a like purpose, I think myfelf obliged to declare that Purcel's epitaph is, at least, of ten times more value, than Blow's monument.

The two boys on each fide of the little tomb, erected to the memory of Sir Gilbert Lort, are in a very pretty tafte, and a perfect contraste to each other; one reprefenting paffionate, exclamatory grief, and the other still and silent: 'tis pity they are divided by fo bad an ornament in the middle : had they lean'd on a fingle urn, which, in the antique tafte, might have been fupposed to hold his ashes, they would have had a fine effect, and challenged more admiration than many a more pompous and expensive pile.

Looking thro' into one of the little chapels, which are feparated from the body of the church, we fee a monument that belongs to one of the Veres, and challenges fome attention: 'tis true the principal figure is in the old Gothique tafte, flat on his back, and of confequence not to be relish'd, tho' executed in the most perfect manner in the world: but then the four Knights' which fupport the ftone over him, with his armour on top, are justly to be admir'd; and tho?

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tho' both their drefs and the oddnefs of their employ, are difadvantages, they ftrike you with pleafure notwithftanding, and each independent figure demands your approbation. Sorry I am to fee them us'd fo ill; moft of them are maim'd, and one of them in particular has lately had a leg broke off; I would therefore recommend the care of the *Dead* to the Dean and Chapter, as well as the *Living*; and as they are leaft able to take care of themfelves, I think they have a better claim to the protection of others; and efpecially as they pay for their lodging too.

Just opposite to this door, against the wall, is a martial figure, reprefenting one of the Hollefes, and till that of Mr. Craggs's was put up, was the only erect one in the Abbey : an attitude I am far from difcommending, for 'tis my opinion, ftatues should always represent life and action, and not languor and infenfibility : 'tis particularly happy when adapted to foldiers and heroes, who ought never to be fuppos'd at reft, and should have their characters represented as strong as possible: this before us is bold and manly, tho' not chafte and elegant: 'tis finely elevated too, and the mourning Pallafes at the base of it are both well fancied and well applied. There is no part of the execution of this tomb that we can admire, but as there was a propriety in the defign, I could not pass it over without giving it its due praise.

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The next thing in the Abbey, which according to method and order demands our attention, is the tomb erected to the memory of the late Duke of Newcastle, by the Counters of Oxford, his daughter: to be fure there is not any mauloleum belonging to the whole church, except Henry VIIth's, which is built at fo great an expence as this: the materials are exceeding fine, the space it fills grand and noble, the architecture rich and ornamental; and yet it gives no pleafure to the elegant and knowing, and is only the admiration of the vulgar: the reason of which is plain; magnificence has been confulted only, and not beauty; and coft and fplendour are lavish'd away, if not directed by judgment and tafte: the figure of the Duke himfelf is full of absurdities : it neither fits nor lies, is employed in no action, has no expression, no dignity, and abounds with manifest, open disproportions; the two statues on each fide are equally tame and unmeaning, and have no more relation to the principal, than if they were still in the statuary's yard: I am as much difpleafed with the two brace of angels that incumber the upper part of this pile, and indeed if that whole ftory were entirely remov'd, I am of opinion it would be no difadvantage to the remainder.

The monument erected in honour of the late Sir *Ifaac Newton*, has pretty much divided the publick opinion; fome extolling it as one of the most perfect pieces both in defign and

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execution, and others again depreciating it. as no way remarkable for either: I chufe rather to fteer between these two extreams, as nearest to truth, and agreeable to the beft of my underftanding; I therefore make no fcruple to own that the statue of Sir Ilaac has something in it exceedingly venerable, bold, and majeftick; it commands attention, and expresses importance; but then the action it is employ'd in is vain, and of course out of the character it represents: Sir I/aac, tho' one of the greatest men who ever did honour to humanity, was at the fame time the least proud and affuming; and deliver'd fome of the finest principles of philosophy as doubtful, which all his readers thought demonstrated: 'twas wrong therefore to give him that vanity after his death, which never belonged to him in his life: if the two boys at his feet, which difplay the fcrole, had done it only to the spectator, and Sir Ilaac had not been concern'd in it, it would have answered every way ; and engaging the philosopher in profound contemplation in the mean while, had expressed his knowledge as well, and his character better.

The bas-reliefs on the urn are most excellent, and do great honour to *Rysbrack*; the principal figure in particular, that weighs the fun, and all our planetary fystem by the steel-yard, is admirable, and the device is beautiful and fully expressing Sir *Ifaac*'s doctrine of *Gravitation*, which is the basis of his fame: the boys that

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are introduc'd to tell you he was mint-mafter, is trifling and poor, unworthy of the reft, and no compliment to him: neither is the conceit of the *aloe-plant*, in the other corner of the tablature lefs faulty; because it is to the full as infignificant, and abundantly more obscure.

The globe in the back of the monument, is almost a general objection, as projecting too forward on the fight, and spoiling the keeping of the whole. I fancy another pedestal, well proportioned, had been esteem'd a more natural support for the figure of *Astronomy* above, and would have had room in the middle of it to introduce the globe to more advantage: but this I leave to the determination of better judges.

The upper part of the figure of Aftronomy is, without controverfy, one of the moft delicate things that can be imagin'd; the manner and action are both faultlefs, and the expression of the face is at once thoughtful and compos'd, sweet and majestick; I wish the rest of it had been answerable, but it is quite the contrary in all respects; the legs are clumfy and incumber'd with drapery, and fo far from being beautifully or naturally disposed, that they are piled one upon another, and put me in pain for fear the figure should roll off the globe, for want of a due poise to keep it fast.

Upon the whole, tho', it is, at leaft, one of the most pardonable monuments I have seen, and I am positive the next age will be alike pleafed

pleafed to fee fuch another genius as Newton, and fuch another mafter as Ry/brack to do honour to his memory.

But if this monument of Sir Ifaac's muft undergo fuch a fevere trial, and be fo hardly acquitted, what will be the fate of its neighbour, fince rais'd to commemorate the late Lord Stanbope? Undoubtedly it will meet with no advocate, and has not even the smallest title to favour. 'Tis all alike, huge and heavy; expensively Gothique, and magnificently clumfey; the defign is fo trifling and abfurd, that not even the hand of Rybrack can give you the least prejudice to its advantage: the statue of his Lordship might very easily be mistaken for that of Ajax, if time and place could afford the leaft help to imagination. It has the fame unmeaning air and features which that heroe is described with, is as enormous in bulk, and feems as void of defign and penetration; circumstances that no way agree with the character of Lord Stanbope, and which rather lampoon than do him honour.

The tent behind is most miserably conceiv'd, and worst adapted of any thing I ever faw in my life; and the *Pallas* upon the top of it has the most uneasy station imaginable: she is a giantes too, and seems to have as little forecast as her charge below: in short, if either of them have any beauty, 'tis in being of a piece with each other:

ther; but even that is an excellency which I fancy no body will ever envy or applaud.

We must now strike down to the end of the fouth ifle : and there we shall be somewhat better entertain'd: the monument of Mr. Craggs, is in a very fimple and elegant tafte : there appears much judgment in fetting his statue upright, because it fills the vilta, with great harmony, and looks advantageously even at the greatest distance; the attitude of it is delicate and fine a the thought of refting it on an urn, pathetique and judicious, and if the face and head had been more finish'd, the whole had been without blemish : the architecture is alike plain, and the embellishments few, and well chosen. In a word, many tombs have more beauties, none · fewer faults.

I must now take notice of two monuments together, tho' of very different perfons, and fomewhat remov'd in fituation from one another; they are the Lord Godolphin's, and Mr. Congreve's; my reason for mentioning them at one time is because they were erected at the charge of the fame perfon; because they are in the fame bad tafte, and the epitaphs of them both are wrote in the fame stile, and spelt with the fame exactness: the Lady who was at the expence of putting them up, had undoubtedly the credit of paying a compliment to men of the highest merit, in their different stations; yet 'tis to be wish'd that she had thought it worth her while.

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while, for her own fake, to have done it with more decorum, and in a manner more fuitable to her quality, and their deferts:

The plainness and fimplicity of Dr. Friend's buft pleafes me much; and if his epitaph had been in the same goût, it would have been, at least, as high a compliment both to the Scholar and Physician.

There is fomething pretty in Mrs. Defbovery's' tomb; the figures are lively and free, and the architecture not much amifs; but her own amiable character, indeed, is the higheft decoration, and to which we may juftly add that of her friend's, who had the gratitude to pay this gentile compliment to the remembrance of their former affection.

Not far from this is a monument infcrib'd with the name of Mr. Smytb, which is much in tafte; a fine buft, in relievo, of that gentleman, is fupported by a weeping figure, reprefenting his daughter, both which are defigned and executed with great judgment and fpirit. If any thing is wanting, 'tis a reft for the Lady's left arm, which being held up to the head, appears painful for want of it: the urn on which fhe fits, with its bafe and pyramid behind, finifh the whole tomb, and unite in a ftile moft harmonious and agreeable.

The monument of Mr. Tbynn falls next under our confideration; one of the most celebrated things in the Abbey: 'tis indeed in a most

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moft elegant tafte, and the execution is equal to the defign; the languid dying pofture he is plac'd in, with the action of his hand, directing the fpectator to the tragick ftory of his death, which was once engrav⁴d behind him, are beautifully confiftent with each other, and muft have had a very pathetic influence on all who beheld it; particularly, as fo ftrongly inforc'd with the fine relief, which reprefented the murder below: but fince the caprice of fome, or the prejudice and interefts of others, have eraz'd the infcription, neither his action, nor that of the inimitable boy at his feet, can be thoroughly underftood, unlefs confider'd in the light it was firft intended to appear in, as defcrib'd above.

The execrable Gothique heap, which was erected at fo great an expence, in honour of fo brave a man as Sir *Cloudefly Shovel*, and even by his Sovereign herfelf, has been fo emphatically and juftly expos'd in the *Spectator* already, that I have no need to fay any thing more on that fubject; I fhall only beg leave to put the two neighbouring tombs of Admiral *Churchill* and Mr. *Stepney* in the fame rank of cenfure, fince they are almost as coftly, and full as unmeaning and ridiculous.

I must now pass over several wretched things that are unworthy of observation, in order to hasten to the corner of the poets; but by the way, cannot overlook the droll figure, lately set up, at the charge of a noble Peer, to the

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memory of Grabe the commentator: he is elevated on a high fort of a funeral cheft, with a lamp by his fide, and a pen in his hand to reprefent, I suppose, his unwearied application to ftudy in his life-time; but then the ridiculous height of the statue, the clumsiness of the attitude, and the oddness of the employ, never fail to excite laughter in all who behold them: in fhort, he looks like a boy on a high jointftool, kicking his heels about, and afraid of tumbling every moment.

I don't know any circumftance which diftinguifhes the real patron fo much, as paying the last compliment of an urn and infeription to the ashes of a dead genius: it argues a thorough and difinterested esteem for merit, sets the fairest example of magnanimity for the great to follow, and excites the nobleft emulation among the learned to deferve a like honour.

In this view, I am charm'd with the recollection that the venerable names of Spencer, Johnfon, Cowley, and Dryden, have been perpetuated with just and noble diffinctions, by such illustrious personages as Sheffield, and Villiers, Dukes of Buckingham, the prefent Earl of Oxford, and Devereux Earl of Effex : fome diffinction, 'tis true, is necessary to be made in the fhare of applause which is due to these noblemen, for the fame humane and generous action : the Earls of Effex and Oxford did this honour to Johnson and Spencer, without complimenting Digitized by Google

themfelves at the fame time, by infcribing their own names on the ftone; a delicate piece of felf denial which *Villiers* and *Sheffield* had not firmnefs enough to practife, in their generofities to Dryden and Cowley.

The prefent Dutchefs of Buckingbam will, however, have an equitable claim to fhare in glory with the first: for she justly difliking the bust, which was first set up for Mr. Dryden, ordered it, at her own expense, to be remov'd, and another plac'd in its stead. At once unwilling that her dead Lord's humanity should be cenfur'd for want of taste, and disfatisfy'd with the glory of such an action, unless the thing itself agreed exactly with the intent of raising it.— The prefent bust is far from being contemptible, and the whole tomb simple, if not magnificent.

I am always much furpriz'd to fee fo wretched a thing as that erected to the memory of Mr. *Phillips*, infcrib'd with the name of *Harcourt*: one would have naturally imagin'd that whoever aim'd at publick ornament, would endeavour at fomething like elegance too; one would have expected it in a more eminent degree, from fuch a name as this: but on the contrary, nothing is more oppofite; nothing can be more contemptible: it is even a burlefque upon monuments, and inftead of doing honour to the founder, or the perfon 'tis confecrated to, indicates very ftrongly, that either one had not merit e-

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The buft of Jobn/on is executed with great happinels, and looks with abundance of life and fpirit: the tablature 'tis inclos'd in is beautiful, and the decorations few, proper, and elegant. To talk like a critick, there is nothing wanting but a note of admiration, at the end of the infcription: O rare Ben Jobnfon!

Tho' the tomb of Spencer has fuffered greatly by time, and was erected in an age when tafte was in its infancy in England, yet there is fomething in it venerably plain, and not abfurdly ornamental. The materials were certainly very rich, and I don't recollect any of the fame ftanding that deferve fo little cenfure.

I am pleafed to fee the great Butler here on any 'terms, but 'twould have given me much greater fatisfaction to fee it rais'd in a more magnificent manner, and by fuch perfons too as might have reflected greater honour to his memory; tho' his own merits were fo eminent as to need no publick acknowledgement to make them immortal.

The bufts of *Shadquell* and *St. Evremond* are neither of them very extraordinary, and therefore I fhall content myself with this bare mention, that they are there.

Mr. Prior's monument I cannot fo eafily pais over, because 'tis meant to be magnificent, and was defign'd to call upon the attention of man-

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kind. Undoubtedly few men had ever better title to a fepulchral trophy than this author; but still I should have been more pleas'd if it had been erected at any other perfor's charge, rather than his own: 'tis extending our vanity beyond the grave, and making the envy of mankind eternal. As to the tomb itself, I must be free enough to confess I am not intirely fatisfied with it: his own buft, which is defign'd to be the principal figure, is hurt by the whole statues on either fide; and 'tis not to be queftion'd but a fimple urn, with the head on a pedeftal over it, would have had a finer effect, and better deferved our admiration. The head itself is certainly perform'd with great maftery, and is justly efteemed one of the best things in England; and yet if a little French embroidery on the cap, and drapery, were spared, I believe it would be far from a diladvantage to it, because it would be then more a-kin to the chaftity and purity of the Antique.

I believe every body that visits the repository of the illustrious dead, cannot help looking round, like me, for the divine *Milton*, and immortal *Sbakespear*; names which are the honour of their country, and yet have received no honour from it; names which every foreigner must enquire for, and miss with regret and uneasiness to himself, and censure and disesteem to us: that *Milton*, indeed, has been deny'd this privilege, I don't fo much wonder, because he oppos'd

oppos'd the priefthood; an injury which they can neither forget nor forgive: an injury that the merit of half mankind united in one perfon can never attone for, and which the fraternity will refent as long as the name of the aggreffor furvives their malice and perfecution.

But this was not Sbake/pear's cafe; a man whole works have been the bread of thoulands, and the entertainment of whole nations for above an age together; who was almost the creator of the English ftage, and the fupport of it ever fince; and yet, notwithstanding all his own merits, and the continued benefits he has been the instrument of procuring others, not one honorary ftone has diftinguished him among the fons of the Mules, nor one grateful line acknowledged the influence of his superior genius: a neglect fo shameful that it reflects in the severest manner, both on those who have grown rich by his labours, and those who have been entertain'd fo frequently with their representations.

Before we go into the inclos'd part of the *Abbey*, 'twill be proper to ftop a moment at the tombs on the left hand of the entrance: that of Doctor Bu/by's is certainly in a good tafte, and well executed; the figure is bold and free; in a proper action, and very expressive of the character it represents; neither are the decorations much inferior. But that of Dr. South's is altogether as bad; 'tis only a parcel of good marble should be fpoil'd, and the ftatue even more flocking than

than the original block it was first composed of.

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of. Of each fide of the collateral illes of the choir, are three diffinct fpaces, which, if I miftake not, were formerly us'd as chapels, and confectated to particular faints, but now are only repolitories of the dead, and devoted to their monuments and inferiptions. I shall touch upon what is remarkable in each of them quite round, and referve that of *Henry*, VII. to close my remarks on this part of my subject:

In the first of these, on the right hand, you have a fample of the antient Gothique magnificence, which was the highest taste our ancestors arriv'd at a that is to fay, a monument which spreads over a vast extent of space, contains a prodigious quantity of the finest marble, is adorn'd with a vast variety of decorations, dazzles your eyes with a profusion of gildings, is animated with abundance of inscriptions, and yet, upon the whole, appears an insignificant heap, without form or order, beauty or understanding,) creating pity that fo much money, time, and labour should be thrown away, inftead of exciting applause and admiration.

What has been faid of this particular tomb will fuit as well with all the reft in the fame ftile; for tho' they differ in particulars, they are the fame upon the whole, and a fuperiority in hugeness or expence, only calls upon the fpectator for a feverer centure, and more poign-

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ant diffatisfaction. One abfurdity effectally, which is common to them all, ought to be most rigorously condemn'd, which is, the graving their inferiptions in fo fmall a character, and placing them at fuch a diffance from the eye, that they were ever as ineffectual, as if time had effac'd them from the first moment of their infertion. Gui i

In the last of the chapels on the right hand, is a fingle statue in honour of one of the Hollefes; which expresses more juvenile sweetness and beauty than any thing I ever fam of the kind in my life: if this figure has any fault in character and defign, 'tis in its being in a languid, fedentary posture, the' elad in armour, and deforib'd as a hero in his bloom : to be fure, an attitude of more spirit would have been more faitable to the perfon reprefented, would have given the flatuary greater latitude to exert his genius, and occasion'd more fatisfaction in the spectator too. Opposite to the door of this chapel; is a brazen bust of Sir Robert Stapleton, an author of fome repute in the time of King Charles I. which has formething in it very lively and pleafing ; and tho' a judicious eye will easily find it incorrect, he will not fail of giving it fome degree of praise notwithstanding.

"Much in the fame figuation, in the other ille, is a bas-relief, in honour of one of the La Tours, a family from France, which has a degree of delicacy, both in the tale and expression, which

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is very entertaining: 'tis a mother lamenting over her dead, or dying daughter, and the artift has been very happy in the execution: I could with tho' that the drapery had not been quite fo prodigally beftow'd, and that the folds had been fewer, and more fimple.

On the other fide of the fame ille, a little lower down, is another piece of the fame nature with this, which is the reafon I arrange them together: the ftory of that, is a Lady dying, and her hufband, and feveral children weeping round her: I can't fay that the fcene is not well enough difpos'd, and the paffions naturally and properly express'd; but ftill I think fuch little tablatures as thefe, are fitter for a medal than a monument; and ought to be kept in a box, rather than be expos'd to the open air: what is calculated to laft for any term of years, ought to be compos'd of large and nervous parts, that time might be the longer in hurting it, and that it might have a better chance of challenging the attention of pofterity.

I must now go back again to the first chapel on the right hand, coming down the isle, where we shall see, at the entrance, a figure leaning on a mattress, which is admirably well executed, but in the worst still almost of any thing in the *Abhey*: in a word, 'tis an exact copy of the dress, and character of the times, at the beginning of the reign of King *Charles* I. The spruce hair, curl'd whiskers, pointed beard, M 2 ftarch'd

ftarch'd ruff, formal cloak, and large buttons, are as carefully preferv'd, as if they were a fit ftandard of beauty for all future ages.

Above this, and almost out of fight, is a brazen bust of a Lady, which deferves fome admiration, both as it expresses great fimplicity and beauty, and as 'tis finely executed too: 'tis true the dress and manner of this are as much to be objected to as the last, and have the same excuse of mode to plead in their justification.

Just opposite to the entrance, is a statue that is difposed with the most ease and freedom of any thing I ever faw, and indeed has no other beauty to recommend it. I don't recollect any thing elfe remarkable in either of these chapels to take farther notice of; for tho' they are crowded with monuments, they are all fo exectably ill, as to be even beneath censure : one modern Lady, indeed, in the next chapel to this, would take it ill if I did not pay fomething like a compliment to her: for the is dreft with fuch nicety, fo lac'd, fo ruffled, and fo fervent in her devotions too at the fame time, as if we were to believe there was as much ceremony to be observed in gaining admission into heaven, as at court, on a birth-day.

Some of my readers would perhaps take it ill, if in this place, and writing on the curiofities of the *Abbey*, I fhould not fay fomething in honour of the fine wax-work figures which are plac'd to curioufly up and down this venerable

ble building; particularly the King William and Queen Mary, which have been lately fo amicably shut up together in the same box. To oblige them therefore, and in compliment to the Reverend Dean and Chapter, who permit these noble decorations, I will throw away a moment or two in giving my opinion of them. In the first place, therefore, with all submission to better judgments, I think they are ridiculous and unnatural in themfelves, expressing neither figure like statuary, nor colour like painting: fecondly, I am humbly of opinion that they would become a puppet-fnew better than a church, as making a mere farce of what should be great and folemn: and, thirdly, I think them highly injurious to the characters they represent, as shewing them like jointed babies, to the stupid admiration of the vulgar, and the contempt of men of fense; instead of characterizing their perfons, and perpetuating their virtues.

For all which, and many more reasons, I beg leave to move that the whole prefent fet of waxen worthies may be demolish'd without benefit of clergy, and that all their prefent patrons and abettors may be substituted in their place; and that, as fast as any future Reverence should endeavour to seduce his brethren to the like idolatry, he should be immediately chronicled in wax, and shewn with a cap and bells, to distinguish the extent of his understanding, and the perfection of his taste.

The inclosure, behind the altar, commonly known by the name of St. *Edward*'s chapel, has nothing remarkable in it but certain Gothique antiquities, which are made facred by tradition only, and ferve to excite a flupid admiration in the vulgar.

There is indeed, at the end of this place, a fort of gate to the tomb of *Henry* V. which was intended for a piece of magnificence, and no colt was fpared to make it answer that design; but the taste of it is so unhappy, and the execution fo wretched, that it has not the least claim to that character. The tomb of that Prince challenges attention only because 'twas his, and because the statue on it has lost its head : to account for which singular injury, we are told a ridiculous tale of its being filver, and that the varlue of it occasioned the facrilege.

One thing, 'tis true, we meet with in this place, which merits a peculiar regard; that is, a wooden cheft of bones,' faid to be the remains of *Catharine*, daughter of the King of *France*, and confort of *Henry* V. If this account is authentick, I think nothing can be a greater violation of decency, or more injurious to the memory of fuch illustrious perfonages, than to expose their reliques in fo licentious a manner, and make a shew of what once commanded respect and adoration. If the clergy are advocates for the decency of burial, as no doubt they are, because of the profits which attend it, why don't

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don't those, who have this church under their care, comply but with their common teness, and grant this indulgence to the ruins of majesty? To be fure I can have no other answer but this, that they bury fome for gain, and some they leave unburied for the fame reason.

²Tis beyond controverfy, that there is fomething extremely flocking in this violence to the fecrets of mortality: the Antients had even a fuperfitious regard for the dult of their anceltors, and furely we are under fome obligation to treat ours with good manners. and how the rewerend Dean and Chapter can redoncile this primciple with their conduct. I leave to the most learned cafuit, among them, to determine. If they would hearken to my humble advice, they would not be fo very intent on workshy interestij as to neglect worksly reputation: "reputation is interest too, and fuch trespaties as these, in the eyes of men of delicacy and understanding, are not early forgiven or forgor.

The arch, at the entrance of Houry VIIth's chapel, is exceeding grand and ornamental: the fteps underneath are a fine preparation for the ftene at landing, and the three doors an admirable expedient to favour the perfpective within: but this, and feveral other beauties, are unterly fpoil'd by the ftalls, which cuttoff the collateral lifes of the chapel intirely, and thereby fpoils the beauty and fymmetry of the whole.

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The roof of this ftructure is certainly one of the fineft things in the world, I mean in the Gothique ftile: nothing can be in a better form, or more richly decorated: perhaps had it been more fimple it had fhewn to greater advantage; but ftill tis a wonder that one continued clufter of ornament could be contriv'd to pleafe fo much, and answer fo well.

Were the abfurd partitions mentioned above thrown down, the roof would appear ftill more furprizing, and the area before more fpacious and proportionable: all those tombs which are now flut up in fuch a manner; that they are no where to be feen as they ought, would then come forward to the eye, and give an additional grandeur and folemnity to the feene: the persective would be finely broke, and every object properly terminate in the founder's maufoleum, as the principal point of the whole view.

There are few tombs in *Europe* more famous, than that of *Henry* VII. neither indeed are there many which deferve to be more fo. The undertaking, in itfelf, was vaft and furprizing, the coft prodigious, and the execution exceedingly difficult and laborious. And yet the artift has fucceeded in it to admiration; there is hardly a part in it that is not excellent, from the chief figures to the minuteft point of the decoration; the flatues of the King and Queen are grand and noble, and the bas-relief on the fides below, beautiful and expressive. I am of opinion the workman,

workman, whoever he was, was equal to the nobleft scheme of this nature, and would have made a figure even amongst the Antients What a pity is it therefore that fuch a genius, and fo much art fhould be lavish'd away on a thing entirely out of tafte, and which, at the fame expence and ftudy, might have been made the wonder of the world! To explain myfelf farther on this head, nothing can be more flupid than the laying statues on their backs, in fuch a fituation, that 'tis impoffible they fhould ever be feen to advantage, and of courfe, that all their perfections must be utterly thrown away. In the next place, the brazen inclosure, which furrounds this tomb, wonderful as it may be, confider'd by itfelf, is a monftrous blemish, with regard to the thing it was intended to preferve and adorn; becaufe it rifes abundantly too high, and intercepts the view intirely from the principal objects.

Without doubt, the ftatues of the King and Queen, ought to have been in living attitudes, erect, and bold, and the decorating figures fhould have form'd a corresponding groupe, which in every light, should have stood the test of criticism, and given the spectator an intire fatisfaction: a few more steps too should have been added to raise the foundation higher; a magnificent arch might have been thrown over all, and the boundary below should have been only a guide, not an incumbrance to the prospect.

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Yet, erroneous as the tafte of this fine monument may be, it may be call'd excellent to that which prevail'd feveral years after in the reign of King James I. as may be feen by the wretched things, which were erected at his command, to the memory of Queen Elizabeth, and his mother, Mary Queen of Scotland: in these all the blunders, that can be imagin'd, are collected together: want of attitude and expression, harmony and proportion, beauty and decoratinay, the very columns, which support on : the superstructure, are of different forts of marble, and, to make the figures splendid and natural, they are painted and drefs'd out to the life, as if they were just retir'd from a drawingroom, and laid down there for a little repofe.

But these whims feem to be again out of repute in the reign of his fon, as appears by the monuments of the Dukes of *Richmond* and *Buckingham*: in these there are several fine figures in brass, and something like meaning and design; tho' even then they had not learned to diftinguish the principal characters, and place them in such attitudes, as should command the spectator's first and last attention and regard.

Both these faults are intirely avoided by Rybrack, in the monument erected in the honour of the late Duke of Buckingbam: there the Duke himself is the principal figure in the groupe, and tho' he is in a cumbent posture, and his Lady, in the most beautiful manner, fitting at his feet, yet

yet her figure is characteris'd in fuch a manner as only to be a guide to his, and both reflect back a beauty on each other. The decorations are exceedingly picturefque and elegant : the trophy at his head, the figure of Time above, with the medals of his children, fill up all the fpaces with fo great propriety, that as very little could be added, nothing can be fpared. In a word, I have yet feen no ornament that has pleafed me better, and very few fo well.

I will conclude my remarks on the Abbey, with fome brief reflections on the use of fepulchral monuments in general, which will, at once, ferve to illustrate what has been faid on the tombs already erected, and likewife be of fome fervice to the ftatuary in defigning those which may fucceed hereafter.

However amiable fame may appear to the living, 'tis certainly no advantage to the dead : whatever dangers they have dared, whatever toils they have undergone, whatever difficulties they have furmounted, the grave is deaf to the voice of applause, and the dust of the noble and vulgar fleep in the fame obfcurity together. 'Tis poffible the confcious fpirit may have an idea of the honours that are paid to his ashes; but 'tis much more probable, that the prospect of this imaginary glory, while he liv'd among us, was all the pleafure it ever could afford him. I make this observation, because most monuments are faid to be erected as an honour to the

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the dead, and the living are fuppos'd to be the leaff concern'd in them : whereas on the contrary, there are few but what were rather founded in compliment to the builder's vanity, than in respect to the name they are infcribed with. One man's fame is made the foundation of another's, in the fame manner with the gentleman's, who order'd this sentence to be made his epitaph; Here lies Sir Philip Sidney's friend. Some there are that mention only the names of the perfons whose dust they cover, and preferve a noble filence with regard to the hand who rais'd them ; but even here, the dead can receive no benefit from such disinterested affection; but the living may profit much by fo noble an example. Another thing that difpleafes me, is the manner of the infcriptions, which frequently miltake the very defign of engraving them, and as frequently give the lye to themfelves. To pore one's felf blind in gueffing out Æternæ memoriæ sacrum is a jeft, that would make Heraclitus laugh; and yet most of them begin in that pompous tafte, without the least reflection that brafs and marble can't preferve themfelves from the tooth of time; and if men's actions have not guarded their reputations, the proudeft monument would flatter in vain.

I don't fay these things because I am an enemy to the custom; so far from it, no one can admire it more; but what I intend is, to place every thing on its right principle, and recommend

mend the propereft means for the confequence. 'Tis certain there is not a nobler amusement in the world, than a walk in Westminster Abbey, among the tombs of heroes, patriots, poets, and philosophers; you are furrounded with the fhades of your great forefathers; you feel the influence of their venerable fociety, and grow fond of fame and virtue in the contemplation : 'tis the fineft fchool of morality, and the moft beautiful flatterer of the imagination in nature. ٠T appeal to every man's mind that has any tafte for what is fublime and noble. for a witness to the pleafure he experiences on this occasion; and I dare believe he will acknowledge, that there is no entertainment fo various, or fo inftructive. For my own part, I have spent many an hour of pleafing melancholy in its venerable walks; and have been more delighted with the folemn conversation of the dead, than the most fprightly fallies of the living. I have examin'd the characters that were infcribed before me, and diffinguished every particular virtue. The monuments of real fame, I have view'd with real refpect; but the piles that wanted a character to excuse them, I confider'd as the monuments of folly. I have wandered with pleafure into the most gloomy recesses of this last refort of grandeur, to contemplate humane life, and trace mankind thro' all the wilderness of their frailties and misfortunes, from their cradles to their grave. I have reflected on the shortness of

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our duration here, and that I was but one of the millions who had been employ'd in the fame manner, in ruminating on the trophies of mortality before me; that I must moulder to dust in the fame manner, and quit the fcene to a new generation, without leaving the shadow of my existence behind me; that this huge fabrick, this facred repofitory of fame and grandeur, would only be the stage for the fame performances; would receive new accessions of noble duft; would be adorn'd with other fepulchres , of colt and magnificence; would be crouded with fucceffive admirers; and at laft, by the unavoidable decays of time, bury the whole collection of antiquities in general obscurity, and be the monument of its own ruin.

Yet in fpite of these fage reflections, this plain prospect of general decay, I must own, 'tis a great pleasure to me to see a new statue added to the last; to see another name of glory increasing the catalogue: 'tis a taste I am particularly fond of, and what I congratulate the present age for encouraging fo much. I am always one of the first to survey a new monument, to criticise on its beauties, and point out its defects. I have sometimes the pleasure of obferving a beauty, and often a fault in our modern artists; and should be glad to take an occassion of applauding the first, and mending the last. I would have all works of ornament perfectly beautiful and elegant; or elfe they difappoint

appoint the very intent of their being. I would have all statuary, in a peculiar manner, excellent. A polite people are most diftinguish'd as fuch, by their buildings, their statues, and their inferiptions; and I am forry to fay it, we are generally defective in all. There is one noble Lord amongst us indeed, who has taken great pains, and been at vaft expence, in improving our taste in one of these particulars; but I don't find fo eminent an example has influenc'd many more to an emulation of what has done him fo much honour. In a word, sepulchral monuments fhould be always confider'd as the last publick tribute which is paid to virtue; as a proof of our regard for noble characters; and most particularly, as an excitement to others to emulate the great example. In a word, I can't look upon that which is raifed over the ashes of Sir Ifaac Newton in any other light: his honours were all owing to his own merit; neither is it in the power of the finest statue, or the sublimest infcription, to afford him any addition. Had his remains rested without a name, like Milton, or Shakespear, or Shaftsbury, or Nassau, 'twould have been a new reproach to an ungrateful people, but no injury to him. On the other hand, the utmost magnificence of funeral honours would only be a credit to us, without doing him any fervice. Having lately observ'd that this fately mausoleum had made the entrance into the choir irregular; 'twas answer'd, that if we waited

waited for an *equal name* among the *moderns* to make it uniform, 'twould hardly be fo to eternity; and if an inferior was to be rang'd with him, 'twould be a difadvantage to both. 'Tis moft certain, that there are few *charatters* that approach any thing near to an *equality*, and the many vain trials that have been made for his *epitapb*, are the higheft compliment to his defert: 'tis a proof that language was too weak to exprefs it, and hyperbole itfelf too faint for the admiration that was due to his accomplifhments.

Gray's- Inn is certainly too confiderable a place to be pass'd over unobserv'd : but the notice we shall take of it, will be rather in compliment to what it might have been made, not what it is at prefent; 'tis no more than a confus'd heap of ugly buildings that have neither order, regularity or connection, and yet the ground they ftand on was capable of all: they might have had a fine, open front to the ftreet, and another to the gardens, and that too with as little expence: but the taste of our ancestors did not feem to be altogether fix'd on beauty, and we ourfelves make but very flow advances towards a reformation. As to the gardens belonging to this inn, they are certainly an advantage to the students there, and a convenience to the town in general; and if they have not many beauties to entertain you, they have few abfurdities to difgust you : 'tis true indeed they might be made much better than they are, by keeping

ing the vistas full of trees, the walks smooth, and the borders even. The mount and summerhouse upon the top of it, might be made quite delightful, and if the two portico's at the ends of the terras, had been in taste, they would have given an air of magnificence, which at present is much wanting. I could wish too that the piece of ground, between the two terrases and the road, was made better use of by the fociety, than turning it into a kitchen-garden, as well as that next Gray's-Inn-Lane: these two spots might have been covered with trees, in the most beautiful manner, and supplied with sountains, which would make this place one of the most delightful spots about town.

Bedford-Row is one of the moft noble ftreets that London has to boaft of, and yet there is not one house in it which deserves the least attention: even that fide of the way next the gardens, is remarkable for nothing but its regularity; the buildings themselves being void of all symmetry and proportion, and in a taste altogether Gothique and clumsy: yet after all, if the house, which projects into the middle of the street, and spoils the beauty of the whole vista, were levelled, we should forget this particular desect, to admire the grandeur and length of the whole.

Ormond-fireet is another place of pleafure, and that fide of it next the fields is, beyond queftion, one of the most charming fituations about town.

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Powis-Houfe, at the end of it, is a building of much beauty and elegance, the lower part of it, in particular, has a very good claim to applaufe, but then the Attick ftory is monftrous, out of proportion, and no way a-kin to tafte. To this we may add, that the houfe itfelf is pent up for want of room, and ftands greatly in need of wings, to make it perfect and compleat.

Queen's-Square is an area of a peculiar kind, being left open on one fide, for the fake of the beautiful landfcape, which is form'd by the hills of *Highgate* and *Hampfead*, together with the adjacent fields; a delicacy which deferves fome approbation, both as 'tis an advantage to the inhabitants, and a beauty even with regard to the fquare itfelf.

Southampton-Row is a range of buildings, which feems to have been built only for the fake of the prospect before it, and for such who prefer no conveniency to that, no fituation can be more happy; but for my own part, I should be uneasy in residing there, for want of shelter from the wind in winter, and the fun in fummer.

Bloomfbury-Square is at prefent remarkable for nothing but its being a place capable of great improvements: there is not one tolerable house in it, and the area in the middle is almost as much neglected as the buildings. The ground on which the Duke of Bedford's house now stands is, beyond dispute, one of the finest fituations

ations in *Europe* for a palace, and I am not a little griev'd to fee it fo wretchedly mifemployed. In the firft place, it has one whole fide of a fquare for a front, and the fquare itfelf would ferve as a magnificent area before it : then there is a grand ftreet juft oppofite to it, which throws the profpect of it open to *Holborn*, and muft excite the curiofity of every paffenger, to regard and admire it. Then, behind, it has the advantage of moft agreeable gardens, and a view of the country, which would make a retreat from town almoft unneceffary; befide the opportunity of exhibiting another profpect of the building, which would enrich the landfeape, and challenge new approbation.

'Twill be impossible to pass by the new church of St. George, Bloom/bury, without giving it a very particular furvey : 'tis built all of stone, is adorn'd with a pompous portico, can boast many other decorations, has been stinted in no expence; and yet, upon the whole, is ridiculous and abfurd even to a proverb. The reafon is this, the builder miftook whim for genius, and ornament for tafte : he has even err'd fo much, that the very portico does not feem to be in the middle of the church, and as to the fteeple, it is fluck on like a wen to the reft of the building; then the execrable conceit of fetting up the King on the top of it, excites nothing but laughter in the ignorant, and contempt in the judge. In fhort, 'tis a lafting reflection on the fame of the O 2

100 ACritical Review of the the architect, and the understanding of those who employed him.

Montague-House has been long, but very ridiculously esteem'd one of the most beautiful buildings about town : I must own 'tis grand and expensive, will admit of very noble ranges of apartments within, and fully answers all the dignity of a British Nobleman of the first rank: but after I have allow'd this, I must add, that the entrance into the court-yard is mean and Gothique; more like the portal of a monastery than the gate of a palace, and the cupola over it is even ftill more contemptible and abfurd: I am ready to confess the area spacious and grand, and the colonnade to the wings, graceful and harmonious; but then the wings themfelves are no way equal to it, and the body of the house has no other recommendation than merely its bulk, and the quantity of space it fills : it is my opininion, that the height is not equal to the length, and that the roof and garrets are both a load to the fabrick, and abfurd in themfelves; that the windows are too large and numerous, that decorations are wanting, and that the whole front is defective both in beauty and variety.

The new church of St. Giles's is one of the most fimple and elegant of the modern ftructures: it is rais'd at very little expence, has very few ornaments, and little befide the propriety of its parts, and the harmony of the whole, to excite attention, and challenge applause: yet still

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it pleases, and justly too; the east end is both plain and majeftick, and there is nothing in the west to object to but the smallness of the doors, and the poverty of appearance that must necessarily follow. The steeple is light, airy, and genteel, argues a good deal of genius in the architect, and looks very well both in comparison with the body of the church, and when 'tis confider'd as a building by itfelf, in a diftant prospect. Yet after all I have confest'd in favour of this edifice, I can't help again arraigning the fuperstition of fituating churches due east and weft; for, in complaifance to this folly, the building before us has loft a great advantage it might have otherwife enjoy'd; I mean the making the eaft end the front, and placing it in fuch a manner, as to have ended the vifta of what is call'd Broad St. Giles's; whereas, now, it is no where to be feen with eafe to the eye, or fo, as justly to comprehend the fymmetry and connection of the whole.

The fquare, commonly call'd Sobo, is the next place which claims any regard, and that too, like most of the other things of the like nature, in this city, only because it is a square; the buildings round it are not scandalous, 'tis true, but they have not the least pretensions to taste or order: it has beside a little, contemptible garden in the middle of the area, and a worse statue, if it be possible, in the middle of that. The place, indeed, is not so intirely neglected,

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as many others of the fame fort about town, and therefore deferves the lefs cenfure, if it is not entitled to praife. My Lord Bateman's houfe, on the fouth fide, is built at a good deal of expence, and was meant for fomething grand and magnificent; but I am afraid the architect had a very flender notion of what either of them meant: there is nothing very fhining in any part of this ftructure; but if the lower order could boaft of beauties ever fo exquifite, the upper is fo Gothique and abfurd, that it would deftroy them all, and invective would get the ftart of approbation.

Great Marlborougb-Street is effeemed one of the fineft in Europe; but I think it can have this character on no other account but its length and breadth; the buildings on each fide being triffing and inconfiderable, and the vifta ended neither way with any thing great or extraordinary: a circumftance which ought to be always confider'd, where the nature of the ground will give it leave; for nothing can poffibly give a greater advantage to the view, than fomething beautiful or magnificent to terminate it; and magnificence or beauty cannot be admir'd as they ought, without a fuitable diftance to blend all the parts together, and prefent the whole to the eye at once.

I can find no other fault with the Duke of Queensborough's house, but that 'tis badly fituated, overagainst a dead wall, and in a lane that

that is unworthy of fo grand a building: to which we may add, that it wants wings, and muft ever do fo, becaufe there is not room to make fo neceffary and graceful an addition. This fabrick is evidently in the ftile of *Inigo Jones*, and not at all unworthy the fchool of that great mafter: a beautiful imitation is of abundantly more value than a bad original; and he that could copy excellency fo well, could not want a great deal of his own.

The first four houses, opposite to the Duke of Queen/borougb's stable-gate, are, beyond comparifon, in the finest taste of any common buildings we can see any where: without the least affectation of ornament, or seeming design at any remarkable elegance, they have all the elegance that can be given to such a design, and need no ornament to make them remarkable. In a word, I would recommend this row as a sample of the most perfect kind for our modern architects to follow; and if none of our squares had a worse set of edifices in them than thes, we should never regret the want of a better.

General *Wade*'s houfe, in the next ftreet parallel to this, is a ftructure, which tho' fmall, and little taken notice of, is one of the beft things among the new buildings: the general defign, or plan, is intirely chafte and fimple; and yet the execution is pompous and expensive: indeed the whole houfe is one continued clufter of ornament, and yet there is no body can fay there is too

too much, or that he defires to have any part remov'd out of the way: let me add, 'tis the only fabrick in miniature I ever faw, where decorations were perfectly proportion'd to the fpace they were to fill, and did not by their multiplicity, or fome other miftake, incumber the whole.

There is nothing in the whole prodigious length of the two *Bond-fireets*, or in any of the adjacent places, tho' almost all erected within our memories, that has any thing worth our attention; feveral little, wretched attempts there are at foppery in building, but they are even too inconfiderable for cenfure.

There is fomething particular in the manner of George-fireet. which deferves our attention; it being laid out fo confiderably wider at the upper end, towards Hanover-square, that it quite reverses the perspective, and shews the end of the vista broader than the beginning; which was calculated to give a nobler view of the fquare itfelf at the entrance, and a better prospect down the street from the other fide : both ways the effect answers the intention, and we have only to lament, that the buildings themfelves are not more worthy this pains to fhew them to advantage. The west-fide of Hanover-Square is uniform, argues a very tolerable taste in the architect, and deferves a good deal of approbation; but all the reft are intolerable, and deferve no attention at all.

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I must own this, however, that the view down George - ftreet, from the upper fide of the fquare, is one of the most entertaining in the whole city: the fides of the fquare, the area in the middle, the breaks of building that form the entrance of the vista, the vista itself, but, above all, the beautiful projection of the portico of St. George's-Church, are all circumstances that unite in beauty, and make the fcene perfect.

If any thing is wanting, 'tis a graced building at the end of the vifta; and the chapel which now ftands there, afforded a handfome opportunity, even for adding this too, if the undertakers had tafte or generofity enough to make the beft use of it.

The church of St. George's is, at leaft, one of the most elegant in London: the portico is stately and august, the steeple handsome, and well proportion'd, and the north and east profpects very well worth a fincere approbation : but even this structure is no where to be feen. but in profile, as mentioned above, tho' fituated in the very centre of the vifta that leads to Grosvenor-square, and were it not for two or three intervening houses, would be seen in the nobleft point of light in the world. In fhort, it would fill the eye quite from the other fide of that fquare in all its perfection; and I leave any one to judge to what fuperior advantage it would p

106 A Critical Review of the would then appear, and how many more beauties it would add to the prospect.

We must now cross the road to Oxford, or Cavendish-square; I am uncertain by which of those names it is most properly diftinguish'd, and there we shall see the folly of attempting great things, before we are fure we can accomplish little ones. Here 'tis, the modern plague of building was first stayed, and I think the rude, unfinish'd figure of this project should deter others from a like infatuation. When we fee any thing like grandeur or beauty going forward, we are uneafy till 'tis finish'd, but when we see it interrupted, or intirely laid aside, we are not only angry with the difappointment, but the author too: I am morally affur'd that more people are displeas'd at seeing this square lie in its prefent neglected condition, than are entertain'd with what was meant for elegance or ornament in it. To be free, no body should undertake things of this publick nature, without refolving to go thro' with them; for the declining it afterwards is fo notorious, that the whole world has occasion to blame it, tho' few or none can be fufficiently acquainted with the motives, fo as either to defend or abfolve.

It is faid, the imperfect fide of this fquare was laid out for a certain Nobleman's palace, which was to have extended the whole length; and that the two detach'd houfes, which now ftand at each end of the line, were to have been the

the wings; I am apt to believe this can be no other than a vulgar miftake, for these ftructures, tho' exactly alike, could have been no way of a piece with any regular or ftately building; and 'tis to be prefum'd this Nobleman would have as little attempted any other, as he would have left any attempt unfinish'd.

The houfe of the late Lord Bingley, on the welt fide of the fquare, is one of the moft fingular pieces of architecture about town; in my opinion 'tis rather like a convent than the refidence of a man of quality, and feems more a copy of fome of Pouffin's landscape-ornaments, than a defign to imitate any of the genuine beauties of building. I may be mistaken perhaps in my opinion, and what I esteem Gothique, heavy and fantastick, may really be harmonious, light and elegant: fo I leave the determination of it to better judges.

I have now brought this painful *furvey* almost to an end, and am not a little pleas'd on that account: it was not fo eafy a task as I at first imagin'd, and whoever will make it their guide to measure the fame ground, will be of the fame opinion: huge indeed as this city is, the toil of examining it from place to place, is the least; for a building ought to be view'd feveral times before we come to a conclusion, either with regard to its faults or beauties: part of that trouble this *Review* was defign'd to fave, and if it will not polifh the taste, or reform P_2

the judgment, 'twill ferve however as an index to the *Publick Buildings*, &cc. and point out to the ftranger whatever is worthy of his attention.

Grosvenor-square is not only the last addition which has been made to the town, but the last in fituation too; and as 'tis generally underftood to be the finest of all our squares, I am forry I have the opportunity to fay it has fo few advantages to recommend it, and that the publick is difpos'd to like these few so well: I have frequently observ'd already, that magnificence should never be attempted; it ought always to be perfect and compleat, or elfe the very effay mocks the builder, and excites ridicule inftead of admiration. This is the cafe of Grosvenorfquare; it was meant to be very fine, but has mifcarried very unfortunately in the execution : there is no harmony or agreement in the parts which compose it, neither is there one of those parts which can make us any thing like amends for the irregularity of the whole. The triple house, of the north fide, is a wretched attempt at fomething extraordinary ; but I hope not many people, beside the purchasers, are deceiv'd in their opinions of its merits; for 'tis not only bad in itself, but in its situation too; had it been in the centre of the line, there would have been fome excuse for the project, but as 'tis almost in one extreme, there can be no plea remaining; unles

unless the view of taking in some young heir to buy it, at a great rate, may be allow'd one.

The eaft fide is the only regular one of the four, and is undoubtedly much the most elegant for that reason; but then even this is not in taste, and neither the house in the middle, nor the two which ferve as wings, have any thing remarkable to recommend them, tho' the builder seems to design they should: the pediment over that in the middle, particularly, is proportion'd only to the breadth of that house, and not the entire line; whereby it appears that the artist forgot his first design, of making this the main body to the whole.

The other two fides are little better than a collection of whims, and frolicks in building, without any thing like order or beauty, and therefore deferving no farther confideration.

As to the area in the midft: 'tis certainly laid out in a very expensive tafte, and hitherto kept with great decency and neatnefs: the making it circular is new in defign, and happy in effect: the ftatue in the centre makes a very good appearance in prospect, and is a fine decoration: but, in itself, is no way admirable, or deferving applause. The inclosure round this area is clumfey, and the brick-work not only superfluous, but a blemish to the view it was intended to preferve and adorn.

I have often wonder'd that, in the number of fquares, which adorn this city, no builder e-

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ver thought of an octangular one; I am fully perfuaded that it would make a nobler figure than any we have feen yet, and is capable of greater beauties: 'tis to be obferv'd tho', that I would not have it broke at the angles, for the fake of the ftreets or entrances, becaufe that would fpoil the theatrical appearance of the whole: I would rather chufe to have all those inlets under an arch, in the centre of each particular fide, and if the fuperftructure was elevated proportionably, in a grand and noble ftile, what was principally meant as a conveniency, would prove one of the most magnificent ornaments in the world.

I would not be understood here, as recommending any farther additions to this mighty metropolis; no, I am of opinion the head is already much too big for the body, and therefore its farther growth cannot be check'd too foon. But this I leave to the determination of wifer heads than mine.

I fhall clofe this effay with fome remarks on architesture in general; which I find ready drawn to my hand in the preface to a book late. Iy publish'd, under the title of The BUILD-ER's DICTIONARY*. A book which contains the elements of the whole art, and which 'tis neceffary every judge, as well as artift, should understand.

Archi-

* This is the Distionary recommended by Mefil. Hawkfmeor, James, and Gibbs.

Architetture is one of those arts which neceffity has made univerfal: from the time that men first felt the inclemencies of the seafons, it had its beginning; and accordingly it has spread wheresoever the severities of the climate demanded shelter or shade: it is to be traced in the Indian's hut, and the Icelander's cave; and still shews, in those barbarous parts of the globe, from what mean original it rose to its present glory.

As diffreis was the parent of it, fo convenience was the first object it regarded: magnificence and decoration were the refult of fome long refinement, and defigned to flatter the oftentation of the owners: politeness is but a more delicate term for luxury; and was it not natural for men to grow wanton with ease and affluence, all the sciences in general had laid inactive, nor ever started into being.

'Tis eafy to conclude from hence, that convenience should still be the builder's first view: every structure is rais'd to answer some particular end; and the most obvious and simple means are always the best to obtain it. When such a plan as this is uniformly and consistently laid; when all its uses may be comprehended at a single glance, and all appear undeniably reasonable and perfect; then the artist is at liberty to add grandeur and elegance to strength and propriety, and finish the whole with the full splendour of beauty and grace.

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By this division of architesture into beauty and use, it will be demonstrable to every reader, that 'tis partly an art, and partly a fcience; that the first is mechanical, and the last the refult of genius and fuperior understanding : one calls in all the aid of fancy and imagination, grows poetical in defign, and picturesque in decoration; the other lays down fix'd and stated rules, proceeds in the fame invariable tract of reasoning, and comes always to the fame conclusions. Hence it happens, that many an excellent workman has proved himfelf a mere mechanick; and many a furprizing genius, that he was ignorant of the very principles of the art he made it his profession to understand. To make a thorough mafter, both muft be united; for the propriety of a plan is feldom attended to, and feldomer underftood; and a glaring pile of beauty, without use, mocks the possession with a dream of grandeur he can never enjoy.

After this flort introduction, the author proceeds to point out what are the true foundations of this noble art, and begins first with *arithmetick*, as being the ground-work of mensuration, either as to extent or folidity, as being the medium of all calculations, and the only road to any degree of practical knowledge in the mathematicks.

Geometry follows in the next place, and is indeed the foundation that all ftudents must build upon, fince 'tis impossible to attain to any perfection

fection in architesture without it : 'tis geometry that lays down all the first principles in building, that adjusts all bearings and proportions. and meafures points, angles, and folidities. In fhort, there is no being a mafter of architecture. without being perfect in all the parts of geometry; and he that is fo, tho' he may err in decoration, can never do the fame, either in flrength or proportion.

Masonry, or the mechanical means of raising perpendiculars, turning arches, erecting bridges, and forming stair-cafes, is another branch of this art, and muft be underftood with great accuracy and readinefs; as being the execution of the whole which the fludent defires to learn.

Levelling and Hydraulicks, are likewife of great importance to the builder: the first at once enabling him to underftand good fituations, or amend them if they are otherwife: and the last, of course, directing the conveyance of water, the draining of low grounds, and teaching the whole fecrets of collecting refervoirs, or afterwards employing them to the beft advan-In fhort, on these depend both the'netage. ceffary use of water for family fupply, and also all the beautiful effects that can refult from it in gardens, by balons, fountains, calcades. Erc.

Mechanicks is another effential in this noble art. 'Tis by understanding their power and effect.

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effect, that fuch machines are contriv'd, as alone are able to raife up the heavy materials to buildings of any confiderable height, or empty waters from a bottom, or drain a level, or force them upwards, as art would direct, or neceffity require.

Thefe, with the art of *fketching* and *drawing*, are all the different branches of ftudy which are neceffary to form a compleat mechanical architect. But when he is thoroughly initiated in them all, fo as not to err, even in principles or practice, if he cannot add as much knowledge more of his own, in their use and application, he will be fit for nothing more than the overseer of a work, or a judge of the mere methods to carry on and finish the whole.

The fcience of *defigning* is ftill wanting to form a great mafter, or produce fuch plans-as would vie with the antient beauties of *Greece* and *Rome*. But if this is not in the genius, it is never to be learn'd. To be able to enter into this fecret, the ftudent muft have great natural parts, a noble and fruitful imagination, a thorough infight and acquaintance with beauty, and judgment fedate and cool enough to form a juft and delicate tafte. Without tafte, even genius itfelf wanders blindfold, and fpends itfelf in vain. Genius is, indeed, the firft quality of the foul; but tafte muft be added, or we fhall cenfure the wildnefs, inftead of admiring the **Publick Buildings**, &c. 115 the beauty; we shall be diffatisfied with the irregularity, instead of being pleased with the magnificence.

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But tho' genius cannot be learn'd, it may be improv'd: and tho' the gift of *designing* is born with a man, it may be methodized by ftudy and observation.

The principal points, therefore, that the *de-figner* fhould have in view, are first convenience, as has been hinted at already, and then beauty and magnificence. With regard to convenience, few directions can be given, fince it means no more than contriving all the requisites belonging to your plan, in the most clear and elegant manner, and then laying out the fpace they are to be ranged in with the most perfect order and oeconomy. As to beauty and magnificence, they are themes never to be exhausted; and tho' many volumes have been written on them already, as many more might still be added.

Simplicity is generally underftood to be the ground-work of beauty, and decoration of magnificence. 'Tis certain, the fewer parts a building is composed of, if they are harmonized with elegance and proportion, the more beautiful it appears: the eye is best fatisfied with feeing the whole at once, not in travelling from object to object; for then the whole is comprehended with pain and difficulty, the attention is broken, and we forget one moment what we had observed another.

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But a contrast of figure must be preferved even in the midst of this fimplicity 'Tis in a building, as in mulick; the parts are various and difagreeing in themfelves, till reconcil'd by the skill and judgment of the master. Α fameness of form betrays a poverty of imagination; and is the fame in architecture. as dulnefs in writing: the mind is glutted with it instantly, and turns away diffatisfy'd. It is therefore a principal thing to be regarded by the ftudent, to defign fimply and varioufly at the fame time, and beauty will infallibly be the refult of the whole.

Perspective is another grand part of designing; which demands the master's most critical regard, in as much as nothing contributes more to grandeur and beauty, if well underftood; and nothing is understood with more difficulty and study. By perspective, is commonly meant the thorough infide prospect of a building: but if it can't be applied with propriety to the art, we would take the liberty of fubstituting the painter's word keeping in the stead of it. For in all buildings, as in pictures, there must be one principal figure, to which all the others must be fubordinate; and from whence you must fet out to examine the parts, and to which you must return to determine the whole.

Decoration, or choice and difpolition of ornaments, is the laft grand requisite to make a compleat architect : and this depends partly on genius,

genius, and partly on fancy; but both must be under the conduct of the feverest judgment and exactest taste. In short, all ornaments are ill-plac'd, that may be spared without being missed; as all empty spaces are absurd, where nakedness hurts the eye, and propriety would admit of decoration.

We can't fufficiently recommend to all perfons, who build fumptuoufly, to calculate their buildings according to the point of light from whence they are to be viewed. If they may, or fhould be feen from far, their parts fhould be fimple, great, and noble; if the profpect is near, the workmanfhip fhould be neat and little, that it may be feen and underftood, as the nature of its fituation will give leave.

Upon the whole, nothing but nature, and a long fludy of the antient and modern flructures, will enrich the mind fufficiently to excel in this noble art; and this *diffionary* will be found a proper key to explain their beauties, as well as a needful caution to avoid their defects.



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SUPPLEMENT.



UILD-HALL, is fituated very happily, in fight of the most frequented thoroughfare, in the whole city, and at the end of a very tolerable vifta, which shews the build-

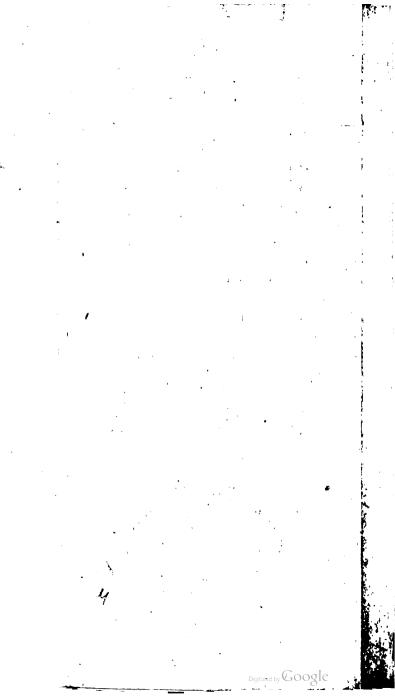
ing in the most favourable manner : but at prefent. the front of it has not much title to this advantage: 'tis old and Gothique, and has no great matter in it either of defign or execution. The hall within, I acknowledge a very fine room, allowing for the tafte 'tis built in; but then the entrance fhould have been at the Tower end, and not in the middle; for by this means all the beauty of the perspective is lost. Another material defect in it, is this: the afcent of fteps on the other fide, is not exactly opposite to the gate, as it ought to be, both for the fake of regularity and beauty; and if those two exectable giants, on each fide of it, were taken down, 'twould argue more taste in those who destroyed them, than those who fet them up.

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I should have been quite unpardonable, in not mentioning Surgeon's-Hall and Theatre: both, as I think, built by Inigo Jones, and tho' most obfcurely fituated, better deferving notice and regard, than many glaring piles, which have the advantage of being more publick. The hall is plain, but elegant; the arch at the entrance beautiful, and the alcove, at the end, in the most perfect taste. The theatre is beyond difpute a mafterpiece, and tho' as fimple as 'tis poffible, both in defign and finishing, fruitful in beauties, and affording the fpectator the higheft fatisfaction. If I don't very much miftake, these edifices were repair'd and beautified by the direction, and at the expence of my Lord Burlington. A compliment not greater than is due to Inigo Jones; but the greatest any modern can receive, or any modern beftow.

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