

TO THE

*Truly Ingenious and Learned Dr. SLOANE, Physician
extraordinary to Her most Sacred Majesty, Secretary
to the Royal Society, and Fellow of the College
of Physicians, London.*

S I R,

I think my self under many Obligations of offering this Undertaking to you, which I should be much wanting to my self if I did not acknowledge: The First is, that you have been a very generous Encourager of this Design; not only by recommending the Work, but in assisting the Performance, which is a Favour I beg Leave to thank you for, as well as the kind Present you made me of your *Natural History of Jamaica*. And tho' these were Inducements, they were not the real Motives that made me think this Work cou'd come to none so properly as your self: But it was the Consideration, that you are, without the least Tincture of Flattery, the only Person of the Faculty in these Kingdoms, who of late Years have made the *Materia Medica* your Study: So that it is hard to say, whether your Discoveries in the Theory of Medicine, or your judicious Improvements of those Discoveries in the Practice, have exceeded.

It wou'd look vain in me to attempt the Characters of my Authors to one who is so much better acquainted with them, and

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whose single Recommendation wou'd be sufficient to make the publick value their Productions: But I flatter my self you will forgive me if I briefly inform you of the Method us'd in Compiling and Translating this Work, wherein I hope you will be of Opinion I have done my Authors no Injustice: For in the first Place I have taken Monsieur *Pomet* for my Text, making Use of the Liberty of throwing out Repetitions, or whatever else was foreign to the Purpose, or better describ'd by others, especially Messieurs *Tournefort* and *Lemery*, whom you know well are more accurate and concise. And in the next Place I have added several Things to Mr. *Pomet*, wherein he was erroneous in Description, Dose, or Choice of Druggs, which were much better known in these Countries, and more in Use amongst us: And indeed I have pursued the same Rule with Monsieur *Lemery*, but with more Caution; so that it made this a Work of more Time than I expected, when I first engag'd in it: And yet perhaps I have not come up to the Taste of some curious Gentlemen, who are more accurate in Botany than I can pretend to: Therefore I throw my self entirely upon your Favour, because I am assur'd you have too much Candour for Industry, and Concern for useful Knowledge, not to pardon small Faults for the Sake of many Things that may be commendable and instructive, and that otherwise wou'd not be so readily usher'd into the World.

And tho' it is certain that the Knowledge and Choice of Druggs is one of the most useful and important Parts of Physick, yet it has been the most neglected of any to this Day; and it is not easily apprehended how much the Publick suffers in the Sale, which is daily made of I know not what sophisticated and decay'd Druggs, which are not capable of producing the Effects that are design'd by them, and expected from them, either to restore or preserve the Health of Mankind. We may
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yet be more surpriz'd in the fatal Mischief that flows from Mens Ignorance in the common Choice of Druggs; and that nothing is more frequent in Druggists and Apothecaries Shops than adulterated Medicines, which deserve not the least Tittle of those pompous Names, by which they enhance the Prices of them.

Hence, Sir, you may plainly see our Author's Designs were to expose the ill Practices of those Men who did so much Prejudice to the Profession of Physick, by rendring the Practice precarious, and setting a greater Value on a decay'd Drugg, or Composition of the Shops, than on the Life or Health of one of their Fellow Creatures: Therefore as one can scarce discover their Works of Darknes without suffering by the Malignity of their Tongues, who so undeservedly make a Gain of Peoples Credulity, I stand in Need not only of an Advocate but a Protector: And since every one knows that you are universally skill'd in all the most curious and useful Secrets of Nature, either in the Vegetable, Animal, or Mineral Kingdoms, whatever is here treated of in the following Books, your Travels into those Countries abroad, where many of them are produc'd, and your Diligence in furnishing your *Museum* at Home, from all Parts of the World, have made you intimately familiar with; so that no Person but will allow your Approbation a sufficient Sanction to this Work, and your Protection to the Compiler hereof, who is with the utmost Esteem,

S I R,

Your very Humble

Servant to Command, &c.

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I have more than thirty years been
 engaged in the education of the young
 in the various branches of the liberal
 arts and sciences, which have not the least
 of those numerous names, by which they enhance the price of
 them.
 I have seen you grow daily, for our common duties were
 to engage the ill practices of those men who did to make the
 path to the profession of physic, by reading the famous
 prescriptions, and having a great value on a good dinner,
 or composition of the stomach, than on the life or health of
 one of their fellow creatures: I have seen as our can learn
 discover their words of distrust, without listening by the
 signs of their tongue, who to unadvisedly make a gain of
 people's credulity, stand in need not only of an Advocate
 but a Prosecutor: and since every one knows that you are un-
 usually gifted in all the most curious and liberal sciences of Na-
 ture, either in the Vegetable, Animal, or Mineral Kingdoms,
 whatever is here treated of in the following Books, your Tri-
 umph is more than counteracted, where many of them are
 produced, and your Diligence in furnishing your Master as
 those from all parts of the World, have made you immeasurably
 famous, do that no Nation but will show your Ap-
 probation a sufficient sanction to this Work, and your Pro-
 ceedings to the Compiler thereof, who is with the utmost esteem,

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Tom Gray Humble

Presented to Command, &c.