
THE TRANSLATOR'S

PREFACE.

The importance of writing letters with propriety and exactness, justly claims to be considered with care, since next to the power of pleasing with one's presence, every man would wish to be able to give delight at a distance. This great art should be diligently taught the rather, because of those letters which are most useful, and by which the general business of life is transacted, there are no examples easily to be found. It seems the

general fault of those who undertake this part of education, that they propose for the exercise of their scholars, occasions which rarely happen; such as congratulations and condolences, and neglect those without which life cannot proceed. It is possible to pass many years without the necessity of writing panegyrics or epithalamiums; but every man has frequent occasion to state a contract, or demand a debt, or make a narrative of some minute incidents of common life. On these subjects therefore young persons should be taught to think justly, and write clearly, neatly, and succinctly, lest they enter into the world without any acquaintance with common affairs,
and

and stand idle spectators of mankind, in expectation that some great event will give them an opportunity to exert their rhetorick.

The translation of these letters were undertaken for private use, and without any design of being made publick; tho' the familiar style, wherein the author has so well succeeded, and the great approbation the manuscript met from several young and eminent merchants of this city of Bremen, who are great admirers and proficient of the English language; persuaded me to resign them to publick use.

In affairs of business, the language should be so natural, that the thoughts

may seem to have been conceived in the very words they express them in; and the sentiments to have sprung up naturally like the lilies of the field, in greater beauty than the pride of human invention, cou'd have arrayed them in.

I shall conclude this little essay with wishing, that the publick may reap, at least, some fruits from the pains I have taken, which will amply reward one who makes a great piece of merit of it to himself, when he can be of any service to the publick in general.
