MR BAYLE'S
Historical and Critical
DICTIONARY.

To which is prefixed,
THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

BY
MR DES MAIZEAUX,
Fellow of the Royal Society.

VOLUME THE FIRST.
A——Bi.
Bacius hic ille est ejus dum scripta vigebunt
Lis erit, oblectent, cruderant ne magis.
THE DICTIONARY
Historical and Critical
OF
MR PETER BAYLE.
THE SECOND EDITION,
Carefully collated with the several Editions of the Original; in which
many Passages are restored, and the whole greatly augmented, particularly with
a Translation of the Quotations from eminent Writers in various Languages.

To which is prefixed,
THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,
REVISED, CORRECTED, AND ENLARGED,
BY
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LONDON:
Printed for J. J. and P. Knapton; D. Midwinter; J. Brotheron; A. Bettesworth and C. Hitch; J. Hazard; J. Tonson; W. Innys and R. Manby; J. Osborne and T. Longman; T. Ward and E. Wicksteed; W. Meadows; T. Woodward; B. Motte; W. Hinchliffe; J. Walthoe, jun. E. Symon; T. Cox; A. Ward; D. Browne; S. Birt; W. Bickerton; T. Astley; S. Austen; L. Gilliver; H. Lintot; H. Whitridge; R. Willock.
The Right Honourable

SIR ROBERT WALPOLE,


SIR,

GREAT Writers, who employ themselves for the instruction or entertainment of the World, naturally claim, what they seem naturally to merit, the favour and countenance of Great Men. Whosoever contributes, especially with success, to enlarge the Understandings of Men, and to mend their Hearts, is entitled to the Friendship and Protection of the Governors of Men, I mean of such as would truly answer the noble end of Government; who, if they pursue their duty, and consult the honour and improvement of human nature, will cheerfully and generously promote whatever has that good tendency. And they who practise different Politics, by cramping the human Soul, possessing it with false awe, and debasing it through Darkness and Ignorance, do not deserve, but rather disgrace and forfeit, the glorious and endearing title of Magistrates and Protectors.

TRUE and extensive Knowledge never was, never can be, hurtful to the Peace of Society. It is Ignorance, or,
which is worse than ignorance, false Knowledge, that is chiefly terrible to States. They are the furious, the ill taught, the blind and misguided, that are prone to be seized with groundless Fears, and unprovoked Resentment, to be roused by Incendiaries, and to rush desperately into Sedition and acts of Rage.

Subjects that are most knowing and best informed, are ever most peaceable and loyal. Whereas the Loyalty and obedience of such, whose understandings extend not beyond Names and Sounds, will be always precarious, and can never be thoroughly relied upon, whilst any turbulent or artful men can, by dinn and clamour, and the continual application of those Sounds, intoxicate, and inflame them even to madness, can make them believe themselves undone though nothing hurts them, think they are oppressed when they are best protected, and can drive them into riots and rebellion, without the excuse of one real grievance. It will always be easy to raise a miff before eyes that are already dark: and it is a true observation, "that it is an easy work to govern Wise Men; but to govern Fools or Madmen, is a continual slavery."

It is from the blind zeal and stupidity cleaving to Superstition, 'tis from the Ignorance, Rashness, and Rage attending Faction, that so many, so mad, and so sanguinary evils have afflicted and destroyed Men, dissolved the best Governments, and thinned the greatest Nations. And as a people well instructed will certainly esteem the Blessings which they enjoy, and study public Peace, for their own sake, there is a great merit in instructing the people, and in cultivating their Understandings. They are certainly less credulous in proportion as they are more knowing; and consequently less liable to be the Dupes of Demagogues, and the property of Ambition. They are not then to be surprized with false cries, nor animated by imaginary Danger; and wherever the Understanding is well principled and informed, the Passions will be tame, and the Heart well disposed.
DEDICATION.

They therefore who communicate true Knowledge to
their species, are true Friends to the World, Benefactors to
Society, and deserve all encouragement from those, who
preside over Society, with the applause and good wishes
of all men. Such a public friend and benefactor was
Mr Bayle. Truth and Knowledge were his mistress,
and the pursuit of his life, and he studied to engage all
men in that pursuit. A curious searcher of error he was,
a constant champion against falsehood, imposture, and all
dishonest arts; zealous for public tranquillity, and a foe
to all who disturbed it; wonderfully qualified for his
great undertaking, by an acuteness and penetration never
exceeded by any Writer ancient or modern, and with
such an accumulation of various, curious, and solid
Learning, as perhaps was never equalled by any Writer
whatsoever; a great Philosopher, a great Linguist, an
universal Historian and Critic, vastly skilled in Divinity
and Controversy, and a nice reasoner upon transactions
of States, and the arts of Statesmen.

Many enemies it is true he had; and what other
Great Man ever wanted such? Their Greatness only is
what often produces them. It was therefore no wonder
that the outcry and clamour against him was so loud
and many-mouthed, even for his most excellent perfo-
rmances. This comfort however attends his memory,
and it is likely he foresaw it and enjoyed it in his life-
time; that all that clamour is now dead, and these ex-
cellent performances remain, and are likely for ever to
remain. What his own admirable talents and many so-
lid defences could not do, time and the infinite meri-
t of his works, and the force of truth have done, silenced
his adversaries, and almost made it forgot that he ever
had any. This must be a pleasing reflection to all lovers
of Truth and of great Merit greatly traduced, and spite-
fully used, to see such traducers sunk into oblivion,
and such merit covered with lustre.

I could, Sir, with your leave and patience, illustrate
the fate of Mr Bayle by similar instances; but that
DEDICATION.

that I would no more offend you with the appearance of Flattery, than I would provoke others to charge me with the imputation of designing, and you of encouraging it. Permit me only to say, that as this great and applauded Work is like to last, Posterity (for Posterity will judge without anger or envy) will not think it unnatural to see the name of SIR ROBERT WALPOLE prefixed to the GRAND DICTIONARY of Mr BAYLE; and if by this way (this only way) I can purchase permanence to my own humble name, it is an Ambition which I hope merits pardon. The greatest that I have in the world is to be owned by you, Sir, as what I strictly am, with all Devotion and unbounded Respect,

SIR,

Your most Dutiful,

and most Obedient

Humble Servant,

P. DES MAIZEAUX.
If the repeated Editions of a voluminous book be a proof of the Approbation of the Public, we may affirm that no book has been more generally esteemed than Mr Bayle's Dictionary. Besides the editions of 1697 and 1702, which he published himself, it was printed at Geneva in 1715, at Rotterdam in 1720, at Amsterdam in 1730, and is just now reprinted in France: so that there have been six impressions of it in six and thirty years; an honour which perhaps was never done to any other book of such a bulk. To these editions may be added the English Translation, published in 1710: for the Translation of a book is in reality a new Edition of it in another dress; and does so much the more credit to the work, as it is the effect of the earnest desires of the curious and inquisitive, who do not understand the original.

That Translation was done from the edition of 1702, the most complete then extant: but Mr Bayle having left behind him several Articles, which he designed for a Supplement to his Dictionary, they were inserted in the new edition printed at Rotterdam in 1720. But this edition being full of errors of the press, and interpolated in many places, these defects were corrected in the Amsterdam edition of 1730, in which some learned men were employed. They also improved it in several other respects, of which they give us the following account.

I. "We have, say these Editors, collated it with the Editions of 1697 and 1702, and particularly with Mr Bayle's own Copy of the edition 1702, in which are several additions and corrections written with
Advertisement concerning this Second Edition.

"his own hand. By this means several expressions, and whole phrases have been restored which had been omitted, changed, or adulterated in the preceding edition.

II. "The Articles of the Supplement, or posthumous Additions, have been compared with Mr Bayle's Original Manuscript; by the help of which the text has been restored to its purity, and all spurious insertions struck out.

III. "The several quotations from celebrated Authors, in the Greek, Latin, and other languages, have been carefully revised and corrected.

IV. "Some passages, or citations, which were wanting in the edition of 1720, and had been only referred to, have been supplied.

V. "The Articles which were misplaced, or put at the end of the fourth volume, are placed in their proper order.

VI. "Some Critical Remarks, which had been communicated to the Booksellers, and printed at the end of the said fourth volume, have been inserted in the Articles they belonged to; but they are distinguished from Mr Bayle's text, being preceeded by a Greek letter for a reference and by this mark §, and ending with the words, REM CRIT.

VII. "At the end of the fourth volume is added a piece printed at Paris in 1706, intitled Critical Remarks upon the new edition of Moreri's Historical Dictionary, published in 1704. Mr Bayle reprinted this piece in Holland, and prefixed to it a long Preface, which contains excellent instructions towards perfecting Moreri's Dictionary. He likewise joined to it several historical and critical Observations, which are to the same purpose, and where he shews the errors in fact, and the falfe reasonings of the Author of these remarks. But though he saw that this Critic had taken almost all his remarks upon Moreri, from his Historical and Critical Dictionary, without citing it, he never reproaches him with this piece of Plagiarism, but contents himself with vindicating some passages which this Censor had misunderstood, or had criticized without reason. Mr Des Maizeaux has been less indulgent in the Observations which he has added to those of Mr Bayle: he has restored to Mr Bayle all the critical remarks which this Critic had borrowed from his Dictionary, and had given as his own. Neither has he spared him for his boldness in advancing certain facts without proofs, as well as for his loose, equivocal, and sophistical manner of arguing. But as the design of that small work is to contribute towards perfecting Moreri's Dictionary, Mr Des Maizeaux had taken a particular care to point out the corrections that have been made in the late editions, of the passages censured by this Author. Future Editors will see at one
Advertisement concerning this second Edition.

Concerning this second Edition. what has been already corrected, and what still remains to be rectified with respect to those passages. It does not appear that the late Revisors of Moreri were acquainted with these Critical Remarks; at least it is certain that they have not seen Mr Bayle's Preface and Notes. Mr Bayle would not put his name to them, which is the reason why this piece has been hitherto so little known.

VIII. To this edition is prefixed the Life of Mr Bayle, by Mr Des Maizeaux.

In this new English edition of Mr Bayle's Dictionary, we have followed the improved edition of the original, last mentioned; which consequently contains all his posthumous Additions and Corrections. The Readers will also find in the last Volume the Critical Remarks upon Moreri's Dictionary, with Mr Bayle's Preface and Notes to it, and Mr Des Maizeaux's Observations: Also, Mr Bayle's Reflections on a Pamphlet, intitled, the Judgment of the Public concerning Mr Bayle's Critical Dictionary, (first inserted in the edition of 1720): and an Historical Discourse concerning the Life of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. Mr Bayle designed to write a compleat History of that great Prince; but has left the work unfinished; however, as far as it goes, it is an excellent piece of history, and one may easily see that it comes from a masterly hand. It has been but lately published, and has not been yet inserted in any edition of Mr Bayle's Dictionary. We therefore presume the readers will be glad to see it at the end of the last Volume, where it may, in some measure, supply the want of the Article of the great Gustavus, which is not to be found in the Dictionary.

Besides these Pieces, which were not in the first English edition, this second edition has several other advantages.

I. The Translation is much more exact and correct, and is carefully revised and compared with the original.

II. It has been collated with the original editions of 1697 and 1702, when any doubt has arisen concerning the genuine reading of a word, a date, &c.

III. Several errors of the press which had crept into the edition of 1730, especially in the passages of ancient Authors, have been corrected.

IV. The citations from eminent Writers in various languages, are translated into English, excepting when Mr Bayle himself has fully expressed the sense of them.
V. The Life of Mr Bayle has been revised, corrected, and enlarged by
the Author; and some of the Corrections and Additions are very consider-
able. As soon as this work came out, it was translated into High-Dutch
by the learned Dr Kohl, and printed at Hamburgh in 1731, in 8vo: and
it has been reprinted at Paris in 1733, in two Volumes in 12mo. But
Mr Des Maizeaux was not concerned in these Editions, which however
show that the public entertained a very favourable opinion of that work.
Some people may possibly imagine that Mr Des Maizeaux, has insisted
too long on Mr Bayle's disputes, and could have wished that he had only
given the particulars of his life: but indeed what is the History of the
life of a Philosopher, but an account of his works, opinions, and
disputes? These are the battles and bright actions of such Heroes.
Besides, the knowledge of such books and pamphlets as do not seem to con-
cern the English reader, will be found necessary for the better under-
standing of numberless passages of Mr Bayle's Dictionary, wherein they
are mentioned or referred to; so that this part of his Life is, as it were,
a key, or an explanatory introduction, to them.
I have a thousand things to offer in this Preface; but as I cannot do it without running into an exorbitant length, which would discourage the Readers, I rather choose to give my self some constraint, than offend their niceness. I shall therefore confine my self to five or fix particulars.

I declare first, that this work is not what I promised in the Project I published of a Critical Dictionary in the Year 1692. The objection I had best obviated and answered, is that which was chiefly insisted on, to condemn the plan I designed to pursue; and perhaps it appeared very strong to a great many readers, for no other reason, but because they observed I very much enlarged on it's confutation. But let the cause be what it will, I did not think it prudent to oppose the general taste; and since it has been universally concluded, that the greatest part of the faults I mentioned in the articles of the Project were of little importance to the public, reason required I should give over my undertaking. My design was to compose a Dictionary of errors; the perfection of such a work consists in observing all mistakes, great or small; for doubtless it would be a perfection in a Geographical Dictionary, and in a Map, to specify every town and village. Seeing therefore the best way of executing my project must be the most exposed to the complaints of the public, as it would have multiplied insignificant observations, there was a necessity for me to alter my design; and I could not but believe, that according to the prevailing taste of the age, there was a real imperfection in the very plan of my enterprise, which could never be cured by the execution. If I contest any thing with those who say, that the greatest part of the errors I have cenured in my Project are of no consequence, 'tis their supposing that they are not all of that nature; for I maintain, that none of them is important, and that though, generally speaking, they are like those that have been observed by great Critics (1), yet they can contribute nothing to the public good. The fate of mankind does not depend upon them. A narrative abounding with the grossest ignorance is as proper to move the passions, as historical exactness. Let ten thousand ignorant people hear you preach that Coriolanus's mother obtained of him, what "he refuse d (2)," you will give them the same idea of the power of the Holy Virgin.
Virgin, as if this was no blunder. Tell them, "'Tis strange, Christians, "[that you should not be moved to see our Saviour JESUS CHRIST "hanging upon the cross, all bruised with blows, when the emperor Pom-"pey was moved with compassion, upon seeing Pyrrhus's elephants pierced "with arrows (3)," you will produce the same effect, as if what you say of Pompey was true. 'Tis therefore certain, that the discovery of errors (4) is not important or useful to the prosperity of the State, or of private persons. Observe now in what manner I have changed my plan, the better to hit the taste of the public. I have divided my composition into two parts: one is purely historical, and gives a succinct account of matters of fact: the other is a large commentary, a miscellany of proofs and discussions, wherein I have inserted a censure of many faults, and even sometimes a train of philosophical reflections; in a word, there is variety enough, to presume that all sorts of readers will find something or other that will please them.

This new economy has broke all the measures I had taken; most of the materials I had collected were of no use to me, and I was forced to work upon a new foundation. My principal design was to observe the faults of Moreri, and of all other Dictionaries like his. In searching for proofs necessary to expose those faults, and rectify them, I found, that many authors, both ancient and modern had committed the same mistakes. And as Moreri is much more faulty in what concerns Mythology, and the Roman families than in modern history, I had particularly made collections upon the heathen gods and heroes, and the great men of ancient Rome. The work I proposed to publish, would have contained abundance of anticks, like those of ACHILLES, BALBUS, and CRASSUS. My Project. All these vast collections are become useless, because I was informed that these subjects pleased few people, and that a volume in folio, the greatest part of which should run only upon such things, would be left to grow mouldy in the booksellers ware houses. It will appear that I have had a regard to this information: but few articles this kind will be found in my two Volumes; nor would they perhaps have been there, had they not been wholly composed before I was fully informed of the taste of the readers.

This is one of the reasons that have retarded the publication of this work: many others have contributed to it. I resolved at first to say nothing that has been already said in other Dictionaries, or at least to avoid as much as possible the repetition of facts that are to be found in them; whereby I deprived myself of all the materials that were most easy to be collected, and employed. Nothing can be more easy for the authors of a Historical Dictionary, than to talk of Popes, Emperors, Kings, and Cardinals; or of the Fathers of the church, of Councils, and Heretics or of great lords, cities, provinces, &c. 'Tis therefore a great disadvantage to lay aside these subjects, as one must do every moment, if he proposes to avoid the articles that are in Moreri's Dictionary. If you design to give the same articles, you must confine yourself to the things that he has omitted: the difficulty of separating them from others in the originals you consult is not small; but that of connecting them together, after the chasms occasioned by this separation, is much greater. Notwithstanding all these Difficulties, I resolved to give an account of most of the persons mentioned in the Bible; but I was informed that a particular Dictionary upon these subjects would quickly come out at Lyons (5). What remained to be done, was to collect what has been said by the Rabbis concerning those persons; but understanding that the late Mr d'Herbelot's Bibliotheque Orientale was printing at Paris, I gave over.
over this design (6). Notwithstanding the same difficulties, I would have composed the articles relating to church-history, had I not considered that Mr du Pin furnished the readers of Dictionaries, with all they could desire. His work is adapted both to the learned and unlearned. The Dutch editions have made it very common, and all the curious buy it and read it. I had not, therefore, been excusable, had I mentioned the same things that are to be found there: must one buy the same histories twice? I rather chose to abitain from so fruitful a subject, and easy to come by, than to repeat what may be more conveniently learned elsewhere.

I found myself streightened in other respects. This work was hardly begun, when I heard an English translation of Moreri's Dictionary was printing at London, with abundance of Additions; and that a large supplement to the same work was preparing in Holland. Hereupon I thought myself obliged not to treat of the illustrious men of Great Britain: I concluded, that out of the English edition, they would be inferted in the said supplement; and that the same thing would be bought twice, unless I prevented it by depriving myself of so copious a matter, and so proper to recommend a Dictionary. For the same reason I laid aside my enquiry after the illustrious men who have flourished in the United Provinces (7); and said very little concerning the history or geography of this State. I did not, therefore, be silent upon those modern histories. On the other hand, I heard that a new edition of Moreri's Dictionary was going to be published at Paris, with great additions. This made me resolve, to suppress a great many things, and put a stop to my enquiry into many subjects, which I could handle but imperfectly, in comparison of those who were engaged in this new edition: they are upon the spot, and at hand to consult libraries, and learned men. I ought therefore to leave them this task entire, and not give them the displeasure of running lightly over a subject, that will be read more eagerly when set off by them in it's full lustre, before others touch upon it.

But besides these new editions, and new supplements of Moreni's Dictiona

ry, other things have much streightened me. Mr Chappuzeau has been a long time about an historical Dictionary in which we shall certainly find, amongst abundance of other subjects, what concerns the situation of nations, their manners, religion, government, and what concerns the royal families, and the genealogies of great men (8); and particularly you will find in it at large, all the electors, princes, and counts of the empire; their alliances, interests, and principal actions. And by that means, you will see the northern countries, and the rest of Protestant Europe. I thought, therefore, that I had better be silent upon those great subjects, than expose the reader to the disagreeable necessity of purchasing the same things twice. Nay, I have found myself confined with respect to the learned men of the XVIth century; for I knew that Mr Teissier was printing, with new additions, the commentaries he has so curiously compiled upon the Elogies taken from Thuanus (9). I was afraid, in speaking of those learned men, that the facts mentioned by me, would be the same with Mr Teissier's; and that thought has often determined me to suppress my collections.
Preface to the first French Edition.

I do not enumerate these particulars, in order to enable my friends to make my apology against those who shall despise my Dictionary, and say, "The faults of it might be excused, if the author had spent only a few months in making it: but so poor an effect of so long a labour deserves no indulgence. Slowness is never tolerable, but when it produces a master-piece (10)." My friends might answer, that the most diligent writers would be hard put to it, to make their compilations with greater speed, if they abstained from the most copious and easy subjects, and avoided mentioning what some have compiled, and what they foresee will be compiled by others. But I do not desire that these should be alluded in my favour. What I have said, is only designed to resolve such questions as these; "Why so many great men are wanting in my book? why it contains so many unknown persons, and obscure names? why it is so barren in some respects, and profuse in others? could the author be so mistaken, as to pretend to be able to do what Pliny thought extremely difficult? &c (11)." Let the querist be referred to the account I have given above, and he will find the solution of all these doubts.

I freely own, that laborious and diligent authors will have reason to look upon me as a slow Writer. I have spent above four years in the composition of these two volumes (12). Besides, they are intermixed with long Passages, which cost me no pains; nothing of what I have said of my own, bespeaks an author that revises his work, or corrects his first thoughts, and the first disposition of his words. And therefore, if any one thinks I have been too slow, I shall not wonder at it: I am sensible and ashamed of it, and I should be still more ashamed, were it not that my health frequently interrupted, requires some regard, and does not permit me to perform what strong and laborious men can do. I know, moreover, that the slavery of quoting, which I have submitted to (13), makes me lose much time; and that the prodigious scarcity of books, very necessary to my design, stopped my pen a hundred times a day. Such a work as this requires the most numerous library in the world; whereas I have very few books (14). Shall I dare to own it? The title is another cause of my slowness: it is very incorrect, and not free from expressons either improper, or which begin to be obsolete, or even from barbarisms. I confess I am, in these respects, without scruple: but, on the contrary, with regard to other things, which give more trouble (15), I am scrupulous, even to superstitition. The greatest masters, the most illustrious members of the French Academy, dispense with these scruples, and we have but three or four writers, that are not cured of them. It is, therefore, a great mortification to me, not to be able to get above those niceties, which cost much time, and often spoil the lively and natural agreeableness of the expression, when it is corrected by this Rule. I am so unable to shake off this heavy yoke, that in case this Dictionary be reprinted, it will certainly be my principal care to correct, according to the rigorous rules of our French Grammarians, all the inaccuracies in the language, which still remain in this edition (16). They are not a few; for during the first year I was employed in this Work, I did not so much mind scruples of this sort; so that there are a great many articles which offend the superstitious rules I have now mentioned: they were composed at that time, and I had not the leisure to new-mould them, when I was obliged to send them the press. Such like faults may be found all the work over,
Preface to the first French Edition.

occasioned either by my being so attentive to other matters, that I have overlooked them in correcting the proofs; or by the printer's not being able to allow me the necessary time to mend what I did not like. The useful advices I have received from Mr. Drelincourt (17), and his just and elegant corrections, which I have taken care to write in the margin of my copy, will be of infinite use to me in revising that edition.

This is what I had to represent to those who might think it strange that my Dictionary cost me so much time. But I must not neglect those who might believe I have made too much haste. There are many who will be surprised to see two such great volumes in Folio, finished in less than five years. Many authors do not perfect a little book under a year, whether they look upon those thoughts and expressions as mean, which they produce without a long meditation; or whether their business calls them frequently from their studies; or whether a natural laziness, or too scrupulous an obedience to the precept they have learned at school, *tuis interdum gaudia curis,* engage them often to interrupt their labour. Those gentlemen are easily prejudiced against a work that has not cost much time; and they think it has not, unless a hundred printed sheets have taken up three or four Years. They will apply to me, doubtless, the canis festinans cecos edit catulos, and will be confirmed in their prejudice, by reading the particulars above-mentioned. They will abate from the labour spent upon things, all the time I have bestowed upon avoiding verses (18), and to the unity of relatives. They know it is a long and painful task, and that nothing requires more patience than a good French professor is full of verses, and that for the reason alleged, a just application of vast numbers of passages is a more laborious work, than a long train of reasonings and reflexions (19). These passages must be sought out, they must be read with attention, they must be pertinently placed, and connected with your own thoughts, and with one another. It is impossible to make a quick progress, and do this perfectly well. I grant them this, but I intreat them not to apply to me the canis festinans, &c. before they have read my work. Prejudices are deceitful, and if they would have favourable ones, I will tell them that I remember Cato's Distich as well as they, *interpone tuis interdum gaudia curis,* but that I very seldom make use of it. Diversions, collations, journeys into the country, visits, and such other recreations, necessary to a great many studious men, as they say, are not my business. I lose no time in them. Nor do I spend it in domestic cares, making interest for preferments, sollicitations, or other affairs. I have been happily delivered from a great many occupations not very suitable to my humour, and I have had the greatest and most charming leisure that a man of letters could desire. By this means an author makes a great progress in a few years; his work may receive considerable additions every day, and that without a negligent performance.

I doubt not but the method I have taken in quoting the passages of authors, will be censured. Many will say, I was resolved to compile a large book with little expence: I have often cited very long passages; sometimes I give the sense of them, and then I set them down in Greek and Latin. Is not this multiplying things without necessity? was it necessary to transcribe a long quotation of a modern book, which is to be had in every bookseller's shop? was it necessary to quote Amyot in his old French?
Preface to the first French Edition.

I do not think it necessary to deny that their objections are specious. I confess they are plausible, and they kept me in suspense a long while; but at last more specious reasons determined me to the method I have taken. I considered that such a work as this was to be instead of a library to a great many people. Many, that are lovers of learning, have not wherewithal to purchase books; others have not leisure to consult the fiftieth part of the volumes they buy. Those who have leisure enough, would be very unwilling to rise every moment, to seek out the information they are referred to. They had rather find in the book they have before them, the very words of the authors, that are brought as evidences. If a man wants the edition cited, he looses a great deal of time; for it is not always easy to find in one's edition, the page that an author cites in his own. And therefore out of a regard to the readers who have no books, and to the occupations, or laziness of those that have libraries, I have taken care to shew them at once historical facts, and the proofs of them, with many discursions and circumstances, that their curiosity might be fully satisfied. And because many frauds are committed in the citations of authors, and those who honestly abridge a passage, do not always express the whole force of it, it is incredible how much judicious persons are grown mistrustful. I may justly say, that it is a sort of rashness on a thousand occasions, to believe what is attributed to authors when their own words are not quoted. For which reason I was willing to set the reader's mind at rest; and to prevent his suspecting any fraud in my report, I make every witness speak in his native language; and instead of imitating Caletelvetro, who finished his citations with & cetera, even before he had transcribed the necessary passage, I have sometimes lengthened that passage both at the beginning and at the end, that the thing in question might be understood, or something else occasionally learnt. I know this would be absurd in a short moral treatise, in a piece of eloquence, or in an history; but it is not so in such a compilation as this is, in which I propose to relate facts, and then to illustrate them with commentaries. Such a method would be blamable, if instead of one volume it made two; or instead of a pocket-book, it produced a book in Folio or in Quarto. But the question being only, whether a volume in Folio shall be longer or shorter by some sheets, it is not worth the while to constrain one's self. Had it but 250 sheets, it would no more have the advantages of a little book, than if it contained 330 sheets; for it must be well observed, that these large books are not made to be read page by page. They would cost somewhat less, if they contained but 200 sheets, will some say; I answer, that if a bookseller went upon such a rule, he would never print a work consisting of many volumes, though they contained nothing but solid thoughts without a syllable too much; for they would still be too dear for those that are in low circumstances. The trouble of translating Amyot, or Vigenere, into new French, would have been of no service; it suffices that my reader can understand the facts they relate.

Men of a grave and severe character will particularly blame the citations out of Brantome or Montaigne, that contain actions and reflexions two free and gallant. I must say a word or two to this. Some persons of merit, who were concerned for the interests of the bookseller, concluded, that so large a book as this, stuffed with Greek and Latin quotations in several places, and full of discursions little diverting, would frighten the readers who are not men of letters, and weary the learned; that therefore it was to be feared the sale would quickly fall, if the curiosity of those who do not understand why Brantome and such like authors are often quoted in this Dictionary.
understand Latin was not excited by some other things. I was made sensible, that a work, which is bought only by the learned, seldom pays the printer, and that if any profit is to be made by an impression, 'tis when a book can equally please the learned, and those that have no learning; that it was therefore necessary for the sake of my bookseller, sometimes to relate what authors who take some liberties have published; that the use of such materials is like the liberty a man takes to write his own life; in some persons, 'tis a sign of arrogance (20), in others a just confidence in their virtue (21); and that I might justly place myself in the number of the latter; lastly, that if I was too averse to comply with this advice, I should at least suffer others to furnish the bookseller with such memoirs, and even sometimes with dogmatical reflections that might excite attention. I promised them to have some regard to those remonstrances, and added, that I had no right to oppose their supplements; that I had left to the bookseller a full authority to insert, even without consulting me, the memoirs his correspondents and friends should send; and that I could do this with respect to the whole book what they seemed to be willing to do in some places, that is, make such additions, leave out such things, and dispose of my compilations as they should think fit. 'Tis certain I always wished to have no other share in this work, than the care of compiling: I should have been glad if others would have taken the pains to give a form to the materials, and to enlarge and shorten them; and I was well pleased when the persons I speak of assured me they would remember our conversation, which is a thing I desire my readers to take notice of. As for the philosophical reflections which sometimes have been carried pretty far, I think I need not make an excuse for them; for since they only tend to convince man, that the best use he can make of his reason, is to submit his understanding to the obedience of faith, they seem to deserve the thanks of the faculties of Divinity.

I have but two or three words to say upon a thing which seems very important. I have related the errors of a great many persons somewhat freely. Is not this a rash and presumptuous attempt? The answer to this question would be very long; if I did not refer the readers to what I have laid upon it in my project (22). I intreat them to have recourse to it. I only add, that without exceeding the bounds of humility, a man may observe some faults in the books of famous men, and yet have a profound admiration for them. When subaltern officers, or even common soldiery, say freely that their generals have committed some faults in the course of a campaign, they are sometimes in the right; but they do not pretend to be better qualified than to command an army; they acknowledge themselves infinitely inferior in capacity as well as in rank (23). That is my case. I further add, that when the question is concerning a thing that is disadvantageous to the memory of a man, I do not warrant the truth of it; I only relate what others say, and I quote my authors. 'Tis therefore to them, and not to me, that a man's relations ought to address their complaints. A modern historian has declared in a preface, "That those who have prescribed the inviolable laws of history (24), must be applied to, to give an account of those laws, "and if any one is dissatisfied with them; and not the historians, who ought "indispensably to obey; all the glory they can hope for consists in the "execution of their orders." My cafe is still more favourable, since I only transcribe the authors already printed. Of the two inviolable laws of history mentioned by that historian, I have religiously observed that which commands
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commands to say nothing that is false; as for the other, which bids us venture to say all that is true, I cannot boast that I have always observed it. I believe it sometimes inconsistent, not only with prudence but also with reason.

I would not have it thought that I glory to have said nothing but truth, I only can warrant my intention, and not my ignorance. I advance nothing as truth, when I am persuaded that it is a falsity (25); but how many things are there which I have not apprehended, or the ideas whereof have been confounded with one another during the composition? How often does it happen that our pen betrays our thoughts? We intend to put down a figure, or a man's name; and sometimes for want of attention, or even by too much attention to other things, we write another? And therefore I make no doubt, that besides my omissions, which are many, I have committed many faults. I shall think myself obliged to those, who will be so kind as to rectify me: and had I not relied upon the good advices of intelligent and equitable readers, I should have kept this work many years in my closet, according to the advice of the ancients (26), in order to correct it, and render it less unworthy of the public view: but considering I had materials left for two other large volumes, I hastened the publication of it. I easily understood that I should be more usefully and seasonably assisted, when the public should know what I want, and wherein I am wanting. I hope that with those helps the continuation of this work will be more perfect than otherwise it would have been. I shall immediately go about it whilst age will permit me (27). I see nothing wherein I can better and more pleasantly employ the leisure I am blessed with, a leisure which seems to me preferable to all things (28), and which has always been earnestly wished for by the true lovers of study and learning; for how many men impatiently long for the time, in which they may say,

Me jam fata meis patiuntur ducere vita m
Aufpiciis, & spoente mea componere coras (29)

At last kind fate has such indulgence shown,
That now my labours are my own.

Besides I think I may reasonably say, that what I am going upon will be more considerable, by the nature itself of the materials, than what I offer at present. Chance and fat-prize had a greater share in it than a deliberate choice: the thing is this. I put off as long as I could the composition of the articles that seemed the most curious and of the greatest importance. I daily hoped for more materials, and new helps, and in the mean time I was preparing other things; whereby it happened on one hand, that the articles I composed took up a great deal of room; and on the other, that the materials for those I had put off were hugely multiplied. I could not therefore insert them in these two volumes, without prodigiously spoiling the proportion that is to be observed betwixt the letters of the alphabet. This obliged me to keep them till another time; for I cannot prevail with myself to say but little upon a large subject, when I can say a great deal. Therefore I rather chuse to be silent altogether, than to enter upon it. The proportion I have observed betwixt the letters of the alphabet, has been the reason of my referring some articles from one letter to another. The preference was therefore to be given to the articles I had promised; which was the reason why the letter for which they were designed had it's comple-
pleat extent, before those could be made ready, which were to be very long. I wish my Readers may call this to mind, if at any time they should wonder not to find an account of certain persons in this work.

Here I ought to declare what course I have taken, with respect to Moreri's Dictionary. I. There are many subjects that I have passed over in silence, because they are treated at large in his Dictionary. II. When I have given the same articles, I have been determined to it, either because he was short in his account, or because having by me the lives of some eminent persons, I was able to give a compleat narrative, or because out of many separate and curious things, I could make a pretty large Supplement. In each of these three cases, I have industriously avoided the facts he has mentioned: but it was impossible to do it so absolutely in the second, as in the other two; for in abridging an exact narrative of the life of a great man, it is necessary to give a series of his actions in order, and to make articles well connected, and in some sort all of a-piece. Was it possible to do so, if I had absolutely omitted every thing that has been already said of that person? Therefore in a very few articles of this kind, it will be possible to aver that Moreri's Dictionary had related something, that will be found intermixed with many new facts that I relate. But as this seldom happens, and that in inconsiderable points, I needed not have made this observation; and I only do it through a strong habit of avoiding universal propositions, and having a regard in some cases to the smallest exceptions: besides, there are some occasions in which a man can't be too cautious to prevent cavils. III. If I advance any fact that I have only from Moreri's compilation, I very carefully cite it. I mistrust it very much; and therefore I am resolved to run no risk upon such a security; I abandon it to the critics, it must answer for itself. IV. When I don't cite that writer, and yet I relate anything that is to be found in his work, 'tis a certain proof I have it from another author. I could swear I have not stolen a word or a syllable from him: I quote him as often as I take the least word from him, which very seldom happens; and I never omit citing him, but when I have discovered the things by as painful searches as if he had never mentioned them. V. I refer the reader to him for facts that are in the least considerable. It would be an absurd thing to make references for the day of a birth, the name of a native place, &c. such references would take up more room in a page than the things referred to, and would justly disgust the readers. VI. I have not pitched upon this method for fear of being accounted a plagiary. This had been a panic and a very ridiculous fear; for no one has hitherto carried his extravagance so far, as to accuse of plagiarism such as relate events that another has related, whilst they derive them from the fountain-head, and use neither the turn, nor the order, nor the expressions of another; nor is it likely that it should come into any one's head for the future, to give so absurd a definition of plagiarism; for it would lead us to this utmost point of impertinence, viz. that the most excellent historian, who should undertake to write the life of Charles V, would necessarily be the plagiary of the most wretched chronicler, that collected rhapsodies upon the actions of this great prince. VII. I have put by themselves, in a Remark, the errors I have imputed to Moreri. VIII. I have not touch'd upon those that are found in the articles given by him, and not by me, though they are not less considerable, nor less frequent in these articles than in those I have given. IX. I have followed the edition of Lyons 1688, which is the fifth and last that was printed in France. I am not ignorant that the Dutch editions are much better;
but I thought it necessary to proportion my corrections to that, for the sake of a great many people, who only make use of the editions printed in France, and who fill seek and purchase them preferably to the sixteenth (30).

From all this it results, that my Dictionary is not designed to lessen the value of the other; on the contrary it will increase it, and make the reading of it more useful.

For the sake of youth, who want to have their judgment formed, and to be made sensible of the most scrupulous exactness, I have taken notice of the least faults of Moreri in the subjects we both handle: as for the mistakes that are in other places, I don't meddle with them, as I have said, before. I don't desire that the contempt this may create for his labour, should lessen the acknowledgment that is due to him. I am of Horace's opinion with respect to those who flew us the way (31): the first writers of Dictionaries have committed many faults, but they have done great services, and deserve a glory, of which they ought not to be deprived by their successors. Moreri took great pains, his performance has been of some use to every body, and afforded sufficient instructions to a great many. It has brought light into several places, where other books would never have done it, and where an exact knowledge of circumstances is not necessary. It continues to diffperse it into all parts, and with greater purity since the two Dutch editions. They are infinitely better than those of France; for they have been revised by one of the ablest authors of our age: I mean M. Le Clerc, whose profound learning, supported with a just and penetrating wit, and an exquisite judgment, is admired by all Europe. He has corrected a vast number of faults and has made excellent additions; and no body could be better qualified to perfect this great work, if nobler and more important occupations would allow him to undertake that task. I can't bear the unjust caprices of those who complain of the frequent editions of Moreri, and look upon the Booksellers that undertake them as public poisoners.

Thofe, who shall see my name in the title-page of this book, and who know that during the time it was printing, I said on all occasions I would not prefix it, and that I should say something about it in this Preface. I have not only said this on an hundred occasions, but I have writ the fame to several persons; and many people know that all my friends have strongly opposed my resolution, and that the innumerable arguments, which the fruitfulness of their genius, and their generous good-will suggested to them, could gain nothing upon me. I don't blame thofe who put their names to their works, but I have ever had a secret antipathy against it. There is no reason to be given of antipathies any more than of tastes; and yet I might say that reflection has confirmed this natural disposition. That wife indifference, so much celebrated by the ancient philosophy, has always pleased me. That illus-rious man, who laboured more to be a good man than to be thought so, who was always concerned how to practice virtue, never to be praised for it, seemed to me long ago an excellent model; and never any censure appeared more judicious to me, than that which was passed upon some Philosophers who put their names to thofe pieces in which they condemned the defire of praise (33). In effect, why do you blame thofe that run after reputation, if you proclaim to the publick that you don't commend such a weakness? Pursuant to their notions, nothing seemed to me more noble than to weaken in thofe services that are done to the publick, the fame disinterestedness that the Gofpel prescribes in works of charity. These were the maxims that moved me to suppress my name at the beginning of my Dictionary.

(31) Cicero relates the thing, but is none of thofe who blame it. Ifti illi philo-

sophi etiam en illis libellis qua de con-
temenda gloria tribum, nomen faum in-

ternum ; in eo ipso in quo praedicatio-

tem nobilita-
temque defpi-
cunt, praedi-
cardis de aco-

minari volunt.

(32) Vir bo-

rus effet quam

yideri mal-

bat. He rather

dile to be good than to be thought so.

See the remark [1] in the article

Amphi-

raeus, and the

remark [1] in the article

Cicero.