

THE  
**GERMAN SPY:**  
 OR,  
 Familiar LETTERS  
 FROM  
 A Gentleman on his TRAVELS thro'  
*GERMANY,*  
 TO  
 His Friend in *ENGLAND.*

Containing

An Exact and Entertaining Description of the Principal CITIES and TOWNS :	An Account of the CUSTOMS and MANNERS of the People. Remarks on their LANGUAGE, INTERESTS and POLI- CIES; FORTIFICATIONS, CHURCHES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS and CURIO- SITIES.
With their several RELI- GIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS, and GOVERNMENTS, Civil and Military.	

Interspersed

With the SECRET HISTORY and CHARAC-  
 TERS of the several PRINCES and PRIN-  
 CESSSES, and other the most considerable  
 Personages in the Empire of *Germany.*

*Heroes and Gods make other Poems fine,  
 Plain Satire calls for Sense in every Line.*  
 Universal Passion, SAT. II.

*Wisely the Springs of Action we conceal;  
 Thus Sordidness, is Prudence; Fury, Zeal;  
 Ambition makes the Publick Good his Care,  
 And Hypocrites the Mask of Saintship wear.*  
 POPE on Human Life.

The SECOND EDITION.

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M D C C X L.



LETTER VI.

S I R,

BREMEN.

 I left *Minden* (which is but two Stages, of five *German*, or twenty *English* Miles, each from this Place) on *Easter-Eve*, and travelling all Night, arrived before one of the Gates of this City, the next Day, about two in the Afternoon; but were obliged to wait near two Hours, it being customary, in the Garrison-Towns of *Germany*, to keep their Gates shut during the Time of Divine Service.

WE no sooner enter'd the City, than I was apprehensive some epidemical Disease had lately raged there, and thought the whole Town was in Mourning: For almost all the Men we met were in long black Cloaks, many of them with monstrous large Bands, and all the Women in black Veils, and black Petticoats, which together so entirely cover'd them, that no more of them appear'd to View, than of a Mute attending a Corpse lying in State. My Companion, observing my Surprize, freed me from it, by telling me it was the common Mode of the Place, and that the Burghers, of any Reputation, went thus dress'd out of Decency, as they call'd it, as the Women did for Modesty: And as it happened to be a great Festival, soon after Evening Service, hardly any one appeared but in this decent Dress.

AFTER our Chaise had travers'd a good Part of the City, we stopp'd in a small Square, which, by the Shambles, I found to be a Market-Place; and

and it proved to be the principal, or indeed the only one of the whole Place. On one Side of this Square, is an ancient *Gothic* Building, which, upon Enquiry, I found to be the *Rath* (or Council) House, where the Senat assemble, and where all justiciary Matters are transacted. The first remarkable Thing which attracted my Eye was a monstrous large Statue, of 18 or 20 Foot high, in Imperial Robes, which they call the *Great Roland*, being design'd to represent an Emperor of that Name, who was famous as well for his enormous Stature, as his Strength and Valour; and, if you will believe the Vulgar, was of the Size you there see him represented: But, it seems, this is a common Statue, in many of the ancient Cities of *Germany*, and tho' the Size of it has been generally proportioned to the Length of their Pockets, they tell you the same Story every where: On the opposite Side of the Square, is another ancient Building, where we alighted, and where I was told I was to lodge. This Building is call'd the *Schuting*, and is a Sort of common Hall, where the several Colleges or Assemblies of Burghers, and particularly the *Altermänner* (Elders) or College of Commerce, hold their Meetings: But is, at the same Time, a public House of Entertainment.

AFTER having refreshed myself some Time in my Chamber, it being too soon to go to Rest, I enquired of my Landlord; if there was not a Coffee-house in the Neighbourhood, where I might divert myself an Hour or two, with Company, and reading the News? He answer'd me, with a seeming Surprize at the Question, that he himself kept a Coffee-Room, in that House: But God forbid he should prophane the Sabbath so far, as to open it on that Holy Day. However, he kindly offer'd me whatever Liquor I pleas'd in my Chamber, and, to beguile the tedious Time  
(my

(my Companion being gone to visit a Friend) his Company to partake of it. I accepted of his Offer, and left it to him to chuse his Liquor : He told me, as I might probably be fatigued with my Journey, he thought a Glas of 24 Groot Beer \* would best compose me to Rest. I was resolved, tho' you know I am no great Admirer of Malt-Liquor, to humour my Host ; and in a Moment, with an Alacrity, beyond what I could have expected from his demure Aspect, the Table was cover'd with Pipes, Tobacco, a spitting Pot, and Glasses, and his Servant soon after brought up a large Bottle, containing at least two Quarts, of the excellent Beer he promis'd me. My Landlord, who I soon found was a Man that abhor'd Ceremonies, sat down and fill'd his Pipe, which to oblige him I did likewise. I found his Liquor very good of its Kind, but too heady to drink any Quantity of ; However, my Host, who was very loquacious in Praise of its Excellencies, after having emptied the Bottle, with a very little of my Assistance, thought a Dram would not be amiss to correct, as he term'd it, the Sourness the Beer might otherwise leave upon the Stomach. In this I likewise humour'd him, and had the Satisfaction, or rather Mortification, before we parted, to find, notwithstanding his great Pretensions to Sanctity, which made up the best Part of his Discourse, he could be as cordially drunk, on the Lord's Day, as a Piper at a Country Wedding ; tho' he could not prevail upon his Conscience to open his Coffee-Room, and allow of innocent Conversation among Neighbours and Acquaintance, lest he should prophane that Holy-Day.

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\* A Groot (or four Pfennig, or Pennies, from whence our Groat is probably derived) is something above a Halfpenny, in Value. The Beer our Author here mentions is a Sort of Mum or Spruce Beer ; but, I think, better than either.

WHAT with the Fatigue of my Journey, and the Liquor I had drunk the Night before, I slept the next Morning, 'till the Sun was approaching its Meridian; and was first awak'd by a tumultuous Noise, as of a mix'd Multitude, under my Chamber-window. Upon looking out, I found the Market fill'd with a great Concourse of People, and near my Window a round Edifice of Stone, of about 12 or 15 Foot diameter, and near 20 Foot high, in the Center of which was erected a Post ten or twelve Foot high, and from an Iron Ring, near the Top of it, hung three large Birchen Rods. Upon Enquiry, I found, that a young Woman, who had been a Chambermaid in one of the principal Families of the Town, and having been too free in dispensing her Favours to her Master, was discovered, by the watchful Eyes of a jealous Mistress (who happen'd to be a Sister of the Judge *pro tempore*) and condemn'd to be severely fustigated, branded, and then banished the Town; which severe Punishment she was just going to suffer.

IT was not long, before a beautiful young Creature, of about 18, with her Hair hanging dishevel'd over her Shoulders, and stark naked to her Waist, with her two Wrists tied together, was led up a pair of Stairs in the Body of the Edifice, upon the Stage, by a Fellow more ugly, than the poor unhappy Girl appear'd agreeable, tho' under the greatest Distress and Ignominy, which could befall a youthful Female; who, notwithstanding the Crime she suffer'd for, plainly shew'd she was not abandon'd to Vice, and had a Modesty, which pointed out a true Sense of her Guilt, apparently visible in her Countenance. Being thus led to the Post, her Ancles were lock'd, with two Iron-Rings, to the Foot of it, and the Rods being taken down, the Noose of the same Rope, on which they hung, being put over her Hands, round her Wrists, her Arms were hoisted up to their utmost Extent.

In

In this Posture, in which her naked Limbs were expos'd to the Eyes of the Populace, for several Minutes (which, by the by, is not so very consonant with their pretended Decency and Modesty) the poor Wretch received near 20 Lashes with each of the three Rods, from the Hands of the Hang-man, which were laid on with so good a Will, that her whole Back and Sides seem'd to be one continued Piece of raw Flesh. This done, she was branded with a red hot Iron, about the Circumference of a Crown-Piece, which, as I was inform'd, left the Mark of the City-Arms on her Back; at least it took so fast hold of her, that a Smoke arose upon the Application of it. Amidst this Severity, it was look'd upon as a Favour, that her Hair was suffer'd to hang down her Back, which might perhaps take off the Edge of some Blows from her Shoulders. The poor Wench swooned away under the Operation, and, when loosen'd from the Post, fell into the Arms of that ugly Wretch who usher'd her in, and now carried her down the Stairs she came up. She no sooner came to herself, than they oblig'd her to huddle on her Cloaths, and, in that mangled Condition, she was led without one of the Gates of the Town, where having taken a solemn Oath never to return within the Territories of that Republic, she was turn'd loose upon the World, with a six Groot-piece in her Pocket. What think you, Sir, of this severe Punishment, for a single slip of frail Nature? May not this, probably, be the Cause of such an unfortunate Creature's running headlong into Ruin and Destruction, both of Body and Soul? whereas with a more mild, or less public Suffering, she might have been reclaim'd to Virtue, and become a useful Member of human Society. I must confess, the whole Scene was extremely shocking to me; but one Circumstance more so than all the Rest: I was shewn, at

an adjacent Window, an ancient Gentlewoman, of a forbidding Countenance, at whose Suit, it seems, the unhappy Creature who suffer'd, had been prosecuted, and who satiated her Swinge of Revenge, with such an Air of Satisfaction, as almost prompted me to think the Husband had not used her much worse than she deserved.

BUT to divert this melancholy Subject, I went down into the Coffee-room, where I was not much more edified. I found the Place pretty full of Company, chiefly Merchants and Lawyers: Several of them, in a very civil Manner, endeavoured to oblige me with their Conversation; but, to my great Surprize, tho', in my last Journey to *Vienna*, and Residence there, I had made myself a tolerable Master of the *High German* Tongue, I could hardly comprehend any Thing that was said to me. I had not been long enough in *Holland* to learn the Language of that Country: However, so much I had observed of it, to be sensible it was not that Tongue neither. Upon Enquiry, I was inform'd it was the Dialect of the Place, and of a very large Part of the lower Circles of *Germany*, distinguished by the Name of *Low German* or *Lower Saxon*, which is neither *Dutch* nor *High-German*, but, in some Measure, partakes of both, or rather is the Ground or Root of both; for, upon comparing it afterwards, with *Junius's Anglo-Saxon Gospels* and some other *Anglo-Saxon* Books, I had in my Trunk, I found it had retained more of that ancient Tongue, than either the *Dutch* or *High German* had. The Coffee-room was not divided into Boxes, or by Tables, but being a square and not a very capacious Room, there was only one large oval Table in the Middle of it, and Seats all round it. In the Middle of the Table was a large Coffee-Pot, of several Quarts, with three Cocks, out of which, there being Dishes and Sugar placed about it, every one help'd himself: But I observed, that hardly any one went out of the Room  
without

without calling for a Liquor, which being drank in pretty large Glasses, and of different Colours, I took to be Gills of Wine, of several Sorts: However, making a Sign to the Waiter, to have a Glas myself, I found it a distil'd Water; and I was the more surpris'd to find it drank in such large Glasses, as almost every one smoked at the same Time: But *Consuetudo altera Natura* \*.

BEING retired to my Chamber, I sent for my Landlord, and desired him to procure me a Bible, and three or four other Books, on familiar Subjects, in the Language of the Country; But how was I astonish'd, when he told me, that tho' *Martin Luther* had translated the Bible, and caused it to be printed in that Tongue, it was very rare to be found; and that tho' they still retain'd the Language of their Forefathers, in common Discourse, every one understood *Highb German*, and their Modern Books were all printed, their Sermons preach'd, and their Divine Service perform'd, nay even their Letters written, in that Tongue.

I am, as ever, &c.

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\* What our Author here observes is very just. I never was in any Place in my Life, where strong Waters are drank in so large Quantities by People of Fashion, and even by the Ladies, as here. I had once Occasion to pay an early Visit to the presiding Burgomaster, with whom I had supp'd the Night before. His Magnificence (which is the Title given them) having probably, in Complaisance to me, drank more *Old Hock* the Evening before than usual, was not stirring; but Madam was so good as to favour me with her Company, in the mean Time. We were hardly set down, before two Salvers were placed before us, one with Biscuits and dried Fruits, the other with two large Glasses, at least Gills, of a distill'd Liquor. Her Ladyship made no Difficulty to empty hers, at three or four Sips, and, to induce me to do the same, told me it was her own Manufacture, and so wholesome, that she drank of it every Day of her Life. I could not in Decency after this refuse it; and had not the coming of her Husband, who thought a Cup of Tea might now do better, relieved me, I believe I must have stood the other Glas.





## L E T T E R   V I I .

S I R,

B R E M E N .



MY travelling Companion having told me he should be oblig'd to leave me alone, and spend the first three or four Days of his being in *Bremen*, among his Correspondents; I resolv'd, having no Acquaintance, to confine myself during that Time to my Lodgings; But I soon met with an agreeable Motive to alter my Resolution. I dined at an Ordinary in the House; where I was tolerably well entertain'd: But what was most acceptable to me was the Conversation of a Gentleman, whom I had the good Fortune to be placed next to, who perceiving me to be an *Englishman* directed his Discourse to me in my Mother-tongue; which he possess'd to a tolerable Degree. I found, by the Discourse at Table, that his Name was *K--ch*, that he was Major of the Artillery of that Republic, and that he had formerly been employ'd as their Agent, to transact certain Affairs at the Court of *Great-Britain*. After I have told you, that he possesses all the valuable Qualities of a Soldier, a Gentleman, and a Scholar, you will easily conceive, how happy I thought my self in the Acquisition of so agreeable an Acquaintance, and began now not to regret the Absence of my travelling Companion.

UPON my complaining of the Badness, or at least Disagreeableness to me, of the Wine we drank at Table, which was *French White Wine*, of 10 or more Years old, the worthy Major propos'd my going with him, that Evening, to a select Company of Friends, where he could assure me I should

should drink as fine a Glass of *Rbenish* or *Old Hock*, as *Germany* could afford; and, to make the Offer more acceptable, observ'd, that the Company would consist chiefly of Gentlemen, who had spent some Years in *England*, and met to enjoy one another's Company, with that agreeable Freedom of Conversation they had been used to there, which most of the Inhabitants of this Place were intirely Strangers to. To this he added, that they would be most or all of them of the *Lutheran* Religion; and, upon perceiving, I was surprized, he mentioned a Distinction of Religion, as an Inducement to accept of his Proposal; he told me, that the Religion of the State, and of much the greater Part of the Inhabitants, was Reformed or *Calvinist*; and that the *Lutherans* not only enjoyed the free Exercise of their Religion, but were in Possession of the Cathedral, and consisted of some Thousands of Families; that there was a great Difference between the *Lutherans* and the *Calvinists*, in their Manners and Behaviour, as well to others, as among themselves; that the former indulged themselves in all innocent Freedoms and Diversions; but that the latter were so horridly Priest-ridden, and had, by Degrees, suffer'd the Clergy to get so much the Ascendant over them, and their Families, that even those who had travell'd, and knew better, were obliged to put on such an affected, stiff Rigidity of Behaviour, as made their Conversation very troublesome even to one another: And that the least Deviation from the Rules prescrib'd them, by their spiritual Guides, render'd them liable to be censured and expos'd from every Pulpit, of which he promised to give me some ludicrous Instances, which may chance to be the Subject of another Letter. I hugg'd myself with the Thoughts of falling into so good Hands, and began to hope I should spend the Time of my Stay in *Bremen* more agreeably than I at first-imagined.

THE Major call'd me at the appointed Hour, and carried me to a large Cellar or Vault, opposite to my Lodgings, under the Senat-house, which is kept for the Benefit of the Public. The Descent into this Vault or Cellar is by a large Pair of Stone-Stairs, broad enough for five or six Persons to go down a-breast, which leads into a spacious subterranean Hall; on the right Hand, is a Row of Boxes, and at the End of them some Rooms, for the Entertainment of Company. Opposite to these Boxes are five monstrous large Casks, containing, if I have not forgot the Account given me, considerably upwards of 100 Hogsheads each; four of these Casks are always kept full of Wine; but the fifth is left empty, with a small low Door or Entrance in the Head, to satisfy the Curiosity of such as may be fond of creeping in, and saying they have been in the Belly of such a *Bacchanalian* Monster; which I confess I was not. The remaining Part of this and several other contiguous Vaults, which have a Communication one with the other, were fill'd with *Rhenish* Wine, of different Growths, and of various Ages, from one Year to 50, 60, or more, all in large Casks, few or none of which were less than what they call a *Stuck-Fass*, or eight Awms. As these large Casks are all Iron-bound, and some of them embellish'd with very expensive Ornaments of carved Work and Gilding, and besides, there appearing to be a larger dead Stock of Wine, than the Vent they could have, could possibly require, I had the Curiosity to ask, what Benefit the Public could reap by keeping so large a Stock, and in such large Casks, which could bear any reasonable Proportion to the Interest of their Money, and the great Expence they seem'd to be at. To this I was answered, that the Value of *Rhenish* Wine is always in Proportion to its Age,

Age, and that supposing it to be of a good Growth and Year, there was nothing they could vest their Money in would yield so good an Interest: And as for keeping their Wine in so large Casks, they had this Advantage, that the larger the Quantity of Wine is, which lies together in one Body, the faster it advances in that Quality which it gradually obtains by Age; insomuch that 50 Hogsheads of young Wine, put together in one Cask, would appear to be older, at the End of five Years, than the like Quantity in single Hogsheads, would do at twice the Age.

HAVING thus taken a cursory View of the prodigious Stock of Wine, we retired into the Club-room, where six or eight Members were already together, who soon after encreas'd to 15, all Persons that had the Appearance of Men of Fashion and Fortune. We spent the first Part of the Evening in general Conversation, on several public Topics; and our Discourse was chiefly in the *English* Tongue: But, about Nine o' Clock, our Company went off by two, three, and four, to several little Tables in the Room, some to eat a Mouthful, and others to a Game of Picquet, Whisk or Ombre, every one to his Inclination, leaving only my Friend and one more with me, at the great Table. I took this Opportunity to desire the Major to give me some Account of the State of Religion, and the Conduct of the Priests in that City; with which he seeming not very ready to comply, his Friend excused him, as being in the Service of the Public, and cautious of saying any Thing, which, if it went farther, might lay him liable to the implacable Malice of the Clergy; and therefore undertook the Task himself.

“ OUR Religion (said he) is what we call in  
“ *Germany* the Reformed, grounded upon the  
“ Doctrine and Principles of *Calvin*, something  
“ like

“ like that of your *Presbyterians* in *England*, or  
 “ rather more starch and formal ; a Sort of Com-  
 “ pound, between that and *Quakerism* ; consisting  
 “ chiefly in an outward Shew of a more than  
 “ ordinary Sanctity. Our Form, or rather no  
 “ Form of Worship, consists chiefly of *extempore*  
 “ Prayers, bordering very much upon *Enthusiasm*,  
 “ Psalms or Hymns, and long-winded Sermons,  
 “ which have little in them but Cant, Scandal and  
 “ personal Reflection. Our Priests (continues he)  
 “ are a Sort of gloomy Mortals, whose Light  
 “ being what the *Quakers* call an inward Light,  
 “ they are all Darkness without, and perfectly an-  
 “ swer the whimsical Character given by the Au-  
 “ thor of the *Tale of a Tub*, under the Name of  
 “ *Jack*. When they appear in the Streets, they  
 “ put on such a sanctified Vizard, as, by over-act-  
 “ ing their Part, plainly shews their Hypocrisy,  
 “ thro’ the Larve. They would not be seen to  
 “ enter into a Coffee-house or Tavern, tho’ they  
 “ could thereby merit that Place in Heaven, so  
 “ earnestly desir’d of our Saviour by the two Sons  
 “ of *Zebedee*. They spend the greater Part of  
 “ their Time (for Study their Religion requires  
 “ but little) in charitable Visits to comfort the  
 “ good Women of their Parishes, where their Con-  
 “ versation generally begins like a *Quaker’s* Hold-  
 “ ing-forth, with Hums and Haws, and interme-  
 “ diate Pauses, which sometimes are introductory  
 “ to a Prayer : But to continue the Comparison,  
 “ when they do break out into a Discourse, it gene-  
 “ rally consists of as much Wind, Noise and Non-  
 “ sense as that of a *Quaker*, when the Spirit begins  
 “ forcibly to operate, and the absent are as little  
 “ spar’d as at a Christening, or a Ladies Visiting-  
 “ day. These Assemblies consist chiefly of Women ;  
 “ and generally of such, who being either ancient  
 “ Widows or Maidens, are past the Enjoyment

“ of what we may call the gay Pleasures of Life  
 “ themselves, and are therefore the best qualified,  
 “ with the Help of a good Share of Envy and ill  
 “ Nature, which, by Degrees, they themselves  
 “ mistake for Virtue, to join with the Sons of  
 “ *Levi*, to censure them in others. Men are sel-  
 “ dom allowed to partake of these holy Conver-  
 “ sations; or if they do sometimes admit a sancti-  
 “ fied Brother, they take Care, by proper Prepara-  
 “ tions, to make him as arrant an old Woman as any  
 “ in the Society, not excepting the Priest himself.  
 “ Not (added he) but there are some few Occasional  
 “ Conformists among them; Men of Learning and  
 “ Integrity, who are obliged to a Compliance with  
 “ the Customs and Manners of the Place, and their  
 “ Order, for a Livelihood: But much the greater  
 “ Number are of the former Stamp.” I suppose,  
 said I, interrupting him, these great Pretenders, at  
 least, to Sanctity, are very careful to suppress those un-  
 ruly Passions of Human Nature, which are so apt to  
 rebel, by a severe and rigid Abstinence. “ Not so  
 “ (replied he) on the contrary, they are continually  
 “ pamper’d, like cram’d Capons, by their credu-  
 “ lous Devotees, with the most exquisite Dainties,  
 “ and will make no Scruple, in their Company,  
 “ to tipple Canary and Sherry ’till they forget  
 “ themselves, and, laying aside the Mask, become  
 “ a Contradiction to their own Profession: For  
 “ which the hospitable Dame is sure to be severely  
 “ reprimanded, at the next Meeting\*.” In these  
 and

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\* Our Author (or his Companion) gives us here a lively,  
 and in general a just Idea of some, perhaps the greater Num-  
 ber, of the *Calvinists* Priests of this Place; tho’ he seems  
 to push the Matter to the utmost: And I must beg Leave to  
 tell him, the Number of Occasional Conformists is greater than  
 he supposes. I have known and convers’d with several of them  
 myself; Men of good Sense, Learning, and, except in this Point,  
 of

and the like Discourses, we pass'd our Time, till our Company, by Degrees re-united, and then we spent another Hour in innocent Mirth, 'till our Host thought fit to put us in Mind it was Time to depart, by telling us the Clock of Authority, in the Senat-house, had struck Twelve. We had drunk excellent Wine the whole Evening, and, following the prudent Method mention'd by the Governor of the Feast, at the Marriage in *Canaan*, having began with a young *Rbenish* Wine of eighteen *Groot* (or about ten Pence) the Bottle, we, by Degrees, advanced in Age and Price, 'till we came to forty-eight *Groot*; and yet had reserved a better Sort to crown the Evening. It was now propos'd to have a Bottle or two out of the *Rose*, a Vault so call'd of select old Wine, the Key of which is kept by the presiding Burgo-master, and only a Number of Bottles left in the Hands of the Master of the Cellar, to be sold at a Dollar (or about three Shillings six Pence) the Bottle; an extravagant Price in this Country: But it was richly worth it, and far exceeded any Thing I had ever drunk of the Kind, even on the *Rbine* itself. It was said to be of the Growth of *Hockbeim*, the most celebrated Vineyards on that River (from whence we have borrowed the Name of *Old Hock*) and of the

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of Probity too, who, tho' they are oblig'd sometimes to conform beyond their Inclination, are as moderate in it as possible, and know how to behave according to the Company they are in: But, I must confess, Bigotry either in the Priest, or Congregation, either real or feign'd, cannot be too much expos'd; and therefore, tho' our Author should have carried the Matter a little too far, it is a Fault of the right Side.

*Prophane or pious, Bigotry's the same,  
The Motives Terror, Avarice or Fame.  
Opinion is but Int'rest in Disguise  
And Right and Wrong in Strength of Parties lies.*

Pope's Essay on Human Life. p. 7.  
Ycar

The GERMAN SPY: 61

Year 1666. We parted about One, merry, but none of us in the least disguised; for *Old Hock* has this good Quality, that tho' it be strong, it is not intoxicating. The Major excused his not being able to see me the next Day, because he was obliged to be upon Duty; but engaged me to spend the Day following wholly with him, and kindly offer'd to conduct me to the several Parts of the Town, where there was any Thing worth my seeing. I therefore resolv'd to spend this Day in Retirement, and writing this Letter to you, which if it should prove too prolix or trivial, you must thank yourself, I having your positive Command, sign'd, seal'd and delivered, to write to you the most minute Circumstances which should occur to me, that had any Thing of Singularity in them, or could contribute to your Amusement, in the happy Retreat you have wisely chosen to end your Days in. I am, &c.



LETTER VIII.

S I R,

BREMEN.

**M**Y last gave an Account how happy I was in the Acquaintance of a worthy Gentleman, a Major in the Garison of this City, and of the Appointment I had made to spend the next Day with him, in taking a View of what was worthy my Notice here. Accordingly, he came to my Lodgings early in the Morning, and having prevail'd upon him to breakfast with me, I took that Opportunity to desire a brief Account from him, of the ancient and present State of



of this City, which he readily gave me, in the following Words :

“ *BREMEN* (said he) tho’ now reckon’d  
 “ the least considerable of the three renown’d free  
 “ *Imperial* Cities, in *Lower Saxony*, *Hamburg*,  
 “ *Lubeck*, and *Bremen*, is beyond all Dispute,  
 “ the eldest. Not to mention the Account of its  
 “ being the *Fabiramus* of *Ptolomy*, built by  
 “ *Drusus*, which is generally look’d upon to be  
 “ fabulous, I believe I may venture to say it was  
 “ a Place of some Note, towards the latter End  
 “ of the fifth Century, when *Pope Gregory I*, sent  
 “ *St. Augustin*, with other Monks, to *Britain*, to con-  
 “ vert the *Saxons* to the *Christian* Faith, in the Time  
 “ of *Ethelbert*, King of *Kent*. This was the Place  
 “ those holy Men chose to embark in, to be trans-  
 “ ported to that Island ; it being noted for Ship-  
 “ ping at that Time, which was above 200 Years  
 “ before the Building of *Hamburg*, and more than  
 “ 500 Years before the Building of *Lubeck*.

“ IN the Year 788, *Charlemaign* made it a  
 “ Bishop’s See, and appointed *St. Wilbadus*, an  
 “ *Englishman*, to be the first Bishop : Tho’ the  
 “ *Diploma*, pretended to be granted by this Prince,  
 “ at the Castle of *Nemes*, now *Spires*, for the  
 “ Establishment of this See, is, on Account of  
 “ some Articles contain’d in it, generally believed  
 “ to be supposititious. In 848, *St. Ansebarius*,  
 “ Archbishop of *Hamburg*, which had been laid  
 “ waste, three Years before, by the *Danes*, was  
 “ sent to *Bremen*, by Emperor *Lewis* the Pious ;  
 “ where he was fourth Bishop, and first Archbi-  
 “ shop, the *Metropolitan* See being transfer’d thi-  
 “ ther, or, according to other Writers, incorpo-  
 “ rated with this, by *Pope Nicholas*, with the  
 “ Consent of that Emperor. Several Privileges  
 “ were afterwards granted it by succeeding Em-  
 “ perors, particularly by *Henry V*, *William*,  
 “ *Wenceslaus*,

“ *Wenceslaus*, and *Charles V.*, to exterminate Pirates,  
 “ and protect Merchants trading on the *Wefer*  
 “ from all Danger. And for the Encouragement  
 “ of the Trade of this Place, no Goods were al-  
 “ low’d to go down the *Wefer*, and pass this City,  
 “ without being first landed here. The Inhabi-  
 “ tants have, likewise, the Privilege of fishing  
 “ from the Bridge of *Hoye*, four *German* Miles  
 “ above *Bremen*, down to the Sea, as likewise in  
 “ the Rivers *Hunte*, *Ochtum*, *Wumme* and *Leefem*,  
 “ which flow into the *Wefer*. Among other  
 “ Fish, they catch great Quantities of *Salmon* and  
 “ *Lämpreys*, the former of which being dried and  
 “ smoaked, and the latter pickled, are in great  
 “ Esteem throughout all *Germany*. *Rudolph II.*,  
 “ endowed them with the Privilege, that neither  
 “ their Persons nor Goods should be liable to Ar-  
 “ rest, Attachment, or other Imposition, through-  
 “ out the whole *German* Empire: And *Charles V.*,  
 “ gave them the Right of Coinage. They pre-  
 “ tend to a Right of Session and Vote in the Diet  
 “ of the Empire, ever since *Charlemaign*, which  
 “ was confirm’d to them, notwithstanding the Op-  
 “ position of the Archbishop, by Emperor *Fer-*  
 “ *dinand III.*, in 1641. But afterwards, upon the  
 “ Secularization of the Archbishopric, in the  
 “ Reign of Queen *Christina* of *Sweden*, new Dif-  
 “ ferences arose thereupon, which came to a Rupture,  
 “ in 1654, on that, and other Accounts. These  
 “ Differences were, indeed, compos’d under *Charles*  
 “ *Gustavus*, in 1658; but broke out again under  
 “ *Charles XI.*, and lasted ’till, by the Treaty of  
 “ *Habenhausen*, in 1666, among other Concessions,  
 “ they were oblig’d to wave their Pretension of  
 “ a Right to Session and Vote, in the Diet of the  
 “ Empire, ’till 1700, which is yet disputed them.  
 “ As to the ancient Form of Government, the  
 “ Emperors had their *Vogts* (or Bailiffs) here, ’till  
 “ the

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“ the Reign of *Otto I*, when, by the Intercession  
 “ of Archbishop *Adaldagus*, the Administration was  
 “ suffer'd to devolve to *Proconsuls* and *Consuls* :  
 “ But, about the Beginning of the fourteenth Cen-  
 “ tury, the Form of Government approaching, by  
 “ Degrees, too near to that of an *Oligarchy*, the  
 “ Burghets accused several of the principal ancient  
 “ Families of Malversation ; obliged them to quit  
 “ the City, and condemn'd them to perpetual  
 “ Exile. The Government by *Proconsuls* and  
 “ *Consuls* was hereupon resum'd, with this Dif-  
 “ ference only, that they were limited to thirty-  
 “ three, to be chosen by the four principal Wards,  
 “ and, upon the Death of any one, the Vacancy  
 “ to be supplied by the Ward the Deceased be-  
 “ long'd to. In this Form, with some few Al-  
 “ terations, it has continued ever since. The Se-  
 “ nat is now compos'd of four Burgo-masters,  
 “ and twenty-four Senators, consisting of four Di-  
 “ visions, according to the four Wards. The Se-  
 “ nat decides all Causes Ecclesiastical, Criminal and  
 “ Civil, and from them lies no Appeal, except, in  
 “ the latter, where the principal Sum litigated ex-  
 “ ceeds 600 *Rhenish* Gold Guilders, or about 210 *l*.  
 “ when an Appeal to the Imperial Chamber of  
 “ *Wetzlar* may take Place. They have their own  
 “ Statute-Laws, which were enacted in 1281, but  
 “ have been since amended \*. They have a small  
 “ Jurisdiction of about a *German* Mile round

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\* It may not be amiss to add here, to our Author's or his  
 Friend's Account, that the Archbishops of *Bremen* had never  
 any Sovereignty over the City : Nor was it ever dependent on  
 the Duchy of *Bremen*, which belong'd to them. This Duchy,  
 of which our Author gives some Account below, was yielded  
 to the *Swedes*, in 1648, after which they formed several Pre-  
 tensions on the City, and besieged it forty-six Days, in 1666.  
 But they rais'd the Siege, at the Interposition of the neighbour-  
 ing Princes, and the Treaty of *Habenhausen* ensued.

the Town, and are bordered on every Side  
 with Territories now belonging to his Majesty  
 of *Great Britain*; for which Reason, they al-  
 ways court his Favour. The River *Wefer*,  
 which runs thro' the Place, and divides the  
 Old City from the New, is not navigable for  
 Ships of Burden farther than *Fegesac*, two Ger-  
 man Miles below this Place, where all Ships  
 which come out of the Sea, or are outward-bound,  
 load and unload; nor does this River ebb or flow  
 farther. We have a considerable Trade to *Eng-  
 land*, especially with all Sorts of *Westphalian* Li-  
 nens, and send several Ships, particularly to *Lon-  
 don*, every Year: We send Ships to *France*, and  
 sometimes to *Spain*, *Portugal* and *Italy*, and also  
 a good Number every Year to *Greenland* and  
*Davis's Streights*. We have likewise a consider-  
 able Inland Trade, particularly to the great  
 Fairs and Marts in *Germany*, whither, among  
 other Goods, we send large Quantities of Cal-  
 licoes and Sugar, printed and refined here, in  
 which, however, the *Hamburgers* out-do us.  
 Our Beer is very much esteem'd in many Parts of  
*Germany*, and is therefore exported in large  
 Quantities. Our Duties upon Exportation and  
 Importation are very low, which is a great En-  
 couragement to our Trade, and gives us an Ad-  
 vantage over the *Dutch*, in those Provinces which  
 ly between us and them. In the famous *Han-  
 seatick* League, this City is honoured with the  
 third Place. It is divided, as I said before,  
 into the Old and the New Town, the latter of  
 which was began to be built in 1623. They  
 are both pretty well fortified with high Walls  
 and a broad Disch. The old Town has several  
 Towers upon the Walls, according to the  
 ancient Manner of Fortification; but the Walls  
 of the new Town, which are more modern,  
 have eight fine Bullwarks. I defer saying any

“ Thing of our public Buildings, till you see  
 “ them at the same Time.

HERE my Friend finish'd his Relation, and, our Breakfast being likewise at an End, we began our Progress.

THE first Place I went to see was a spacious Room or Hall, in the House where I lodge, of the Length and almost Breadth of the whole Edifice, the Walls of which are handsomely adorned with small Arms, it being a sort of Armory for the Burghers. In this Hall, the *Altermänner* (or Council of Commerce) hold their Meetings, and public Entertainments upon extraordinary Occasions. At the Bottom of a Descent of three Steps, by which you enter into the Hall, stands the Figure of a Warrior in compleat Armor, who, by Means of a Piece of Machinery under the Steps, as soon as you tread upon them to descend, lifts up the Bever of his Helmet, with his Truncheon, and salutes you.

THIS Statue put me in Mind of the Story of *Rosicrusius's* Sepulchre, as told in the *Spektator*, in which was a Statue of a Man, in Armor, sitting by a Table, and leaning on his left Arm. He held a Truncheon in his right Hand, and had a Lamp burning before him; at the first Step, he stood bolt upright, at the second, lifted up the Truncheon in his right Hand, and at the third, with a furious Blow, broke the Lamp in a Thousand Pieces. This, they tell you, was design'd to shew Posterity he possess'd the Art of preparing a perpetual Lamp, and, at the same Time, to destroy it, and thereby conceal that Mystery from others; but the Design of our modern Piece of Machinery was not so deeply laid.

FROM this Armory in Miniature, we went to the grand Arsenal of the City, which is well stor'd with all Manner of Artillery, small Arms,  
 and

and other Utenfils of War, as well ancient as modern. This Arfenal, I found, is under the particular Disposition of the Major who accompanied me, and he has shewn his Skill by the handsome Manner of ranging the several Sorts of Arms, &c. as well in the great Hall, where the Artillery is, as in a large Gallery, which encompasses it, and contains the greater Part of the small Arms.

FROM this Gallery, there is a Passage into the *Gymnasium*, or Academy, where we saw the Library, and the Anatomical Hall, neither of which contain any Thing very remarkable. And here I must give you an Instance of those false *Punctilios* of Honour, of which I had been frequently told, and had sometimes found, the *Germans* are so full. Upon being shewn the Anatomy of a Man, I heedlessly happen'd to say, that Figure was Proof against the whole Art of War; I immediately observ'd the Major change Countenance, and twell, and tho' good Manners got the better of his suppos'd injur'd Honour, I perceiv'd it was some Time before he could calm the Tempest rais'd in his Mind, by the Imagination of my having designedly cast a Slur upon his Profession, or prefered that of Chirurgery to it. From hence we went to the *Rathhaus* (or Senat house) which, as I said in my former, is a large ancient Structure, built in 1405. The lower Part, or Hall, out of which are Doors to the several Courts of Justice, and other Apartments, is fill'd with Shops for retailing Prints, Toys, Stationary and Haberdashery Wares, of several Sorts. The Courts of Justice, and other Apartments, are very plain, and hardly decently enough furnish'd for the Dignity of the Offices they are put to. The Outside of this Edifice is adorn'd with several Statues of Emperors and Electors, as likewise those of *Plato*, *Aristotle*, *Cicero*, and other Ancients.

AT one End of this Building, separated by a Street, is another public Edifice, the lower Part whereof being a *Piazza*, in which are likewise Shops, is made Use of as an Exchange: But is not so frequented as those of *London* and *Amsterdam*. The Merchants resort thither only on Post-days, and then not in such Numbers, but that you may walk with Ease, from one End to the other. From the Exchange we went to the Cathedral, which is an ancient, but large and stately Edifice. I was here agreeably surprized to meet with an old Acquaintance of yours and mine: I mean the Reverend Mr. *Crusius*, whom we formerly knew at *London*, in the Family of *Monf. Schutz*, the *Hannoverian* Minister at our Court. He is now Superintendent of the *Lutheran* Congregation in this City; an Office little inferior to that of a Bishop, or rather Dean of other Cathedrals; and of about 1000 *l. per Ann.* Income, a large Revenue in these Parts. This Church, which is under the immediate Protection of his Majesty of *Great-Britain*, as Bishop of *Bremen* and *Verden*, enjoys great Privileges; and is very ancient. The first Church, built by *St. Wilbadus*, stood 270 Years; but, in the Time of *Beselinus*, the fifteenth Bishop of *Bremen*, *Ann.* 1042, it was burnt to the Ground, by the Wickedness of his Son, *Edo*. The good Bishop gave all he had in the World to repair the Damage, and began to rebuild it; but he died the Year following. His Successor *Albert*, destroyed the Foundation he had laid, thinking it too small, and laid a larger; and that he might not want Stone, caused the Walls of the City to be razed, and the Stones to be employ'd for that Use: But going about the same Time to *Rome*, the Work lay still twenty-four Years. And tho' he afterwards resumed the Building of it; he did not live to see it finished; but left that to his Successor,  
*Lionardus*

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*Liemarus*, the seventeenth Bishop of *Bremen*, about the Year 1090. Towards the Conclusion of the fourteenth Century, it likewise suffered very much by Fire: And the Tower or Steeple was not rebuilt 'till 1446. It is now a stately large Building, the only Church the *Lutherans* have, tho' they are so numerous in this City, that they reckon near 20,000 Communicants. The Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of this Metropolitan extended, for some Centuries, over the three Kingdoms of *Denmark*, *Norway* and *Sweden*; but they exempted themselves from it towards the Conclusion of the eleventh Century; when, at the desire of *Ericus*, King of *Denmark*, the Pope erected an Archbishopric at *Lunden*, in *Scania*, and made all the Bishoprics of those three Kingdoms Suffragans to that Metropolitan: From which Time we find no Mention of any Archbishop of *Hamburg*, but only of *Bremen*. The City of *Bremen* embraced the Doctrine of *Luther* in 1522. But the Archbishops did not acknowledge the *Augustane* Confession 'till 1585.

MY Landord just comes to tell me, it is Time to send my Letter to the Post-house; I must therefore break off with assuring you, &c.

I am, &c,







## L E T T E R IX.

S I R,

BREMEN.



CONCLUDED my last with a brief Historical Account of the Cathedral of *Bremen*: But I must not omit mentioning a Thing which is shewn, to Strangers, as a Rarity, tho', in Reality, there is little in it. They preserve, in a Vault under this Church, five or six Corps, which, tho' they were deposited there fifty or more Years ago, without being embalmed, or the Entrails taken out, are yet intire and uncorrupted. The Skin of these Bodies is hard, and, like a Parchment, somewhat shrivel'd. I had the Curiosity to lift one of them up by the Head, and found it so light, that I did not conceive the whole Body could weigh more than ten or fifteen Pounds. One of these Corps, they tell you, is of an *English* Countess, who, having led a dissolute Life, had the foul Disease, to such a Degree, that she was deem'd incurable, and was, therefore, sent to this Place, to end her Life privately, without bringing a Blemish upon her Family. That the Person died of this Disease, is not improbable; because, tho' the Rest of her Face is intire, a good Part of her Nose is wanting: But if she really was of our Nation, we may suppose her to have been a Countess of the Hundreds of *Drury*.

BUT to give some Account of this Matter; the Vault in which these Corps are shewn, had not been open'd, in thirty or more Years after the last was deposited;

posited; 'till some Years since, on Occasion of putting up a new Organ, this Place was thought proper for the Artificer to cast and solder his Pipes in, as containing so few Bodies, which, it was suppos'd, were now fit for the Charnel-House. Upon opening the Vault, and finding the Coffins entire, they were only put together in a Corner. After some Time, one of the Workmen, being left alone, either out of Curiosity, or in Expectation of finding some Booty, loosen'd the Lid of one of the Coffins, and finding the Corps, in the Manner I have described, divulged it to his Companions, and upon the Matter being made public, the Rest of the Coffins were open'd, and the Bodies contain'd in them found to be in the same Condition. This, in the ignorant Times of the Monks, would have been deem'd a Miracle of the first Degree, which would have brought a Treasure to the Church; and the Persons, whose Corps had been so wonderfully preserved, would certainly have been canoniz'd, whatever Circumstances of Life, they might have pass'd thro': But in these happier Days, in which the Tyranny of Priest-craft is, in a great Measure, abolish'd, and every Man is allow'd to think for himself, we may account for it without the Expence of a Miracle. This Vault, being under one Corner of the Church, has two Openings to the Church-Yard, with Iron Grates, thro' which the Air continually passing, it may reasonably be suppos'd to have gradually dried up the Moisture of these Bodies, without suffering them to come to Putrefaction.

THE other Churches of this City have nothing in them worthy our Notice. They are large, but very plain; with few or no Ornaments.

IT drawing now towards Noon, and the Major having engaged me to dine with him, we went from the Cathedral to his House, where I met

with a very friendly and handsom Entertainment, in the Company of three or four of his Acquaintance, whom he had invited to make it the more acceptable to me. After Dinner, being dispos'd to take a Walk, we order'd our Coach to wait for us at the *Gast-Hoff*, or public Hospital, for the Poor, the Sick, the Lame or Decrepid, of both Sexes, and we went thither on the City-Wall or Ramparts, pleasantly planted with Rows of Trees, and a Passage as well for Coaches, as Persons on Foot, from which you have an agreeable View of the River, and the adjacent Country.

THE Hospital, I just mentioned, is maintain'd partly at the Public Expence, and partly by charitable Contributions. At the Entrance, there is an Iron Chest, with a *Memento* over it, into which it is expected, that every one who comes to see the House should put a Piece of Money, and the Person who conducts you generally begins, to set a good Example. I shall not detain you with a Description of this Building, which is large, and decently handsom; tho' there seems, in the erecting of it, to have been more a View to Usefulness and Conveniency than Magnificence; which I cannot but think much more commendable and consistent, than the throwing away immense Sums, to erect Palaces instead of Hospitals, which superfluous Sums, if rightly applied, might make a Fund for the perpetual Maintenance of double, or perhaps treble, the Number of poor Wretches, who would willingly, and by much more properly, inhabit Barracks, or little Tenements, than such superb Edifices.

THE Order and Oeconomy of this House, as far as I could get an Insight into it, is as commendable as the Edifice itself. A frugal Plenty of all Things necessary seems to reign in every Part of it; and an exact Order, even in the most trivial Things,

Things, is nicely observed. As there are of both Sexes in this Hospital, they have different Quarters assign'd them: The Wards or Rooms, in which they ly, are on one Side of long Galleries, opposite to which are Windows, to let in the fresh Air. In most of the Wards are two or more Beds, and they generally lay two Persons in a Bed. The Bedding is cleanly and decent, and the Wards are furnish'd with several comfortable as well as necessary Conveniences. The Kitchen, as well as the Utensils of it, and Servants attending it, appear with a Neatness not very common in such Places; and the Provisions are wholesome and good, sufficient but not superfluous. I could find Fault with nothing but the Bread, which I thought had too much the Hew of *Westphalian Pompernickel*; But I was told it was such as was eaten by the most reputable Burghers, for their common Table-bread; Wheaten or White Bread seldom or never appearing in their Houses, except for the Entertainment of Strangers, and on high Days and Holidays; on which Occasions it is esteemed as great a Dainty as Plumb-cake with us. They likewise tell you, that this Bread is much more nourishing and wholesom, than Wheaten, or even a finer Sort of Rye-Bread. But to return to our Hospital: They have a very handsom Chappel, in which Divine Service is regularly perform'd; and as there are always a Number of poor Wretches, either bedridden, or otherwise not in a Capacity to come to Chappel, such as those are all put into one large Room, where they likewise enjoy that Benefit.

“ADJOINING to this Hospital, or rather a Part of the same Edifice, is a *Spinn-hausz* (or House of Correction) not only for such Criminals as are, by Law, deem'd worthy of Corporal Punishment, but for such disorderly Persons against whom there is

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is no Law, but what is discretionary in the Judge; such as bad Wives or Husbands, unruly or disobedient Children, Spendthrifts, and the like: These are generally lock'd up in private Rooms, and are maintain'd there, for as long a Time as is thought necessary, at the Expence of their Friends. There are, at this Time, or have been very lately (for such Prisoners are not shewn to any body, nor is it easy to know when or how they are discharg'd) under Confinement in this House, a Gentleman of Distinction, who having kill'd a Person inadvertently, is shut up here for Life, at the Desire of a Prince in the Neighbourhood, whose Subject he is, the Plea of Chance-Medly, not being admitted in this Country; A younger Brother of Mr. N——, Governor of the Prince of W——, who is confin'd for having been too lavish of his Fortune; and the elder Brother of Mons. von P——, a Gentleman of Fortune at the Court of H——, who having been disinherited by his Father, for the same Account, and being withal under a Suspicion of Lunnacy, is in a fair Way to spend the Remainder of his Days here. There is, besides these, one Object of Compassion, in this House, at present, who is expos'd to the View of every one; I mean a young and beautiful Daughter of Colonel N——, who having taken a false Step, which brought her into a Condition she could not hide, is, by the unrelenting Cruelty of her Father, rivetted to the Spinning-Wheel, in the public Room, amidst common Prostitutes, Thieves and Vagabonds, nor have all the Intercessions of Friends, Relations and even Superiors, been able, in two Years Time, to reverse the Sentence, which has fix'd her unhappy Fate for Life. I had some Talk with her, but would not put her to the Blush, by seeming to know the Circumstances of her Family; and to the indifferent Questions I ask'd, she gave such Answers,

Answers, as made me pity her Condition, and think she had sufficiently atton'd for her Crime.

THE Discipline which is kept in this public Prison is very strict; for tho' it contains 100 or more profligate Persons, not an indecent Word is heard to come out of their Mouths; on the contrary, their Task-master, who walks about the Room, with a Rod of Correction in his Hand, is almost continually singing of Psalms and Hymns, in which they are obliged to accompany him. In this House, are likewise private Apartments for Lunatics; but they are lock'd up from the Eyes of the World; nor is the Disgrace of human Kind made a public Spectacle, for the Sake of a small Encrease of the Revenue of the House.

HAVING thus spent the best Part of the Afternoon, and Night drawing on, we return'd in our Coach, thro' the City, to the *Rab's Keller* (or Public Cellar) where I pass'd the Evening in the same agreeable Company I had enjoyed two Nights before. One of the Society, who is a considerable Merchant, and a Member of the College or Council of *Altermänner*, invited me to dine with him, the next Day, at his House, in the New Town; and, on this Occasion, desir'd the Company of the whole Society. My Entertainment there, with a Character of the Company, and their Behavior, shall be the Subject of my next, till when, &c.






## LETTER X.

S I R,

BREMEN,


 HE Gentleman, who, as I told you in my last, had invited me to dine with him, sent his Coach to fetch the Major and me, according to Appointment, at my Lodgings. In our Way to the New Town, which as I said before, is separated from the Old City, by the River *Weser*, we pass'd over a Bridge of Boats, which is the only Communication between the two. At that End towards the Old Town, is a large and handsom Mill, belonging, if I mistake not, to the Public, and there are several other small ones on the River near it. The New Town, which consists chiefly of Gardens, with small Pleasure-houses, belonging to the principal Merchants, and other Inhabitants of the old City, has larger, and much more regular Streets than that, and they are most of them planted with Rows of Limes or Wild Chestnuts, which make it, taken all together, a very agreeable Place. The Inhabitants who dwell constantly there are mostly of the meaner Sort; there are, however, some handsom stately Houses, which are inhabited Winter and Summer, and of these none more so, than that to which I was invited. It is a modern Brick-Building (a Thing not very common here) on the River Side: But what makes it the more agreeable is, that it is well furnish'd in the Inside, and does not consist, as is very common here, of a meer Outside-Shew, with bare white-wash'd Walls within, and the Furniture only

only a Table and Looking-glass, with Chairs of several Sorts: The whole House, or as far as I saw of it, is genteely furnish'd, and our Entertainment was as handsom, but egregiously superfluous. When the first Course, which consisted of several Dishes and *Assiettes*, was set on the Table, I concluded, by the Variety of it, that, with a Desert, was to be all; and accordingly I made my Dinner, as usual, with a Dish or two I lik'd; but how was I surprized, as well as mortified, to find the Table continually supplied with fresh Dishes, for near four Hours together. The good Dame of the House, who was by no Means so agreeable Conversation as her Husband, but ceremonious even to Impertinence, was every Moment sending me *Benjamin's* Portions of various Dishes, and seem'd to express an Uneasiness, that shew'd she thought me guilty of ill Manners, if I did not, at least, take Part of every Plate that came from her Hands. This Manner of gorging their Guests, with a Superfluity of Dishes, and pressing them to eat of every one, is, it seems, the Custom of the Country, at all Feasts, and especially for the Entertainment of Strangers; and that even in Families, who cannot so well afford it, tho' they should not have a good Meal in some Weeks after. Our Host was as free with his Wine, as his Lady with her Eatables, but not quite so importunate: However, their ceremonious Manner of drinking, draws a Man insensibly, and almost unavoidably, into taking a large Quantity of Liquor. As I was looked upon to be the principal Guest, the first Glass was a Bumper drunk to me, by our Host, to bid me welcome, which I could not but pledge in the same Manner. I expected to see the same Ceremony to every one of the Guests, and began to pity my hospitable Friend; but found he, soon after, welcomed all the Rest in one Glass, and they having all their Glasses fill'd



fill'd, pledg'd him at one and the same Time. The third Glas was by Madam, to my Health, which was followed, immediately after, by a fourth, to the Health of the whole Company, which was all she, and a Couple of Ladies more at the Table, drank. Our Landlord then propos'd the Health of his Right Hand Man, but was put in Mind, that a Health to the Ladies was first required, and this, being back'd by the whole Company, was complied with, and each of them remember'd singly. This done, the Health of every one at Table went round, and were drank by the whole Company together, except the Person whose Health was in Turn, who, with great Ceremony, returned Thanks, afterwards, to the whole Company. Thus every one drank above twenty large Wine-glasses, full to the Brim, of *Old Hock*, during the Time of Dinner!

THE Table being clear'd, and the Ladies retir'd, our Host, in Complaisance to me, began the King of *Great Britain's* Health, in a Crown-Glas (as they call it) or a Glas with a Cover, holding near a Pint, which went round, every Man delivering the Cover of his Glas to his next Neighbour, as a Token that he was to pledge him: Several other public Healths, relating to *Great Britain*, went round in the same Manner, which oblig'd me to return the Civility, by proposing the Emperor, the Senat, and several other Healths, which more immediately regarded them. Our Host was, indeed, so Complaisant to tell me, he had that Value for the *English* Freedom of Conversation, that I was entirely at my Liberty. However, as I had before tried both their Strength and my own, and found I was a Match for any of them; and, besides, believed it would be the only ceremonious Entertainment I should be present at, I resolv'd to see them out. By this Time, you may imagine,  
a good

a good Part of the Company were something more than merry, and were in a fair Way to be cut off from the Society, had not a Reprieve, in Form of an Invitation from Madam, to drink a Dish of Tea or Coffee, in her Apartment, come timely to their Relief.

We all immediately adjourned thither, and found our Hostess had been so Complaisant to invite a good Number of her Female Acquaintance, to make a mix'd Assembly. The Room, which was pretty spacious, was handsomly illuminated, and in the Middle of it was placed a large Table, cover'd in a beautiful Manner, with all Sorts of wet and dry Sweet-Meats, Oranges, and dried Fruits. The Tea and Coffee was prepar'd at a large square Table, in one of the lower Corners of the Room, where three Servant-Maids, in decent and becoming Habits, stood ready to serve the Company. The first Ceremony, which consisted of taking each of the Ladies by the Hand, instead of saluting them, being over, every one sat down, as Inclination or Chance led them, empty Chairs having been, as I imagin'd designedly, left between the Ladies for that Purpose. And now began the most diverting Scene I had been present at, since my Arrival in this Country. The Gentlemen being most of them pretty warm, and of Course amorous, began to make their Address'es, each to the Lady nearest to him: but it was on their Side in a forced and affected Strain of Courtship, an odd Composition, between innocent Freedom, and bridled Assurance, and was received, on the other Side, with a shy Reservedness, and, at the same Time, forward Compliance, a Motly of Sanctity and Libertinism, like those Dames whimsically described by *Hudibras*,

*Who, with one Hand, thrust Woer from,  
And with the other pull him home;*

all

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all which together, made the Conversation a perfect Comedy. Amidst this Diversion, I had, however, the Mortification to find, I was gaz'd upon as the only Fool in the Company, for being a Stranger not only to the ceremonious Part of their Conversation, but, in a great Measure, to their Language. I imagine I behaved like a Country-Knight, among a Parcel of Gossips at a Christening, or a young Squire, just removed by his Mammy, from the Nursery to the Visiting-Room; not knowing whistlet or how to direct my Discourse. At Length, an agreeable young Lady, in whom I had observ'd an *Air dégagé*, which the Ladies in this Country are perfectly unacquainted with, made an Excuse to go out of the Room, and when she return'd, her Place being taken, sat herself down by me, and ask'd me, in *French*, how I liked the Company. I soon perceiv'd she was a *French* Woman, and that she was ready to burst for want of an Opportunity of unbridling her Tongue, and giving Vent to the Observations I found she was brim-full of; I soon gave her Ease, by beginning with some I had made, after which she disembogued with all the Freedom I could wish, and I was as open on my Side. You may easily imagine, hardly any of the Company escap'd our Censure, either for their Persons, Dress, or Behavior. Among other Singularities, I could not but observe one that to me appear'd very whimsical, which was, that as well the Ladies as the Gentlemen not only drank to one another's Health in Tea and Coffee; but wish'd it to one another, at the Cutting of an Orange, or eating a preserved Pear or Plum. As our Conversation was pretty free, I imagin'd my Behavior might, without Offence, be the same, and once offer'd to salute my the Friend; but met with a civil Rebuke, and was told, that however, ready she might be to allow of that Liberty, and  
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think it no Stain to her Character, yet, with Respect to others, it would cast such a Blemish upon her Reputation, as might deprive her of the future Conversation of her own Sex: “ But (continued she) observe a little the Behavior of these precise Prudes, who condemn a Kiss in public, whatever they may do in private, as a Scandal to Society; see what Liberties they allow the Gentlemen to take with their Hands, Arms, Laps and Waists; What familiar Hugs and close Squeezes; and judge by their Gesture, the wanton Roll of their Eyes, and the affected Simpering of their Lips, whether they are those cold, insensible Ladies, they would appear to be. I am mistaken (added she) if you Gentlemen would not find an easier Conquest with one of these prim Creatures, than with the merriest singing, dancing, prattling Dame in *Paris*, or the most forward Romp, in *England*.

WE spent our Time, in this Manner, ’till we were summon’d again to the former Apartment, to Supper, whither the Ladies accompanied us. This Repast was cold, and consisted very properly of some of the superfluous Dishes, which were not touched at Dinner, with the Addition of a Couple of *Westphalia*-Hams, a Sort of *Bologna* Sauzages, which they eat raw, and Lobsters. Supper being ended, as we were pretty near an equal Number of both Sexes, and all seemingly inclined to be merry, I took the Liberty of proposing a Fiddle, and a Country-Dance: Our Host was unwilling to refuse me any Thing; nor durst he (as I afterwards heard) comply with my Request. A profound Silence therefore ensued, and the whole Company seem’d thunder-struck at the Proposal; but my agreeable *Damoiselle*, whom I had taken Care to keep by my Side, and design’d her for my Partner, smiling, told me, that the Squeak of a Violin, or

an Outcry of Murder, were equally terrible to the sanctified Sinners of this City; that a Dancing-master, if any should venture among them, would be esteem'd a more dangerous Animal than a Town-Bull; that neither Music nor Dancing were allow'd by their Priests, even at Weddings, and that when any had been so bold to break thro' this sacred Rule, they have been sure to be censured from every Pulpit, and to be avoided by their Neighbours, at least publicly, as People of abandon'd Principles, with whom it would be dangerous to converse. I was glad to withdraw my Proposal, and the Ladies soon after retiring, the greater Part of the Company got innocently drunk, rather than to involve themselves in the Guilt of dancing to the Tune of a Fiddle. Before we parted, one of the Company invited us all to dine with him, the next Day, where we were entertain'd much in the same Manner; and this second Feast was productive subsequently of a third, a fourth and a fifth, and would probably have gone the whole Round; but as I found myself in Danger of being kill'd with Kindness, at the fifth Entertainment, I call'd for a large Glass of Wine, and drinking a Cup of Thanks to the whole Company, declar'd that I had taken a Place in the *Hamburg* Post-Waggon, for the next *Saturday* (it being then *Thursday*) being obliged to be, the *Monday* following, in that City. It was with Difficulty they consented to part with me so soon, having formed several Parties of Pleasure for my Entertainment: But finding my Resolution fix'd, at my pressing Instances, they at Length consented to except of my Foy, the next Evening, at the Cellar; 'till when I have lock'd myself up to write you this Letter, and, as my Travelling-Companion was obliged to leave me some Days before, I have actually bespoke a Place in the Post-Waggon, which departs to-morrow, about Noon,

Noon, for *Hamburg*; from whence I will trouble you, soon after my Arrival, with the Continuance of my Adventures, being in the mean Time, as ever,  
Sir, &c.

*P. S.* I should have told you, that, between the second and third Entertainment, I made an Elopement for three Days, to see the ancient and famous City of *Oldenburg*, which is but five *German Miles* from this Place. In my Way thither, a *German Mile* from *Bremen*, I pass'd thro' *Delmenborst*, the Capital (such a one as it is) of a County of the same Name; but now little more, than a poor miserable Village. It was built by *Otto* the II, Earl of *Oldenburg*, in the Year 1247, on the River *Delme*; and belong'd to that County, 'till the Year 1334, when, by Agreement between the two Brothers, *John XI*, and *Christian IV*, it fell, together with a certain District of Land, which from the Town was call'd the County of *Delmenborst*, to the Share of the latter. It was once united to the Bishopric of *Munster* for a Time, but being restored to the House of *Oldenburg*, remain'd so 'till both Counties fell to the Crown of *Denmark*. In 1711, it was mortgaged to the Elector of *Hannover*, but redeem'd with Part of the Money King *George* paid that King, for the Duchies of *Bremen* and *Verden*.

*OLDENBURG* is a pretty large City, on the River *Honta*, which falls into the *Wejer*, fortified with a Wall and a Ditch, the Capital of a fine and ancient County in *Westphalia*, which was known by that Name, in or soon after the Time of *Charlemain*; *Walpertus*, Earl of *Ringelheim*, Grandson (or as some Historians will have it, Nephew) \* of *Wittekind*, who died in the

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\* This Difference in History proceeds probably from the Uncertainty of the Signification of the *German Word Enckel*, which is used indifferently to signify either Grandson or Nephew.