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in Greek, and analogized for any slips or improprieties that might be found in the language, upon the account of his being a Roman, Cato called him a trifier, for choosing to do that which, after he had done it, he was obliged to ask pardon for doing; and the same remark may perhaps be admitted as becoming, offer itself here. One apology however may perhaps be admitted as becoming, for this juvenile, indeed puerile undertaking: I began it at a time when, from a concurrence of unexpected incidents, I found myself in very embarrassed circumstances, and when other means of subsistence were scarcely adequate to the calls of the day; labouring under these disadvantages perhaps candour will make large allowances. Men of affluence and leisure may, when they find themselves in the vein, feel a gratification in their literary pursuits and productions, but the needy must toil, they have not the opportunity of availing themselves of the lucky moment when recollection is lively, and when materials are collected and matters duly put in order; at that very instant perhaps they are called off by indispensable avocations, and irrecoverably lose their pleasing or favourite little arrangement. Perhaps this also will be farther admitted as an apology: the information or entertainment of youth, and of those who have not leisure or inclination for minute research in the records of history or the volumes of creation, was attempted in this work rather than the amusement of the accurate observer, or man of learning. To conclude, I feel and acknowledge myself obliged to my friends, who, from motives of benevolence, have subscribed to this work; and I hope those who have been influenced by incitements of curiosity may not be disappointed, for the design is extensive, however feebly it may be executed.

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John Walker.

P. S. In one particular instance a variation from the manuscript has happened at the press, contrary to my intentions, and this calls for an explanation, which perhaps may make me appear to some rather whimsical or singular; but which, however, I think necessary for the ease of my own mind. Men in high stations of life have flattering titles bestowed on them, inasmuch that these at length are accounted a part of their real names: if we divest the names of the accompanying titles, it is but a few of them that would be generally recognised in repeating them, and sometimes indeed the title only is known. Convinced as I am in my heart of the evil and indecency of bowing to or flattering a fellow-worm (it is easy to avoid the form but I believe a happy attainment to be removed from the spirit of it) it would be wrong in me to address men by their titles rather than their proper names; and in speaking of them, or directing to them, I would wish only to make use of the title as far as it may tend to useful information, and then not to give it as a part of the name but as the office; or if the title seem chiefly complimentary to express it so that it should be understood not as my own language, but as the fashion: thus where the word Sir occurs in this work I had written, "the Sir," meaning the Sir of the Herald's Office or the Sir of the people at large who have agreed to call the man by that title, for instance, in the manuscript there occurred "the Sir Philip Sidney," "the Sir Hans Sloan," "the Sir William Alexander," &c. there are other expressions also besides those of Mr, Sir, Lord, &c. which appear to me as flattering titles; these are the names of trades or stations in life which are accounted genteel, and sometimes even the most friendly terms of appellation when embodied with the surname to avoid the mention of the proper name. Days, Months, Planets, &c. have received names which originated in idolatry; and in describing the solar system I have expressed them thus, the Saturn, the Jupiter, the Mars, &c. not at all thereby meaning the men Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, &c. who lived many ages ago and were afterwards idolized; but the Saturn, the Jupiter, the Mars of astronomers who have not yet given to those planets any other names.