

with others, so other people are miserable or happy, compared with us.

Such a virtue is it to be silent, that he who understands nothing is deemed wise so long as he holds his peace.

No one thinks that he owes us anything, who hath borrowed our time; when this is the only thing which even a grateful man cannot repay.

What the vulgar make light and easy by long suffering, the wise man softens to himself by long meditation.

To do all things as under the eye of some good man always present; and when you have made so great a progress as even to reverence yourself, you may dismiss your tutor.

He that willingly receives a command takes off the severest part of servitude. Not he that is commanded is wretched, but he that does a thing unwillingly.

As for charity, it is never to be expected from a covetous man, who dreads to lessen his own heaps, more then to starve his poor neighbour.

If we consider the excellence and dignity of nature, we shall quickly find how shameful it is to dissolve into a luxurious softness and delicacy; and how becoming, on the other side, to live frugally, temperately, gravely and soberly.

He is not brave and strenuous, who shuns labour, but he whose mind gathers strength from the difficulties that surround him.

The honour and comfort of parents consist in a numerous offspring which degenerates not from the ancient virtue of the family.

A fool, like a beast, is no sooner provoked but he grows angry; and which is worse, it appears immediately in his countenance, words and actions; whereas a prudent man is not unseemingly transported by his passion, but stifles his resentment even of the most reproachful injuries.

It is much more tolerable not to acquire, than to lose; and therefore you see these men more cheerful whom fortune never took any notice of, than those whom she hath deserted.

Men in great place are thrice servants: servants to the king; servants of fame; and servants of business.

In war it is of more consequence what sort of soldiers you command, than how many.

We should often turn our thoughts upon ourselves; and look into that part of the wallet which men commonly sling behind their backs, that they may not see their own faults.

The life of the retired, indeed, is more easy and more safe; but the life of those that apply themselves to the affairs of govern-

ment is more beneficial to mankind, and more conducive to glory and renown.

Learn to distinguish what nature hath made necessary, and what is superfluous; what easy laws she hath enacted; and how grateful and pleasant life may be to those who obey them; but how severe and intricate to those who rather trust to opinion than to nature.

Exile is terrible to those who, as it were, stint themselves to one dwelling-place; but not those who look upon the whole globe as one city.

Perfect reason is the proper good of man. Other things are common to him and brute animals. Is he strong? So are lions. Is he beautiful? So is the peacock. Is he swift? So are horses.

The mind attains not virtue but by instruction and continued exercise; to this indeed we are born; and in the best of men, without study and application, there is the ground of virtue, but not virtue itself.

Whatever is probable in appearance, though not altogether certain, yet if nothing offers to destroy that probability, the wise man will take up with it; and this is sufficient for the whole conduct of life.

Some studies are called liberal, because they are worthy of a man who is free born; but there is only one study that is truly liberal, the study of wisdom, sublime, strong and magnanimous; all others are trifling and puerile.

They who have nothing else but the images of their ancestors are noble in opinion more truly than in fact; but he that is endued with virtue has true and genuine nobility.

We cannot otherwise conceive of God than as a Spirit, absolute, free, perceiving and moving all things, and ended Himself with everlasting motion.

Of all gainful professions, nothing is better, nothing more delightful, nothing more worthy a man, even a gentleman, than agriculture.

Praise not thyself, which is both indecent and imprudent; but take care to do praise-worthy things, which will force commendation even from strangers.

To preserve health we must use moderate exercise, and so much meat and drink as may repair the strength and not oppress it; but we must not support the body alone, but the mind and spirits also; for these are extinguished by old age, like a lamp when it is not supplied with oil.

As he is a fool who when he is going to buy a horse inspects only the bridle and saddle; so is he most foolish who esteems a man from his dress or condition, which is a sort of dress.

If it happens to any to be gently dismissed by old age, not suddenly torn from life, but