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hopes to be able to establish a mutual interchange of knowledge, and to effect a friendly literary intercourse among all nations; by which man shall come gradually to know, to esteem, to aid, and to benefit his fellow creatures wherever he finds them. The human heart is nearly the same at all times; and it is perhaps alike susceptible of piety, beneficence and generosity among all people, if errors that too often pervert the understanding were eradicated. The proper business of philosophy is to eradicate those errors which estrange mankind from each other, and to extend the sphere of beneficence among men wider and wider still, till it shall comprehend every individual of the human race. Should the editor of this work be enabled to establish the foundation of this system of universal civilization, he would reckon himself singularly fortunate indeed; and think that he had accomplished one of the most glorious achievements that can fall to the lot of man to perform. Animated with this hope, his exertions have been great; and he trusts they will not in future be unworthy of the object he has in view. He is happy in being able to say, that he has been more fortunate in forming connections with men of eminence in the literary world than he had any reason to expect; and were he here to mention the names of those who are to honour him with their correspondence, it is hard to say whether it would most expose him to be censured as vain, or bring his veracity in question. Suffice it therefore at present only to say, that there is scarcely a civilized nation on the globe in which he has not a reasonable assurance of having some confidential correspondents, on whose knowledge and zeal in the cause of science he can fully rely. It is indeed to that ardour for knowledge among them that he is solely indebted for the favourable countenance he has obtained. Into all nations, therefore, where the English language is in any way known, this work will probably find its way; and of course it may be expected that the useful discoveries, or literary essays of ingenious men, will have a better chance of being generally read, and the writers of them made known among men of letters, if inserted in it, than perhaps in any other publication. To give this work, therefore, the full value of which it is susceptible, the editor warmly solicits communications from ingenious men of all nations. Brevity and originality in *scientific* disquisitions, utility with respect to *arts*, accuracy and the most scrupulous fidelity in regard to *experiments*, nature and truth in the delineation of *real life*, and elegance in polite literature and the *belles lettres*, are what he chiefly wishes to obtain. Though utility shall ever be his chief aim, he is well aware, that to be able to accomplish this aim, it is necessary that the work should be as agreeable as possible. Dry and intricate details, therefore, it shall be his study to avoid. To polish the manners and to humanize the heart, he believes to be the first steps required in an attempt to inspire a taste for literary excellence, and to excite exertions for attaining the highest perfection in arts. This he hopes to be able to effect, by a careful selection of elegant dissertations, characteristical anecdotes, entertaining tales, and lively sallies of wit and humour, that shall be naturally calculated to awaken the attention of youth, and to