

THE SCRIBBLER.

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Alteri vivas oportet, si vis tibi vivere.—SENECA.

Wouldst thou live for thyself, live also for others.

Fabula narrator, toto notissima celo.—OVID.

The tale I tell is known to all the world.

Illa nisi in lecto nusquam potuere doceri.—OVID.

For curtain-lectures, tho' begun in strife,
End as they ought between a man and wife.

It is remarked by Dr. Johnson that the promises of authors are like the vows of lovers. Happily, for the republic of letters, he did not, by his own conduct, exemplify the observation; nor did, I believe, any literary engagement he ever came under remain unfulfilled. Following as much as possible the excellent example of so great a man *haud passibus æquis*; I will endeavour to avoid incurring the reproach which gave occasion for his observation; and, considering that we have now entered upon a new year, first wishing my subscribers and patrons all that they themselves can reasonably wish; (and an over-ruling Providence knows full well that to grant the unreasonable wishes of mankind would be to destroy all their happiness, both here and hereafter;) I take old Time by the forelock, and celebrate the excellent ancient custom that exists in this country; for all the world to visit all the world on New Year's day. This custom cements the bonds of society, tends to reunite them where they are broken, and to display a species of equality between the various ranks which is gratifying to