

and present State ; and 'twas in this View I drew up, from *Purchas's Pilgrim*, an accurate Abridgment of a very curious Tract, viz. *the Patriarch Bermudez's Relation of the Expedition of the Portugueze into Abyssinia*. These, with some other Pieces which I may add afterwards, will form the Text of the ensuing Volumes.

The Notes with which this Work is interspersed, are of a very miscellaneous Kind, historical, geographical, critical, &c. as each will shew ; and I have always taken care to quote my several Authorities.

To return to the *Lettres édifiantes & curieuses*. As the geographical and other Particulars found in them, are intermix'd with a long Detail of the Miracles, as well as of the Conversions which the Jesuits declare they make in their Missions ; it was necessary for me to expunge all Incidents of this Kind, (those excepted, here and there, which I presumed might entertain) such appearing quite insipid or ridiculous to most *English* Readers ; and indeed to all Persons of Understanding and Taste.

However, this gave me no little Trouble, of which those only could be fully sensible, who should compare my Extracts with the Originals. These would perceive the Pains I must necessarily have taken, in making Choice of such Particulars only as I imagined were useful or entertaining ; for which Reason I sometimes took only one, two, three or more Lines from different Parts of a Page ; when omitting sometimes ten, or more, Pages together, I connected these several Extracts, without solsting in any Thing of my own, which I can affirm I have not done once. It must be confess'd, that this may seem to be of no Advantage, in one Respect, to the Originals: However, had some of the Translators and Compilers of the six justly celebrated Volumes of Voyages and Travels, printed for *Churchill*, &c. (not to mention