

gled glade, and diffuses its balmy fragrance with the same profusion in the lonely desert, as in the polished garden, where it ministers to the delight of admiring princes. Not so the *man*. His soul, formed with a relish for the superior enjoyments of society, if suffered to pine in neglected obscurity, loses its vivifying principle: its ardent brilliancy fades; and it is soon deprived of all those valuable qualities which might render it either agreeable or beneficial to mankind. Whatever, therefore, shall have a tendency to remove this evil, and to open a ready intercourse between these valuable characters and congenial minds, will confer a very important blessing on mankind.

Such was the general train of reasoning that suggested the idea of the present work: Nor does the editor scruple to own, that the pleasure he has felt in anticipating the happiness he may thus eventually be the means of procuring to many deserving persons who are now lost in obscurity, and in contemplating the benefits that will probably result to the community at large from the revivification of so much genius, which now lies dormant and useless, have tended greatly to incite him to attempt the present arduous undertaking; and have influenced him in adopting the particular form of this work, the mode of its publication, and the price at which it is offered to the public, as being better adapted than any other he could think of, for removing the inconveniences pointed out, and for diffusing knowledge very universally among those classes of men who are at present excluded from the literary circle. Its *form* is such as will easily admit of its being kept clean and entire till it can be bound up for preservation: The *time* that will intervene between the publication of each number will be so short, as not to allow the subjects treated in one to be lost sight of before another appears: answers to queries may be quickly obtained; and contested discussions will thus acquire an interest and a vivacity that cannot be felt in publications that are longer delayed: Nor will those even in the busiest scenes of life find any difficulty in glancing over the whole at leisure hours; and the *price* is so exceedingly moderate as to bring it within the reach of even the most economical members of the community. Thus, he hopes that this performance will become an interesting recreation and an useful instructor to the man of business, and an agreeable amusement during a vacant hour to those of higher rank.

Nor does the editor confine his views to Britain alone. The world *at large* he considers as the proper theatre for literary improvements, and the whole human race, as constituting but one great society, whose general advancement in knowledge must tend to augment the prosperity of all its parts. He wishes, therefore, to break down those little distinctions which accident has produced to set nations at variance, and which ignorance has laid hold of to disunite and to render hostile to each other such a large proportion of the human race. *Commerce* hath naturally paved the way to an attempt, which *literature* alone could not perhaps have hoped to achieve. British traders are now to be found in all nations on the globe; and the English language begins to be studied as highly useful in every country. By means of the universal intercourse which that trade occasions, and the general utility of this language, he