

boats durst go off to him; and, in the morning after the storm, nothing was to be seen but the bare rock, the light-house being gone, in which Mr. Winstanley, and all that were with him, perished: And a few days after, a merchant ship, called the Winchelsea, homeward bound from Virginia, not knowing the light-house was down, ran foul of the rock, and was lost with all her lading, and most of her men. But there is now another light-house built on the same rock, by the corporation of Trinity-House, in pursuance of an act of parliament passed in the fifth of Q. Anne.

As Plymouth lies in the bottom of this sound, in the centre between the two waters, so there lies against it, in the same position, an island, called St. Nicolas; on which is a castle that commands the entrance into Ham-Ouze, and in some measure that into Catwater. On the shore, over-against this island, stands the citadel of Plymouth, a small but regular fortification, inaccessible by sea, but not exceeding strong by land; tho' they say the works are of a stone hard as marble, and would not soon yield to an enemy's batteries; but that is a way of talking our modern engineers laugh at. It is surrounded with a deep trench, out of which was dug the stone that built the whole citadel, which is about three quarters of a mile in compass, and has 300 great guns on its walls, which stand thickest towards the sea. Several guns are also planted on part of the old fort, lying almost level with the water; all which gives the greatest security to the ships in the harbour.

The town stands above the citadel, upon the same rock, and lies sloping on the side of it, towards the east; the inlet of the sea, called Catwater (which is an harbour capable of receiving any number of ships, and of any size) washing the eastern shore of the town, where is a kind of natural mole, or haven, called Sutton-Pool, with a quay, and all other conveniences for bringing in vessels to load and unload; and indeed the trade carried on here is not inconsiderable.

The other inlet of the sea is on the other of the town, and is called Ham-Ouze, being the mouth of the river Tamar, which parts the two counties of Devon and Cornwall. Here, the war with France making it necessary for the ships of war to have a retreat nearer hand than at Portsmouth, K. William ordered a wet-dock, with yards, dry-docks, launches, and conveniences of all kinds, for building and repairing of ships, to be made. These wet and dry-docks are about two

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miles up the Ham-Ouze; and, for the neatness and excellency of the work, exceed all that were ever built of the kind, being hewn out of a mine of slate, and lined with Portland stone. The dry-dock is built after the mould of a first-rate man of war, and the wet-dock will contain five of the same bigness. These were of course followed with the building of store-houses and warehouses for the rigging, sails, naval and military stores, &c. for such ships as may be appointed to be laid up there, with very handsome houses for the commissioner, clerks and officers of all kinds used in the king's yards, to dwell in. It is, in short, now become as complete an arsenal, or yard, for building and fitting out men of war, as any the government are possessed of, and perhaps much more convenient than some of them, tho' not so large; and this has occasioned a proportional increase of building to the town.

Plymouth, during the civil war, adhered to the parliament, and, by an obstinate resistance, did more harm to the royal cause than any other town of the west; the king's army being obliged to raise the siege after lying before it several months. K. Charles II. well knowing its importance, built a fort on the brow of the hill, called the Haw, which at once commands the town, and is a defence to the harbour. Here are two fine churches, and two or three meeting-houses for Dissenters, and French refugees; as also a free-school, and an hospital for blue-coat boys.

To cure the Bite of a MAD DOG.

TAKE six ounces of rue, clean pickled, and bruised in a mortar; four ounces of mithridate, or Venice treacle; four spoonfuls of tin, or of the best old pewter, scraped, raised or filed. Boil them in two quarts of ale one hour, in a close pan covered, over a gentle fire: Then strain it off from the dregs, and give of the decoction, three mornings successively, fasting, to a man eight or nine spoonfuls warm; to a beast give it cold; three or four spoonfuls to a dog, hog, or sheep.

N. B. This decoction must be taken within nine days after the bite.

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— *Quicquid Græcia mendax
Audet in historid.* — JUN.

AS the French have lately introduced an entire new method of writing history, and as it is to be presumed we shall be as ready to ape them in this, as

In all other fashions, I shall lay before the publick a loose sketch of such rules as I have been able hastily to throw together for present use, till some great and distinguished critick may have leisure to collect his ideas, and publish a more complete and regular system of the modern art of writing history.

For the sake of brevity, I shall enter at once upon my subject, and address my instruction to the future historian.

Remember to prefix a long preface to your history, in which you will have a right to say whatever comes into your head: For all that relates to your history may with propriety be admitted, and all that is foreign to the purpose may claim a place in it, because it is a preface. It will be sufficient therefore, if I give you only a hint upon the occasion, which if you manage with dexterity, or rather audacity, will stand you in great stead.

Be sure you seize every opportunity of introducing the most extravagant commendations of Tacitus; but be careful how you enter too minutely into any particulars you may have heard of that writer, for fear of discovering that you have only heard of them. The safest way will be to keep to the old custom of abusing all other historians, and vilifying them in comparison of him. But in the execution of this, let me entreat you to do a little violence to your modesty, by avoiding every insinuation that may set him an inch above yourself.

Before you enter upon your work, it will be necessary to divest yourself entirely of all regard for truth. To conquer this prejudice may, perhaps, cost you some pains; but till you have effectually overcome it, you will find innumerable difficulties continually obtruding themselves to thwart your design of writing an entertaining history in the modern taste.

The next thing is to find out some shrewd reason for rejecting all such authentick papers as are come to light since the period you are writing of was last considered: For if you cannot cleverly keep clear of them, you will be obliged to make use of them, and then your performance may be called dull and dry; which is a censure you ought as carefully to avoid, as to contend for that famous compliment which was paid the author of the History of Charles XII. by his most illustrious patron, who is himself an historian, *Plus beau que la verité*.

I am aware of the maxim of Polybius, "That history void of truth, is an empty shadow." But the motto of this paper may serve to convict that dogmatist of

singularity, by shewing, that his own countrymen disfavoured his pretended axiom even to a proverb. Tho' we may allow truth to the first historian of any particular æra, the nature of things requires, that truth must gradually recede in proportion to the frequency of treating the same period; or else the last hand would be absolutely precluded from every advantage of novelty. It is fit therefore, that we modernize the maxim of Polybius, by substituting the word *wit* in the place of *truth*; but as all writers are not blessed with a ready store of wit, it may be necessary to lay down some other rules for the compiling of history, in which it is expedient, that we avail ourselves of all the artifices which either have been, or may be made use of to surprize, charm, sadden, or confound the mind of the reader.

In treating of times that have been often written upon, there can be no such thing as absolute novelty; therefore the only method to be taken in such cases, is to give every occurrence a new turn. You may take the side of Philip of Macedon against Demosthenes and the obstinate republicans; and you will have many instances to shew how wantonly whole seas of blood have been shed for the sake of those two infatuating sounds, *liberty* and *religion*. It was a lucky hit of an English biographer, that of writing the vindication and panegyric of Richard III. and I would advise you to attempt something of the like nature. For instance: You may undertake to shew the unreasonableness of our high opinion of Q. Elizabeth, and our false notions of the happiness of her government. For as to lives and characters, you have one principal rule to observe; and that is, to elevate the bad, and depreciate the good. But in writing the characters of others, always keep your own (if you have any value for it) in view; and never allow to any great personage a virtue which you either feel the want of, or a notorious disregard for. You may question the moral character of Socrates, the chastity of Cyrus, the constancy of the martyrs, the piety and sincerity of the reformers, the bravery of Cromwell, and the military talents of K. William: And you need never fear the finding authorities to support you in any detraction among the writers of anecdotes, since Dion Cassius, a grave historian, has confidently asserted that Cicero prostituted his wife, trained up his son in drunkenness, committed incest with his daughter, and lived in adultery with Cærellia.

I come next to ornaments ; under which head I consider sentences, prodigies, digressions and descriptions. On the two first I shall not detain you, as it will be sufficient to recommend a free use of them, and to be new if you can. Of digressions you may make the greatest use, by calling them to your aid whenever you are at a fault. If you want to swell your history to a folio, and have only matter for an octavo (suppose, for example, it were the story of Alexander) you may enter into an enquiry of what that adventurer would have done if he had not been poisoned : Whether his conquests, or Kouli Khan's were the most extraordinary : What would have been the consequence of his marching westward ; and whether he would have beat the duke of Marlborough. You may also introduce in this place a dissertation upon fire-arms, or the art of fortification. In descriptions you must not be sparing, but out-go every thing that has been attempted before you. Let your battles be the most bloody, your sieges the most obstinate, your castles the most impregnable, your commanders the most consummate, and their soldiers the most intrepid. In describing a sea-fight, let the enemy's fleet be the most numerous, and their ships the largest that ever were known. Do not scruple to burn a thousand ships, and turn their crews half scorched into the sea ; there let them survive awhile by swimming, that you may have an opportunity of jamming them between their own and the enemy's vessels : And when you have gone thro' the dreadful distresses of the action, conclude by blowing up the admiral's own ship, and scattering officers of the greatest birth and bravery in the air. In the sacking of a town, murder all the old men and young children in the cruellest manner, and in the most sacred retreats. Devise some ingenious insults on the modesty of matrons. Ravish a great number of virgins, and see that they are all in the height of beauty and purity of innocence. When you have fired all the houses, and cut the throats of ten times the number of inhabitants they contained, exercise all manner of barbarity on the dead bodies. And that you may extend the scene of misery, let some escape, but all naked ; tear their uncovered limbs ; cut their feet for want of shoes ; harden the hearts of the peasants against them, and arm the elements with unusual rigour for their persecution : Drench them with rain, benumb them with frost, and terrify them with thunder and lightning.

If in writing voyages and travels, you

have occasion to send messengers thro' an uninhabited country, do not be over-tender or scrupulous how to treat them. You may stop them at rivers, and drown all their servants and horses : Insect them with fleas, lice and musquitos ; and when they have been eaten sufficiently with these vermin, you may starve them to a desire of eating one another ; and if you think it will be an ornament to your history, e'en cast the lots and set them to dinner. But if you do this, you must take care that the savage chief to whom they are sent, does not treat them with man's flesh ; because it will be no novelty : I would rather advise you to alter the bill of fare to an elephant, a rhinoceros, or an allegator. The king and his court will of course be drinking out of human skulls ; but what sort of liquor you can fill them with, to surprize an European, I must own I cannot conceive. In treating of the Indian manners and customs, you may make a long chapter of their conjuring, their idolatrous ceremonies, and superstitions ; which will give you a fair opportunity of saying something smart on the religion of your own country. On their marriages you cannot dwell too long ; for it is a pleasing subject, and always in those countries, leads to polygamy, which will afford occasion for reflections moral and entertaining. When your messengers have their audience of the king, you may as well drop the business they went upon, and take notice only of his civilities and politeness in offering to them the choice of all the beauties of his court ; by which you will make them amends for all the difficulties you have led them into.

I cannot promise you much success in the speeches of your savages, unless it were possible to hit upon some bolder figures and metaphors than those which have been so frequently used. In the speeches of a civilized people, insert whatever may serve to display your own learning, judgment or wit ; and let no man's low extraction be a restraint on the advantages of your education. If in an harangue of Wat Tyler a quotation from the classicks should come in pat, or in a speech of Muley Moluch a sentence from Mr. Locke, let no consideration deprive your history of such ornaments.

To conclude, I would advise you in general not to be sparing of your speeches, either in number or length : and if you also take care to add a proper quantity of reflections, your work will be greedily bought up by all members of oratories, reasoning societies, and other talkative assemblies of this eloquent metropolis.