



PERKINS LIBRARY

Duke University

*Rare Books*





THE  
EXCELLENCY  
OF THE  
**FEMALE CHARACTER,**  
VINDICATED.

---

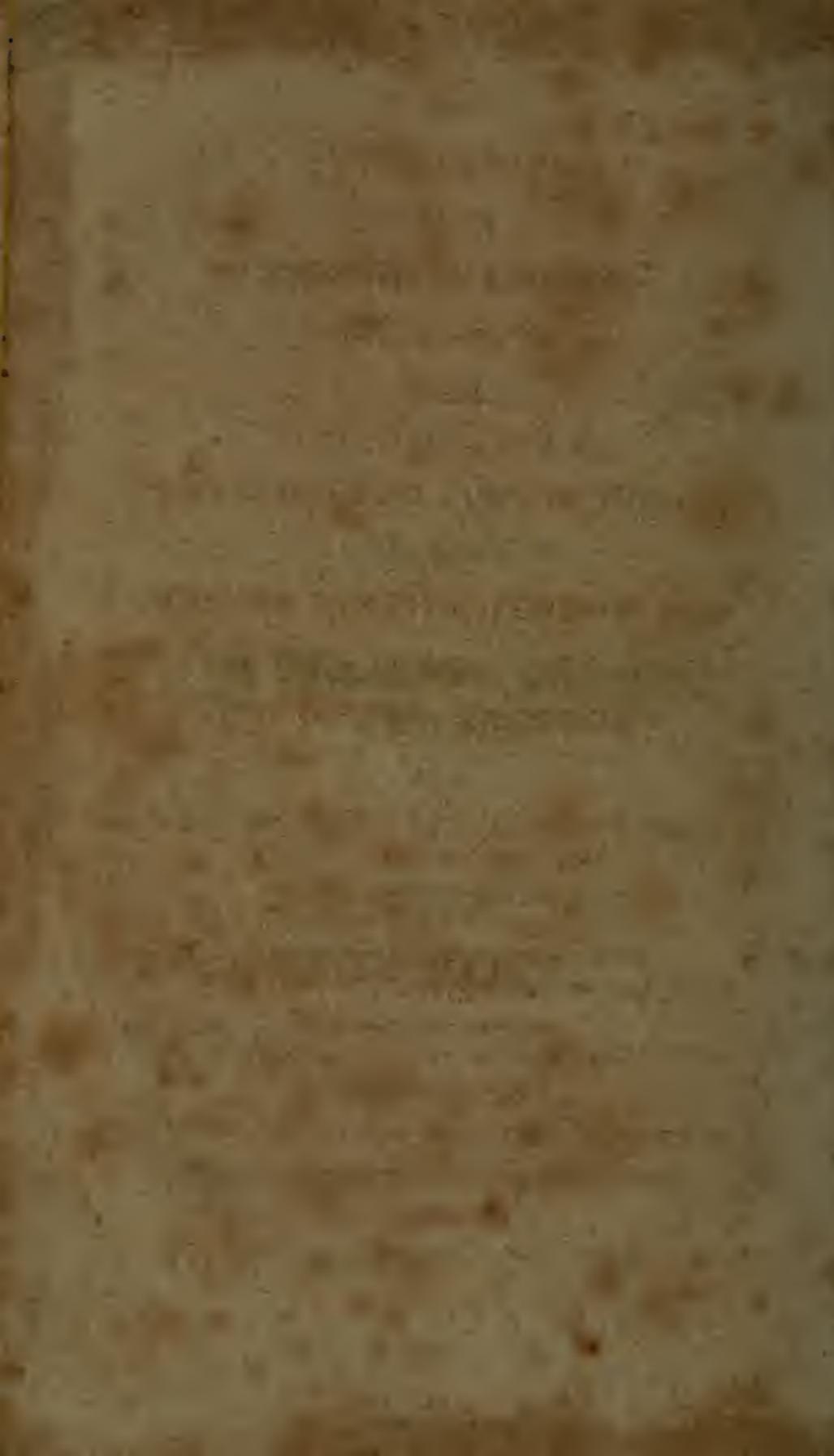
---

PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS.

---

---

THIRD IMPROVED EDITION.



THE  
EXCELLENCY  
OF THE  
**Female Character**  
VINDICATED;  
BEING  
AN INVESTIGATION  
RELATIVE TO THE CAUSE AND EFFECTS  
OF  
THE ENCROACHMENTS OF MEN  
UPON  
THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN,  
AND  
THE TOO FREQUENT DEGRADATION AND CON-  
SEQUENT MISFORTUNES  
OF THE  
**FAIR SEX.**

---

PRINTED FROM THE SECOND EDITION.

---

By the Author of the "Beauties of Philanthropy."

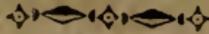
---

HARRISBURG:  
PRINTED BY FRANCIS WYETH.  
1828.



E  
RBR  
B816E

## EPISTLE DEDICATORY.



ALL that need be said in favor of the subsequent work, (and which should be a sufficient recommendation to entitle it to the patronage of every friend to female virtue, and especially such parents as intend their children to be their comfort in life and an honor to them after their decease), is, that it is intended as a counterpoise to those vile and vulgar publications which are continually teeming from our presses, and which secretly instil the most destructive moral poison into the minds of the rising generation, and eventually prove the destruction of thousands of the giddy, the volatile, and the gay. There is no doubt but that this performance (if parents would, judiciously, put it into their children's hands) would not only prove an antidote to obviate the influence of such pernicious publications, but also incline the juvenile mind to pursue, admire, and gain the intrinsic virtue, *that pearl of great price*, which alone can adorn the sex, and which is infinitely superior to beauty, riches and fame, or even honors, sceptres, and crowns, for "beauty unchaste, is beauty in disgrace." In order to prove the authenticity of the above assertion, I would ask, what is a female crowned with beauty, honor, and riches, without virtue? I answer, like the painted sepulchre, beautiful without, but rottenness and putrefaction within; what is she without *information*? I answer, no better than the wild Indian who traverses the banks of the Osage. But to reverse the question, what is a real virtuous and pious female, adorned with personal beauty and intellectual acquirements? She is no less than the glory of man, the ornament of nature, the favorite of Heaven, and the daughter of Jehovah himself. Another cogent cir-

## ADDRESS.

circumstance I would suggest, which should irresistibly stimulate parents to put such performances as this in their daughter's hands, and that is—a thousand snares on every side (in addition to injurious books) are laid to entice them from the flowery paths of virtue, even while their parents live, and more especially after their death. In order to demonstrate the fatality of parents neglecting this precaution, witness the thousands of incontinent females who crowd our cities, of all ranks and of all ages, many of whom are the degenerate children of the most respectable parents, and who, through paternal neglect, are the pests of society, instead of being the virtuous mothers of respectable and honorable families. Finally, the present performance is enriched with the most elegant selected (and some original) poetry, in order to make it an entertaining as well as valuable acquisition to the fair sex, for whose benefit it was composed, and to whom it is dedicated with the most profound respect and veneration, by their real friend, and humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

## ADVERTISEMENT.



THERE is no doubt but many inaccuracies will be discovered by the microscope of criticism, in the subsequent desultory performance. Even the most superficial observer may descry inadvertent tautology; the author has seen this himself when perusing his manuscript, but he found it difficult to correct it. He was unwilling to obliterate the sentiments alluded to, which were, of course, reassumed, with considerable variations; and, at any rate, were of such importance, as to induce him almost to conclude, they could not be too often repeated, in order to inform the minds, and reform the hearts, of the persons he was solicitous to benefit. He conceived it not only excusable, but, in some respects, necessary to repeat sentiments intrinsically momentous and intimately connected with their present and future welfare. The author's phraseology and animadversions will prove, to a demonstration, that, so far from courting the literary fame, which authors in general are so enamoured with, he turns his back, not only on this intellectual vapour, but even on the road that leads to popularity. His primary object, nay, the happiness, the only heaven he desires to anticipate here, or enjoy hereafter, is in pleasing his munificent Creator, gaining his approbation, promoting his glory, and the real happiness of mankind. With respect to

literary acquirements, he professes (contrary to the general mode of his cotemporaries) to be a novice, as it respects the radical rules of composition; and, as such, acknowledges his work to be beneath the notice of intelligent and candid critics, who he hopes will consider the subject matter of this performance, and not the arrangement of words, and to whose superior discernment he submits it with the most humble and distinguished deference. But, at the same time, the snarling critic and literary debauchee, who may be inclined to retail their customary aspersions, and, with the satanic grin of envy, endeavor to invalidate a work that lays the axe to the root of their villainies; though the author would look upon such with a glance of pity, as persons who facilitate their own ruin, and enhance their own infelicity (for there is no vice so capable of rendering a human being so completely wretched as envy;) yet their illiberal animadversions and malevolent aspersions, he treats with the smile of contemptuous disregard; and he thinks it is consistent with his moral duty, to treat, with a total and deserved neglect, the scurrility of such ingenious calumniators. The author humbly acknowledges that he has been indifferent to the systematical arrangement of this publication; because he is well assured that those who oppose the popular vices of the age, will be reprobated with their works, however elegant or correct they may be, by the votaries of fashion; and plain honest people will be as well pleased with unadorned and unaffected admonitions, as if they were illustrated with the flowers of rhetoric, the embellishments of tancy, and the refinement of composition. Yet he has been exceedingly solicitous to introduce no matter in this performance, but what is (to say the least of it) calculated to promote the best interests of the human family. He, therefore, earnestly hopes, that his female readers will attend, seriously attend, to his admonitions, which are eventually connected with their present honor and future glory!! Finally, he would recommend to their

solemn consideration, the subsequent beautiful and appropriate lines of Robert Burns:

“The sacred flame of well plac’d love,  
Luxuriantly indulge it,  
But never tempt th’ illicit rove,  
Tho’ nothing should divulge it;  
I wave the quantum of the sin,  
The hazard of concealing,  
But Oh! it hardens all within,  
And petrifies the feeling.”



# PREFACE.



I THINK, I am correct, when I affirm, that no subject, at the present crisis, can be exhibited for public inspection, more deserving serious attention than the present: and at no period of the world has the subject before us called more loudly for consideration than it now does. Will any man have the effrontery to deny this assertion, or to suggest a contrary sentiment; when it is considered, that on the female part of society, at first, devolves the important care of the rising generation; those who must be the defenders of our natural rights, the supporters of our valuable privileges. It is they who form the mind to think, who first *“teach the young idea how to shoot,”* when it is most susceptible of impression. It is they who possess charms to captivate the wisest and enamour the best of men; to lead monarchs in golden chains, and even decide the fate of nations. It is they who may be considered the most superlatively amiable, and transcendently charming part of the architecture of the Eternal. It is they, to use the emphatic language of a scriptural writer,

“Who have borne the king and all the people that bare rule by sea and land. Even of them came they; and they nourished them up that planted the vine-yards from whence the wine cometh. These also make garments for men, these bring glory unto men; and without women cannot men be. Yea, and if men have gathered together gold and silver, or any other goodly thing, do they not love a woman which is comely in favor and beauty? And letting all those things go, do

they not gape, and even with open mouth fix their eyes fast on her; and have not all men more desire unto her than unto silver or gold, or any goodly thing whatsoever? A man leaveth his own father that brought him up, and his own country, and cleaveth unto his wife. He sticketh not to spend his life with his wife, and remembereth neither father nor mother nor country. By this also ye must know, that women have dominion over you: do ye not labor and toil, and give and bring all to the woman? Yea, a man taketh his sword, and goeth his way to rob, and to steal, to sail upon the sea and upon the rivers; and looketh upon a lion, and goeth in the darkness; and when he hath stolen, spoiled and robbed, he bringeth it to his love. Wherefore a man loveth his wife better than father or mother. Yea, many there be, that have run out of their wits for women, and become servants for their sakes. Many also have perished, have erred and sinned, for women. And now, do you not believe me? Is not the king great in his power? Do not all regions fear to touch him? Yet did I see him and Apome, the king's concubine, the daughter of the admirable Barticus sitting at the right hand of the king, and taking the crown from the king's head, and setting it upon her own head: she also struck the king with her left hand. And yet for all this, the king gaped and gazed upon her with open mouth: if she laughed upon him, he laughed also: but if she took any displeasure at him, the king was fain to flatter, that she might be reconciled to him again. O, ye men, how can it be but women should be so strong, seeing they do thus?"\*

Finally, it is with them that the most profound politicians, the wisest statesmen, the most invincible champions, the greatest generals, the ingenious artists, and even pulpit orators, spend, on an average, two-thirds of their most happy and pleasurable moments. Then,

---

\*Esdras, iv. 15—32.

is it of no importance to inform the mind and establish the virtue of women; to erect ramparts, in order to stop seduction in its mad, and too successful career; shut the floodgates of temptation which modern fashions have opened; shelter female innocence from the innovations of libertinism; and, finally, nurture the smallest bud of their juvenile virtue to its full blossom, and thereby promote individual tranquillity, domestic felicity, national prosperity, and the honor and happiness of posterity.

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

