



Remarks.

On Homer's Plan of Troy in a Letter from
Rome to James Dawkins Esq;

Dear Sir.

The fate of this letter is entirely
submitted to your judgment; your known respect
for the publick and approved tenderness for me would
sufficiently justify such confidence, were it necessary
to give reason for consulting you about the disposal
of your own property, but to avoid a disengaging
air of compliment in a mere act of duty I must
prevent your expectations of finding much more
here than our joint observations when we read
Homer together on the Scamandrian plain, how far

they

They may by my management have been rendered unworthy of the publick and you, is injustice left to your decision; could I hope they might be half so entertaining to others as the recollection of the friendly conversations which produced them is pleasing to my self, I should be very little solicitous about their reception -

Of all the Authors which the different objects of our curiosit made necessary in our eastern voyages, you know we found none of such general use as Homer, who either as poet, painter, Historian or Geographer, was ever our faithfull fellow-traveller giving us frequent opportunities of observing that in those different Capacities he of all writers has kept closest to nature and truth.

I had long proposed to my self much pleasure in considering his Map of Greece upon the spot and wished much for an opportunity of following Ulysses, Merelanus and Telemachus,

through

through the scenes of their various Adventures, the Satisfaction I had in visiting the Antient Kingdoms of Phaeacia and Ithaca was what I had in a great measure promised my self, nor was I much surprised to find that the Poet's Sailing observations had often furnished him with the same epithets - which a Pilot would have remarked, so much

that if we should from different passages add his knowledge of winds and currents, he would, of all poets (meer Geographers excepted) furnish the least imperfect Sea Chart of the Mediterranean.

You'll perhaps think me whimsically fond of my Subject, and smile at my converting the Old Bard into a Pilot, and his Poem into a Sea Journal to restore him therefore to his true Character let me beg you'll recollect how far our expectations were exceeded in finding the meer Poeticall beauties of the Iliad and Odysie grow upon us in proportion to Our progress through the Countries of the Poet and his Heroes, if you has

not quite so much of that agreeable surprize it was -
for reasons you won't own, a more intimate
acquaintance with Homer and Poetry had -
taught you that he is the most Original of
all writers and the most constant Copyer of
real life, that the happiest Poetical imitation
is that which produces the most striking
likeness out of Circumstances which tho'
essentially concerned in constituting the resom-
blance, are so minute that they escape notice
if the Copy and Original are not compared, and
from that comparison you reasonably expected
new beauties -

If this be so, don't we see another reason
why the Poet owes more of his reputation
to the Iliad than the Odysseus, vizt. that these are
more Judges of the first, where he excites terror
and pity by such general and invariable
pictures of human nature as appeal to the
feelings of all Countries and Ages, while in
the last, where instruction in the duties of
private

private life is intended, bedivells more or parti-
cular views of various Countries, Men and Manners,
interspersed with such frequent Allusions to the
established Religion and familiar Customs of
the heroic ages as are only known in his
Copy or in Countries where he is not read.

Our judgment in that case must
be directed by that unaffected enumeration of
natural circumstances which true genius
observes in all Works of imitation, the mere
manner of which not only discovers that the
picture is taken from life, but that it is
like; from this genuine air of truth it is that
Judges in painting venture to pronounce a
likeness of a Copy to an unknown Original,
and upon the same principles Homer is called
natural and pleasing even in descriptions
of what we have not seen, but in both
cases he enters most into the true spirit
of performance who is best acquainted with
what is imitated.—

For

For this reason the reader who would do the Poet justice and himself pleasure, should approach as near as possible to the time and place, when and where he wrote, we are told the Lacedemonians admired him tho' he describes Athenian Manners, if then he had beautys at Athens, which were not relished at Sparta, what must an English reader lose -

I may perhaps take another opportunity of shewing the great resemblance I think I have observed between the present manners of Arabia, those of the old testament and of Homer, by which I think it will appear that the Poets Manners in general still subsist in the East preserving that genuine character of nature and simplicity which we admire in the Iliad and Odysse -

But the Material objects of his description come at present under our consideration, they best admit of this comparison on the spot, and still continue to bear more striking Testimony

Testimony of his Accuracy; not only his more durable
Rock, Hills, dale, Water &c, shew by the strict
propriety of his epithets how faithfully they have
been copied, but even his more changeable Land-
skip of flowery mead, verdant plain, wood and
Fountain; may even his sketches, of Agricul-
ture and Tillage, his Corn, Wine and Oyl agree
surprisingly with the present face of the Country

If this unexpected resemblance be thought
strain'd and Imaginary, I Beg you'll consider the
similar state of Arts and Husbandry in that
Country now and in Homer's time, by which
only I can account for the great likeness in the
appearances of two such distant periods, I doubt
much his descriptions of this kind would not have
bore so well the same test about two thousand years
ago, when the face of nature wore an Artfull
Study'd dress, very different from that negligent
dishabille in which Homer and we found her.

But while these considerations, which
might be carried much further, shew the
inexhaustable

inexhaustable fund of Entertainment which an Eastern traveller may expect from Homer, they lead us beyond our present purpose, which is only to consider him as the father of Geography, a title he has perhaps as just a right to as that of the father of Poetry —

It is impossible to make the tour of the Mediterranean with Homer, and not observe that he was a traveller and not difficult to discover that the traveller was an Ionian or of the neighbourhood of Troy, our reasons for this opinion will give some Idea of the general use we made of this Author —

If we view his map of the World I think we may observe that the first impressions he received of the different parts of it were taken at this spot and that he frequently considers things under the perspective which they bear to this point of view when he is not expressly geographical as in his map of Greece and Asia.

The

The Poets Speciosa miracula are the growth
of Countries remote from Ionia, if Egypt and
Phoenicia notwithstanding their distance are
not made the scenes of any thing of this sort,
it is that they were too well known the one
for Trade and Arts and the other for its fertility
and police to have admitted any description
which did not coincide with this established
Character, while the Southern Coast of Italy
and Sicilly as well as the Kingdom of Alei-
nous tho' not so distant were less frequented,
not only the Adriatick seems to have been
little known even to the Phoenicians from the
danger of the Italian Harbourless Coast on
one side and the Repugnant genius of the
Inhabitants of Dalmatia in all ages on the
other, but even the Jonian Sea seems to
have been neglected in the Heroic times
from so bad a Neighbourhood.

If it was without design that the Hero of his own
Poem

Poem was chosen from this extremity of Greece, it was at least a happy accident that of all those who went to Troy his Country was most distant from Ionia for both his Adventures in Ithaca and the Manners of the Phœcians have much the air of far fetched tales While these places, most distant from Ionia, or having least intercourse with it are described in the style of a Traveller, the parts in its Neighbourhood are not proposed as Objects of express description in themselves, but appear as known Circumstances negligently introduced by the facts to which they relate

On the contrary when Virgill is geographicall with regard to the Troade it is with that reverence & attention to the spot which its distance and classicall fame has raised, has he known Troy as well as we must suppose Omer did, and had he been as well acquainted with the Temple of Jove and the Cypress tree as the Hero's servants must

must have been, we perhaps should not have been obliged
to hear his description of both in the midst of our con-
cern for his escape from an implacable enemy and a
Town on fire, may we not address the Poet here in the
Language of his friend, *Sic sincere Cypressum at*
non erat hic locus, —

But what seems to declare most in our favour
is that the Poet sometimes inadvertently addresses
himself to his countrymen by describing things in
a manner not intelligible to the reader who don't
place himself on the coast of Ionia or of the
Islands near it, Thust to place the Locrians beyond
Ithaca would have been as false geography at Athens
as it is the contrary at Chios or Samos, and is a —
strong presumption against the pretensions of the
first to his birth, as it is favourable to the claim
of the latter —

The situation of Ithaca is marked quite
agreeably to the Idea which so Eastern a part of
Greece

Greece as Ionia must have conceived of a Country which probably terminated their Navigation towards the setting sun, but if we consider that Ulysses makes this description to the inhabitants of an Island still West of Ithaca, don't it discover a Blunder of the Poets which he was led into by that natural tendency we have to consider other Countries under the relation they bear to our Home.

Another example of the same oversight is I think evident in the 15 book of the Adyse, where Eumeus describes his native land Syria to Ulysses in Ithaca, as situate beyond Ortigia towards the setting sun; if we admit this as an instance of the same sort of Negligence in Homer by which he inadvertently considered Ortigia here under the relation it bore to Ionia, the passage becomes intelligible and we get rid of the laboured absurdities of much learned conjecture from which those lines have hitherto received new perplexity.

This

This evident inattention in Homer is much more excusable if what is generally believed of him be true vizt. that he sung his verses to his countrymen which becoming by that means more the entertainment of a publick Audience than of private Study, required of course a scenery more adapted to the spot where he recited a new paragraph, Similes in Poetry as they generally consist of an appeal to the most familiar occurrences of private life, naturally point out not only the state of Government, Manners and Arts, but the Condition and Country of the Poet, I shall confine my self to one instance purely geographical.

Homer of all Poets abounds most in Land-skip, but if we would do justice to his perspective, we must take the point in view from whence he made his drawing, thus when in the beginning of the 9th. book he composes the destruction of the Greeks to a storm, he presents us with a real, not an imaginary sea-piece, which no doubt he had often seen, Boreas Leptyses &c — this picture is in all its circumstances just if viewed from the Ionian coast

Coast, and to shew it from any other would be as unfair as to ask judgment of a Clause or paragraph upside down -

And yet in this very manner has Homer been treated in the false criticism of Solosthenes upon this passage (to which Lusatius long since gave an obvious answer) he won't allow the West Wind to blow from Thrace, by considering the one a Jorian and the other an Athenian, we see why the poet is accurate and the critick absurd -

Notwithstanding what we have observed of the Poets making distant places the objects of express description and leaving those in his neighbourhood to be picked out of the action and open gradually with the story it will I believe appear that he was so perfectly well acquainted with the ground about Troy, that he must have carefully visited it and had a distinct and lively idea of the scene of every minute action, but as we cannot

cannot know the sciamandrian plain but by going thro
the Iliad with that view, his accuracy in this respect
has been more talked of than pointed out, we could
not expect it from his superficial readers, and those
of real taste have been too much engrossed by his great
beauties to attend to his smaller ones, and could
not so far forget the Poet as to consider the Iliad
merely as a narrative of what passed at the siege
of Troy during 53 days of the tenth and last
Campaign, and it is so hard for a person who
possesses any of Homer's fire to read him as a
mean Journalist, that to this only I can impute
Mr. Pope's Ignorance of the scene of Action by
which his Translation has so much suffered -

If under the direction of more patience and
less fancy I can rescue Homer from the imputa-
tion of errors not his own, and bring more under
the Observation even of a cursory perusal of the
Iliad its surprising consistency as to time and
place, it will be doing justice to the Author and
pleasure to his Admirers without offence to that
respect which is due to the Memory of his Poetical
translator

translator, with this view let us observe the same method we followed in Polmgra and Belice of giving things in their present and Antient state leaving the reader to judge upon what Authority we build the latter, I hope in this case there will appear no difference between the Antient and modern map, but what the probable Alterations which may have happened in the face of this Country in 3000 years will account for.

July the 25th 1750 we anchored under the Sigaan Promontory in our return for Constantinople and going ashore at the mouth of the Scamander were informed that the Country, which is often infested with Banditti, was then so quiet that we might with great security travel to the source of that river, upon which, having hired guides and horses and brought ashore our tent, servants and Provisions necessary, we performed in a fortnight the Journey which I have traced on the map to shew the reader at once the Order of our discoveries without troubling him with the tedious formality of a journal.

It

It not only appears evident that Homer had very carefully visited the ground which we have described, but I think it highly probable that he took the opportunity of collecting at the same time many useful anecdotes relating to the siege from the descendants of Aneas, who I suppose, in his time, inhabited this spot -

This Opinion, which would have been a sort of heresy as well as high treason at Rome in the days of Augustus, is now become a matter of indifferent speculation and we may without offence consider it as such, adding some remarks with regard to Virgil's conduct under this difficulty.

Aneas, a distant Relation and no favorite of Priam, by extraordinary fortune survives all the children of that Prince, and from a state of dependance and disgrace, becomes heir to a very fine Country, but whimsically abandons the certain and peaceable possession of his right for the precarious & dangerous pursuit of the property of others -

Whatever

Whatever Virgil's real Opinion of his Hero was,
he thought it so natural that his Enemies should
consider him in this light. That he makes them
hold a language implying both the Absurdity &
Injustice of such conduct which he constantly
resolves into a Submission to the divine Will —
over the rule of his minutest actions, through the
Poem, *Arius agitur diu*, is the account he
gives of leaving his own Country and City —
much the same Apology is made to Satineus for
desiring a Settlement in his, both answering
with great propriety the grand purpose of the Poet,
who insinuating to a superstitious people a
favourable Idea of a late change of Government,
takes the artfull way of establishing its credit
by connecting the Interests of the Civil and Re-
ligious constitution, and with that view marks
strongly in his Hero's Character all pious duties,
particularly resignation, our present inquiry affects
in no manner the Poet's Judgment in the choice
of

and immediate conviction of every reader, where and
where he wrote -

Virgil felt the importance of this passage; his
management upon the occasion is worth Observa-
tion, we discover in it his respect for Homer's Autho-
rity in a most artfull evasion of it, he inserts the
very prophecy we have mentioned, putting the
words of Neptune into the mouth of Apollo, and by
changing only one syllable in a word he converts
the strongest Authority against Aneas's Voyage
to Italy into a Testimony for it -

Hic domus Aenea arietis dominabitur ovis
Utrati notorum & quin as centur ab illis B.3.14.97.

There remains still a strong objection to
Aneas's Voyage, the colony he is supposed to have formed
retained no marks of their Trojan Origin either
in their Religion, Language, Manners or customs,
or even their Name, tho' their establishment in
Italy was made by force -

The Romans were perhaps of all Nations
be

be least sensible of this Objection, as no people
was ever less bigotted to their own customs, nor
has more successfully experienced the good effects
of adopting what was usefull among their con-
quered enemies, yet so unaccountable a neglect of
their Mother country and so singular and so pro-
bable a compliment to the Inhabitants of
their nees conquest, could scarce escape even
their notice, the Poet thought proper to screen
this paradox from examination by recourse to the
common remedy in Poetical distress, a decree of
Jupiter is produced, who ordains at the request of
Juno that —

The Amsonians ever shall remain the same
In customs, Garb, Religion and the name &c
I should suppose the Authority of the Antients,
confirmed by Our own observations on the spot,
sufficient to putt this matter past doubt, has
not a very learned Man denied, with regard to
Egypt and the Nile, what we here affirm, of the
Troade & Scamander & that upon Principles
equally

equally applicable to both;— his opinion may be worth a short digression, which will be the more excusable as I hope it will induce a vindication of Homer's character as a geographer
— in a Passage of the *Odyssæ*, where his best Friends have abandoned him as inexcusable
— In the account which Menelaus gives Telemachus of his Adventures upon the Coast of Egypt out the Situation of Phacos,

Amidst the Wavy sea an Isle there is
Opposite Nile, Phacos by name
distant from thence what space a hollow ship
marks in One day with well fill'd Sails

Homer has been accused of a gross mistake in putting so great a distance between Egypt and an Island which was well known to be within half a mile of its Capital in the time of the Ptolemys and Romans

Give me leave to Observe that the barren Coast of Alexandria upon which the Island Phacos

Phœnos was formerly situated made no part of Egypt in the time of Homer, nor has it been owing to the increase of the Delta that it is since become so. The Port of Alexandria was an obvious inlet to the Country, and for that reason Rhacotis was built here and garrisoned in the ancient jealous spirit of Egyptian Policy to exclude strangers where Alexandria was afterwards built for the contrary purpose of intercourse and commerce.

This observation would I think in a great measure justify Homer even had he placed Phœnos a days sail from Egypt, but he is misrepresented for

Tho' the name of Nile might have been known to Homer (as we find it in Hesiod) yet it is certain he makes use only of the name Egyptos to signify as well the River as the Country and in the lines here quoted the distance mentioned of one days sail is expressly between Phœcos & the river, the principal embouchure of which is placed by the most ancient accounts in the middle of Delta, of course about 100 miles from Phœcos.

Phocos, quite agreeable to the Poets account, I have
made the voyage of Menelaus and comparing the
account of it in the Odyssse with my own Observations,
thought both the length and dangers of it perfectly
just.

But Bockart not only denies the Delta's acquiring
any increase by the Nile, but asserts in general that
the agitation of the sea must prevent any Rivers -
producing such an effect by dissipating the mud or
other materials which the current may bring down
& preventing its accumulating so as to form Land -

It is surprising how far the commentators and
translators of Homer have been governed by an in-
solent and servile submission to this Arbitrary
decision so contrary to the experience of all ages. There
(here note) are facts so undeniably attested by travel-
lers and historians, that it is needless to oppose -
Stronger testimony to our hypothesis, which it
seems Bockart was led into by injudiciously
applying

applying observations made upon the coast of Alexandria, where the Nile has little or no influence to the Delta and other coasts where it so manifestly has -

The every reader must have observed with what important variety to the Iliad its business is carried on by the joint attention of Gods and Mortals, yet few seem to have considered the actions of his Divinities as liable to the mortal circumstances of time and place, we don't so curiously look for accuracy in mere fable, where we are apt carelessly to admire only the licentious beauties of a most luxuriant fancy broke loose and exerting in boundless liberty, -

This indulgence the Poet stands in no need of in him we see exact bounds to poetical as well as historiall truth, I think I can see much more of the latter than is generally allowed in his writings, tho' indeed he has so judiciously subjected -

Subjected both to certain general Laws of consistency
that it is hard to say exactly with regard to his facts
Where the Historian ends and the Poet begins.

But I now speak of the unquestionable Childs
of Fancy, Poetry and Homer call'd his Machinery,
in considering which I would recommend to the
reader to set out with a precise Idea of the respec-
tive situations of Olympus, the Scamandrian
plain, Troy & Mount Ida before he forms a judg-
ment of what we may call Homer's Celestial
Geography, I think he will find it bear exami-
nation, and that if in the frequent shifting of
the scenes between those places he has been
carried from Heaven to Earth and from Earth
to Heaven without seeing his road, it has been
his own fault & not the Poets, who by his judi-
cious management of those plausible
Minutiae gives even extravagance the specious
drefs of probability, he may also observe with
what punctuality Mercury and Iris discharge

their

their duty and with what propriety the station
of each God is allotted to him either as Actor or
spectator, Jove never appearing nearer the scene
of Action than Mount Ida suitably to the signi-
ficiy of the father of Gods and Men, while Inferior
Dignities interfere more promiscuously, even
in the field of battle -

Virgil's Machinery won't bear being consider-
ed in this light, his Gods make their appearance
without our knowing so particularly how &
from whence they come, and their introduction
is more in the spirit of true Religion than true Poetry,
His Admirers might perhaps Attribute this to his
Stoical Principles, but I should chuse neither to
compliment his judgement nor charge his
Imagination with the defects of his scene of
Action, Homer's great happiness in a Pictures-
que Country as well as a Poetical Religion has
not been sufficiently attended to, nor do I know
that it has been at all observed how much he
and the old Poets owe the last advantages to the
first

first, it was in Greece alone that the Religion
of Egypt was successfully modelled to the pur-
poses of Poetry and there only it produces that
fancifull mythology which no strength of Imagi-
nation could have effected in its Mother country,
or improve in any other, the Classicall travel-
ler, who visits Egypt, Greece and Italy, keeping
in his mind the former Progress of Superstition
through the same countries, will easily be
convinced of this

Homer thus possessed of the Geography
as well as Religion of Poetry which he so
effectually establishes that his successors
have been obliged, tho sometimes awkwardly
enough, to adopt both, and every spot round
Troy being sacred either by the birth, habi-
tation or Adventures of Gods and Hero's, his
Management in chusing and shifting so
beautifull a Scenery ready to his hand was a
matter

matter of less difficulty to him than to Virgil, whose
grand scene of action not having yet acquired
any Classicall Reputation excluded him from
all such Advantage in the last six books of
his Poem, his Gods are from Greece, his Shep-
herds from Acadia, and his Swans from Cayster,
if Diana dances it must be on the banks of
Lynchos & if &c -

However while the Greek Poet has the
advantage of the Roman, here, we must in
justice observe the allowed Superiority of the
latter in the most compleat System of Ancient
Imperial Geography extant.

As Troyas been so much misplaced by
travellers, the mistakes of those, who had not
been on the spot, are not to be wondered at, I cannot
perhaps better shew the use I intend by the subject
in which I am engaged than by observing how
injurious

injurious to Homer this Inattention to his Geography
has been even in his best friends Vandomiers;
Let us first shortly shew how his Catalogue has
suffered by it, in which there is so much Poetry
and at the same time so much Geographical
accuracy that I am not surprised Mr. Pope
should be diffident of Success in that part of
his translation, in which he thought there
were but two ways to please Viz^t by rendering
the versification very flowing and Musical
and by making the whole appear as much
a Landskip or piece of painting as possible,
his success in both under the confinement of
rhyme and a less harmonious language is
a strong instance of his powers of Numbers,

But tho' the Translator did here all that
could be done in English and in rhyme, yet
we cannot look upon his Catalogue without
eye

lye to antient Learning (to use his own words)
and as the most valuable piece of history &
geography left us of that early period of Greece,
when every epithet in Homer should be religi-
ously preserved as a short description of the
country, pope, by leaving out some, changing others and
adding a great many, gives us a new map of his own,
destroying by that means the very merit which he
has pointed out himself to the reader,

Graa and spacious Micollissus in the Ori-
-nal become by translation,

Graa near the main
& Micollissus ample piney plain.

The rhyme requires that Graa should be near the
Main in the first line and Micollissus is obliged to the
Measure for her pine trees in the second.

The translator acknowledges the Liberties he
takes and says it is not without sufficient
Authority from the ancients, but those Authorities
only

only shew the state of Greece some hundred years after
Homer's time and loses all the value which the map
has a title to by its antiquity, where the additional
 epithet of the translator, tho' from more modern
authorities are less changeable, the liberty is more
pardonable as in

High Thessaly and Mosetes plain
and fair Alqina circled by the Main

where the description tho' not Homer's, have proba-
bly always been and still continues to be true, but to
meddle with the changeable circumstances of pos-
ture tillage or wine is less excusable and when pope
says that those two places were famous.

for flocks by thea, by lissa for the vine
and talks of those who plow the spacious Orchomen-
ian plain, it is substituting the state of that
country in the time of Plutarch and Statius (his
Authorities) to that of Homer, who only gives the
names of those places.,,

Into

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into what a florid profusion of finery does the
translator spin out the single epithet of noble
given the Leptifinus

From those rich regions where leptifinus bears
His silver lument through the flowery meads
and with that additional ornament is the penus
Leafy pelion dress'd out in four lines

where pelion crown'd with piney boughs
obscures the glade & mous his shaggy brows,

Or where this flowery Tempe penus stray'd
The regions sheath'd beneath his mighty shade

This is indeed painting, but as little like Homer,
as Kattan is to Seelwater Rosa; in short Pheter
is green, Lilia fair and Cynos sick, without any
Authority from the Original, Anemonia has
her stately shivering turrets, Torphe her sylvan
seals, Atylus her low Wells, & caught her
Imperial Towers from Pope not from Homer,

But it is still harder upon the poet to be
made

which no imaginable disposition of the ground
can account for.

Thus, where W^r. Pope supposes the Greeks
had not passed the river before the beginning of
the sixth book, but had fought on that side near
the fleet, he takes away all probability from that
episode in the third book where Paris and Helen
see the Grecian leaders so distinctly from the town
wall as he describes their persons.

But the Translator's mistake in
representing differently the same spot, in differ-
ent parts of the poem is a more excusable error
than where his descriptions are contradictory in
the compass of a few lines as in B. C. where
in his picture of Achilles asleep we are shown

The great Achilles stretcht along the shore
where dash'd on rocks the broken billows roar,
the in two lines after we are told that

Along the grass his languid members fall
and yet after all when he wakes we see him
starting from the sands —

Give this subject to a painter, Homer's sleeping Achilles makes a good piece, but how is the Translator's prevarication to be managed on canvas; & what is to be done with the Hero's Rocky, Grassy, sandy couch; and how much must he be distressed about the colouring of the Hero's Rocky, Grassy, sandy couch!

Thus while the Poet, by seizing only the most characterizing circumstances of the object he paints, leaves us in full possession of truth and reality, his translator over studious of crowded ornament either weakens the expression by too high finishing, or entirely destroys it by contradictory images, of the last sort is his description of the sea in the Odyssse, which in the compass of two lines is both the

foaming flood &
the level surface of the deep,
I should not have troubled you with the last example had it been my own, but I am glad to

know it from a Critick of Randonne and Mr. Pope's friend
as an Apology for the Liberties I take with so great a Man,

As for some contradictions which I meet with
between the translation and notes it is but fair to
consider them as the work of different persons neglig-
ently indeed put together, Hector's eagerness to vindic-
ate his brother's honour so happily expressed in the
Originall B: 3: 6: 11² is thus made out between
the translation and note upon it, He stays not to
reply to his brother but runs away with the challenge
immediately,

with steps Majestically slow

I shant trouble you with several instances
of the same sort which I could produce, it is disagree-
able to dwell upon such little inadvertencies which
I offer, not so much to condemn the translation as to
justify the Original, where the probability may
sometimes be offendes, yet we never meet with
that careles contradiction of circumstances which
Poetry and history equally disclaim, The Poet who
makes tripods walk &c dont like Dacier bring the
Greeks

Greeks to Intrenchments not yet made, nor
like pope launch a kefel already a float -

Before I take leave of my subject allow
me to observe that the same circumstances to which
Homer owes so much his preeminence in Poetry
justly procured him considerable rank as a Philo-
sopher; viz, that every thing in him is a carefull
copy from nature and real life and to this it was
that he owes the edge of a judicious ancient who
formed in him a more compleat and more just
System of morality than in Chrysippus or Cato,
I doubt much if any discoveries in philosophy
since Florace's time should lessen the Authority
of a judgment which does so much honour to
Homer and human Nature, it is with satisfac-
tion that I observe in so great a Master of life,
instead of the peevish caraceturas of some recluse
theory, such amiable sketches of the human
heart as prevail even in the Iliad and much more
in the Odysse, a shocking mixture, tis true, of folly &
vice

vice and meet with, enough to put us out of humour with the Poet & ourselves, did he not impartially throw in a predominant portion of the social virtues, by which I see and you feel the picture like -

However tedious this letter may appear, I own a partiality for the subject, which makes me finish it with regret and unwillingly take leave of Troy, Homer and you, consoling myself however with this reflection, that as long as our short lived labours continue the object of any curiosity, so long Troy, Balbec & Polonyra will inform posterity that Hawkins was my friend -

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Cannell
Cannell





































































































