

The HISTORY of the

correspondence amongst all Virtuous and Wise men.

This Book had sooner seen the light, if part of it had not perish'd in the Fire. Of its use and accurate composition there is no man can doubt, that has ever heard the name of the Author: of whom, if I had not at first restrain'd my self from particular commendations, I might have said very much in his praise, which deserves to be known to all the World, and to be the first Experiment of his own Universal Language.

Their Li-
brary.

Having well succeeded in this their purpose of collecting divers patterns of all Natural, and Artificial things: they have also (amongst others) appointed a Committee, whose chief employment shall be to read over whatever Books have been written on such subjects. By this means they hope speedily to observe, and digest into Manuscript volumes, all that has been hitherto try'd, or propounded in such studies. This is the only help that an Experimentor can receive from Books: which he may still use, as his Guides, though not as his Masters. For this end they have begun a Library consisting only of such Authors, as may be serviceable to their Design. To this there has been lately made a great Addition, by the Munificent Gift of Mr. Henry Howard of Norfolk, who has bestow'd on the Society the whole Arundelian Library, containing several hundreds of choice Manuscripts, besides some thousands of other Books of all kinds. And because many of them belong'd to other Professions, this Noble Benefactor has given them with a free permission of changing them for others, that shall be more proper for their Work: Whereby they will shortly be able to shew a compleat Collection of all that has been publish'd

ROYAL SOCIETY.

publish'd in the Antient, or Modern Tongues, which either regards the productions of Nature, or the effects of all Manual Arts.

Nor is this the only bounty which this Illustrious Person has conferr'd on the Royal Society; since by the firing of London, the first place of their meeting has been restor'd to its original use, and made an Exchange, he has afforded them a retreat in his own house, where they assemble at this present: By which favour he has added a new honour to the antient Nobility of his Race: one of his Ancestors had before adorn'd that place with many of the best Monuments of Antiquity: And now by entertaining these new discoveries under his Roof, his Family deserves the double praise of having cherish'd both the old, and new Learning; so that now methinks in Arundel house, there is a perfect representation, what the Real Philosophy ought to be: As there we behold new Inventions to flourish amongst the Marbles, and Images of the Dead: so the present Arts, that are now rising, should not aim at the destruction of those that are past, but be content to thrive in their company.

It will not I hope be expected, that I should present my Reader an Index of all the Several Writings, which have at any time been publish'd by the Members of the Royal Society. I shall omit those, which either were printed before the beginning of this Institution, or which treat of matters, that have no relation to their Design. Only I will say in general, that there is scarce any Art, or Argument, which has ever been the subject of humane Wit, of which I might not produce Instances, that some Fellows of this Society have given good proofs of their labours in it: of those Discourses,