

**THOUGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE MANNERS OF THE GREAT TO
GENERAL SOCIETY; AND AN ESTIMATE
OF THE RELIGION OF THE RELIGION OF
THE FASHIONABLE WORLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649721092

Thoughts on the Importance of the Manners of the Great to General Society; And an Estimate of the Religion of the Religion of the Fashionable World by Hannah More

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HANNAH MORE

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MANNERS OF THE GREAT
TO
GENERAL SOCIETY.

"You are the Makers of Manners."

SHAKESPEARE.

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BY HANNAH MORE.

A NEW EDITION.

London:

PRINTED FOR T. CADDELL AND W. DAVIES, STRAND.

1809.

PREFACE.

It has often occurred to the Author, that it would furnish a fair subject for discussion, to determine whether it argues more vanity when a writer prefixes his name to his book, or when he publishes without it;—whether it implies more self-sufficiency to suppose that his name is of so much value as to attract readers to his work, or to trust so confidently to the merit of the

work itself, as to depend on its unassisted strength for making its own way.—In short, whether the presumption be greater in thinking better of himself, or of his book; and how the proportion of good opinion can be settled or separated.

This is a dilemma in which the writer of these pages has not seldom been involved, having not unfrequently indulged her vanity, or her humility, whichever it may be called, under both shapes, without being able to ascertain on which side the real difference lies. Nor can she decide which principle predominated in risking these two little

works anonymously, near twenty years ago, or in afterwards publishing them, with a name which she had little right to expect could confer importance on any performance.

There is, however, one decided advantage which belongs to the anonymous writer. He is not restrained from the strongest reprehension, and most pointed censure, of existing errors, by the conscious apprehension that his own faults may be brought forward. He is under no fear that his negligences will be opposed to his reproofs. He is not deterred from expatiating on the deficiencies of others, by the fear that

the reader may confront his life with his arguments.

Being now called upon by her Booksellers to unite these separate pieces into one volume, the Author cannot neglect so fair an occasion of expressing her gratitude for the very favourable reception which they severally experienced in their unacknowledged state, seven large editions of the first of these pieces having been called for in the course of a few months, and the whole third impression having been sold on the morning it was published, serve, among repeated instances of general favour, to increase her regret that the

merit of her writings have not borne more proportion to the indulgence with which they have been received.

May she venture to observe, without incurring the charge of over-rating her slight performances, that there is a point of view in which this success reflects no discredit on the public opinion? For, does it not evince that where the obvious aim of a writer is to promote the interests of Christian morals, the effort, however feeble, will be candidly accepted; nor will the deficiencies of the composition be allowed to defeat the honesty of the intention.

The lapse of years since the first