

**AN HISTORICAL AND
PHILOSOPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE BAROMETER, OR
WEATHER-GLASS**

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An Historical and Philosophical Account of the Barometer, or Weather-Glass by Edw. Saul

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EDW. SAUL

**AN HISTORICAL AND
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OF THE BAROMETER, OR
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A N
Historical *and* Philosophical
ACCOUNT
OF THE
BAROMETER,
OR
WEATHER-GLASS.

WHEREIN

The Reason and Use of that Instrument, the Theory of the *ATMOSPHERE*, the Causes of its different Gravitation are assign'd and explain'd.

A N D

A Modest Attempt from thence made towards a rational Account and probable Judgment of the Weather.

By *EDW. SAUL*, A. M. late Fellow of *Magdalen College Oxford*, and Rector of *Harlaxton, Lincolnshire*.

L O N D O N :

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TO HIS GRACE

J O H N,

*Duke of RUTLAND, Mar-
quess of GRANBY, &c.
Chancellor of the Dutchy of
LANCASTER, and Knight
of the Most Noble Order of
the GARTER.*

My Lord,

HE following Tract Your
Grace is entituled to up-
on many Accounts. It
was drawn up in Part above
Twenty Years ago, and design'd
for Your Amusement in Philoso-
phy, when I had the Honour of
living in the Family with You at
Belvoir; it has, at several Times,
A 2 been

The Dedication.

been talk'd over to Your Grace in Conversation, as Occasions offer'd: It was some time since presented to You in Manuscript, and now, with such farther Additions and Alterations, as, upon a careful Review, I found Reason to make, waits upon Your Grace from the Press.

I am very far, my Lord, from pretending herein to offer to Your Grace any Thing new, or extraordinary upon the *Barometer*; Mr. Boyle, Dr. Halley, and other Philosophers of Note, having, in a good Measure, anticipated what can be said upon it, and left little more to any subsequent Writers, than the Necessity of treading in their Steps, of building upon their Foundation, or perhaps, in some Instances, of giving some farther Light and Confirmation to those Principles they have lay'd down for the Explanation of it. Agreeably to which, what lies scatter'd and dispers'd in several Authors
and

The Dedication.

and Volumes, what I had formerly the Opportunity of Learning under Dr. *Keil* at *Oxford* ; what I have since, either seen, read, collected, or observ'd, of any Consequence, or Relation to the Subject, is here work'd up together into one consistent Scheme, and at one View submitted to Your Grace's Perusal.

THE Pleasure Your Grace takes in Speculations of this Kind, especially in such as are agreeable to Nature and Reason, is the best Apology I can make for the Freedom of addressing these to You ; but the real Motive that induces me to it, is rather to do Justice to Your Grace, in what the World must allow to be a very bright and distinguishing Part of Your Character.

IT is recorded, by *Plutarch*, of the Elder *Cato*, that he was well advanc'd into Years, before he enter'd upon the Study of the *Greek* Tongue ; or as the *Roman* Historian

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rian says of him, *Literarum Cupidissimus, earum Studium Senior arripuit; tantum vero in eis progressum fecit, ut non facile reperire possis, neque de Græcis, neque de Italicis Rebus, quod ei fuerit incognitum.*

A N O T H E R Instance of the like Nature is related of a famous Author of the last Century; who (being often puzzled and perplex'd by the inquisitive Temper of his Son, and ashamed of not being able to give him a rational and satisfactory Answer) betook himself to his Accidence at the Age of 44, and made so quick a Progress in his Studies, from so late a Beginning, that before he was 60 he had publish'd three or four *Folios* of Collections and Translations out of the learned Languages.

T H E S E, my Lord, and the like extraordinary Efforts of a superior Genius, are always mention'd with Marks of Esteem and
Appro-

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Approbation ; and as they are always previously grounded upon good Sense, attended with great Difficulties, and require an unweary'd Diligence and Constancy in putting them in Execution ; it must be, at the least, equally laudable, and highly for Your Grace's Honour, to exert and distinguish Yourself in the same uncommon Pursuits of Learning.

I N Your early Years, You had gone through the customary Forms of a fashionable Education, in acquiring a little Smattering of *French* and *Latin*, a general Inattention to Books, and Attachment to Sports : But this, my Lord, was a Scene of Life too Mean and Ignoble for Your Grace's active Soul to be confin'd in. Conscious of many heavy Hours hanging upon your Hands, You had Recourse to Musick, and made the most surprizing Progress in it. Conscious of the Want of a Fund of Learning