

**NOTICE AND EXTRACTS
RELATING TO THE LION'S HEAD,
WHICH WAS ERECTED AT
BUTTON'S COFFEE-HOUSE, IN
THE YEAR 1713**

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Notice and Extracts Relating to the Lion's Head, which was Erected at Button's Coffee-House, in the year 1713 by Charles Richarson

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CHARLES RICHARSON

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Servantur Magnis
isti Cervicibus Ungues
Non Nisi Delecta Pascitur
— Ille Ferá. —

*Exemplum de servandis
Cervicibus Ungues*

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RELATING TO THE

LION'S HEAD,

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BUTTON'S COFFEE-HOUSE,

IN THE YEAR 1713.

Hinc exaudiri gemitus, iraque Leonum.—Virg.

BY

CHARLES RICHARDSON, ESQ.

LONDON:
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

MDCCCLXXIII.

TO THE READER.

A PREFACE has sometimes been compared to the advanced guard of an army, which is sent forward to facilitate the progress of the main body. But it may with more propriety be likened to an avant-courier upon the Continent, who, immediately upon his arrival at an inn, begins to call the attention of the landlord and his servants, by loudly announcing, in the

most imposing manner, the name, rank, and ultimate destination of the coming travellers. In the same manner, a preface always demands or solicits your good opinion of that which it precedes. Either it boldly asserts the merits of the work it introduces to your notice, or, if more modest, it endeavours to lead you to the same conclusion by various plausible and indirect methods. Perhaps it will dwell upon the laudable intentions of the author, and point out the instruction or amusement which others may derive from his labours. Perhaps he feelingly insinuates his own poverty, and thus engages your charitable disposition in his favour. While at the same time, it never fails to draw

largely upon your judgment, by the most flattering appeals to your superior reason and capacity. But whatever course it pursues, its sole purpose is to excite your attention and curiosity, and interest your feelings in its favour; and when these objects are accomplished, it has done its duty, and like the avant-courier, cares not for the disappointment that may follow the expectations which have been raised.

As it has been the invariable custom for some years past, to prefix such a preface to every publication, the Author of the present Work has deemed it expedient that it should not go forth to the world without the usual accompaniment, in order that the pub-

lic may know his motives for writing the following pages. But here he feels that he is placed in a situation of some difficulty, since none of those reasons that have been alluded to, which induce and sometimes excuse a man indulging in the "cacoethes scribendi," will exactly suit his case. He certainly is not actuated by any desire of obtaining literary distinction, neither can he expect that much instruction or amusement will be extracted out of his "Lion's Head," nor can he plead the hope of alleviating the pressure of the "res angusta domi," which, indeed, if it were existing, this publication would be much more likely to increase than diminish.

The fact is, that by the death of a

parent, he became possessed of the curious relic of the days of Addison and Steele, which it is the object of these pages to illustrate. With the Lion's Head, and a finely executed engraved plate of it, from which the frontispiece is taken, he also received some papers, explanatory of many facts connected with its history. These had been collected by his father, with a view of ultimately arranging them in some form in which they could be submitted to the public notice. Therefore, in completing this task, the author feels that he is only discharging a filial obligation, by fulfilling the testator's known wishes and intentions; but at the same time he must confess he is also impelled by another motive.