

**MAXIMS, CHARACTERS,
AND
REFLECTIONS, CRITICAL,
SATYRICAL, AND MORAL**

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Maxims, Characters, and Reflections, Critical, Satirical, and Moral by Fulke Greville

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FULKE GREVILLE

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M A X I M S,
C H A R A C T E R S,
A N D
R E F L E C T I O N S,

C R I T I C A L, S A T Y R I C A L, and M O R A L.

T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N,

W I T H

A L T E R A T I O N S A D D I T I O N S and

E X P L A N A T O R Y N O T E S.

Laugh where we must, be candid where we can.

POPE.

Et moi aussi je suis Peintre !

MONTESQUIEU.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. and R. Tonson in the *Strand*.

MDCCLVII.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial operations. This section also highlights the role of internal controls in preventing fraud and errors.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the implementation of robust risk management strategies. It outlines various risk assessment techniques and provides guidance on how to identify, measure, and mitigate potential risks. The text stresses the need for a proactive approach to risk management to protect the organization's assets and reputation.

3. The third part of the document addresses the importance of effective communication and reporting. It discusses the need for clear and concise communication channels and the role of regular reporting in keeping stakeholders informed. This section also touches upon the importance of maintaining accurate financial statements and providing timely updates to management and investors.

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P R E F A C E

To the FIRST EDITION.

EVERY one, I believe, has his moments of reflection; I have had mine. My mind has frequently been filled with images, and busied in arranging and comparing them; in forming principles, and drawing conclusions: These ideas I found it difficult wholly to retain, and wholly to dismiss; they were continually recurring, tho' not without some confusion, because they were continually increasing; so that I was at length urged, by a kind of necessity, to throw them out upon paper, merely that I might relieve my memory, and indulge my imagination in new pursuits without distraction. When they were once written, I felt

the same desire to discharge them from my cabinet, as I had felt to discharge them from my mind; and as I had before thrown out my thoughts upon paper, I have now thrown my papers into the world.

It is, however, of little consequence to the reader, what may have been my motive for offering him this little book; he will undoubtedly consider only how far it pleases him: I hasten then to say what appears to me not improper for him to know, before he commences my judge.

In the first place I must observe, that there are about a dozen sentences among the maxims, that are extremely like some that occur in LA ROCHEFOUCAULT, or LA BRUIERE; it is therefore necessary to prevent a charge of plagiarism by declaring that I first read those celebrated authors, after the maxims in question were written, and in consequence of having written them, and some hundred more which I have not brought into this collection. As the similitude of those passages is a very considerable proof that the sentiment they contain is true, I
was

was for that reason determined to admit them; and upon this occasion I would remark, that if I had justly suffered as a plagiarist, truth would even then have suffered with me; for the moment we read what we think unfairly borrowed, we are so offended at the dissimulation which would appropriate the merit of another, that we pay no regard to the sentiment itself, nor give ourselves leisure to consider a moment whether it is true or false, trivial or important; so strong is the natural love of justice among men!

IT is farther necessary to apprise my reader, that he will here and there detect me in the use of words and expressions that are wholly French; but before he censures me as guilty either of negligence or affectation, let him try to find an English word or expression that includes precisely the same idea: if he cannot, he must necessarily acquit me; and if he can, I shall envy him the discovery and wish it had been mine.

IT is certainly true, however little to be accounted for, that the inhabitants of every country have a peculiar characteristic, by

which they are distinguished from all others. Every language therefore must have peculiar advantages and disadvantages; it must be more adapted to express those ideas that have a particular connection with the prevailing genius and temper of the people that use it, and must be less adapted to express those ideas which have a particular connection with the temper and genius of others. As to the different characteristics of France and England, they will be best distinguished by a view of each as represented by the other; because the peculiarities of each being then exaggerated, will be more easily discerned. If we believe what a Frenchman would say of England, and an Englishman of France, we shall conclude that one of these Countries is gawdy and fantastic, the other destitute of fancy; one idly volatile, the other solemnly busy; that one is profligate in her manners, the other wants gallantry; one is too fond of company, and the other of solitude; one is trifling, the other formal; one is too much in jest, the other too much in earnest; one carries the gaiety of conversation between the sexes into indelicacy and libertinism, the other renders it insipid by an
 auk-

awkward reserve in one sex, and an ungraceful bashfulness in the other; one reasons too much, the other too little: in the productions of imagination one indulges a wild and licentious luxuriance, the other is too tamely fond of exactness, propriety, and rule; for as one is more extensive in her ideas, so is she less precise; and as the other is less extensive, so is she more precise. It is not here necessary, to draw the line of truth between these two accounts; it is sufficient to observe, that there is at least a propensity in the two nations to these excesses, and that when they err, they err in every particular on opposite sides. The general difference is now much less than it was ten years ago: whether we shall continue to approach each other till we meet, or whether we shall withdraw into our original limits, time only can determine.

By this sketch it may, I think, be seen where the strength of the two languages lies: the English language has greater depth and compass, and is therefore capable of more force and elegance than the French; but at the same time it has less refinement and precision: