Title: Aphorisms on man

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APPHORISMS ON MAN.

TRANSLATED
FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
OF
THE REV. JOHN CASPAR LAVATER,
CITIZEN OF ZURIC.

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cælo descendit qui te creavit.
Juv. Sat. 170

THIRD EDITION.

London,
PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.
M.DCC.XCII.
TO

HENRY FUSELI, A.M.

TAKE, dear observer of men, from the hand of your unbiassed friend, this testimony of esteem for your genius.

All the world know that this is no flattery; for, in an hundred things, I am not of your opinion; but, in what concerns the knowledge of mankind, we are nearer to one another than any two in ten thousand.

What I give here is the result of long experience, matured and confirmed by various and daily application. It will be found, I hope, a useful book for every class of men, from the throne to the cottage.
vi  D E D I C A T I O N.

cottage. All is not, cannot be, new; but all ought to be true, useful, important; and much, I trust, is new and individual.

I give you liberty not only to make improvements, but to omit what you think false or unimportant.

The number of rules may appear large, yet it is small compared to what might have been written; in the mean time you and I, as well as our readers, may find ample employment in studying these.

J. C. LAVATER.

Zuric, October 13, 1787.
ADVERTISMENT.

In the following collection of Aphorisms the reader is not to expect a set of maxims compiled from the author's own, or by him selected from the works of others; but an original, meditated and composed in the series here offered during the autumn of 1787, and transmitted in the authors own manuscript to the publisher.

Notwithstanding the rapidity that attended this work (and the world know that all this author's works are effusions), it will be found to contain what gives their value to maxims—verdicts of wisdom on the reports of experience. If some are truisms, let it be considered that Solomon and Hippocrates wrote truisms: if
ADVERTISMENT.

if some are not new, they are recommended by an air of novelty: if whim should appear to have dictated others, it was the whim of humanity; and what may be deemed rash will be found to flow from the fervour of indignant honesty, or the exultations of benevolence. Acute and perspicuous, they are not infected by the cant of sects, or circumscribed by local notions, but general as the passions and feelings of the race.

It is the intention of the editor to add another volume of APHORISMS ON ART, WITH CHARACTERS AND EXAMPLES, not indeed by the same author, which the reader may expect in the course of the year.
APHORISMS.

1.

Know, in the first place, that mankind agree in essence, as they do in their limbs and senses.

2.

Mankind differ as much in essence as they do in form, limbs, and senses, and only so, and not more.

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3.
As in looking upward each beholder thinks himself the centre of the sky; so Nature formed her individuals, that each must see himself the centre of being.

4.
Existence is self-enjoyment, by means of some object distinct from ourselves.

5.
As the medium of self-enjoyment, as the objects of love, so the value, the character, and manner of existence in man; as his thou, so his I. Penetrate the one and you know the other.
6.

The more complex yet uniform, the more varied yet harmonious, the medium of self-enjoyment; the more existent and real, the more vigorous and dignified, the more blest and blessing is man.

7.

He, whom common, gross, or stale objects allure, and, when obtained, content, is a vulgar being, incapable of greatness in thought or action.

8.

Who pursues means of enjoyment contradictory, irreconcilable, and self-destructive, is a fool, or A 2 what
what is called a sinner; sin and destruction of order are the same.

9.

The more unharmonious and inconsistent your objects of desire, the more inconsequent, inconstant, unquiet, the more ignoble, idiotical, and criminal yourself.

10.

Copiousness and simplicity, variety and unity, constitute real greatness of character.

11.

The less you can enjoy, the poorer, the scantier yourself; the more you can enjoy, the richer, the more vigorous.

You