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P R E F A C E.

**I** Have ever been an Enemy to making Speeches to the Publick, and consider'd Prefaces to Books in the same Light with the Harangues of Mountebanks, equally calculated to ensnare People into a high Opinion of what they are to receive from their Hands : But I am told it is absolutely necessary I should now say something, or that my Title should have been more explicit ; because by promising a Picture of the Great World, it will be expected I should give a Characteristick of Kings and Princes, they being undoubtedly the Heads of the

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Great World, *and if omitted, it might be alledged, the Picture would be imperfect, as wanting the most material Part. In Compliance therefore with this Opinion, and to avoid the Imputation of endeavouring to impose upon my Readers, I beg Leave to acquaint them that I meddle not with those Rulers of the Earth; for tho' I deny not but a King is the Head of that Body which is called the Great World, yet as I remember to have somewhere seen a Woman painted without a Head, and underwritten a good Woman; so I conceive that the Great World may be properly enough delineated, and make a very agreeable Figure without a King at the Head.*

*And now, kind Reader, since I have, candidly inform'd you what you are not to expect, I think it will not be amiss to let you know what you really may expect, without being disappointed; be assured therefore, that*  
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*the Piece before you will serve as a kind of Mirror, and reflect a strong Likeness of all who look into it; and what perhaps will be more pleasing to most of you, it will also shew the Foibles or Blind-sides of those of their Acquaintance who are at the greatest Distance; but tho' the Ground-work is Satyr, it is not without some Touches of Panegyrick, ---- a great deal of Love, ---- some few Sprinklings of Morality, and a small, very small Dash of Philosophy, all blended together, I will not say with an equal Proportion of Wit, but with as much as Nature has bestow'd upon me.*

*But to be serious, as my sole Aim in this little Work was to expose such Errors in Conduct or Humour, as deprive those Persons guilty of them, of the Admiration their other good Qualities would attract, I shall think myself happy if I succeed so far as to influence one single Person to an Amend-*