



TO THE
Reverend my ever honored
FRIEND,
MR. JOSEPH MYNARD, B. D.

SIR,

I Dare not approach so much
knowledge, as you are owner
of, but in the dress of an
humble ignorance. The
lesser Sporades must vail their light
in the presence of the Monarch Lu-
minary; and to appear before you,
with any confidence of Science, were
an unpardonable piece of Dogma-
tizing. Therefore whatever be thought
of the Discourse it self, it cannot be
censur'd in this application; And
A 2 though

The Epistle

though the Pedant may be angry with me, for shaking his indear'd Opinions; yet he cannot but approve of this appeal to one, whose very name would reduce a Sceptick. If you give your vote against Dogmatizing: 'tis time for the opinionative world, to lay down their proud pretensions: and if such known accomplishments acknowledge ignorance; confidence will be out of countenance; and the Sciolist will write on his most presumed certainty; This is also vanity. Whatever in this Discourse is less consonant to your severer apprehensions, I begge it may be the object of your charity, and candor. I betake my self to the protection of your ingenuity, from the pursuits of your judicious censure. And were there not a benign warmth, as
well

Dedicatory.

Well as light attended you, 'twere a bold venture to come within your Beams. Could I divine wherein you differ from me; I should be strongly induced to note that with a Deleatur; and revenge the presumption, by differing from my present self. If any thing seem to you to savour too much of the Pyrrhonian: I hope you'll consider, that Scepticism is less reprehensible in enquiring years, and no crime in a Juvenile exercitation. But I have no design against Science: my endeavour is to promote it. Confidence in uncertainties, is the greatest enemy to what is certain; and were I a Sceptick, I'd plead for Dogmatizing: For the way to bring men to stick to nothing, is confidently to persuade them to swallow all things.

The Treatise in your hands is a

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fortuitous, undesigned abortive; and an equivocal effect of a very diverse intention: For having writ a Discourse, which formerly I let you know of, of the Soul's Immortality: I design'd a preface to it, as a Corrective of Enthusiasm, in a Vindication of the use of Reason in matters of Religion: and my considerations on that Subject, which I thought a sheet would have comprised, grew so voluminous, as to fill fourteen: which, being too much for a Preface; I was advised to print apart. And therefore reassuming my Pen, to annex some Additional Inlargements to the beginning; where I had been most curt and sparing: my thoughts ran out into this Discourse, which now begs your Patronage: while the two former were remanded into the obscurity

Dediscatory.

riety of my private Papers : The latter being rendred lefs neceffary by his Majefties much defired , and feafonable arrival ; and the former by the maturer undertakings of the accomplifht Dr. H. More.

I have no Apologie to make for my lapses, but what would need a new one. To fay they are the Errata's of one that hath not by fome years reach't his fourth Climacterical , would excufe indeed the poverty of my judgement, but criminate the boldnefs of this Addrefs. Nor can I avoid this latter imputation, but by being more criminal: and to fhun this refpectful prefumption, I muft do violence to my gratitude. Since therefore your Obligations have made my fault, my duty ; I hope the fame goodnefs, that gave birth to my crime, will remit it. Hereby you'l further in-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Dear your other favours : and make me
as much an admirer of your vertues,
as I am a debtor to your civilities: which
since I cannot do them right in an ac-
knowledgement ; I'll acknowledge, by
signifying that the greatness of them
bath disabled me from doing so : an im-
potence, which a little charity will render
venial ; since it speaks your self its Au-
thor. These your indearments will ne-
cessitate me to a self-contradiction ; and
I must profess my self Dogmatical in
this, that I am,

*Cecill house in the
Strand, March 1.
1660.*

SIR,

Your most obliged

And

affectionate Servant

JOS. GLANVILL.