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Frailties of fashion, or, the adventures of an Irish smock

interspersed with whimsical anecdotes of a Nankeen pair of breeches

Illustrated with some of the most striking and humorous descriptions in high and low life, that fancy can suggest ...

London, 1783

Address To The Reader.

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A D D R E S S
T O T H E
R E A D E R.

THE Editor of the succeeding sheets has already mentioned in the first volume, by what means he became in possession of that manuscript. He informed the reader, in the first chapter, “ that it was found amongst
“ the papers of a deceased wit,
“ as celebrated for his humour
“ and

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“and pleafantry as moft of his
“cotemporaries.” That copy
he transmitted to the Public in
its pristine ftate, after that intro-
duction ; but the cafe is different
with refpect to the prefent vo-
lume. The editor became only
poffeffed of fome minutes, that
were crudely digefted ; and
it has been his province, to
throw them into their prefent
form.

He thinks it advifeable to
difmifs the *Profopopoeia*, which
was preferved in the firft part,
as by this change it may afford
him a greater latitude of digref-
fion,

ADDRESS TO THE READER. vii

sion, and be the means of introducing variety of characters, which would otherwise have occasioned some difficulty to introduce them with propriety, even according to the *etiquette* of Sir Clement Cotterell.

He has, however, thought proper in the *finale*, or last chapter, to let them resume their former acquaintance in *propria personæ*, and consult upon their future destiny.

The editor will also in this place, anticipate the shafts of criticism, which, perhaps, may be pointed against the variation
he

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he has introduced with respect to persons to avoid *egotism*: for though he is no priest, he acknowledges he is more fond of pluralities than singularities, and he has, according to the celebrated bard—endeavoured

To snatch a Grace beyond the Reach of Art.

Having said thus much apologetically, for the supposed errors and imperfections of the subjoined pages, he shall detain the reader no longer from his amusement, in company with the Irish Smock and the Nankeen Breeches.

THE

THE
ADVENTURES
OF AN
IRISH SMOCK, &c.

CHAPTER I.

A conversation between the Editor and his Bookseller—Mr. Elziver's agreeable intelligence, and still more agreeable communications, which induced the Editor to put this volume immediately to press.

MY Bookseller called upon me this morning, and greatly surprised me, whilst I was meditating upon the peace (for by the bye I was writing a pamphlet upon the prelimi-

VOL. II.

A

nary