AN

APOLOGY

FOR THE

BUILDER.

To write of architecture and its several parts, of situation, platforms of building, and the quality of materials, with their dimensions and ornaments: To discourse of the several orders of columns, of the Tuscan, Dorick, Ionick, Corinthian, and Composit, with the proper enrichments of their capitals, Freeze and Cornish, were to transcribe a folio from Vitruvius and others; and but mislead the readers and writers time, since we live in an age and country, where all the arts belonging to architecture are so well known and practised: And yet at the same time and place to write an apology for the artist may seem a greater trifling. In a time when since the Grecian greatness their arts were never better performed, In a place where buildings are generally so well finish'd, that almost every house is a little book of architecture; and as the ancient artists made Athens and the rest of their cities famous by their buildings, and still preserve the memory of the places by the ruins of their excellent arts: So the artists of this age have already made the city of London the metropolis of Europe, and if it be compared for the number of good houses, for its many and large
large piazzas, for its richness of inhabitants, it must be allowed the largest, best built, and richest city in the world. But such is the misfortune of greatness to be envied. The citizens, nay the whole nation is astonished at the flourishing condition of this metropolis, to see every year a new town added to the old one; and like men affrighted are troubled with misapprehensions, and easily imposed on by the false suggestions of those that envy her grandeur, and are angry with the builders for making her so great.

The citizens are afraid that the building of new houses will lessen the rent and trade of the old ones, and fancy the inhabitants will remove on a sudden like rats that they say run away from old houses before they tumble.

The country gentleman is troubled at the new buildings for fear they should draw away their inhabitants, and depopulate the country, and they want tenants for their land. And both agree that the increase of building is prejudicial to the government, and use for argument a simile from those that have the rickets, fansying the city to be the head of the nation; and that it will grow too big for the body.

This is the charge that is laid on the builders: Therefore the design of this discourse is to answer these aspersions, to remove these fears and false conceptions, by confuting these popular errors, and shewing that the builder ought to be encouraged in all nations as the chief promoter of their welfare.

This is done by shewing the cause of the increase of building, and the effects; as they relate to the city, to the country, and to the government.
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Of the Cause.

THE cause of the increase of building is from the natural increase of mankind, that there are more born than die. From the first blessing of the creation, increase and multiply, joined to the good government of a gracious king.

There are three things that man by nature is under a necessity to take care of, to provide food for himself, clothes and a house. For the first; all the rest of creation as well as man is under that necessity to take care of: For life cannot be maintained without food.

The second belongs only to man, and it is a question by some, whether it is required of him by nature, or custom, because in some countries (and those cold) men go naked.

But as to the last, it is most certain, that man is forced to build by nature, as all those creatures are, whose young are born so weak (like the offspring of mankind), that they require some time for strength after their birth, to follow their parents, or feed themselves. Thus the rabbit, the fox and lion make themselves burrows, kennels, and dens to bring forth, and shelter their young, but the mare, cow, sheep, &c. bring forth in the open field, because their young are able to follow them as soon as folded.

So that the natural cause of building a house is to provide a shelter for their young; and if we examine man in his natural condition without arts, his tenement differs little from the rest of nature's herd: The fox's kennel though not so large, being a lesser creature, may yet for its contrivance in its several apartments be compared with any of his cottages: Earthen walls, and covering are the manner of both their buildings, and the furniture of both their houses alike: Now as the rabbits increase, new burrows
rows are made, and the boundaries of the warren are enlarged. So it is with man, as he increaseth, new houses are built, and his town made bigger.

When mankind is civilized, instructed with arts, and under good government, every man doth not dress his own meat, make his own clothes, nor build his own house. He enjoys property of land and goods, which he or his ancestors by their arts and industry gained. These possessions make the difference among men of rich and poor. The rich are fed, clothed, and housed by the labour of other men, but the poor by their own, and the goods made by this labour are the rents of the rich mens land (for to be well fed, well clothed, and well lodged, without labour either of body or mind, is the true definition of a rich man).

Now as men differ in estates, so they differ in their manner of living. The rich have variety of dishes, several suits of clothes, and larger houses: and as their riches increase, so doth their wants, as Sir William Temple hath observed, men are better distinguished by what they want, than by what they enjoy. And the chief business of trade is the making and selling all sorts of commodities to supply their occasions. For there are more hands imploied to provide things necessary to make up the several distinctions of men; things that promote the ease, pleasure and pomp of life, than to supply the first natural necessities from hunger, cold, and a house only to shelter their young. Now the trader takes care from time to time to provide a sufficient quantity of all sorts of goods for mans occasions, which he finds out by the market: That is, by the quick selling of the commodities, that are made ready to be sold. And as there are butchers, brewers and cooks, drapers, mercers and tailors, and a hundred more, that furnish him with food and clothes; so there are bricklayers, carpenters, playsterers, and many more traders, that build houses for him, and they make 6 houses
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houses of the first, second, and third rate of building in proportion to the increase of the several degrees of men, which they find out by the market, that is by letting of houses already built: so that if it were thoroughly believed, that mankind doth naturally increase; this miracle of the great increase of houses would cease, it is therefore necessary to shew that man doth naturally increase.

This may be sufficiently proved by Sacred History, that the world was first peopled by the increase from Adam and Eve, and after the Deluge repeopled by Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japhet. That the Jews began from the single stock of Abraham by Isaac, and so from Jacob; and when Moses numbered them, which was not long distance of time (being computed to be about two hundred and sixty years from Jacob) they were above six hundred thousand fighting men, reckoning only from twenty years old and upward, besides women and children. And when numbered by David, which was about four hundred and fifty years after, they were grown a very great nation, being thirteen hundred thousand fighting men of Judah and Israel.

But the late Lord Chief Justice Hale in his Discourse on this subject was not contented to relye wholly on arguments from authority of Holy Writ, and therefore takes other topicks to confirm the relation of Moses concerning the beginning of the world, and the peopling of it by a natural increase.

I. From the novity of History, That no authentick history is older than four thousand years, and none so old as Moses of the beginning of the world.

II. From the Chronological Account of Times. That the Assyrian, Egyptian, and Grecian accounts are to be found out in what year of the world they began.

III. From the beginning of the ancient Kingdoms, That Rome
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*Rome* was built by *Romulus* in the seventh *Olympiad*, the *Assyrian* monarchy began by *Cyrus* in 55 *Olympiad*, and the *Grecian* by *Alexander* in 111.

**IV. From the first invention of Arts**, That the times of the first invention of husbandry and making of wine are as well known, as the later inventions of gun-powder and printing.

**V. From the beginning of Religions**, That the time of the inauguration of the heathen deities are known; as when that *Jupiter*, *Bacchus*, *Ceres* and *Æsculapius*, and the rest of them were but men of great renown, and for their *good deeds* after their death worshipped; as well as when *Moses*, our *Saviour*, and *Mahomet* were born.

**VI. From the decays of Humane Nature**; but how far that may be true, I leave to further inquiry.

**VII. From the beginning of the Putres familias**, or the first planters of the continents and islands of the world; that *Helen* gave denomination to the *Grecians* called *Hellenista*, *Pelagius* to the *Pelagii*, *Latinus* to the *Latines*, and the place called *Latium*, *Italus* to the *Italians*, and *Italy* is as much to be believed, as that the *English* gave name to *New England* in *America*, and the names of the towns there, *London* and *New York*.

**VIII. From the gradual increase of Mankind**; That considering the time of his first procreation, which is agreed to be about 15 or 16 years, to the time he gives over, which is about sixty: It cannot be otherwise believed but that in the space of five and forty years he must produce a numerous off-spring: And it is no wonder amongst us; for a person to live to see some hundreds descended from his loyus.

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Afterwards he comes to a particular observation of the increase of England by comparing the present state of it with the survey set down in the Doomsday-Book, and makes an instance in Gloucestershire, by which it appeareth, that the inhabitants of that county since that time are greatly increased. And last of all he argueth the increase of London from the Bills of Mortality.

These are the arguments of the late Lord Chief Justice Hale, to prove that mankind naturally increaseth, of which he discourseth at large in his book of the Origination of Mankind, and therein answereth all the objections to the contrary. And because these two last arguments from the survey of the Doomsday-Book, and Bills of Mortality carry with them the greatest force, for they best discover the matter of fact as to our own nation. I have therefore made it my business to make a scrutiny into the truth of them: As to the first, it is easy to make it appear that there are thirty times more people in England than there were in William the Conqueror's time, when the survey was taken. And as to the latter, I shall have occasion to discourse of at large hereafter.

And if it were necessary to use any further arguments for the proof this matter, they would plainly appear by comparing ancient histories with modern in the descriptions they give of the countries. As to the great woods, the many little governments, and the manner of the peoples living without arts: But not to wander over many countries, and among several historians I will only take the short description that Caesar giveth of our own, to shew how it differs from what it now is.

He says, "That the inner part of Britain is inhabited by such as memory recordeth to be born in the island: And the maritime coast by such as came out of Belgia, either to make incursions or invasions, and after the war was ended they continued in the possessions they had gained, and were called by the name of the
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"the cities from whence they came." "It is true," he saith, "The country is very populous and well inhabited, with "houses like unto them in Gallia:" But that must be understood as other countries of Europe were then. It appears that in England there were many governments and little colonies of people, "for he reckons four kings "in the county of Kent, besides some little states." And he says, "Most of the inland people sow no corn, but "live on milk and flesh, clothed with skins, and having "their faces painted with a blew color to the end they "might seem more terrible in fight. The Britans towns," he says, "are places ditched about to make a shelter for "themselves and cattel. And their manner of fighting "was by making sudden excursions out of the woods, "and then retiring into them for shelter." All which descriptions shew the country was not so populous as now.

For where there are great woods, there is not room for pasture or corn, to feed mankind: Besides they are a shelter for beasts of prey, which man as he increaseth doth every where destroy, and suffers no flesh-eaters to live but himself, except the dog and cat, which he maketh tame for his use. The lion, wolf, and the bear are not to be found in a populous country; and it is the first business of all the planters in America to destroy the wild beasts, and the woods, to make room for themselves to plant in.

And the reason probably of those Roman causeways, that we find in England, was to make roads through great woods to the several Roman colonies; though at this time we find them in open champaign countries; for had the country been so then, they would certainly have made them straiter than we now find them.

The many little governments shew the infancy of a country, for from single families government first began; those governments were but so many families of great men:
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men: Now the large boundaries that so many little Governments take up in a country, make one half of the country useless: For men are afraid to plant or sow too near their enemies country for fear they should lose their harvest. Therefore the same land cannot feed so many people as when it is under but one government.

Besides without arts, a great number of people cannot live together; the earth by the arts of husbandry produceth ten times more food than it can naturally. And neither can there be any great cities, for the inhabitants have nothing to exchange for their food, for it is the arts of the city which are paid for the provisions of the country.

To conclude, nothing is so plain from ancient history as that Asia was first peopled, and (according to the description of Moses) began about Babylon: And as mankind increased, and the country filled with inhabitants; arts were invented, and they posset more ground, till they spread themselves into Egypt, and so over Africa, and from thence into Greece, over Europe, and now Europe being full, their swarm begins to fill America.

And all the ancient descriptions of the countries of Europe, in the times of the Roman greatness, are just such as are now given of America, and differ vastly from what they are now, in the number of cities, towns, and arts of inhabitants.

For were America so well peopled as Europe is, those great countries that are posset there by the Spaniards, French, Dutch and English, some of them bigger than their own countries in Europe, could not be so quietly held, and rejoyned by not a hundredth part of the people of their own country.

And although the valor of the Roman soldiers, and their affected bravery (grown as it were a fashion, and a popular emulation) conduced much to the greatness of the Roman empire; yet nothing promoted its success so much, and gave it such large extent as the infancy of Europe.
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rope at that time, being thinly inhabited with people, without arts, and full of little monarchies and states. For had it not been so, Caesar could never have over-run Gallia, Belgia, Britain, and some part of Germany, and kept them in subjection with only ten legions of soldiers, which was but fifty thousand men; for we have seen within these late years much greater armies in Belgia alone, (that is within the Seventeen Provinces,) and amongst them men not inferior either in courage or skill in war, and yet have not wholly subdued one province. And perhaps had these forces at the same time been sent into America, they might have extended their conquest over as much ground and over as many people as Caesar did.

Nor was England so populous then as now it is; for had it been, Caesar would never at first have ventured to invade it with two legions; and at the second time when he designed a full conquest brought over with him but five legions, that is but five and twenty thousand men.

For although some may think from the great armies we read of; near two millions of men under Cyrus and Xerxes in Asia; and of vast swarms of the Goths and Vandals in Europe, in their invasions under King Attila and others, that the world was more populous than now, because we hear of so such numbers of late; yet if it be considered, it demonstrates only the manner of their fighting, and the infancy of the world; the want of people; and arts, rather than that it was populous.

For the Gentiles armies were made up after the manner of the Jews, by taking all that were able to bear arms, reckoning from about 20 years old to sixty. For when Caesar had slain the army of the Nervii, being about 50000 men (a valiant people, one of the Seventeen Provinces); the old men and women petitioning for mercy, declared that there were not 500 men left in the whole nation, that were able to bear arms.

And if the King of England should reckon his army...