

P R E F A C E.

AS the Science of true Morality is of the most Universal and highest Concernment to Mankind, no doubt, those Writers who establish it upon the clearest, most obvious, and the most solid Grounds, do the Best Service to Religion, which has receiv'd no little prejudice, by the Attempts of some well-meaning Men to support it upon Metaphysical Notions, upon false or abstruse Reasonings: And as there appears a hearty Zeal for setting Men right in that great Concern, in all the Writings of the Excellent Author of the Essay of Human Understanding, I know no Philosopher before him that has fix'd Morality upon so solid a Foundation, as he gives many Hints of in that Essay, where ever the Subject will permit; A Foundation strong enough to satisfy the Wisest, and plain enough to be conceiv'd by the weakest Capacities. And yet there have not been wanting some, who have tax'd that admirable Essay with Principles prejudicial, or not sufficient to those Great Ends, which are evidently the main Scope of all that Author's Works; So hard it is for Men, who have been us'd to receive Truth in a particular Dress, to know her when strip't of those false Colours and borrow'd Ornaments, with which she is too often disguis'd; at least, this is the worst I wou'd think of such Cavillers, the most favourable Judgment that can be made of them, is that they