Preface to Sir William Temple's Miscellanea: The Third Part

CONTAINING
I. An Essay on Popular Discontents.
II. An Essay upon Health and Long Life.
III. A Defence of the Essay upon Antient and Modern Learning.

With some other Pieces.

By the late
Sir William Temple, Bar.

Published by Jonathan Swift, A. M. Prebendary of St. Patrick's, Dublin.

London,
Printed for Benjamin Cooke, at the Middle-Temple Gate in Fleet-street. 1701.
The Publisher to the Reader.

The Two following Essays, Of Popular Discontents, and Of Health and long Life, were written many Years before the Author’s Death: They were Revised and Corrected by himself; and were designed to have been part of a Third Miscellanea, to which some others were to have been added, if the later part of his Life had been attended with any sufficient Degree of Health.

For the Third Paper, relating to the Controversie about Antient and Modern Learning, I cannot well Inform the Reader upon what Occasion it was writ, having been at that time in another Kingdom; but it appears never to have been finished by the Author.

The Two next Papers contain the Heads of Two Essays intended to have been written upon the Different Conditions of Life and Fortune; and upon Conversation. I have directed they should both be Printed among the rest, because I believe there are few who will not be content to see even the First Draughts of any thing from this Author’s Hand.

At the End I have added a few Translations from Virgil, Horace, and Tibullus, or rather Imitations, done by the Author above Thirty Years ago; whereof the First was Printed among other Eclogues of Virgil in the Year 1679, but without any Mention of the Author. They were indeed not intended to have been made publick, till I was informed of several Copies that were got abroad, and those very imperfect and corrupt. Therefore the Reader finds them here only to prevent him from finding them in other Places, very faulty, and perhaps accompanied with many spurious Additions.


The text is printed from the Ehrenpreis Centre copy (EC 575) of Miscellanea: The Third Part ... By the late Sir William Temple, Bar. Published by Jonathan Swift, A. M., Prebendary of St. Patrick’s, Dublin (London: Benjamin Tooke, 1701), sigs A2r-A3v; 231 (Teerink and Scouten 473), and has been collated with The Works of Sir William Temple, Bart, 2 vols (London: A. Churchill, et al., 1720), I, 253-54, 295 (Teerink and Scouten 477), and The Works of Dr. Jonathan Swift, large 8vo (London: for W. Bowyer and J. Nichols, et al., 1775), XVII, 351-52 (Teerink and Scouten 88).
Here it is supposed, the Knowledge of the Antients and Moderns in the Sciences last mentioned, was to have been compared; But, whether the Author designed to have gone through such a Work Himself, or intended these Papers only for Hints to some body else that desired them, is not known.

After which the rest was to follow, written in his own Hand, as before.

Discarded Trial Preface (c.1698); in Swift’s rough autograph

A Fragment written upon the Subject of Ant. & Mod. Learning.

The Occasion of writting this Fragm’t was this: After th Reflections upon A. & M. Learning were publisht, S’ W T being asked by some of his Friends whether He would take notice of them or no; & having answerd, he would not, They desired that He would give them leave to Answer that book; but He dissuaded them from it, saying it was a Thing onely of Ostentation, or a Discharge of this Authors Common-place-books, & neither containd matter of Instruction or Entertainment, nor was written with spirit enough to make it live, & therefore ’twas better to lett it dye of it self; However He did not desire to be brought upon th Stage in such Company. But some months after, D’ Fullham acquainted Him, that M’ H, a Friend of his at Oxford, had taken th Pains to write a full answer to the several parts of M’ Wottons Reflections. But before He cast it all into method, He desird S’ W T would give Him some hints of such things as were most fitt to be taken notice of which at first He refused, & discouraged th Undertaking. But th D’ coming again to Him, brought Him a good Part of th intended Treatise, & told Him that it had cost His Friend so much Pains, that He found He was loath to lose it; & therefore again earnestly desired such Hints as are before mentiond; & brought th Gentleman Himself to S’ W T. Upon these Instances He was prevayld with to write these following Papers, which was done at 6 several sittings of about 2 hours at a time, & made th 6 sections whereinto they are divided, but without any Connection or care of order, because they were intended onely to serve as Hints for another’s use in a larger Discourse.

Within very few days after He gave them to the D’ to be sent to his Friend; but not long after this; th D’ acquainted Him tht both He & His Friend were of opinion, th Style of these could not agree in any kind, or
all look of a Piece with that of th other, & therefore desired they might be printed with it as an Appendix to th fuller Answer: this was absolutely refused by S’ W T; who thereupon desired th Doctor to prevayl with his Friend to suppress th whole Thing; which was accordingly done: And so these Papers have slept ever since.

But since M’ Wotton has thought fitt to revive his Quarrell without any Provocation, by setting out a second Edition of his Book, & to make it pass th better, has joynd it with anothr Dissertation, wherein S’ W T is concernd, & whereby like a true Grammarian, the Reflectr seems to have concluded that because 2 negatives make an Affirmative, therefore 2 ill books will make one good one; the Author of these careless Papers has been at last content they should take their Fortune abroad, as well as th others upon that Subject have done.

Memo⁴, that wh’ He s⁵ of Himself was to fitt in wh’ M’ H. sayd about Scipio.

Me⁶, that these Remarks refer to his first Edition.