
Few Writers have suffered more severely by Abridgers, than Mr. Daniel De Foe. These lawless banditti, who are constantly employed in making predatory incursions into the territories of genius, have ravaged his most celebrated Work, *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, with a barbarous and undiscriminating ferocity. Not content with constantly ushering it into the world in a garb more worthy of a Grub-street production, than a work on which the great Rousseau has bestowed the highest encomiums; they have modernised it; that is, divested it of its simplicity, struck out every thing moral, useful, and impressive, presenting nothing but a bare exterior; totally rejecting those excellent philosophical and religious applications, every-where interwoven with the story.

To restore to our Author what has been thus unjustly ravished from him, and to give his principal productions that respectable appearance so justly their due, has been the chief object in publishing this Selection. The favourable reception of a former edition, with all its imperfections, fully justifies the Publisher in presenting, for public patronage, another, less exceptionable, and more enlarged and correct; highly embellished by extrinsic decorations, executed in a manner not unworthy of the Work itself, nor of the age in which we live.

The Publisher has chosen to adopt the term “Selection”, as giving a distinguishing character, and expressing, at the same time, the nature of this edition; the third volume being, in fact, a collection of moral and religious essays, on various subjects; which, however, are so judiciously joined to the main superstructure, that they may be said to be only parts of a complete whole, the wings, porticos, and columns of a noble edifice.

As to the insertion of that excellent poetical composition, *The True-born Englishman*, (which certainly has no such connexion or dependence) the merit of the thing must stand for its apology. The Publisher frankly owns he has no other to offer: The candid may accept it: an admirer of keen and genuine satire, will, perhaps, think it hardly necessary.
The Merit and Esteem in which this admired work of the truly celebrated Daniel de Foe has been held, will need no other encomium than the numerous editions through which it has passed. At this period the work is read with avidity, desire and pleasure; the younger branches may be said to read it from their cradle, and the more advanced can find amusement for their leisure hours in these events; the circumstances it contains engage the mind, and its principles of instruction are founded on Virtue and Religion; yet they are conveyed in such a pleasing manner, that you are imperceptibly led through a wonderful history to a system of morality.

Among the many editions presented the public, some are of too extravagant a purchase; others printed in a manner inconsistent with the liberality which should have supported a work of this kind.

It is therefore presumed this edition, which is well printed, on good paper, enriched and embellished with curious descriptive plates, and offered for sale at a very moderate price, will be supported by a generous and discerning Public.