When a notorious Thief was hanged, I was the Plutarch to preserve his Memory; and when a great Man died, mine were his Remains, and mine the Account of his last Will and Testament. Had Mr Oldmixon and Mr Curl agreed, my Assistance had probably been invited into Father Boheur's Logick, and the critical History of England.

But before all this happen'd, a young Nobleman gratified me for letting some Verses of mine be handed about at Court in Manuscript under his Name. This was the first Time that I ever heard my Writings generally commended. But alas! How short-lived the Applause? They unfortunately stole into Print, lost their Reputation at once, and I am now asham'd to write any more, as a Person of Quality. I am a great Joker, and deal in Clenches, Puns, Quibbles, Gibes, Conundrums, and carry Whichits. Many a good Time have I lash'd the whole Body of Clergy, and crack'd many a smart Joke upon the Trinity. One of my Books had the Honour of being presented for a Libel, by the Grand-Jury, and another was made a Burnt Offering by the Hands of the Common Hangman. When an Author writes a Piece that has Success in his own Character, I abuse him; but if in a fictitious one, I endeavour to personate him, and write a Second Part to his Work. I am very deeply read in all Pieces of Scandal, Obscenity, and Profaneness, particularly in the Writings of Mrs Haywood, Henley, W-lst--d, Morley, Br--v--l, Foxton, Cooke, D'joe, Norton, Woolston, Dennis, and the Author of the Rival Modes. From these I propose to compile a very grand Work, which shall not be inferior to Utopia, Carimania, Gulliverania, Art of Flogging, Daily Journal Epigrams on the Dunciad, or Oratoy Transactions; and as this is designed for the Use of young Templers, it is hoped they will promote my Subscription. Since private Vices have been proved to be publick Benefits, I wou'd venture to call it, An useful Body of IMMORALITY, and print it in a broad, pompous Folio; but such a one as may very well be bound up with Dean Smedley's intended Body of Divinity.

By the Help of Indexes, and technical Dictionaries, I work on every Branch of Learning. I pore often over the Volumes of State Tracts, whence I collect Paragraphs which I mix with Remarks of my own, and range under several Heads. Those against a discarded Minister I send to the London and British Journals, and others more virulent against a Prime One (for I naturally hate my Superiors) are for my very good Friend the Craftsman. Rather than stand out of Play, I have penn'd Panegyricks in Mist on Rich's Pantomimes, and Theobald's Shakespeare Restored. I am always listed by Mr Lun the Harlequin, to hiss the first Night at any of the Drury-Lane Performances. Sometimes I draw up Challenges for the Champions of Mr Figg's Amphitheatre, and sometimes for the Disputants of Mr Henley's Oratory.

I have an excellent Knack at Birth-day Odes, Elogies, Acrosticks, Anagrams, Epithalamiums, Prologues, Recommendatory Poems, Rhimes for Almanack-Makers, and witty Distichs for the Signs of Country Inns and Ale-houses. When with an audible Voice I spout forth my own Verses, marvellous is their Effect! The very Bellman has been touch'd with Envy! An Author, who like Mr Ralph, has distinguish'd himself by Night; the Shrilness of my clamorous, dunning Landlady has been charm'd into a still Attention! Nay, the very Bailiff, in act to rush upon me, has stop'd short to listen, and for a Minute suspended the rapacious Palm that was to fall upon my Shoulder!