As individuals generally judge of persons & things from selfish interested motives, so do private societys the public, but the public judgements & that of particular societys are different; the public have for objects, politics, War, legislation, Arts & Sciences, tho these concern every individual, yet they are but slightly esteemed, compard with those ideas that regard immediately the particular interest of each society, such as its taste, likings, aversions, projects, pleasures, from hence it follows that a man who has regaird many ideas of this last kind, will be greatly esteemed by the societys he frequents, but in the eyes of the public whether he exerts his talents in

a great Office or in writing, he will not meet with great admiration from the public.

But whoever on the contrary occupys himself in ideas that are more generally interesting, he will be look'd on by the Public as a superior genius, but to the particular Society in which he lives, he will be rather dull & disagreable. the first is a miniature picture You must look at near & at a distance not to be distinguished. the last a colossal figure that appears monstrous if You approach it.

To please the World a superficial knowledge of many things is all that is necessary without being master of any, but to procure the public esteem, a person must have made himself thoroughly master of the object he turns

his mind to;
besides in the first case a person is
oblig'd to mix extremely in the World,
to adopt all its little interests &
prejudices, while the last passes
his time in silence & solitude, we
would not be understood ~~thus~~ to
propose a Hermit's life, no a Sujet,
a Hanibal, a Marlborough all live
in the World but without mixing in
what we call its occupations.

Thus much of public & private
judgement in general; let us now
examine it with regard to particular
Virtues or accomplishments

1. Of Probity

Probity with regard to a particular
Society consists in nothing more than
in actions useful to that Society in
all its judgements, such a Society
is determined solely by its own interests;

the public in the same indiscriminate manner
never bestows the names of honest, great,
heroick, proportionably to the force of
mind courage or generosity with which
the Action was attended; but to the
importance of the Action, & the
advantage the Society receiv'd
from it; let one man fight against
three tis an Action ~~[illegible]~~ thousands of our Soldiers
are capable of performing, & would never
be thought worth recording in History;
but let the fate of an Empire depend
on the combat, the Victor becomes
like Horace immortal; Sapho &
Curtius both leap'd into a Gulph, the
first from disapointed love, the latter
to save Rome, Philosophers may brand
these Actions with the common name
of folly, but the public judging in
another manner & whilst Sapho is a
fool Curtius is a Hero.

As with probity so it fares with

sense & understanding, the public will ever estimate according to its interest; it will not proportion its esteem to the number & vallety of ideas necessary to succeed in this or that business, but to the advantages it acquires by it.

The most able Lawyer or most excellent painter will never be regarded like an able Politician, or a successful thoignorant General, the reason is plain; the public has more occasion for Politicians than Lawyers & Painters, & let a man of very middling tallents, favoured by circumstances, do great things in a high Office, he will ever passas superior to one, who tho possessing ten times his parts, is in a lower Office prevented by unforeseen events from executing any thing considerable.

In time of great calamity but small degree of merit opens the way to the highest praises, how immeasurably was Terentius Varro extolled for no other reason than that he did not despair of the public; had Camillus defeated the Gauls at the Battle of Allia instead of doing it at the foot of the Capitol, he never would have been called the second founder of Rome.

After what we have said it should follow that the memory of these great men, Generals, Politicians &c. should far out live that of their cotemporary, who exercised their talents in Arts & Sciences the public drew no utility from; this however far otherwise & the reason is plain; if we except a few great Men who have invented & perfectioned the Military Art, or

others who have by their negociations
at a fortunate crisis saved a falling
Country, all the rest ceasing at their
death to be useful to the Public,
share no longer its gratitude or
esteem; Authors on the Contrary
never cease to live, their Works
demand esteem as long as they
continue useful, ~~[illegible]~~ how much more
respectable is ~~[illegible]~~ the name of Confucius
than of any Chinese Emperor, why
are so many Kings deeply wept
living forgot when dead, why is
Horace & Virgil joined to the name
of Augustus, for the selfsame
reason of being useful, while
those in oblivion are no more so.

What we have said with
regard to time, will also hold with
regard to distance of place. Newton
is reverenced where the name of Cecil
is unknown, & ~~Des~~Cartes is equally famous

amongst those who never heard of a Tally,
nothing is more just the Works of Newton &
Descartes are useful to all Europe
Cecil & Sully were only serviceable to
their respective Countrys.

It may be urg'd that as the Public
in their judgement so ly consult
interest, the Labourer & Ploughman
ought to go before the Historian,
Poet, Mathematician; to this we
must observe that Public esteem
is an imaginary treasure demanding
a very wise & cautious distribution
to make it of real Value, it must
not therefore be lavish'd on work
every man is capable of, grown
common it would lose its imaginary
Virtue, would no longer incitate men
to great & glorious undertakings;
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the Art of Agriculture & not the

Artists besides in things otherwise
~~equal~~ estimability, Public esteem is ever proportioned
to the difficulty attending them; a
stone cutter furnishes the materials for
building & without him an Architect
would be useless, but every man is
capable of quarrying stone, few
have a genius for fine Architecture,
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wisely esteems the Art of Agriculture & not the Artist, besides in things otherwise equal as to utility, Public esteem is ever proportion'd to the difficulty attending them; a Stone Cutter furnishes the materials for building, & without him an Architect would be useless, but every man is capable of quarrying Stone, few have a genius for fine Architecture; so it fares with Authors, one single original problemn of Newton, a play of Home's, gains more applause than a compilation of many Vollames in Folio, like Gronovius's Antiquitys, Historical Dictionary's &c. therefore any contradictions that may seem to arise between the Public's interests & judgements, are only in appearance they in reality ever go together.