The PREFACE.

nefs to bring the Reader acquainted with the Meaning of my Author, as well as his Words, which is a Happinefs every Tranflator has not the Power of arriving at, as generally either ignorant of the Subject or Language he tranflates from, or into, or both.

Another Fault of our common Tranflators I have avoided with all the Induftry I could : Some of them pretending to meddle with Books of Art, and not underftanding the Terms of Art, give us fuch an odd Jargon, that we can never underftand it without the Interpretation of a Mafter, or having Recourfe to the Original it felf. I have therefore render'd all the French Terms into Englifh, but with fo much Caution of doing Juftice to the Author, and the Art, that I would not depend on my own Judgment, but let none pafs without the Approbation of the beft Englifh Mafters.

The Perfeftion, which Dancing is now come to in England, feems to point this Time out as the fitteft Juncture, for the Publication of a Book of this Nature ; fince we now enjoy in this Nation, Performers and Mafters of greater Excellence than any other part of Europe ; who fhew every Beauty of the Art in its full Glory and Perfeftion. For whoever fhall confider the Mafterly Compofitions of Ball-Dances by Mr. Ifaac, which are fo well adapted to the manner of our School-teaching, (peculiar to England, no other Nation having any fuch thing as publick Dancing-Schools) whoever fhall fee the admirable Compofitions of Monf. L' Abbe in Ballet, and his Performance,with that of M.Defbargues, M.Du Ruel,and M.Cherrier, can hope to fee nothing in this Art of greater Excellence, unlefs any wonderful Genius fhould arife, and advance this once celebrated Art to that Perfeftion, which drew the Eyes, and employ'd the Pens of the old Greeks and Romans ; a lively Defcription of which, the Reader may fee in this Epigram, by an unknown Hand.

Mafcula fœmineo derivans Pectora Sexu,
    Atq; aptans lentum Sexum at utrumq; latus,
Egreffus Scenam Populum faltator adorat
    Solerti pendet prodere verba Manu.

Nam