

lar ; if he places one or two Points it is a great deal ; thus he goes on till he has expressed his Thought ; if another Thought immediately follows he takes no time to overlook what is already wrote, but continues his Lines till he comes to a difficult Transition, upon which he stops short, reads over his Perpendicular, and adds his Points in those places where none but himself could divine what he had writ.

If upon reading it over he finds an Omission of any Word he writes it in the Margin, and marks the place where it ought to come in ; but if a Word is redundant or ill placed, instead of blotting it, he draws an Oval round it, after which if any one remarks to him, or his own Judgment informs him, that it is a good Word, he adds two *oo* to the side of it, to signify to the Reader that it ought to stand.

Nevertheless this fourth way of writing is legible enough, when a Person is acquainted with the subject Matter, and has acquir'd any habit in the Language : The Person who holds the Pencil, whether in writing his own Thoughts, or what another dictates, minds nothing but Truth and Exactness ; the Polishing and Finishing the Piece come after.

Mean time, if Company are talking round him, it is no Disturbance, nay so well are they train'd to this Application ; that he does not so much as hear them, but writes on in tranquillity, weighs his Words, seeks for new Turns, and examines with the most scrupulous nicety the Elegance, Order, and Conciseness of his Discourse ; for in this, as in other Languages, there is nothing but what is capable of being express'd in a clear, easy, and polite Stile. They commonly write with a Pencil, yet some of the *Tartars* use a kind of Pen made of *Bamboo*, and almost shaped like those in *Europe* ; but, as the *Chinese* Paper is unalum'd and very thin, the Pencil is the most commodious, and therefore when they would use a Pen either for writing, or drawing Flowers, Trees, or
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