

certain that ARDEN, though much applauded, was acted but one night.

The story of Arden's murder is not an improper subject for the stage, and many scenes of this play are happily written, in which the passions of love and jealousy, revenge and lust, of rage and remorse, are fully and faithfully delineated.

But, perhaps, in adhering too strictly to our old chronicles, the writer has deprived himself of advantages which he might have obtained by a slight deviation from them.—The poet says,

*Ficta, voluptatis causa, sunt proxima veris.*

I think we may go yet farther, and venture to affirm, that a probable story, well contrived, and artfully conducted, will give more pleasure in dramatic poetry, than a too close representation of real fact.

Such actions as will not bear to be seen, may yet be related to advantage. Detested characters, the perpetrators of low villainy, murderers and assassins, should be sparingly introduced upon the stage. The diabolical ministers of vengeance should be just seen and dismissed; though they may be spoken of with propriety. An audience will not long endure their company.

It is greatly to be lamented that some friend of the author had not applied to Mr. Garrick