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Double Rule

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Center CURIOUS MAN

[V]ALUES things not by their Use or  
 [V]Worth, but Scarcity. He is very tender  
 and scrupulous of his Humour, as [i] Fantatics [i]  
 are of their Consciences, and both for the most  
 part in Trifles. He cares not how unuseful  
 any Thing be, so it be but unusual and rare.  
 He collects all the Curiosities he can light upon  
 in Art or Nature, not to inform his own  
 Judgement, but to catch the Admiration of o-  
 thers, which he believes he has a Right to, be-  
 cause the Rarities are his own. That which  
 other Men neglect he believes they oversee,  
 and stores up Trifles as rare Discoveries, at least  
 of his own Wit and Sagacity. He admires  
 subtleties above all Things, because the more  
 subtle they are, the nearer they are to nothing;  
 and values no Art but that which is spun s\*o

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thin, that it is of no Use at all. He had rather have an iron Chain hung about the Neck of a Flea, than an Alderman's of Gold, and [i] Homer's [i] Iliads in a Nutshel than [i] Alexander's [i] Cabinet. He had rather have the twelve Apostles on a Cherry-Stone, than those on St. [i] Peter's [i] Portico, and would willingly sell [i] Christ [i] again for the numerical Piece of Coin, that [i] Judas [i] took for him. His perpetual Dotage upon Curiosities at length renders him one of them, and he shews himself as none fo the meanest of his Rarities. He so much affects Singularity, that rather than follow the Fashion, that is used by the rest of the World, he will wear dissenting Cloaths with odd fantastic Devices to distinguish himself from others, like Marks set upon Cattle. He cares not what Pains he throws away upon the meanest Trifle, so it be but strange, while some pity, and others laugh at his ill-employed Industry. He is one of those, that valued [i] Epictetus's [i] Lamp above the excellent Book he writ by it. If he be a Bookman he spends all his Time and Study upon Things that are never to be known. The [i] Philosopher's Stone [i] and [i] universal Medicine cannot

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possibly miss him, though he is sure to do them. He is wonderfully taken with abstruse Knowledge, and had rather hand to Truth with a Pair of Tongs wrapt up in Mysteries and Hieroglyphics, than touch it with his Hands, or see it plainly demonstrated to his Senses.

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