

If the Refiners shall grudge at me, for disclosing some of the Secrets of their Trade, I will answer them in this Manner: First, I myself have spent the Time of divers Apprentiships in these Affairs, and therefore claim a Privilege to disclose my Experience for the public Benefits at my Pleasure.

Secondly, I affirm, that there can be no Damage to any Refiner, by the divulging of these Secrets; but on the contrary, a great Probability of much Gain to that Trade; for that, here is nothing but the Skill to make the Assays disclosed for the Searcher's Satisfaction, before he take in hand great Works; which if he find Cause so to do, I advise him to chuse the best Workmen that he can get, and one that hath been long experienced in these Works and in so doing he shall prosper the better in his Design: and if every Year some increase of that Trade shall be entertained in these Affairs, as there is good Probability they may; the rest will have Cause to give me Thanks for my Pains, rather than opprobrious Speeches.

CHAP.