PREFACE.

Newton, a Vitruvius or a Palladio, an Inigo Jones or a Sir Christopher Wren; and, secondly, because those who are only practical professors have not sufficient theory to direct them in the execution of the work they undertake, and are too much disgusted with the proud pretensions of the theorists to ask their advice.

Could these evils be done away, and a combination formed of ingenious mechanics and learned mathematicians in every city, with steady aim

— to make the falling arts their care.

Erect new wonders, and the old repair;*

how advantageous would it be to individuals, and the nation at large! The discord that envy, pride and jealousy have heretofore sown between theorists and practical professors would quickly disappear, and a laudable emulation, like that which animated the ancients, would ultimately drive from the face of day those flimsy pretenders to Science, and enemies to the useful Arts, who now strut about like so many crows dressed in a few bor-

* Alexander Pope.