

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, November 17. 1691.

Quest. 1. **I** Have heard that several good Men have order'd Books to be given away after their decease,—
Query, Whether Books are not more proper to be given at Funerals, than Bisquets, Gloves, Rings, &c.

Ans. We vehemently suspect this Query is sent in by some Bookseller or other, who has either a great many Books fit for such a business, or is about to Print one that is design'd to that End. And the mischief is, we can't here oblige the Bookseller, but we must at the same time draw upon us the Displeasure of the Confectioners, Glovers, and Goldsmiths, by intrenching on their Profits.— But to silence them, we assure 'em before-hand, the Project is ne're like to take, as long as Persons value their Hands and Palats, more than their Brains; which the generality of Mankind are likely to do as long as Bisquets are eaten, or Rings are worn.— Now we have done with them, let's to the Bookseller; whose Question we Answer in the Affirmative:— For undoubtedly a Book would be a far more Convenient, more Durable, and more Valuable a Present than what are generally given, as much exceeding them as the Soul does the Body; and besides, will much better, and more profitably preserve the Memory of a deceased Friend; if Good, teaching how to follow him; if Bad, to avoid his Example, that they may escape his End: And the Truths contain'd therein, we shou'd think would make a more lasting Impression even than a Sermon it self, much more than a dull Death's-Head; for having always before our Eyes the Idea of those for whom 'twas given, they'll still, as it were, Preach from the Dead unto us. But after all, this depends very much on the Choice of the Book, and that lyes between the Executors, Booksellers and Authors.

Quest. 2. My Friend having the misfortune to fall from his Horse into a River, where he was drown'd, his Body could not be found in fourteen days after; at the expiration of which time there appeared a Light like a Candle, which crossed the River three or four times; and search being made, he was found in the same place where the Light directed.— Tour Reason for it?

Ans. We must here, once for all, desire those Gentlemen who send in Questions of this nature, to be more particular in their Relations, and to specify the places where, and times when things happen'd, and what Evidence there is that they ever did so.— Which when we are satisfied in, and that we are not imposed upon, nor those who desire Resolutions, we can with more freedom enquire into the Reason of the Thing. As for the Case here mention'd, to give our Thoughts freely, till we know how it's attested, we must take the liberty to doubt the Matter of Fact; because the Gentleman not being suppos'd to be murder'd, and no Natural Reason appearing for so odd an Accident, we cannot imagine why any Superiour Agent should interest it self in a thing of that Nature; without which, we believe it cou'd never be.

Quest. 3. A Gentlewoman who never us'd to be fanciful, was awak'd from sleep by a strange unusual Voice, calling a Friend of hers who was two or three Miles distant: The Name was repeated above four times after she was perfectly awak'd.— She is since inform'd, that the Person so call'd, was at that time sick, and shortly after dy'd.— The Gentlewoman is satisfy'd it cou'd be no Human Voice, and desires your Opinion of it?

Ans. This Question comes under the same Predicament with the former, and therefore we have plac'd it so near. It becomes such as won'd successfully search after Truth, neither credulously to embrace every strange thing without sufficient Evidence, a Fault which many Virtuosi are charg'd with: Nor yet on the other side, obstinately refuse Faith where there is credible Evidence. However, this Story, of the two, sounds something more probably than the other, we having many undeniable Instances of Warnings given by some Invisible A-

gents, before the Death of some Persons; — Nay in whole Families, which there are of our Society who can affirm of their proper knowledge, having been Ear-Witnesses thereof. That this strange Accident was of the same Nature, we cannot deny; nay, shou'd be inclin'd positively to affirm, were we but satisfy'd of the Fact.— That the Lady had not before heard ought of her Friend's Illness, or was not on any other Occasion intensely thinking of her; and lastly, That none else in the Family knew of her Illness, or repeated her Name in the manner asserted.— Concerning all which, we our selves wou'd now turn Querists, and desire a Resolution of the Party concern'd, not only on our own Accounts, but for the Publick's Satisfaction and Benefit.

Quest. 4. If Adam had not fallen, whether had the World been propagated the same way that 'tis now?

Ans. The Affirmative seems to us almost unquestionable: For God and Nature made nothing in vain; and to what end should so many curious Organs be fram'd in the Body of Man, several of which can serve to no other use, if what might have been performed by 'em, should have been totally neglected? What wise Workman would make many curious Springs and Wheels in a Watch, unless with intent to set 'em going, and add new Motions to the Piece? We know but Two Objections, — The baseness and turpitude of some Acts, and the pain which must certainly have ensu'd in Child-bearing. For the First, — We deny there's any Intrinsic Moral Turpitude in the very Act, but only in the Inordination of the Act. That 'tis common with Beasts, weighs little; for so is Tasting, and all the other Senses. For the Second Objection, — The Pain, which seems necessary, and yet incompatible with Paradise. The latter we own, but the former we deny. The bringing forth with sorrow, was an Effect of the Fall, as well as a Curse succeeding thereon, and incident to Mother Earth, as well as Mother Eve; which was not to bring forth, without being torn and furrow'd, and abundance of Sweat, and Pain, and Labour, and that Thorns and Thistles too. For the possibility of bringing forth without pain, we have Instances not only of particular Persons, but of whole Nations, who have done it with very little; which when the Body was in so admirable a frame, so vastly different no doubt from what 'tis now, might have been with none at all, though we can't so easily imagine how it could have been so, any more than how Man should have continued at least Incorruptible, if not Immortal.

Quest. 5. Some means being used (without my knowledge) to make me Dream of my Sweet heart, had such effect so as to represent to me in my sleep a Person for whom I had only entertain'd some small Hopes and Wishes of such a Nature, and it so happen'd that the next time I saw her (which was in some short time after) she was standing in the very same place, in just the same manner, and with the same Company (being her Father and Brother) as I had seen her in my Dream. Tour thoughts of this are desired, and whether the Dreams of such Persons thus dealt withall, are not more according to their own Desires, and Wishes, than the effect of any thing else, and whether if I had not known this Person, I might probably by Vertue of such means thus used have Dreamt of her? and if so, whether I may hereupon venture to entertain any Hopes that I shall ever marry her, she being a good Fortune, and mine at present none of the best?

Ans. The whole is a pure strain of Fancy, wound up to a very brisk height, and not at all lessen'd in the reflection: But as to the latter part of the Question, viz. What hopes may be entertained in relation to Marriage: We Answer, As strong ones as the first, about the Dream, or stronger if possible; provided all this while you act the part of a Wise-man, so to fix upon things which are out of your own disposal, that you may be easie under the Disappointment, if it shou'd happen. But as to the Querists being but a mean Fortune, and therefore productive of mean Hopes, we shall for his Encouragement give him a parallel Relation. A Person under very low Circumstances

stances, like a light that is just expiring, had a mind to appear the greatest, just before his Fall, and pretends to Court a Fortune; being ask'd by his Neighbours what he design'd? he told 'em, to Marry such a Person if he could; whereupon they began to ridicule his Vanity, and the great improbability of such Success; Well, says he, *this don't dishearten me, who knows what ill luck she may have*; and accordingly he Prosecuted his Design, and Married her. We give this Instance to our honest Querist, not to be over desperate, lest he takes the readiest Method to hinder his Wishes, but yet he ought at the same time so to consider the good of the Lady (*which he must do if he really Loves her*) as not to take such Courses as in all probability may make her and himself unhappy.

BOOKS newly publish'd, which we design to add in our Fourth Supplement, (together with those formerly mention'd,) viz.

A Practical Discourse of the Future Judgment, by Dr. Sherlock.

A Compleat History of the late Revolution, from the first Rise of it, to this present time.

A Defence of Pluralities; or of having Two Benefices with the Cure of Souls, as it is now practis'd in the Church of England.

De Presbyteratu Dissertatio, &c.

Moral Reflections upon the Emperor Marc. Antonin.—

[We desire the Reader to compare this Book (which is most accurately Abridg'd in our New Historical Bibliotheca) with that Brief and Trifling Account that has been lately given of the same Book by a French-man, and they'll plainly see how they are impos'd upon: But more of this in our Fourth Supplement.]

A Relation of a Voyage into Spain by a Lady. In Three Tomes.

A Specimen of the Art of Reasoning Natural and Artificial.

Morerus's great Historical Dictionary.

The Inchant'd World: Or, An Enquiry about the Nature, Power and Actions of Witches.

Mayer's Commentary on the Election of the Pope of Rome.

Reflections upon what may Please or Displease in Conversation.

Raguener's New History of Oliver Cromwel. Printed at Paris.—

The Martyrology of the German Church.

An Idea of Barr Eloquence.

Bibliographia Medica Physica.

Misson's late Voyages into Italy.

A Treatise of the Original of Names and Surnames; of their Diversities, Properties, and Changes.

Regis Philosophy. In 3 Volumes. This is a Book of great Value.

Mr. Webb's Essay, Proving the Language of China to be the Original Tongue in Paradise.

Oxonam's Mathematical Dictionary.

Spanheim's Treatise of the Woman-Pope.

—Together with all other Valuable New Pieces that come out since the finishing of our Third, to the Publication of our Fourth Supplement.

☞ All our Ingenious Querists and others are desired to send in their Thoughts, what Seeds, Fruits, Spirits, and what other things in Nature would be very Useful to the Publick, if preserv'd for One, Two or Three Years, as fresh as for One Day: One of the Members of the Athenian Society having found out a way that will effectually do it.

☞ The First, Second and Third Volumes of the Athenian Mercury, (resolving all the most Nice and Curious Questions propos'd by the Ingenious of either Sex) and the Supplements to 'em; (containing Extracts of the most considerable Books newly Printed in England, and in the Foreign Journals) Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry. Where are also to be had the Preface, Index and 12 Numbers alone, that compleat the first 18 Numbers of the 3d. Volume (in which 12 Numbers are resolv'd many of the Questions lately sent us) or single ones to this time.

* * To Morrow Morning will be Publish'd THE VISIONS OF THE SOUL, before it comes into the Body, in several Dialogues. Written by a Member of the ATHENIAN SOCIETY. Price Bound One Shilling Six Pence. Sold at the Raven in the Poultry.

☞ The Person that sent a Question concerning Mr. Mason's Teaching Short-hand at a distance, may be resolv'd to his satisfaction by Mr. Mason himself, at the Hand and Pen in Bell-yard, between Grace-church-street and Cornhill.

Advertisements.

☞ PROPOSALS for Printing a Book, Entitled, The Young Students Library, containing Extracts and Abridgments of all the most Scarce and Valuable BOOKS that have been Printed either in England or in the Foreign Journals from the Year 64. to this present time. To which will be added (and given in to all Subscribers) a large Alphabetical Table, comprehending the Contents of this Volume, and of all the Athenian Mercuries and Supplements Printed in the Year 91. As also an Introduction to the Use of BOOKS, in a NEW ESSAY upon all sorts of Learning, Written by the ATHENIAN SOCIETY, &c. By our thus going backwards as well as forwards, we shall render our ACCOUNT OF BOOKS COMPLEAT. But for a further Account of this Undertaking, see our two Advertisements in Merc. 13, 14. Vol. 4. Those Gentlemen who Expect the BENEFIT of these PROPOSALS, (for we having already got a great Number of Subscribers, shall soon have this Work in the Press) are desired to send in their Money before the Fourteenth of December next. PROPOSALS are to be had of John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry; and of most Booksellers in London and in the Countrey.

☞ The Mourners Companion: or Funeral Discourses on several Texts. By John Shower. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, and Abraham Chandler at the Chymurgons Arms, at the Entrance into Bartholomew-Close in Aldersgate-street.

☞ Naval Speculations, and Maritime Politicks: Being a Modest and Brief Discourse of the Royal Navy of England; of its Oeconomy and Government, and a Projection for an everlasting Seminary of Sea-men, by a Royal Maritime Hospital. With a Project for a Royal Fishery. Also Necessary Measures in the present War with France, &c. By Henry Maydman. London, Printed by W. Bonny, and sold by S. Manship at the Black-Bull in Cornhill, and J. Fisher at the Postern, between the two Tower-hills, and A. Feltham at the Parliament-Stairs, and M. Gillyflower in Westminster-hall. 1691. Price 3 s. 6 d.

☞ Historical Collections: Or, a Brief Account of the most Remarkable Transactions of the two last Parliaments, which were Held and Dissolved at Westminster and Oxford in the Reign of our late Sovereign Lord, Charles II. With Exact Lists of the Members of each Parliament. The Second Edition. London, Printed for S. N. and sold by W. Freeman at the Bible against the Middle Temple-Gate in Fleetstreet. 1692.

☞ If any Gentlemen or Ladies are desirous to Learn to speak Latin or French truly and properly according to Grammar Rules, and to explain any Author, Mr. Switerday (recommended to our present King) has invented a very short and easie Method, by which they may learn the said Languages (if they can but spare 2 or 3 Hours in a Week to be with him) in one Year. Those who have learned formerly may recover it in 3 or 4 Months. He offereth to be bound to every one for the performance thereof. He Teaches Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in High-Holbourn, near little Turn-stile, next to the Faulcon; and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in Clements-lane, near Canon-street, at the Sugar-loaf: Where you may have Grammatical, and Latine, and French Historical Cards, by which he Taught Children of 8 or 9 Years of Age to speak Latine and French fluently in a very short time. Three or four Youngs may lodge with him.

ERRATA's in our last Mercury.
Col. 3. line 24. for Antiquity read Antiquity.
— l. 26. read Congregation of Anabaptists 'till about 300 Years.

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