

# The Athenian Mercury.

**T**He Following Alphabet was sent to us; and, upon Examination, we find it Possible to make near an Hundred Alphabets out of it; which its Impossible any one in the World should ever Decipher.

		A L P H A B E T.
A	B	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		n   o   p   q   r   f   t   u   w   x   y   z
C	D	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		z   n   o   p   q   r   f   t   u   w   x   y
E	F	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		y   z   n   o   p   q   r   f   t   u   w   x
G	H	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		x   y   z   n   o   p   q   r   f   t   u   w
I	K	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		w   x   y   z   n   o   p   q   r   f   t   u
L	M	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		u   w   x   y   z   n   o   p   q   r   f   t
N	O	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		t   u   w   x   y   z   n   o   p   q   r   f
P	Q	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		f   t   u   w   x   y   z   n   o   p   q   r
R	S	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		r   f   t   u   w   x   y   z   n   o   p   q
T	U	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   n
		q   r   f   t   u   w   x   y   z   n   o   p
W	X	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		p   q   r   f   t   u   w   x   y   z   n   o
Y	Z	a   b   c   d   e   f   g   h   i   k   l   m
		o   p   q   r   f   t   u   w   x   y   z   n



Having in Discourse and History, met with some things, whereof I and Others were not very well satisfied, we willingly submit them to your determination, whom we presume, in regard to your great Love of, and Diligence in, Matters of Learning, will for Ours and the Publick Good declare the Truth of each Question propos'd, which favour not of that Mechanical Non-sence, or amorous Fiddle-Faddle, which may be nauseous to, or offend, either you or your Readers, but meerly matter Historical, or Geographical, but that I may not seem too long, I'll propose my Queries.

Quest. 1. Whether or no, there be any probability in this, viz. that *Antiochia*, or *Antivestæum* of Ptolomy, a Promontory of England, were so call'd because, over against the Island *Ulschant*, or as it is in Berry's Map of France, *Ouessant*, whereas I find 'tis by Pliny, and those of that Age, call'd *Sena*, and whether or no, if there be any probability of it, Mr. E. T. of Queens Colledge, Oxford, do not deserve to have his Name written in Letters of Brass upon a Pillar, which the Inhabitants should erect in Honour of one, who has been so diligent in search of their Antiquity, and in finding out what the Learned *Cambden*, or the Rest never did.

Quest. 2. Whether or no Prince *Meredith* of Wales, did not find out the fourth Quarter Geographical, of the Earth, long before *Columbus*, or *Americus* were born.

Ans. 1. To us there appears a great probability of the Truth of the discovery, and 'twould be a great happiness to bless the Age with it, and the Ingenious, whose Study lies that way, can't but own their Gratitude.

Ans. 2. We find not one that gives any credible account of this, or any other *Meredith*, as the Author of such a discovery, but yet we can't deny the possibility of it. Since we find Mr. *Harvey*, so much celebrated for finding out the Circulation of the Blood, when we are very well assured, it was found out long before him, and we also know from whom he borrowed the Knowledge of it in his Travels.

Quest. 3. I do read most of your *Mercuries*, but have not the opportunity to be often in Town, to see your Appendices at the Booksellers, nor spare money to purchase your Volumes; Yet your frequent Promises to Answer all Questions whatsoever, has put me to some pence charge, to have your Opinion, Whether it be lawful to make use of Lots for Diversion, as Cards and Dice in Gaming, which you have never as yet been pleased to take any notice of; pray prevent my troubling of you, or my self any farther, by the least touch of your Pen, and you will very much oblige, &c.

Ans. Yes certainly, provided it runs you into neither Passion nor Covetousness, and be made use of at such times as your Mind has need of Divertisements: Though there's certainly much nobler Recreations, as *History*, *Mathematicks*, &c.

Quest. 4. Whether the Fates of Kingdoms, and Particulars Persons, may be read in the Heavens, in the Aspects and Influences of the Planets? What can be offer'd in favour of the I know not What's, the Parts of Fortunes, Dragon's-Head, and Dragon's-Tail—

The Direction by Accidents in the Genethliacal part of Astrology? And supposing the pretences of common Astrologers be true, whether a Christian may lawfully and prudently make use of such Arts to predict Futurities.

Ans. These Questions, or most part of 'em, we have handled *ex professo*, and very largely, in some of our First Volumes, to which we refer the Reader. Onely here considering those two last Doubts; concerning the lawfulness and prudence of using such Arts; supposing there's really any thing in them. For their lawfulness, some of the very Heathens were against it, and those not the best Moralists neither: *Horaces* "Tu ne quaesieris scire, nefas!" &c. is sufficiently famous—— But, besides, it seems an invading God's propriety, to whom all secret, much more future things belong; he onely knowing and determining what possibles shall be actually future among the infinite effects which may be so. But were it lawful, we can't think it prudent, for either this good or evil shall certainly come to pass, or it shall not—— But, in either case, our knowledge can have no Influence thereon: Besides, it distracts our Minds, diverts 'em from a firm dependance on Heaven, or using any rational means to avoid any evil, and renders Men weak, superstitious and miserable— And indeed, there are too many Instances to be given of those who have been extreamly addicted to these kind of Follies, who, whether by God's Judgement, or the natural tendency of the thing, have been the most unfortunate persons in the World.

Quest. 5. I have often been troubled on reading the 4th, 5th & 6th Verses of the 6th Chapter to the Hebrews— For it is impossible for those that were once enlightened, &c. I shou'd be highly obliged to you for the Exposition of this place; for I'm in such Circumstances, that it seems to make my Case Desperate. Pray fail not an Answer of this with all speed convenient.

Ans. It has already been discusst in a former Paper, to which we must refer the Querist; once more desiring him, and others, to consult our Indexes, before they trouble themselves and us with what has been sometimes more than once reply'd to. As to the rest of the Letter, we Promise it a Private Answer, if the Gentleman will have patience but a few days longer, and, in the mean time, hope, he Remembers what he there Resolves.