

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, July 5. 1692.

Quest. 1. **A** Gentleman of this Town about six months since marry'd a pretty young Woman of Yorkshire; she about 10 days ago, with the assistance of one of her Acquaintance, dress'd her self more than usually fine, pretending she was to go to Greenwich to be merry with some Friends, and by the way to meet with her Husband; she was soon after her going out seen to be taken up in a Coach about Covent-Garden, and has not since been heard of. The poor Gentleman her Husband has made all possible inquiry and search after her, and suffers under a very great concern for her absence: Now pray Sirs let us know what you think is become of her, whether in safety, how diverted, and when she may return, with what else may relate to the satisfaction of the poor man; and also if he ought not to receive her again if she return?

Ans. 'Tis an Elopement, and he may have some remedy perhaps by Law, without revenging himself by Man-slaughter upon the provocation, but it is in his own Breast whether he will be reconciled unto her: And if there should be occasion to sell her to him with whom she has Eloped, there is a Form, or an Instrument in Writing ready drawn up for that Case, to be found in Cook's Second Institutes. 'Tis not to be question'd but she is out of the noise of the Town, diverted as she designed, and as safe as if she were in Bed with her Husband, and to print the Case, describe the Persons, and disperse the Papers, is the best way in all likelihood the sooner to hear of her.

Quest. 2. Why the Baltick Sea is Fresh water, and the Euxine Sea and the Streights of Davis, Hudson, Forbisher, &c. are salt?

Ans. It has many Islands at the mouth of it, that it takes not in that quantity of water from the Main Ocean, but receives more from the many Fresh water Rivers which discharge themselves into it, from Poland, Russia and Swedeland.

Quest. 3. In Greenland upon the top of a Hill, there is the Body of a Tree lyes, how should that Tree come there, since the Countrey affords none?

Ans. Those who have penetrated farthest into that Countrey, or that have been left there, have not been able to discover any Trees, yet notwithstanding one part of it may produce what another wants; or this Tree might be found floating in the Sea, and be carried up and left, to raise wonder in the after-comers, as Alexander left Gygantick Armour behind him, that the World might in time to come wonder at the vast Stature of the Macedonians, or as they paint the heads of the Saracens, as if they were Gyants, to cover the ill success they had in conquering Jerusalem.

Quest. 4. Why do Cocks lay Eggs?

Ans. We doubt the Fact, and therefore 'tis yet in vain to seek for a Reason. Its true, we have seen those which the Countrey people call Cocks eggs, being a little larger than a Pidgeons, shap'd like a hens, having no Yolk, as others have: But did not make so nice an observation concerning it as we should have done, and will agen if we have ever another opportunity.

Quest. 5. What did Virgil mean by his magni menses, Ecl. 4. Plutarch indeed makes mention of the *μεγάλος ενταυρος*, but that gives no light to the Question: Scaliger has also given a large account of them in Can. Ifagog. but neither is that satisfactory enough?

Ans. If Scaliger himself can't satisfie the Querist, 'twill be no disgrace should we too fail of doing it, how're we must attempt at it. By magni menses we think the Poet may allude to those *μεγάλος ενταυρος*, those great years of the Platonists, for he was now describing that great Revolution which they used so much to talk of, when all things were to become new. But

why then does he use the word *menses* instead of *anni*, months instead of years? No doubt there was a reason, for one who had so absolute a command of the Latin Tongue, cou'd not do it only to fill up a Verse. We believe therefore that there's a double allusion contain'd in the words, one to the Years, or revolving period before mention'd, the other to those Months which *Julius* and *Augustus* had lately alter'd and call'd by their own Names, for which reason they might properly be call'd *magni* above all the rest.

Quest. 6. What is that which we call Broken-winded in a Horse? and whence does that Ail proceed?

Ans. An Experiment made upon a Dog, in Philosophical Transactions, makes it probable that some Defect in the Tone of the Diaphragme concurs towards this interrupted Respiration, and not solely from an Ulcer in the Lungs; for that two Horses who many Years laboured under this Broken-winded Noise, were Opened, whose Lungs were free from any Ulcer, yet the Pipes of them were perfectly stopt with Pus, neither could it be perceiv'd what part afforded the Pus.

Quest. 7. Gent. In your Essay upon Learning, page 7th. concerning Salvation of Heathens, you advance in answer to that Text, (There is no Name given under Heaven, whereby we may be saved, but by the Name of the Lord Jesus) That if they believe in God, they believe virtually in Jesus Christ: I desire a full Explanation of what you mean by a virtual Belief?

Ans. The Jews were under the Dispensation of believing Our Father which is in Heaven, having Faith in the Messia, whereas the Heathens were under the dispensation of the Law of Nature, the Divine Light written in every Man, which is the ordinary Voice of the Spirit to restrain man from Murder, Idolatry, &c. if they kept to that Law, they should receive the full Vertue of the Lamb of God, slain before the Foundation of this World, by the Fathers Decree, for the Sins of all Men.

Quest. 8. In your Essay on Learning, page 9. 10. in your treating on the Mathematicks, you promise to give us Instances of what hath been performed by the assistance of that Art, and you bring as Instances the wooden Eagle, and the Iron Fly, and the Burning Glass of Anastasius Dicorus: I desire to be satisfied, whether you believe these to have been as you represent them, really performed?

Ans. The Hawk, the Butterflies, and other small Birds that were made to fly about the Room, about 15 years ago, at the House in Holbourn, where was represented the Creation, leave no room to doubt of those in the Question.

Quest. 9. What Reason can be given, why the Organ of Cornelius Van Drebbel, which you instance in your Essay, p. 11. should particularly make an excellent Symphony it self if set in the Sun in the open Air, and not to make it, tho' set in the open Air if the Sun did not shine?

Ans. The Sun heating of it had more power to dispose its parts, than the Air without that Power.

Quest. 10. Which do you esteem the greatest Artists in Painting, the Ancients or the Moderns?

Ans. The Ancients were almost inimitable for some Excellencies and Beauties in their Painting, and some Moderns have not fallen much short of them, unless we fancy as some do of the old Poets, that none can yet equal them.

Quest. 11. Where and when were Dials, Clocks and Watches first made?

Ans.

Ans. In *Adams* time the day was measured by the Sun, and the *Egyptians* could not be destitute of these useful parts of the Mathematick Learning, long before mention was made of the Dial of *Abaz*.

Quest. 12. *I have read the Visions of the Soul, writ in a lofty style by one of your Society, and I find you discoursing on the Pre-existence of the Soul from the Creation: in Question 2. Numb. 1. of the First Volume, but both Enigma's to my weak Capacity: I entreat you therefore to give me a full Explanation what it is the Maintainers of Pre-existence chiefly hold?*

Ans. That all Souls as a Stock were ready made at first, and that one of them Souls is sent into the Body of an Embrio, but not then Created anew, and when all that Stock of Souls are employed here, then will the World end; but fully to explain all they maintain, cannot conveniently be reduced to a short Answer.

Quest. 13. Vol. 1. Num. 3. Qu. 6. *In Discoursing on Witches, you recommend Glanvil as fit to be read; it is reported that before his Death he denied that Story of the Drum of Tedworth: Your Thoughts are desired?*

Ans. He may be fit to read, notwithstanding the mistake of one Passage, which at last may only be a false Report concerning him.

Quest. 14. *How or where can you prove there was Shipping before Noah? as you affirm Vol. 1. N. 4. Q. 1.*

Ans. Adam was driven out at the East-end, where was free Passage, he had no Boat to pass the Rivers in the other part of the Garden, and therefore so necessary a thing as a Junk or a Canoe Adam would not be without, or can it be imagined that in so many hundreds of years they could be without Vessels to pass and repass their Rivers.

Quest. 15. *If the Manners of Nurses be imbibed by the Children with their Milk, why do not Rusticks that feed much upon Cow-Milk, Loo?*

Ans. Such as our Diet is, such is our Blood, and such is our Flesh, and such our Temper in part, but Speech is perform'd by apt Organs, and has no dependence upon our Diet for the manner of sound.

Quest. 16. *Whether there is any such thing as White Gun-Powder, that will kill without a Noise?*

Ans. Were it Wind only, it would make a Noise, therefore there can be no White Powder but must make a Noise, it being a common Error to conceive otherwise.

Quest. 17. *Why are Women more Talkative than Men?*

Ans. It can only be meant of some Women, and the same may be said that some Men are more Talkative than Women, and the Reason is, that some are wise and some are otherwise.

Quest. 18. *A Gentleman some Years since having two Daughters at Womens estate, marries 'em both to Persons of Quality, and gives 'em a large Dowry out of his Estate; after which being a Widdower, and having a plentiful Estate left, he Marries a second Wife, by whom he has one Son living, since which it has pleased God to bring this Gentleman into a low Condition, he not having now a Competency for himself or Family — on which he's despised by his two Daughters who live in great splendor, and forsaken by his Friends almost in general, only he's at present supported by a Gentleman, of whom he did not expect any such Friendship, who Promises to provide for him and his Family while he lives — The Question on the Case is — How this Decay'd Gentleman ought to behave himself to his Friend, with whom he now lives, to his two Daughters, their Husbands, and the rest of his pretended Friends, that he may end his days like a good Christian, and dye in Charity with all the World?*

Ans. He ought first to take care of himself, before he deals with them, and to enquire how he behav'd himself towards his own Parents? whether he lost not his remaining Estate by his Extravagance or Folly? whether his Second Match was not below him, and other things of that Nature, the last of which may mitigate, tho' not excuse the Behaviour of his Friends towards him, the rest he ought to get clear off with Heaven: After this, whether there were or were not any of those Causes mentioned for his Relations slighting and forsaking him, especially his Daughters; it's certain they are

guilty of inexcusable Ingratitude and Disobedience. Now for his Behaviour towards them, he ought to take some way to let 'em know their Fault, that they may, if possible, be brought to beg his Blessing and Pardon — If they refuse this, he's yet heartily to forgive them, and Pray God to do so, as ever he himself expects Forgiveness; but we are not so sure he's bound to give 'em his Blessing, a Legacy we think only due to Obedient Children, or at least only with a supposition of their Repentance. For his other cold Friends, his best way will be to slight and forgive 'em — and for that true, just, only Benefactor under Heaven, he's to pay him, next to the Original Giver, all the Gratitude and Blessings he's capable of, which is all he has now to give him; and if he does thus, we think he'll end his dayes as he desires, like an honest Man and a good Christian.

* * The Ladies Questions will be Answer'd next Saturday.

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