

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, November 19. 1692 Licens'd, E. B.

Gentlemen,

Quest. 1. **Y**our Opinion is desired concerning the Quaker, which (about the middle of July, this present Year) went thro' the Streets of this City, particularly Leaden-hall-street, and Aldgate, (of which I was an Eye-witness, before the Earthquake) with this cry, — O that God would turn the Hearts of this People this day — Repent, or Fire and Brimstone will be your Portions! Whether we ought to look upon him as immediately sent, or inspired by God? Or whether he is pleased in these days to make himself known after that manner? Your Answer in next Mercury will much oblige me.

Ans. The Papists to defeat the Protestant Predictions, and Expectations of great Revolutions, to befall Rome in 1666. upon the Prophecy of the Fall of Babilon in the Revelations, they fired London, glorying in it, that God was with Rome; for upon the Gunpowder-Treason-day next ensuing the Conflagration, these Verses were printed and scatter'd in the Streets:

*Couvre le feu, you Hugonots,
That have so branded us with Plots;
And henceforth no more Bonfires make,
Till you arrive i'th' Stygian Lake:
For down you must, ye Hereticks,
For all your hopes in Sixty Six.
The hand against you is so steady
Your Babilon is fall'n already.
The Devil a Mercy there is for those
Who Holy Mother Church oppose:
But turn betime, if you would save
Your Lives, your Lands, or ought you have.
Let not the Clergy you betray,
Great Eyes are op'e to see their way:
Then turn betimes, or ay be blind,
Short time will shew what is behind.*

✠ *In hoc Signo Vincas.* Anno Catholica Religionis Restitutæ primo. Were they not judicially blinded, (because the Prophecy is to be fulfilled upon them, as his Grace the present Archbishop of Canterbury's last Thanksgiving Sermon assures us, p. 31.) they might plainly see that they fell under the detestation of the People here, by reason of that Fire, managed by their Fire-mongers, their Priests, and who mixed with all Parties, and made them subservient to their ends. They might disguise themselves among Quakers, pretending a Revelation, and hint to some of those People, their Fear of Firing the City, whence three Men, like Quakers, the Lords-day before the Fire of London run in the Streets, warning the People of the Fire. Thus they served their own Designs, and set up the Quakers too as Prophetick People, to foretell Judgments to a day, rendering other Parties as Devils, witness that forged Relation, Printed by a Popish Priest some years since, of the Anabaptists murdering one Mr. Baxter, a Minister in New-England: This was calculated to heat them to preach and print against each other, as at this day the Antinomian Pamphlets are promoted to divide the Dissenters, it being peculiar to the Papists, and their Assistants the Jacobites, to forge Libels to disturb the Present Government. To fix an Odium upon Luther's Reformation, they mixed with the People to bewitch them with monstrous Opinions, that they might destroy one another, and fall by the hands of the Magistrates, and that they might say, This was the effect of the Bible being made English, and that Anabaptists, or others, are now such People, as those then were, &c. and sprung from Luther. Therefore the Cry of this

Quaker, who may be a Jacobite, or only a Quakerizer, cannot directly be applied to the Earthquake; neither can it be denied, but God may denounce Impendent Judgment by Man, or otherways, as he pleases. The way to avert, is to amend our Lives, then Death or Calamities can be no sudden Surprizal.

Quest. 2. A Person, who has lived some time in a Course of private deceit, and yet took such Measures, that nothing less was, or is in the least suspected, but he esteemed as a virtuous honest Man. A Languishment has seized him, which he concludes a Monitor from God, and which has informed him of his wickedness. And as it is wholly out of his power now, in Case of his Death, to make Satisfaction, or restore in any kind, (the wrong being in Money Concerns) his humble and earnest Request to you is, that in your next Mercury you'll acquaint him what his Duty is — Whether to reveal his Crimes, which on a Recovery is inevitably his Ruine? Or whether a sincere Repentance, and fixed Resolution of Amendment, and Restitution if possible in his power, will prove acceptable in the sight of God? Pray Gentlemen your Directions in this weighty Affair.

Ans. A Discovery without Ability of plenary Restitution, is but little Satisfaction, and especially if the injur'd knows nothing of it; it may be a greater Temptation to Uncharitableness, Repining, &c. than we can be aware of, unless we knew the Persons, and their Character. 'Tis our Opinion, that private Cheats ought to make private Restitution, private Confessions and private Resolutions, and the contrary publick practice; therefore in this Case, we think you are not oblig'd to discover your practice, but if you find you must dye, make private Restitution to the Injur'd as far as your Estate will go, if they are unknown, then to Charitable Uses. As for your Sin against God in it, we need not direct you, you must act as in other grievous Offences, Repent, Confess, live more strictly, and do so no more; but take heed, that if God Almighty spares you, do not return to your old ways, nor break your Vows and Resolutions, lest you enhance your Guilt, and double your Condemnation. 'Twill not be amiss to retrench your Expences, if you recover, and lay up weekly, in order for Restitution, for which take private Opportunities to repay, before any considerable Summ arises, that you may not be tempted to lay it out any other ways for an appearance of Interest: And keep this Paper by you in your Chamber if you recover, to put you in Mind of the Apprehension you now lye under, lest you forget your Self, and your Duty.

Quest. 3. There was a considerable Wager laid, and it was stated in Writing, as follows, That T. P. of P. in the County of Middlesex, Gent. shou'd shoot into a little Tin pot, a single Bullet at one shot, out of Mr. H's Gun, the said T. P. to have a Rest and Stand 16 yards from the said Pot. Now he places the Pot, and puts the Gun-Muzzle into it, ties a string to the Tricker, and goes back 16 yards, pulls the Tricker, which goes down, and shoots the Pot through: Query, Whether he has won or no?

Ans. The Shooter has lost doubly, both as to the Letter and Intention. First, as to the Letter of the Agreement, 'Tis the Gun that shoots, not the Man, the Man only pulls the Tricker, which a Cat might have done; and if 'tis the Man that shoots, why cannot he shoot with a Bedstaff: So that unless he can prove himself a Gun, and that the Bullet went out of him, (no matter which end) and that he was Mr. H's Gun, then he may pretend to win the Wager, he did not shoot one yard from the Mark, tho' he stood 16 yards off it. But again, As to the Intention of the Wager, we must not abuse Speech, it was given to expreis the Idea's we have of things, and if it be not confin'd to that End, there's

there's an End of Humane Society, therefore the Law wisely provides that he that Swears is to Swear according to the Intention of the Law-giver, and not wrest the Letter by any Mental Reservation; he that answers nor the end of Speech, that is, take it in the plain probable sense of him that speaks, acts more brutally than inferiour Creatures who understand one another by their inarticulate sounds, and act accordingly. In fine, there's nothing so ridiculous as to abuse the end of Speech; 'tis as if I should say, such a Man can't fly, and to prove me in an Error he shall go swim, and say that by the Motion of his Arms he intends flying: This Passage in the Question is every way as ridiculous, and the Shooter can never prove that he has won, 'till he also proves the other Gentleman Waged that he cou'd not shoot thro' the Pot, altho' the Piece was put into it, which we believe he won't pretend to do.

Quest. 4. Reading some of your *Mercuries*, wherein I find you positively deny that Fishes hear, made me very desirous to know your Thoughts upon what I saw, and which causes me to believe they do hear, (which is this) About six Years since a Gentleman carried me to the Lord Hereford's Garden in Ipswich, where we walkt several turns by a Pond, which he told me was full of Carps, and then asking me if I saw them move at the sight of us, I answer'd, No, (for they did not) he presently Whistled, and I believe there came at least twenty to the top of the Water, which he afterwards fed with Bread; and this way of Whistling them above Water is commonly used by the Lord Hereford's Servants and others?

Ans. Historians relate many such Stories of Fish, who at Whistles, Musick, &c. hear the Calls and come, and in their way of expressing themselves give Testimony that they are pleas'd with the Whistle, know it, and are not deaf Creatures, as we may suppose; or only feel the shaking of the Ground or the Water, or do all by touch and sight.

Quest. 5. I desire to know what is the meaning of the word Good Morrow? and why is it us'd only by us English, all other Nations saying Good Day?

Ans. Custom has prevailed to alter the force of Words and Phrases, as a Silver Ink-horn, an Iron Sign-post, and to dismiss a Customer leaving the Shop with *You are Welcome*; so that Wish which at first was that you might be happy to live to see a Good Morrow, by Custom it is *Good Morrow*, or next Day; as much as to say, this is the Good Morrow or Day I wished you might see.

Quest. 6. Is it not a Breach of the Marriage Vow, for a Man to keep his Money from his Wife, so as she hath not the full Command of it as well as he?

Ans. No: Because she understands not his Employ, or how to dispose of it as he can; he must lye in Goal for Debts, therefore he must have the full dispose of the Bank; he endows her with the Profit of it, that answers the end of the Vow: But in some Cases the grey Mare is the better Horse, that varies the Case, &c.

Quest. 7. From whence comes the Custom of the seventh Son stroaking infirm Persons, and whether Beneficial; and what think you of the remarkable Birth of such a Son who was born with these seven Observations?

In the Year 1670.

Seventh Month of the Year,

Seventh Day of the Month,

Seventh Day of the Week,

Seventh Hour of the Day,

Seventeenth Year of the Parents Marriage,

and of the

Seventh Child of the Mother.

Ans. We have already answered the first part of this Question; and as to the last, the 1st. and 6th. Observation are impertinent, since neither 1670. nor 17. have any thing to do with the Number of Sevens.

Quest. 8. I thank you for your Answer about the Equilateral Triangle, and since you see my Design of having the Area to find the sides only, that I might make the Reverse, and being yet loth to trust to my own Judgment, I desire if possible to shorten your Cannon of having the Area of an Equilateral Triangle to find the sides, as also to give us another Canon of ha-

ving the side of an Equilateral Triangle to find the Area thereof, which is the end of my first Question, and I presume a full Answer in these Cases won't only be of great Use to me in my Practice, but all other Surveyors.

Ans. Let x signifie the Content of an Equilateral Triangle, a the side of it, and let this Decimal $\cdot 8660254$ be signify'd by d , then for the first Canon $V \frac{2x}{d} = a$ in words. Dou-

ble the given Area, and divide that Product by $\cdot 866025$, and the Square d root of the Quotient shall be the side, for the 2d. Canon $\frac{a^2}{2} = x$ in words, Square the given side, mul-

tiple that Product by $\cdot 866025$, and one half of this last Product shall be the Area.

Mr. Dudley S—p is desired to send forthwith to Mr. CHAPPEL those two or three Letters that he designs shall be inserted in the Second Volume of *The Pacquet broke open*, the said Volume being now going to the Press—This is also to acquaint the Ingenious *Artemisa* that the Letter she sent to Mr. Chappel concerning the Love of several Ladies to a French-man, shall be inserted in the said Second Volume, and so shall any other Letter sent by the same hand, if as entertaining as those already sent.—*Lindamor's* Letters were receiv'd, and shall be also inserted.

Advertisements.

THE Post-Boy robb'd of his Mail, or the Pacquet broke open, consisting of 500 LETTERS to Persons of several Qualities and Conditions, with OBSERVATIONS upon each Letter. Published by a Gentleman concern'd in the Frollick. Price bound 2 s. 6 d.

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Both Printed for J. Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

AT the Sign of the *Archimedes* and *Spectacles* in Ludgate-street, the West-End of St. Paul's Church, London, by John Marshal are made all manner of Prospective-Glasses, Telescopes, Microscopes, single and double, Reading-Glasses, large Concave Glasses, Concave Cylinders, and Cones of Metall: The Seller hereof hath Invented a large double Microscope, and a Pocket Microscope, more useful than any that hath been yet made, being approved of by the Royal Society.

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A Small old Spaniel Bitch, little Leggs, and a little Head, Liver colour'd and White, the Holes in her Ears tore out, lost from Mr. Charles Clayton's Lodging, at Mr. Barrington's in Old Southampton-Buildings in Holbourn, whoever will restore her shall have Ten Shillings reward.

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, 1692.