

‘ with Industry and Fidelity what I want in Parts and
 ‘ Genius. I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient Servant,

C

Charles Lillie.



N^o 17. *Tuesday, March 20.*

—— *Tetrum ante Omnia vultum.*

Juv.

SINCE our Persons are not of our own Making, when they are such as appear Defective or Uncomely, it is, methinks, an honest and laudable Fortitude to dare to be Ugly; at least to keep our selves from being abashed with a Consciousness of Imperfections which we cannot help, and in which there is no Guilt. I would not defend an haggard Beau, for passing away much time at a Glafs, and giving Softnesses and Languishing Graces to Deformity: All I intend is, that we ought to be contented with our Countenance and Shape, so far, as never to give our selves an uneasy Reflexion on that Subject. It is to the ordinary People, who are not accustomed to make very proper Remarks on any Occasion, matter of great Jest, if a Man enters with a prominent Pair of Shoulders into an Assembly, or is distinguished by an Expansion of Mouth, or Obliquity of Aspect. It is happy for a Man, that has any of these Odneffes about him, if he can be as merry upon himself, as others are apt to be upon that Occasion: When he can possess himself with such a Chearfulness, Women and Children, who were at first frighted at him, will afterwards be as much pleased with him. As it is barbarous in others to rally him for natural Defects, it is extremely agreeable when he can jest upon himself for them.

MADAM *Maintenon's* first Husband was an Hero in this Kind, and has drawn many Pleasantries from the Irregularity

regularity of his Shape, which he describes as very much resembling the Letter Z. He diverts himself likewise by representing to his Reader the Make of an Engine and Pully, with which he used to take off his Hat. When there happens to be any thing ridiculous in a Visage, and the Owner of it thinks it an Aspect of Dignity, he must be of very great Quality to be exempt from Raillery: The best Expedient therefore is to be pleasant upon himself. Prince *Harry* and *Falstaffe*, in *Shakespeare*, have carried the Ridicule upon Fat and Lean as far as it will go. *Falstaffe* is humorously called *Woolfack*, *Bed-presser*, and *Hill of Flesh*; *Harry*, a *Starveling*, an *Elves-skin*, a *Sheath*, a *Bow-case*, and a *Tuck*. There is, in several Incidents of the Conversation between them, the Jest still kept up upon the Person. Great Tendernefs and Sensibility in this Point is one of the greatest Weaknesses of Self-love. For my own part, I am a little unhappy in the Mold of my Face, which is not quite so long as it is broad: Whether this might not partly arise from my opening my mouth much feldomer than other People, and by Consequence not so much lengthning the Fibres of my Visage, I am not at leisure to determine. However it be, I have been often put out of Countenance by the Shortness of my Face, and was formerly at great Pains in concealing it by wearing a Periwig with an high Foretop, and letting my Beard grow. But now I have thoroughly got over this Delicacy, and could be contented with a much shorter, provided it might qualify me for a Member of the Merry Club, which the following Letter gives me an Account of. I have received it from *Oxford*, and as it abounds with the Spirit of Mirth and Good-humour which is natural to that Place, I shall set it down Word for Word as it came to me.

Most profound Sir,

‘ HAVING been very well entertained, in the last
 ‘ of your Speculations that I have yet seen by
 ‘ your Specimen upon Clubs, which I therefore hope you
 ‘ will continue, I shall take the Liberty to furnish you
 ‘ with a brief Account of such a one as perhaps you have
 ‘ not seen in all your Travels, unless it was your Fortune
 ‘ to touch upon some of the woody Parts of the *African*
 ‘ Continent,

‘ Continent, in your Voyage to or from *Grand Cairo*.
 ‘ There have arose in this University (long since you
 ‘ left us without saying any thing) several of these in-
 ‘ ferior Hebdomadal Societies, as *the Punning Club, the*
 ‘ *Witty Club*, and amongst the rest, *the Handsom Club*;
 ‘ as a Burlesque upon which, a certain merry Species,
 ‘ that seem to have come into the World in Masquerade,
 ‘ for some Years last past have associated themselves to-
 ‘ gether, and assumed the Name of *the Ugly Club*: This
 ‘ ill-favoured Fraternity consists of a President and twelve
 ‘ Fellows; the Choice of which is not confined by Pa-
 ‘ tent to any particular Foundation, (as *St. John’s Men*
 ‘ would have the World believe, and have therefore
 ‘ erected a separate Society within themselves) but Li-
 ‘ berty is left to elect from any School in *Great-Britain*,
 ‘ provided the Candidates be within the Rules of the
 ‘ Club, as set forth, in a Table, intituled, *The Act of*
 ‘ *Deformity*. A Clause or two of which I shall transmit
 ‘ to you.

‘ I. THAT no Person whatsoever shall be admitted
 ‘ without a visible Quearity in his Aspect, or peculiar
 ‘ Cast of Countenance; of which the President and Offi-
 ‘ cers for the time being are to determine, and the Pre-
 ‘ sident to have the casting Voice.

‘ II. THAT a singular Regard be had, upon Exa-
 ‘ mination, to the Gibbosity of the Gentlemen that of-
 ‘ fer themselves, as Founders Kinsmen; or to the Obli-
 ‘ quity of their Figure, in what sort soever.

‘ III. THAT if the Quantity of any Man’s Nose
 ‘ be eminently miscalculated, whether as to Length or
 ‘ Breadth, he shall have a just Pretence to be elected.

‘ Lastly, THAT if there shall be two or more Com-
 ‘ petitors for the same Vacancy, *cæteris paribus*, he that
 ‘ has the thickest Skin to have the Preference.

‘ EVERY fresh Member, upon his first Night, is
 ‘ to entertain the Company with a Dish of Cod-fish, and
 ‘ a Speech in Praise of *Æsop*; whose Portraiture they
 ‘ have in full Proportion, or rather Disproportion, o-
 ‘ ver the Chimney; and their Design is, as soon as
 ‘ their Funds are sufficient, to purchase the Heads of
 ‘ *Thersites, Duns Scotus, Scarron, Hudibras*, and the old
 V O L. I. D Gentle-

‘ Gentleman in *Oldham*, with all the celebrated ill Faces
‘ of Antiquity, as Furniture for the Club-Room.

‘ AS they have always been professed Admirers of
‘ the other Sex, so they unanimously declare that they
‘ will give all possible Encouragement to such as will
‘ take the Benefit of the Statute, though none yet have
‘ appeared to do it.

‘ THE worthy President, who is their most devoted
‘ Champion, has lately shewn me two Copies of Verses
‘ composed by a Gentleman of his Society; the first, a
‘ Congratulatory Ode inscribed to Mrs. *Touchwood*, upon
‘ the loss of her two Fore-teeth; the other, a Panegyrick
‘ upon Mrs. *Andiron*’s left Shoulder. Mrs. *Vizard* (he
‘ says) since the Small-Pox, is grown tolerably ugly, and
‘ a top Toast in the Club; but I never heard him so lavish
‘ of his fine Things, as upon old *Nell Trot*, who constant-
‘ ly officiates at their Table; her he even adores and ex-
‘ tols as the very Counterpart of Mother *Shipton*; in short,
‘ *Nell* (says he) is one of the Extraordinary Works of
‘ Nature; but as for Complexion, Shape, and Features,
‘ so valued by others, they are all mere Outside and
‘ Symmetry, which is his Aversion. Give me leave to
‘ add, that the President is a facetious pleasant Gentle-
‘ man, and never more so, than when he has got (as he
‘ calls ’em) his dear Mummers about him; and he of-
‘ ten protests it does him good to meet a Fellow with
‘ a right genuine Grimace in his Air, (which is so a-
‘ greeable in the generality of the *French Nation*;) and,
‘ as an Instance of his Sincerity in this Particular, he gave
‘ me a Sight of a List in his Pocket-book of all of this
‘ Class, who for these five Years have fallen under his
‘ Observation, with himself at the Head of ’em, and
‘ in the Rear (as one of a promising and improving
‘ Aspect)

S I R,

Oxford,
March 12, 1710.

R

Your Obligated and
Humble Servant,
Alexander Carbuncle.

Wednesday,