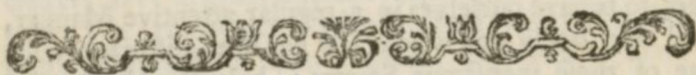


gave a Description of my Face the next Day; being resolved, as I grow in Reputation for Wit, to resign my Pretensions to Beauty. This, I hope, may give some Ease to those unhappy Gentlemen, who do me the Honour to torment themselves upon the Account of this my Paper. As their Case is very deplorable, and deserves Compassion, I shall sometimes be dull, in Pity to them, and will from time to time administer Consolations to them by further Discoveries of my Person. In the mean while, if any one says the SPECTATOR has Wit, it may be some Relief to them, to think that he does not shew it in Company. And if any one praises his Morality, they may comfort themselves by considering that his Face is none of the longest.

R

N<sup>o</sup> 20.

Friday, March 23.

— Κύριε ὁμματ' ἔχων — Hom.

**A**MONG the other hardy Undertakings which I have proposed to myself, that of the Correction of Impudence is what I have very much at Heart. This in a particular Manner is my Province as SPECTATOR; for it is generally an Offence committed by the Eyes, and that against such as the Offenders would perhaps never have an Opportunity of injuring any other Way. The following Letter is a Complaint of a young Lady, who sets forth a Trespass of this Kind, with that Command of herself as befits Beauty and Innocence, and yet with so much Spirit as sufficiently expresses her Indignation. The whole Transaction is performed with the Eyes; and the Crime is no less than employing them in such a Manner, as to divert the Eyes of others from the best Use they can make of them, even looking up to Heaven.

D 5

S I R,

S I R,

THERE never was (I believe) an acceptable Man but had some awkward Imitators. Ever since the SPECTATOR appeared, have I remarked a kind of Men, whom I choose to call *Starers*; that without any regard to Time, Place or Modesty, disturb a large Company with their impertinent Eyes. Spectators make up a proper Assembly for a Puppet-Show or a Bear-Garden; but devout Supplicants and attentive Hearers, are the Audience one ought to expect in Churches. I am, Sir, Member of a small pious Congregation near one of the North Gates of this City; much the greater Part of us indeed are Females, and used to behave ourselves in a regular attentive Manner, 'till very lately one whole Isle has been disturbed with one of these monstrous *Starers*; he's the Head taller than any one in the Church; but for the greater Advantage of exposing himself, stands upon a Hassock, and commands the whole Congregation, to the great Annoyance of the devoutest Part of the Auditory; for what with Blushing, Confusion, and Vexation, we can neither mind the Prayers nor Sermon. Your Animadversion upon this Insolence would be a great Favour to,

S I R,

*Your most humble Servant,*

S. C.

I have frequently seen of this sort of Fellows, and do not think there can be a greater Aggravation of an Offence, than that it is committed where the Criminal is protected by the Sacredness of the Place which he violates. Many Reflexions of this sort might be very justly made upon this kind of Behaviour, but a *Starer* is not usually a Person to be convinced by the Reason of the thing, and a Fellow that is capable of shewing an impudent Front before a whole Congregation, and can bear being a publick Spectacle, is not so easily rebuked as to amend by Admonitions. If therefore my Correspondent does not inform me, that within seven Days after this Date the

Barbarian



Barbarian does not at least stand upon his own Legs only, without an Eminence, my Friend *Will. Prosper* has promised to take an Hassock opposite to him, and stare against him in Defence of the Ladies. I have given him Directions, according to the most exact Rules of Opticks, to place himself in such a manner that he shall meet his Eyes where-ever he throws them: I have Hopes that when *Will.* confronts him, and all the Ladies, in whose Behalf he engages him, cast kind Looks and Wishes of Success at their Champion, he will have some Shame, and feel a little of the Pain he has so often put others to, of being out of Countenance.

IT has indeed been Time out of Mind generally remarked, and as often lamented, that this Family of Starers have infested publick Assemblies: And I know no other Way to obviate so great an Evil, except, in the Case of fixing their Eyes upon Women, some Male Friend will take the Part of such as are under the Oppression of Impudence, and encounter the Eyes of the Starers where-ever they meet them. While we suffer our Women to be thus impudently attacked, they have no Defence, but in the End to cast yielding Glances at the Starers: And in this Case, a Man who has no Sense of Shame has the same Advantage over his Mistress, as he who has no Regard for his own Life has over his Adversary. While the Generality of the World are fettered by Rules and move by proper and just Methods; he who has no Respect to any of them, carries away the Reward due to that Propriety of Behaviour, with no other Merit, but that of having neglected it.

I take an impudent Fellow to be a sort of Outlaw in Good-breeding, and therefore what is said of him no Nation or Person can be concerned for. For this Reason, one may be free upon him. I have put my self to great Pains in considering this prevailing Quality which we call Impudence, and have taken notice that it exerts it self in a different manner, according to the different Soils where-in such Subjects of these Dominions, as are Masters of it, were born. Impudence in an *Englishman* is sullen and insolent; in a *Scotchman* it is untractable and rapacious; in an *Irishman* absurd and fawning: As the Course of the World now runs, the impudent *Englishman* behaves like

a surly Landlord, the *Scot* like an ill received Guest, and the *Irishman* like a Stranger who knows he is not welcome. There is seldom any thing entertaining either in the Impudence of a *South* or *North-Briton*; but that of an *Irishman* is always Comick: A true and genuine Impudence is ever the Effect of Ignorance, without the least Sense of it: The best and most successful Starers now in this Town, are of that Nation; they have usually the Advantage of the Stature mentioned in the above Letter of my Correspondent, and generally take their Stands in the Eye of Women of Fortune: Insomuch that I have known one of them, three Months after he came from Plough, with a tolerable good Air lead out a Woman from a Play, which one of our own Breed, after four Years at *Oxford*, and two at the *Temple*, would have been afraid to look at.

I cannot tell how to account for it, but these People have usually the Preference to our own Fools, in the Opinion of the sillier Part of Womankind. Perhaps it is that an *English* Coxcomb is seldom so obsequious as an *Irish* one; and when the Design of pleasing is visible, an Absurdity in the Way toward it is easily forgiven.

BUT those who are downright impudent, and go on without Reflexion that they are such, are more to be tolerated, than a Set of Fellows among us who profess Impudence with an Air of Humour, and think to carry off the most inexcusable of all Faults in the World, with no other Apology than saying in a gay Tone, *I put an Impudent Face upon the Matter*. No; no Man shall be allowed the Advantages of Impudence, who is conscious that he is such: If he knows he is impudent, he may as well be otherwise; and it shall be expected that he blush, when he sees he makes another do it. For nothing can atone for the Want of Modesty; without which Beauty is ungraceful, and wit detestable. R



Saturday,