

‘ can prevail to send us the Furniture you forbid at the
 ‘ Play-house, the Heroes appear only like sturdy Beggars,
 ‘ and the Heroines Gipsies. We have had but one Part
 ‘ which was performed and dressed with Propriety, and
 ‘ that was Justice *Clodpate*: This was so well done that
 ‘ it offended Mr. Justice *Overdo*, who, in the midst of our
 ‘ whole Audience, was (like *Quixote* in the Puppet-Show)
 ‘ so highly provoked, that he told them, If they would
 ‘ move Compassion, it should be in their own Persons,
 ‘ and not in the Characters of distressed Princes and Po-
 ‘ tentates: He told them, If they were so good at find-
 ‘ ing the way to Peoples Hearts, they should do it at the
 ‘ End of Bridges or Church-Porches, in their proper Vo-
 ‘ cation of Beggars. This, the Justice says, they must ex-
 ‘ pect, since they could not be contented to act Hea-
 ‘ then Warriors, and such Fellows as *Alexander*, but must
 ‘ presume to make a Mockery of one of the *Quorun*.
 R Your Servant.



Nº 49. Thursday, April 26.

——— *Hominem pagina nostra sapit.*

Mart.

IT is very natural for a Man who is not turned for
 Mirthful Meetings of Men, or Assemblies of the fair
 Sex, to delight in that sort of Conversation which we
 find in Coffee-houses. Here a Man, of my Temper, is in
 his Element; for if he cannot talk, he can still be more
 agreeable to his Company, as well as pleased in himself,
 in being only an Hearer. It is a Secret known but to
 few, yet of no small use in the Conduct of Life, that
 when you fall into a Man's Conversation, the first thing
 you should consider is, whether he has a greater Inclina-
 tion to hear you, or that you should hear him. The lat-
 ter is the more general Desire, and I know very able Flat-
 terers that never speak a Word in Praise of the Persons
 from whom they obtain daily Favours, but still practise a
 skilful Attention to whatever is uttered by those with
 whom

whom they converse. We are very Curious to observe the Behaviour of great Men and their Clients; but the same Passions and Interests move Men in lower Spheres; and I (that have nothing else to do, but make Observations) see in every Parish, Street, Lane, and Alley of this Populous City, a little Potentate that has his Court and his Flatterers who lay Snares for his Affection and Favour, by the same Arts that are practised upon Men in higher Stations.

IN the Place I most usually frequent, Men differ rather in the Time of Day in which they make a Figure, than in any real Greatness above one another. I, who am at the Coffee-house at Six in a Morning, know that my Friend *Beaver* the Haberdasher has a Levy of more undissembled Friends and Admirers, than most of the Courtiers or Generals of *Great-Britain*. Every Man about him has, perhaps, a News-Paper in his Hand; but none can pretend to guess what Step will be taken in any one Court of *Europe*, 'till Mr. *Beaver* has thrown down his Pipe, and declares what Measures the Allies must enter into upon this new Posture of Affairs. Our Coffee-house is near one of the Inns of Court, and *Beaver* has the Audience and Admiration of his Neighbours from Six 'till within a Quarter of Eight, at which time he is interrupted by the Students of the House; some of whom are ready dress'd for *Westminster*, at eight in a Morning, with Faces as busy as if they were retained in every Cause there; and others come in their Night-Gowns to santer away their Time, as if they never designed to go thither. I do not know that I meet, in any of my Walks, Objects which move both my Spleen and Laughter so effectually, as these Young Fellows at the *Grecian*, *Squire's*, *Searl's*, and all other Coffee-houses adjacent to the Law, who rise early for no other purpose but to publish their Laziness. One would think these young *Virtuoso's* take a gay Cap and Slippers, with a Scarf and Party-coloured Gown, to be Ensigns of Dignity; for the vain Things approach each other with an Air, which shews they regard one another for their Vestments. I have observed, that the Superiority among these proceeds from an Opinion of Gallantry and Fashion: The Gentleman in the Strawberry Sash, who presides so much over the rest, has, it seems, sub-

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scribed to every Opera this last Winter, and is suppos'd to receive Favours from one of the Actresses.

WHEN the Day grows too busy for these Gentlemen to enjoy any longer the Pleasures of their *Deshabillé*, with any manner of Confidence, they give place to Men who have Business or good Sense in their Faces, and come to the Coffee-house either to transact Affairs or enjoy Conversation. The Persons to whose Behaviour and Discourse I have most regard, are such as are between these two sorts of Men: Such as have not Spirits too active to be happy and well pleased in a private Condition, nor Complexions too warm to make them neglect the Duties and Relations of Life. Of these sort of Men consist the worthier Part of Mankind; of these are all good Fathers, generous Brothers, sincere Friends, and faithful Subjects. Their Entertainments are derived rather from Reason than Imagination: Which is the Cause that there is no Impatience or Instability in their Speech or Action. You see in their Countenances they are at home, and in quiet Possession of the present Instant, as it passes, without desiring to quicken it by gratifying any Passion, or prosecuting any new Design. These are the Men formed for Society, and those little Communities which we express by the Word *Neighbourhoods*.

THE Coffee-house is the Place of Rendezvous to all that live near it, who are thus turned to relish calm and ordinary Life. *Eubulus* presides over the middle Hours of the Day, when this Assembly of Men meet together. He enjoys a great Fortune handsomely, without lanching into Expence; and exerts many noble and useful Qualities, without appearing in any publick Employment. His Wisdom and Knowledge are serviceable to all that think fit to make use of them; and he does the Office of a Council, a Judge, an Executor, and a Friend to all his Acquaintance, not only without the Profits which attend such Offices, but also without the Deference and Homage which are usually paid to them. The giving of Thanks is displeasing to him. The greatest Gratitude you can shew him, is to let him see you are the better Man for his Services; and that you are as ready to oblige others, as he is to oblige you.

IN the private Exigencies of his Friends he lends, at legal Value, considerable Sums, which he might highly increase by rolling in the publick Stocks. He does not consider in whose Hands his Money will improve most, but where it will do most Good.

EUBULUS has so great an Authority in his little Diurnal Audience, that when he shakes his Head at any Piece of publick News, they all of them appear dejected; and, on the contrary, go home to their Dinners with a good Stomach and chearful Aspect, when *Eubulus* seems to intimate that Things go well. Nay, their Veneration towards him is so great, that when they are in other Company they speak and act after him; are Wise in his Sentences, and are no sooner sat down at their own Tables, but they hope or fear, rejoice or despond as they saw him do at the Coffee-house. In a word, every Man is *Eubulus* as soon as his Back is turned.

HAVING here given an Account of the several Reigns that succeed each other from Day-break till Dinner-time, I shall mention the Monarchs of the Afternoon on another Occasion, and shut up the whole Series of them with the History of *Tom* the Tyrant; who, as first Minister of the Coffee-house, takes the Government upon him between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve at Night, and gives his Orders in the most Arbitrary manner to the Servants below him, as to the Disposition of Liquors, Coal and Cinders.

R.



N^o 50. *Friday, April 27.*

Nunquam aliud Natura, aliud Sapientia dixit. Juv.

WHEN the four *Indian* Kings were in this Country about a Twelvemonth ago, I often mixed with the Rabble, and followed them a whole Day together, being wonderfully struck with the Sight of every thing that is new or uncommon. I have, since their Departure, employed a Friend to make many Inquiries of

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