

N^o 53.

Tuesday, May 1.



— Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus. Hor.

MY Correspondents grow so numerous, that I cannot avoid frequently inserting their Applications to me.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Am glad I can inform you, that your Endeavours to adorn that Sex, which is the fairest Part of the visible Creation, are well received, and like to prove not unsuccessful. The Triumph of *Daphne* over her Sister *Lettitia* has been the Subject of Conversation at several Tea-Tables where I have been present; and I have observed the fair Circle not a little pleased to find you considering them as reasonable Creatures, and endeavouring to banish that *Mahometan* Custom which had too much prevailed even in this Island, of treating Women as if they had no Souls. I must do them the Justice to say, that there seems to be nothing wanting to the finishing of these lovely Pieces of Human Nature, besides the turning and applying their Ambition properly, and the keeping them up to a Sense of what is their true Merit. *Epicuretus*, that plain honest Philosopher, as little as he had of Gallantry, appears to have understood them, as well as the Polite St. *Evremont*, and has hit this Point very luckily. *When Young Women*, says he, *arrive at a certain Age, they hear themselves called Mistresses, and are made to believe that their only Business is to please the Men; they immediately begin to dress, and place all their Hopes in the adorning of their Persons; it is therefore,* continues he, *worth the while to endeavour by all Means to make them sensible, that the Honour paid to them is only upon Account of their conducting themselves with Virtue, Modesty, and Discretion.*

NOW to pursue the Matter yet further, and to render your Cares for the Improvement of the Fair Ones
more

' more effectual, I would propose a new Method, like
 ' those Applications which are said to convey their Virtue
 ' by Sympathy; and that is, that in order to embellish the
 ' Mistress, you should give a new Education to the Lov-
 ' er, and teach the Men not to be any longer dazzled by
 ' false Charms and unreal Beauty. I cannot but think that
 ' if our Sex knew always how to place their Esteem justly,
 ' the other would not be so often wanting to themselves
 ' in deserving it. For as the being enamour'd with a
 ' Woman of Sense and Virtue is an Improvement to a
 ' Man's Understanding and Morals, and the Passion is en-
 ' nobled by the Object which inspires it; so on the other
 ' Side, the appearing amiable to a Man of a wise and ele-
 ' gant Mind, carries in it self no small Degree of Merit
 ' and Accomplishment. I conclude therefore, that one
 ' way to make the Women yet more agreeable is, to
 ' make the Men more virtuous.

I am, S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

R. B.

S I R,

April 26.

' **Y**OURS of *Saturday* last I read, not without some
 ' Resentment; but I will suppose when you say you
 ' expect an Inundation of Ribbons and Brocades, and to
 ' see many new Vanities which the Women will fall into
 ' upon a Peace with *France*, that you intend only the un-
 ' thinking Part of our Sex; and what Methods can reduce
 ' them to Reason is hard to imagine.

' BUT, Sir, there are others yet that your Instructi-
 ' ons might be of great use to, who, after their best En-
 ' deavours, are sometimes at a Loss to acquit themselves
 ' to a Censorious World: I am far from thinking you
 ' can altogether disapprove of Conversation between La-
 ' dies and Gentlemen, regulated by the Rules of Ho-
 ' nour and Prudence; and have thought it an Observa-
 ' tion not ill made, that where that was wholly denied,
 ' the Women lost their Wit, and the Men their good
 ' Manners. 'Tis sure, from those improper Liberties you
 ' mentioned, that a sort of undistinguishing People shall
 ' banish from their Drawing-Rooms the best-bred Men
 ' in the World, and condemn those that do not. Your
 ' flating

stating this Point might, I think, be of good use, as well as much oblige,

S I R, Your Admirer, and
most humble Servant,
ANNA BELLA.

No Answer to this, till Anna Bella sends a Description of those she calls the Best-bred Men in the World.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I AM a Gentleman who for many Years last past have been well known to be truly Splenetick, and that my Spleen arises from having contracted so great a Delicacy, by reading the best Authors, and keeping the most refined Company, that I cannot bear the least Impropriety of Language, or Rusticity of Behaviour. Now, Sir, I have ever looked upon this as a wise Distemper; but by late Observations find that every heavy Wretch, who has nothing to say, excuses his Dulness by complaining of the Spleen. Nay, I saw, the other Day, two Fellows in a Tavern Kitchen set up for it, call for a Pint and Pipes, and only by Guzzling Liquor to each other's Health, and wasting Smoke in each other's Face, pretend to throw off the Spleen. I appeal to you, whether these Dishonours are to be done to the Distemper of the Great and the Polite. I beseech you, Sir, to inform these Fellows that they have not the Spleen, because they cannot talk without the help of a Glass at their Mouths, or convey their Meaning to each other without the Interposition of Clouds. If you will not do this with all Speed, I assure you, for my part, I will wholly quit the Disease, and for the future be merry with the Vulgar.

I am, S I R,
Your humble Servant.

S I R,

THIS is to let you understand, that I am a reformed Starer, and conceived a Detestation for that Practice from what you have writ upon the Subject. But as you have been very severe upon the Behaviour of us Men at Divine Service, I hope you will not be so
— appa-

' apparently partial to the Women, as to let them go
 ' wholly unobserved. If they do every thing that is pos-
 ' sible to attract our Eyes, are we more culpable than they
 ' for looking at them? I happened last *Sunday* to be shut
 ' into a Pew, which was full of young Ladies in the
 ' Bloom of Youth and Beauty. When the Service began,
 ' I had not Room to kneel at the Confession, but as I
 ' stood kept my Eyes from wandering as well as I was
 ' able, till one of the young Ladies, who is a Peeper,
 ' resolved to bring down my Looks, and fix my Devot-
 ' tion on her self. You are to know, Sir, that a Peeper
 ' works with her Hands, Eyes, and Fan; one of which
 ' is continually in Motion, while she thinks she is not
 ' actually the Admiration of some Ogler or Starer in the
 ' Congregation. As I stood utterly at a loss how to be-
 ' have my self, surrounded as I was, this Peeper so
 ' placed her self as to be kneeling just before me. She
 ' display'd the most beautiful Bosom imaginable, which
 ' heaved and fell with some Fervour, while a delicate
 ' well-shaped Arm held a Fan over her Face. It was not
 ' in Nature to command ones Eyes from this Object.
 ' I could not avoid taking notice also of her Fan, which
 ' had on it various Figures, very improper to behold
 ' on that Occasion. There lay in the Body of the Piece
 ' a *Venus*, under a Purple Canopy furled with curious
 ' Wreaths of Drapery, half naked, attended with a
 ' Train of *Cupids*, who were busied in Fanning her as she
 ' slept. Behind her was drawn a Satyr peeping over the
 ' silken Fence, and threatening to break through it. I
 ' frequently offered to turn my Sight another way, but
 ' was still detained by the Fascination of the Peeper's
 ' Eyes, who had long practised a Skill in them, to recal
 ' the parting Glances of her Beholders. You see my
 ' Complaint, and hope you will take these mischievous
 ' People, the Peepers, into your Consideration: I doubt
 ' not but you will think a Peeper, as much more pernicious
 ' than a Starer, as an Ambuscade is more to be
 ' feared than an open Assault.

I am, S I R, Your most obedient Servant.

*This Peeper using both Fan and Eyes to be considered as a
 Pict, and proceed accordingly.*

King

King Latinus to the Spectator, Greeting.

‘ T H O’ some may think we descend from our Imperial Dignity, in holding Correspondence with a private *Litterato*; yet as we have great Respect to all good Intentions for our Service, we do not esteem it beneath us to return you our Royal Thanks for what you published in our Behalf, while under Confinement in the enchanted Castle of the *Savoy*, and for your Mention of a Subsidy for a Prince in Misfortune. This your timely Zeal has inclined the Hearts of divers to be aiding unto us, if we could propose the Means. We have taken their Good-will into Consideration, and have contrived a Method which will be easy to those who shall give the Aid; and not unacceptable to us who receive it. A Consort of Musick shall be prepared at *Haberdashers-Hall* for *Wednesday* the Second of *May*, and we will honour the said Entertainment with our own Presence, where each Person shall be assessed but at two Shillings and six Pence. What we expect from you is, that you publish these our Royal Intentions, with Injunction that they be read at all Tea-Tables within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*; and so we bid you heartily Farewell.

Latinus, King of the Volscians.

Given at our Court in Vinegar-Yard, Story the Third from the Earth. April 28, 1711.

R



N^o 54. *Wednesday, May 2.*

— *Strenua nos exercet inertia.*

Hor.

THE following Letter being the first that I have received from the learned University of *Cambridge*, I could not but do my self the Honour of publishing it. It gives an Account of a new Sect of Philosophers which