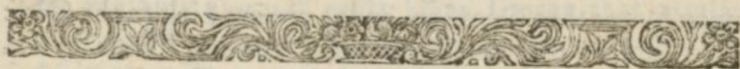


Good and Ill in this Life ; and she naturally thinks, if she is tall enough, she is wise enough for any thing for which her Education makes her think she is designed. To make her an agreeable Person is the main Purpose of her Parents ; to that is all their Costs, to that all their Care directed ; and from this general Folly of Parents we owe our present numerous Race of Coquettes. These Reflexions puzzle me, when I think of giving my Advice on the Subject of managing the wild Thing mentioned in the Letter of my Correspondent. But sure there is a middle Way to be followed ; the Management of a young Lady's Person is not to be overlooked, but the Erudition of her Mind is much more to be regarded. According as this is managed, you will see the Mind follow the Appetites of the Body, or the Body express the Virtues of the Mind.

CLEOMIRA dances with all the Elegance of Motion imaginable ; but her Eyes are so chastised with the Simplicity and Innocence of her Thoughts, that she raises in her Beholders Admiration and Good-will, but no loose Hope or wild Imagination. The true Art in this Case is, To make the Mind and Body improve together ; and if possible, to make Gesture follow Thought, and not let Thought be employed upon Gesture. R



N^o 67. Thursday, May 17.

Saltare elegantius quàm necesse est probæ.

Sal.

LUCIAN, in one of his Dialogues, introduces a Philosopher chiding his Friend for his being a Lover of Dancing, and a Frequenter of Balls. The other undertakes the Defence of his Favourite Diversion, which, he says, was at first invented by the Goddess *Rhea*, and preserved the Life of *Jupiter* himself, from the Cruelty of his Father *Saturn*. He proceeds to shew, that it had been Approved by the greatest Men in all Ages ; that *Homer* calls *Merion* a *Fine Dancer* ; and says, That the graceful Mien and great Agility which he had acquired by that Exercise, distinguished him above the rest in the Armies, both of *Greeks* and *Trojans*. H E

HE adds, that *Pyrrhus* gained more Reputation by Inventing the Dance which is called after his Name, than by all his other Actions: That the *Lacedæmonians*, who were the bravest People in *Greece*, gave great Encouragement to this Diversion, and made their *Hormus* (a Dance much resembling the *French Brawl*) famous over all *Asia*: That there were still extant some *Theſſalian* Statues erected to the Honour of their best Dancers: And that he wondered how his Brother Philosopher could declare himself against the Opinions of those two Persons, whom he professed so much to admire, *Homer* and *Hesiod*; the latter of which compares Valour and Dancing together; and says, That the Gods have bestowed Fortitude on some Men, and on others a Disposition for Dancing.

LASTLY, he puts him in mind that *Socrates*, (who, in the Judgment of *Apollo*, was the wisest of Men) was not only a professed Admirer of this Exercise in others, but learned it himself when he was an old Man,

THE Morose Philosopher is so much affected by these, and some other Authorities, that he becomes a Convert to his Friend, and desires he would take him with him when he went to his next Ball.

I love to shelter my self under the Examples of great Men; and, I think, I have sufficiently shewed that it is not below the Dignity of these my Speculations to take notice of the following Letter, which, I suppose, is sent me by some substantial Tradesman about *Change*.

S I R,

I Am a Man in Years, and by an honest Industry in the World have acquired enough to give my Children a liberal Education, though I was an utter Stranger to it my self. My eldest Daughter, a Girl of Sixteen, has for some time been under the Tuition of Monsieur *Rigadoon*, a Dancing-Master in the City; and I was prevailed upon by her and her Mother to go last Night to one of his Balls. I must own to you, Sir, that having never been at any such Place before, I was very much pleased and surpris'd with that Part of his Entertainment which he called *French Dancing*. There were several young Men and Women, whose Limbs seem'd to have no other Motion, but purely what the Musick gave

“ gave them. After this Part was over, they began a
 “ Diverſion which they call *Country-Dancing*, and where-
 “ in there were alſo ſome things not diſagreeable, and
 “ divers *Emblematical Figures*, Compos’d, as I gueſs, by
 “ Wiſe Men, for the Inſtruction of Youth.

“ A MONG theſt, I obſerved one, which, I think,
 “ they call *Hunt the Squirrel*, in which while the Woman
 “ flies the Man purſues her; but as ſoon as ſhe turns, he
 “ runs away, and ſhe is obliged to follow.

“ THE Moral of this Dance does, I think, very
 “ aptly recommend Modeſty and Diſcretion to the Fe-
 “ male Sex.

“ BUT as the beſt Inſtitutions are liable to Corrupti-
 “ ons, ſo, Sir, I muſt acquaint you, that very great A-
 “ buſes are crept into this Entertainment. I was amazed
 “ to ſee my Girl handed by, and handing young Fellows
 “ with ſo much Familiarity; and I could not have thought
 “ it had been in the Child. They very often made uſe of
 “ a moſt impudent and laſcivious Step called *Setting*,
 “ which I know not how to deſcribe to you, but by tel-
 “ ling you that it is the very reverſe of *Back to Back*. At
 “ laſt an impudent young Dog bid the Fiddlers play a
 “ Dance called *Mol. Pately*, and after having made two
 “ or three Capers, ran to his Partner, locked his Arms
 “ in hers, and whiſked her round cleverly above Ground
 “ in ſuch manner, that I, who ſat upon one of the loweſt
 “ Benches, ſaw further above her Shoe than I can think
 “ fit to acquaint you with. I could no longer endure
 “ theſe Enormities, wherefore juſt as my Girl was going
 “ to be made a Whirligig, I ran in, ſeized on the Child,
 “ and carried her home.

“ SIR, I am not yet old enough to be a Fool. I ſup-
 “ poſe this Diverſion might be at firſt invented to keep up
 “ a good Underſtanding between young Men and Wo-
 “ men, and ſo far I am not againſt it; but I ſhall never
 “ allow of theſe things. I know not what you will ſay
 “ to this Caſe at preſent, but am ſure that had you been
 “ with me you would have ſeen matter of great Specula-
 “ tion. I am
 Yours, &c.

I muſt confeſs I am afraid that my Correſpondent had
 too much Reaſon to be a little out of Humour at the
 Treat-

Treatment of his Daughter, but I conclude that he would have been much more so, had he seen one of those *kissing Dances* in which WILL. HONEYCOMB assures me they are obliged to dwell almost a Minute on the Fair One's Lips, or they will be too quick for the Musick, and dance quite out of Time.

I am not able however to give my final Sentence against this Diversion; and am of Mr. *Cowley's* Opinion, that so much of Dancing, at least, as belongs to the Behaviour and an handsom Carriage of the Body, is extremely useful, if not absolutely necessary.

WE generally form such Ideas of People at first Sight, as we are hardly ever persuaded to lay aside afterwards: For this Reason, a Man would wish to have nothing disagreeable or uncomely in his Approaches, and to be able to enter a Room with a good Grace.

I might add, that a moderate Knowledge in the little Rules of Good-breeding gives a Man some Assurance, and makes him easy in all Companies. For want of this, I have seen a Professor of a Liberal Science at a Loss to salute a Lady; and a most excellent Mathematician not able to determine whether he should stand or sit while my Lord drank to him.

IT is the proper Business of a Dancing-Master to regulate these Matters; tho' I take it to be a just Observation, that unless you add something of your own to what these fine Gentlemen teach you, and which they are wholly ignorant of themselves, you will much sooner get the Character of an Affected Fop, than of a well-bred Man.

AS for *Country Dancing*, it must indeed be confessed that the great Familiarities between the two Sexes on this Occasion may sometimes produce very dangerous Consequences; and I have often thought that few Ladies Hearts are so obdurate as not to be melted by the Charms of Musick, the Force of Motion, and an handsom young Fellow who is continually playing before their Eyes, and convincing them that he has the perfect Use of all his Limbs.

BUT as this kind of Dance is the particular Invention of our own Country, and as every one is more or less a Proficient in it, I would not Discountenance it; but rather

ther suppose it may be practised innocently by others, as well as my self, who am often Partner to my Landlady's Eldest Daughter.

P O S T S C R I P T.

HAVING heard a good Character of the Collection of Pictures which is to be Exposed to Sale on *Friday* next; and concluding from the following Letter, that the Person who Collected them is a Man of no unelegant Taste, I will be so much his Friend as to Publish it, provided the Reader will only look upon it as filling up the Place of an Advertisement.

From the three Chairs in the Piazza Covent-Garden.

S I R,

May 16, 1711.

AS you are SPECTATOR, I think we, who make it our Business to exhibit any thing to publick View, ought to apply our selves to you for your Approbation. I have travelled *Europe* to furnish out a Show for you, and have brought with me what has been admired in every Country thro' which I passed. You have declared in many Papers, that your greatest Delights are those of the Eye, which I do not doubt but I shall gratify with as beautiful Objects as yours ever beheld. If Castles, Forests, Ruins, Fine Women, and Graceful Men, can please you, I dare promise you much Satisfaction, if you will appear at my Auction on *Friday* next. A Sight is, I suppose, as grateful to a SPECTATOR, as a Treat to another Person, and therefore I hope you will pardon this Invitation from,

S I R, Your most obedient humble Servant,

J. GRAHAM.

N^o 68. *Friday, May 18.*

Nos duo turba sumus ———

Ovid.

ONE would think that the larger the Company is in which we are engaged, the greater Variety of Thoughts and Subjects would be started in discourse; but instead of this, we find that Conversation is never so much