

‘ thou wilt not be able to relish our Company, after thy
 ‘ Conversations with *Moll White* and *Will. Wimble*.
 ‘ Pr’ythee don’t send us up any more Stories of a Cock
 ‘ and a Bull, nor frighten the Town with Spirits and
 ‘ Witches. Thy Speculations begin to smell confound-
 ‘ edly of Woods and Meadows. If thou dost not come
 ‘ up quickly, we shall conclude that thou art in Love
 ‘ with one of Sir ROGER’s Dairy-Maids. Service to the
 ‘ Knight. Sir ANDREW is grown the Cock of the Club
 ‘ since he left us, and if he does not return quickly will
 ‘ make every Mother’s Son of us Commonwealth’s Men.

Dear SPEC,

Thine Eternally,

C

WILL. HONEYCOMB.



N^o 132. *Wednesday, August 1.*

— *Qui, aut Tempus quid postulet non videt, aut plura lo-
 quitur, aut se ostentat, aut eorum quibuscum est rationem
 non habet, is ineptus esse dicitur.* Tull.

HAVING notified to my good Friend Sir ROGER that I should set out for *London* the next Day, his Horses were ready at the appointed Hour in the Evening; and, attended by one of his Grooms, I arrived at the County-Town at Twilight, in order to be ready for the Stage-Coach the Day following. As soon as we arrived at the Inn, the Servant who waited upon me, inquir’d of the Chamberlain in my Hearing what Company he had for the Coach? The Fellow answered, Mrs. *Betty Arable* the great Fortune, and the Widow her Mother; a recruiting Officer (who took a Place because they were to go;) young Squire *Quickset* her Cousin (that her Mother wished her to be married to;) *Ephraim* the Quaker, her Guardian; and a Gentleman that had studied himself dumb from Sir ROGER DE COVERLEY’s. I observed by what

what he said of my self, that according to his Office he dealt much in Intelligence; and doubted not but there was some Foundation for his Reports for the rest of the Company, as well as for the whimsical Account he gave of me. The next Morning at Day-break we were all called; and I, who know my own natural Shyness, and endeavour to be as little liable to be disputed with as possible, dressed immediately, that I might make no one wait. The first Preparation for our Setting out was, that the Captain's Half-Pike was placed near the Coachman, and a Drum behind the Coach. In the mean time the Drummer, the Captain's Equipage, was very loud, that none of the Captain's things should be placed so as to be spoiled; upon which his Cloke-bag was fixed in the Seat of the Coach: And the Captain himself, according to a frequent, tho' invidious Behaviour of Military Men, ordered his Man to look sharp, that none but one of the Ladies should have the Place he had taken fronting to the Coach-box.

WE were in some little time fixed in our Seats, and sat with that Dislike which People not too good-natured usually conceive of each other at first Sight. The Coach jumbled us insensibly into some sort of Familiarity: and we had not moved above two Miles, when the Widow asked the Captain what Success he had in his Recruiting? The Officer, with a Frankness he believed very graceful, told her, 'That indeed he had but very little Luck, and had suffered much by Desertion, therefore should be glad to end his Warfare in the Service of her or her fair Daughter. In a Word, continued he, I am a Soldier, and to be plain is my Character: You see me, Madam, young, sound, and impudent; take me your self, Widow, or give me to her, I will be wholly at your Disposal. I am a Soldier of Fortune, ha!' This was followed by a vain Laugh of his own, and a deep Silence of all the rest of the Company, I had nothing left for it but to fall fast asleep, which I did with all Speed. 'Come, said he, resolve upon it, we will make a Wedding at the next Town: We will wake this pleasant Companion who is fallen asleep, to be the Brideman, and (giving the Quaker a Clap on the Knee) he concluded, 'This fly Saint, who, I'll warrant,

‘ warrant, understands what’s what as well as you or I,
 ‘ Widow, shall give the Bride as Father. The Quaker, who
 happened to be a Man of Smartness, answered, ‘ Friend,
 ‘ I take it in good part that thou hast given me the
 ‘ Authority of a Father over this comely and virtuous
 ‘ Child; and I must assure thee, that if I have the giving
 ‘ her, I shall not bestow her on thee. Thy Mirth,
 ‘ Friend, savoureth of Folly: Thou art a Person of a
 ‘ light Mind; thy Drum is a Type of thee, it soundeth
 ‘ because it is empty. Verily, it is not from thy Full-
 ‘ ness, but thy Emptiness that thou has spoken this Day.
 ‘ Friend, Friend, we have hired this Coach in Partner-
 ‘ ship with thee, to carry us to the great City; we can-
 ‘ not go any other Way. This worthy Mother must
 ‘ hear thee if thou wilt needs utter thy Follies; we can-
 ‘ not help it, Friend, I say: if thou wilt, we must hear
 ‘ thee: But if thou wert a Man of Understanding, thou
 ‘ wouldst not take Advantage of thy couragious Counte-
 ‘ nance to abash us Children of Peace. Thou art, thou
 ‘ sayest, a Soldier; give Quarter to us, who cannot re-
 ‘ sist thee. Why didst thou flee at our Friend, who
 ‘ feigned himself asleep? he said nothing; but how dost
 ‘ thou know what he containeth? If thou speakest im-
 ‘ proper Things in the Hearing of this virtuous young
 ‘ Virgin, consider it is an Outrage against a distressed
 ‘ Person that cannot get from thee: To speak indis-
 ‘ creetly what we are obliged to hear, by being hap-
 ‘ sed up with thee in this publick Vehicle, is in some de-
 ‘ gree assaulting on the high Road.

HERE *Ephraim* paused, and the Captain with an hap-
 py and uncommon Impudence (which can be convicted
 and support it self at the same time) cries, ‘ Faith, Friend,
 ‘ I thank thee; I should have been a little Impertinent if
 ‘ thou hadst not reprimanded me. Come, thou art, I
 ‘ see a smoky old Fellow, and I’ll be very orderly the
 ‘ ensuing Part of my Journey. I was going to give my
 ‘ self Airs, but Ladies I beg Pardon.

THE Captain who was so little out of Humour, and our
 Company was so far from being soured by this little Rus-
 fle, that *Ephraim* and he took a particular Delight in be-
 ing agreeable to each other for the future; and assumed
 their different Provinces in the Conduct of the Com-
 pany.

pany. Our Reckonings, Apartments, and Accommodation, fell under *Ephraim*: and the Captain looked to all Disputes on the Road, as the good Behaviour of our Coachman, and the Right we had of taking Place as going to *London* of all Vehicles coming from thence. The Occurrences we met with were ordinary, and very little happened which could entertain by the Relation of them: But when I consider'd the Company we were in, I took it for no small good Fortune that the whole Journey was not spent in Impertinencies, which to the one Part of us might be an Entertainment, to the other a Suffering. What therefore *Ephraim* said when we were almost arriv'd at *London*, had to me an Air not only of good Understanding but good Breeding. Upon the young Lady's expressing her Satisfaction in the Journey, and declaring how delightful it had been to her, *Ephraim* delivered himself as follows; 'There is no ordinary Part of human Life which expresseth so much a good Mind, and a right inward Man, as his Behaviour upon meeting with Strangers, especially such as may seem the most unsuitable Companions to him: Such a Man, when he falleth in the Way with Persons of Simplicity and Innocence, however knowing he may be in the Ways of Men, will not vaunt himself thereof; but will the rather hide his Superiority to them, that he may not be painful unto them. My good Friend, (continued he, turning to the Officer) thee and I are to part by and by, and peradventure we may never meet again: But be advis'd by a plain Man; Modes and Apparel are but Trifles to the real Man, therefore do not think such a Man as thy self terrible for thy Garb, nor such a one as me contemptible for mine. When two such as thee and I meet, with Affections as we ought to have towards each other, thou shouldst rejoice to see my peaceable Demeanour, and I should be glad to see thy Strength and Ability to protect me in it.

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*Thursday,*