

‘ most expressive of our Wants, and Dependence on the  
 ‘ Object of our Worship, dispos’d in most proper Order,  
 ‘ and void of all Confusion; what Influence, I say,  
 ‘ would these Prayers have, were they deliver’d with a  
 ‘ due Emphasis, and apposite Rising and Variation of  
 ‘ Voice, the Sentence concluded with a gentle Cadence,  
 ‘ and, in a Word, with such an Accent and Turn of  
 ‘ Speech as is peculiar to Prayer.

‘ A S the matter of Worship is now managed, in Dissenting Congregations, you find insignificant Words and Phrases raised by a lively Vehemence; in our own Churches, the most exalted Sense depreciated, by a dispassionate Indolence. I remember to have heard Dr. S — e say in his Pulpit, of the Common-prayer, that, at least, it was as perfect as any thing of Human Institution: If the Gentlemen who err in this kind would please to recollect the many Pleasantries they have read upon those who recite good Things with an ill Grace, they would go on to think that what in that Case is only ridiculous, in themselves is Impious. But leaving this to their own Reflexions, I shall conclude this Trouble with what *Cæsar* said upon the Irregularity of Tone in one who read before him, *Do you read or sing? If you sing, you sing very ill.*

T

Your most Humble Servant.



N<sup>o</sup> 148. Monday, August 20.

— *Exempta juvat spinis è pluribus una.* Hor.

**M**Y Correspondents assure me that the Enormities which they lately complained of, and I published an Account of, are so far from being amended, that new Evils arise every Day to interrupt their Conversation, in Contempt of my Reproofs. My Friend who writes from the Coffee-house near the Temple, informs me that the Gentleman who constantly sings a Voluntary in spite of the whole Company, was more musical than

than ordinary after reading my Paper ; and has not been contented with that, but has danced up to the Glass in the middle of the Room, and practis'd Minuet-steps to his own Humming. The incorrigible Creature has gone still farther, and in the open Coffee-house, with one Hand extended as leading a Lady in it, he has danced both *French* and *Country-Dances*, and admonish'd his suppos'd Partner by Smiles and Nods to hold up her Head, and fall back, according to the respective Facings and Evolutions of the Dance. Before this Gentleman began this his Exercise, he was pleas'd to clear his Throat by coughing and spitting a full half Hour ; and as soon as he struck up, he appeal'd to an Attorney's Clerk in the Room, whether he hit as he ought, *Since you from Death have saved me?* and then ask'd the young Fellow (pointing to a Chancery-Bill under his Arm) whether that was an Opera-Score he carried or not ? Without staying for an Answer he fell into the Exercise above-mentioned, and practis'd his Airs to the full House who were turned upon him, without the least Shame or Repentance for his former Transgressions.

I am to the last Degree at a Loss what to do with this young Fellow, except I declare him an Outlaw, and pronounce it penal for any one to speak to him in the said House which he frequents, and direct that he be oblig'd to drink his Tea and Coffee without Sugar, and not receive from any Person whatsoever any thing above mere Necessaries.

AS we in *England* are a sober People, and generally inclin'd rather to a certain Bashfulness of Behaviour in Publick, it is amazing whence some Fellows come whom one meets with in this Town ; they do not at all seem to be the Growth of our Island ; the Pert, the Talkative, all such as have no Sense of the Observation of others, are certainly of foreign Extraction. As for my part, I am as much surpris'd when I see a talkative *Englishman*, as I should be to see the *Indian Pine* growing on one of our quick-set Hedges ; where these Creatures get Sun enough, to make them such lively Animals and dull Men, is above my Philosophy.

THERE are another Kind of Impertinents which a Man is perplex'd with in mixed Company, and those are



your loud Speakers : These treat Mankind as if we were all deaf ; they do not exprefs but declare themselves. Many of these are guilty of this Outrage out of Vanity, because they think all they say is well ; or that they have their own Persons in such Veneration, that they believe nothing which concerns them can be insignificant to any Body else. For these Peoples sake, I have often lamented that we cannot close our Ears with as much Ease as we can our Eyes : It is very uneasy that we must necessarily be under Persecution. Next to these Bawlers, is a troublesome Creature who comes with the Air of your Friend and your Intimate, and that is your Whisperer. There is one of them at a Coffee-house which I my self frequent, who observing me to be a Man pretty well made for Secrets, gets by me, and with a Whisper tells me things which all the Town knows. It is no very hard matter to guess at the Source of this Impertinence, which is nothing else but a Method or Mechanick Art of being wise. You never see any frequent in it, whom you can suppose to have any thing in the World to do. These Persons are worse than Bawlers, as much as a secret Enemy is more dangerous than a declared one. I wish this my Coffee-house Friend would take this for an Intimation, that I have not heard one Word he has told me for these several Years ; whereas he now thinks me the most trusty Repository of his Secrets. The Whisperers have a pleasant way of ending the close Conversation, with saying aloud, *Do not you think so ?* Then whisper again, and then aloud, *but you know that Person ;* Then whisper again. The thing would be well enough, if they whisper'd to keep the Folly of what they say among Friends, but alas, they do it to preserve the Importance of their Thoughts. I am sure I could name you more than one Person whom no Man living ever heard talk upon any Subject in Nature, or ever saw in his whole Life with a Book in his Hand, that I know not how can whisper something like Knowledge of what has and does pass in the World ; which you would think he learned from some familiar Spirit that did not think him worthy to receive the whole Story. But in truth Whisperers deal only in half Accounts of what they entertain you with. A great Help to their Discourse is, That the Town says, and People begin to talk very freely, and

‘ and they had it from Persons too considerable to be  
‘ named what they will tell you when things are riper.  
My Friend has winked upon me any Day since I came  
to Town last, and has communicated to me as a Secret,  
that he designed in a very short time to tell me a Secret;  
but I shall know what he means, he now assures me, in  
less than a Fortnight’s Time.

BUT I must not omit the dearer Part of Mankind, I  
mean the Ladies, to take up a whole Paper upon Grievan-  
ces which concern the Men only; but shall humbly pro-  
pose, that we change Fools for an Experiment only. A  
certain Set of Ladies complain they are frequently per-  
plexed with a Visitant, who affects to be wiser than they  
are; which Character he hopes to preserve by an obstinate  
Gravity, and great Guard against discovering his Opinion  
upon any Occasion whatsoever. A painful Silence has hi-  
therto gained him no farther Advantage, than that as he  
might, if he had behaved himself with Freedom, been ex-  
cepted against, but as to this and that Particular, he now  
offends in the whole. To relieve these Ladies, my good  
Friends and Correspondents, I shall exchange my dancing  
Outlaw for their dumb Visitant, and assign the silent Gen-  
tleman all the Haunts of the Dancer: in order to which,  
I have sent them by the Penny-post the following Letters  
for their Conduct in their new Conversations.

S I R,

‘ I Have, you may be sure, heard of your Irregularities  
‘ without regard to my Observations upon you; but  
‘ shall not treat you with so much Rigour as you deserve.  
‘ If you will give your self the Trouble to repair to the  
‘ Place mentioned in the Postscript to this Letter at Seven  
‘ this Evening, you will be conducted into a spacious  
‘ Room well lighted, where there are Ladies and Mu-  
‘ sicks. You will see a young Lady laughing next the  
‘ Window to the Street; you may take her out, for she  
‘ loves you as well as she does any Man, tho’ she never  
‘ saw you before. She never thought in her Life, any  
‘ more than your self. She will not be surpris’d when  
‘ you accost her, nor concerned when you leave her.  
‘ Hasten from a Place where you are laughed at, to one  
‘ where you will be admired. You are of no Confe-

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‘ quence