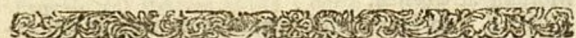


ness is more violent, and its Recovery more doubtful. The Youth indeed hopes for many more Days, so cannot the old Man. The Youth's Hopes are ill-grounded; for what is more foolish than to place any Confidence upon an Uncertainty? But the old Man has not Room so much as for Hope; he is still happier than the Youth, he has already enjoyed what the other does but hope for: One wishes to live long, the other has lived long. But alas, is there any thing in human Life, the Duration of which can be called long? There is nothing which must end to be valued for its Continuance. If Hours, Days, Months, and Years pass away, it is no Matter, what Hour, what Day, what Month, or what Year we die. The Applause of a good Actor is due to him at whatever Scene of the Play he makes his Exit. It is thus in the Life of a Man of Sense, a short Life is sufficient to manifest himself a Man of Honour and Virtue; when he ceases to be such he has lived too long, and while he is such, it is of no Consequence to him how long he shall be so, provided he is so to his Life's End. T



N^o 154. Monday, August 27.

Nemo repente fuit turpissimus —————

Juv.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ YOU are frequent in the Mention of Matters which
 ‘ concern the feminine World, and take upon you
 ‘ to be very severe against Men upon all those Oc-
 ‘ casions: But all this while I am afraid you have been
 ‘ very little conversant with Women, or you would
 ‘ know the Generality of them are not so angry as you
 ‘ imagine at the general Vices among us. I am apt to
 ‘ believe (begging your Pardon) that you are still what I
 ‘ my self was once, a queer modest Fellow; and there-
 ‘ fore, for your Information, shall give you a short Ac-
 ‘ count of my self, and the Reasons why I was forced to
 ‘ wench, drink, play, and do every thing which are ne-
 ‘ cessary to the Character of a Man of Wit and Pleasure,
 ‘ to be well with the Ladies.

‘ YOU

' YOU are to know then that I was bred a Gentleman,
 and had the finishing Part of my Education under a Man
 of great Probity, Wit, and Learning, in one of our Uni-
 versities. I will not deny but this made my Behaviour
 and Mien bear in it a Figure of Thought rather than
 Action; and a Man of a quite contrary Character, who
 never thought in his Life, rallied me one Day upon it,
 and said, He believed I was still a Virgin. There was a
 young Lady of Virtue present, and I was not displeased
 to favour the Insinuation; But it had a quite contrary
 Effect from what I expected. I was ever after treated
 with great Coldness both by that Lady and all the rest of
 my Acquaintance. In a very little Time I never came
 into a Room but I could hear a Whisper, Here comes the
 Maid: A Girl of Humour would on some Occasion say,
 Why how do you know more than any of us? An Ex-
 pression of that kind was generally followed by a loud
 Laugh: In a Word, for no other Fault in the World
 than that they really thought me as innocent as them-
 selves, I became of no Consequence among them, and
 was received always upon the Foot of a Jest. This made
 so strong an Impression upon me, that I resolved to be
 as agreeable as the best of the Men who laugh'd at me;
 but I observed it was Nonsense for me to be Impudent at
 first among those who knew me: My Character for Mo-
 desty was notorious where-ever I had hitherto appear-
 ed, that I resolved to shew my new Face in new Quar-
 ters of the World. My first Step I chose with Judg-
 ment; for I went to *Astrop*, and came down among a
 Crowd of Academicks, at one Dash, the impudentest
 Fellow they had ever seen in their Lives. Flushed with
 this Success, I made Love and was happy. Upon this
 Conquest I thought it would be unlike a Gentleman to
 stay longer with my Mistress, and crossed the Country to
Bury: I could give you a very good Account of my self
 at that Place also. At these two ended my first Summer
 of Gallantry. The Winter following, you would won-
 der at it, but I relapsed into Modesty upon coming a-
 mong people of Figure in *London*, yet not so much but
 that the Ladies who had formerly laughed at me, said,
 Blessus! how wonderfully that Gentleman is improved?
 Some Familiarities about the Play-houses towards the

‘ End of the ensuing Winter, made me conceive new
‘ Hopes of Adventures ; and instead of returning the next
‘ Summer to *Astrop* or *Bury*, I thought my self qualified
‘ to go to *Epsom*, and followed a young Woman, whose
‘ Relations were jealous of my Place in her Favour, to
‘ *Scarborough*. I carried my Point, and in my third Year
‘ aspired to go to *Tunbridge*, and in the Autumn of the
‘ same Year made my Appearance at *Bath*. I was now
‘ got into the Way of Talk proper for Ladies, and was run
‘ into a vast Acquaintance among them, which I always
‘ improved to the *best Advantage*. In all this Course of
‘ Time, and some Years following, I found a sober mo-
‘ dest Man was always looked upon by both Sexes as a pre-
‘ cise unfashioned Fellow of no Life or Spirit. It was or-
‘ dinary for a Man who had been drunk in good Company,
‘ or passed a Night with a Wench, to speak of it next Day
‘ before Women for whom he had the greatest Respect.
‘ He was reprov’d, perhaps, with a Blow of the Fan, or
‘ an Oh Fy, but the angry Lady still preserv’d an appa-
‘ rent Approbation in her Countenance : He was call’d a
‘ strange wicked Fellow, a sad Wretch ; he shrugs his
‘ Shoulders, swears, receives another Blow, swears again
‘ he did not know he swore, and all was well. You might
‘ often see Men game in the Presence of Women, and
‘ throw at once for more than they were worth, to recom-
‘ mend themselves as Men of Spirit. I found by long Ex-
‘ perience that the loosest Principles and most abandoned
‘ Behaviour, carried all before them in Pretensions to
‘ Women of Fortune. The Encouragement given to Peo-
‘ ple of this Stamp, made me soon throw off the remain-
‘ ing Impressions of a sober Education. In the above-
‘ mentioned Places, as well as in Town, I always kept
‘ Company with those who lived most at large ; and in
‘ due Process of Time I was a pretty Rake among the
‘ Men, and a very pretty Fellow among the Women. I
‘ must confess, I had some melancholy Hours upon the
‘ Account of the Narrowness of my Fortune, but my
‘ Conscience at the same Time gave me the Comfort
‘ that I had qualified my self for marrying a Fortune.
‘ WHEN I had lived in this manner for some time,
‘ and became thus accomplished, I was now in the twen-
‘ ty seventh Year of my Age, and about the forty seventh
‘ of

‘ of my Constitution, my Health and Estate wasting very
 ‘ fast ; when I happened to fall into the Company of a very
 ‘ pretty young Lady in her own Disposal. I entertained
 ‘ the Company, as we Men of Gallantry generally do, with
 ‘ the many Haps and Disasters, Watchings under Win-
 ‘ dows, Escapes from jealous Husbands, and several other
 ‘ Perils. The young Thing was wonderfully charmed with
 ‘ one that knew the World so well, and talked so fine ;
 ‘ with *Desdemona*, all her Lover said affected her ; *it was*
 ‘ *strange, ’twas wondrous strange*. In a Word, I saw the
 ‘ Impression I had made upon her, and with a very little
 ‘ Application the pretty Thing has married me. There is
 ‘ so much Charm in her Innocence and Beauty, that I do
 ‘ now as much detest the Course I have been in for many
 ‘ Years, as I ever did before I entred into it.

‘ WHAT I intend, Mr. SPECTATOR, by writing all
 ‘ this to you, is, that you would before you go any fur-
 ‘ ther with your Panegyricks on the fair Sex, give them
 ‘ some Lectures upon their silly Approbations. It is that
 ‘ I am weary of Vice, and that it was not my natural
 ‘ Way, that I am now so far recovered as not to bring
 ‘ this believing dear Creature to Contempt and Poverty
 ‘ for her Generosity to me. At the same time tell the
 ‘ Youth of good Education of our Sex, that they take too
 ‘ little Care of improving themselves in little Things : A
 ‘ good Air at entring into Room, a proper Audacity in
 ‘ expressing himself with Gaiety and Gracefulness, would
 ‘ make a young Gentleman of Virtue and Sense capable
 ‘ of discountenancing the shallow impudent Rogues that
 ‘ shine among the Women.

‘ Mr. SPECTATOR, I don’t doubt but you are a very
 ‘ sagacious Person, but you are so great with *Tully* of late,
 ‘ that I fear you will condemn these Things as Matters of
 ‘ no Consequence : But believe me, Sir, they are of the
 ‘ highest Importance to Human Life ; and if you can do
 ‘ any thing towards opening fair Eyes, you will lay an
 ‘ Obligation upon all your Contemporaries who are Fa-
 ‘ thers, Husbands, or Brothers to Females.

Your most affectionate humble Servant,

T

Simon Honeycomb.