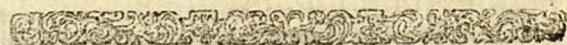


' Tenants Advertisements of Ruins and Dilapidations of-
 ' ten cast a Damp on my Spirits, even in the Instant when
 ' the Sun, in all his Splendor, gilds my Eastern Palaces.
 ' Add to this the pensive Drudgery in Building, and con-
 ' stant grasping Aerial Trowels, distracts and shatters the
 ' Mind, and the fond Builder of *Babels* is often cursed
 ' with an incoherent Diversity and Confusion of Thoughts.
 ' I do not know to whom I can more properly apply my
 ' self for Relief from this fantastical Evil, than to your
 ' self; whom I earnestly implore to accommodate me
 ' with a Method how to settle my Head and cool my
 ' Brain-pan. A Dissertation on Castle-Building may not
 ' only be serviceable to my self, but all Architects, who
 ' display their Skill in the thin Element. Such a Favour
 ' would oblige me to make my next Soliloquy not contain
 ' the Praises of my dear self but of the SPECTATOR,
 ' who shall, by complying with this, make me

His Obliged, Humble Servant,

IT

Vitruvius.



N^o 168. *Wednesday, September 12.*

— *Pectus Præceptis format amicis.*

Hor.

IT would be Arrogance to neglect the Application of
 my Correspondents so far, as not sometimes to insert
 their Animadversions upon my Paper; that of this
 Day shall be therefore wholly composed of the Hints
 which they have sent me.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Send you this to congratulate your late Choice of a
 Subject, for treating on which you deserve publick
 Thanks; I mean that on those licensed Tyrants the School-
 masters. If you can disarm them of their Rods, you will
 certainly have your old Age revered by all the young
 Gentlemen of *Great-Britain* who are now between
 seven and seventeen Years. You may boast that the n-
 comparably wise *Quintilian* and you are of one Mind in
 this

‘ this Particular. *Si cui est* (says he) *mens tam illiberalis ut objurcatione non corrigatur, is etiam ad plagas, ut pessima quæque mancipia, durabitur.* If any Child be of so disingenuous a Nature, as not to stand corrected by Reproof, he, like the very worst of Slaves, will be hardened even against Blows themselves; and afterwards, *Pudet dicere in quæ probra nefandi homines isto cædendi jure abutantur, i. e. I blush to say how shamefully those wicked Men abuse the Power of Correction.*

‘ I was bred my self, Sir, in a very great School, of which the Master was a *Welshman*, but certainly descended from a *Spanish* Family, as plainly appeared from his Temper as well as his Name. I leave you to judge what a sort of a Schoolmaster a *Welshman* ingrafted on a *Spaniard* would make. So very dreadful had he made himself to me, that altho’ it is above twenty Years since I felt his heavy Hand, yet still once a Month at least I dream of him, so strong an Impression did he make on my Mind. ’Tis a Sign he has fully terrified me waking, who still continues to haunt me sleeping.

‘ AND yet I may say without Vanity, that the Business of the School was what I did without great Difficulty; and I was not remarkably unlucky; and yet such was the Master’s Severity that once a Month or oftner, I suffered as much as would have satisfied the Law of the Land for a *Petty Larceny*.

‘ MANY a white and tender Hand, which the fond Mother has passionately kissed a thousand and a thousand Times, have I seen whipped ’till it was covered with Blood; perhaps for smiling, or for going a Yard and half out of a Gate, or for writing an O for an A, or an A for an O: These were our great Faults! Many a brave and noble Spirit has been there broken; others have run from thence and were never heard of afterwards. It is a worthy Attempt to undertake the Cause of distressed Youth; and it is a noble Piece of *Knight-Errantry* to enter the Lists against so many armed Pedagogues. ’Tis pity but we had a Set of Men, polite in their Behaviour and Method of Teaching, who should be put into a Condition of being above flattering or fearing the Parents of those they instruct. We might then possibly see Learning become a Pleasure, and Children delighting themselves in that

which now they abhor for coming upon such hard Terms to them: What would be still a greater Happiness arising from the Care of such Instructors, would be, that we should have no more Pedants, nor any bred to Learning who had not Genius for it. I am, with the utmost Sincerity, S I R,

Your most affectionate humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *Richmond, Sept. 5th, 1711.*

I Am a Boy of fourteen Years of Age, and have for this last Year been under the Tuition of a Doctor of Divinity, who has taken the School of this Place under his Care. From the Gentleman's great Tenderneſs to me and Friendſhip to my Father, I am very happy in learning my Book with Pleaſure. We never leave off our Diverſions any farther than to ſalute him at Hours of Play when he pleaſes to look on. It is impoſſible for any of us to love our own Parents better than we do him. He never gives any of us an harſh Word, and we think it the greateſt Punishment in the World when he will not ſpeak to any of us. My Brother and I are both together inditing this Letter: He is a Year older than I am, but is now ready to break his Heart that the Doctor has not taken any Notice of him theſe three Days. If you pleaſe to print this he will ſee it, and, we hope, taking it for my Brother's earneſt Deſire to be reſtored to his Favour, he will again ſmile upon him.

Your moſt obedient Servant,

T. S.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

YOU have repreſented ſeveral ſorts of *Impertinents* ſingly, I wiſh you would now proceed, and deſcribe ſome of them in Sets. It often happens in publick Aſſemblies, that a Party who came thither together, or whoſe Impertinencies are of an equal Pitch, act in Concert, and are ſo full of themſelves as to give Diſturbance to all that are about them. Sometimes you have a Set of Whiſperers who lay their Heads together in order to ſacrifice every Body within their Obſervation; ſometimes a Set of Laughers, that keep up an inſipid Mirth in their own

own Corner, and by their Noise and Gestures shew they have no Respect for the rest of the Company. You frequently meet with these Sets at the Opera, the Play, the Water-works, and other publick Meetings, where their whole Business is to draw off the Attention of the Spectators from the Entertainment, and to fix it upon themselves; and it is to be observed that the Impertinence is ever loudest, when the Set happens to be made up of three or four Females who have got what you call a Woman's Man among them.

I am at a loss to know from whom People of Fortune should learn this Behaviour, unless it be from the Footmen who keep their Places at a new Play, and are often seen passing away their Time in Sets at *All-fours* in the Face of a full House, and with a perfect Disregard to the People of Quality sitting on each side of them.

FOR preserving therefore the Decency of publick Assemblies, methinks it would be but reasonable that those who disturb others should pay at least a double Price for their Places; or rather Women of Birth and Distinction should be informed, that a Levity of Behaviour in the Eyes of People of Understanding degrades them below their meanest Attendants; and Gentlemen should know that a fine Coat is a Livery, when the Person who wears it discovers no higher Sense than that of a Footman. I am,

S I R, Your most Humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR, Bedfordshire, Sept. 1, 1711.

I Am one of those whom every Body calls a Pocher, and sometimes go out to course with a Brace of Greyhounds, a Mastiff, and a Spaniel or two; and when I am weary with Coursing, and have killed Hares enough, go to an Ale-house to refresh my self. I beg the Favour of you (as you set up for a Reformer) to send us Word how many Dogs you will allow us to go with, how many Full-Pots of Ale to drink, and how many Hares to kill in a Day, and you will do a great Piece of Service to all the Sports-men: Be quick then, for the Time of Coursing is come on.

Yours in Hast,

T

Isaac Hedgeditch.

O 5

Thursday,