

self, when, with great Perturbation of Spirit, he read as follows.

Mr. *Stint*,

‘**Y**OU have gained a slight Satisfaction at the Expence of doing a very heinous Crime. At the Price of a faithful Friend you have obtained an inconstant Mistrusts. I rejoice in this Expedient I have thought of to break my Mind to you, and tell you, You are a base Fellow, by a Means which does not expose you to the Affront except you deserve it. I know, Sir, as criminal as you are, you have still Shame enough to avenge yourself against the Hardiness of any one that should publicly tell you of it. I therefore, who have received so many secret Hurts from you, shall take Satisfaction with Safety to my self. I call you Base, and you must bear it, or acknowledge it; I triumph over you that you cannot come at me; nor do I think it dishonourable to come in Armour to assault him, who was in Ambuscade when he wounded me.

‘**W**HAT need more be said to convince you of being guilty of the basest Practice imaginable, than that it is such as has made you liable to be treated after this manner, while you your self cannot in your own Conscience but allow the Justice of the Upbraidings of

*Your Injured Friend,*

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Ralph Trap.



N<sup>o</sup> 449. *Tuesday, August 5.*

— *Tibi scriptus, Matrona, libellus.*

Mart.

**W**HEN I reflect upon my Labours for the Publick, I cannot but observe, that Part of the Species, of which I profess my self a Friend and Guardian, is sometimes treated with Severity; that is, there are in my Writings many Descriptions given of ill Persons,

Persons, and not any direct Encomium made of those who are good. When I was convinced of this Error, I could not but immediately call to mind several of the Fair Sex of my Acquaintance, whose Characters deserve to be transmitted to Posterity in Writings which will long outlive mine. But I do not think that a Reason why I should not give them their Place in my Diurnal as long as it will last. For the Service therefore of my Female Readers, I shall single out some Characters of Maids, Wives, and Widows, which deserve the Imitation of the Sex. She who shall lead this small illustrious Number of Heroines shall be the amiable *Fidelia*.

BEFORE I enter upon the particular Parts of her Character, it is necessary to Preface, that she is the only Child of a decrepid Father, whose Life is bound up in hers. This Gentleman has used *Fidelia* from her Cradle with all the Tenderneſs imaginable, and has viewed her growing Perfections with the Partiality of a Parent, that ſoon thought her accomplished above the Children of all other Men, but never thought ſhe was come to the utmoſt Improvement of which ſhe her ſelf was capable. This Fondneſs has had very happy Effects upon his own Happineſs; for ſhe reads, ſhe dances, ſhe ſings, uſes her Spinnet and Lute to the utmoſt Perfection: And the Lady's Uſe of all theſe Excellencies, is to divert the old Man in his eaſy Chair, when he is out of the Pangs of a Chronical Diſtemper. *Fidelia* is now in the twenty third Year of her Age; but the Application of many Lovers, her vigorous time of Life, her quick Senſe of all that is truly gallant and elegant in the Enjoyment of a plentiful Fortune, are not able to draw her from the Side of her good old Father. Certain it is, that there is no kind of Affection ſo pure and angelick as that of a Father to a Daughter. He beholds her both with, and without Regard to our Sex. In Love to our Wives there is Deſire, to our Sons there is Ambition; but in that to our Daughters, there is ſomething which there are no Words to expreſs. Her Life is deſigned wholly Domeſtick, and ſhe is ſo ready a Friend and Companion, that every thing that paſſes about a Man, is accompanied with the Idea of her Preſence. Her Sex alſo is naturally ſo much expoſed to Hazard, both as to Fortune and Innocence, that there is,

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perhaps, a new Cause of Fondness arising from that Consideration also. None but Fathers can have a true Sense of these Sort of Pleasures and Sensations; but my Familiarity with the Father of *Fidelia*, makes me let drop the Words which I have heard him speak, and observe upon his Tendernefs towards her.

*FIDELIA* on her Part, as I was going to say, as accomplished as she is, with all her Beauty, Wit, Air and Mien, employs her whole Time in Care and Attendance upon her Father. How have I been charmed to see one of the most beauteous Women the Age has produced on her Knees helping on an old Man's Slipper! Her filial Regard to him is what she makes her Diversion, her Business, and her Glory. When she was asked by a Friend of her deceased Mother to admit of the Courtship of her Son, she answer'd, That she had a great Respect and Gratitude to her for the Overture in Behalf of one so near to her, but that during her Father's Life she would admit into her heart no Value for any thing that should interfere with her Endeavour to make his Remains of Life as happy and easy as could be expected in his Circumstances. The Lady admonished her of the Prime of Life with a Smile; which *Fidelia* answer'd with a Frankness that always attends unfeigned Virtue. *It is true, Madam, there is to be sure very great Satisfaction to be expected in the Commerce of a Man of Honour, whom one tenderly loves; but I find so much Satisfaction in the Reflexion, how much I mitigate a good Man's Pains, whose Welfare depends upon my Assiduity about him, that I willingly exclude the loose Gratifications of Passion for the solid Reflexions of Duty. I know not whether any Man's Wife would be allow'd, and (what I still more fear) I know not whether I, a Wife, should be willing to be as officious as I am at present about my Parent.* The happy Father has her Declaration that she will not marry during his Life, and the Pleasure of seeing that Resolution not uneasy to her. Were one to paint filial Affection in its utmost Beauty, he could not have a more lively Idea of it than in beholding *Fidelia* serving her Father at his Hours of Rising, Meals and Rest.

WHEN the general Crowd of Female Youth are consulting their Glasses, preparing for Balls, Assemblies, or Plays; for a young Lady, who could be regarded among  
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the foremost in those Places, either for her Person, Wit, Fortune, or Conversation, and yet condemn all these Entertainments, to sweeten the heavy Hours of a decrepid Parent, is a Resignation truly heroick. *Fidelia* performs the Duty of a Nurse with all the Beauty of a Bride; nor does she neglect her Person, because of her Attendance on him, when he is too ill to receive Company, to whom she may make an Appearance.

*FIDELIA*, who gives him up her Youth, does not think it any great Sacrifice to add to it the Spoiling of her Dress. Her Care and Exactness in her Habit, convince her Father of the Alacrity of her Mind; and she has of all Women the best Foundation for affecting the Praise of a seeming Negligence. What adds to the Entertainment of the good old Man is, that *Fidelia*, where Merit and Fortune cannot be overlook'd by Epistolary Lovers, reads over the Accounts of her Conquests, plays on her Spinet the gayest Airs, (and while she is doing so, you would think her formed only for Gallantry) to intimate to him the Pleasures she despises for his Sake.

THOSE who think themselves the Patterns of good Breeding and Gallantry, would be astonished to hear that in those Intervals when the old Gentleman is at Ease, and can bear Company, there are at his House in the most regular Order, Assemblies of People of the highest Merit; where there is Conversation without Mention of the Faults of the Absent, Benevolence between Men and Women without Passion, and the highest Subjects of Morality treated of as natural and accidental Discourse; All which is owing to the Genius of *Fidelia*, who at once makes her Father's Way to another World easy, and her self capable of being an Honour to his Name in this.

*Mr. SPECTATOR,*

I Was the other Day at the *Bear-Garden* in hopes to have seen your short Face; but not being so fortunate, I must tell you by way of Letter, That there is a Mystery among the Gladiators which has escaped your Spectatorial Penetration. For being in a Box at an Ale-house near that renowned Seat of Honour above-mentioned, I over-heard two Masters of the Science agreeing to quarrel on the next Opportunity. This was to

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