

‘ happen in the Company of a Set of the Fraternity of
 ‘ Basket-Hilts, who were to meet that Evening. When
 ‘ this was settled, one asked the other, Will you give Cuts
 ‘ or receive? the other answered, Receive. It was re-
 ‘ plied, Are you a passionate Man? No, provided you cut
 ‘ no more nor no deeper than we agree. I thought it my
 ‘ Duty to acquaint you with this, that the People may
 ‘ not pay their Money for Fighting, and be cheated.

T

Your humble Servant,

Scabbard Rusty.

N^o 450. *Wednesday, August 6.*

— *Quærenda pecunia primum,
 Virtus post nummos.*

Hor.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ **A**LL Men, through different Paths, make at the
 ‘ same common thing, *Money*; and it is to her
 ‘ we owe the Politician, the Merchant, and the
 ‘ Lawyer; nay, to be free with you, I believe to that
 ‘ also we are beholden for our *Spectator*. I am apt to
 ‘ think, that could we look into our own Hearts, we
 ‘ should see Money engraved in them in more lively and
 ‘ moving Characters than Self-Preservation; for who can
 ‘ reflect upon the Merchant hoisting Sail in a doubtful
 ‘ Pursuit of her, and all Mankind sacrificing their Quiet
 ‘ to her, but must perceive that the Characters of Self-
 ‘ Preservation (which were doubtless originally the
 ‘ brightest) are sullied, if not wholly defaced; and that
 ‘ those of Money (which at first was only valuable as a
 ‘ Mean to Security) are of late so brightened, that the
 ‘ Characters of Self-Preservation, like a less Light set by a
 ‘ greater, are become almost imperceptible? Thus has
 ‘ Money got the upper Hand of what all Mankind for-
 ‘ merly thought most dear, *viz.* Security; and I wish I
 ‘ could say she had here put a Stop to her Victories; but,
 ‘ alas!

‘ alas! common Honesty sell a Sacrifice to her. This is
‘ the Way Scholastick Men talk of the greatest Good in
‘ the World; but I, a Tradesman, shall give you ano-
‘ ther Account of this Matter in the plain Narrative of
‘ my own Life. I think it proper, in the first Place, to
‘ acquaint my Readers, that since my setting out in the
‘ World, which was in the Year 1660, I never wanted
‘ Money; having begun with an indifferent good Stock
‘ in the Tobacco-Trade, to which I was bred; and by
‘ the continual Successes, it has pleased Providence to bless
‘ my Endeavours with, am at last arrived at what they
‘ call a *Plumb*. To uphold my Discourse in the Manner
‘ of your Wits or Philosophers, by speaking fine Things,
‘ or drawing Inferences, as they pretend, from the Nature
‘ of the Subject, I account it vain; having never found
‘ any thing in the Writings of such Men, that did not
‘ favour more of the Invention of the Brain, or what is
‘ stiled Speculation, than of sound Judgment or profitable
‘ Observation. I will readily grant indeed, that there is
‘ what the Wits call Natural in their Talk; which is the
‘ utmost those curious Authors can assume to themselves,
‘ and is indeed all they endeavour at, for they are but la-
‘ mentable Teachers. And, what, I pray, is Natural?
‘ That which is Pleasing and Easy: And what are Pleas-
‘ ing and Easy! Forsooth, a new Thought or Conceit
‘ dressed up in smooth quaint Language, to make you
‘ smile and wag your Head, as being what you never
‘ imagined before, and yet wonder why you had not;
‘ meer frothy Amusements! fit only for Boys or silly
‘ Women to be caught with.

‘ I T is not my present Intention to instruct my Rea-
‘ ders in the Methods of acquiring Riches; that may be
‘ the Work of another Essay; but to exhibit the real and
‘ solid Advantages I have found by them in my long and
‘ manifold Experience; nor yet all the Advantages of so
‘ worthy and valuable a Blessing, (for who does not know
‘ or imagine the Comforts of being warm or living at
‘ Ease? And that Power and Pre-eminence are their inse-
‘ parable Attendants?) But only to instance the great Sup-
‘ ports they afford us under the severest Calamities and
‘ Misfortunes; to shew that the Love of them is a special
‘ Antidote against Immorality and Vice, and that the
‘ same

same does likewise naturally dispose Men to Actions of Piety and Devotion: All which I can make out by my own Experience, who think my self no ways particular from the rest of Mankind, nor better nor worse by Nature than generally other Men are.

IN the Year 1665, when the Sicknefs was, I lost by it my Wife and two Children, which were all my Stock. Probably I might have had more, considering I was married between 4 and 5 Years; but finding her to be a teeming Woman, I was careful, as having then little above a Brace of thousand Pounds, to carry on my Trade and maintain a Family with. I loved them as usually Men do their Wives and Children, and therefore could not resist the first Impulses of Nature on so wounding a Loss; but I quickly roused my self, and found means to alleviate, and at last conquer my Affliction, by reflecting how that she and her Children having been no great Expence to me, the best Part of her Fortune was still left; that my Charge being reduced to my self, a Journeyman, and a Maid, I might live far cheaper than before; and that being now a childless Widower, I might perhaps marry a no less deserving Woman, and with a much better Fortune than she brought, which was but 800 *l*. And to convince my Readers that such Considerations as these were proper and apt to produce such an Effect, I remember it was the constant Observation at that deplorable Time when so many Hundreds were swept away daily, that the Rich ever bore the Loss of their Families and Relations far better than the Poor; the latter having little or nothing before-hand, and living from Hand to Mouth, placed the whole Comfort and Satisfaction of their Lives in their Wives and Children, and were therefore inconsolable.

THE following Year happened the Fire; at which Time, by good Providence, it was my Fortune to have converted the greatest Part of my Effects into ready Money, on the Prospect of an extraordinary Advantage which I was preparing to lay hold on. This Calamity was very terrible and astonishing, the Fury of the Flames being such, that whole Streets, at several distant Places, were destroyed at one and the same Time,

so that (as it is well known) almost all our Citizens were burnt out of what they had. But what did I then do? I did not stand gazing on the Ruins of our noble Metropolis; I did not shake my Head, wring my Hands, sigh, and shed Tears; I consider'd with my self what could this avail; I fell a plodding what Advantages might be made of the ready Cash I had, and immediately bethought my self that wonderful Pennyworths might be bought of the Goods, that were saved out of the Fire. In short, with about 2000*l.* and a little Credit, I bought as much Tobacco as rais'd my Estate to the Value of 10000*l.* I then *looked on the Ashes of our City, and the Misery of its late Inhabitants, as an Effect of the just Wrath and Indignation of Heaven towards a sinful and perverse People.*

AFTER this I married again, and that Wife dying, I took another; but both proved to be idle Baggages: the first gave me a great deal of Plague and Vexation by her Extravagancies, and I became one of the By-words of the City. I knew it would be to no manner of Purpose to go about to curb the Fancies and Inclinations of Women, which fly out the more for being restrained; but what I could I did. I watched her narrowly, and by good Luck found her in the Embraces (for which I had two Witnesses with me) of a wealthy Spark of the Court-end of the Town; of whom I recovered 15000 Pounds, which made me amends for what she had idly squandered, and put a Silence to all my Neighbours, taking off my Reproach by the Gain they saw I had by it. The last died about two Years after I married her, in Labour of three Children. I conjecture they were begot by a Country Kinsman of hers, whom, at her Recommendation, I took into my Family, and gave Wages to as a Journeyman. What this Creature expended in Delicacies and high Diet with her Kinsman (as well as I could compute by the Poulterers, Fishmongers, and Grocers Bills) amounted in the said two Years to one hundred eighty six Pounds, four Shillings, and five Pence Half-penny. The fine Apparel, Bracelets, Locketts, and Treats, &c. of the other, according to the best Calculation, came in three Years and about three Quarters to seven hundred

‘dred forty four Pounds, seven Shillings and nine Pence.
‘After this I resolv’d never to marry more, and found I
‘had been a Gainer by my Marriages, and the Damages
‘granted me for the Abuses of my Bed, (all Charges deducted) eight thousand three hundred Pounds within a
‘Trifle.

‘I come now to shew the good Effects of the Love
‘of Money on the Lives of Men towards rendring them
‘honest, sober, and religious. When I was a young
‘Man, I had a mind to make the best of my Wits, and
‘over-reached a Country Chap in a Parcel of unsound
‘Goods; to whom, upon his upbraiding, and threatning
‘to expose me for it, I returned the Equivalent of his
‘Loss; and upon his good Advice, wherein he clearly
‘demonstrated the Folly of such Artifices, which can
‘never end but in Shame, and the Ruin of all Correspondence, I never after transgressed. Can your Courtiers, who take Bribes, or your Lawyers or Physicians in their Practice, or even the Divines who intermeddle in worldly Affairs, boast of making but one Slip in their Lives, and of such a thorough and lasting Reformation? Since my coming into the World I do not remember I was ever overtaken in Drink, save nine times, one at the Christening of my first Child, thrice at our City Feasts, and five times at driving of Bargains. My Reformation I can attribute to nothing so much as the Love and Esteem of Money, for I found my self to be extravagant in my Drink, and apt to turn Projector, and make rash Bargains. As for Women, I never knew any, except my Wives: For my Reader must know, and it is what he may confide in as an excellent Recipe, That the Love of Business and Money is the greatest Mortifier of inordinate Desires imaginable, as employing the Mind continually in the careful Oversight of what one has, in the eager Quest after more, in looking after the Negligences and Deceits of Servants, in the due Entering and Stating of Accounts, in hunting after Chaps, and in the exact Knowledge of the State of Markets; which Things whoever thoroughly attends, will find enough and enough to employ his Thoughts on every Moment of the Day; so that I cannot call to mind, that in all the Time I was a Husband, which

‘ off

‘ off and on, was about twelve Years, I ever once
 ‘ thought of my Wives but in Bed. And, lastly, for Re-
 ‘ ligious, I have ever been a constant Churchman, both
 ‘ Forenoons and Afternoons on *Sundays*, never forget-
 ‘ ting to be thankful for any Gain or Advantage I had
 ‘ had that Day; and on *Saturday* Nights, upon casting
 ‘ up my Accounts, I always was grateful for the Sum
 ‘ of my Week’s Profits, and at *Christmas* for that of the
 ‘ whole Year. It is true, perhaps, that my Devotion
 ‘ has not been the most fervent; which, I think, ought
 ‘ to be imputed to the Evenness and Sedateness of my
 ‘ Temper, which never would admit of any Impetuosi-
 ‘ ties of any Sort: And I can remember that in my
 ‘ Youth and Prime of Manhood, when my Blood ran
 ‘ brisker, I took greater Pleasure in Religious Exercises
 ‘ than at present, or many Years past, and that my De-
 ‘ votion sensibly declined as Age, which is dull and un-
 ‘ wieldy, came upon me.

‘ I have, I hope, here proved, that the Love of Mo-
 ‘ ney prevents all Immorality and Vice; which if you
 ‘ will not allow, you must, that the Pursuit of it obliges
 ‘ Men to the same kind of Life as they would follow if
 ‘ they were really virtuous: Which is all I have to say
 ‘ at present, only recommending to you, that you would
 ‘ think of it, and turn ready Wit into ready Money as
 ‘ fast as you can. I conclude,

Your Servant,

T

Ephraim Weed.



Thursday,