

‘ so elaborate an Undertaking, the Duty of the Place too
 ‘ being jointly and, no doubt, oft pathetically performed
 ‘ along with it. Where it is said in Sacred Writ, that *the*
 ‘ *Woman ought to have a covering on her Head because*
 ‘ *of the Angels*, that last Word is by some thought to be
 ‘ metaphorically used, and to signify young Men. Allow-
 ‘ ing this Interpretation to be right, the Text may not
 ‘ appear to be wholly foreign to our present Purpose.

‘ WHEN you are in a Disposition proper for writing
 ‘ on such a Subject, I earnestly recommend this to you,
 ‘ and am,

S I R,

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Your very humble Servant.N^o 461. Tuesday, August 19.— *Sed non Ego credulus illis.*

Virg.

FOR want of Time to substitute something else in
 the Room of them, I am at present obliged to pub-
 lish Compliments above my Desert in the following
 Letters. It is no small Satisfaction, to have given Occa-
 sion to ingenious Men to employ their Thoughts upon
 sacred Subjects from the Approbation of such Pieces of
 Poetry as they have seen in my *Saturday's* Papers. I
 shall never publish Verse on that Day but what is written
 by the same Hand; yet shall I not accompany those
 Writings with *Eulogiums*, but leave them to speak for
 themselves.

For the SPECTATOR.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ YOU very much promote the Interests of Virtue
 ‘ while you reform the Taste of a Profane Age,
 ‘ and persuade us to be entertained with Divine Poems,
 ‘ while we are distinguished by so many thousand Hu-
 ‘ mours, and split into so many different Sects and Par-
 ‘ ties; yet Persons of every Party, Sect, and Humour

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‘ are

' are fond of conforming their Taste to yours. You
' can transfuse your own Relish of a Poem into all your
' Readers, according to their Capacity to receive; and
' when you recommend the pious Passion that reigns in
' the Verse, we seem to feel the Devotion, and grow
' proud and pleas'd inwardly, that we have Souls capa-
' ble of relishing what the SPECTATOR approves.

' UPON reading the Hymns that you have published
' in some late Papers, I had a mind to try Yesterday
' whether I could write one. The 114th Psalm appears
' to me an admirable Ode, and I began to turn it into
' our Language. As I was describing the Journey of
' Israel from Egypt, and added the Divine Presence
' amongst them, I perceived a Beauty in the Psalm which
' was intirely new to me, and which I was going to lose;
' and that is, that the Poet utterly conceals the Presence of
' God in the Beginning of it, and rather lets a Possessive
' Pronoun go without a Substantive, than he will so
' much as mention any thing of Divinity there. Judah
' was his Sanctuary, and Israel his Dominion or Kingdom.
' The Reason now seems evident, and this Conduct ne-
' cessary: For if God had appeared before, there could
' be no Wonder why the Mountains should leap and the
' Sea retire; therefore that this Convulsion of Nature
' may be brought in with due Surprise, his Name is not
' mentioned till afterward, and then with a very agree-
' able Turn of Thought God is introduced at once in all
' his Majesty. This is what I have attempted to imitate
' in a Translation without Paraphrase, and to preserve
' what I could of the Spirit of the sacred Author.

' IF the following Essay be not too incorrigible,
' bestow upon it a few Brightnings from your Genius,
' that I may learn how to write better, or to write no
' more.

Your daily Admirer and humble Servant, &c.

P S A L M CXIV.

I.

WHEN Israel, freed from Pharaoh's Hand,
Left the proud Tyrant and his Land,
The Tribes with cheerful Homage own
Their King, and Judah was his Throne.

II. Acrostic

II.

*Across the Deep their Journey lay,
The Deep divides to make them Way;
The Streams of Jordan saw, and fled
With backward Current to their Head.*

III.

*The Mountains shook like frightened Sheep,
Like Lambs the little Hillocks leap;
Not Sinai on her Base could stand,
Conscious of Sovereign Power at hand.*

IV.

*What Pow'r could make the Deep divide?
Make Jordan backward roll his Tide?
Why did ye leap, ye little Hills?
And whence the Fright that Sinai feels?*

V.

*Let ev'ry Mountain, ev'ry Flood
Retire, and know th' approaching God,
The King of Israel: See him here;
Tremble thou Earth, adore and fear.*

VI.

*He thunders, and all Nature mourns;
The Rock to standing Pools he turns;
Flints spring with Fountains at his Word,
And Fires and Seas confess their Lord.*

Mr. SPECTATOR,

THERE are those who take the Advantage of your putting an Half-penny Value upon your self above the rest of our daily Writers, to defame you in publick Conversation, and strive to make you unpopular upon the Account of this said Half-penny. But if I were you, I would insist upon that small Acknowledgment for the superior Merit of yours, as being a Work of Invention. Give me Leave therefore to do you Justice, and say in your Behalf, what you cannot say for your self, which is, That your Writings have made Learning a more necessary Part of Good-breeding than it was before you appeared: That Modesty is become fashionable, and Impudence stands in need of some Wit; since you have put them both in their proper Lights, Profaneness, Lewdness, and Debauchery are

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