

Many have received Sight by his Means, who came blind from their Mother's Womb, as in the famous Instance of *Jones of Newington*. I my self have been cured by him of a Weakness in my Eyes next to Blindness, and am ready to believe any thing that is reported of his Ability this way; and know that many, who could not purchase his Assistance with Money, have enjoy'd it from his Charity. But a List of Particulars would swell my Letter beyond its Bounds, what I have said being sufficient to comfort those who are in the like Distress, since they may conceive Hopes of being no longer miserable in this Kind, while there is yet alive so able an Oculist as *Dr. Grant*.

I am the SPECTATOR's humble Servant,

T

PHILANTHROPUS.



N^o 473. Tuesday, September 2.

*Quid? si quis vultu terreo serus & pede nudo
Exiguæque togæ simulet textore Catonem;
Virtutemne repræsentet, moresque Catonis?* Hor.

To the SPECTATOR.

S I R,

I Am now in the Country, and employ most of my Time in reading, or thinking upon what I have read. Your Paper comes constantly down to me, and it affects me so much, that I find my Thoughts run into your Way; and I recommend to you a Subject upon which you have not yet touched, and that is the Satisfaction some Men seem to take in their Imperfections, I think one may call it glorying in their Insufficiency; a certain great Author is of Opinion it is the contrary to Envy, tho' perhaps it may proceed from it. Nothing is so common, as to hear Men of this Sort, speaking of themselves, add to their own Merit (as they think) by impairing it, in praising themselves for their

N 2

Defects,

Defects, freely allowing they commit some few frivolous Errors, in order to be esteemed Persons of uncommon Talents and great Qualifications. They are generally professing an injudicious Neglect of Dancing, Fencing and Riding, as also an unjust Contempt for Travelling and the Modern Languages; as for their Part, (say they) they never valued or troubled their Head about them. This panegyrical Satire on themselves certainly is worthy of your Animadversion. I have known one of these Gentlemen think himself obliged to forget the Day of an Appointment, and sometimes even that you spoke to him; and when you see 'em, they hope you'll pardon 'em, for they have the worst Memory in the World. One of 'em started up t'other Day in some Confusion, and said, Now I think on't, I am to meet Mr. *Mortmain* the Attorney about some Business, but whether it is to-day, or to-morrow, faith, I can't tell. Now to my certain Knowledge he knew his Time to a Moment, and was there accordingly. These forgetful Persons have, to heighten their Crimes, generally the best Memories of any People, as I have found out by their remembering sometimes through Inadvertency. Two or three of 'em that I know can say most of our modern Tragedies by Heart. I ask'd a Gentleman the other Day that is famous for a good Carver, (at which Acquisition he is out of Countenance, imagining it may detract from some of his more essential Qualifications) to help me to something that was near him; but he excused himself, and blushing told me, Of all things he could never carve in his Life; though it can be proved upon him, that he cuts up, disjoints, and uncares with incomparable Dexterity. I would not be understood as if I thought it laudable for a Man of Quality and Fortune to rival the Acquisitions of Artificers, and endeavour to excel in little handy Qualities; No, I argue only against being ashamed at what is really Praiseworthy. As these Pretences to Ingenuity shew themselves several Ways, you'll often see a Man of this Temper ashamed to be clean, and setting up for Wit only from Negligence in his Habit. Now I am upon this Head, I can't help observing also upon a very different Folly proceeding from the same Cause. As these above-mentioned

‘ mentioned arise from affecting an Equality with Men of
 ‘ greater Talents from having the same Faults, there are
 ‘ others that would come at a Parallel with those above
 ‘ them, by possessing little Advantages which they want.
 ‘ I heard a young Man not long ago, who has Sense,
 ‘ comfort himself in his Ignorance of Greek, Hebrew,
 ‘ and the Orientals: At the same Time that he published his Aversion to those Languages, he said that the
 ‘ Knowledge of ’em was rather a Diminution than an
 ‘ Advancement of a Man’s Character: tho’ at the same
 ‘ Time I know he languishes and repines he is not Master of them himself. Whenever I take any of these
 ‘ fine Persons, thus detracting from what they don’t understand, I tell them I will complain to you, and say
 ‘ I am sure you will not allow it an Exception against
 ‘ a thing, that he who contemns it is an Ignorant in it.

I am, S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

S. T.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ I Am a Man of a very good Estate, and am honourably in Love. I hope you will allow, when the
 ‘ ultimate Purpose is honest, there may be, without
 ‘ Trespass against Innocence, some Toying by the Way.
 ‘ People of Condition are perhaps too distant and formal
 ‘ on those Occasions; but however that is, I am to confess to you, that I have writ some Verses to atone
 ‘ for my Offence. You profess’d Authors are a little severe upon us, who write like Gentlemen: But if you
 ‘ are a Friend to Love, you will insert my Poem. You cannot imagine how much Service it will do me with
 ‘ my Fair one, as well as Reputation with all my Friends,
 ‘ to have something of mine in the *Spectator*. My
 ‘ Crime was, that I snatch’d a Kiss, and my Poetical
 ‘ Excuse as follows:

N 3

I. Be-

I.

Belinda, see from yonder Flow'rs
 The Bee flies loaded to its Cell;
 Can you perceive what it devours?
 Are they impair'd in Show or Smell?

II.

So, tho' I rob'd you of a Kiss,
 Sweeter than their Ambrosial Dew;
 Why are you angry at my Bliss?
 Has it at all impoverish'd you?

III.

'Tis by this Cunning I contrive,
 In spite of your unkind Reserve,
 To keep my famish'd Love alive,
 Which you inhumanly would starve.

I am, S I R,

Your humble Servant,

Timothy Stanza.

S I R,

Aug. 23, 1712.

HAVING a little Time upon my Hands, I could
 not think of bestowing it better, than in writing
 an Epistle to the SPECTATOR, which I now do,
 and am,

S I R, Your humble Servant,

BOB SHORT.

P. S. ' If you approve of my Stile, I am likely
 enough to become your Correspondent. I desire your
 Opinion of it. I design it for that Way of Writing
 called by the Judicious the Familiar. T



THE

THE INDEX.

A.

- A** *CETUS*, his Character, Number 422.
 Admiration, a pleasing Motion of the Mind, N. 413.
 Affectation, the Misfortune of it, N. 404. Described, 460.
 Almighty, his Power over the Imagination, N. 421.
Aristotle's Saying of his Being, 465.
 Allegories, like Light to a Discourse, N. 421. Eminent
 Writers faulty in them, *ibid.*
 Allusions the great Art of a Writer, N. 421.
Amazons, their Commonwealth, N. 433. How they
 educated their Children, 434. Their Wars, *ibid.* They
 marry their Male-Allies, *ibid.*
Americans used Painting instead of Writing, N. 416.
 Amity between agreeable Persons of different Sexes
 dangerous, N. 400.
Amoret the Jilt reclaimed by *Philander*, N. 401.
Anne Boleyn's last Letter to King *Henry VIII.* N. 397.
 Ancients in the *East*, their way of Living, N. 415.
 Appearances, Things not to be trusted for them, N. 464.
 Applause (publick) its Pleasure, N. 442.
April, (Month of) described, N. 425.
Arabella, Verses on her Singing, N. 443.
 Architecture, the Ancients Perfection in it, N. 415. The
 Greatness of the Manner, how it strikes the Fancy, *ibid.*
 Of the *Manner* of both Ancients and Moderns, *ibid.*
 The Concave and Convex Figures have the greatest
 Air, *ibid.* Every thing that pleases the Imagination
 in it, is either Great, Beautiful or New, *ibid.*

The INDEX.

Art (Works of) defective to entertain the Imagination,
N. 414. Receive great Advantage from their Like-
ness to those of Nature, *ibid.*
August and *July* (Months of) described, N. 425.

B.

BABEL, (Tower of) N. 415.
Bacon (Sir Francis) prescribes his Reader a Poem on
Prospect, as conducive to Health, N. 411. What he
says of the Pleasure of Taste, 447.
Bankruptcy, the Misery of it, N. 428, 456.
Bar Oratory in *England*, Reflexions on it, N. 407.
Basilus Valentinus, and his Son, their Story, N. 426.
Baxter, (Mr.) his last Words, N. 445. more last Words, *ib.*
Bayle, (Mr.) what he says of Libels, N. 451.
Bear-Garden, a Combat there, N. 436. The Cheats of
it, 449.
Beauty heightened by Motion, N. 406.
Beauty of Objects, what understood by it, N. 412. No-
thing makes its Way more directly to the Soul, *ibid.*
Every Species of sensible Creatures has different No-
tions of it, *ibid.* A second Kind of it, *ibid.*
Beggars, the Grievance of 'em, N. 430.
Belvidera, a Critick on a Song upon her, N. 470.
Belus, *Jupiter*, Temple of, N. 415.
Birds how affected by Colours, N. 412.
Blast (Lady) her Character, N. 457.
Bluemantle (Lady) an Account of her, N. 427.
Buck (*Timothy*) his Answer to *James Miller's* Challenge,
N. 436.
Buffoonry censured, N. 443.
Business (Men of) their Error in Similitudes, N. 421.
Of Learning, fittest for it, 469.
Buffy d' Amboise, a Story of him, N. 467.

C.

CÆSAR lost his Life by neglecting a Roman Au-
gur's Caution, N. 395.
Cælia, her Character, N. 404.
Calisthenes, his Character, N. 422.
Calumny, the ill Effects of it, N. 451.

Camilla's

The INDEX.

- Camilla's* Letter to the *Speſtator* from *Venice*, N. 443.
 How applauded there, *ibid.*
Carteſian, how he would account for the Ideas formed by the Fancy, from a ſingle Circumſtance of the Memory, N. 417.
Cato, the Reſpect paid him at the *Roman* Theatre, N. 446.
Chamont's Saying of *Monimia's* Misfortune, N. 395.
 Charity Schools to be encouraged, N. 430.
Charles II. his Gaieties, N. 462.
 Charms, none can ſupply the Place of Virtue, N. 395.
 Children, their Duty to their Parents, N. 426. Ill Education of them fatal, 431.
Chineſe laugh at our Gardens, and why, N. 414.
Chremylus, his Character out of *Ariſtophanes*, N. 464.
Cicero, his Genius, N. 404. The Oracle's Advice to him, *ibid.* What he ſays of Scandal, 427. of the *Roman* Gladiators, 436.
Clarendon (Earl of) his Character of a Perſon of a troubleſome Curioſity, N. 439.
Cleantes, his Character, N. 404.
Cleopatra, a Deſcription of her ſailing down the *Cydnus*, N. 400.
Cloe, the Idiot, N. 466.
 Colours, the Eye takes moſt Delight in them, N. 412.
 Why the Poets borrow moſt Epithets from them, *ibid.*
 Only Ideas in the Mind, 413. ſpeak all Languages, 416.
 Comedies, *Engliſh*, vicious, N. 446.
 Commonwealth of *Amazons*, N. 433.
 Compaſſion civilizes Human Nature, N. 397. How to touch it, *ibid.*
 Company, Temper chiefly to be conſider'd in the Choice of it, N. 424.
 Concave and Convex Figures in Architecture have the greateſt Air, and why, N. 415.
 Confidence, the Danger of it to the Ladies, N. 395.
Cowley (Sir Roger de) his Adventure with *Sukey*, N. 410.
 His Good-humour, 424.
 Converſation an Improvement of Taſte in Letters, N. 409.
 Country Life, why the Poets in Love with it, N. 414.
 What *Horace* and *Virgil* ſay of it, *ibid.* Rules for it, 224.
 N 5 Courage

The INDEX.

- Courage wants other good Qualities to set it off, N. 422.
 Court and City, their peculiar Ways of Life and Conversation, N. 403.
 Criticks (*French*) Friends to one another, N. 409.
 Cuckoldom abused on the Stage, N. 446.
 Curiosity (absurd) an Instance of it, N. 439.
 Custom a second Nature, N. 437. The Effect of it, *ibid.*
 How to make a good use of it, *ibid.* Cannot make every thing pleasing, 455.
Cynthia and *Flavia* break off their Amour very whimsically, N. 399.

D.

- D***Acinthus*, his Character, N. 462.
Dainty (Mrs. *Mary*) her Memorial from the Country Infirmary, N. 429.
Damon and *Strephon*, their Amour with *Gloriana*, N. 423.
 Dancing displays Beauty, N. 466. on the Stage faulty, *ibid.* The Advantages of it, *ibid.*
 Dangers past, why the Reflexion of 'em pleases, N. 418.
 Day, the several Times of it in several Parts of the Town, N. 454.
 Deluge, Mr. *W—n*'s Notion of it reproved, N. 396.
 Defamation the Sign of an ill Heart, N. 427. Papers of that kind a Scandal to a Government, 451. To be punished by good Ministers, *ibid.*
 Denying, sometimes a Virtue, N. 458.
 Deportment (Religious) why so little Appearances of it in *England*, N. 348.
 Descriptions come short of Statuary and Painting, N. 416.
 Please sometimes more than the Sight of Things, *ibid.*
 The same not alike relished by all, *ibid.* What pleases in them, 418. Of what is Great, Surprising and Beautiful, more acceptable to the Imagination than what is Little, Common, or Deformed, *ibid.*
 Desire, when Corrected, N. 400.
 Devotion, the noblest Buildings owing to it, N. 415.
Diana's cruel Sacrifices condemned by an ancient Poet, N. 453.
Dionysius's Ear, what it was, N. 439.

Discourse

The INDEX.

- Discourse in Conversation not to be engross'd by one Man,
N. 428.
Distracted Persons, the Sight of them the most mortifying
thing in Nature, N. 421.
Dogget, how cuckolded on the Stage, N. 446.
Domestick Life, Reflexions concerning it, N. 455.
Doris, Mr. *Congreve's* Character of her, N. 422.
Drama, its first Original a Religious Worship, N. 405.
Dream of the Seasons, N. 425; of Golden Scales, 463.
Dress, the Ladies Extravagance in it, N. 435. An ill In-
tention in their Singularity, *ibid.* The *English* Charac-
ter to be modest in it, *ibid.*
Drink, the Effects it has on Modesty, N. 458.

E.

- E*astcourt (*Dick*) his Character, N. 468.
Editors of the Classics, their Faults, N. 470.
Education of Children, Errors in it, N. 431. a Letter on
that Subject, 455. Gardening apply'd to it, *ibid.*
Emblematical Persons, N. 419.
Employments, whoever excels in any, worthy of Praise,
N. 432.
Emulation, the Use of it, N. 432.
Enemies, the Benefits that may be receiv'd from them,
N. 399.
English naturally modest, N. 407, 435; thought proud
by Foreigners, 432.
Enmity, the good Fruits of it, N. 399.
Epicletus's Saying of Sorrow, N. 397.
Equestrian Ladies, who, N. 435.
Error, his Habitation describ'd, N. 460; how like to
Truth, *ibid.*
Essay on the Pleasures of Imagination, from N. 411,
to 421.
Ether (Fields of) the Pleasures of surveying them, N.
420.
Ever-greens of the Fair Sex, N. 395.
Euphrates River contain'd in one Baln, N. 415.
Exchange (*Royal*) describ'd, N. 454.

FAIRY

The INDEX.

F.

- F**AIRY Writing, N. 419. The Pleasures of Imagination that arise from it, *ibid.* More difficult than any other, and why, *ibid.* The *English* the best Poets of this Sort, *ibid.*
- Faith, the Benefit of it, N. 459. The Means of confirming it, 465.
- Fame a Follower of Merit, N. 426. the Palace of, described, 439. Courts compar'd to it, *ibid.*
- Familiarities indecent in Society, N. 429.
- Fancy, all its Images enter by the Sight, N. 411.
- Fashion, a Description of it, N. 460.
- Father, the Affection of one for a Daughter, N. 449.
- Favilla* spoil'd by a Marriage, N. 437.
- Faults (secret) how to find 'em out, N. 399.
- Fear (Passion of) treated, N. 471.
- Feeling not so perfect a Sense as Sight, N. 411.
- Fiction, the Advantage the Writers have in it to please the Imagination, N. 419. What other Writers please it, 420.
- Fidelia*, her Duty to her Father, N. 449.
- Final Causes of Delight in Objects, N. 413. Lie bare and open, *ibid.*
- Flattery describ'd, N. 460.
- Flavia's* Character and Amour with *Cynthia*, N. 398.
- Flora* an Attendant on the Spring, N. 425.
- Follies and Defects mistaken by us in our selves for Worth, N. 460.
- Fortius*, his Character, N. 422.
- Fortunatus* the Trader, his Character, N. 443.
- Freart* (Monsieur) what he says of the manner of both Ancients and Moderns in Architecture, N. 415.
- French*, their Levity, N. 435.
- Friends kind to our Faults, N. 399.

G.

- G**ARDENING, Errors in it, N. 414. Why the *English* Gardens not so entertaining to the Fancy, as those in *France* and *Italy*, *ibid.* Observations concerning its Improvement both for Benefit and Beauty, *ibid.* apply'd to Education, 455.

Georgicks

The INDEX.

- Georgicks* (*Virgil's*) the Beauty of their Subjects, N. 417.
 Gesture, good in Oratory, N. 407.
 Ghosts, what they say should be a little discolour'd, N. 419. The Description of them pleasing to the Fancy, *ibid.* why we incline to believe them, *ibid.* not a Village in *England* formerly without one, *ibid.* *Shakespeare's* the best, *ibid.*
 Gladiators of *Rome*, what *Cicero* says of 'em, N. 436.
Gloriana, the Design upon her, N. 423.
 Goats-milk, the Effect it had on a Man bred with it, N. 408.
 Good Sense and Good Nature always go together, N. 437.
 Grace at Meals practis'd by the *Pagans*, N. 458.
 Grandeur and Minuteness, the Extremes pleasing to the Fancy, N. 420.
 Gratitude, the most pleasing Exercise of the Mind, N. 453. a Divine Poem upon it, *ibid.*
 Greatness of Objects, what understood by it, in the Pleasures of the Imagination, N. 412, 413.
 Green-sickness, *Sabina Rentsfree's* Letter about it, N. 431.
 Guardian of the Fair Sex, the *Spectator* so, N. 449.

H.

- H** *Amlet's* Reflexions on looking upon *Yorick's* Skull, N. 404.
 Harlot, a Description of one out of the *Proverbs*, N. 410.
 Health, the Pleasures of the Fancy more conducive to it, than those of the Understanding, N. 411.
 Heaven and Hell, the Notion of, conformable to the Light of Nature, N. 447.
 Heavens, Verses on the Glory of 'em, N. 465.
Hebrew Idioms run into *English*, N. 405.
Hesiod's Saying of a virtuous Life, N. 447.
 Historian, his most agreeable Talent, N. 420. How History pleases the Imagination, *ibid.* Descriptions of Battles in it scarce ever understood, N. 428.
Hockley in the Hole Gladiators, N. 436.
Homer's Descriptions charm more than *Aristotle's* Reasoning, N. 411; compar'd with *Virgil*, 417; when he is in his Province, *ibid.*
Honestus the Trader, his Character, N. 443.
Honeycomb (*Will*) his Adventure with *Sukey*, N. 410.
 Hope

The INDEX.

- Hope (Passion of) treated, N. 471.
Horace takes Fire at every Hint of the *Iliad* and *Odyssee*,
 N. 417.
Hotspur (*Jeffrey*, Esq;) his Petition from the Country In-
 firmary, N. 429.
 Human Nature the best Study, N. 408.
 Humour (Good) the best Companion in the Country,
 N. 424.
Husb (*Peter*) his Character, N. 457.
 Hymn, *David's* Pastoral one on Providence, N. 441;
 on Gratitude, 453; on the Glories of the Heaven and
 Earth, 465.
 Hypocrisy, the various Kinds of it, N. 399; to be pre-
 fer'd to open Impiety, 458.

I.

- I**Deas, how a whole Set of them hang together, N. 416.
 Idiot, the Story of one by *Dr. Plot*, N. 447.
 Idle and Innocent, few know how to be so, N. 411.
 Jilt, a Penitent one, N. 401.
Iliad, the reading of it like travelling through a Country
 uninhabited, N. 417.
 Imaginary Beings in Poetry, N. 419. Instances in *Ovid*,
Virgil, and *Milton*, *ibid*.
 Imagination, its Pleasures in some Respects equal to those
 of the Understanding, in some preferable, N. 411.
 Their Extent, *ibid*. The Advantages of them, *ibid*. What
 is meant by them, *ibid*. Two Kinds of them, *ibid*. A-
 waken the faculties of the Mind, without fatiguing or
 perplexing it, *ibid*. more conducive to Health than
 those of the Understanding, *ibid*. rais'd by other Senses
 as well as the Sight, 412. The Cause of them not to
 be assign'd, 413. Works of Art not so perfect as those
 of Nature to entertain the Imagination, 414. The se-
 condary Pleasures of the Fancy, 416. the Power of it,
ibid. whence its secondary Pleasures proceed, *ibid*. of a
 wider and more Universal Nature than those it has
 when join'd with Sight, 418; how Poetry contributes
 to its Pleasures, 419; how Historians, Philosophers,
 and other Writers, 420, 421. The Delight it takes in
 enlarging it self by Degrees, as in the Survey of the
 Earth, and the Universe, *ibid*. and when it works from
 great

The INDEX.

great Things to little, *ibid.* where it falls short of the Understanding, *ibid.* How affected by Similitudes, 421; as liable to Pain as Pleasure; how much of either 'tis capable of, *ibid.* the Power of the Almighty over it, *ibid.*

Imagining, the Art of it in general, N. 421.

Impertinent and Trifling Persons, their Triumph, N. 432.

Impudence mistaken for Wit, N. 443.

Infirmity, one for Good-humour, N. 429, 437, 440; a further Account out of the Country, *ibid.*

Ingoltsen (Charles of Barbican) his Cures, N. 444.

Invitation, the *Spectator's*, to all Artificers as well as Philosophers to assist him, N. 428, 442; a General one, *ibid.*

Jolly (Frank, Esq;) his Memorial from the Country Infirmary, N. 429.

Iras, her Character, N. 404.

Irony, who deal in it, N. 438.

July and *August* (Months of) described, N. 425.

June (Month of) describ'd, N. 425.

K.

K Knowledge of one's self, Rules for it, N. 399.

L.

L Andskip, a pretty one, N. 414.

Language (Licentious) the Brutality of it, N. 400.

Languages (*European*) cold to the Oriental, N. 405.

Lapland Ode translated, N. 406.

Latimer, the Martyr, his Behaviour at a Conference with the Papiſts, N. 465.

Law-suits, the Misery of 'em, N. 456.

Leaf (Green) swarms with Millions of Animals, N. 420.

Learning (Men of) who take to Business, best fit for it, N. 469.

Letters from *Cynthia* to *Flavia*, and their Answers on the breaking off their Amour, N. 398.

Letters from Queen *Anne Boleyn* to *Henry VIII.* N. 397.

From a Bankrupt to his Friend, 456; the Answer, *ibid.*

From *Lazarus Hopeful* to *Basil Plenty*, 472.

Letters

The INDEX.

Letters to the *Spectator*; from *Peter de Quir* of *St. John's* College in *Cambridge*, N. 495; from a penitent Jilt, 401; from a Lady importun'd by her Mother to be unfaithful to her Husband, 402; from a married Man, who out of Jealousy obstructed the Marriage of a Lady to whom he was a Guardian, *ibid.* from a Lady whose Lover would have abus'd her Passion for him, *ibid.* from a young Uncle on the Disobedience of his Elder Nephews and Neices, *ibid.* about a City and Country Life, 406; with a Translation of a *Lapland Ode*, *ibid.* on the Passions, 408; concerning *Gloriana*, 423; of Good-humour, 424; of the Country Infirmary, 429; of common Beggars, 430; of Charity Schools, *ibid.* the Freedoms of married Men and Women, *ibid.* from *Richard* and *Sabina Rentfree*, 431; about Prejudice and Emulation, 432; naked Shoulders, 437; a Country Society and Infirmary, *ibid.* from *Camilla*, 443; from an Exchange Man, *ibid.* about Buffoonry, *ibid.* from *Ephraim Weed*, 450; from a Projector for News, 452, 457; about Education, 455; from one who had married a Scold, *ibid.* from *Pil. Garlick*, *ibid.* about the Use and Abuse of Similes, *ibid.* Salutations at Churches, 460. with a Translation of the 114th *Psalms*, 461; about the Advance on the Paper for the Stamps, *ibid.* about King *Charles* the Second's Gaieties, 462; about Dancing, 466; about Sight, 472; about Penegyrical Satyrs on our selves, 473; from *Timothy Stanza*, *ibid.* from *Bob Short*, *ibid.*

Libels, a severe Law against them, N. 451; those that write or read 'em excommunicated, *ibid.*

Light and Colours only Ideas in the Mind, N. 413.

Livy, in what he excels all other Historians, N. 409, 420.

Loller (Lady *Lydia*) her Memorial from the Country Infirmary, N. 429.

London, the Differences of the Manners and Politicks of one Part from the other, N. 403.

MAN,

The INDEX.

M.

- M**AN, the middle Link between Angels and Brutes,
N. 408. What he is, consider'd in himself, 441.
The Homage he owes his Creator, *ibid.*
- Manilius*, his Character, N. 467.
- March* (Month of) described, N. 425.
- Mariamne* the fine Dancer, N. 466.
- Mars*, an Attendant on the Spring, N. 425.
- Martial*, an Epigram of his on a Grave Man's being at a
Lewd Play, N. 446.
- Matchiavel*, his Observation on the wise Jealousy of
States, N. 408.
- Matter, the least Particle of it contains an inexhausted
Fund, N. 420.
- May* (Month of) dangerous to the Ladies, N. 395. de-
scrib'd, 425.
- Meanwell* (*Thomas*) his Letter about the Freedoms of mar-
ry'd Men and Women, N. 430.
- Memory, how improv'd by the Ideas of the Imagination,
N. 417.
- Merchant, the Worth and Importance of his Character,
N. 428.
- Mercy, whoever wants it has a Taste of no Enjoyment,
N. 456.
- Metamorphoses* (*Ovid's*) like enchanted Ground, N. 417.
- Metaphor, when noble, casts a Glory round it, N. 421.
- Miller* (*James*) his Challenge to *Timothy Buck*, N. 436.
- Milton*, his vast Genius, N. 417. His Poem of *Il Penseroso*,
425. His Description of the Arch-Angel and the Evil
Spirit's addressing themselves for the Combat, 463.
- Mimickry (Art of) why we delight in it, N. 416.
- Minister, a watchful one describ'd, N. 439.
- Minutius*, his Character, N. 422.
- Modesty (False) the Danger of it, N. 458. distinguish'd
from the True, *ibid.*
- Monsters, Novelty bestows Charms on them, N. 412.
Incapable of Propagation, 413. What gives Satis-
faction in the Sight of them, 418.
- Money; the *Spectator* proposes it as a *Thesis*, N. 442. the
Power

The INDEX.

- Power of it, 450. The Love of it very Commendable;
ibid.
 Morality, the Benefits of it, N. 459. Strengthens Faith,
 465.
Moufe-Alley Doctor, N. 444.
 Musick (Church) of the Improvement of it, N. 405. It
 may raise confus'd Notions of Things in the Fancy,
 416.

N.

- N**A K E D Shouldered, N. 437.
 Names of Authors to be put to their Works, the
 Hardship and Inconveniences of it, 451.
 Nature, a Man's best Guide, N. 404. the most useful Ob-
 ject of Human Reason, 408. Her Works more per-
 fect than those of Art to delight the Fancy, 414. Yet
 the more pleasant the more they resemble them, *ibid.*
 more grand and august than those of Art, *ibid.*
 Necessary Cause of our being pleas'd with what is Great,
 New and Beautiful, N. 413.
 New or Uncommon, why every thing that is so raises a
 Pleasure in the Imagination, N. 411. What understood
 by the Term with Respect to Objects, 412. Improves
 what is Great and Beautiful, *ibid.* Why a secret Plea-
 sure annex'd to its Idea, 413. Every thing so that
 Pleases in Architecture, 415.
 News, how the *English* thirst after it, N. 452. Project
 for a Supply of it, *ibid.* of Whispers, 457.
Nicodemuncio's Letter to *Olivia*, N. 433.
Nicolini, his Perfection in Musick, N. 405.
 Night-Walk in the Country, N. 425.
November (Month of) described, N. 425.

O.

- O** D E (*Laplander's*) to his Mistress, N. 406.
 Opinion (Popular) describ'd, N. 460.
 Ostentation, one of the Inhabitants of the Paradise of
 Fools, N. 460.

Otway,

The INDEX.

Otway, his admirable Description of the Miseries of Law suits, N. 456.

Ovid, in what he excels, N. 417. His Description of the Palace of Fame, 439.

P.

PAMPHLETS, Defamatory, detestable, N. 541.
Pantheon at Rome, how it strikes the Imagination at the first Entrance, N. 415.

Paradise of Fools, N. 460.

Paradise Lost, (*Milton's*) its fine Images, N. 417.

Parents, their Care due to their Children, N. 426.

Party not be follow'd with Innocence, N. 399.

Party Prejudices in *England*, N. 432.

Passions treated of, N. 408. What moves 'em in Descriptions most pleasing, 418. in all Men, but appear not in all, *ibid.* of Hope and Fear, 471.

Passionate People, their Faults, N. 438. *Nat. Lee's* Description of one, *ibid.*

Peevish Fellow describ'd, N. 438.

Penferoso (Poem of) by *Milton*, N. 425.

Persecution in Religious Matters Immoral, N. 459.

Persian Soldier reproved for railing against an Enemy, N. 427.

Phidias, his Proposal of a prodigious Statue of *Alexander*, N. 415.

Phocion's Saying of a vain Promiser, N. 448.

Philipater's Letter about his Daughter's Dancing, N. 466.

Philips (Mr.) Pastoral Verses of his, N. 400.

Philosophy (New) the Authors of it gratify and enlarge the Imagination, N. 420.

Picture not so natural a Representation as a Statue, N. 416. what pleases most in one, 418.

Pindar's Saying of *Theron*, N. 467.

Pity, is Love soften'd by Sorrow, N. 397. that and Terror leading Passions in Poetry, 418.

Places of Trust, who most fit for 'em, N. 469. Why courted by Men of generous Principles, *ibid.*

Planets, to survey them, fills us with Astonishment, N. 420.

Pleasant Fellows to be avoided, N. 462.

Pleasantry

The INDEX.

- Pleasantry in Conversation, the Faults it covers, N. 462.
 Poems, several preserved for their Similes, N. 421.
 Poetry has the whole Circle of Nature for its Province, N. 419.
 Poets, the Pains they should take to form the Imagination, N. 417. should mend Nature, and add to her Beauties, 418. How much they are at Liberty in it, *ibid.*
 Polite Imagination let into a great many Pleasures the Vulgar are not capable of, N. 411.
 Politicks of St. *James's* Coffee-House, on the Report of the *French King's* Death, N. 403. of *Giles's*, *ibid.* of *Jenny Man's*, *ibid.* of *Will's*, *ibid.* the *Temple*, *ibid.* *Fish-street*, *ibid.* *Cheapside*, *ibid.* *Garraway's*, *ibid.*
 Poor, the scandalous Appearance of them, N. 430.
 Poverty the Loss of Merit, N. 464.
 Praise, the Love of it deeply fix'd in Mens Minds, N. 467.
 Precipice, distant, why its Prospect pleases, N. 418.
 Prejudice, a Letter about it as it respects Partics in *England*, N. 432.
 Promises (Neglect of) thro' frivolous Falshood, N. 448.
 Promisers condemn'd, N. 448.
 Prospect, a beautiful one delights the Soul as much as a Demonstration, N. 411. Wide ones pleasing to the Fancy, *ibid.* Enliven'd by nothing so much as Rivers and Falls of Water, 412; that of Hills and Valleys soon tires, *ibid.*
 Proverbs, (the 7th Chapter of) turn'd into Verse, N. 410.
 Psalm 114th translated, N. 461.
 Psalmist, against Hypocrisy, N. 399; of Providence, 441.
 Punning, whose Privilege, N. 396. a Pun of Thought, 454.
 Pyramids of *Egypt*, N. 415.
 Pythagoras, his Precepts about the Choice of a Course of Life, N. 447.

Q.

- QUACK Bill, N. 444. Doctors, the Cheats of them, *ibid.*
 Quakers, Project of an Act to marry them to the Olive Beauties, N. 396.
 Quir (*Peter de*) his Letter to the *Spectator* about Puns, Rallery, N. 396.

The INDEX.

R.

- R**allery in Conversation, the Absurdity of it, N. 422.
 Rainbow, the Figure of one contributes to its Magnificence, as much as the Colours to its Beauty, N. 415.
 Ramble, from *Richmond* by Water to *London* and about it, by the *Spectator*, N. 454.
Raphael, the Excellence of his Pictures, N. 467.
Read (Sir *William*) his Operations on the Eyes, N. 472.
 Reason the Pilot of the Passions, N. 408. A pretty nice Proportion between that and Passion, *ibid*.
 Religion consider'd, N. 459.
Renatus Valentinus, his Father and Grandfather, their Story, N. 426.
Rent-free (*Sabina*) her Letter about the Green Sickness, N. 431.
 Retirement, a Dream of it, N. 425.
 Riches corrupt Mens Morals, N. 464.
 Rich Men, their Defects over-look'd, N. 464.
 Ridicule put to a good Use, N. 445.
 Riding-dress of Ladies, the Extravagance of it, N. 435.
Robin, the Porter at *Will's* Coffee-House, his Qualifications, N. 398.
Rhubarb (*John* Esq;) his Memorial from the Country Infirmary, N. 429.
 Rusticity shocking, N. 400.
Rusby (*Scabbard*) his Letter to the *Spectator*, N. 449.

S.

- S**allust, his Excellence, N. 409.
 Salutations in Churches censur'd, N. 460.
 Satires, the *English*, Ribaldry and *Billingsgate*, N. 451.
 Panegyrical on our selves, 473.
 Scales (golden) a Dream of them, N. 463.
 Scandal, to whom most pleasing, N. 426. How monstrous it renders us, 451.
Scot, (Dr.) his *Christian Life*, its Merit, N. 447.
Scotch, a Saying of theirs, N. 463.
 Scriblers against the *Spectator*, why neglected by Him, N. 445.
 Seasons, a Dream of them, N. 425.

Sidney,

The INDEX.

- Sidney, Verses on his Modesty, N. 400.
 Self-Conceit one of the Inhabitants of the Paradise of Fools,
 N. 460.
Semanthe, her Character, N. 404.
Semiramis, her prodigious Works and Power, N. 415.
Sempronia the Match-maker, N. 437.
September (Month of) described, N. 425.
 Sexes, Amity between agreeable Persons of different, dan-
 gerous, N. 400. the Advantages of it to each, 433.
Shakespear excels all Writers in his Ghosts, N. 419.
Sherlock (Dr.) improv'd the Notion of Heaven and Hell,
 N. 447.
 Sight the most perfect Sense, N. 411. The Pleasures of
 the Imagination arise originally from it, *ibid.* furnishes
 it with Ideas, *ibid.*
 Silk-Worm, a Character of one, N. 454.
 Similitudes, eminent Writers faulty in them, N. 421. the
 Preservation of several Poems, *ibid.* an ill one in a Pul-
 pit, 455.
Sippet (*Jack*) his Character, N. 448.
 Snarlers, N. 438.
Socrates, why the Oracle pronounc'd him the wisest of
 Men, N. 408.
 Song with Notes, N. 470.
 Soul, its Happiness the Contemplation of God, N. 413.
 State of it after Separation, *ibid.*
 Sounds, how improper for Description, N. 416.
Spectator, his Invitation to all Sorts of People to assist him,
 N. 442. about the Stamps, 445. Guardian of the Fair
 Sex, 449. his Advertisements, 461. about the Price of
 his Paper, *ibid.* put into the Golden Scales, 463. a
 sort of News-Letter, 468.
Spencer, his whole Creation of Shadowy Persons, N. 419.
 Spirits, several Species in the World besides our selves,
 N. 419.
 Spring, a Description of it, N. 423. his Attendants, *ibid.*
 Spies not to be trusted, N. 439. despis'd by Great Men,
ibid.
 Stamps, how fatal to weekly Historians, N. 445.
 Stars (fixt) how their Immensity and Magnificence con-
 found us, N. 420.
 Statuary, the most natural Representation, N. 416.

Stint

The INDEX.

- Stint (Jack)* and *Will. Trap*, their Adventure, N. 448.
Stoicks discarded all Passions, N. 397.
Sudden (Thomas Esq;) his Memorial from the Country
 Infirmary, N. 429.
Sukey's Adventure with *Will. Honeycomb* and *Sir Roger de
 Coverley*, N. 410.
 Sun-rising and setting the most glorious Show in Nature,
 N. 412.
 Symmetry of Objects, how it strikes, N. 411.
Syncopius the Passionate, his Character, N. 438.

T.

- T** Ale-bearers censured, N. 439.
 Taste of Writing, what it is, and how it may be
 acquired, N. 409. the Perfection of a Man's as a Sense,
ibid. defined, *ibid.* that of the *English*, *ibid.*
 Terror and Pity, why those Passions please, N. 418.
Thames, its Banks, and the Boats on it, described, N. 454.
Theognis, a beautiful Saying of his, N. 464.
Thimbleton (Ralph) his Letter to the *Speſtator*, N. 432.
 Thoughts, of the highest Importance to sift them, N.
 399.
Tillotſon (Archbishop) improved the Notion of Heaven
 and Hell, N. 447.
 Torture, why the Description of it pleases, and not the
 Proſpect, N. 418.
 Transmigration of Souls, how believ'd by the Ancients,
 N. 408.
Trap (Mr.) his Letter to Mr. *Stint*, N. 448.
 Trees, more beautiful in all their Luxuriancy than when
 cut and trimmed, N. 414.
 Trimming, the *Speſtator* unjuſtly accus'd of it, N. 445.

V.

- V** *Ainloves*, the Family of, N. 454.
Valentinus, Baſilius, and Alexandrinus, their Story,
 N. 426.
Valerio, his Character, N. 404.
Valetudinarians in Chaſtity, N. 395.
 Vanity the Paradife of Fools, N. 460. a Viſion of her
 and her Attendants, *ibid.*

Variety

The INDEX.

- Variety of Mens Actions proceeds from the Passions, N. 408.
Venus, the charming Figure she makes in the first *Æneid*, N. 417. an Attendant on the Spring, 425.
Vertumnus, an Attendant on the Spring, N. 425.
Viner (Sir Robert) his Familiarity with King *Charles II.* N. 462.
Virgil, his Genius, N. 404. compared with *Homer*, 417. when he is best pleased, *ibid.*
 Virtues, supposed ones not be relied on, N. 399.
 Understanding, wherein more perfect than the Imagination, N. 420. Reasons for it, *ibid.* Should master the Passions, 438.
 Universe, how pleasing the Contemplation of it, N. 420.

W.

- W**ALL, the prodigious one of *China*, N. 415.
 Wars, the Late made us so greedy of News, N. 452.
 Wealthy Men fix the Character of Persons to their Circumstances, N. 469.
Weed (*Ephraim*) his Letter to the *Spectator* about his Marriages and Estate, 450.
 Whispering-Place, *Dionysius* the Tyrant's, N. 439.
 Whisperers, Political, N. 457.
 Wig, long one, the Eloquence of the Bar, N. 407.
 Wit, (false) why it sometimes pleases, N. 416. Nothing without Judgment, 422.
 Witchcraft, generally believ'd by our Forefathers, N. 419.
 Women have always Designs upon Men, N. 433.
 Words, the Pleasures proceeding to the Imagination from the Ideas raised by them, N. 416.
 Writer, how to perfect his Imagination, N. 417. who among the Ancient Poets had this Faculty, *ibid.*

Y.

- Youth, Instructions to them to avoid Harlots, N. 410.

Z.

- Zeal, intemperate, criminal, N. 399.

The End of the Sixth Volume.



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