

you glorious, except you your self can join with them in your own Reflexions. A Mind thus equal and uniform may be deserted by little fashionable Admirers and Followers, but will ever be had in Reverence by Souls like it self. The Branches of the Oak endure all the Seasons of the Year, though its Leaves fall off in Autumn; and these two will be restored with the returning Spring. T



N^o 173. *Tuesday, September 18.*

— *Remove fera monstra, tuæque
Saxificos vultus, quæcunque ea, tolle Medusæ. Ov. Met.*

I N a late Paper I mentioned the Project of an ingenious Author for the erecting of several Handicraft Prizes to be contended for by our *British* Artisans, and the Influence they might have towards the Improvement of our several Manufactures. I have since that been very much surpris'd by the following Advertisement which I find in the *Post-Boy* of the 11th Instant, and again repeated in the *Post-Boy* of the 15th.

O N the 9th of October next will be run for upon Colehill-Heath in Warwickshire, a Plate of 6 Guineas Value, 3 Heats, by any Horse, Mare or Gelding that hath not won above the Value of 5 l. the winning Horse to be Sold for 10 l, to carry 10 Stone Weight, if 14 Hands high; if above or under, to carry or be allowed Weight for Inches, and to be entered Friday the 5th at the Swan in Colehill, before Six in the Evening. Also a Plate of less Value to be run for by Asses. The same Day a Gold Ring to be Grinn'd for by Men.

THE first of these Diversions that is to be exhibited by the 10 l. Race-Horses, may probably have its Use; but the two last, in which the Asses and Men are concerned, seem to me altogether extraordinary and unaccountable. Why they should keep running Asses at Colehill, or how making Mouths turns to account in Warwickshire, more than in any other Parts of England, I cannot comprehend. I have looked over all the Olym-

pick

pick Games, and do not find any thing in them like an Ass-Race, or a Match at Grinning. However it be, I am informed that several Asses are now kept in Body-Clothes, and sweated every Morning upon the Heath, and that all the Country Fellows within ten Miles of the *Swan*, grin an Hour or two in their Glasses every Morning, in Order to qualify themselves for the 9th of *October*. The Prize which is propos'd to be Grinn'd for, has rais'd such an Ambition among the Common People of Out-grinning one another, that many very discerning Persons are afraid it should spoil most of the Faces in the County; and that a *Warwickshire* Man will be known by his Grinn, as Roman-Catholicks imagine a *Kentish* Man is by his Tail. The Gold Ring which is made the Prize of Deformity, is just the Reverse of the Golden Apple that was formerly made the Prize of Beauty, and should carry for its Posy the old Motto inverted.

Detur tetrioni.

Or to accommodate it to the Capacity of the Combatants;

*The frightfull st Grinner,
Be the Winner.*

IN the mean while I would advise a *Dutch* Painter to be present at this great Controversy of Faces, in order to make a Collection of the most remarkable Grinns that shall be there exhibited.

I must not here omit an Account which I lately received of one of these grinning Matches from a Gentleman, who upon reading the abovementioned Advertisement, entertained a Coffee-house with the following Narrative. Upon the taking of *Namure*, amidst other publick Rejoicings made on that Occasion, there was a Gold Ring given by a Whig Justice of Peace to be grinn'd for. The first Competitor that entered the Lists, was a black swarthy *Frenchman*, who accidentally pass'd that way, and being a Man naturally of a wither'd Look, and hard Features, promised himself good Success. He was placed upon a Table in the great Point of View, and looking upon the Company like *Milton's* Death,

Grinn'd horribly a Gasty Smile —

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

HIS

HIS Muscles were so drawn together on each Side of his Face, that he shew'd twenty Teeth at a Grinn, and put the Country in some Pain, lest a Foreigner should carry away the Honour of the Day; but upon a farther Trial they found he was Master only of the merry Grinn.

THE next that mounted the Table was a Malecontent in those Days, and a great Master in the whole Art of Grinning, but particularly excelled in the angry Grinn. He did his Part so well, that he is said to have made half a dozen Women miscarry; but the Justice being apprised by one who stood near him, that the Fellow who grinn'd in his Face was a *Jacobite*, and being unwilling that a Disaffected Person should win the Gold Ring, and be looked upon as the best Grinner in the Country, he ordered the Oaths to be tendered unto him upon his quitting the Table, which the Grinner refusing, he was set aside as an unqualified Person. There were several other Grotesque Figures that presented themselves, which it would be too tedious to describe. I must not however omit a Ploughman, who lived in the farther Part of the Country, and being very lucky in a Pair of long Lanthorn-Jaws, wrung his Face into such an hideous Grimace, that every Feature of it appeared under a different Distortion. The whole Company stood astonish'd at such a complicated Grinn, and were ready to assign the Prize to him, had it not been proved by one of his Antagonists, that he had practised with Verjuice for some Days before, and had a Crab found upon him at the very time of Grinning; upon which the best Judges of Grinning declared it as their Opinion, that he was not to be looked upon as a fair Grinner, and therefore ordered him to be set aside as a Cheat.

THE Prize, it seems, fell at length upon a Cocker, *Giles Gorgon* by Name, who produced several new Grinnings of his own Invention, having been used to cut Faces for many Years together over his Last. At the very first Grinn he cast every human Feature out of his Countenance, at the second he became the Face of a Spout, at the third a Baboon, at the fourth the Head of a Base-Viol, and at the fifth a Pair of Nut-crackers. The whole Assembly wondered at his Accomplishments and bestowed the Ring on him unanimously; but, what he esteemed more than