

to account for the Success of any Action, or the Prudence of any Adventure. If, for Instance, the Chance is his whole Adventure, his only Returns must be the Stag's Horns in the great Hall, and the Fox's Nose upon the Stable Door. Without doubt Sir ROGER knows the full Value of these Returns; and if beforehand he had computed the Charges of the Chace, a Gentleman of his Discretion would certainly have hanged up all his Dogs, he would never have brought back so many fine Horses to the Kennel, he would never have gone so often, like a Blast, over Fields of Corn. If such too had been the Conduct of all his Ancestors, he might truly have boasted at this Day that the Antiquity of his Family had never been sullied by a Trade; a Merchant had never been permitted with his whole Estate to purchase a Room for his Picture in the Gallery of the COVERLEYS, or to claim his Descent from the Maid of Honour. But 'tis very happy for Sir ROGER that the Merchant paid so dear for his Ambition. 'Tis the Misfortune of many other Gentlemen to turn out of the Seats of their Ancestors, to make way for such new Masters as have been more exact in their Accompts than themselves; and certainly he deserves the Estate a great deal better, who has got it by his Industry, than he who has lost it by his Negligence. T



N^o 175. Thursday, September 20.

Proximus à testis ignis defenditur ager: —
Ov. Rem. Am.

I Shall this Day entertain my Readers with two or three Letters I have received from my Correspondents: The first discovers to me a Species of Females which have hitherto escaped my Notice, and is as follows.

Mr.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Am a young Gentleman of a competent Fortune, and a sufficient Taste of Learning, to spend five or six Hours every Day very agreeably among my Books. That I might have nothing to divert me from my Studies, and to avoid the Noises of Coaches and Chairmen, I have taken Lodgings in a very narrow Street not far from *Whitehall*; but it is my Misfortune to be so posted, that my Lodgings are directly opposite to those of a *Jezebel*. You are to know, Sir, that a *Jezebel* (so call'd by the Neighbourhood from displaying her pernicious Charms at her Window) appears constantly dress'd at her Sash, and has a thousand little Tricks and Fooleries to attract the Eyes of all the idle young Fellows in the Neighbourhood. I have seen more than six Persons at once from their several Windows observing the *Jezebel* I am now complaining of. I at first looked on her my self with the highest Contempt, could divert my self with her Airs for half an Hour, and afterwards take up my *Plutarch* with great Tranquillity of Mind; but was a little vexed to find that in less than a Month she had considerably stoln upon my Time, so that I resolv'd to look at her no more. But the *Jezebel*, who, as I suppose, might think it a Diminution to her Honour, to have the Number of her Gazers lessen'd, resolv'd not to part with me so, and began to play so many new Tricks at her Window, that it was impossible for me to forbear observing her. I verily believe she put her self to the Expence of a new Wax-Baby on purpose to plague me; she us'd to dandle and play with this Figure as impertinently as if it had been a real Child: sometimes she would let fall a Glove or a Pin-Cushion in the Street, and shut or open her Casement three or four times in a Minute. When I had almost wean'd my self from this, she came in her Shift Sleeves, and dress'd at the Window. I had no Way left but to let down my Curtains, which I submitted to though it considerably darkened my Room, and was pleas'd to think that I had at last got the better of her; but was surpris'd the next Morning to hear her talking out of her Win-

dow quite cross the Street, with another Woman that lodges over me: I am since informed, that she made her a Visit, and got acquainted with her within three Hours after the fall of my Window-Curtains.

SIR, I am plagued every Moment in the Day one way or other in my own Chambers; and the *Jezebel* has the Satisfaction to know, that tho' I am not looking at her, I am list'ning to her impertinent Dialogues that pass over my Head. I would immediately change my Lodgings, but that I think it might look like a plain Confession that I am conquer'd; and besides this, I am told that most Quarters of the Town are infested with these Creatures. If they are so, I am sure 'tis such an Abuse, as a Lover of Learning and Silence ought to take notice of.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

I am afraid, by some Lines in this Letter, that my young Student is touched with a Distemper which he hardly seems to dream of, and is too far gone in it to receive Advice. However, I shall animadvert in due time on the Abuse which he mentions, having my self observed a Nest of *Jezebels* near the Temple, who make it their Diversion to draw up the Eyes of young Templars, that at the same time they may see them stumble in an unlucky Gutter which runs under the Window.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Have lately read the Conclusion of your forty seventh Speculation upon *Butts* with great Pleasure, and have ever since been thoroughly persuaded that one of those Gentlemen is extremely necessary to enliven Conversation. I had an Entertainment last Week upon the Water for a Lady to whom I make my Addresses, with several of our Friends of both Sexes. To divert the Company in general, and to shew my Mistress in particular my Genius for Rallery, I took one of the most celebrated *Butts* in Town along with me. It is with the utmost Shame and Confusion that I must acquaint you with the Sequel of my Adventure: As soon as we were got into the Boat, I played a Sentence

or

‘ or two at my *Butt* which I thought very smart, when
 ‘ my ill Genius, who I verily believe inspir’d him purely
 ‘ for my Destruction, suggested to him such a Reply, as
 ‘ got all the Laughter on his Side. I was dashed at so
 ‘ unexpected a Turn, which the *Butt* perceiving, resol-
 ‘ ved not to let me recover my self, and pursuing his
 ‘ Victory, rallied and tossed me in a most unmerciful
 ‘ and barbarous manner till we came to *Chelsea*. I had
 ‘ some small Success while we were eating Cheese-Cakes;
 ‘ but coming home, he renewed his Attacks with his for-
 ‘ mer Good-fortune, and equal Diversion to the whole
 ‘ Company. In short, Sir, I must ingenuously own that
 ‘ I was never so handled in all my Life; and to com-
 ‘ plete my Misfortune, I am since told that the *Butt*,
 ‘ flushed with his late Victory, has made a Visit or two
 ‘ to the dear Object of my Wishes, so that I am at
 ‘ once in Danger of losing all my Pretensions to Wit,
 ‘ and my Mistress into the Bargain. This, Sir, is a true
 ‘ Account of my present Troubles, which you are the
 ‘ more obliged to assist me in, as you were your self
 ‘ in a great measure the Cause of them, by recommend-
 ‘ ing to us an Instrument, and not instructing us at the
 ‘ same time how to play upon it.

‘ I have been thinking whether it might not be highly
 ‘ convenient, that all *Butts* should wear an Inscription
 ‘ affixed to some Part of their Bodies, shewing on
 ‘ which Side they are to be come at, and that if any of
 ‘ them are Persons of unequal Tempers, there should be
 ‘ some Method taken to inform the World at what Time
 ‘ it is safe to attack them, and when you had best let
 ‘ them alone. But submitting these Matters to your
 ‘ more serious Consideration,

I am, SIR, yours, &c.

I have, indeed, seen and heard of several young Gen-
 tlemen under the same Misfortune with my present Cor-
 respondent. The best Rule I can lay down for them to
 avoid the like Calamities for the future, is thoroughly to
 consider not only *Whether their Companions are weak,*
 but *Whether themselves are Wits.*

THE following Letter comes to me from *Exeter*, and being credibly informed that what it contains is Matter of Fact, I shall give it my Reader as it was sent me.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

Exeter, Sept. 7.

YOU were pleas'd in a late Speculation to take notice of the Inconvenience we lie under in the Country, in not being able to keep Pace with the Fashion: But there is another Misfortune which we are subject to, and is no less grievous than the former, which has hitherto escap'd your Observation: I mean, the having Things palmed upon us for *London* Fashions, which were never once heard of there.

A Lady of this Place had some time since a Box of the newest Ribbons sent down by the Coach: Whether it was her own malicious Invention, or the Wantonness of a *London* Milliner, I am not able to inform you; but, among the rest, there was one Cherry-coloured Ribbon, consisting of about half a dozen Yards, made up in the Figure of a small Head-Dress. The aforesaid Lady had the Assurance to affirm, amidst a Circle of Female Inquisitors, who were present at the opening of the Box, that this was the newest Fashion worn at Court. Accordingly the next *Sunday* we had several Females, who came to Church with their Heads dress'd wholly in Ribbons, and looked like so many Victims ready to be sacrific'd. This is still a reigning Mode among us. At the same Time we have a Set of Gentlemen who take the Liberty to appear in all publick Places without any Buttons to their Coats, which they supply with several little Silver Hasps, tho' our freshest Advices from *London* make no mention of any such Fashion; and we are something shy of affording Matter to the Button-makers for a second Petition.

WHAT I would humbly propose to the Publick is, that there may be a Society erected in *London*, to consist of the most skilful Persons of both Sexes for the Inspection of Modes and Fashions; and that hereafter no Person or Persons shall presume to appear singularly habited in any Part of the Country, without a Testimonial from the aforesaid Society, that their Dress is answerable