

his Death approaching, offered Sacrifices on the Mountains to the *Persian Jupiter*, and the Sun, according to the Custom of the Persians; for those are the Words of the Historian. Nay, the *Epicureans* and Atomical Philosophers shewed a very remarkable Modesty in this Particular; for though the Being of a God was intirely repugnant to their Schemes of natural Philosophy, they contented themselves with the Denial of a Providence, asserting at the same Time the Existence of Gods in general; because they would not shock the common Belief of Mankind, and the Religion of their Country. L



N^o 187. Thursday, October 4.

— *Miseri quibus*
Intentata nites —

Hor.

THE Intelligence given by this Correspondent is so important and useful, in order to avoid the Persons he speaks of, that I shall insert his Letter at length.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Do not know that you have ever touched upon a certain species of Women, whom we ordinarily call Jilts. You cannot possibly go upon a more useful Work, than the Consideration of these dangerous Animals. The Coquette is indeed one Degree towards the Jilt; but the Heart of the former is bent upon admiring her self, and giving false Hopes to her Lovers; but the latter is not contented to be extremely amiable, but she must add to that Advantage a certain Delight in being a Torment to others. Thus when her Lover is in the full Expectation of Success, the Jilt shall meet him with a sudden Indifference, and Admiration in her Face at his being surprized that he is received like a Stranger, and a Cast of her Head another Way with a pleasant Scorn

of the Fellow's Insolence. It is very probable the Lover goes home utterly astonished and dejected, sits down to his Scrutoir, sends her word in the most abject Terms, That he knows not what he has done; that all which was desirable in this Life is so suddenly vanished from him, that the Charmer of his Soul should withdraw the vital Heat from the Heart which pants for her. He continues a mournful Absence for some time, pining in Secret, and out of Humour with all things which he meets with. At length he takes a Resolution to try his Fate, and explain with her resolutely upon her unaccountable Carriage. He walks up to her Apartment, with a thousand Inquietudes and Doubts in what Manner he shall meet the first Cast of her Eye; when upon his first Appearance she flies towards him, wonders where he has been, accuses him of his Absence, and treats him with a Familiarity as surprising as her former Coldness. This good Correspondence continues till the Lady observes the Lover grows happy in it, and then she interrupts it with some new Inconsistency of Behaviour. For (as I just now said) the Happiness of a Jilt consists only in the Power of making others uneasy. But such is the Folly of this Sect of Women, that they carry on this pretty skittish Behaviour, till they have no Charms left to render it supportable. *Corinna*, that used to torment all who conversed with her with false Glances, and little heedless unguarded Motions, that were to betray some Inclination towards the Man she would insnare, finds at present all she attempts that Way unregarded; and is obliged to indulge the Jilt in her Constitution, by laying Artificial Plots, writing perplexing Letters from unknown Hands, and making all the young Fellows in Love with her, till they find out who she is. Thus as before she gave Torment by disguising her Inclination, she now is obliged to do it by hiding her Person.

AS for my own Part, *Mr. SPECTATOR*, it has been my unhappy Fate to be jilted from my Youth upward; and as my Taste has been very much towards Intrigue and having Intelligence with Women of Wit, my whole Life has passed away in a Series of

‘ Impositions. I shall, for the Benefit of the present
 ‘ Race of young Men, give some Account of my Loves.
 ‘ I know not whether you have ever heard of the fa-
 ‘ mous Girl about Town called *Kitty*: This Creature
 ‘ (for I must take Shame upon my self) was my Mistress
 ‘ in the Days when Keeping was in Fashion. *Kitty*,
 ‘ under the Appearance of being Wild, Thoughtless,
 ‘ and Irregular in all her Words and Actions, concealed
 ‘ the most accomplished Jilt of her Time. Her Negli-
 ‘ gence had to me a Charm in it like that of Chastity,
 ‘ and Want of Desires seemed as great a Merit as the
 ‘ Conquest of them. The Air she gave her self was
 ‘ that of a Romping Girl, and whenever I talked to her
 ‘ with any Turn of Fondness, she would immediately
 ‘ snatch off my Periwig, try it upon her self in the Glass,
 ‘ clap her Arms a Kimbow, draw my Sword, and make
 ‘ Passes on the Wall, take off my Cravat, and seize it to
 ‘ make some other Use of the Lace, or run into some
 ‘ other unaccountable Rompishness, till the Time I had
 ‘ appointed to pass away with her was over: I went
 ‘ from her full of Pleasure at the Reflexion that I had
 ‘ the keeping of so much Beauty in a Woman, who, as
 ‘ she was too heedless to please me, was also too unat-
 ‘ tentive to form a Design to wrong me. Long did I
 ‘ divert every Hour that hung heavy upon me in the
 ‘ Company of this Creature, whom I looked upon as
 ‘ neither Guilty nor Innocent, but could laugh at my self
 ‘ for my unaccountable Pleasure in an Expence upon her,
 ‘ till in the End it appeared my pretty Insensible was
 ‘ with Child by my Footman.

‘ THIS Accident roused me into a Disdain against
 ‘ all Libertine Women, under what Appearance soever
 ‘ they hid their Insincerity, and I resolved after that Time
 ‘ to converse with none but those who lived within the
 ‘ Rules of Decency and Honour. To this End I form-
 ‘ ed my self into a more regular Turn of Behaviour, and
 ‘ began to make Visits, frequent Assemblies, and lead out
 ‘ Ladies from the Theatres, with all the other insigni-
 ‘ ficant Duties which the professed Servants of the Fair
 ‘ place themselves in constant Readiness to perform.
 ‘ In a very little time, (having a plentiful Fortune) Fa-
 ‘ thers and Mothers began to regard me as a good Match,
 ‘ and

and I found easy Admittance into the best Families in Town to observe their Daughters; but I, who was born to follow the Fair to no Purpose, have by the Force of my ill Stars made my Application to three Jilts successively.

HYÆNA is one of those who form themselves into a melancholy and indolent Air, and endeavour to gain Admirers from their Inattention to all around them. *Hyæna* can loll in her Coach, with something so fixed in her Countenance, that it is impossible to conceive her Meditation is employed only on her Dress and her Charms in that Posture. If it were not too coarse a Simile, I should say *Hyæna*, in the Figure she affects to appear in, is a Spider in the midst of a Cobweb, that is sure to destroy every Fly that approaches it. The Net *Hyæna* throws is so fine, that you are taken in it before you can observe any Part of her Work. I attempted her for a long and weary Season, but I found her Passion went no farther than to be admired; and she is of that unreasonable Temper, as not to value the Inconstancy of her Lovers, provided she can boast she once had their Addresses.

BIBLIS was the second I aimed at, and her Vanity lay in purchasing the Adorers of others, and not in rejoicing in their Love itself. *Biblis* is no Man's Mistress, but every Woman's Rival. As soon as I found this, I fell in Love with *Chloe*, who is my present Pleasure and Torment. I have writ to her, danced with her, and fought for her, and have been her Man in the Sight and Expectation of the whole Town these three Years, and thought my self near the End of my Wishes; when the other Day she called me into her Closet, and told me, with a very grave Face, that she was a Woman of Honour, and scorned to deceive a Man who loved her with so much Sincerity as she saw I did; and therefore she must inform me, that she was by Nature the most inconstant Creature breathing, and begg'd of me not to marry her; If I insisted upon it, I should; but that she was lately fallen in Love with another. What to do or say I know not, but desire you to inform me, and you will infinitely oblige,

S I R, Your most humble Servant,
Charles Yellow.

D 3

ADVER-