

that the Great were not only infatuated with their Station, but also that they believed all below were seized too; else how is it possible they could think of imposing upon themselves and others in such a degree, as to set up a Levée for any thing but a direct Farce? But such is the Weakness of our Nature, that when Men are a little exalted in their Condition, they immediately conceive they have additional Senses, and their Capacities enlarged not only above other Men, but above human Comprehension itself. Thus it is ordinary to see a great Man attend one listening, bow to one at a distance, and call to a third at the same instant. A Girl in new Ribbands is not more taken with herself, nor does she betray more apparent Coquetries, than even a wise Man in such a Circumstance of Courtship. I do not know any thing that I ever thought so very distasteful as the Affectation which is recorded of *Cæsar*, to wit that he would dictate to three several Writers at the same time. This was an Ambition below the Greatness and Candour of his Mind. He indeed (if any Man had Pretensions to greater Faculties than any other Mortal) was the Person; but such a Way of acting is childish, and inconsistent with the Manner of our Being. And it appears from the very Nature of Things, that there cannot be any thing effectually dispatched in the Distraction of a publick Levée; but the whole seems to be a Conspiracy of a Set of Servile Slaves, to give up their own Liberty to take away their Patron's Understanding.

T



N^o 194. Friday, October 12.

— *Difficili bile tumet jecur.*

Hor.

THE present Paper shall consist of two Letters, which observe upon Faults that are easily cured both in Love and Friendship. In the latter, as far as it merely regards Conversation, the Person who neglects visiting an agreeable Friend is punished in the very Transgression; for a good Companion is not found in every

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Room

Room we go into. But the Case of Love is of a more delicate Nature, and the Anxiety is inexpressible if every little Instance of Kindness is not reciprocal. There are Things in this sort of Commerce which there are not Words to express, and a Man may not possibly know how to represent, what yet may tear his Heart into ten thousand Tortures. To be grave to a Man's Mirth, unattentive to his Discourse, or to interrupt either with something that argues a Disinclination to be entertained by him, has in it something so disagreeable, that the utmost Steps which may be made in farther Enmity cannot give greater Torment. The gay *Corinna*, who sets up for an Indifference and becoming Heedlessness, gives her Husband all the Torment imaginable out of meer Insolence, with this peculiar Vanity, that she is to look as gay as a Maid in the Character of a Wife. It is no Matter what is the Reason of a Man's Grief, if it be heavy as it is. Her unhappy Man is convinced that she means him no Dishonour, but pines to Death because she will not have so much Deference to him as to avoid the Appearances of it. The Author of the following Letter is perplexed with an Injury that is in a Degree yet less criminal, and yet the Source of the utmost Unhappiness.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Have read your Papers which relate to Jealousy, and desire your Advice in my Case, which you will say is not common. I have a Wife, of whose Virtue I am not in the least doubtful; yet I cannot be satisfied she loves me, which gives me as great Uneasiness as being faulty the other Way would do. I know not whether I am not yet more miserable than in that Case, for she keeps Possession of my Heart, without the Return of hers. I would desire your Observations upon that Temper in some Women, who will not condescend to convince their Husbands of their Innocence or their Love, but are wholly negligent of what Reflexions the poor Men make upon their Conduct (so they cannot call it Criminal,) when at the same time a little Tenderness of Behaviour, or Regard to shew an Inclination to please them, would make them intirely at Ease. Do not

' not such Women deserve all the Misinterpretation
 ' which they neglect to avoid? Or are they not in the
 ' actual Practice of Guilt, who care not whether they
 ' are thought guilty or not? If my Wife does the most
 ' ordinary Thing, as visiting her Sister, or taking the
 ' Air with her Mother, it is always carried with the Air
 ' of a Secret: Then she will sometimes tell a Thing of
 ' no Consequence, as if it was only Want of Memory
 ' made her conceal it before; and this only to dally
 ' with my Anxiety. I have complained to her of this
 ' Behaviour in the gentlest Terms imaginable, and be-
 ' seech'd her not to use him, who desired only to live
 ' with her like an indulgent Friend, as the most morose
 ' and unsociable Husband in the World. It is no easy
 ' Matter to describe our Circumstance, but it is mise-
 ' rable with this Aggravation, That it might be easily
 ' mended, and yet no Remedy endeavour'd. She reads
 ' you, and there is a Phrase or two in this Letter which
 ' she will know came from me. If we enter into an Ex-
 ' planation which may tend to our future Quiet by your
 ' Means, you shall have our joint Thanks; in the mean-
 ' time I am (as much as I can in this ambiguous Condi-
 ' tion be any Thing)

S I R,

Your humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

' GIVE me leave to make you a Present of a Cha-
 ' racter not yet described in your Papers, which
 ' is that of a Man who treats his Friend with the same
 ' odd Variety which a fantastical Female Tyrant practises
 ' towards her Lover. I have for some Time had a
 ' Friendship with one of these Mercurial Persons: The
 ' Rogue I know loves me, yet takes Advantage of my
 ' Fondness for him to use me as he pleases. We are by
 ' Turns the best Friends and the greatest Strangers ima-
 ' ginable: Sometimes you would think us inseparable;
 ' at other Times he avoids me for a long time, yet nei-
 ' ther he nor I know why. When we meet next by
 ' Chance, he is amazed he has not seen me, is impatient
 ' for an Appointment the same Evening: and when I

E 3.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

' expect