



N<sup>o</sup> 205. *Thursday, October 25.*

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*Decipimur specie re&ti*——

Hor.

WHEN I meet with any vicious Character that is not generally known, in order to prevent its doing Mischief, I draw it at length, and set it up as a Scarecrow; by which Means I do not only make an Example of the Person to whom it belongs, but give Warning to all Her Majesty's Subjects, that they may not suffer by it. Thus, to change the Allusion, I have marked out several of the Shoals and Quicksands of Life, and am continually employed in discovering those which are still concealed, in order to keep the Ignorant and Unwary from running upon them. It is with this Intention that I publish the following Letter, which brings to light some Secrets of this Nature.

*Mr. SPECTATOR,*

THERE are none of your Speculations which I read over with greater Delight, than those which are designed for the Improvement of our Sex. You have endeavoured to correct our unreasonable Fears and Superstitions, in your Seventh and Twelfth Papers: our Fancy for Equipage, in your Fifteenth; our Love of Puppet-Shows, in your Thirty First; our Notions of Beauty, in your Thirty Third; our Inclination for Romances, in your Thirty Seventh; our Passion for *French* Fopperies, in your Forty Fifth; our Manhood and Party-zeal, in your Fifty Seventh; our Abuse of Dancing, in your Sixty Sixth and Sixty Seventh; our Levity, in your Hundred and Twenty Eighth; our Love of Coxcombs, in your Hundred and Fifty Fourth, and Hundred and Fifty Seventh; our Tyranny over the Henpeckt, in your Hundred and Seventy Sixth. You have described the *Pist* in your Forty first; the Idol, in your Seventy Third; the Demurrer,

‘ murrer, in your Eighty Ninth; the Salamander, in  
‘ your Hundred and Ninety Eighth. You have like-  
‘ wise taken to Pieces our Dress, and represented to us  
‘ the Extravagances we are often guilty of in that Par-  
‘ ticular. You have fallen upon our Patches, in your  
‘ Fiftieth and Eighty First; our Commodes, in your  
‘ Ninety Eighth; our Fans in your Hundred and  
‘ Second; our Riding Habits in your Hundred and  
‘ Fourth; our Hoop-petticoats, in your Hundred and  
‘ Twenty Seventh; besides a great many little Ble-  
‘ mishes which you have touched upon in your seve-  
‘ ral other Papers, and in those many Letters that are  
‘ scattered up and down your Works. At the same  
‘ Time we must own, that the Compliments you pay  
‘ our Sex are innumerable, and that those very Faults  
‘ which you represent in us, are neither black in them-  
‘ selves, nor, as you own, universal among us. But,  
‘ Sir, it is plain that these your Discourses are calculated  
‘ for none but the fashionable Part of Womankind, and  
‘ for the Use of those who are rather indiscreet than  
‘ vicious. But, Sir, there is a Sort of Prostitutes in the  
‘ lower Part of our Sex, who are a Scandal to us, and  
‘ very well deserve to fall under your Censure. I know  
‘ it would debase your Paper too much to enter into the  
‘ Behaviour of these Female Libertines; but as your  
‘ Remarks on some Part of it would be a doing of Jus-  
‘ tice to several Women of Virtue and Honour, whose  
‘ Reputations suffer by it, I hope you will not think it  
‘ improper to give the Publick some Accounts of this  
‘ Nature. You must know, Sir, I am provoked to write  
‘ you this Letter by the Behaviour of an infamous Wo-  
‘ man, who having passed her Youth in a most shame-  
‘ less State of Prostitution, is now one of those who  
‘ gain their Livelihood by seducing others, that are  
‘ younger than themselves, and by establishing a crimi-  
‘ nal Commerce between the two Sexes. Among seve-  
‘ ral of her Artifices to get Money, she frequently per-  
‘ suades a vain young Fellow, that such a Woman of  
‘ Quality, or such a celebrated Toast, entertains a se-  
‘ cret Passion for him, and wants nothing but an Oppor-  
‘ tunity of revealing it: Nay, she has gone so far as  
‘ to write Letters in the Name of a Woman of Figure,

to



to borrow Money of one of these foolish *Roderigo's* which she has afterwards appropriated to her own Use. In the mean time, the Person who has lent the Money, has thought a Lady under Obligations to him, who scarce knew his Name; and wondered at her Ingratitude when he has been with her, that she has not owned the Favour, though at the same time he was too much a Man of Honour to put her in mind of it.

WHEN this abandoned Baggage meets with a Man who has Vanity enough to give Credit to Relations of this nature, she turns him to very good Account, by repeating Praises that were never uttered, and delivering Messages that were never sent. As the House of this shameless Creature is frequented by several Foreigners, I have heard of another Artifice, out of which she often raises Money. The Foreigner sighs after some *British* Beauty, whom he only knows by Fame: Upon which she promises, if he can be secret, to procure him a Meeting. The Stranger, ravished at his good Fortune, gives her a Present, and in a little time is introduced to some imaginary Title; for you must know that this cunning Purveyor has her Representatives, upon this Occasion, of some of the finest Ladies in the Kingdom. By this Means, as I am informed, it is usual enough to meet with a *German* Count in foreign Countries, that shall make his Boasts of Favours he has received from Women of the highest Ranks, and the most unblemished Characters. Now, Sir, what Safety is there for a Woman's Reputation, when a Lady may be thus prostituted as it were by Proxy, and be reputed an unchaste Woman; as the Hero in the ninth Book of *Dryden's* *Virgil* is looked upon as a Coward, because the Phantom which appeared in his Likeness ran away from *Turnus*? You may depend upon what I relate to you to be Matter of Fact, and the Practice of more than one of these female Pandars. If you print this Letter, I may give you some farther Accounts of this vicious Race of Women.

Your humble Servant,

BELVIDERA.

VOL. III.

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I shall add two other Letters on different Subjects to fill up my Paper.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Am a Country Clergy-man, and hope you will lend me your Assistance in ridiculing some little Indecencies which cannot so properly be exposed from the Pulpit.

A Widow Lady, who straggled this Summer from London into my Parish for the Benefit of the Air, as she says, appears every Sunday at Church with many fashionable Extravagancies, to the great Astonishment of my Congregation.

BUT what gives us the most Offence is her theatrical Manner of Singing the Psalms. She introduces above fifty *Italian* Airs into the hundredth Psalm, and whilst we begin *All People* in the old solemn Tune of our Forefathers, she in a quite different Key runs Divisions on the Vowels, and adorns them with the Graces of *Nicolini*; if she meets with Eke or Aye, which are frequent in the Metre of *Hopkins* and *Sternhold*, we are certain to hear her quavering them half a Minute after us to some sprightly Airs of the Opera.

I am very far from being an Enemy to Church Music; but fear this Abuse of it may make my *Parish* ridiculous, who already look on the Singing Psalms as an Entertainment, and not Part of their Devotion: Besides, I am apprehensive that the Infection may spread, for Squire *Squeekum*, who by his Voice seems (if I may use the Expression) to be cut out for an *Italian* Singer, was last Sunday practising the same Airs.

I know the Lady's Principles, and that she will plead the Toleration, which (as she fancies) allows her Non-Conformity in this Particular; but I beg you to acquaint her, That Singing the Psalms in a different Tune from the rest of the Congregation, is a Sort of Schism not tolerated by that Act.

I am, S I R,

Your very humble Servant,

R. S.

Mr. S P E C -