

by ready Money, or as it is ordinarily called, bribing a Man to an Opinion. This Method has often proved successful, when all the others have been made use of to no purpose. A Man who is furnished with Arguments from the Mint, will convince his Antagonist much sooner than one who draws them from Reason and Philosophy. Gold is a wonderful Clearer of the Understanding; it dissipates every Doubt and Scruple in an Instant; accommodates it self to the meanest Capacities; silences the Loud and Clamorous, and brings over the most Obstinate and Inflexible. *Philip of Macedon* was a Man of most invincible Reason this Way. He refuted by it all the Wisdom of *Athens*, confounded their Statesmen, struck their Orators dumb, and at length argued them out of all their Liberties.

HAVING here touched upon the several Methods of Disputing, as they have prevailed in different Ages of the World, I shall very suddenly give my Reader an Account of the whole Art of Cavilling; which shall be a full and satisfactory Answer to all such Papers and Pamphlets as have yet appeared against the SPECTATOR. C



N^o 240. *Wednesday, December 5.*

— *Aliter non fit, Avite, liber.*

Mart.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Am of one of the most genteel Trades in the City, and understand thus much of liberal Education, as to have an ardent Ambition of being useful to Mankind, and to think That the chief End of Being as to this Life. I had these good Impressions given me from the handsom Behaviour of a learned, generous, and wealthy Man, towards me when I first began the World. Some Dissatisfactions between me and my Parents made me enter into it with less Relish of Business than I ought; and to turn off this Uneasiness I gave my self to criminal Pleasures, some Excesses, and a general loose Conduct. I know not what the excellent Man abovementioned saw in me, but he descended
from

' from the Superiority of his Wisdom and Merit, to throw
 ' himself frequently into my Company. This made me
 ' soon hope that I had something in me worth cultivating;
 ' and his Conversation made me sensible of Satisfaction
 ' in a regular Way, which I had never before imagined.
 ' When he was grown familiar with me, he opened him-
 ' self like a good Angel, and told me, he had long labour'd
 ' to ripen me into a Preparation to receive his Friendship
 ' and Advice, both which I should daily command, and
 ' the Use of any Part of his Fortune, to apply the Mea-
 ' sures he should propose to me, for the Improvement of
 ' my own. I assure you, I cannot recollect the Goodness
 ' and Confusion of the good Man when he spoke to this Pur-
 ' pose to me, without melting into Tears; but in a word,
 ' Sir, I must hasten to tell you, that my Heart burns with
 ' Gratitude towards him, and he is so happy a Man, that it
 ' can never be in my Power to return him his Favours in
 ' Kind, but I am sure I have made him the most agreeable
 ' Satisfaction I could possibly, in being ready to serve others
 ' to my utmost Ability, as far as is consistent with the
 ' Prudence he prescribes to me. Dear Mr. SPECTATOR,
 ' I do not owe to him only the Good-will and Esteem
 ' of my own Relations, (who are People of Distinction)
 ' the present Ease and Plenty of my Circumstances, but
 ' also the Government of my Passions, and Regulation of
 ' my Desires. I doubt not, Sir, but in your Imagination
 ' such Virtues as these of my worthy Friend, bear as
 ' great a Figure as Actions which are more glittering
 ' in the common Estimation. What I would ask of you,
 ' is, to give us a whole *Spectator* upon Heroick Virtue
 ' in common Life, which may incite Men to the same
 ' generous Inclinations, as have by this admirable Per-
 ' son been shewn to, and rais'd in,

S I R, Your most humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

' I Am a Country Gentleman, of a good plentiful
 ' Estate, and live as the rest of my Neighbours with
 ' great Hospitality. I have been ever reckon'd among
 ' the Ladies the best Company in the World, and have
 ' Access as a sort of Favourite. I never came in Publick
 ' but I saluted them, tho' in great Assemblies, all around,
 ' where it was seen how genteelly I avoided hampering
 ' my

' my Spurs in their Petticoats, whilst I moved amongst
 ' them; and on the other side how prettily they curtsied
 ' and received me, standing in proper Rows, and ad-
 ' vancing as fast as they saw their Elders, or their Betters,
 ' dispatch'd by me. But so it is, Mr. SPECTATOR, that
 ' all our Good-breeding is of late lost by the unhappy Ar-
 ' rival of a Courtier, or Town Gentleman, who came
 ' lately among us: This Person wherever he came into a
 ' Room made a profound Bow, and fell back, then reco-
 ' vered with a soft Air, and made a Bow to the next, and
 ' so to one or two more, and then took the Grofs of the
 ' Room, by passing by them in a continued Bow till he
 ' arrived at the Person he thought proper particularly to
 ' entertain. This he did with so good a Grace and Af-
 ' surance, that it is taken for the present Fashion; and
 ' there is no young Gentlewoman within several Miles of
 ' this Place has been kissed ever since his first Appearance
 ' among us. We Country Gentlemen cannot begin again
 ' and learn these fine and reserved Airs; and our Conver-
 ' sation is at a Stand, till we have your Judgment for
 ' or against Kissing, by way of Civility or Salutation;
 ' which is impatiently expected by your Friends of both
 ' Sexes, but by none so much as

Your humble Servant, Rustick Sprightly.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

Decem. 3. 1711.

' I Was the other Night at *Philaster*, where I expected
 ' to hear your famous Trunk-maker, but was unhap-
 ' pily disappointed of his Company, and saw another
 ' Person who had the like Ambition to distinguish him-
 ' self in a noisy manner, partly by Vociferation or talk-
 ' ing loud, and partly by his bodily Agility. This was a
 ' very lusty Fellow, but withal a sort of Beau, who get-
 ' ting into one of the Side-boxes on the Stage before the
 ' Curtain drew, was disposed to shew the whole Audi-
 ' ence his Activity by leaping over the Spikes; he pass'd
 ' from thence to one of the entring Doors, where he
 ' took Snuff with a tolerable good Grace, display'd his
 ' fine Clothes, made two or three feint Passes at the
 ' Curtain with his Cane, then faced about and appear'd
 ' at t'other Door: Here he affected to survey the whole
 ' House, bow'd and smil'd at Random, and then shew'd
 ' his