

‘ his Teeth, which were some of them indeed very white:
 ‘ After this he retired behind the Curtain, and obliged us
 ‘ with several Views of his Person from every Opening.

‘ DURING the Time of Acting, he appeared frequently in the Prince’s Apartment, made one at the Hunting-match, and was very forward in the Rebellion.
 ‘ If there were no Injunctions to the contrary, yet this Practice must be confess’d to diminish the Pleasure of the Audience, and for that Reason presumptuous and unwarrantable: But since her Majesty’s late Command has made it criminal, you have Authority to take notice of it.

S I R, Your humble Servant,

T

Charles Easy.



N^o 241. Thursday, December 6.

——— *Semperque relinqui*

Sola sibi, semper longam incommutata videtur
Ire viam ———

Virg.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ **T**HOUGH you have considered virtuous Love
 ‘ in most of its Distresses, I do not remember that
 ‘ you have given us any Dissertation upon the Absence of Lovers, or laid down any Methods how they should support themselves under those long Separations which they are sometimes forced to undergo. I am at present in this unhappy Circumstance, having parted with the best of Husbands, who is abroad in the Service of his Country, and may not possibly return for some Years. His warm and generous Affection while we were together, with the Tenderness which he expressed to me at parting, make his Absence almost insupportable. I think of him every Moment of the Day, and meet him every Night in my Dreams. Every thing I see puts me in mind of him. I apply myself with more than ordinary Diligence to the Care of his Family and his Estate; but this, instead of relieving me, gives me but so many Occasions of wishing for his Return. I frequent the Rooms where I used to converse with him, and not meeting him there, sit down
 ‘ in

in his Chair, and fell a weeping. I love to read the Books he delighted in, and to converse with the Persons whom he esteemed. I visit his Picture a hundred times a Day, and place my self over-against it whole Hours together. I pass a great part of my Time in the Walks where I used to lean upon his Arm, and recollect in my Mind the Discourses which have there passed between us: I look over the several Prospects and Points of View which we used to survey together, fix my Eye upon the Objects which he has made me take notice of, and call to mind a thousand agreeable Remarks which he has made on those Occasions. I write to him by every Conveyance, and contrary to other People, am always in Good-humour when an East-Wind blows, because it seldom fails of bringing me a Letter from him. Let me intreat you, Sir, to give me your Advice upon this Occasion, and to let me know how I may relieve my self in this my Widowhood.

I am, S I R, Your very humble Servant,

ASTERIA.

ABSENCE is what the Poets call Death in Love, and has given occasion to abundance of beautiful Complaints in those Authors who have treated of this Passion in Verse. Ovid's Epistles are full of them. Otway's *Monimia* talks very tenderly upon this Subject.

It was not kind

*To leave me like a Turtle, here alone,
To droop and mourn the Absence of my Mate.
When thou art from me, every Place is desert:
And I, methinks, am savage and forlorn.
Thy Presence only 'tis can make me blessed,
Heal my unquiet Mind, and tune my Soul.*

THE Consolations of Lovers on these Occasions are very extraordinary. Besides those mentioned by *Asteria*, there are many other Motives of Comfort, which are made use of by absent Lovers.

I remember in one of *Scudery's* Romances, a Couple of honourable Lovers agreed at their parting to set aside one half Hour in the Day to think of each other during a tedious Absence. The Romance tells us, that they both of them punctually observed the Time thus agreed upon; and that whatever Company or Business they were engaged

gaged in, they left it abruptly as soon as the Clock warn-
ed them to retire. The Romance further adds, That the
Lovers expected the Return of this stated Hour with as
much Impatience, as if it had been a real Affignation,
and enjoyed an imaginary Happiness that was almost as
pleasing to them as what they would have found from a
real Meeting. It was an inexpressible Satisfaction to these
divided Lovers, to be assured that each was at the same
time employed in the same kind of Contemplation, and
making equal Returns of Tenderness and Affection.

IF I may be allowed to mention a more serious Ex-
pedient for the alleviating of Absence, I shall take no-
tice of one which I have known two Persons practise,
who joined Religion to that Elegance of Sentiments
with which the Passion of Love generally inspires its
Votaries. This was, at the Return of such an Hour, to
offer up a certain Prayer for each other, which they had
agreed upon before their Parting. The Husband, who is
a Man that makes a Figure in the polite World, as well
as in his own Family, has often told me, that he could
not have supported an Absence of three Years without
this Expedient.

STRADA, in one of his Prolusions, gives an Account
of a chimerical Correspondence between two Friends by
the Help of a certain Loadstone, which had such Vir-
tue in it, that if it touched two several Needles, when
one of the Needles so touched began to move, the other,
tho' at never so great a Distance, moved at the same
Time, and in the same Manner. He tells us, that the
two Friends, being each of them possessed of one of these
Needles, made a kind of a Dial-plate, inscribing it with
the four and twenty Letters, in the same manner as
the Hours of the Day are marked upon the ordinary
Dial-plate. They then fixed one of the Needles on
each of these Plates in such a manner, that it could move
round without Impediment, so as touch any of
the four and twenty Letters. Upon their Separating
from one another into distant Countries, they agreed to
withdraw themselves punctually into their Closets at
a certain Hour of the Day, and to converse with one
another by means of this their Invention. Accordingly
when they were some hundred Miles asunder, each of
them