

‘ you sometimes hang out Greek Colours at the Head of
 ‘ your Paper, and sometimes give a Word of the Enemy
 ‘ even in the Body of it. When I meet with any Thing
 ‘ of this Nature, I throw down your Speculations upon
 ‘ the Table, with that Form of Words which we make
 ‘ use of when we declare War upon an Author.

Græcum est, non potest legi.

‘ I give you this Hint, that you may for the future ab-
 ‘ stain from any such Hostilities at your Peril.

Troilus.

C



N^o 246. Wednesday, December 12.

— Οὐκ ἀεὶ σοὶ γε πατήρ ἦν ἱππότεα Πηλεὺς,
 Οὐδὲ Θέτις μήτηρ, γλαυκὴ δ' ὅ σ' ἔτικτε θάλασσα,
 Πέτραι τ' ἠλίστατο, ὅτι τοι νόθ' ὄσιν ἀπλώης.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ **A**S your Paper is Part of the Equipage of the Tea-
 ‘ Table, I conjure you to print what I now write
 ‘ to you; for I have no other Way to communi-
 ‘ cate what I have to say to the fair Sex on the most im-
 ‘ portant Circumstance of Life, even the Care of Children.
 ‘ I do not understand that you profess your Paper is always
 ‘ to consist of Matters which are only to entertain the
 ‘ Learned and Polite, but that it may agree with your De-
 ‘ sign to publish some which may tend to the Information
 ‘ of Mankind in general; and when it does so, you do more
 ‘ than writing Wit and Humour. Give me Leave then to
 ‘ tell you, that of all the Abuses that ever you have as yet
 ‘ endeavoured to reform, certainly not one wanted so
 ‘ much your Assistance as the Abuse in nursing Children.
 ‘ It is unmerciful to see, that a Woman endowed will all
 ‘ the Perfections and Blessings of Nature, can, as soon as
 ‘ she is delivered, turn off her innocent, tender, and help-
 ‘ less Infant, and give it up to a Woman that is (ten thou-
 ‘ sand to one) neither in Health nor good Condition,
 ‘ neither sound in Mind nor Body, that has neither Ho-
 ‘ nour nor Reputation, neither Love nor Pity for the
 ‘ poor Babe, but more Regard for the Money than for
 ‘ the whole Child, and never will take farther Care of it
 ‘ than

' than what by all the Encouragement of Money and Pre-
 ' sents she is forced to; like *Aesop's* Earth, which would
 ' not nurse the Plant of another Ground, altho' never so
 ' much improved, by reason that Plant was not of its own
 ' Production. And since another's Child is no more natu-
 ' ral to a Nurse than a Plant to a strange and different
 ' Ground, how can it be supposed that the Child should
 ' thrive; and if it thrives, must it not imbibe the gross
 ' Humours and Qualities of the Nurse, like a Plant in a
 ' different Ground, or like a Graft upon a different Stock?
 ' Do not we observe, that a Lamb sucking a Goat chan-
 ' ges very much its Nature, nay even its Skin and Wool
 ' into the Goat Kind? The Power of a Nurse over a
 ' Child, by infusing into it with her Milk her Qualities
 ' and Disposition, is sufficiently and daily observed:
 ' Hence came that old Saying concerning an ill-natur'd
 ' and malicious Fellow, that he had imbibed his Malice
 ' with his Nurse's Milk, or that some Brute or other had
 ' been his Nurse. Hence *Romulus* and *Remus* were said to
 ' have been nursed by a Wolf, *Telephus* the Son of *Hercules*
 ' by a Hind, *Pelias* the Son of *Neptune* by a Mare, and
 ' *Aegisthus* by a Goat; not that they had actually suck'd
 ' such Creatures, as some Simpletons have imagin'd, but
 ' that their Nurses had been of such a Nature and Tem-
 ' per, and infused such into them.

' M A N Y Instances may be produced from good Au-
 ' thorities and daily Experience, that Children actually suck
 ' in the several Passions and depraved Inclinations of their
 ' Nurses, as Anger, Malice, Fear, Melancholy, Sadness, De-
 ' sire and Aversion. This *Diodorus*, lib 2. witnesses, when
 ' he speaks, saying, That *Nero* the Emperor's Nurse had
 ' been very much addicted to Drinking; which Habit *Nero*
 ' received from his Nurse, and was so very particular in
 ' this, that the People took so much Notice of it, as instead
 ' of *Tiberius Nero*, they call'd him *Biberius Mero*. The same
 ' *Diodorus* also relates of *Caligula*, Predecessor to *Nero*,
 ' that his Nurse used to moisten the Nipples of her Breast
 ' frequently with Blood, to make *Caligula* take the bet-
 ' ter Hold of them; which, says *Diodorus*, was the
 ' Cause that made him so blood-thirsty and cruel all
 ' his Life-time after, that he not only committed fre-
 ' quent Murder by his own Hand, but likewise wish'd

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that

* that all human Kind wore but one Neck, that he might
* have the Pleasure to cut it off. Such like Degeneracies
* astonish the Parents, who not knowing after whom the
* Child can take, see one to incline to Stealing, another to
* Drinking, Cruelty, Stupidity; yet all these are not mind-
* ed. Nay it is easy to demonstrate, that a Child, although
* it be born from the best of Parents, may be corrupted by
* an ill-tempered Nurse. How many Children do we see
* daily brought into Fits, Consumptions, Rickets, &c. mere-
* ly by sucking their Nurses when in a Passion or Fury?
* But indeed almost any Disorder of the Nurse is a Disorder
* to the Child, and few Nurses can be found in this Town
* but what labour under some Distemper or other. The
* first Question that is generally asked a young Woman
* that wants to be a Nurse, Why she should be a Nurse to o-
* ther Peoples Children; is answered, by her having an ill
* Husband, and that she must make shift to live. I think
* now this very Answer is enough to give any Body a
* Shock, if duly considered; for an ill Husband may, or
* ten to one if he does not, bring home to his Wife an ill
* Distemper, or at least Vexation and Disturbance. Be-
* sides as she takes the Child out of meer Necessity, her
* Food will be accordingly, or else very coarse at best;
* whence proceeds an ill-concocted and coarse Food for
* the Child; for as the Blood so is the Milk; and hence I
* am very well assured proceeds the Scurvy, the Evil, and
* many other Distempers. I beg of you, for the Sake of
* the many poor Infants that may and will be saved, by
* weighing this Case seriously, to exhort the People with
* the utmost Vehemence to let the Children suck their own
* Mothers, both for the Benefit of Mother and Child. For
* the general Argument, that a Mother is weakened by
* giving suck to her Children, is vain and simple; I will
* maintain that the Mother grows stronger by it, and will
* have her Health better than she would have otherwise:
* She will find it the greatest Cure and Preservative
* for the Vapours and future Miscarriages, much beyond
* any other Remedy whatsoever: Her Children will be
* like Giants, whereas otherwise they are but living Sha-
* dows and like unripe Fruit; and certainly if a Woman
* is strong enough to bring forth a Child, she is beyond
* all Doubt strong enough to nurse it afterwards. It
* grieves