

*Under a Plantan, yet methought less fair,
 Less winning soft, less amiably mild,
 Than that smooth watry Image: back I turn'd,
 Thou following cry'dst aloud, Return fair Eve,
 Whom fly'st thou? whom thou fly'st, of him thou art,
 His Flesh, his Bone; to give thee Being, I lent
 Out of my Side to thee, nearest my Heart,
 Substantial Life, to have thee by my side
 Henceforth an individual Solace dear:
 Part of my Soul I seek thee, and thee claim
 My other half!—— With that thy gentle hand
 Seiz'd mine, I yielded, and from that time see
 How Beauty is excell'd by manly Grace,
 And Wisdom, which alone is truly fair.*

So spake our general Mother——

X



N^o 326. *Friday, March 14.*

*Inclusam Danaën turris ahenea,
 Robustæque fores, & vigilum canum
 Tristes excubiæ, munierant satis
 Nocturnis ab adulteris;*

Si non——

Hor.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

YOUR Correspondent's Letter relating to Fortune-Hunters, and your subsequent Discourse upon it, have given me Encouragement to send you a State of my Case, by which you will see, that the Matter complained of is a common Grievance both to City and Country.

I am a Country Gentleman of between five and six thousand a Year. It is my Misfortune to have a very fine Park and an only Daughter; upon which account I have been so plagu'd with Deer-Stealers and Fops, that for these four Years past I have scarce enjoy'd a Moment's Rest. I look upon my self to be in a State of War, and am forc'd to keep as constant watch

in

‘ in my Seat, as a Governor would do that commanded
 ‘ a Town on the Frontier of an Enemy’s Country. I
 ‘ have indeed pretty well secur’d my Park, having for this
 ‘ purpose provided my self of four Keepers, who are left-
 ‘ handed, and handle a Quarter-staff beyond any other
 ‘ Fellows in the Country. And for the Guard of my House,
 ‘ besides a Band of Pensioner-Matrons and an old Maiden
 ‘ Relation, whom I keep on constant Duty, I have Blun-
 ‘ derbuffes always charged, and Fox-Gins planted in pri-
 ‘ vate Places about my Garden, of which I have given
 ‘ frequent notice in the Neighbourhood; yet so it is, that
 ‘ in spite of all my Care, I shall every now and then have
 ‘ a saucy Rascal ride by *reconnoitring* (as I think you call
 ‘ it) under my Windows, as sprucely drest as if he were
 ‘ going to a Ball. I am aware of this way of attacking a
 ‘ Mistress on Horseback, having heard that it is a common
 ‘ Practice in *Spain*; and have therefore taken care to re-
 ‘ move my Daughter from the Road-side of the House,
 ‘ and to lodge her next the Garden. But to cut short my
 ‘ Story; what can a Man do after all? I durst not stand
 ‘ for Member of Parliament last Election, for fear of some
 ‘ ill Consequence from my being off my Post. What
 ‘ I would therefore desire of you, is, to promote a Project
 ‘ I have set on foot; and upon which I have writ to some
 ‘ of my Friends; and that is, that care may be taken to
 ‘ secure our Daughters by Law, as well as our Deer;
 ‘ and that some honest Gentleman of a publick Spirit,
 ‘ would move for Leave to bring in a Bill *For the better
 ‘ preserving of the Female Game.*

I am,

S I R,

Your humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

Mile-End Green, March 6. 1711-12.

‘ **H**ERE is a young Man walks by our Door every
 ‘ Day about the Dusk of the Evening. He looks
 ‘ up at my Window, as if to see me; and if I steal to-
 ‘ wards it to peep at him, he turns another way, and looks
 ‘ frightned at finding what he was looking for. The Air
 ‘ is very cold; and pray let him know that if he knocks
 ‘ at

‘ at the Door, he will be carry’d to the Parlour Fire, and
 ‘ I will come down soon after, and give him an opportu-
 ‘ nity to break his Mind.

I am, S I R,

Your humble Servant,

Mary Comfitt.

‘ I F I observe he cannot speak, I’ll give him time to
 ‘ recover himself, and ask him how he does.

Dear Sir,

‘ I B E G you to print this without delay, and by the first
 ‘ Opportunity give us the natural Causes of Longing
 ‘ in Women; or put me out of Fear that my Wife will
 ‘ one time or other be deliver’d of something as mon-
 ‘ strous as any thing that has yet appeared to the World;
 ‘ for they say the Child is to bear a Resemblance of what
 ‘ was desir’d by the Mother. I have been married up-
 ‘ wards of six Years, have had four Children, and my
 ‘ Wife is now big with the fifth. The Expences she has
 ‘ put me to in procuring what she has long’d for during
 ‘ her Pregnancy with them, would not only have hand-
 ‘ somly defray’d the Charges of the Month, but of their
 ‘ Education too; her Fancy being so exorbitant for the
 ‘ first Year or two, as not to confine it self to the usual
 ‘ Objects of Eatables and Drinkables, but running out af-
 ‘ ter Equipage and Furniture, and the like Extravagancies.
 ‘ To trouble you only with a few of them; When she was
 ‘ with Child of *Tom*, my eldest Son, she came home one
 ‘ day just fainting, and told me she had been visiting a
 ‘ Relation, whose Husband had made her a Present of a
 ‘ Chariot and a stately pair of Horses; and that she was
 ‘ positive she could not breathe a Week longer, unless she
 ‘ took the Air in the Fellow to it of her own within that
 ‘ time: This, rather than lose an Heir, I readily comply’d
 ‘ with. Then the Furniture of her best Room must be
 ‘ instantly changed, or she should mark the Child with
 ‘ some of the frightful Figures in the old-fashion’d Tape-
 ‘ try. Well, the Upholsterer was called, and her Longing
 ‘ saved that bout. When she went with *Molly*, she had
 ‘ fix’d her Mind upon a new Set of Plate, and as much
 ‘ China as would have furnished an *India Shop*: These
 ‘ also

' also I chearfully granted, for fear of being Father to an
 ' *Indian Pagod*. Hitherto I found her Demands rose upon
 ' every Concession; and had she gone on, I had been ruin-
 ' ed: But by good Fortune, with her third, which was
 ' *Peggy*, the Height of her Imagination came down to the
 ' Corner of a Venison Pasty, and brought her once even
 ' upon her Knees to gnaw off the Ears of a Pig from the
 ' Spit. The Gratifications of her Palate were easily pre-
 ' ferred to those of her Vanity; and sometimes a Partridge
 ' or a Quail, a Wheat-Ear, or the Pestle of a Lark, were
 ' chearfully purchased; nay, I could be contented tho' I
 ' were to feed her with green Pease in *April*, or Cherries
 ' in *May*. But with the Babe she now goes, she is turned
 ' Girl again, and fallen to eating of Chalk, pretending
 ' 'twill make the Child's Skin white; and nothing will
 ' serve her but I must bear her Company, to prevent its
 ' having a Shade of my Brawn: In this however I have
 ' ventur'd to deny her. No longer ago than yesterday, as
 ' we were coming to Town, she saw a parcel of Crows
 ' so heartily at Breakfast upon a piece of Horse-flesh, that
 ' she had an invincible Desire to partake with them, and
 ' (to my infinite Surprise) begged the Coachman to cut
 ' her off a Slice as if it were for himself, which the Fellow
 ' did; and as soon as she came home she fell to it with such
 ' an Appetite, that she seem'd rather to devour than eat
 ' it. What her next Sally will be, I cannot guess: but in
 ' the mean time my Request to you is, that if there be any
 ' way to come at these wild unaccountable Rovings of
 ' Imagination by Reason and Argument, you'd speedily
 ' afford us your Assistance. This exceeds the Grievance of
 ' Pin-money, and I think in every Settlement there
 ' ought to be a Clause insert'd, that the Father should be
 ' answerable for the Longings of his Daughter. But I
 ' shall impatiently expect your Thoughts in this Matter;
 ' and am, S I R,

Your most obliged, and

most faithful humble Servant,

T. B.

' LET me know whether you think the next Child
 ' will love Horses as much as *Molly* does China-Ware.

T

Saturday,