



N<sup>o</sup> 336. Wednesday, March 26.

Clament periisse pudorem

*Cuncti penè patres, ea cùm reprehendere coner,  
Quæ gravis Æscopus, quæ doctus Roscius egit:  
Vel quia nil rectum, nisi quod placuit sibi, ducunt;  
Vel quia turpe putant parere minoribus, et, quæ  
Imberbes didicere, senes perdenda fateri.*

Hor. Lib. 2. Ep. 1. v. 80.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

AS you are the daily Endeavourer to promote Learning and good Sense, I think my self obliged to suggest to your Consideration whatever may promote or prejudice them. There is an Evil which has prevailed from Generation to Generation, which gray Hairs and tyrannical Custom continue to support; I hope your Spectatorial Authority will give a seasonable Check to the Spread of the Infection; I mean old Mens overbearing the strongest Sense of their Juniors by the mere Force of Seniority; so that for a young Man in the Bloom of Life and Vigour of Age to give a reasonable Contradiction to his Elders, is esteem'd an unpardonable Insolence, and regarded as a Reversing the Decrees of Nature. I am a young Man, I confess, yet I honour the gray Head as much as any one; however, when in Company with old Men, I hear them speak obscurely, or reason preposterously (into which Absurdities, Prejudice, Pride, or Interest, will sometimes throw the wisest) I count it no crime to rectify their Reasonings, unless Conscience must truckle to Ceremony, and Truth fall a Sacrifice to Complaisance. The strongest Arguments are enervated, and the brightest Evidence disappears, before those tremendous Reasonings and dazzling Discoveries of venerable old Age: You are young giddy-headed Fellows, you have not yet had Experience of the World. Thus we young Folks find our Ambition cramp'd, and our Laziness indulged, since, while young,

we

‘ we have little room to display our selves ; and, when  
‘ old, the Weakness of Nature must pass for Strength of  
‘ Sense, and we hope that hoary Heads will raise us above  
‘ the Attacks of Contradiction. Now, Sir, as you would  
‘ enliven our Activity in the pursuit of Learning, take  
‘ our Case into Consideration ; and, with a Gloss on  
‘ brave *Elihu*’s Sentiments, assert the Rights of Youth,  
‘ and prevent the pernicious Incroachments of Age. The  
‘ generous Reasonings of that gallant Youth would adorn  
‘ your Paper ; and I beg you would insert them, not  
‘ doubting but that they will give good Entertainment  
‘ to the most intelligent of your Readers.

‘ *SO these three Men ceased to answer Job, because  
‘ he was righteous in his own Eyes. Then was kindled  
‘ the Wrath of Elihu the Son of Barachel the Buzite, of  
‘ the Kindred of Ram: Against Job was his Wrath kind-  
‘ led, because he justified himself rather than God. Also  
‘ against his three Friends was his Wrath kindled; because  
‘ they had found no Answer, and yet had condemned Job.  
‘ Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they  
‘ were elder than he. When Elihu saw there was no An-  
‘ swer in the Mouth of these three Men, then his Wrath  
‘ was kindled. And Elihu the Son of Barachel the Buzite  
‘ answered and said, I am young and ye are very old,  
‘ wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine  
‘ Opinion. I said, Days should speak, and Multitude of  
‘ Years should teach Wisdom. But there is a Spirit in  
‘ Man ; and the Inspiration of the Almighty giveth them  
‘ Understanding. Great Men are not always wise: Nei-  
‘ ther do the Aged understand Judgment. Therefore I  
‘ said, hearken to me, I also will shew mine Opinion. Be-  
‘ hold I waited for your Words ; I gave ear to your Rea-  
‘ sons, whilst you searched out what to say. Yea, I attended  
‘ unto you: And behold there was none of you that con-  
‘ vinced Job, or that answered his Words ; lest ye should  
‘ say, we have found out Wisdom: God thrusteth him down,  
‘ not Man. Now he hath not directed his Words against  
‘ me: Neither will I answer him with your Speeches.  
‘ They were amazed, they answered no more: They left  
‘ off speaking. When I had waited (for they spake not,  
‘ but stood still and answered no more) I said, I will answer  
‘ also*



*also my Part, I also will shew mine Opinion. For I am full of Matter, the Spirit within me constraineth me. Behold, my Belly is as Wine which hath no vent, it is ready to burst like new Bottles. I will speak that I may be refreshed: I will open my Lips, and answer. Let me not, I pray you, accept any Man's Person, neither let me give flattering Titles unto Man. For I know not to give flattering Titles; in so doing my Maker would soon take me away.*

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I have formerly read with great Satisfaction your Papers about Idols, and the Behaviour of Gentlemen in those Coffee-houses where Women officiate, and impatiently waited to see you take *India* and *China* Shops into Consideration: But since you have pass'd us over in silence, either that you have not as yet thought us worth your Notice, or that the Grievances we lie under have escaped your discerning Eye, I must make my Complaints to you, and am encouraged to do it because you seem a little at leisure at this present Writing. I am, dear Sir, one of the top *China* Women about Town; and though I say it, keep as good Things, and receive as fine Company as any o' this End of the Town, let the other be who she will: In short, I am in a fair Way to be easy, were it not for a Club of Female Rakes, who under pretence of taking their innocent Rambles, forsooth, and diverting the Spleen, seldom fail to plague me twice or thrice a-day to cheapen Tea, or buy a Skreen; *What else should they mean?* as they often repeat it. These Rakes are your idle Ladies of Fashion, who having nothing to do, employ themselves in tumbling over my Ware. One of these No-Customers (for by the way they seldom or never buy any thing) calls for a Set of Tea-Dishes, another for a Bason, a third for my best Green-Tea, and even to the Punch-Bowl, there's scarce a Piece in my Shop but must be displaced, and the whole agreeable Architecture disordered; so that I can compare 'em to nothing but the Night-Goblins that take a Pleasure to overturn the Disposition of Plates and Dishes in the Kitchens of your housewifely Maids. Well, after all this

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