

put it up in his Pocket, and told us that he would read over those Verses again before he went to Bed. X



N<sup>o</sup> 360. *Wednesday, April 23.*

— *De paupertate tacentes  
Plus poscente ferent.*

Hor.

I Have nothing to do with the Business of this Day, any further than affixing the piece of *Latin* on the Head of my Paper; which I think a Motto not unsuitable, since if Silence of our Poverty is a Recommendation, still more commendable is his Modesty who conceals it by a decent Dress.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

THERE is an Evil under the Sun which has not yet come within your Speculation, and is, the Censure, Disesteem, and Contempt which some young Fellows meet with from particular Persons, for the reasonable Methods they take to avoid them in general. This is by appearing in a better Dress, than may seem to a Relation regularly consistent with a small Fortune; and therefore may occasion a Judgment of a suitable Extravagance in other Particulars: But the Disadvantage with which the Man of narrow Circumstances acts and speaks, is so feelingly set forth in a little Book called the *Christian Hero*, that the appearing to be otherwise is not only pardonable but necessary. Every one knows the hurry of Conclusions that are made in contempt of a Person that appears to be calamitous, which makes it very excusable to prepare one's self for the Company of those that are of a superior Quality and Fortune, by appearing to be in a better Condition than one is, so far as such Appearance shall not make us really of worse.

IT is a Justice due to the Character of one who suffers hard Reflexions from any particular Person upon this account, that such Persons would inquire into his manner

‘ manner of spending his Time; of which, tho’ no further Information can be had than that he remains so many Hours in his Chamber, yet if this is cleared, to imagine that a reasonable Creature wrung with a narrow Fortune does not make the best use of this Retirement, would be a Conclusion extremely uncharitable. From what has, or will be said, I hope no Consequence can be extorted, implying, that I would have any young Fellow spend more time than the common Leisure which his Studies require, or more Money than his Fortune or Allowance may admit of, in the pursuit of an Acquaintance with his Betters: For as to his Time, the gross of that ought to be sacred to more substantial Acquisitions; for each irrevocable Moment of which he ought to believe he stands religiously accountable. And as to his Dress, I shall engage my self no further than in the modest Defence of two plain Suits a Year: For being perfectly satisfied in *Eutrapelus’s* Contrivance of making a *Mohock* of a Man, by presenting him with lac’d and embroider’d Suits, I would by no means be thought to controvert that Conceit, by insinuating the Advantages of Foppery. It is an Assertion which admits of much Proof, that a Stranger of tolerable Sense dress’d like a Gentleman, will be better received by those of Quality above him, than one of much better Parts, whose Dress is regulated by the rigid Notions of Frugality. A Man’s Appearance falls within the Censure of every one that sees him; his Parts and Learning very few are Judges of; and even upon these few, they can’t at first be well intruded; for Policy and Good-Breeding will counsel him to be reserv’d among Strangers, and to support himself only by the common Spirit of Conversation. Indeed among the Injudicious, the Words Delicacy, Idiom, fine Images, Structure of Periods, Genius, Fire, and the rest, made use of with a frugal and comely Gravity, will maintain the Figure of immense Reading, and the Depth of Criticism.

‘ ALL Gentlemen of Fortune, at least the young and middle-aged, are apt to pride themselves a little too much upon their Dress, and consequently to value others in some measure upon the same Consideration. With what Confusion is a Man of Figure obliged to return the  
‘ Civilities



‘ Civilities of the Hat to a Person whose Air and Attire  
‘ hardly intitle him to it? For whom nevertheless the other  
‘ has a particular Esteem, tho’ he is ashamed to have it  
‘ challenged in so publick a manner. It must be al-  
‘ lowed, that any young Fellow that affects to dress and  
‘ appear genteelly, might with artificial Management save  
‘ ten Pound a Year; as instead of fine Holland he might  
‘ mourn in Sackcloth, and in other Particulars be pro-  
‘ portionably shabby: But of what great Service would  
‘ this Sum be to avert any Misfortune, whilst it would  
‘ leave him deserted by the little good Acquaintance he  
‘ has, and prevent his gaining any other? As the ap-  
‘ pearance of an easy Fortune is necessary towards making  
‘ one, I don’t know but it might be of advantage  
‘ sometimes to throw into ones Discourse certain Excla-  
‘ mations about *Bank-Stock*, and to shew a marvellous  
‘ Surprise upon its Fall, as well as the most affected  
‘ Triumph upon its Rise. The Veneration and Respect  
‘ which the Practice of all Ages has preserved to Appea-  
‘ rances, without doubt suggested to our Tradesman that  
‘ wise and politick Custom, to apply and recommend  
‘ themselves to the Publick by all those Decorations upon  
‘ their Sign-posts and Houses, which the most eminent  
‘ Hands in the Neighbourhood can furnish them with.  
‘ What can be more attractive to a Man of Letters, than  
‘ that immense Erudition of all Ages and Languages,  
‘ which a skilful Bookseller, in conjunction with a Painter,  
‘ shall image upon his Column and the Extremities of  
‘ his Shop? The same Spirit of maintaining a handsom  
‘ Appearance reigns among the grave and solid Appren-  
‘ tices of the Law (here I could be particularly dull in  
‘ proving the Word Apprentice to be significant of a Bar-  
‘ rister) and you may easily distinguish who has most  
‘ lately made his Pretensions to Business, by the whitest  
‘ and most ornamental Frame of his Window: If indeed  
‘ the Chamber is a Ground-Room, and has Rails before  
‘ it, the Finery is of necessity more extended, and the  
‘ Pomp of Business better maintain’d. And what can be  
‘ a greater Indication of the Dignity of Dress, than that  
‘ burdensom Finery which is the regular Habit of our  
‘ Judges, Nobles, and Bishops, with which upon certain  
‘ Days we see them incumbered? And though it may be  
‘ said