

N° 4. Tuesday, April 18, 1709.

S T E E L E.

*Quicquid agunt homines —**nostri est farrago libelli.*

Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

“Whate’er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
 “Our medley Paper seizes for its theme.” P.

“IT is usual with persons who mount the
 “stage, for the cure or information of the
 “croud about them, to make solemn profes-
 “sions of their being wholly disinterested in
 “the pains they take for the public good. At
 “the same time those very men, who make
 “harangues in plush doublets, and extol their
 “own abilities and generous inclinations, tear
 “their lungs in vending a drug, and show no
 “act of bounty, except it be, that they lower
 “a demand of a crown to six, nay, to one
 “penny. We have a contempt for such pal-
 “try barterers, and have therefore all along
 “informed the Public, that we intend to give
 “them our advices for our own sakes, and are
 “labouring to make our Lucubrations come to
 “some price in money, for our more conve-
 “nient support in the service of the Public.
 “It

“ It is certain that many other schemes have
 “ been proposed to me; as a friend offered to
 “ shew me a Treatise he had writ, which he
 “ called, ‘ The whole Art of Life; or, The
 “ Introduction to great Men, illustrated in a
 “ Pack of Cards.’ But, being a novice at
 “ all manner of play, I declined the offer.
 “ Another advised me, for want of money, to
 “ set up my coach, and practise physic; but,
 “ having been bred a scholar, I feared I should
 “ not succeed that way neither, therefore re-
 “ solved to go on in my present project. But
 “ you are to understand, that I shall not pre-
 “ tend to raise a credit to this work upon the
 “ weight of my politic News only, but, as my
 “ Latin sentence in the title-page informs you,
 “ *shall take any thing that offers for the subject*
 “ *of my discourse* *. Thus new persons, as well
 “ as new things, are to come under my confi-
 “ deration; as when a Toast or Wit is first pro-
 “ nounced such, you shall have the freshest ad-
 “ vice of their preferment, from me, with a
 “ description of the Beauty’s manners, and the
 “ Wit’s style; as also in whose places they are
 “ advanced. For this town is never good-na-
 “ tured enough to raise one without depressing
 “ another. But it is my design to avoid saying
 “ any thing of any person, which ought justly
 “ to displease; but shall endeavour, by the va-

* STEELE seems to intend this as a translation of the motto from Juvenal, prefixed to all the Papers in this volume.

“riety of the matter and style, to give entertainment for men of pleasure, without offence to those of business.”

WHITE'S Chocolate-house, April 18.

ALL hearts at present pant for two Ladies only, who have for some time engrossed the dominion of the town. They are indeed both exceeding charming, but differ very much in their excellencies. The beauty of Clarissa is soft, that of Chloe piercing. When you look at Clarissa, you see the most exact harmony of feature, complexion, and shape; you find in Chloe nothing extraordinary in any one of those particulars, but the whole woman irresistible: Clarissa looks languishing; Chloe killing: Clarissa never fails of gaining admiration; Chloe of moving desire. The gazers at Clarissa are at first unconcerned, as if they were observing a fine picture. They who behold Chloe, at the first glance discover transport, as if they met their dearest friend. These different perfections are suitably represented by the last great painter Italy has sent us, Mr. JERVAS*. Clarissa is by that skilful hand placed in a manner that looks artless, and innocent of the torments she gives; Chloe is drawn with a liveliness that shews she is conscious of, but

* See POPE'S Works, vol. v. *passim*. and WALPOLE'S "Anecdotes of Painting, &c." vol. iv. p. 23. Edit. 8vo. 1782. 5 vols.

not affected with, her. perfections. Clarissa is a shepherdes, Chloe a country girl. I must own, the design of Chloe's picture shows, to me, great Mastery in the Painter; for nothing could be better imagined than the dress he has given her of a straw-hat and a ribbon, to represent that sort of beauty which enters the heart with a certain familiarity, and cheats it into a belief that it has received a lover as well as an object of love. The force of their different beauties is seen also in the effects it makes on their lovers. The admirers of Chloe are eternally gay and well-pleas'd: those of Clarissa melancholy and thoughtful. And as this passion always changes the natural man into a quite different creature from what he was before, the love of Chloe makes coxcombs; that of Clarissa, madmen. There were of each kind just now in this room. Here was one that whistles, laughs, sings, and cuts capers, for love of Chloe. Another has just now writ three lines to Clarissa, then taken a turn in the garden, then came back again, then tore his fragment, then called for some chocolate, then went away without it.

Chloe has so many admirers in the house at present, that there is too much noise to proceed in my narration; so that the progress of the loves of Clarissa and Chloe, together with the bottles that are drunk each night for the one, and the many sighs which are uttered, and

songs written on the other, must be our subject on future occasions.

WILL'S Coffee-house, April 18:

Letters from the Hay-market * inform us, that on Saturday night last the Opera of Pyrrhus and Demetrius † was performed with great applause. This intelligence is not very acceptable to us friends of the theatre; for the stage being an entertainment of the reason and all our faculties, this way of being pleased with the suspension of them for three hours together, and being given up to the shallow satisfaction of the eyes and ears only, seems to arise rather from the degeneracy of our understanding, than an improvement of our diversions ‡. That the understanding has no part in the pleasure is evident, from what these letters very positively assert, to wit, that a great part of the performance was done in Italian: and a great critic || fell into fits in the gallery, at seeing, not only Time and Place, but Languages and Nations confused in the most incorrigible manner. His

* See N° 1. and N° 12.

† By OWEN M^cSWINEY, 4to, 1709. A translation from the Italian of SCARLATTI, performed at the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, which was built for the representation of Operas, introduced into England about the beginning of the preceding reign. They were at first in Italian, and the famous NICOLINI was the principal Performer in them.

‡ See TAT. N° 1. and N° 20.

|| J. DENNIS, who was a sworn foe to the Opera.

spleen

spleen is so extremely moved on this occasion, that he is going to publish a treatise against Operas, which, he thinks, have already inclined us to thoughts of peace, and, if tolerated, must infallibly dispirit us from carrying on the war. He has communicated his scheme to the whole room, and declared in what manner things of this kind were first introduced. He has upon this occasion considered the nature of Sounds in general, and made a very elaborate digression upon the London Cries, wherein he has shown from reason and philosophy, why oysters are cried, card-matches sung, and turneps and all other vegetables neither cried, sung, nor said, but sold, with an accent and tone neither natural to man nor beast. This piece seems to be taken from the model of that excellent discourse of Mrs. MANLY the school-mistress, concerning samplers. Advices from the upper end of Piccadilly say, that May-Fair * is utterly abolished; and we hear Mr. PENKETHMAN † has removed his ingenious company

* See the presentment of *May Fair* by the Grand Jury of Westminster, an. 1708, in STOW's *Survey*, &c. edit. 6. 1755. vol. II. p. 178. It was entirely abolished in the year 1709; Shepherd's Market, near Curzon Street, was built on the spot where it was held, and the surrounding district is stiled May Fair.

† The facetious Mr. PENKETHMAN formed himself upon LEIGH, whose pleasant extravagancies were all the flowers of his own fancy. Honest PENKEY made use of the stock his predecessor had left, and was a very valuable copy of him. We as seldom see a good actor as a good poet arise

company of strollers to Greenwich. But other letters from Deptford say, the company is only making thither, and not yet settled; but that several heathen gods and goddeses, which are to descend in machines, landed at the King's Head Stairs last Saturday. VENUS and CUPID went on foot from thence to Greenwich; MARS got drunk in the town, and broke his landlord's head, for which he sat in the stocks the whole evening; but Mr. PENKETHMAN giving security that he should do nothing this ensuing summer, he was set at liberty. The most melancholy part of all was, that DIANA was taken in the act of fornication with a boatman, and committed by justice Wrathful; which has, it seems, put a stop to the diversions of the theatre at Blackheath. But there goes down another DIANA and a PATIENT GRISSEL next tide from Billingsgate.

It is credibly reported that Mr. D——Y* has agreed with Mr. PENKETHMAN to have his play acted

from the bare imitation of another's genius. If this, (says CIBBER) be a general rule, PENKETHMAN was the nearest to an exception from it. He had from nature a great deal of comic power, but his judgment was by no means equal to it, for he would make frequent deviations into the whimsies of an *Harlequin*. See CIBBER's *Apol.* vol. I. p. 112.

* TOM D'URFEY, and the play here alluded to was his "Modern Prophets," C. 4to. 1709. See TAT. N° I. and N° II. This piece is an excessive bad one. A gentleman returning from it, or from some other of D'URFEY's bad plays, the first night it was acted, said to DRYDEN, "Was there ever

acted before that audience as soon as it has had its first sixteen days run in Drury-Lane.

St. JAMES's Coffee-house, April 18.

They write from Saxony of the thirteenth instant, N. S. that the grand General of the Crown of Poland was so far from entering into a treaty with King Stanislaus, that he had written circular letters, wherein he exhorted the Palatines to join against him; declaring that this was the most favourable conjuncture for asserting their liberty.

Letters from the Hague of the twenty-third instant, N. S. say, that an express arrived there on the twentieth instant, with advice, that the enemy having made a detachment from Tournay, of fifteen hundred horse, each trooper carrying a foot soldier behind him, in order to surprize the garrison of Alost; the Allies, upon notice of their march, sent out a strong body of troops from Ghent, which engaged the enemy at Asche, and took two hundred of them prisoners, obliging the rest to retire without making any farther attempt. On the twenty-second in the morning a fleet of merchant ships coming from Scotland were attacked by six French privateers at the entrance of the Meuse. We have yet no certain advice

ever such stuff?" "Sir, (replied DRYDEN) you don't know my friend TOM so well as I do; I'll answer for him he shall write worse yet." MEDLEY, N^o 16.

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of the event: but letters from Rotterdam say, that a Dutch man of war of forty guns, which was convoy to the said fleet, was taken, as were also eighteen of the merchants. The Swiss troops in the service of the States have compleated the augmentation of their respective companies. Those of Wirtemberg and Prussia are expected on the frontiers within a few days; and the auxiliaries from Saxony, as also a battalion of Holstein, and another of Wolfenbuttle, are advancing thither with all expedition. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene continue at the Hague.

From my own Apartment, April 18.

I have lately been very studious for intelligence, and have just now, by my astrological flying post, received a packet from FELICIA*, an island in America, with an account that gives me great satisfaction, and lets me understand that the island was never in greater prosperity, or the administration in so good hands, since the death of their late glorious King. These letters import, that the chief Minister has entered into a firm league with the ablest and best men of the nation, to carry on the cause of liberty, to the encouragement of religion, virtue, and honour. Those persons at the helm are so useful, and in themselves of such weight, that their strict alliance must

* In this allegorical paper, by *Felicia* is meant BRITAIN.
needs

needs tend to the universal prosperity of the people. CAMILLO*, it seems, presides over the deliberations of state; and is so highly valued by all men, for his singular probity, courage, affability, and love of mankind, that his being placed in that station has dissipated the fears of that people, who of all the world are the most jealous of their liberty and happiness, and the least provident for their security. The next member of their society is HORATIO †, who makes all the public dispatches. This Minister is master of all the languages in use to great perfection. He is held in the highest veneration imaginable for a severe honesty, and love of his country: he lives in a Court unsullied with any of its artifices, the refuge of the oppressed, and terror of oppressors. MARTIO ‡ has joined himself to this council; a man of most undaunted resolution and great knowledge in maritime affairs; famous for destroying the navy of the Franks §, and singularly happy in one particular, that he never preferred a man who has not proved remarkably serviceable to his country. PHILANDER || is mentioned with particular distinction; a nobleman who has the most refined taste of the

* JOHN Lord SOMERS, President of the Council.

† SIDNEY Earl of GODOLPHIN, Lord High Treasurer.

‡ EDWARD RUSSEL Earl of ORFORD.

§ At La Hogue, in 1692.

|| WILLIAM CAVENDISH Duke of DEVONSHIRE, Lord Steward of the Household.

true

true pleasures and elegance of life, joined to an indefatigable industry in business; a man eloquent in assemblies, agreeable in conversation, and dextrous in all manner of public negotiations. These letters add, that VERONO*, who is also of this council, has lately set sail to his government of Patricia, with design to confirm the affections of the people in the interests of his Queen. This Minister is master of great abilities, and is as industrious and restless for the preservation of the liberties of the people, as the greatest enemy can be to subvert them. The influence of these personages, who are men of such distinguished parts and virtues, makes the people enjoy the utmost tranquillity in the midst of a war, and gives them undoubted hopes of a secure peace from their vigilance and integrity.

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* THOMAS Earl of WHARTON, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

† The preceding papers had been given *gratis*.