

Nº 5.

Tuesday, April 21, 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.

WHITE’S Chocolate-house, April 20.

“WHO names that lost thing, love, without
“a tear,

“Since so debauch’d by ill-bred customs here?

“To an exact perfection they have brought

“The action love, the passion is forgot.”

This was long ago a witty Author’s lamentation, but the evil still continues; and if a man of any delicacy were to attend the discourses of the young fellows of this age, he would believe there were none but prostitutes to make the objects of passion. So true it is what the Author of the above verses said, a little before his death, of the modern pretenders to gallantry: “they set up for wits in this age, by saying, “when they are sober, what they of the last “spoke only when they were drunk.” But CUPID is not only blind at present, but dead drunk;

drunk ; he has lost all his faculties : else how should Celia be so long a maid, with that agreeable behaviour ? Corinna with that sprightly wit ? Lesbia with that heavenly voice ? and Sacharissa, with all those excellencies in one person, frequent the Park, the Play, and murder the poor Tits that drag her to public places, and not a man turn pale at her appearance ? But such is the fallen state of Love, that if it were not for honest CYNTHIO*, who is true to the cause, we should hardly have a pattern left of the ancient worthies that way : and indeed he has but very little encouragement to persevere ; but he has a devotion, rather than love, for his Mistress, and says,

“ Only tell her that I love,
 Leave the rest to Her and Fate;
 Some kind planet from above
 May, perhaps, her passion move;
 Lovers on their stars must wait†.”

But the stars I am so intimately acquainted with, that I can assure him he will never have her : for would you believe it ? though CYNTHIO has wit, good sense, fortune, and his very being depends upon her, the termagant for whom he sighs is in love with a fellow who

* Lord HINCHINBROKE. See TATLER, N° 1. N° 22. and LOVER, N° 38.

† Part of a song by Lord CUTTS, STEELE's early patron. See NICHOLS's "Select Collection, 1780," vol. II. p. 327.
 stares

stares in the glass all the time he is with her, and lets her plainly see she may possibly be his rival, but never his mistress. Yet CYNTHIO, the same unhappy man whom I mentioned in my first narrative, pleases himself with a vain imagination, that with the language of his eyes, now he has found who she is, he shall conquer her, though her eyes are intent upon one who looks from her; which is ordinary with the Sex. It is certainly a mistake in the ancients to draw the little gentleman, LOVE, as a blind boy; for his real character is a little thief that squints. For ask Mrs. Meddle, who is a confident, or spy, upon all the passions in town, and she will tell you that the whole is a game of cross purposes. The lover is generally pursuing one who is in pursuit of another, and running from one that desires to meet him. Nay, the nature of this passion is so justly represented in a squinting little thief (who is always in a double action), that do but observe Clarissa next time you see her, and you will find, when her eyes have made their soft tour round the company, she makes no stay on him they say she is to marry, but rests two seconds of a minute on Wildair, who neither looks nor thinks on her, or any woman else. However, * CYNTHIO had a bow from her the other day, upon which he is very much come to himself; and I heard him send his man of an errand yesterday,

* See TATLER, N^o 1. N^o 9. N^o 22. N^o 35. and N^o 85.

without

without any manner of hesitation; a quarter of an hour after which he reckoned twenty, remembered he was to sup with a friend, and went exactly to his appointment. I sent to know how he did this morning; and I find that he hath not forgot that he spoke to me yesterday.

WILL's Coffee-house, April 20.

This week being sacred to holy things, and no public diversions allowed, there has been taken notice of even here a little Treatise, called, "A Project for the Advancement of Religion: dedicated to the Countess of BERKELEY*:" the title was so uncommon, and promised so peculiar a way of thinking, that every man here has read it, and as many as have done so have approved it. It is written with the spirit of one who has seen the world enough to undervalue it with Good-breeding. The Author must certainly be a man of wisdom as well as piety, and have spent much time in the exercise of both. The real causes of the decay of the interest of Religion are set forth in a clear and lively manner, without unseasonable passions; and the whole air of the Book, as to

* First published by SWIFT 1709. See ORRERY's Remarks, &c. p. 62. "The Gentleman I here intended was Dr. SWIFT, this kind of man I thought him at that time. We have not met of late, but I hope he deserves this character still." STEELE's Apology, &c. 4to, Lond. 1714. P. 49.

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the language, the sentiments, and the reasonings, shews it was written by one whose virtue fits easy about him, and to whom vice is thoroughly contemptible. It was said by one of this company, alluding to that knowledge of the world the Author seems to have, "The man writes much like a gentleman, and goes to heaven with a very good mien."

St. JAMES's Coffee-house, April 20.

Letters from Italy say, that the Marquis de Prie, upon the receipt of an express from the court of Vienna, went immediately to the palace of Cardinal Paulucci, Minister of State to his Holiness, and demanded in the name of his Imperial Majesty, that King Charles should forthwith be acknowledged King of Spain, by a solemn act of the congregation of Cardinals appointed for that purpose: he declared at the same time, that if the least hesitation were made in this most important article of the late treaty, he should not only be obliged to leave Rome himself, but also transmit his master's orders to the Imperial troops to face about, and return into the ecclesiastical dominions. When the Cardinal reported this message to the Pope, his Holiness was struck with so sensible an affliction, that he burst into tears: his sorrow was aggravated by letters which immediately after arrived from the Court of Madrid, wherein his Nuncio acquainted him, that, upon the news of his accommodation

commodation with the Emperor, he had received a message to forbear coming to court, and the people were so highly provoked, that they could hardly be restrained from insulting his palace. These letters add, that the King of Denmark was gone from Florence to Pisa, and from Pisa to Leghorn, where the Governor paid his Majesty all imaginable honours. The King designed to go from thence to Lucca, where a magnificent tournament was prepared for his diversion. An English man of war, which came from Port-Mahon to Leghorn in six days, brought advice, that the fleet, commanded by Admiral Whitaker, was safely arrived at Barcelona, with the troops and ammunition which he had taken in at Naples.

General Boneval, Governor of Cammachio, had summoned the magistrates of all the towns near that place to appear before him, and take an oath of fidelity to his Imperial Majesty, commanding also the gentry to pay him homage, on pain of death and confiscation of goods. Advices from Swisserland inform us, that the Bankers of Geneva were utterly ruined by the failure of Mr. Bernard. They add, that the Deputies of the Swiss Cantons were returned from Soleure, where they were assembled at the instance of the French Ambassador, but were very much dissatisfied with the reception they had from that Minister. It is true, he omitted no civilities or expressions of friendship from his master, but he took no notice of their
pensions

pensions and arrears: what further provoked their indignation was, that, instead of twenty-five pistoles, formerly allowed to each member for their charge in coming to the Diet, he had presented them with six only. They write from Dresden, that King Augustus was still busy in recruiting his cavalry, and that the Danish troops that lately served in Hungary had orders to be in Saxony by the middle of May; and that his Majesty of Denmark was expected at Dresden in the beginning of that month. King Augustus makes great preparations for his reception, and has appointed sixty coaches, each drawn by six horses, for that purpose: the interview of these Princes affords great matter for speculation. Letters from Paris of the twenty-second of this month say, that Marshal Harcourt and the Duke of Berwick were preparing to go into Alsace and Dauphiné, but that their troops were in want of all manner of necessaries. The Court of France had received advices from Madrid, that on the seventh of this month the States of Spain had with much magnificence acknowledged the Prince of Asturias presumptive heir to the Crown. This was performed at Buen-Retiro; the Deputies took the oaths on that occasion from the hands of Cardinal Portocarrero. These advices add, that it was signified to the Pope's Nuncio by order of Council, to depart from that Court in twenty-four hours, and that a guard was accordingly appointed to conduct him to Bayonne.

VOL. I.

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Letters

Letters from the Hague of the twenty-sixth instant inform us, that Prince Eugene was to set out the next day for Brussels, to put all things in a readiness for opening the campaign. They add, that the grand Pensioner having reported to the Duke of Marlborough what passed in the last conference with Mr. Rouille, his Grace had taken a resolution immediately to return to Great Britain, to communicate to her Majesty all that has been transacted in that important affair.

From my own Apartment, April 20.

The nature of my miscellaneous work is such, that I shall always take the liberty to tell for News such things (let them have happened never so much before the time of writing) as have escaped public notice, or have been * misrepresented to the world; provided that I am still within rules, and trespass not as a TATLER any farther than in an incorrectness of style, and writing in an air of common speech. Thus, if any thing that is said, even of old Anchises or Æneas, be set by me in a different light than has hitherto been hit upon, in order to inspire the love and admiration of worthy actions, you will, gentle reader, I hope, accept of it for intelligence you had not before. But I am going

* See the Dedication to Vol. I. and TAT. N^o 9. N^o 5. N^o 61. and N^o 271.

upon

upon a narrative, the matter of which I know to be true: it is not only doing justice to the deceased merit of such persons, as, had they lived, would not have had it in their power to thank me, but also an instance of the greatness of spirit in the lowest of her Majesty's subjects. Take it as follows:

At the siege of Namur by the Allies, there were in the ranks of the company commanded by Captain Pincent, in Colonel Frederick Hamilton's regiment, one UNNION a corporal, and one VALENTINE a private centinel: there happened between these two men a dispute about a matter of Love, which, upon some aggravations, grew to an irreconcilable hatred. UNNION, being the officer of VALENTINE, took all opportunities even to strike his rival, and profess the spite and revenge which moved him to it. The centinel bore it without resistance; but frequently said, he would die to be revenged of that tyrant. They had spent whole months thus, one injuring, the other complaining; when, in the midst of this rage towards each other, they were commanded upon the attack of the castle, where the corporal received a shot in the thigh, and fell; the French pressing on, and he expecting to be trampled to death, called out to his enemy, Ah, VALENTINE! can you leave me here? VALENTINE immediately ran back, and in the midst of a thick fire of the French took the corporal upon his back, and brought him through all that

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danger

danger as far as the Abbey of Salfine, where a cannon ball took off his head: his body fell under his enemy whom he was carrying off. UNNION immediately forgot his wound, rose up, tearing his hair, and then threw himself upon the bleeding carcass, crying, "Ah, VALENTINE! was it for me who have so barbarously used thee, that thou hast died? I will not live after thee." He was not by any means to be forced from the body, but was removed with it bleeding in his arms, and attended with tears by all their comrades who knew their enmity. When he was brought to a tent, his wounds were dressed by force; but the next day, still calling upon VALENTINE, and lamenting his cruelties to him, he died in the pangs of remorse and despair.

It may be a question among men of noble sentiments, whether of these unfortunate persons had the greater soul; he that was so generous as to venture his life for his enemy, or he who could not survive the man that died, in laying upon him such an obligation?

When we see spirits like these in a people, to what heights may we not suppose their glory may rise? but (as it is excellently observed by Sallust*) it is not only to the general bent of a nation that great revolutions are owing, but to the extraordinary geniuses that lead them. On which occasion, he proceeds to

* SAL. *Bell. Catil.* cap. 53.

say,

say, that the Roman greatness was neither to be attributed to their superior policy, for in that the Carthaginians excelled; nor to their valour, for in that the Gauls were preferable; but to particular men, who were born for the good of their country, and formed for great attempts. This he says to introduce the characters of CÆSAR and CATO. It would be entering into too weighty a discourse for this place, if I attempted to shew, that our nation has produced as great and able men for public affairs as any other. But I believe the reader outruns me, and fixes his imagination upon the Duke of MARLBOROUGH. It is, methinks, a pleasing reflection to consider the dispensations of Providence in the fortune of this illustrious man, who, in the space of forty years, has passed through all the gradations of human life, until he has ascended to the character of a Prince†, and become the scourge of a tyrant, who sat on one of the greatest thrones of Europe, before the man who was to have the

† In the year 1704, in consequence of the memorable victory at *Hochstedt*, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH was appointed a *Prince of the Empire*; and had *Mildenheim* assigned for his *Principality*, Nov. 12, 1705. M. MESNAGER says, that this compliment, for *it was little more*, made the Duke of MARLBOROUGH more haughty. “This little principality in the claim of the House of *Bavaria* must (says he) be rendered back again at a peace.” Dr. SWIFT estimates this *compliment* at 30,000*l*. See EXAMINER, Vol. I. N^o 17.

greatest part in his downfall, had made one step into the world. But such elevations are the natural consequences of an exact prudence, a calm courage, a well-governed temper, a patient ambition, and an affable behaviour. These arts, as they were the steps to his greatness, so they are the pillars of it now it is raised. To this, her glorious son, GREAT-BRITAIN is indebted for the happy conduct of her arms, in whom she can boast, that she has produced a man formed by Nature to lead a nation of Heroes.



N° 6.

Saturday, April 23, 1709.

S T E E L E.

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Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

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

WILL’s Coffee-house, April 22.

I AM just come from visiting SAPPHO*, a
 fine Lady, who writes verses, sings, dances,
 and

* SAPPHO, whoever she was, makes her appearance again
 in TATLER N° 40. As she is there represented to greater
 advantage,