

N° 7. Tuesday, April 26, 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 so just an observation, that mocking
“I is catching, that I am become an unhappy
“instance of it, and am (in the same manner
“that I have represented Mr. Partridge*) my-
“self a dying man, in comparison of the vigour
“with which I first set out in the world.
“Had it been otherwise, you may be sure I
“would not have pretended to have given for
“news, as I did last Saturday, a diary of the
“siege of Troy. But man is a creature very
“inconsistent with himself. The greatest he-
“roes are sometimes fearful; the sprightliest

* See TATLER, N° I. N° II. N° 35. N° 44. “This man
“was a shoe-maker in Covent-Garden, in 1680, yet styled
“himself Physician to his Majesty, in 1682. But though
“he was one of the sworn Physicians, he never attended
“the court, nor received any salary.” See GRANGER’S
“Biog. Hist. of England” 4to. 1769. Vol. II. p. II.
p. 322, and p. 379. and TAT. with Notes, vol. V. *ad finem*.
“wits

“ wits at some hours dull; and the greatest
 “ politicians on some occasions whimsical. But
 “ I shall not pretend to palliate or excuse the
 “ matter; for I find, by a calculation of my
 “ own nativity, that I cannot hold out with
 “ any tolerable wit longer than two minutes
 “ after twelve of the clock at night, between
 “ the eighteenth and nineteenth of the next
 “ month: for which space of time you may
 “ still expect to hear from me, but no longer;
 “ except you will transmit to me the occur-
 “ rences you meet with relating to your amours,
 “ or any other subject within the rules by
 “ which I have proposed to walk. If any
 “ gentleman or lady sends to ISAAC BICKER-
 “ STAFF, Esq; at Mr. Morphew’s, near Sta-
 “ tioners-Hall, by the penny-post, the grief or
 “ joy of their soul, what they think fit of the
 “ matter shall be related in colours as much to
 “ their advantage, as those in which Gervas*
 “ has drawn the agreeable Chloe. But since,
 “ without such assistance, I frankly confess,
 “ and am sensible, that I have not a month’s
 “ wit more, I think I ought, while I am in
 “ my sound health and senses, to make my
 “ will and testament; which I do in manner
 “ and form following:

“ *Imprimis*, I give to the stock-jobbers about
 “ the Exchange of London, as a security for

* JERVAS. See TATL. N^o 4. POPE’s “ Works,” and
 WALPOLE’s “ Anecdotes of Painting, &c.” *passim*.

“ the trusts daily reposed in them, all my real
 “ estate; which I do hereby vest in the said
 “ body of worthy citizens for ever.

“ *Item*, Forasmuch as it is very hard to keep
 “ land in repair without ready cash, I do, out
 “ of my personal estate, bestow the bear-skin*,
 “ which I have frequently lent to several so-
 “ cieties about this town, to supply their ne-
 “ cessities; I say, I give also the said bear-
 “ skin, as an immediate fund to the said ci-
 “ tizens for ever.

“ *Item*, I do hereby appoint a certain number
 “ of the said citizens to take all the custom-
 “ house or customary oaths concerning all goods
 “ imported by the whole city; strictly direct-
 “ ing, that some select members, and not the
 “ whole number of a body corporate, should
 “ be perjured.

“ *Item*, I forbid all n——s and persons of
 “ q——ty to watch bargains near and about
 “ the Exchange, to the diminution and wrong
 “ of the said stock-jobbers.

“ Thus far, in as brief and intelligible a man-
 “ ner as any will can appear, until it is ex-
 “ plained by the learned, I have disposed of my
 “ real

* Stock-jobbers, who contract for a future transfer of stock which they do not possess, are called sellers of bear-skins; and universally whoever sells what he does not possess is said *proverbially* to sell the bear's skin, while the bear runs in the woods. See SWIFT'S Works, vol. xx. p. 34. and TATLER, N^o 38.

“ real and personal estate: but as I am an
 “ Adept, I have by birth an equal right to
 “ give also an indefeasible title to my endow-
 “ ments and qualifications, which I do in the
 “ following manner.

“ *Item*, I give my chastity to all virgins who
 “ have withstood their market.

“ *Item*, I give my courage among all who
 “ are ashamed of their distressed friends, all
 “ sneakers in assemblies, and men who shew
 “ valour in common conversation.

“ *Item*, I give my wit (as rich men give to
 “ the rich) among such as think they have
 “ enough already. And in case they shall not
 “ accept of the legacy, I give it to Bentivolio*
 “ to defend his works, from time to time, as
 “ he shall think fit to publish them.

“ *Item*, I bestow my learning upon the ho-
 “ norary members† of the Royal Society.

“ Now

In the language of Exchange alley, *Bears* signify those who buy stock which they cannot receive, or who sell stock which they have not. Those who pay money for what they purchase, or who sell stock which they really have, are called *Bulls*.

* *Dr. Richard BENTLEY*, born at Wakefield in Yorkshire, Jan. 1661, died in July 1742. STEELE refers to the celebrated controversy between the Doctor and Mr. BOYLE, concerning the genuineness of the *Epistles of Phalaris*, which had been carried on, almost as long as the siege of Troy, with great wit and spirit, in which the doctor was by no means deficient. See *BIOGR. Brit. Art. BENTLEY. N.*

† There are no *honorary members of the Royal Society*, strictly so called; but the title may be given without im-

“ Now for the disposal of this body.

“ As these eyes must one day cease to gaze
 “ on TERAMINTA†, and this heart shall one
 “ day pant no more for her indignation: that
 “ is to say, since this body must be earth; I
 “ shall commit it to the dust in a manner suit-
 “ able to my character. Therefore, as there
 “ are those who dispute, whether there is any
 “ such real person as ISAAC BICKERSTAFF or
 “ not; I shall excuse all persons who appear
 “ what they really are, from coming to my
 “ funeral. But all those who are, in their
 “ way of life, *personæ*‡, as the Latins have
 “ it, persons assumed, and who appear what
 “ they really are not, are hereby invited to
 “ that solemnity.

“ The body shall be carried by six watch-
 “ men, who are never seen in the day.

“ *Item*, The pall shall be held up by the six
 “ most known pretenders to honesty, wealth,
 “ and power, who are not possessed of any of
 “ them. The two first, a half-lawyer, and a
 “ complete justice. The two next, a chy-
 “ mist, and a projector. The third couple, a
 “ treasury-solicitor, and a small courtier.

propriety to such members as are admitted, merely to do
 honour to the society, or on account of their rank, or in
 grateful acknowledgment of some considerable present, or
 service.

† See TAT. N^o 45.

‡ *Masks.*

“ To

“ To make my funeral (what that solemnity,
 “ when done to common men, really is in itself)
 “ a very farce; and since all mourners are mere
 “ actors on these occasions, I shall desire those
 “ who are professedly such to attend mine. I
 “ humbly, therefore, beseech Mrs. Barry to act
 “ once more, and be my widow. When she
 “ swoons away at the church-porch, I appoint
 “ the merry Sir John Falstaff, and the gay Sir
 “ Harry Wildair, to support her*. I desire
 “ Mr. Pinkethman to follow in the habit of a
 “ cardinal, and Mr. Bullock† in that of a privy-
 “ counsellor. To make up the rest of the ap-
 “ pearance, I desire all the ladies from the bal-
 “ conies to weep with Mrs. Barry, as they
 “ hope to be wives and widows themselves.
 “ I invite all, who have nothing else to do,
 “ to accept of gloves and scarves.

“ Thus, with the great Charles V. of Spain,
 “ I resign the glories of this transitory world:
 “ Yet, at the same time, to shew you my in-
 “ difference, and that my desires are not too
 “ much fixed upon any thing, I own to you,
 “ I am as willing to stay as to go: therefore
 “ leave it in the choice of my gentle readers,
 “ whether I shall hear from them, or they hear
 “ no more from me.”

* TAT. N^o 188.

† CHRISTOPHER BULLOCK, a dramatic writer, was a player, and the son of a player (whose name was WILLIAM); neither of them deficient in merit as actors. B. D.

WHITE's Chocolate-house, April 25.

EASTER day being a time when you cannot well meet with any but humble adventurers; and there being such a thing as low gallantry, as well as low comedy, Colonel RAMBLE * and myself went early this morning into the fields, which were strewed with shepherds and shepherdesses, but indeed of a different turn from the simplicity of those of Arcadia†. Every hedge was conscious of more than what the representations of enamoured swains admit of. While we were surveying the croud around us, we saw at a distance a company coming towards Pancras-church; but though there was not much disorder, we thought we saw the figure of a man stuck through with a sword, and at every step ready to fall, if a woman by his side had not supported him; the rest followed two and two. When we came nearer this appearance, who should it be but Monsieur GUARDELOOP, mine and RAMBLE's French taylor, attended by others, leading one of MADAM

* Probably Colonel BRETT, who is said to have been one of the chief companions of ADDISON and STEELE, and might be the *Colonel* who with them made up the *trio* at Hart's Coffee-house, mentioned in a letter signed P. T. published in the St. James's Chronicle, September 3, 1782; DR. JOHNSON's "Lives, &c." Vol. II, p. 399. *Spence*. In or about the year 1697, ANNE Countess of MACCLESFIELD, having declared herself with child by the Earl RIVERS, was divorced from her husband, and, being left at liberty to make another choice, she was married soon after to Colonel BRETT. *Ibid.* vol. III. p. 199.

† The title of a romance, by the Countess of Pembroke.
attended

DEPINGLE's† maids to the church, in order to their espousals. It was his sword tucked so high above his waist, and the circumflex which persons of his profession take in their walking, that made him appear at a distance wounded and falling. But, the morning being rainy, methought the march to this wedding was but too lively a picture of wedlock itself. They seemed both to have a month's mind to make the best of their way single; yet both tugged arm in arm: and when they were in a dirty way, he was but deeper in the mire, by endeavouring to pull out his companion, and yet without helping her. The bridegroom's feathers in his hat all drooped; one of his shoes had lost an heel. In short, he was in his whole person and dress so extremely soufed, that there did not appear one inch or single thread about him *unmarried*‡. Pardon me, that the melancholy object still dwells upon me so far, as to reduce me to punning. However, we attended them to the chapel, where we stayed to hear the irrevocable words pronounced upon our old servant, and made the best of our way to town. I took a resolution to forbear all married persons, or any in danger of being such, for four and twenty hours at least; therefore dressed, and went to visit Florimel, the vainest thing in town, where I knew would drop in colonel Picket, just come

† See TAT. N^o 10. N^o 34, and *Notes*.

‡ A conceit on the similarity of sound between the words *unmarred* and *unmarried*.

from

from the camp, her professed admirer. He is of that order of men who have much honour and merit, but withal a coxcomb; the other of that set of females, who has innocence and wit, but the first of coquets. It is easy to believe, these must be admirers of each other. She says, the colonel rides the best of any man in England: The colonel says, she talks the best of any woman. At the same time, he understands wit just as she does horsemanship. You are to know, these extraordinary persons see each other daily: and they themselves, as well as the town, think it will be a match: but it can never happen that they can come to the point; for, instead of addressing to each other, they spend their whole time in the reports of themselves: he is satisfied if he can convince her he is a fine gentleman, and a man of consequence; and she in appearing to him an accomplished lady and a wit, without further design. Thus he tells her of his manner of posting his men at such a pass, with the numbers he commanded on that detachment: she tells him, how she was dressed on such a day at court, and what offers were made her the week following. She seems to hear the repetition of his mens names with admiration, and waits only to answer him with as false a muster of lovers. They talk to each other, not to be informed, but approved. Thus they are so like, that they are to be ever distant, and the parallel lines may run together for ever, but never meet.

WILL'S

WILL's Coffee-house, April 25.

This evening the comedy, called "Epsom Wells*," was acted for the benefit of Mr. BULLOCK, who, though he is a person of much wit and ingenuity, has a peculiar talent of looking like a fool, and therefore is excellently well qualified for the part of Bisket in this play. I cannot indeed sufficiently admire his way of bearing a beating, as he does in this drama, and that with such a natural air and propriety of folly, that one cannot help wishing the whip in one's own hand; so richly does he seem to deserve his chastisement. Skilful actors think it a very peculiar happiness to play in a scene with such as top their parts. Therefore I cannot but say, when the judgment of any good author directs him to write a beating for Mr. Bullock from Mr. William Pinkethman, or for Mr. William Pinkethman from Mr. Bullock, those excellent players seem to be in their most shining circumstances, and please me more, but with a different sort of delight, than that which I receive from those grave scenes of Brutus and Cassius, or Antony and Ventidius. The whole comedy is very just, and the low part of human life represented with much humour and wit.

* By THO. SHADWELL, afterwards Poet Laureat to K. William III. It was first printed in quarto, 1676, but it was acted, it should seem, from 1673. He stripped the laurel from the brows of DRYDEN, who thereupon wrote the bitterest satyr that ever was penned, entitled *M^r Flecknoe*. He died suddenly in 1692, aged 52; and his friend Dr. N. BRADY preached his funeral sermon.

St.

St. JAMES's Coffee-house, April 25.

We are advised from Vienna, by letters of the twentieth instant, that the Emperor hath lately added twenty new members to his Council of State, but they have not yet taken their places at the board. General Thaun is returned from Baden, his health being so well re-established by the baths of that place, that he designs to set out next week for Turin, to his command of the Imperial troops in the service of the Duke of Savoy. His Imperial Majesty has advanced his brother, Count Henry Thaun, to be a brigadier, and a counsellor of the Aulic council of war. These letters import, that king Stanislaus and the Swedish General Craffau, are directing their march to the Nieper, to join the King of Sweden's army in Ukrania: that the States of Austria have furnished Marshal Heister with a considerable sum of money, to enable him to push on the war vigorously in Hungary, where all things as yet are in perfect tranquillity: and that General Thungen has been very importunate for a speedy reinforcement of the forces on the Upper Rhine, representing at the same time what miseries the inhabitants must necessarily undergo, if the designs of France on those parts be not speedily and effectually prevented.

Letters from Rome, dated the thirteenth instant, say, that on the preceding Sunday his Holiness

Holiness was carried in an open chair from St. Peter's to St. Mary's, attended by the sacred College, in cavalcade; and, after mass, distributed several dowries for the marriage of poor and distressed virgins. The proceedings of that court are very dilatory concerning the recognition of king Charles, notwithstanding the pressing instances of the Marquis de Prie, who has declared, that if this affair be not wholly concluded by the fifteenth instant, he will retire from that court, and order the Imperial troops to return into the Ecclesiastical State. On the other hand, the Duke of Anjou's minister has, in the name of his master, demanded of his Holiness to explain himself on that affair; which, it is said, will be finally determined in a consistory to be held on Monday next; the Duke d'Uzeda designing to delay his departure until he sees the issue. These letters also say, that the court was mightily alarmed at the news which they received by an express from Ferrara, that General Boneval, who commands in Commacchio, had sent circular letters to the inhabitants of St. Alberto, Longastrino, Fillo, and other adjacent parts, enjoining them to come and swear fealty to the Emperor, and receive new investitures of their fiefs from his hands. Letters from other parts of Italy say, that the king of Denmark continues at Lucca; that four English and Dutch men of war were seen off Onglia, bound for Final, in order to transport the troops designed for Barcelona; and

and that her majesty's ship the Colchester arrived at Leghorn the fourth instant from Port-Mahon, with advice, that Major General Stanhope designed to depart from thence the first instant with six or seven thousand men, to attempt the relief of the castle of Alicant.

Our last advices from Berlin, bearing date the twenty-seventh instant, import, that the king was gone to Linum, and the queen to Mecklenburg; but that their majesties designed to return the next week to Oranienburg, where a great chace of wild beasts was prepared for their diversion, and from thence they intend to proceed together to Potsdam; that the prince royal was set out for Brabant, but intended to make some short stay at Hanover. These letters also inform us, that they are advised from Obory, that the King of Sweden, being on his march towards Holki, met General Renne with a detachment of Muscovites, who, placing some regiments in ambuscade, attacked the Swedes in their rear, and, putting them to flight, killed two thousand men, the king himself having his horse shot under him.

We hear from Copenhagen, that, the ice being broke, the Sound is again open for the ships; and that they hoped his majesty would return sooner than they at first expected.

Letters from the Hague, dated May the fourth, N. S. say, that an express arrived there on the first, from Prince Eugene to his grace the Duke of Marlborough. The States
are

are advifed, that the auxiliaries of Saxony were arrived on the frontiers of the United Provinces; as alfo, that the two regiments of Wolfenbuttel, and four thoufand troops from Wirtemberg, who are to ferve in Flanders, are in full march thither. Letters from Flanders fay, that the great convoy of ammunition and provifions, which fet out from Ghent for Lifle, was fafely arrived at Courtray. We hear from Paris, that the king has ordered the militia on the coafts of Normandy and Bretagne to be in readinefs to march; and that the court was in apprehenfion of a defcent, to animate the people to rife in the midft of their prefent hardfhips.

They write from Spain, that the Pope's Nuncio left Madrid the tenth of April, in order to go to Bayonne; that the Marquis de Bay was at Badajos, to obferve the motions of the Portugueze; and that the Count d'Estain, with a body of five thoufand men, was on his march to attack Girone. The Duke of Anjou has deposed the Bifhop of Lerida, as being a favourer of the intereft of King Charles, and has fummoned a convocation at Madrid, compofed of the archbifhops, bifhops, and ftates of that kingdom, wherein he hopes they will come to a refolution to fend for no more bulls to Rome.