

But as soon as the messenger of peace had made some low reply, in which, methought, I heard the word *Iberia*, the heroine, assuming a more severe air, but such as spoke resolution without rage, returned him the olive, and again veiled her face. Loud cries and clashing of arms immediately followed, which forced me from my charming vision, and drove me back to these mansions of care and sorrow.

* * * Mr. BICKERSTAFF thanks Mr. QUARTERSTAFF for his kind and instructive letter dated the 26th instant.

N° 9. Saturday, April 30, 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 it’s theme.” P.

WILL’s Coffee-house, April 14.

THIS evening we were entertained with
THE OLD BACHELOR*, a comedy of
deserved

* By CONGREVE. His first play, and first acted in 1693. See TATLER, N° 193. Notwithstanding all that is

deserved reputation. In the character which gives name to the play, there is excellently represented the reluctance of a battered debauchee to come into the trammels of order and decency: he neither languishes nor burns, but frets for love. The gentlemen of more regular behaviour are drawn with much spirit and wit, and the drama introduced by the dialogue of the first scene with uncommon, yet natural conversation. The part of Fondlewife is a lively image of the unseasonable fondness of age and impotence. But instead of such agreeable works as these, the town has for half an age been tormented with insects called *Easy Writers*, whose abilities Mr. Wycherly one day described excellently well in one word: "That," says he, "among these fellows is "called *Easy Writing*, which any one may easily "write." Such janty scribblers are so justly laughed at for their sonnets on Phillis and Chloris, and fantastical descriptions in them, that an ingenious kinsman of mine, of the family of the STAFFS, Mr. HUMPHREY WAG-STAFF by name, has, to avoid their strain, run into a way perfectly new, and described things

is said either here or in Nº 193 in commendation of this play, the remarks of COLLIER upon some passages in it, in his "Short view of the profaneness and immorality of the English stage," are not void of truth, or of sound criticism. They regard not the structure of the play, but some libertinisms in which the author has indulged himself.

exactly

exactly as they happen : he never forms fields, or nymphs, or groves, where they are not; but makes the incidents just as they really appear. For an example of it; I stole out of his manuscript the following lines: they are a description of the morning, but of the morning in town; nay, of the morning at this end of the town, where my kinsman at present lodges.

Now hardly here and there an hackney-coach
Appearing, shew'd the ruddy morn's approach.
Now Betty from her master's bed had flown,
And softly stole to discompose her own.
The slipshod 'prentice, from his master's door,
Had par'd the street, and sprinkled round the floor;
Now Moll had whirl'd her mop with dextrous airs,
Prepar'd to scrub the entry and the stairs.
The youth with broomy stumps began to trace
The kennel-edge, where wheels had worn the place.
The small-coal man was heard with cadence deep,
Till drown'd in shriller notes of chimney-sweep.
Duns at his Lordship's gates began to meet;
And brick-dust Moll had scream'd thro' half a street:
The turnkey now his flock returning fees,
Duly let out a' nights to steal for fees.
The watchful bailiffs take their silent stands;
And school-boys lag with fatchels in their hands.

All that I apprehend is, that dear Numps* will be angry I have published these lines; not

* Dr. SWIFT. See SWIFT's Works, vol. VI. p. 39. P. and TATLER, N° 238.

that

that he has any reason to be ashamed of them, but for fear of those rogues, the bane to all excellent performances, the imitators. Therefore, before-hand, I bar all descriptions of the evening; as, a medley of verses signifying grey peas are now cried warm; that wenches now begin to amble round the passages of the play-houses: or of Noon; as, that fine ladies and great beaux are just yawning out of their beds and windows in Pall-mall, and so forth. I forewarn also all persons from encouraging any draughts after my cousin; and foretell any man who shall go about to imitate him, that he will be very insipid. The family-stock is embarked in this design, and we will not admit of counterfeits: Dr. Anderson* and his heirs enjoy his pills; Sir William Read† has the cure of eyes, and Monsieur Rosselli‡ only can cure the gout. We pretend to none of these things; but to examine who and who are to-

* ANDERSON was a Scotch physician in the reigns of Charles I. and Charles II.

† "HENLEY would fain have me to go with STEELE and ROWE, &c. to an invitation at Sir WILLIAM READ's. Surely you have heard of him. He has been a Mountebank, and is the Queen's oculist; he makes admirable punch, and treats you in gold vessels. But I am engaged, and won't go; neither indeed am I fond of the jaunt." April 11, 1711. SWIFT's Works, vol. XXII. p. 20. See SPEC. N^o 470.

‡ ROSSELLI, sufficiently known from the Romance of his life, which was written by himself. His specific for the gout was good for nothing. He died some years after this at the Hague.

gether,

gether, to tell any mistaken man he is not what he believes he is, to distinguish merit*, and expose false pretences to it, is a liberty our family has by law in them, from an intermarriage with a daughter of Mr. SCOGGIN†, the famous droll of the last century. This right I design to make use of; but will not encroach upon the above-mentioned adepts, or any other. At the same time, I shall take all the privileges I may, as an Englishman, and will lay hold of the late act of naturalization to introduce what I shall think fit from France. The use of that law may, I hope, be extended to people the polite world with new characters, as well as the kingdom itself with new subjects. Therefore an author of that nation, called LA BRUYERE‡, I shall make bold with on such occasions. The last person I read of in that writer was Lord TIMON. TIMON, says my author, is the most generous of all men; but is so hurried away with that strong impulse of bestowing, that he confers benefits without

* See DEDICATION, and TATL. N° 3. N° 51, N° 64. and N° 271.

† SCOGGIN was a buffoon in the reign of K. JAMES I.

‡ STEELE, it has been said, alluded to the D. of ORMOND, whose domestics enriched themselves at the expence of their master. This seems very probable from a passage in "The EXAMINER," vol. III. p. 48. LA BRUYERE'S *Timon* is a Misanthrope.—The character of *Lord Timon* was originally drawn by STEELE, and had, as he thought, a striking resemblance to his own. See his apology for it, GUARD. N° 53.

distinction,

distinction, and is munificent without laying obligations. For all the unworthy, who receive from him, have so little sense of this noble infirmity, that they look upon themselves rather as partners in a spoil, than partakers of a bounty. The other day, coming into Paris, I met TIMON going out on horseback, attended only by one servant. It struck me with a sudden damp, to see a man of so excellent a disposition, and who understood making a figure so well, so much shortened in his retinue. But, passing by his house, I saw his great coach break to pieces before his door, and by a strange enchantment immediately turned into many different vehicles. The first was a very pretty chariot, into which stepped his Lordship's secretary. The second was hung a little heavier; into that strutted the fat steward. In an instant followed a chaise, which was entered by the butler. The rest of the body and wheels were forthwith changed into go-carts, and run away with by the nurses and brats of the rest of the family. What makes these misfortunes in the affairs of TIMON the more astonishing is, that he has better understanding than those who cheat him; so that a man knows not which more to wonder at, the indifference of the master, or the impudence of the servant.

WHITE'S

WHITE's Chocolate-house, April 29.

It is a matter of much speculation among the beaux * and oglers, what it is that can have made so sudden a change, as has been of late observed, in the whole behaviour of PASTORELLA, who never sat still a moment until she was eighteen, which she has now exceeded by two months. Her aunt, who has the care of her, has not been always so rigid as she is at this present date; but has so good a sense of the frailty of woman, and falshood of man, that she resolved on all manner of methods to keep PASTORELLA, if possible, in safety, against herself and all her admirers. At the same time the good lady knew by long experience, that

* "A BEAU, in the days of Q. Anne, was a peculiar character distinguished by bold strokes, as having horses of a particular colour, or the like. In process of time, this distinction was lost, and the word was applied indiscriminately to all *fine men*, as the lower female vulgar term them. As soon as BEAU became a *nomen multitudinis*, there was a necessity of ranging the *fine men* into different classes, and it is but justice to this age to say, that it has invented a name for almost every character that distinguishes itself by dress or behaviour, from the plain men who chuse to pass unobserved in the crowd."

According to the preceding account, BEAU Fielding is represented under the name of ORLANDO the Fair, as riding in a singular vehicle constructed on purpose for displaying his large size advantageously, &c. TAT. N° 50. and N° 51. Ben. Jonson's BEAU is in a different style, "for he introduces a fellow *smoking*, as a mark of foppery." TAT. N° 42. and N° 26. SPEC. N° 278. and N° 631. GUAR. N° 10. and N° 62.

a gay

a gay inclination, curbed too rashly, would but run to the greater excesses for that restraint; she therefore intended to watch her, and take some opportunity of engaging her insensibly in her own interests, without the anguish of an admonition. You are to know then, that miss, with all her flirting and ogling, had also naturally a strong curiosity in her, and was the greatest eaves-dropper breathing. PARISATIS (for so her prudent aunt is called) observed this humour, and retires one day to her closet, into which she knew PASTORELLA would peep, and listen to know how she was employed. It happened accordingly; and the young lady saw her good governante on her knees, and, after a *mental behaviour*, break into these words, “As for the dear child committed to my care, “let her sobriety of carriage, and severity of “behaviour, be such as may make that noble “lord who is taken with her beauty, turn his “designs to such as are honourable.” Here PARISATIS heard her niece nestle closer to the key-hole: she then goes on; “Make her the “joyful mother of a numerous and wealthy “offspring; and let her carriage be such, as “may make this noble youth expect the blessings of an happy marriage, from the singularity of her life, in this loose and censorious age.” Miss, having heard enough, sneaks off for fear of discovery, and immediately at her glass alters the sitting of her head; then pulls up her tucker, and forms herself into the

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exact

exact manner of LINDAMIRA: in a word, becomes a sincere convert to every thing that is commendable in a fine young lady; and two or three such matches, as her aunt feigned in her devotions, are at this day in her choice. This is the history and original cause of PASTORELLA's conversion from coquetry. The prudence in the management of this young lady's temper, and good judgment of it, is hardly to be exceeded. I scarce remember a greater instance of forbearance of the usual peevish way with which the aged treat the young than this, except that of our famous NOY*, whose good-nature went so far, as to make him put off his admonitions to his son, even until after his death; and did not give him his thoughts of him, until he came to read that memorable passage in his will: "All the rest of my estate," says he, "I leave to my son EDWARD (who is executor to this my will) to be squandered as he shall think fit: I leave it him for that purpose, and hope no better from him." A generous disdain, and reflection upon how little he deserved from so excellent a father, reformed the

* "WILLIAM NOY, of St. Burian in Cornwall, gentleman, was made Attorney General in 1631; his will is dated June 3, 1634, about a month or six weeks before his death. The expedient did not operate an alteration in his son, so altogether favourable; for within two years EDWARD was slain in a duel by one Captain BYRON, who was pardoned for it. WOOD's Athen. Oxon. edit. 1691. vol. I. 506.

young

young man, and made EDWARD from an arrant rake become a fine gentleman.

St. JAMES's Coffee-house, April 29.

Letters from Portugal of the eighteenth instant, dated from Estremos, say, that on the sixth the Earl of Galway arrived at that place, and had the satisfaction to see the quarters well furnished with all manner of provisions, and a quantity of bread sufficient for subsisting the troops for sixty days, besides biscuit for twenty-five days. The enemy give out, that they shall bring into the field fourteen regiments of horse, and twenty-four battalions. The troops in the service of Portugal will make up 14,000 foot, and 4000 horse. On the day these letters were dispatched, the Earl of Galway received advice, that the Marquis de Bay was preparing for some enterprize, by gathering his troops together on the frontiers. Whereupon his Excellency resolved to go that same night to Villa Viciosa, to assemble the troops in that neighbourhood, in order to disappoint his designs.

Yesterday in the evening Captain Foxton, Aid-de-Camp to Major-General Cadogan, arrived here express from the Duke of Marlborough. And this day a mail is come in with letters from Brussels of the sixth of May, N. S. which advise, that the enemy had drawn together a body, consisting of 20,000 men, with a
H 2 design,

design, as was supposed, to intercept the great convoy on the march towards Lille, which was safely arrived at Menin and Courtray, in its way to that place, the French having retired without making any attempt.

We hear from the Hague, that a person of the first quality is arrived in the Low Countries from France, in order to be a Plenipotentiary in an ensuing treaty of peace.

Letters from France acknowledge, that Monsieur Bernard has made no higher offers of satisfaction to his creditors than of 35l. *per cent.*

These advices add, that the Marshal Boufflers, Monsieur Torcy (who distinguished himself formerly, by advising the Court of France to adhere to the treaty of Partition) and Monsieur d'Harcourt (who negociated with Cardinal Portocarrero for the succession of the crown of Spain in the house of Bourbon) are all three joined in a commission for a treaty of peace. The Marshal is come to Ghent: the other two are arrived at the Hague.

It is confidently reported here, that the right honourable the Lord Townshend is to go with his Grace the Duke of Marlborough into Holland.

* * Mr. BICKERSTAFF has received the epistles of Mrs. REBECCA WAGSTAFF, TIMOTHY PIKESTAFF and WAGSTAFF, which he will acknowledge farther as occasion shall serve.

N° 10.