

“stances of human nature itself, without regard to the state from whence he is fallen. I write from his bed-side: he is at present in a slumber. I have many, many things to add; but my tears flow too fast, and my sorrow is too big for utterance*.

“I am, &c.”

Nº 20. Thursday, May 26, 1709.

ADDISON and STEELE†.

*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, May 24.

IT is not to be imagined how far prepossession will run away with people’s understandings, in cases wherein they are under present uneasiness. The following narration is a sufficient testimony of the truth of this observation.

* See TAT. Nº 23. Nº 24. and Nº 26.

† The assignment of this Paper Nº 20, rests on the authority of the list of ADDISON’S Papers delivered by STEELE to Mr. Tickell. See TICKELL’S ed. of ADDISON’S Works, 4to.

I had

I had the honour the other day of a visit from a gentlewoman (a stranger to me) who seemed to be about thirty. Her complexion is brown; but the air of her face has an agreeableness which surpasses the beauties of the fairest women. There appeared in her look and mien a sprightly health; and her eyes had too much vivacity to become the language of complaint, which she began to enter into. She seemed sensible of it; and therefore, with down-cast looks, said she, "Mr. BICKERSTAFF, you see before you the unhappiest of women; and therefore, as you are esteemed by all the world both a great civilian, as well as an astrologer, I must desire your advice and assistance, in putting me in a method of obtaining a divorce from a marriage, which I know the law will pronounce void." "Madam," said I, "your grievance is of such a nature, that you must be very ingenuous in representing the causes of your complaint, or I cannot give you the satisfaction you desire." "Sir," she answers, "I believe there would be no need of half your skill in the art of divination, to guess why a woman would part from her husband." "It is true," said I; "but suspicions, or guesses at what you mean, nay certainty of it, except you plainly speak it, are no foundation for a formal suit." She clapped her fan before her face; "My husband," said she, "is no more an husband" (here

(here she burst into tears) "than one of the
"Italian fingers."

"Madam," said I, "the affliction you com-
"plain of is to be redressed by law; but, at
"the same time, consider what mortifications
"you are to go through, in bringing it into
"open court: how will you be able to bear
"the impertinent whispers of the people pre-
"sent at the trial, the licentious reflections of
"the pleaders, and the interpretations that
"will in general be put upon your conduct
"by all the world? 'How little (will they
"say) could that lady command her passions!'
"Besides, consider, that curbing our desires
"is the greatest glory we can arrive at in this
"world, and will be most rewarded in the
"next." She answered, like a prudent ma-
"tron: "Sir, if you please to remember the
"office of matrimony, the first cause of its
"institution is that of having posterity.
"Therefore, as to the curbing desires, I am
"willing to undergo any abstinence from food
"as you please to enjoin me; but I cannot,
"with any quiet of mind, live in the neglect
"of a necessary duty, and an express com-
"mandment, *Increase and multiply*." Ob-
serving she was learned, and knew so well the
duties of life, I turned my arguments rather
to dehort her from this public procedure by
examples than precepts. "Do but consider,
"Madam, what crowds of beauteous women
"live in nunneries, secluded for ever from
Vol. I. O "the

“ the fight and conversation of men, with all
 “ the alacrity of spirit imaginable; they spend
 “ their time in heavenly raptures, in constant
 “ and frequent devotions, and at proper hours
 “ in agreeable conversations.” “ Sir,” said she
 hastily, “ tell not me of Papists, or any of their
 “ idolatries.” “ Well then, Madam, consider
 “ how many fine ladies live innocently in the
 “ eye of the world, and this gay town, in the
 “ midst of temptation: there is the witty * Mrs.
 “ W—— is a virgin of forty-four, Mrs. T——s
 “ is thirty-nine, Mrs. L——ce thirty-three;
 “ yet you see they laugh, and are gay, at the
 “ park, at the play-house, at balls, and at vi-
 “ sits; and so much at ease, that all this seems
 “ hardly a self-denial.” “ Mr. BICKERSTAFF,”
 said she, with some emotion, “ you are an ex-
 “ cellent casuist; but the last word destroyed
 “ your whole argument; if it is not self-denial,
 “ it is no virtue. I presented you with an half-
 “ guinea, in hopes not only to have my con-
 “ science eased, but my fortune told. Yet”—
 “ Well Madam,” said I, “ pray of what age
 “ is your husband?” “ He is,” replied my in-
 “ jured client, “ fifty; and I have been his wife
 “ fifteen years.” “ How happened it you ne-
 “ ver communicated your distress, in all this
 “ time, to your friends and relations?” She
 answered, “ He has been thus but a fortnight.”
 I am the most serious man in the world to look

* See Notes on N^o 10, and N^o 13, on *Miss* and *Mrs.*

at, and yet could not forbear laughing out.
 “Why, Madam, in case of infirmity which
 “proceeds only from age, the law gives no re-
 “medy.” “Sir,” said she, “I find you have
 “no more learning than Dr. CASE* ; and I am
 “told of a young man, not five and twenty,
 “just come from Oxford, to whom I will com-
 “municate this whole matter, and doubt not
 “but he will appear to have seven times more
 “useful and satisfactory knowledge than you
 “and all your boasted family.” Thus I have
 entirely lost my client: but if this tedious narra-
 tive preserves PASTORELLA † from the intended
 marriage with one twenty years her senior—to
 save a fine lady, I am contented to have my
 learning decried, and my predictions bound up
 with Poor Robin’s Almanacks ‡.

* * The article of this Paper dated from WILL’s was
 written by ADDISON, and the concluding advertisement in
 favour of UNDERHILL, by STEELE.

WILL’S

* See TAT. N^o 240. Note on Dr. CASE; and Supplement
 to SWIFT’s “WORKS,” vol. II. p. 329. Edit. crown 8vo.
 1779.

† PASTORELLA it seems, from what is said of her here,
 and in N^o 13, was not much bettered by her *conversion from*
coquetry, related in N^o 9. Fine young ladies are called
Pastorella’s in N^o 16.

‡ POOR ROBIN began to publish his almanack early in the
 reign of CHARLES II. and still continues *delectare et pro-*
desse. In this particular he takes precedence of his fellow-
 labourer FRANCIS MOORE, who was PARTRIDGE’s man-
 setter

WILL's Coffee-house, May 25.

This evening was acted THE RECRUITING OFFICER*, in which Mr. ESTCOURT's proper sense and observation is what supports the play. There is not, in my humble opinion, the humour hit in Serjeant Kite; but it is admirably supplied by his action. If I have skill to judge, that man is an excellent actor; but the crowd of the audience are fitter for representations at May-fair, than a theatre-royal. Yet that fair is now broke, as well as the theatre is breaking: but it is allowed still to sell animals there. Therefore, if any lady or gentleman have occasion for a tame elephant, let them enquire of Mr. Pinkethman†, who has one to dispose of at a reasonable rate. The downfall of May-fair‡ has

setter and has been a writer *only* eighty-five years. Honest PARTRIDGE, MOORE's master, whose *natural life* was of shorter duration, continues annually to instruct us from the shades, to this day.

* A comedy by Mr. FARQUHAR, and who in the delineation of the characters in it, had living originals in his eye. Justice BALLANCE, was a Mr. BERKLEY, then Recorder of Shrewsbury, Mr. HILL, an inhabitant of the same town, was one of the other justices. Mr. WORTHY, was a Mr. OWEN of Rusafon, on the borders of Shropshire; Capt. PLUME was FARQUHAR himself; MELINDA was a Miss HARNAGE of Belfadine, near the Wreken; SYLVIA a Miss BERKLEY, daughter of the Recorder of Shrewsbury; and the story, the author's invention.

† See TATL. N° 4. N° 188. SPECT. N° 31. N° 455. N° 370. and *note* on Mr. PINKETHMAN.

‡ The abolishment of May-fair has been mentioned in TAT. N° 4, and *note*. In 1708, a Pamphlet was published entitled

has quite sunk the price of this noble creature, as well as of many other curiosities of nature. A tiger will sell almost as cheap as an ox; and I am credibly informed, a man may purchase a cat with three legs, for very near the value of one with four. I hear likewise that there is a great desolation among the gentlemen and ladies who were the ornaments of the town, and used to shine in plumes and diadems; the heroes being most of them pressed, and the queens beating hemp. Mrs. Sarabrand, so famous for her ingenious puppet-show, has set up a shop in the Exchange, where she sells her little troop under the term of *jointed babies*. I could not but be solicitous to know of her, how she had disposed of that rake-hell Punch, whose lewd life and conversation had given so much scandal, and did not a little contribute to the ruin of the fair. She told me, with a sigh, "That, "despairing of ever reclaiming him, she would "not offer to place him in a civil family, but

entitled "Reasons for suppressing the yearly fair in Brook-field, Westminster, commonly called *May-fair*." It had long been the resort of the idle and profligate; the peace-officers were frequently opposed in the performance of their duty; and in 1702, John Cooper, a constable, was killed for which murder a fencing-master named Cook, was afterwards executed. It was granted 4 James I. to Sir John Coel in trust for Henry Lord Dover and their heirs for ever; to commence the first day of May, and to continue for fifteen days yearly; but being found so destructive to virtue and morals, it was repeatedly presented as a nuisance by the grand jury of Westminster, and entirely abolished in 1709.

" got

“ got him in a post upon a stall in Wapping,
 “ where he may be seen from sun-rising to sun-
 “ setting, with a glass in one hand, and a pipe
 “ in the other, as centry to a brandy-shop.”
 The great revolutions of this nature bring to
 my mind the distresses of the unfortunate CA-
 MILLA*, who has had the ill luck to break be-
 fore her voice, and to disappear at a time when
 her beauty was in the height of its bloom.
 This lady entered so thoroughly into the great
 characters she acted, that when she had finished
 her part, she could not think of retrenching her
 equipage, but would appear in her own lodg-
 ings with the same magnificence that she did
 upon the stage. This greatness of soul had re-
 duced that unhappy princess† to an involuntary
 retirement,

* “ Italian Operas, so fashionable at this time, were
 “ too much supported by the excellent voice and judgement
 “ of Mrs. TOFTS, a mere Englishwoman, who in the part
 “ of *Camilla*, was courted by NICOLINI in Italian, without
 “ understanding one syllable each other said, or sung; and,
 “ on the other hand, VALENTINI courting amorously, in
 “ the same language, a Dutch-woman that could neither
 “ speak English nor Italian, committed murder on our good
 “ old English with as little understanding as a parrot.”
 CHETWOOD’S “ General Hist. of the Stage.” See TAT.
 N° 1. N° 4. and N° 115.

† Mrs. TOFTS, who played the part of princess *Camilla*,
 in the meridian of her beauty with a large sum of money
 which she had acquired by singing, quitted the stage, and
 married Mr. JOSEPH SMITH, Consul for the English
 nation at Venice, to which place she went with him. Mr.
 SMITH was a great collector of books, and a patron of the
 arts; he procured engravings to be made from pictures and
 designs

retirement, where she now passes her time among the woods and forests, thinking on the crowns and scepters she has lost, and often humming over in her solitude,

I was born of royal race,
Yet must wander in disgrace, &c.

But, for fear of being over-heard, and her quality known, she usually sings it in Italian,

*Nacqui al regno, nacqui al trono.
E per sono
I venturata pastorella **,

Since I have touched upon this subject, I shall communicate to my reader part of a letter I have received from an ingenious friend at Amsterdam, where there is a very noble theatre; though the manner of furnishing it with actors is something peculiar to that place, and gives us occasion to admire both the politeness and frugality of the people.

designs of AMICONI, MARCO, RICCI, PIAZETTA, and other masters, and lived in great state and magnificence; but the disorder of his wife returning, she dwelt sequestered from the world in a remote part of the house, and had a large garden to range in, in which she frequently walked, singing, and indulging that innocent frenzy which had seized her in the earlier part of her life. She died about the year 1760. See her letter from Venice, SPECT. N^o 443.

* "Camilla, an Opera," 4to. 1706. Anonymous; but ascribed to Owen Mac Swiney, whose name is subscribed to the Dedication.



“ My friends have kept me here a week
“ longer than ordinary, to see one of their plays,
“ which was performed last night with great
“ applause. The actors are all of them trades-
“ men; who, after their day’s work is over,
“ earn about a guilder a-night by personating
“ kings and generals. The hero of the tragedy
“ I saw was a journeyman taylor, and his first
“ minister of state a coffee-man. The empress
“ made me think of Parthenope in the RE-
“ HEARSAL; for her mother keeps an alehouse
“ in the suburbs of Amsterdam. When the
“ tragedy was over, they entertained us with a
“ short farce, in which the cobbler did his part to
“ a miracle; but, upon enquiry, I found he had
“ really been working at his own trade, and re-
“ presenting on the stage what he acted every
“ day in his shop. The profits of the theatre
“ maintain an hospital; for as here they do not
“ think the profession of an actor the only trade
“ that a man ought to exercise; so they will
“ not allow any body to grow rich in a profes-
“ sion, that in their opinion, so little conduces
“ to the good of the commonwealth. If I am
“ not mistaken, your playhouses in England
“ have done the same thing; for, unless I am
“ misinformed, the hospital at Dulwich was
“ erected and endowed by Mr. ALLEYN*, a

* EDWARD ALLEYN, Esq. in 1614, founded an hospital at Dulwich in Surrey, called “The College of God’s Gift,” with a revenue which is reckoned at 700*l.* *per annum.*

“ player:

“ player: and it is also said, a † famous SHE-
 “ Tragedian has settled her estate, after her
 “ death, for the maintenance of decayed wits,
 “ who are to be taken in as soon as they grow
 “ dull, at whatever time of their life that shall
 “ happen.”

— * * Mr. CAVE UNDERHILL, the famous comedian in the reigns of King CHARLES II. King JAMES II. King WILLIAM and QUEEN MARY, and her present Majesty Queen ANNE; but now not able to perform so often as heretofore in the playhouse, and having had losses to the value of near 2500l. is to have the tragedy of HAMLET acted for his benefit, on Friday the 3d of June next, at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, in which he is to perform his original part, the *Grave-digger**.

† Mrs. ANNE BRACEGIRDLE, is said by the French translator of the TATLER to have been the famous she-tragedian here alluded to, nevertheless it is thought more probable that Mrs. BARRY was the real person here meant. The manner in which she ultimately disposed of her property is unknown, there being now no will of this lady to be found in Doctors Commons.

* This advertisement is repeated, N^o 22. STEELE befriended this player, in a manner that did equal honour to his genius, and his heart. Some years before, old age had obliged UNDERHILL to quit the stage. On the strength of STEELE's kind recommendation to the favour of the town, in N^o 22, he appeared once more, but so disabled and worn out, as if he had been to be buried in the grave he dug. When he could no more excite laughter, his infirmities were dismissed with pity; and he died soon after, a superannuated pensioner, on the list supported by joint shares, under the patent granted to Sir R. STEELE.

N^o 21.