

“ Any person that shall come publicly abroad  
 “ in a fantastical habit, contrary to the present  
 “ mode and fashion, except *Don Diego Dis-*  
 “ *mallo*\*, or any other out of poverty, shall  
 “ have his name and dress inserted in our  
 “ next.”

“ N. B. Mr. How’d’yecall is desired to leave  
 “ off those buttons.”

N° 22. Tuesday, May 31, 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.

WHITE’S Chocolate-house, May 28.

I CAME hither this evening to see fashions;  
 and who should I first encounter but my old  
 friend CYNTHIO † (encompassed by a croud of  
 young fellows) dictating on the passion of Love

\* A nick-name given in the rage of party, to a very respectable nobleman, the Earl of NOTTINGHAM. STEELE objects to this application of the character. See GUARD. N° 53.

† See TAT. N° 15. N° 35. N° 85; and LOVER, N° 38.  
 with



with the gayest air imaginable! "Well," says he, "as to what I know of the matter, there is nothing but ogling with skill carries a woman; but indeed it is not every fool that is capable of this art; you will find twenty can speak eloquently, fifty that can fight manfully, and a thousand that can dress genteelly at a mistress, where there is one that can gaze skilfully. This requires an exquisite judgment, to take the language of her eyes to yours exactly, and not let yours talk too fast for hers; as at a play between the acts, when beau Frisk stands upon a bench full in Lindamira's face, and her dear eyes are searching round to avoid that flaring open fool; she meets the watchful glance of her true Lover, and sees his heart attentive on her charms, and waiting for a second twinkle of her eye for its next motion." Here the good company sneered; but he goes on. "Nor is this attendance a slavery, when a man meets with encouragement, and her eye comes often in his way: for, after an evening so spent, and the repetition of four or five significant looks at him, the happy man goes home to his lodging full of ten thousand pleasing images: his brain is dilated, and gives him all the ideas and prospects which it ever lets into its seat of pleasure. Thus a kind look from Lindamira revives in his imagination all the beauteous lawns, green fields, woods, forests, rivers, and solitudes, which he had ever

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" before



“ before seen in picture, description, or real  
“ life: and all with this addition, that he now  
“ sees them with the eyes of a happy Lover, as  
“ before only with those of a common man.  
“ You laugh, gentlemen, but consider your-  
“ selves (ye common people that were never  
“ in Love) and compare yourselves in good hu-  
“ mour with yourselves out of humour, and  
“ ye will then acknowledge, that all external  
“ objects affect you according to the dispositions  
“ ye are in to receive their impressions, and  
“ not as those objects are in their own nature.  
“ How much more shall all that passes within  
“ his view and observation touch with delight  
“ a man who is prepossessed with successful  
“ Love, which is an assemblage of soft affection,  
“ gay desires, and hopeful resolutions?”

Poor CYNTHIO went on at this rate to the crowd about him, without any purpose in his talk, but to vent an heart overflowing with sense of success. I wondered what could exalt him from the distress, in which he had long appeared, to so much alacrity: but my familiar has given me the state of his affairs. It seems, then, that lately coming out of the playhouse, his mistress, who knows he is in her livery, as the manner of insolent beauties is, resolved to keep him still so, and gave him so much wages as to complain to him of the crowd she was to pass through. He had his wits and resolution enough about him to take her hand, and say, he would attend her to the coach. All the way



way thither my good young man stammered at every word, and stumbled at every step. His mistress, wonderfully pleased with her triumph, put to him a thousand questions, to make a man of his natural wit speak with hesitation; and let drop her fan, to see him recover it awkwardly. This is the whole foundation of CYNTHIO's recovery to the sprightly air he appears with at present.

I grew mighty curious to know something more of that lady's affairs, as being amazed how she could dally with an offer of one of his merit and fortune. I sent PACOLET to her lodgings, who immediately brought me back the following letter to her friend and confidant Amanda in the country, wherein she has opened her heart and all its folds.

“ Dear AMANDA,

“ The town grows so empty, that you must  
“ expect my letter so too, except you will allow  
“ me to talk of myself instead of others: you  
“ cannot imagine what pain it is, after a whole  
“ day spent in public, to want your company,  
“ and the ease which friendship allows in being  
“ vain to each other, and speaking all our minds.  
“ An account of the slaughter which these un-  
“ happy eyes have made within ten days last  
“ past, would make me appear too great a ty-  
“ rant to be allowed in a Christian country. I  
“ shall therefore confine myself to my principal

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“ conquests,



“ conquests, which are the hearts of beau  
“ FRISK and JACK FREELAND, besides CYN-  
“ THIO, who, you know, wore my fetters be-  
“ fore you went out of town. Shall I tell you  
“ my weakness? I begin to love FRISK: it is  
“ the best-humoured impertinent thing in the  
“ world: he is always too in waiting, and will  
“ certainly carry me off one time or other.  
“ FREELAND’s father and mine have been upon  
“ treaty without consulting me; and CYNTHIO  
“ has been eternally watching my eyes, without  
“ approaching me, my friends, my maid, or  
“ any one about me: he hopes to get me, I  
“ believe, as they say the rattle-snake does the  
“ squirrel, by staring at me until I drop into his  
“ mouth. FREELAND demands me for a join-  
“ ture, which he thinks deserves me; CYN-  
“ THIO thinks nothing high enough to be my  
“ value: FREELAND therefore will take it for  
“ no obligation to have me; and CYNTHIO’s  
“ idea of me is what will vanish by knowing  
“ me better. Familiarity will equally turn the  
“ veneration of the one, and the indifference of  
“ the other, into contempt. I will stick there-  
“ fore to my old maxim, to have that sort of  
“ man, who can have no greater views than  
“ what are in my power to give him possession  
“ of. The utmost of my dear FRISK’s ambi-  
“ tion is, to be thought a man of fashion; and  
“ therefore has been so much in mode, as to  
“ resolve upon me, because the whole town likes  
“ me. Thus I choose rather a man who Loves  
“ me



“ me because others do, than one who approves  
 “ me on his own judgement. He that judges  
 “ for himself in Love will often change his opi-  
 “ nion; but he that follows the sense of others  
 “ must be constant, as long as a woman can  
 “ make advances. The visits I make, the en-  
 “ tertainments I give, and the addresses I re-  
 “ ceive, will be all arguments for me with a  
 “ man of FRISK’s second-hand genius; but  
 “ would be so many bars to my happiness with  
 “ any other man. However, since FRISK can  
 “ wait, I shall enjoy a summer or two longer,  
 “ and remain a single woman, in the sublime  
 “ pleasure of being followed and admired;  
 “ which nothing can equal, except that of be-  
 “ ing beloved by you. I am, &c.”

WILL’S Coffee-house, May 30.

My chief business here this evening was to  
 speak to my friends in behalf of honest CAVE  
 UNDERHILL\*, who has been a comic for three  
 generations:

\* See TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 20. and *notes*.

COLLEY CIBBER says, “ UNDERHILL was a correct and  
 “ natural comedian, his particular excellence was in cha-  
 “ racters that may be called still-life, I mean the stiff, the  
 “ heavy, and the stupid; to these he gave the exactest and  
 “ most expressive colours, and in some of them looked as if  
 “ it were not in the power of human passions to alter a fea-  
 “ ture of him. A countenance of wood could not be more  
 “ fixed than his, when the blockhead of a character re-  
 “ quired it: his face was full and long; from his crown to  
 “ the end of his nose, was the shorter half of it, so that the  
 “ disproportion



generations: my father admired him extremely when he was a boy. There is certainly nature excellently represented in his manner of action; in which he ever avoided that general fault in players, of doing too much. It must be confessed, he has not the merit of some ingenious persons now on the stage, of adding to his authors; for the actors were so dull in the last age, that many of them have gone out of the world, without having ever spoke one word of their own in the theatre. Poor CAVE is so mortified, that he quibbles and tells you, he pretends only to act a part fit for a man who has one foot in the grave, *viz.* a grave-digger\*. All admirers of true comedy, it is hoped, will have the gratitude to be present on the last day of his acting, who, if he does not happen to please them, will have it even then to say, that it is his first offence.

But there is a gentleman here, who says he has it from good hands, that there is actually a subscription made by many persons of wit and quality, for the encouragement of new comedies. This design will very much contribute to the improvement and diversion of the town: but as every man is most concerned for himself, I, who am of a saturnine and melan-

“disproportion of his lower features, when soberly composed, threw him into the most lumpish, moping mortal, that ever made beholders merry! not but at other times, he could be wakened into spirit equally ridiculous.”

\* In this character he was particularly admired. CIBBER, choly



choly complexion, cannot but murmur, that there is not an equal invitation to write tragedies; having by me, in my book of common places, enough to enable me to finish a very sad one by the fifth of the next month. I have the farewell of a general, with a truncheon in his hand, dying for love, in fix lines. I have the principles of a politician (who does all the mischief in the play) together with his declaration on the vanity of ambition in his last moments, expressed in a page and an half. I have all my oaths ready, and my families want nothing but application. I will not pretend to give you an account of the plot, it being the same design upon which all tragedies have been *writ* for several years last past; and from the beginning of the first scene, the frequenters of the house may know as well as the author, when the battle is to be fought, the lady to yield, and the hero proceed to his wedding and coronation. Besides these advantages which I have in readiness, I have an eminent tragedian very much my friend, who shall come in and go through the whole five acts, without troubling me for one sentence, whether he is to kill or be killed, love or be loved, win battles or lose them, or whatever other tragical performance I shall please to assign him.

From my own Apartment, May 30.

I have this day received a letter, subscribed FIDELIA, that gives me an account of an inchantment



chantment under which a young lady suffers, and desires my help to exorcise her from the power of the forcerer. Her lover is a rake of sixty; the lady a virtuous woman of twenty-five: her relations are to the last degree afflicted, and amazed at this irregular passion: their sorrow I know not how to remove, but can their astonishment; for there is no spirit in woman half so prevalent as that of contradiction, which is the sole cause of her perseverance. Let the whole family go dressed in a body, and call the bride to-morrow morning to her nuptials, and I will undertake the inconstant will forget her lover in the midst of all his aches. But if this expedient does not succeed, I must be so just to the young lady's distinguishing sense, as to applaud her choice. A fine young woman, at last, is but what is due from fate to an honest fellow, who has suffered so unmercifully by the sex; and I think we cannot celebrate her heroic virtue, who (like the patriot that ended a pestilence by plunging himself into a gulph) gives herself up to gorge that dragon which has devoured so many virgins before her.

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A letter directed "To ISAAC BICKER-STAFF, Esquire, Astrologer and Physician  
"in Ordinary to her Majesty's subjects of  
"Great-Britain, with respect," is come to hand.

N<sup>o</sup> 23.