

“ Consider this, and Dunkirk raze,
“ And ANNA’S title own;
“ Send one Pretender out to graze,
“ And call the *other* home.

“ Your humble servant,

“ BREAD THE STAFF OF LIFE.”

N^o 25. Tuesday, June 7, 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, June 6.

A Letter from a young lady, written in the most passionate terms, wherein she laments the misfortune of a gentleman, her lover, who was lately wounded in a DUEL, has turned my thoughts to that subject, and inclined me to examine into the causes which precipitate

* STEELE was the author of this Paper, and of all that relate to “*Duelling*.” See N^o 26. N^o 28. N^o 29. N^o 38. and N^o 39.

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men into so fatal a folly*. And as it has been proposed to treat of subjects of gallantry in the article from hence, and no one point in nature is more proper to be considered by the company who frequent this place than that of duels, it

* For the *legality* of this practice, under the forms of our law, and the permission of the magistrate, see SELDEN "On single Combat," 4to, 1610, reprinted 1706;—for the *illegality* of it, as it is now practised, even by lawyers and legislators, in audacious defiance of the law of GOD, and of this country, see ROUSSEAU'S *Nouvelle Heloise*, Let. LVII. &c. and the Papers of the TATLER beforementioned.

STEELE was in the Coldstream regiment, under Col. CUTTS, or however in the army, when a brother officer (name unknown) communicated to him an intention of challenging a person who had fallen under his displeasure, and was diverted from this purpose by what STEELE said to him on the subject. Some of this young officer's companions (for they cannot be styled his friends) led him afterward into a belief that STEELE'S decision of this affair, had been warped by his partiality for the real or supposed offender, whose character had eventually been raised at the expence, as they said, of the other's honour. This misrepresentation produced a challenge to STEELE himself, who was just at the time recovering of a fever, and endeavoured by raillery and reasoning to divert it, in vain. Confiding in his own superiority, and imagining he could chastise the youth's insolence without endangering his life, he ultimately accepted the challenge, in contradiction to his avowed principle, and his heart. They met by appointment; and STEELE'S buckle breaking as he tightened his shoe, he took occasion to urge this fresh disadvantage, and renewed his endeavours to induce the challenger to desist, with as little success as before. He parried his adversary's thrusts for some time, but at last, in a well-meant attempt to disable him, he unfortunately ran the young man through the body, who lingered some time in danger of his life from the wound, but in the end happily recovered.

Lord

it is worth our consideration to examine into this chimerical groundless humour, and to lay every other thought aside, until we have stripped it of all its false pretences to credit and reputation amongst men.

But I must confess, when I consider what I am going about, and run over in my imagination all the endless crowd of *men of Honour* who will be offended at such a discourse; I am undertaking, methinks, a work worthy an invulnerable hero in romance, rather than a private gentleman with a single rapier: but as I am pretty well acquainted by great opportunities with the nature of man, and know of a truth, that all men fight against their will, the danger vanishes, and resolution rises upon this subject. For this reason, I shall talk very freely on a Custom which all men wish exploded, though no man has courage enough to resist it.

But there is one unintelligible word, which I fear will extremely perplex my Dissertation,

Lord CUTTS, who, if he was not at this time, had been STEELE's Colonel, espoused his cause very warmly when this affair was agitated, and while the gentleman continued in a desperate condition. It was in this painful *interim*, embittered perhaps by some such letter as is here mentioned, that STEELE turned his thoughts to this subject. As this event preceded the death of JOHN Lord CUTTS, which happened Jan. 26, 1706-7, the materials of this and the Papers that follow in the order abovementioned, must have lain by the author several years, and might have been thrown into the form in which they now appear, about the time of the date assigned to them in the TATLER.

VOL. I.

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and I confess to you I find very hard to explain, which is the term "Satisfaction." An honest country gentleman had the misfortune to fall into company with two or three *Modern Men of Honour*, where he happened to be very ill treated; and one of the company, being conscious of his offence, sends a note to him in the morning, and tells him, he was ready to give him *Satisfaction*. "This is fine doing," says the plain fellow; "last night he sent me away cursedly out of humour, and this morning he fancies it would be a *Satisfaction* to be run through the body."

As the matter at present stands, it is not to do handsome actions denominates a *Man of Honour*; it is enough if he dares to defend ill ones. Thus you often see a common sharper in competition with a gentleman of the first rank; though all mankind is convinced, that a fighting gamester is only a pick-pocket with the courage of an highway-man. One cannot with any patience reflect on the unaccountable jumble of persons and things in this town and nation, which occasions very frequently, that a brave man falls by a hand below that of a common hangman, and yet his executioner escapes the clutches of the hangman for doing it. I shall therefore hereafter consider, how the bravest men in other ages and nations have behaved themselves upon such incidents as we decide by Combat; and shew, from their practice, that this resentment neither has its foundation from
true

true reason, or solid fame; but is an imposture, made of cowardice, falshood, and want of understanding, For this work, a good history of Quarrels would be very edifying to the publick, and I apply myself to the town for particulars and circumstances within their knowledge, which may serve to embellish the Dissertation with proper cuts. Most of the Quarrels I have ever known, have proceeded from some valiant coxcomb's persisting in the wrong, to defend some prevailing folly, and preserve himself from the integrity of owning a mistake*.

By this means it is called "Giving a man SATISFACTION," to urge your offence against him with your sword; which puts me in mind of PETER's order to the keeper, in "The Tale of a TUB†: if you neglect to do all this, damn you and your generation for ever: and so we bid you heartily farewell." If the contradiction in the very terms of one of our Challenges were as well explained and turned into downright English, would it not run after this manner?

"S I R,

"Your extraordinary behaviour last night,
 "and the liberty you were pleased to take
 "with me, makes me this morning give you
 "this, to tell you, because you are an ill-bred

* See STEELE's *Theatre*, N^o 26. † "Tale of a Tub." Sect. 4.

“puppy, I will meet you in Hyde-park, an
 “hour hence; and because you want both
 “breeding and humanity, I desire you would
 “come with a pistol in your hand, on horse-
 “back, and endeavour to shoot me through
 “the head, to teach you more manners. If
 “you fail of doing me this pleasure, I shall
 “say, you are a rascal, on every post in town:
 “and so, Sir, if you will not injure me more,
 “I shall never forgive what you have done
 “already. Pray, Sir, do not fail of getting
 “every thing ready; and you will infinitely
 “oblige, Sir, your most obedient humble
 “servant, &c.”

From my own Apartment, June 6.

Among the many employments I am neces-
 sarily put upon by my friends, that of giving
 advice is the most unwelcome to me; and, in-
 deed, I am forced to use a little art in the man-
 ner; for some people will ask counsel of you,
 when they have already acted what they tell
 you is still under deliberation. I had almost
 lost a very good friend the other day, who came
 to know “how I liked his design to marry
 “such a lady?” I answered, “By no means;
 “and I must be positive against it, for very so-
 “lid reasons, which are not proper to be com-
 “municated.” “Not proper to be commu-
 “nicated!” said he, with a grave air, “I
 “will know the bottom of this.” I saw him
 moved,

moved, and knew from thence he was already determined; therefore evaded it by saying, "To tell you the truth, dear FRANK, of all women living, I would have her myself." "ISAAC," said he, "thou art too late, for we have been both one these two months."

I learned this caution by a gentleman's consulting me formerly about his son. He railed at his *damned* extravagance, and told me, "in a very little time he would beggar him by the exorbitant bills which came from Oxford every quarter." "Make the rogue bite upon the bridle," said I; "pay none of his bills, it will but encourage him to further trespasses." He looked plaguy sour at me. His son soon after sent up a paper of verses forsooth, in print, on the last public occasion; upon which, he is convinced the boy has parts, and a lad of spirit is not to be too much cramped in his maintenance, lest he take ill courses. Neither father nor son can ever since endure the sight of me.

These sort of people ask opinions only out of the fulness of their hearts on the subject of their perplexity, and not from a desire of information.

There is nothing so easy as to find out which opinion the man in doubt has a mind to; therefore the sure way is, to tell him that is certainly to be chosen. Then you are to be very clear and positive; leave no handle for scruple. "Bless me! Sir, there is no room for a ques-
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"tion!"

“tion!” This rivets you into his heart; for you at once applaud his wisdom, and gratify his inclination. However, I had too much bowels to be insincere to a man who came yesterday to know of me, with which of two eminent men in the city he should place his son? their names are PAULO and AVARO. This gave me much debate with myself, because not only the fortune of the youth, but his virtue also, dependeth upon this choice. The men are equally wealthy; but they differ in the use and application of their riches, which you immediately see upon entering their doors.

The habitation of PAULO has at once the air of a nobleman, and a merchant. You see the servants act with affection to their master, and satisfaction in themselves: the master meets you with an open countenance, full of benevolence and integrity: your business is dispatched with that confidence and welcome which always accompany honest minds: his table is the image of plenty and generosity, supported by justice and frugality. After we had dined here, our affair was to visit AVARO: out comes an awkward fellow, with a careful countenance; “Sir, would you speak with my master? may I crave your name?” After the first preamble, he leads us into a noble solitude, a great house that seemed uninhabited: but from the end of the spacious hall moves towards us AVARO, with a suspicious aspect, as if he had believed us thieves; and, as for my
part,

part, I approached him as if I knew him a cut-purse. We fell into discourse of his noble dwelling, and the great estate all the world knew he had to enjoy in it: and I, to plague him, began to commend PAULO's way of living. "PAULO," answered AVARO, "is a very good man; but we, who have smaller estates, must cut our coat according to our cloth." "Nay," says I, "every man knows his own circumstances best; you are in the right, if you have not wherewithal." He looked very sour; for it is, you must know, the utmost vanity of a mean spirited rich man, to be contradicted when he calls himself poor. But I resolved to vex him, by consenting to all he said; the main design of which was, that he would have us find out, he was one of the wealthiest men in London, and lived like a beggar. We left him, and took a turn on the exchange. My friend was ravished with AVARO: "this," said he, "is certainly a sure man." I contradicted him with much warmth, and summed up their different characters as well as I could. "This PAULO," said I, "grows wealthy by being a common good; AVARO, by being a general evil: PAULO has the art, AVARO the craft of trade. When PAULO gains, all men he deals with are the better: whenever AVARO profits, another certainly loses. In a word, PAULO is a citizen, and AVARO a cit." I convinced my friend, and carried the young gentleman the

next day to PAULO, where he will learn the way both to gain and enjoy a good fortune. And though I cannot say I have, by keeping him from AVARO, saved him from the gallows, I have prevented his deserving it every day he lives: for with PAULO he will be an honest man, without being so for fear of the law; as with AVARO he would have been a villain within the protection of it.

* * * MR. BICKERSTAFF has received a letter, dated June 6, with the just exceptions against the pretence of persons therein mentioned, to the name of "*Pretty Fel-lows,*" which shall be taken notice of accordingly: as likewise, the letter concerning the death of Thomas a Becket, from Anthony Longtail of Canterbury. Probably from ANTHONY HENLEY, Esq; who might therefore have been the author of the first letter in the following Paper. See TAT. N° 11; N° 26; and *Notes*.

A. HENLEY, Esq; was the son of Sir ROB. HENLEY of the Grange in Hampshire, and inherited from his father a fine fortune of above 3000l. per annum. He was bred at Oxford, and early discovered a decided taste for polite literature. This fine gentleman and elegant writer, was certainly a writer in the TATLER, and it may be in the first or second volumes of the SPECTATOR. He died in Aug. 1711. The late bishop of Rochester Dr. Z. Pearce, remembered his having read, or heard read a Paper written by A. Henley, Esq; which STEELE thought too severe on the ministry, and durst not venture to publish. A. HENLEY lived long in habits of friendship with R. Norton, Esq; who was likewise a votary of the Muses and pleasure. See *Note* on TAT. N° 44. and "*Memoirs of Illustrious Persons who died in 1711,*" 8vo. 1712, p. 531 *et seqq.*

N° 26.