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Nº 26. Thursday, June 9, 1709.

S T E E L E.

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*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.

From my own Apartment, June 8.

I HAVE read the following letter with delight and approbation; and I hereby order Mr. Kidney at St. James’s, and Sir Thomas at White’s, (who are my clerks for enrolling all men in their different classes, before they presume to drink tea or chocolate in those places,) to take care that the persons within the descriptions in the letter be admitted and excluded, according to my friend’s remonstrance.

“S I R,

June 6, 1709.

“YOUR Paper of Saturday has raised up  
“in me a noble emulation to be recorded in  
“the foremost rank of worthies therein mentioned; if any regard be had to merit or  
“industry, I may hope to succeed in the pro-  
“motion,



“ motion, for I have omitted no toil, or ex-  
 “ pence to be a proficient; and if my friends  
 “ do not flatter, they assure me, I have not  
 “ lost my time since I came to town. To enu-  
 “ merate but a few particulars; there is hardly  
 “ a coachman I meet with, but desires to be  
 “ excused taking me, because he has had me  
 “ before. I have compounded two or three  
 “ rapes; and let out to hire as many bastards,  
 “ to beggars. I never saw above the first act  
 “ of a play\*: and as to my courage, it is well  
 “ known I have more than once had sufficient  
 “ witnesses of my drawing my sword both in  
 “ tavern and play-house. Dr. Wall is my  
 “ particular friend; and if it were any ser-  
 “ vice to the public to compose the difference  
 “ between *Marten* and *Sintilaer*† the Pearl-  
 “ driller, I do not know a judge of more  
 “ experience than myself: for in that I may  
 “ say with the poet;

*Quæ regio in villa nostri non plena laboris?*

“ What street resounds not with my great exploits?”

“ I omit other less particulars, the necessary  
 “ consequence of greater actions. But my

\* The money was *then* returned to such as withdrew at the end of the 1st act.

† *Adv.* Mr. SINTILAEER’S “Scourge of Venus and “Mercury,” &c. with an appendix in answer to Mr. John Marten’s reflections thereupon. Appendix alone price 6d. both together price 3s. and 6d. Sold by the author at his house, the late D. of LEEDS’S, in High Holborn, over against Little Turnstile. *Postman*, Feb. 24—26, 1709.

“ reason



“ reason for troubling you at this present is, to  
 “ put a stop, if it may be, to an insinuating in-  
 “ creasing set of people, who, sticking to the  
 “ letter of your treatise, and not to the spirit  
 “ of it, do assume the name of “ Pretty Fel-  
 “ lows;” nay, and even get new names, as you  
 “ very well hint. Some of them I have heard  
 “ calling to one another as I have sat at White’s  
 “ and St. James’s, by the names of Betty,  
 “ Nelly, and so forth. You see them accost  
 “ each other with effeminate airs: they have  
 “ their signs and tokens like free-masons: they  
 “ rail at woman-kind; receive visits on their  
 “ beds in gowns, and do a thousand other  
 “ unintelligible prettinesses, that I cannot tell  
 “ what to make of. I therefore heartily  
 “ desire you would exclude all this sort of  
 “ animals.

“ There is another matter I foresee an ill  
 “ consequence from, that may be timely pre-  
 “ vented by prudence; which is, that for the  
 “ last fortnight, prodigious shoals of volunteers  
 “ have gone over to bully the French, upon  
 “ hearing the peace was just signing; and this  
 “ is so true, that I can assure you, all ingross-  
 “ ing work about the Temple is risen above  
 “ three shillings in the pound, for want of hands.  
 “ Now as it is possible, some little alteration of  
 “ affairs may have broken their measures, and  
 “ that they will post back again, I am under  
 “ the last apprehension, that these will, at  
 “ their return, all set up for ‘ Pretty Fellows,’  
 “ and



“ and thereby confound all merit and service,  
 “ and impose on us some new alteration in our  
 “ night-cap wigs\*, and pockets, unless you  
 “ can provide a particular class for them. I  
 “ cannot apply myself better than to you, and  
 “ I am sure I speak the mind of a very great  
 “ number, as deserving as myself.”

The pretensions of this correspondent are worthy a particular distinction; he cannot indeed be admitted as “ Pretty,” but is what we more justly call a “ Smart Fellow.” Never to play at the play-house is an act of frugality that lets you into his character; and his expedient in sending his children a-begging before they can go, are characteristical instances that he belongs to this class. I never saw the gentleman; but I know by his letter, he hangs his cane to his button†; and by some lines of it he should wear red-heeled shoes; which are essential parts of the habit belonging to the order of “ Smart Fellows ‡.” My

\* There was a sort of perriwig, with a short tye and a small round head, in fashion about this time, called a “ night-cap-wig.” But the high dress wig, answerable to the female commode mentioned in these Papers, was the full-bottomed *huge falbala* perriwig, frequently seen in the portraits of this age, and said to have been the invention of a French courtier to conceal some deformity in the shoulders of the *Dauphin*, or the *Duke of Burgundy*. It is called a long *Duvillier*, from the name of a French perriwig-maker, in TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 29.

† See N<sup>o</sup> 9. N<sup>o</sup> 24. N<sup>o</sup> 27. N<sup>o</sup> 28. N<sup>o</sup> 29. and N<sup>o</sup> 30.

‡ This SMART correspondent, was probably ANTHONY HENLEY, Esq; M. P. for Weymouth, or Melcomb, a gentleman



My familiar is returned with the following letter from the French king.

“ Versailles, June 13, 1709.

“ LEWIS XIV. to ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, Esq.\*

“ SIR,

“ I have your epistle, and must take the  
 “ liberty to say, that there has been a time,  
 “ when there were generous spirits in Great-  
 “ Britain, who would not have suffered my  
 “ name to be treated with the familiarity you  
 “ think fit to use. I thought liberal men would  
 “ not be such time-servers, as to fall upon a  
 “ man because his friends are not in power.  
 “ But, having some concern for what you may  
 “ transmit to posterity concerning me, I am  
 “ willing to keep terms with you, and make  
 “ a request to you, which is, that you would  
 “ give my service to the nineteenth century  
 “ (if ever you or yours reach them) and tell  
 “ them, that I have settled all matters be-  
 “ tween them and me by Monsieur Boileau.  
 “ I should be glad to see you here.”

It is very odd, this prince should offer to in-  
 vite me into his dominions, or believe I should

tleman eminent for wit and gaiety; a friend to all men of  
 letters, and peculiarly attached to STEELE, being a zealous  
 assertor of the same generous political principles. See more  
 of him TAT. Nº 11, *note*. Nº 25 *ad finem*. Nº 44, *note* on  
 R. Norton, Esq; and Nº 193, *notes* on DOWNES's Let.

\* Nº 19. and Nº 24. Let. of M. Maintenon, &c.

accept



accept the invitation. No, no, I remember too well how he served an ingenious gentleman, a friend of mine, whom he locked up in the Bastile for no reason in the world, but because he was a wit, and feared he might mention him with justice in some of his writings. His way is, that all men of sense are preferred, banished, or imprisoned. He has indeed a sort of justice in him, like that of the gamblers; for if a stander-by sees one at play cheat, he has a right to come in for shares, as knowing the mysteries of the game\*.

This is a very wise and just maxim; and if I have not left at Mr. Morpew's, directed to me, bank bills for two hundred pounds, on or before this day seven-night, I shall tell how Tom Cash got his estate. I expect three hun-

\* Sir JOHN VANBRUGH was, most probably, the ingenious gentleman alluded to here.

GEORGE BURNETT, Esq; of Kemnay in Aberdeenshire, was likewise about this time locked up in the *Bastile*, on the information of his land-lord, for transcribing inscriptions on the tombstones of a church-yard. Mr. BURNETT had been at the court of Hanover, and was personally known to the *Princess Sophia*, who with great difficulty procured his liberty. He was a suitor to the ingenious Mrs. CATHERINE TROTTER, who married Mr. COCKBURN in 1708, and in whose works several of his letters are published. Part of a silver spoon, which he used in the Bastile, and broke as he left it, is preserved in the family as a memorial of his confinement.

About half a century before this, the Comte DE BUSSI was imprisoned in the Bastile, by the orders of this monarch; and CHARLES PATIN was obliged to fly from his dominions soon after, to avoid the same fate.

dred



dred pounds of Mr. Soilett, for concealing all the money he has lent to himself, and his landed friend bound with him at thirty *per cent.* at his scrivener's. Absolute princes make people pay what they please in deference to their power: I do not know why I should not do the same, out of fear or respect to my knowledge. I always preserve decorums and civilities to the fair sex: therefore, if a certain lady, who left her coach at the New Exchange door in the Strand, and whipt down Durham-yard into a boat with a young gentleman for Vauxhall\*; I say, if she will send me word, that I may give the fan which she dropped, and I found, to my sister Jenny, there shall be no more said of it. I expect hush-money to be regularly sent for every folly or vice any one commits in this whole town; and hope, I may pretend to deserve it better than a chambermaid or a *valet de chambre*; they only whisper it to the little set of their companions; but I can tell it to all men living, or who are to live. Therefore I desire all my readers to pay their fines, or mend their lives.

WHITE'S Coffee-house, May 27.

My familiar being come from France, with an answer to my letter to Lewis of that kingdom, instead of going on in a discourse of what he had seen in that court, he put on the im-

\* In the TATLER in *folio* it is "Fox-Hall."

mediate



mediate concern of a Guardian, and fell to enquiring into my thoughts and adventures since his journey. As short as his stay had been, I confessed I had had many occasions for his assistance in my conduct; but communicated to him my thoughts of putting all my force against the horrid and senseless custom of duels\*. "If it were possible," said he, "to laugh at things in themselves so deeply tragical as the impertinent profusion of human life, I think I could divert you with a figure I saw just after my death, when the philosopher threw me, as I told you some days ago, into the pail of water.

"You are to know that, when men leave the body, there are receptacles for them as soon as they depart, according to the manner in which they lived and died. At the very instant I was killed, there came away with me a spirit which had lost its body in a Duel. We were both examined. Me the whole assembly looked at, with kindness and pity, but at the same time with an air of welcome and consolation: they pronounced me very happy, who had died in innocence; and told me, 'a quite different place was allotted for my companion; there being a great distance from the mansions of fools and innocents: though at the same time, said one of the ghosts, there is a great affinity between

\* See N° 25. N° 28. N° 29. N° 31. and N° 38.

"an



“ an idiot who has been so for a long life, and  
 “ a child who departs before maturity. But  
 “ this gentleman who has arrived with you is a  
 “ fool of his own making, is ignorant out of  
 “ choice, and will fare accordingly.’ The assem-  
 “ bly began to flock about him, and one said  
 “ to him, ‘ Sir, I observed you came in through  
 “ the gate of persons murdered, and I desire to  
 “ know what brought you to your untimely  
 “ end?’ He said, ‘ he had been “ a Second.”  
 “ SOCRATES (who may be said to have been  
 “ murdered by the commonwealth of Athens)  
 “ stood by, and began to draw near him, in  
 “ order, after his manner, to lead him into a  
 “ sense of his error by concessions in his own  
 “ discourse. ‘ Sir, said that divine and amicable  
 “ spirit, what was the quarrel?’ He answered,  
 “ ‘ We shall know very suddenly, when the  
 “ principal in the business comes, for he was  
 “ desperately wounded before I fell.’ ‘ Sir, said  
 “ the sage, had you an estate?’ Yes, Sir, the  
 “ new guest answered, I have left it in a very  
 “ good condition, and made my will the night  
 “ before this occasion\*.’ ‘ Did you read it be-  
 “ fore you signed it?’ ‘ Yes, sure, Sir, ‘ said  
 “ the

\* Half a century after the date of this Paper, the follow-  
ing will is remarkable.

“ *London, Sept. 3, 1783.*

“ I am now called upon, and, by the rules of what is called  
 “ honour, forced into a personal interview with Col. Cosmo  
 “ GORDON. GOD only can know the event, and into his  
 “ hands I commit my soul, conscious only of having done  
 “ my duty.

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“ I there-



“ the new comer.’ SOCRATES replies, ‘ Could  
 “ a man, that would not give his estate with-  
 “ out reading the instrument, dispose of his life  
 “ without asking a question\*?’ That illustri-  
 “ ous shade turned from him, and a croud of  
 “ impertinent goblins, who had been drolls  
 “ and parasites in their life-time, and were  
 “ knocked on the head for their sauciness,  
 “ came about my fellow traveller, and made  
 “ themselves very merry with questions about  
 “ the words *Cart* and *Terce*, and other terms  
 “ of fencers. But his thoughts began to settle  
 “ into reflection upon the adventure which  
 “ had robbed him of his late being: and with  
 “ a wretched sigh, said he, How terrible are  
 “ conviction and guilt, when they come too  
 “ late for penitence†!”

PACOLET was going on in his strain, but he  
 recovered from it, and told me, “ It was too  
 “ soon to give my discourse on this subject so  
 “ serious a turn; you have chiefly to do with  
 “ that part of mankind which must be led into  
 “ reflection by degrees, and you must treat this  
 “ custom with humour and raillery to get an

“ I therefore declare this to be my last will and testa-  
 “ ment, &c.

“ In the first place, I commit my soul to ALMIGHTY  
 “ GOD, in hopes of his mercy and pardon for the irreligious  
 “ step I now (in compliance with the unwarrantable customs  
 “ of this wicked world) put myself under the necessity of  
 “ taking. (Signed) “ FRED. THOMAS.”

\* VIZ. about the cause of the quarrel, for an account of  
 which he refers to *the principal in the business*.

† See note 2, TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 25.

“ audience,



“ audience, before you come to pronounce sen-  
“ tence upon it. There is foundation enough  
“ for raising such entertainments, from the prac-  
“ tice on this occasion. Do you not know that  
“ often a man is called out of bed to follow  
“ implicitly a coxcomb (with whom he would  
“ not keep company on any other occasion) to  
“ ruin and death?—Then a good list of such  
“ as are qualified by the laws of these uncour-  
“ teous men of chivalry to enter into combat  
“ (who are often persons of honour without  
“ common honesty); these, I say, ranged and  
“ drawn up in their proper order, would give  
“ an aversion to doing any thing in common  
“ with such men as laugh at and contemn.  
“ But to go through this work, you must not  
“ let your thoughts vary, or make excursions  
“ from your theme: consider, at the same time,  
“ that the matter has been often treated by the  
“ ablest and greatest writers; yet that must not  
“ discourage you: for the properest person to  
“ handle it is one who has roved into mixed  
“ conversations, and must have opportunities  
“ (which I shall give you) of seeing these sort  
“ of men in their pleasures and gratifications,  
“ among which they pretend to reckon fight-  
“ ing. It was pleasantly enough said of a bully  
“ in France, when duels first began to be  
“ punished: The king has taken away gaming  
“ and stage-playing, and now fighting too;  
“ how does he expect gentlemen shall divert  
“ themselves?”