
N^o 30. Saturday, June 18, 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.

From my own Apartment, June 16.

THE vigilance, the anxiety, the tenderness, which I have for the good people of England, I am persuaded, will in time be much commended; but I doubt whether they will be ever rewarded. However, I must go on cheerfully in my work of reformation; that being my great design, I am studious to prevent my labours increasing upon me; therefore am particularly observant of the temper and inclinations of childhood and youth, that we may not give vice and folly supplies from the growing generation. It is hardly to be imagined how useful this study is, and what great evils or benefits arise from putting us in our tender years to what we are fit or unfit for: therefore on Tuesday last (with a design to sound their inclinations)

U 2

clinations)

clinations) I took three lads, who are under my Guardianship, a-rambling, in a hackney-coach, to shew them the town; as the lions*, the tombs†, Bedlam‡, and the other places which are entertainments to raw minds, because they strike forcibly on the fancy. The boys are brothers, one of sixteen, the other of fourteen, the other of twelve. The first was his father's darling, the second his mother's, and the third mine, who am their uncle. Mr. WILLIAM is a lad of true genius; but, being at the upper end of a great school, and having all the boys below him, his arrogance is insupportable. If I begin to shew a little of my Latin, he immediately interrupts: "Uncle, under favour, that which you say, is not understood in that manner." "Brother," says my boy JACK, "you do not shew your manners much in contradicting my uncle ISAAC!" "You queer cur," says Mr. WILLIAM, "do you think my uncle takes notice any of such a dull rogue

* This hint of the lions at the Tower was improved by SWIFT into a Paper "on the Parish LIONS," in the fifth volume of the TATLER, by HARRISON and others, January 27, 1710.

† See a poetical description of the tombs in Westminster-abbey, in NICHOLS's "Select Collection of Poems," vol. IV. p. 167.

‡ The hospital of Bethlem owes its name and original establishment to the piety of a citizen of London, Simon Fitz-Mary, in 1247, 39 Henry III. For an account of its institution, orders, benefactors, &c. see STOW's "Survey of London," vol. I. p. 21, & *seqq.* and TAT. N^o 39.

“ as

“ as you are?” Mr. WILLIAM goes on, “ He
 “ is the most stupid of all my mother’s chil-
 “ dren: he knows nothing of his book: when
 “ he should mind that, he is hiding or hoarding
 “ his taws and marbles, or laying up farthings.
 “ His way of thinking is, four and twenty far-
 “ things make sixpence, and two sixpences a
 “ shilling; two shillings and sixpence half a
 “ crown, and two half crowns five shillings.
 “ So within these two months the close hunks
 “ has scraped up twenty shillings, and we will
 “ make him spend it all before he comes
 “ home.” JACK immediately claps his hands
 into both pockets, and turns as pale as ashes.
 There is nothing touches a parent (and such I
 am to JACK) so nearly as a provident conduct.
 This lad has in him the true temper for a good
 husband, a kind father, and an honest executor.
 All the great people you see make considerable
 figures on the exchange, in court, and some-
 times in senates, are such as in reality have no
 greater faculty than what may be called hu-
 man instinct, which is a natural tendency to
 their own preservation, and that of their friends,
 without being capable of striking out of the
 road for adventures. There is Sir WILLIAM
 SCRIP was of this sort of capacity from his child-
 hood; he has bought the country round him,
 and makes a bargain better than Sir HARRY
 WILDFIRE, with all his wit and humour. Sir
 HARRY never wants money but he comes to
 SCRIP, laughs at him half an hour, and then
 U 3 gives

gives bond for the other thousand. The close men are incapable of placing merit any where but in their pence, and therefore gain it; while others, who have larger capacities, are diverted from the pursuit by enjoyments which can be supported only by that cash which they despise; and therefore are in the end slaves to their inferiors both in fortune and understanding*. I once heard a man of excellent sense observe, that more affairs in the world failed by being in the hands of men of too large capacities for their business, than by being in the conduct of such as wanted abilities to execute them. JACK therefore, being of a plodding make, shall be a citizen: and I design him to be the refuge of the family in their distress, as well as their jest in prosperity. His brother WILL shall go to Oxford with all speed, where, if he does not arrive at being a man of sense, he will soon be informed wherein he is a coxcomb. There is in that place such a true spirit of raillery and humour, that if they cannot make you a wise man, they certainly will let you know you are a fool; which is all my cousin wants, to cease to be so. Thus having taken these two out of the way, I have leisure to look at my third lad. I observe in the young

* SWIFT, in a letter to Secretary BOLINGBROKE, illustrates this from the practice of his lordship's clerks, who employed for common use, in his lordship's office, a blunt ivory folder, and not a sharp pen-knife. SWIFT'S Works, vol. XVII. p. 138.

rogue

rogue a natural subtilty of mind, which discovers itself rather in forbearing to declare his thoughts on any occasion, than in any visible way of exerting himself in discourse. For which reason I will place him, where, if he commits no faults, he may go farther than those in other stations, though they excel in virtues. The boy is well-fashioned, and will easily fall into a graceful manner; wherefore I have a design to make him a page to a great lady of my acquaintance*; by which means he will be well skilled in the common modes of life, and make a greater progress in the world by that knowledge, than with the greatest qualities without it. A good mien in a court will carry a man greater lengths than a good understanding in any other place. We see a world of pains taken, and the best years of life spent in collecting a set of thoughts in a college for the conduct of life, and, after all, the man so qualified shall hesitate in his speech to a good suit of cloaths, and want common sense before an agreeable woman. Hence it is, that wisdom, valour, justice, and learning, cannot keep a man in countenance that is possessed with these excellencies, if he wants that inferior art of life and behaviour, called good-breeding. A man endowed with great perfections, without this, is like one who has his pockets full of gold, but always wants change for his ordinary occasions.

* See TAT. N^o 207, paragraph second.

WILL COURTLY is a living instance of this truth, and has had the same education which I am giving my nephew. He never spoke a thing but what was said before, and yet can converse with the wittiest men without being ridiculous. Among the learned, he does not appear ignorant; nor with the wise, indiscreet. Living in conversation from his infancy, makes him no where at a loss; and a long familiarity with the persons of men, is in a manner, of the same service to him, as if he knew their arts. As ceremony is the invention of wise men to keep fools at a distance, so good-breeding is an expedient to make fools and wise men equals.

WILL'S Coffee-house, June 17:

The suspension of the playhouse has made me have nothing to send you from hence; but calling here this evening, I found the party I usually sit with, upon the business of writing, and examining what was the handsomest style in which to address women, and write letters of gallantry. Many were the opinions which were immediately declared on this subject. Some were for a certain softness; some for I know not what delicacy; others for something inexpressibly tender. When it came to me, I said there was no rule in the world to be made for writing letters, but that of being as near what you speak face to face as you can; which is
so

so great a truth, that I am of opinion, writing has lost more mistresses than any one mistake in the whole legend of Love. For when you write to a lady for whom you have a solid and honourable passion, the great idea you have of her, joined to a quick sense of her absence, fills your mind with a sort of tenderness, that gives your language too much the air of complaint, which is seldom successful. For a man may flatter himself as he pleases; but he will find that the women have more understanding in their own affairs than we have, and women of spirit are not to be won by mourners. He that can keep handsomely within rules, and support the carriage of a companion to his mistress, is much more likely to prevail, than he who lets her see the whole relish of his life depends upon her. If possible, therefore, divert your mistress, rather than sigh for her. The pleasant man she will desire for her own sake, but the languishing Lover has nothing to hope from, but her pity. To shew the difference, I produced two letters a lady gave me, which had been writ by two gentlemen who pretended to her, but were both killed the next day after the date, at the battle of Almanza. One of them was a mercurial gay-humoured man; the other a man of a serious, but a great and gallant spirit. Poor JACK CARELESS! this is his letter: you see how it is folded: the air of it is so negligent, one might have read
half

half of it by peeping into it, without breaking it open. He had no exactness.

“MADAM,

“It is a very pleasant circumstance I am in,
 “that while I should be thinking of the good
 “company we are to meet within a day or
 “two, where we shall go to loggerheads, my
 “thoughts are running upon a fair enemy in
 “England. I was in hopes I had left you
 “there; but you follow the camp, though I
 “have endeavoured to make some of our *leaguer*
 “*ladies* * drive you out of the field. All my
 “comfort is, you are more troublesome to
 “my colonel than myself: I permit you to
 “visit me only now and then; but he down-
 “right keeps you. I laugh at his honour, as
 “far as his gravity will allow me; but I know
 “him to be a man of too much merit to suc-
 “ceed with a woman. Therefore defend your
 “heart as well as you can: I shall come home
 “this winter irresistibly dressed, and with quite
 “a new foreign air. And so I had like to say,
 “I rest, but, alas! I remain, madam, your most
 “obedient, most humble servant,

“JOHN CARELESS.”

Now for colonel CONSTANT's epistle: you see it is folded and directed with the utmost care.

* Women who accompany the army, are so called.

“MADAM,

“MADAM,

“I do myself the honour to write to you this
 “evening, because I believe to-morrow will be
 “the day of battle; and something forebodes
 “in my breast that I shall fall in it. If it proves
 “so, I hope you will hear I have done nothing
 “below a man who had the love of his coun-
 “try, quickened by a passion for a woman of
 “honour. If there be any thing noble in
 “going to a certain death; if there be any
 “merit, that I meet it with pleasure, by pro-
 “mising myself a place in your esteem; if
 “your applause, when I am no more, is pre-
 “ferable to the most glorious life without you:
 “I say, madam, if any of these considerations
 “can have weight with you, you will give me
 “a kind place in your memory, which I pre-
 “fer to the glory of CÆSAR. I hope this will
 “be read, as it is writ, with tears.”

The beloved lady is a woman of a sensible mind; but she has confessed to me, that after all her true and solid value for CONSTANT, she had much more concern for the loss of CARELESS. Those noble and serious spirits have something equal to the adversities they meet with, and consequently lessen the objects of pity. Great accidents seem not cut out so much for men of familiar characters, which makes them more easily pitied, and soon after beloved. Add to this, that the sort of Love
 which

which generally succeeds, is a stranger to awe and distance. I asked ROMANA, whether of the two she should have chosen, had they survived? She said, she knew she ought to have taken CONSTANT: but believed she should have chosen CARELESS.

“ Mr. BICKERSTAFF gives notice to all
 “ persons that dress themselves as they please,
 “ without regard to decorum (as with blue and
 “ red stockings in mourning, tucked cravats,
 “ and night-cap* wigs, before people of the
 “ first quality), that he has yet received no fine
 “ for indulging them in that liberty, and that
 “ he expects their compliance with this de-
 “ mand, or that they go home immediately and
 “ shift themselves. This is further to acquaint
 “ the town, that the report of the hosiers, toy-
 “ men, and milliners, having compounded with
 “ Mr. BICKERSTAFF for tolerating such enor-
 “ mities, is utterly false and scandalous.”

* See N° 26, and *Note*.

N. B. The curious may see a very satisfactory account of the institution, &c. of *Bedlam*, mentioned at the beginning of this Paper, in a late benevolent publication by Mr. Bowen, entitled, “ An historical Account of the
 “ Origin, Progress, and present State of Bethlem Hospital.
 “ founded by Henry VIII. for the Cure of Lunatics, and
 “ enlarged by subsequent Benefactors, for the Reception
 “ and Maintenance of Incurables,” 1783.

N° 31.