

N<sup>o</sup> 36.      Saturday, July 2, 1709.

STEEL AND ADDISON\*.

By Mrs. JENNY DISTAFF, Half-sister to  
Mr. BICKERSTAFF.

*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 30.

MANY affairs calling my brother into the country, the care of our intelligence with the town is left to me for some time; therefore

\* This Paper is ascribed to STEELE, agreeably to the method observed in this edition in all cases of uncertainty. Nevertheless there is good ground to believe, that both N<sup>o</sup> 36, and the two following Papers N<sup>o</sup> 37, and N<sup>o</sup> 38, humorously assigned to Mrs. Jenny Distaff, half-sister to Squire Bickerstaff, were all three written by ADDISON, whose name is placed in conjunction with that of STEELE to these three Papers, for various concurring reasons separately incompetent, but conceived to be in combination together sufficiently forcible.

## I. STEELE'S

therefore you must expect the advices you meet with in this Paper, to be such as more immediately

1. STEELE's indications of *errata*, and emendations in the course of the publication of these Papers *in folio*, are not frequent, never very nice or curious, but always such as were indispensably necessary to evince, or ascertain his meaning. The *errata* and alterations in ADDISON's Papers are very different, and in a manner so peculiar, that wherever they occur they furnish, if not a proof, a strong presumption of ADDISON's concern in the Papers to which they refer. See *Notes* on N<sup>o</sup> 77, and N<sup>o</sup> 155. The intimations of *errata* and emendations in this Paper, at the close of the following N<sup>o</sup> 37, are of this last kind; they have been properly attended to, and induce a belief that ADDISON was the author of them both; and likewise of the subsequent Papers ascribed to Mrs. J. Dittaff.

2. There are not wanting other circumstances to strengthen this conjecture. All the *three* Papers are *super-scribed*; as ADDISON's often, and his *only* were. On the face of them it likewise appears, that they are of the nature, and therefore probably in the number of those for which STEELE, with an *outrée* generosity stood sponsor, and was *very patiently traduced and calumniated*, as he acknowledges to Mr. Congreve, in the Dedication of "The Drummer," 12mo.

3. As the nature of the principal contents support this supposition, it is likewise thought that there is nothing in the manner or style of any of the *three* Papers incongruous with it; and that any variation in them from his common manner is adapted to the idea of their being written by a lady. Certainly they consist chiefly of *pleasantries* and *oblique strokes*, apparently on people of fashion in that period of both sexes, under the fictitious names of Lady AUTUMN, Lady SPRINGLY, AFRICANUS, MONOCULUS, Mrs. ALSE COPSWOOD, Tom BELLFREY, Robin CARTAIL, Mr. TINBREAST, Beau SLIMBER, Lady DAINTY, a Train-Band MAJOR, Will SHOESTRINGS, UMBRA, and FLY-BLOW. STEELE undoubtedly loved ADDISON, and there-

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diately and naturally fall under the consideration of our sex. History, therefore, written by a woman, you will easily imagine to consist of love in all its forms, both in the abuse of, and obedience to that passion. As to the faculty of writing itself, it will not, it is hoped, be demanded that style and ornament shall be so much consulted, as truth and simplicity;

fore was not likely to be wanting in *caution*, or tenderness to him, in any instance where his quiet, or his fame was at stake. It seems however that ADDISON, who was a very prudent man, did not altogether rely on the affection or discretion of his friend; for it appears from the *Dedication* quoted above, that STEELE had ADDISON's *direct injunctions* to *hide PAPERS*, which accordingly STEELE *never did declare* to be ADDISON's. The desire of ADDISON was doubtless sure at all times, to obtain a promise of concealment; and a promise in this kind from STEELE was inviolable, witness his persisive secrecy with respect to some of SWIFT's obnoxious and highly censurable communications, which, to the honour of STEELE's character, continued inviolate to the last, in spite of the greatest provocation and ill-treatment on the part of SWIFT. See N° 32, N° 63, and *Notes*. The case seems to be, that as STEELE says there are communications in the course of this work which ADDISON's *modesty*, so there are others which ADDISON's *prudence* would never have admitted to come into day-light but under such a shelter; and the *three Papers* in question are conceived to be of this number.

4. One argument still remains to be considered in farther proof of this, which seems to indicate very clearly that ADDISON was the author of them. It is grounded on a very remarkable paragraph dated from WILL's Coffee-house in the original edition of the following Paper, dropt in the first octavo copy of 1712, and now re-printed in N° 47, to which, and the Note upon it, the reader is referred.

which

which latter qualities we may more justly pretend to beyond the other sex. While, therefore, the administration of our affairs is in my hands, you shall from time to time have an exact account of all false lovers, and their shallow pretences for breaking off; of all termagant wives who make wedlock a yoke; of men who affect the entertainments and manners suitable only to our sex, and women who pretend to the conduct of such affairs as are only within the province of men. It is necessary further to advertise the reader, that the usual places of resort being utterly out of my province or observation, I shall be obliged frequently to change the dates of places, as occurrences come into my way. The following letter I lately received from Epsom\*.

“ Epsom, June 28.

“ It is now almost three weeks since what  
 “ you *writ* about happened in this place:  
 “ The quarrel between my friends did not run  
 “ so high as I find your accounts have made it.  
 “ The truth of the fact you shall have very  
 “ faithfully. You are to understand, that the  
 “ persons concerned in this scene were lady  
 “ AUTUMN, and lady SPRINGLY. AUTUMN is

\* About this time EPSOM was a watering-place pretty much resorted to in the summer season. Its water was sold then in this town at 2d. per quart both summer and winter. See TAT. Nº 7.

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“ a person

“ a person of good breeding, formality, and a  
“ singular way practised in the last age; and  
“ lady SPRINGLY, a modern impertinent of our  
“ sex, who affects as improper a familiarity, as  
“ the other does distance. Lady AUTUMN  
“ knows to a hair's breadth where her place is  
“ in all assemblies and conversations; but  
“ SPRINGLY neither gives nor takes place of  
“ any body, but understands the place to sig-  
“ nify no more, than to have room enough to  
“ be at ease wherever she comes. Thus, while  
“ AUTUMN takes the whole of this life to  
“ consist in understanding punctilio and de-  
“ corum, SPRINGLY takes every thing to be  
“ becoming, which contributes to her ease  
“ and satisfaction. These heroines have mar-  
“ ried two brothers, both knights. SPRINGLY  
“ is the spouse of the elder, who is a ba-  
“ ronet; and AUTUMN, being a rich widow,  
“ has taken the younger, and her purse en-  
“ dowed him with an equal fortune, and  
“ knighthood of the same order. This jumble  
“ of titles, you need not doubt, has been an  
“ aching torment to AUTUMN, who took place  
“ of the other on no pretence, but her care-  
“ lessness and disregard of distinction. The  
“ secret occasion of envy broiled long in the  
“ breast of AUTUMN; but no opportunity of  
“ contention on that subject happening, kept  
“ all things quiet until the accident of which  
“ you demand an account.

“ It

“ It was given out among all the gay people  
“ of this place, that on the ninth instant several  
“ damfels, swift of foot, were to run for a suit  
“ of head-cloaths at the Old Wells. Lady  
“ AUTUMN on this occasion invited SPRINGLY  
“ to go with her in her coach to see the race.  
“ When they came to the place, where the  
“ Governor of Epfom and all his court of ci-  
“ tizens were assembled, as well as a crowd of  
“ people of all orders, a brisk young fellow  
“ addreffes himself to the younger of the ladies,  
“ viz. SPRINGLY, and offers her his fervice  
“ to conduct her into the mufick-room.  
“ SPRINGLY accepts the compliment, and is  
“ led triumphantly through a bowing croud,  
“ while AUTUMN is left among the rabble,  
“ and has much ado to get back into her  
“ coach; but ſhe did it at laſt: and as it is  
“ uſual to ſee by the horſes my lady’s preſent  
“ diſpoſition, ſhe orders John to whip furioſly  
“ home to her huſband; where, when ſhe  
“ enters, down ſhe ſits, began to *unpin her*  
“ *bood*, and lament her fooliſh fond heart, to  
“ marry into a family where ſhe was ſo little  
“ regarded; ſhe that might——Here ſhe ſtops;  
“ then riſes up, and ſtamps, and ſits down  
“ again. Her gentle knight made his approach  
“ with a ſupple beſeeching geſture. ‘ My  
“ dear!’ ſaid he—‘ Tell me no dears!’ re-  
“ plied AUTUMN—in the preſence of the go-  
“ vernor and all the merchants—‘ What will  
“ the world ſay of a woman that has thrown

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“ herſelf

“ herself away at this rate?’ Sir Thomas with-  
“ drew, and knew it would not be long a secret  
“ to him; as well as that experience told him,  
“ he that marries a fortune is of course guilty  
“ of all faults against his wife, let them be com-  
“ mitted by whom they will. But SPRINGLY,  
“ an hour or two after, returns from the Wells,  
“ and finds the whole company together,  
“ Down she sat, and a profound silence en-  
“ sued. You know a premeditated quarrel  
“ usually begins and works up with the words  
“ *some people*. The silence was broken by lady  
“ AUTUMN, who began to say, ‘ *There are*  
“ *some people who fancy, that if some people*—  
“ SPRINGLY immediately takes her up, ‘ *There*  
“ *are some people who fancy, if other people*’  
“ —AUTUMN repartees, ‘ *People may give them-*  
“ *selves airs; but other people, perhaps, who make*  
“ *less ado, may be, perhaps, as agreeable as people*  
“ *who set themselves out more.*’ All the other  
“ people at the table sat mute, while these two  
“ people, who were quarrelling, went on with  
“ the use of the word *people*, instancing the  
“ very accidents between them, as if they  
“ kept only in distant hints. Therefore, says  
“ AUTUMN, reddening, ‘ *There are some people*  
“ *will go abroad in other peoples coaches, and leave*  
“ *those with whom they went to shift for them-*  
“ *selves: and if, perhaps, those people have mar-*  
“ *ried the younger brother; yet, perhaps, he may*  
“ *be beholden to those people for what he is.*’  
“ SPRINGLY smartly answers, ‘ *People may bring*  
“ *so*

“ *so much ill-humour into a family, as people may*  
“ *repent their receiving their money;*’ and goes  
“ on—‘ *Every body is not considerable enough*  
“ *to give her uneasiness.*’ Upon this AUTUMN  
“ comes up to her, and desired her to kiss her,  
“ and never to see her again; which her sister  
“ refusing, my lady gave her a box on the ear.  
“ ——— SPRINGLY returns; ‘ Ay, ay, said she,  
“ *I knew well enough you meant me by your*  
“ *some people;*’ and gives her another on the  
“ other side. To it they went with most masculine  
“ fury; each husband ran in. The  
“ wives immediately fell upon their husbands,  
“ and tore perriwigs and cravats. The company  
“ interposed; when (according to the  
“ slip-knot of matrimony, which makes them  
“ return to one another when any put in between)  
“ the ladies and their husbands fell  
“ upon all the rest of the company; and,  
“ having beat all their friends and relations  
“ out of the house, came to themselves time  
“ enough to know, there was no bearing the  
“ jest of the place after these adventures, and  
“ therefore marched off the next day. It is  
“ said, the governor has sent several joints of  
“ mutton\*, and has proposed divers dishes  
“ very exquisitely dressed, to bring them down  
“ again. From his address and knowledge in  
“ roast and boiled, all our hopes of the return

\* The mutton of Epfom and its neighbourhood is accounted peculiarly delicate.

“ of this good company depend. I am, dear  
“ JENNY,

“ Your ready friend and servant,

“ MARTHA TATLER.”

WHITE'S Chocolate-house, June 30.

This day appeared here a figure of a person, whose services to the fair sex have reduced him to a kind of existence for which there is no name. If there be a condition between life and death, without being absolutely dead or living, his state is that. His aspect and complexion, in his robust days, gave him the illustrious title of AFRICANUS\*: but it is not only from the warm climates in which he has served, nor from the disasters which he has suffered, that he deserves the same appellation with that renowned Roman; but the magnanimity with which he appears in his last moments, is what gives him the undoubted character of hero. Cato stabbed himself, and Hannibal drank poison; but our Africanus lives in the continual puncture of aching bones and poisoned juices. The old heroes fled from torments, by death; and this modern lives in

\* It is more than probable that AFRICANUS was not altogether an ideal character; but, as it is a very bad one, the editor does not conceive himself at liberty to mention the real name here, even on pretty good authority, as it might give more pain to some innocent relation, than it could give pleasure to any curious reader.

death

death and torments, with an heart wholly bent upon a supply for remaining in them. An ordinary spirit would sink under his oppressions, but he makes an advantage of his very sorrow, and raises an income from his diseases. Long has this worthy been conversant in bartering, and knows that when stocks are lowest, it is the time to buy. Therefore, with much prudence and tranquillity, he thinks that, now he has not a bone sound, but a thousand nodous parts for which the anatomists have not words, and more diseases than the college ever heard of, it is the only time to purchase an annuity for life. Sir Thomas \* told me, it was an entertainment more surprising and pleasant than can be imagined, to see an inhabitant of neither world, without hand to lift, or leg to move, scarce tongue to utter his meaning, so keen upon biting the whole world, and making bubbles at his exit. Sir Thomas added, that he would have bought twelve shillings a year of him, but that he feared there was some trick in it, and believed him already dead. “What,” says the knight, “is Mr. PARTRIDGE †, whom  
 “I met just now going on both his legs firmer  
 “than I can, allowed to be quite dead; and  
 “shall AFRICANUS, without one limb that  
 “can do its office, be pronounced alive?”

\* See N<sup>o</sup> 16; N<sup>o</sup> 17; and N<sup>o</sup> 26. SPECT. N<sup>o</sup> 49; and *Notes*.

† See TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 1, *Notes*, and N<sup>o</sup> 56, 59, 96, 99, 118, and 216.

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What heightened the tragi-comedy of this market for annuities was, that the observation of it provoked MONOCULUS\* (who is the most eloquent of all men) to many excellent reflections, which he spoke with the vehemence and language both of a gamester and an orator. "When I cast," said that delightful speaker, "my eye upon thee, thou unaccountable AFRICANUS, I cannot but call myself as unaccountable as thou art; for certainly we were born to shew what contradictions nature is pleased to form in the same species. Here am I, able to eat, to drink, to sleep, and to do all acts of nature, except begetting my like; and yet, by an unintelligible force of spleen and fancy, I every moment imagine I am dying. It is utter madness in thee to provide for supper; for I will bet you ten to one, you do not live until half an hour after four; and yet I am so distracted as to be in fear every moment, though I will lay ten to three, I drink three pints of burnt claret at your funeral three nights hence. After all, I envy thee; thou, who dying hast no sense of death, art happier than one in health, who always fears it." The knight had gone on, but that a third man ended the scene, by applauding the knight's eloquence and philosophy, in a laughter too violent for

\* See TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 56, N<sup>o</sup> 38, *Note*; and N<sup>o</sup> 73. his

his own constitution, as much as he mocked that of AFRICANUS and MONOCULUS.

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\* \* This Paper, with a blank leaf to write business on, may be had of J. Morphew, near Stationers-hall \*.

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Nº 37. Tuesday, July 5, 1709.

STEELE AND ADDISON†




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By Mrs. JENNY DISTAFF, Half-Sister to Mr. BICKERSTAFF.

*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, July 2.

IT may be thought very unaccountable, that I, who can never be supposed to go to White’s, should pretend to talk to you of

\* Probably the Paper was raised to three half-pence at this time.

† See the introductory note to Nº 36; Nº 77, *Note*, and TAT. Nº 155, *Note*.

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