

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

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

N^o 37. Tuesday, July 5, 1709.

STEELE 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.

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 N^o 36; N^o 77, *Note*, and TAT. N^o 155, *Note*.

matters



matters proper for, or in the style of, that place. But though I never visit these public haunts, I converse with those who do; and for all they pretend so much to the contrary, they are as talkative as our sex, and as much at a loss to entertain the present company, without sacrificing the last, as we ourselves. This reflection has led me into the consideration of the use of speech, and made me look over in my memory all my acquaintance of both sexes, to know to which I may more justly impute the sin of superfluous discourse in regard to conversation, without entering into it, as it respects religion.

I foresee my acquaintance will immediately, upon starting this subject, ask me, how I shall celebrate Mrs. Alse Copswood, the Yorkshire huntress, who is come to town lately, and moves as if she were on her nag, and going to take a five-bar gate; and is as loud as if she were following her dogs? I can easily answer that; for she is as soft as Damon, in comparison of her brother-in-law, Tom Bellfrey, who is the most accomplished man in this kingdom for all gentleman-like activities and accomplishments. It is allowed, that he is a professed enemy to the Italian performers in music. But then for our own native manner, according to the customs and known usages of our island, he is to be preferred, for the generality of the pleasure he bestows, much before those fellows, though they sing to full theatres.

theatres. For what is a theatrical voice to that of a fox-hunter? I have been at a musical entertainment in an open field, where it amazed me to hear to what pitches the chief masters would reach. There was a meeting near our seat in Staffordshire, and the most eminent of all the counties of England were at it. How wonderful was the harmony between men and dogs! Robin Cartail of Bucks was to answer to Jowler; Mr. Tinbreast of Cornwall was appointed to open with Sweetlips, and Beau Slimber, a Londoner, undertook to keep up with Trips, a whelp just set in: TOM BELLFREY and Ringwood were coupled together, to fill the cry on all occasions, and be in at the death of the fox, hare, or stag; for which both the dog and the man were excellently suited, and loved one another, and were as much together, as Banister and King. When Jowler first alarmed the field, Cartail repeated every note; Sweetlips's treble succeeded, and shook the wood; Tinbreast echoed a quarter of a mile beyond it. We were soon after all at a loss, until we rode up, and found Trips and Slimber at a default in half notes: but the day and the tune was recovered by TOM BELLFREY and Ringwood, to the great joy of us all, though they drowned every other voice: for BELLFREY carries a note four furlongs, three roods, and six paces, farther than any other in England.

I fear the mention of this will be thought
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a digression from my purpose about speech : but I answer, no. Since this is used where speech rather should be employed, it may come into consideration in the same chapter : for Mr. BELLFREY being at a visit where I was, *viz.* at his cousin's (Lady Dainty's) in Soho-square, was asked, what entertainments they had in the country ? Now, BELLFREY is very ignorant, and much a clown ; but confident withal. In a word, he struck up a fox-chase ; Lady Dainty's dog, Mr. Sippet, as she calls him, started, jumped out of his lady's lap, and fell a barking. BELLFREY went on, and called all the neighbouring parishes into the square. Never was woman in such confusion as that delicate lady. But there was no stopping her kinsman. A room full of ladies fell into the most violent laughter : My lady looked as if she was shrieking ; Mr. Sippet in the middle of the room, breaking his heart with barking, but all of us unheard. As soon as BELLFREY became silent, up gets my lady, and takes him by the arm, to lead him off ; BELLFREY was in his boots. As she was hurrying him away, his spurs take hold of her petticoat ; his whip throws down a cabinet of china : he cries, " What ! are your crocks rotten ? are your petticoats ragged ? a man cannot walk in your house for trincums."

Every county of Great-Britain has one hundred or more of this sort of fellows, who roar
instead

instead of speaking. Therefore, if it be true, that we women are also given to a greater fluency of words than is necessary, sure, she that disturbs but a room or a family, is more to be tolerated, than one who draws together whole parishes and counties, and sometimes (with an estate that might make him the blessing and ornament of the world around him) has no other view and ambition, but to be an animal above dogs and horses, without the relish of any one enjoyment which is peculiar to the faculties of human nature. I know it will here be said, that talking of mere country Squires at this rate, is as it were, to write against VALENTINE and ORSON*. To prove any thing against the race of men, you must take them as they are adorned with education; as they live in Courts, or have received instructions in Colleges.

But I am so full of my late entertainment by Mr. BELLFREY, that I must defer pursuing this subject to another day; and wave the proper observations upon the different offenders in this kind, some by profound eloquence on small occasions, others by degrading speech upon great circumstances. Expect, therefore, to hear of the whisperer without business, the laugher without wit, the complainer without receiving injuries, and a very large croud,

* See the "Reliques of ancient English Poetry," Vol. III. p. 180. P.

which I shall not forestal, who are common (though not commonly observed) impertinents, whose tongues are too voluble for their brains, and are the general despisers of us women, though we have their superiors, the men of sense, for our servants.

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WILL's Coffee-house*, July 3.

A very ingenious gentleman was complaining this evening, that the players are grown
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* This article, to the end of Cæsar's speech, was printed in the *folio* with whatever view, and withdrawn in the first 8vo. for whatever reason. Mr. M^cPherson, in his publication of state papers, says, that the Duke of Marlborough was apprized of the insufficiency of the Queen's order to dissolve his power, for which he had a commission under the great seal; and that his friends advised him to use his authority as *General*, to assemble all the troops in London in the different squares, and to take possession of St. James's, and the person of the queen. As the speech of Cæsar appears to be original, and no quotation from any play, it leads to a suspicion that Marlborough was actually advised to some such bold step, and that the writer of this Paper was no stranger to that advice, if it did not originate with himself. But this supposition bespeaks a degree of inordinate and close ambition, foreign to the generous inartificial character of STEELE; it is therefore probable, that though he was the *editor*, he was not the *author* of this Paper, the obnoxious part of which STEELE certainly suppressed, in the first edition that was printed under his immediate and sole inspection.

The annotator declines entering into the political reflections which the passage quoted from Mr. M^cPherson suggests; and after adding here the sequel of the quotation, leaves the reader to speculate, and determine for himself.

so severe critics, that they would not take in his play, though it has as many fine things in it as any play that has been *writ* since the days of DRYDEN. He began his discourse about his play with a preface.

“ There is, said he, somewhat (however we
 “ palliate it) in the very frame and make of us,
 “ that subjects our minds to chagrin and irre-
 “ solution on any emergency of time or place.
 “ The difficulty grows on our sickened imagi-
 “ nation, under all the killing circumstances
 “ of danger and disappointment. This we
 “ see, not only in the men of retirement
 “ and fancy, but in the characters of the men
 “ of action; with this only difference, the
 “ coward sees the danger, and sickens under
 “ it; the hero, warmed by the difficulty, di-
 “ lates, and rises in proportion to that, and in
 “ some sort makes use of his very fears to dis-
 “ arm it. A remarkable instance of this we
 “ have in the great CÆSAR, when he came to

“ OXFORD, apprized of this design, suddenly called toge-
 “ ther the cabinet-council. Though he probably concealed
 “ his intelligence to prevent their fears, he told them of
 “ the necessity of superseding MARLBOROUGH under the
 “ great seal. This business was soon dispatched. His dis-
 “ mission in form was sent to the Duke. The Earl of
 “ Oxford, no stranger to the character of MARLBOROUGH,
 “ knew that he would not act against law by assembling
 “ the troops. The natural diffidence of his disposition had
 “ made him unfit for enterprizes of danger, in a degree that
 “ furnished his enemies with insinuations against his perso-
 “ nal courage.” *Sup.* to SWIFT’S “ Works,” Vol. I.
 p. 179, cr. 8vo. 1779.

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“ the Rubicon, and was entering upon a part,
 “ perhaps, the most hazardous he ever bore
 “ (certainly the most ungrateful) a war with
 “ his countrymen. When his mind brooded
 “ o’er personal affronts, perhaps his anger
 “ burned with a desire of revenge. But when
 “ more serious reflections laid before him the
 “ hazard of the enterprize, with the dismal
 “ consequences which were likely to attend
 “ it, aggravated by a special circumstance,
 “ ‘ What figure it would bear in the world,
 “ or how be excused to posterity! What shall
 “ he do?’—His honour, which was his
 “ religion, bids him arm; and he sounds
 “ the inclinations of his party, by this set
 “ speech:

CÆSAR to his Party at the Rubicon.

Great Jove, attend, and thou my native soil,
 Safe in my triumphs, glutted in my spoil;
 Witness with what reluctance I oppose
 My arms to thine, secure of other foes.
 What passive breast can bear disgrace like mine?
Traytor!—For this I conquer’d on the Rhine,
 Endur’d their ten years drudgery in Gaul,
 Adjourn’d their fate, and sav’d the Capitol.
 I grew by every guilty triumph less;
 The crowd, when drunk with joy, their souls ex-
 prefs, }
 Impatient of the war, yet fear success.
 Brave actions dazzle with too bright a ray,
 Like birds obscene they chatter at the day;
 Giddy with rule, and valiant in debate,
 They throw the die of war, to save the state.

And

And Gods! to gild ingratitude with fame,
 Assume the patriot's, we the rebel's name.
 Farewell, my friends, your GENERAL forlorn,
 To your bare pity, and the public scorn,
 Must lay that honour and his laurel down,
 To serve the vain caprices of the gown;
 Expos'd to all indignities, the brave
 Deserve of those they glory'd but to save,
 To rods and axes!—No, the slaves can't dare
 Play with my grief, and tempt my last despair.
 THIS shall the honours which it won maintain,
 Or do me justice, ere I hug my chain.

“ Mrs. DISTAFF has taken upon her, while
 “ she writes this Paper, to turn her thoughts
 “ wholly to the service of her own sex, and
 “ to propose remedies against the greatest
 “ vexations attending female life. She has
 “ for this end written a small treatise con-
 “ cerning the SECOND WORD, with an ap-
 “ pendix on the use of a REPLY, very proper
 “ for all such as are married to persons either
 “ ILL-BRED OR ILL-NATURED. There is in
 “ this tract a digression for the use of virgins,
 “ concerning the words, I WILL.

“ A Gentlewoman who has a very delicate
 “ ear, wants a maid who can whisper, and
 “ help her in the government of her family.
 “ If the said servant can clear-starch, lisp, and
 “ tread softly, she shall have suitable encou-
 “ ragement in her wages.”