
N^o 42. Saturday, July 16, 1709.STEELE, CONGREVE, AND ADDISON.

—*Celebrare domestica facta.*

‘To register instruction for *Common LIFE.*’ C.

From my own Apartment, July 15.

LOOKING over some old papers, I found a little treatise, written by my great-grandfather, concerning bribery, and thought his manner of treating that subject not unworthy my remark. He there has a digression concerning a possibility, that in some circumstances a man may receive an injury, and yet be conscious to himself that he deserves it. There are abundance of fine things said on the subject; but the whole wrapped up in so much jingle and pun, which was the wit of those times, that it is scarce intelligible; but I thought the design was well enough in the following sketch of an old gentleman’s poetry: for in this case, where two are rivals for the same thing, and propose to obtain it by presents, he that attempts the judge’s honesty, by making him offers of reward, ought not to complain

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when he loses his cause by a better bidder.
The good old doggrel runs thus :

- “ A poor man once a judge besought
 “ To judge aright his cause,
 “ And with a pot of oil salutes
 “ This judger of the laws.
 “ My friend,” quoth he, ‘ thy cause is good :’
 “ He glad away did trudge;
 “ Anon his wealthy foe did come
 “ Before this partial judge.
 “ A hog well fed this churl presents,
 “ And craves a strain of law;
 “ The hog receiv’d, the poor man’s right
 “ Was judg’d not worth a straw.
 “ Therewith he cry’d, ‘ O! partial judge,
 “ Thy doom has me undone;
 “ When oil I gave, my cause was good,
 “ But now to ruin run.’
 “ Poor man,” quoth he, ‘ I thee forgot,
 “ And see thy cause of foil;
 “ A hog came since into my house,
 “ And broke thy pot of oil*.”

WILL’s Coffee-house, July 15.

The discourse happened this evening to fall
upon characters drawn in Plays; and a gentle-

* From GEORGE WHETSTONE’S “ English Mirror,”
&c. London, 1586, 4to. The book is in prose, and
printed in black letter, and this fable is towards the end of
it. P.

man remarked, that there was no method in the world of knowing the taste of an age, or period of time, so good, as by the observations of the persons represented in their comedies. There were several instances produced, as BEN JONSON'S * bringing in a fellow smoaking, as a piece of foppery; "but," said the gentleman who entertained us on this subject, "this matter is no where so observable as in the difference of the characters of women on the stage in the last age, and in this. It is not to be supposed that it was a poverty of genius in SHAKSPEARE†, that his women made so small a figure in his dialogues; but it certainly is, that he drew women as they then were in life: for that sex had not in those days that freedom in conversation; and their characters were only, that they were mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives. There were not then among the ladies, shining wits, politicians, *virtuosæ*, free-thinkers, and disputants; nay, there was then hardly such a creature even as a coquette: but vanity had quite another turn, and the most conspicuous woman at that time of day was only the best housewife. Were it possible to bring into

* See "Every Man in his Humour," C. 1598, 4to; and N^o 9, Note on BEAU.

† All the female parts in SHAKSPEARE'S Plays were acted by boys and men, in his time; and this is thought to be one reason why SHAKSPEARE makes his female characters generally so insignificant. P.

“life

“ life an assembly of matrons of that age,
 “ and introduce the learned Lady WOODBY
 “ into their company, they would not believe
 “ the same nation could produce a creature so
 “ unlike any thing they ever saw in it.

“ But these ancients would be as much asto-
 “ nished to see in the same age so illustrious a
 “ pattern to all who love things praise-worthy
 “ as the divine ASPASIA*. Methinks, I now
 “ see her walking in her garden like *our first*
 “ *Parent*, with unaffected charms, before beauty
 “ had spectators, and bearing celestial con-
 “ scious virtue in her aspect. Her counte-
 “ nance is the lively picture of her mind, which
 “ is the seat of honour, truth, compassion,
 “ knowledge, and innocence.

‘ There dwells the scorn of vice, and pity too.’

“ In the midst of the most ample fortune,
 “ and veneration of all that behold and know
 “ her, without the least affectation, she con-
 “ sults retirement, the contemplation of her

* The character of ASPASIA was written by Mr. CON-
 GREVE; and the person meant, was Lady ELIZABETH
 HASTINGS. Scarce has any age since the commencement
 of the Christian æra, produced a lady of such high birth
 and superior accomplishments, who was a greater blessing
 to many, or a brighter pattern to all. By all accounts she
 appears to have been *little lower than the angels*. See N^o 49.
 See the authority for this, with an edifying account of this
 extraordinary lady, and her benefactions, in a book in
folio, entitled “*Memorials and Characters*,” &c. London,
 1741, printed for J. Wilford, p. 780. This fine lady’s cha-
 racter seems to have been superior to that of *our first Parent*.

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“ own being, and that supreme Power which
“ bestowed it. Without the learning of
“ schools, or knowledge of a long course of
“ arguments, she goes on in a steady course
“ of uninterrupted piety and virtue, and adds
“ to the severity and privacy of the last age
“ all the freedom and ease of this. The lan-
“ guage and mien of a court she is possessed
“ of in the highest degree; but the simplicity
“ and humble thoughts of a cottage are her
“ more welcome entertainments. ASPASIA
“ is a female Philosopher, who does not only
“ live up to the resignation of the most retired
“ lives of the ancient sages, but also to the
“ schemes and plans which they thought
“ beautiful, though inimitable. This lady is
“ the most exact œconomist, without appear-
“ ing busy; the most strictly virtuous, with-
“ out tasting the praise of it; and shuns ap-
“ plause with as much industry, as others do
“ reproach. This character is so particular,
“ that it will very easily be fixed on her only,
“ by all that know her; but I dare say, she
“ will be the last that finds it out.

“ But, alas! if we have one or two such
“ ladies, how many dozens are there like the
“ restless POLUGLOSSA, who is acquainted with
“ all the world but herself; who has the ap-
“ pearance of all, and possession of no one
“ virtue: she has, indeed, in her practice the
“ absence of vice, but her discourse is the
“ continual history of it; and it is apparent,
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“ when she speaks of the criminal gratifications
“ of others, that her innocence is only a re-
“ straint, with a certain mixture of envy. She
“ is so perfectly opposite to the character of
“ ASPASIA, that as vice is terrible to her only
“ as it is the object of reproach, so virtue is
“ agreeable only as it is attended with ap-
“ plause.”

St. JAMES's Coffee-house, July 15.

It is now twelve of the clock at noon, and no mail come in; therefore, I am not without hopes that the town will allow me the liberty which my brother news-writers take, in giving them what may be for their information in another kind, and indulge me in doing an act of friendship, by publishing the following account of goods and moveables.

* This is to give notice, that a magnificent palace, with great variety of gardens, statues, and water-works, may be bought cheap in Drury-lane; where there are likewise several castles to be disposed of, very delightfully situated; as also groves, woods, forests, fountains, and country-seats, with very pleasant prospects on all sides of them; being the

* The remainder of this Paper was written by ADDISON, and STEELE entitles it “ The Inventory of the Playhouse.” Pref. to TAT. Vol. IV. See GUARD. N^o 95.

move-

moveables of CHRISTOPHER RICH*, Esquire, who is breaking up house-keeping, and has many curious pieces of furniture to dispose of, which may be seen between the hours of six and ten in the evening.

The INVENTORY.

Spirits of right Nantz brandy, for lambent flames and apparitions.

Three bottles and an half of lightning.

One shower of snow in the whitest French paper.

Two showers of a browner sort.

A sea, consisting of a dozen large waves; the tenth bigger than ordinary, and a little damaged.

A dozen and half of clouds, trimmed with black, and well-conditioned.

A rainbow, a little faded.

A set of clouds after the French mode, streaked with lightning, and furbelowed.

A new moon, something decayed.

A pint of the finest Spanish wash, being all that is left of two hogsheds sent over last winter.

A coach very finely gilt, and little used, with a pair of dragons, to be sold cheap.

A setting-sun, a pennyworth.

* Drury-lane playhouse was about this time shut up by an order from the Lord Chamberlain. See C. CIBBER'S "Apology for his Life," Vol. I. p. 296. P.

An imperial mantle, made for CYRUS THE GREAT, and worn by JULIUS CÆSAR, BAJAZET, King HARRY the Eighth, and Signor VALENTINI.

A basket-hilted sword, very convenient to carry milk in.

ROXANA's night-gown.

OTHELLO's handkerchief.

The imperial robes of XERXES, never worn but once.

A wild boar killed by Mrs. TOFTS and DIOCLESIAN.

A serpent to sting CLEOPATRA.

A mustard-bowl to make thunder with.

Another of a bigger sort, by Mr. D——s's * directions, little used.

Six elbow-chairs, very expert in country-dances, with six flower-pots for their partners.

The whiskers of a Turkish Bassa.

The complexion of a murderer in a band-box; consisting of a large piece of burnt cork, and a coal-black peruke †.

* In 1709, DENNIS's Tragedy called "Appius and Virginia," was acted, on which occasion the author introduced a new, or an improved method of making thunder. His tragedy did not succeed, but his other invention was approved, and continues in use to this day. Soon after he discovered this at the acting of Macbeth, and the discovery threw him into a fury; being addicted to swearing, he exclaimed, "S'death that's my thunder. See how the fellows use me. They silence my tragedy, and roar out my thunder."

† The coal-black peruke was clapped upon every actor who appeared as a bravo, or murderer.

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A suit

A suit of cloaths for a ghost, *viz.* a bloody shirt, a doublet curiously pinked, and a coat with three great eyelet-holes upon the breast.

A bale of red Spanish wool.

Modern plots, commonly known by the name of trap-doors, ladders of ropes, vizard-masques, and tables with broad carpets over them.

Three oak-cudgels, with one of crab-tree; all bought for the use of Mr. PINKETHMAN.

Materials for dancing; as masques, castanets, and a ladder of ten rounds.

AURENGZEBE's scymitar, made by Will. Brown in Piccadilly.

A plume of feathers, never used but by OEDIPUS and the Earl of ESSEX.

There are also swords, halbards, sheep-hooks, cardinals hats, turbans, drums, galipots, a gibbet, a cradle, a rack, a cart-wheel, an altar, an helmet, a back-piece, a breast-plate, a bell, a tub, and a jointed-baby.

These are the hard shifts we intelligencers are forced to; therefore our readers ought to excuse us, if a westerly wind blowing for a fortnight together, generally fills every Paper with an order of battle; when we shew our martial skill in every line, and according to the space we have to fill, we range our men in squadrons and battalions, or draw out company

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by company, and troop by troop; ever observing that no muster is to be made, but when the wind is in a cross-point, which often happens at the end of a campaign, when half the men are deserted or killed. The COURANT is sometimes ten deep, his ranks close: the POST-BOY is generally in files, for greater exactness; and the POST-MAN comes down upon you rather after the Turkish way, sword in hand, pell-mell, without form or discipline; but sure to bring men enough into the field; and wherever they are raised, never to lose a battle for want of numbers.

N^o 43. Tuesday, July 19, 1709.

STEELE AND ADDISON.

— Bene nummatum decbrat Suadela Venusque.

HOR.

“The goddess of persuasion forms his train,
“And VENUS decks the well bemooney’d swain.”

FRANCIS.

WHITE’S Chocolate-house, July 18.

I Write from hence at present to complain, that wit and merit are so little encouraged by people of rank and quality, that the wits of the age are obliged to run within Temple-bar for