

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

for patronage. There is a deplorable instance of this kind in the case of Mr. D'URFEY, who has dedicated his inimitable comedy, called "THE MODERN PROPHETS"* , to a worthy knight, to whom, it seems, he had before communicated his plan, which was, "To ridicule the ridiculers of our established doctrine." I have elsewhere celebrated the contrivance of this excellent drama; but was not, until I read the dedication, wholly let into the religious design of it. I am afraid, it has suffered discontinuance at this gay end of the town, for no other reason but the piety of the purpose. There is however, in this epistle, the true life of panegyric performance; and I do not doubt but if the patron would part with it, I can help him to others with good pretensions to it, *viz.* of "uncommon understanding," who will give him as much as he gave for it. I know perfectly well a noble person, whom these words (which are the body of the panegyric) would fit to a hair.

† "Your easiness of humour, or rather your harmonious disposition, is so admirably mixed with your composure, that the rugged cares and disturbance that public affairs bring with it, which does so vexatiously affect the heads

* See N^o I, and N^o II. The recommendation of D'URFEY in the GUARDIAN, N^o 67, atones for the railery and liberties taken with him as an author, in this and some other Papers. See GUARDIAN, N^o 29; and N^o 82.

† An extract from D'URFEY's Dedication,

“ of other great men of business, &c. does
 “ scarce ever ruffle your unclouded brow so
 “ much as with a frown. And what above all
 “ is praise-worthy, you are so far from think-
 “ ing yourself better than others, that a flou-
 “ rishing and opulent fortune, which, by a
 “ certain natural corruption in its quality, sel-
 “ dom fails to infect other possessors with pride,
 “ seems in this case as if only providentially
 “ disposed to enlarge your humility.

“ But I find, Sir, I am now got into a very
 “ large field, where though I could with great
 “ ease raise a number of plants in relation to
 “ your merit of this plauditory nature; yet for
 “ fear of an author’s general vice, and that the
 “ plain justice I have done you should by my
 “ proceeding, and others mistaken judgement,
 “ be imagined flattery, a thing the bluntness
 “ of my nature does not care to be concerned
 “ with, and which I also know you abomi-
 “ nate.”

It is wonderful to see how many judges of
 these fine things spring up every day by the rise
 of stocks, and other elegant methods of abridg-
 ing the way to learning and criticism. But I
 do hereby forbid all Dedications to any persons
 within the city of London; except Sir FRANCIS*,

* Sir FRANCIS and Sir STEPHEN were evidently bankers
 of the times; and of those the two most eminent were Sir
 FRANCIS CHILD and Sir STEPHEN EVANCE. See N^o 46.
Note on AURENGEZEBE.

Sir

Sir STEPHEN, and the BANK, will take epigrams and epistles as value received for their notes; and the East-India company accept of heroic poems for their sealed bonds. Upon which bottom our publishers have full power to treat with the city in behalf of us authors, to enable traders to become patrons and fellows of the Royal Society †, as well as to receive certain degrees of skill in the Latin and Greek tongues, according to the quantity of the commodities which they take off their hands.

GRECIAN Coffee-house, July 18. ‡

The learned have so long laboured under the imputation of dryness and dulness in their accounts of the phænomena, that an ingenious gentleman of our society has resolved to write a system of philosophy in a more lively method, both as to the matter and language, than has been hitherto attempted. He read to us the plan upon which he intends to proceed. I thought his account, by way of fable of the worlds about us, had so much vivacity in it, that I could not forbear transcribing his hypo-

† Mr. WHISTON, alluded to in the following part of this Paper, was at this time proposed as a member of the Royal Society, and rejected. The pretended account of his hypothesis that follows is mere pleasantry, and not a quotation from his book, or any true account of his "Theory."

‡ By ADDISON.

thesis,

thesis, to give the reader a taste of my friend's treatise, which is now in the press*.

“ The inferior deities, having designed on
 “ a day to play a game at football, kneaded
 “ together a numberless collection of dancing
 “ atoms into the form of seven rolling globes:
 “ and that nature might be kept from a dull
 “ inactivity, each separate particle is endued
 “ with a principle of motion, or a power of
 “ attraction, whereby all the several parcels of
 “ matter draw each other proportionably to
 “ their magnitudes and distances into such a
 “ remarkable variety of different forms, as to
 “ produce all the wonderful appearances we
 “ now observe in empire, philosophy, and re-
 “ ligion. But to proceed :

“ At the beginning of the game, each of the
 “ globes, being struck forward with a vast
 “ violence, ran out of sight, and wandered in
 “ a straight line through the infinite spaces.
 “ The nimble deities pursue, breathless al-

* This seems to be a banter upon Mr. WHISTON's book intitled “ *Prælectiones Physicæ Mathematicæ; sive Philosophia clarissimi Newtoni Mathematica illustrata*, 2710;” wherein he explained the Newtonian philosophy, which now began to grow into vogue. Both ADDISON and STEELE very much befriended WHISTON; and, after his banishment from Cambridge, promoted a subscription for his astronomical lectures at Button's Coffee-house.

It appears from this Paper, that WHISTON's book was printed and published in 1709, though it is dated on the title-page in 1710. This is commonly done. The printers begin their year in November.

“ most,

“ most, and spent in the eager chace; each of
 “ them caught hold of one, and stamped it
 “ with his name; as, SATURN, JUPITER,
 “ MARS, and so of the rest. To prevent this
 “ inconvenience for the future, the seven are
 “ condemned to a precipitation, which in our
 “ inferior stile we call gravity. Thus the
 “ tangential and centripetal forces, by their
 “ counterstruggle, make the celestial bodies
 “ describe an exact ellipsis.

“ There will be added to this an appendix,
 “ in defence of the first day of the term ac-
 “ cording to the * Oxford almanack, by a
 “ learned knight † of this realm, with an apo-
 “ logy for the said knight's manner of dress;
 “ proving, that his habit, according to this
 “ hypothesis, is the true modern and fashion-
 “ able ‡; and that buckles are not to be worn,
 “ by this system, until the tenth of March in
 “ the year 1714, which, according to the com-
 “ putation of some of our greatest divines, is
 “ to be the first year of the *millennium*; in
 “ which blessed age all habits will be reduced
 “ to a primitive simplicity; and whoever shall
 “ be found to have persevered in a constancy
 “ of dress, in spite of all the allurements of

* See N^o 39; and GUARDIAN, N^o 107.

† Sir WILLIAM WHITLOCKE, Knt. Member for Oxon, Bencher of the Middle Temple, and Queen's Serjeant. He is also alluded to, under the name of “*Dear SHOE-STRINGS,*” which it would seem that he wore instead of buckles, N^o 38. P.

“ prophane

“ profane and heathen habits, fhall be re-
 “ warded with a never-fading doublet of a
 “ thoufand years. All points in the fystem,
 “ which are doubted, fhall be attested by the
 “ knight’s extemporary oath*, for the fatis-
 “ faction of his readers.”

WILL’s Coffee-houfe, July 18.

We were upon the heroic ftrain this even-
 ing; and the queftion was, “ What is the true
 “ Sublime?” Many very good difcourfes hap-
 pened thereupon; after which a gentleman † at
 the table, who is it feems, writing on that
 fubject, affumed the argument; and though
 he ran through many instances of Sublimity
 from the ancient writers, faid, “ he had hardly
 “ known an occafion wherein the true great-
 “ nefs of foul, which animates a general in
 “ action, is fo well represented, with regard to
 “ the perfon of whom it was fspoken, and the
 “ time in which it was writ, as in a few lines
 “ in a modern poem. “ There is,” continued he,
 “ nothing fo forced and conftained, as what

* The Whigs at this time vented their reproaches againft
 the E. of Nottingham, who drefled always as he had done
 in his youth. The raillery levelled at his lordfhip’s long
 pockets and large buttons is pleafant and inoffenfive, but
 there is nothing afcertained in hiftory to juftify infinuations
 againft his veracity. Whatever might be the bent of this
 earl’s political principles, no Whig nobleman appears to
 have been more fincere or fteady in his endeavours to efts-
 blifh the fucceffion of the crown in a proteftant family.

† Probably Mr. Welsted, who publifhed about this time
 a tranflation of *Longinus Περὶ ὑψηλοῦ*.

“ we

“ we frequently meet with in tragedies ; to
“ make a man under the weight of great for-
“ row, or full of meditation upon what he is
“ soon to execute, cast about for a simile to
“ what he himself is, or the thing which he is
“ going to act: but there is nothing more
“ proper and natural for a poet, whose business
“ it is to describe, and who is spectator of one
“ in that circumstance, when his mind is work-
“ ing upon a great image, and that the ideas
“ hurry upon his imagination—I say, there is
“ nothing so natural, as for a poet to relieve
“ and clear himself from the burden of thought
“ at that time, by uttering his conception in
“ simile and metaphor. The highest act of
“ the mind of man is to possess itself with
“ tranquility in imminent danger, and to have
“ its thoughts so free, as to act at that time
“ without perplexity. The ancient authors
“ have compared this sedate courage to a rock
“ that remains immoveable amidst the rage of
“ winds and waves; but that is too stupid and
“ inanimate a similitude, and could do no
“ credit to the hero. At other times they are
“ all of them wonderfully obliged to a Libyan
“ lion, which may give indeed very agreeable
“ terrors to a description, but is no compliment
“ to the person to whom it is applied: eagles,
“ tigers, and wolves, are made use of on the
“ same occasion, and very often with much
“ beauty; but this is still an honour done to
“ the brute rather than the hero. MARS,
“ PALLAS,

“ PALLAS, BACCHUS, and HERCULES, have
 “ each of them furnished very good families in
 “ their time, and made doubtless, a greater
 “ impressiion on the mind of a heathen, than
 “ they have on that of a modern reader. But
 “ the Sublime image that I am talking of, and
 “ which I really think as great as ever entered
 “ into the thought of man, is in the poem
 “ called ‘ THE CAMPAIGN* ;’ where the
 “ simile of a ministering angel sets forth the
 “ most sedate and the most active courage,
 “ engaged in an uproar of nature, a confusion
 “ of elements, and a scene of divine vengeance.
 “ Add to all, that these lines compliment the
 “ general and his queen at the same time, and
 “ have all the natural horrors heightened by
 “ the image that was still fresh in the mind
 “ of every reader † :

‘ ’Twas then great MARLBRO’s mighty soul was
 “ prov’d,
 ‘ That, in the shock of charging hosts unmov’d,
 ‘ Amidst confusion, horror, and despair,
 ‘ Examin’d all the dreadful scenes of war;
 ‘ In peaceful thought the field of death survey’d,
 ‘ To fainting squadrons sent the timely aid,

* By ADDISON, published in 1704.

† The author alludes here to the terrible tempest which happened in November 1703, and made sad havock in England, and in other parts of Europe. In 1704, D. De Foe published an account of the disasters it produced, under the title of “ The Storm.” Price 3s. 6d. Printed for G. Sawbridge, by J. Nutt.

‘ Inspir’d

‘ Inspir’d repuls’d battalions to engage,
 ‘ And taught the doubtful battle where to rage.—
 ‘ So when an Angel, by divine command,
 ‘ With rising tempests shakes a guilty land,
 ‘ Such as of late o’er pale BRITANNIA past,
 ‘ Calm and serene he drives the furious blast;
 ‘ And, pleas’d th’ Almighty’s orders to perform,
 ‘ Rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm*.—

“ The whole poem is so exquisitely noble and
 “ poetic, that I think it an honour to our na-
 “ tion and language †.

The gentleman concluded his critique on this
 work, by saying that “ he esteemed it wholly
 “ new, and a wonderful attempt to keep up
 “ the ordinary ideas of a march of an army,
 “ just as they happened, in so warm and great
 “ a style, and yet be at once familiar and he-
 “ roic. Such a performance is a chronicle as
 “ well as a poem, and will preserve the me-
 “ mory of our hero, when all the edifices ‡
 “ and statues erected to his honour are blended
 “ with common dust.”

* Psalm cxlviii. 8.

† Dr. Johnson, speaking of this passage of “ The Cam-
 “ paign,” says, “ Perhaps this thought, though hardly a
 “ simile, was remote from vulgar conceptions, and required
 “ a great labour of research, or dexterity of application.”
 Dr. Maddan [he adds] once gave me his opinion: “ If I
 “ had set, said he, ten school-boys on the battle of Blen-
 “ heim, and eight had brought me the *Angel*, I should not
 “ have been surprized.” Dr. JOHNSON’S “ Lives of Engl.
 “ Poets,” Vol. II. p. 408 and 410.

‡ BLENHEIM HOUSE seems not likely to blend with
 common dust, for a great while to come.

N^o 44.