
N^o 44. Thursday, July 21, 1709.

S T E E L E.

— *Nullis Amor est medicabilis Herbis.* OVID.

“No Herb, alas! can cure the pangs of LOVE.”

WHITE'S Chocolate-house, July 19.

THIS day, passing through Covent-garden, I was stopped in the piazza by PACOLET, to observe what he called the Triumph of LOVE and YOUTH. I turned to the object he pointed at, and there I saw a gay gilt chariot, drawn by fresh prancing horses; the coachman with a new cockade, and the lacqueys with insolence and plenty in their countenances. I asked immediately, “What young heir or lover owned that glittering equipage?” But my companion interrupted: “Do you not see there the mourning ÆSCULAPIUS*?” “The mourning?” said I. “Yes, ISAAC,” said PACOLET, “he is in deep mourning, and is the languishing, hopeless lover of the divine

* This Paper was written in ridicule of a love-affair which befel Dr. RADCLIFFE, who was at this time about sixty; he died Nov. 1, 1714, aged sixty-four. See N^o 46; N^o 47; N^o 50; N^o 67; and *Notes*.

HEBE,

“ HEBE*, the emblem of youth and beauty.
“ The excellent and learned sage you behold
“ in that furniture is the strongest instance
“ imaginable, that love is the most powerful
“ of all things.

“ You are not so ignorant as to be a stranger
“ to the character of ÆSCULAPIUS, as the
“ patron and most successful of all who pro-
“ fess the art of medicine. But as most of his
“ operations are owing to a natural sagacity
“ or impulse, he has very little troubled him-
“ self with the doctrine of drugs, but has always
“ given nature more room to help herself, than
“ any of her learned assistants; and, conse-
“ quently, has done greater wonders than is
“ in the power of art to perform: for which
“ reason he is half deified by the people; and
“ has ever been justly courted by all the world,
“ as if he were a seventh son.

“ It happened that the charming HEBE was
“ reduced, by a long and violent fever, to the
“ most extreme danger of death; and when all
“ skill failed, they sent for ÆSCULAPIUS.
“ The renowned artist was touched with the
“ deepest compassion to see the faded charms
“ and faint bloom of HEBE; and had a gene-
“ rous concern in beholding a struggle, not
“ between life, but rather between youth and
“ death. All his skill and his passion tended

* This lady's real name was Miss TEMPEST; she was one of the maids of honour to Q. Anne.

“ to the recovery of HEBE, beautiful even in
“ sickness: but, alas! the unhappy physician
“ knew not that in all his care he was only
“ sharpening darts for his own destruction. In
“ a word, his fortune was the same with that
“ of the statuary, who fell in love with the
“ image of his own making; and the unfor-
“ tunate ÆSCULAPIUS is become the patient of
“ her whom he lately recovered. Long before
“ this disaster, ÆSCULAPIUS was far gone
“ in the unnecessary and superfluous amuse-
“ ments of old age, in increasing unwieldy
“ stores, and providing, in the midst of an
“ incapacity of enjoyment of what he had, for
“ a supply of more wants than he had calls for
“ in youth itself. But these low considerations
“ are now no more, and Love has taken place
“ of avarice, or rather is become an avarice of
“ another kind, which still urges him to pur-
“ sue what he does not want. But, behold the
“ *metamorphosis*; the anxious, mean cares of
“ an usurer are turned into the languishments
“ and complaints of a Lover.” ‘Behold,’ says
“ the aged ÆSCULAPIUS, I submit; I own,
“ Great Love, thy empire: pity, HEBE, the
“ fop which you have made. What have I to
“ do with gilding but on pills? Yet, O fair!
“ for thee I sit amidst a crowd of painted
“ deities on my chariot, buttoned in gold,
“ clasped in gold, without having any value
“ for that beloved metal, but as it adorns the
“ person, and laces the hat, of thy dying Lover.
“ I ask

“ I ask not to live, O HEBE! give me but
 “ gentle death: *Εὐθανασία*, *Εὐθανασία**, that is
 “ all I implore.”

When *ÆSCULAPIUS* had finished his complaint, *PACOLET* went on in deep morals on the incertainty of riches, with this remarkable exclamation: “ O wealth! how impotent art thou! and how little dost thou supply us with real happiness, when the usurer himself can forget thee for the Love of what is as foreign to his felicity as thou art!”

WILL's Coffee-house, July 19.

The company here, who have all a delicate taste for theatrical representations, had made a gathering to purchase the moveables of the neighbouring playhouse, for the encouragement of one which is setting up in the Hay-market. But the proceedings at the auction, by which method the goods have been sold this evening, have been so unfair, that this generous design has been frustrated; for the imperial mantle made for *CYRUS* was missing, as also the chariot and two dragons: but upon examination it was found, that a gentleman of Hampshire † had

clan-

* A Greek word, that signifies “ an easy death,” which was the common wish of the Emperor *AUGUSTUS*. See *SUETON*. in *AUGUST*. Cap. 99.

† Richard Norton, Esq; of Southwick in Hampshire, often M. P. for the county of Southampton, built a play-

clandestinely bought them both, and is gone down to his country-seat; and that on Saturday last he passed through Staines, attired in that robe, and drawn by the said dragons, assisted by two only of his own horses. This theatrical traveller has also left orders with Mr. HALL * to send the faded rainbow to the scourer's, and when it comes home, to dispatch it after him. At the same time CHRISTOPHER RICH †, Esquire, is invited to bring down his setting-sun himself, and be box-keeper to a theatre erected by this gentleman near Southampton. Thus there has been nothing but artifice in the management of this affair; for which reason I beg pardon of the town, that I inserted the inventory in my Paper; and solemnly protest, I knew nothing of this artful

house at Southwick. He was long in habits of friendship with A. Henley, Esq; which was cemented and endeared by a familiarity in their studies and pleasures. This gay man was a votary of the Muses, and supposed to be the author of a play called "Pausanias." Cibber dedicated his first play to him; his last will may be seen in the Gent. Mag. for 1733, p. 57. There happened a breach in the friendship between Mr. Norton and Mr. Henley, when they were pretty far advanced in life, and soon after they both married about the same time. See TAT. N^o 11, N^o 25, N^o 26, N^o 193; SPECT. N^o 494, and *Notes* on Ant. Henley, Esq. See also *Memoirs of Illust. Persons who died in 1711*, 8vo. 1712, p. 531, & *seqq.* Life of A. Henley, Esq; who died in Aug. 1711.

* A noted *Auctioneer* of those times.

† The Patentee for Drury-lane play-house, which was shut up about this time by an order from the Lord Chamberlain. See N^o 42, and *Note.*

design

design of vending these rarities: but I meant only the good of the world in that, and all other things which I divulge.

And now I am upon this subject, I must do myself justice in relation to an article in a former Paper *, wherein I made mention of a person who keeps a puppet-show in the town of BATH; I was tender of naming names, and only just hinted, that he makes larger promises, when he invites people to his dramatic representations, than he is able to perform: but I am credibly informed, that he makes a prophane, lewd jester, whom he calls PUNCH, speak to the dishonour of ISAAC BICKERSTAFF with great familiarity; and, before all my learned friends in that place, takes upon him to dispute my title to the appellation of *Esquire*. I think I need not say much to convince all the world, that this Mr. POWEL, for that is his name, is a pragmatistical and vain person, to pretend to argue with me on any subject. *Mecum certasse feretur* †; that is to say, 'It will be an honour to him to have it said he contended with me:' but I

* All the papers and passages about POWEL, the puppet-show-man, relate to the controversy between HOADLY and OFFSPRING BLACKALL bishop of Exeter, on which they were intended as a banter; it is needless to say that the wit and raillery is employed on the side of HOADLY. See preface to TAT. Vol. IV. See also N^o 11, N^o 16, and N^o 45.

† The fastidious and reproachful answer of AJAX to ULYSSES, on the occasion of their contesting for the arms of ACHILLES. See OVID. *Metam. Lib. XIII. Ver. 20.*

would have him to know, that I can look beyond his wires, and know very well the whole trick of his art; and that it is only by these wires that the eye of the spectator is cheated, and hindered from seeing that there is a thread on one of Punch's chops, which draws it up, and lets it fall at the discretion of the said POWEL, who stands behind and plays him, and makes him speak faucily of his betters. He! to pretend to make prologues against me! — But a man never behaves himself with decency in his own case; therefore I shall command myself, and never trouble me further with this little fellow, who is himself but a tall puppet, and has not brains enough to make even wood speak as it ought to do: and I, that have heard the *groaning board**, can despise all that his puppets shall be able to speak as long as they live. But, *Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius*. “Every log of wood will not “make a Mercury.” He has pretended to write to me also from the Bath†, and says, he

* This dark passage is explained by the following advertisement:

†§† ‘At the sign of the Wool-Sack in Newgate-Market, is to be seen a strange and wonderful *Elm BOARD*, which being touched with a hot iron, doth express itself as if it were a man dying *with groans*, &c. It hath been presented before the king and his nobles, and hath given great satisfaction.’

† Alluding to the Bishop of EXETER's answer to HOADLY's letter, 1709, in which there is this passage: “I have

he thought to have deferred giving me an answer until he came to his books ; but that my writings might do well with the waters : which are pert expressions, that become a school-boy better than * one that is to teach others : and when I have said a civil thing to him, he cries, “ Oh ! I thank you for that—I am your “ humble servant for that†.” Ah ! Mr. POWEL, these smart civilities will never run down men of learning : I know well enough your design is to have all men *automata*‡, like your puppets ; but the world is grown too wise, and can look through these thin devices. I know your design to make a reply to this ; but be sure you stick close to my words ; for if you bring me into discourses concerning the government of

“ I have no books here ; and being under these circumstances, I hope I may be excused, if, in citing scripture, “ I should not always name chapter and verse, nor hit “ exactly upon the very words of the translation.” Lord Bishop of EXETER’s Answer, &c. p. 2 and 3.

“ As to the TATLERS relating to POWEL’s puppets, and “ the doctrines of passive obedience and absolute non-resistance, and to Bishop BLACKALL, I know it gave my “ father some uneasiness, that there is a reference to a fact, “ which, as he resolved himself never to take notice of, “ thinking it ungenerous, so he was sorry to see any friend “ of the cause had ; which is, that the bishop had said inadvertently, he was at Bath, and had not a BIBLE in his “ family.” Dr. JOHN HOADLY.

* Meaning a BISHOP, alluding to what ought to be his employment.

† The BISHOP, after quoting a respectful expression of HOADLY, says, “ *Your servant Sir, for that.*”

‡ Mere machines.

F f 4

your

your puppets, I must tell you*, “ I neither am, “ nor have been, nor will be, at leisure to answer you.” It is really a burning shame this man should be tolerated in abusing the world with such representations of things: but his parts decay, and he is not much more alive than PARTRIDGE †.

From my own Apartment, July 14.

I must beg pardon of my readers, that for this time I have, I fear, huddled up my discourse, having been very busy in helping an old friend of mine out of town. He has a very good estate, and is a man of wit; but he has been three years absent from town, and cannot bear a jest; for which reason I have, with some pains, convinced him, that he can no more live here than if he were a downright bankrupt. He was so fond of dear London, that he began to fret, only inwardly; but being unable to laugh and be laughed at, I took a place in the northern coach for him and his family; and hope he is got to-night safe from all sneerers in his own parlour.

* The Bishop's words retorted. † See N^o 1, N^o 7, N^o 11, N^o 35, N^o 44; and *Notes* on PARTRIDGE. This fine banter is continued in the same spirit of exquisite raillery in TAT. N^o 50, *Art.* “ From my own Apartment.” See *Notes, Ibidem*; and an honourable anecdote of HOADLEY *ad finem*; and N^o 45, “ Let. from Mother Gourdon's.”

N^o 45.