

Nº 45. Saturday, July 23, 1709.

STEELE.

*Credo pudicitiam Saturno rege moratam
In terris——*

Juv. Sat. vi. 1.

“ In SATURN’S reign, at nature’s early birth,
“ There was that thing call’d Chastity on earth.”

DRYDEN.

WHITE’S Chocolate-house, July 22.

THE other day I took a walk a mile or two out of town, and strolling wherever chance led me, I was insensibly carried into a by-road, along which was a very agreeable quickset, of an extraordinary height, which furrounded a very delicious seat and garden. From one angle of the hedge, I heard a voice cry, “ Sir, Sir!”——This raised my curiosity, and I heard the same voice say, but in a gentle tone, “ Come forward, come forward!” I did so, and one through the hedge called me by my name, and bid me go on to the left, and I should be admitted to visit an old acquaintance in distress. The laws of knight-errantry made me

me obey the summons without hesitation; and I was let in at the back-gate of a lovely house by a maid-servant, who carried me from room to room until I came into a gallery; at the end of which, I saw a fine lady, dressed in the most sumptuous habit, as if she were going to a ball, but with the most abject and disconsolate sorrow in her face that I ever beheld. As I came near, she burst into tears, and cried, "Sir, do not you know the unhappy TERAMINTA?*" I soon recollected her whole person: "But," said I, "madam, the simplicity of dress, in which I have ever seen you at your good father's house, and the chearfulness of countenance with which you always appeared, are so unlike the fashion and temper you are now in, that I did not easily recover the memory of you. Your habit was then decent and modest, your looks serene and beautiful: whence then this unaccountable change?" "Nothing can speak so deep a sorrow as your present aspect; yet your dress is made for jollity and revelling!"—"It is," said she, "an unspeakable pleasure to meet with one I know, and to bewail myself to any that is not an utter stranger to humanity.

"When your friend my father died, he left me to a wide world, with no defence against the insults of fortune; but rather, a thousand snares to intrap me in the dangers to which

* See N^o 7. TERAMINTA.

" youth

“ youth and innocence are exposed, in an age
“ wherein honour and virtue are become mere
“ words, and used only as they serve to betray
“ those who understand them in their native
“ sense, and obey them as the guides and mo-
“ tives of their being. The wickedest of all
“ men living, the abandoned DECIUS, who has
“ no knowledge of any good art or purpose of
“ human life, but as it tends to the satisfaction
“ of his appetites, had opportunities of fre-
“ quently seeing and entertaining me at a house
“ where mixed company boarded, and where he
“ placed himself for the base intention which
“ he has since brought to pass. DECIUS saw
“ enough in me to raise his brutal desires, and
“ my circumstances gave him hopes of accom-
“ plishing them. But all the glittering ex-
“ pectations he could lay before me, joined by
“ my private terrors of poverty itself, could
“ not for some months prevail upon me; yet,
“ however I hated his intention, I still had
“ a secret satisfaction in his courtship, and
“ always exposed myself to his solicitations.
“ See here the bane of our sex! Let the flat-
“ tery be never so apparent, the flatterer never
“ so ill thought of, his praises are still agree-
“ able, and we contribute to our own deceit.
“ I was therefore, ever fond of all opportuni-
“ ties and pretences of being in his company.
“ In a word, I was at last ruined by him, and
“ brought to this place, where I have been ever
“ since immured; and from the fatal day after
“ my

“ my fall from innocence, my worshipper became my master, and my tyrant.

“ Thus you see me habited in the most gorgeous manner, not in honour of me as a woman he loves, but as this attire charms his own eye, and urges him to repeat the gratification he takes in me, as the servant of his brutish lusts and appetites. I know not where to fly for redress; but am here pining away life in the solitude and severity of a nun, but the conscience and guilt of an harlot. I live in this lewd practice with a religious awe of my minister of darkness, upbraided with the support I receive from him, for the inestimable possession of youth, of innocence, of honour, and of conscience. I see, Sir, my discourse grows painful to you; all I beg of you is, to paint it in so strong colours, as to let DECIUS see I am discovered to be in his possession, that I may be turned out of this detestable scene of regular iniquity, and either think no more, or sin no more. If your writings have the good effect of gaining my enlargement, I promise you I will atone for this unhappy step, by preferring an innocent laborious poverty, to all the guilty affluence the world can offer me.”

WILL's Coffee-house, July 21.

To shew that I do not bear an irreconcilable hatred to my mortal enemy, Mr. POWEL
at

at Bath, I do his function the honour to publish to the world, that plays represented by Puppets are permitted in our universities*, and that sort of drama is not wholly thought unworthy the *critique* of learned heads; but, as I have been conversant rather with the greater ode, as I think the critics call it, I must be so humble as to make a request to Mr. POWEL, and desire him to apply his thoughts to answering the difficulties with which my kinsman, the author of the following letter, seems to be embarrassed.

“ To my honoured kinsman, ISAAC BICKER-
“ STAFF, Esquire.

From Mother Gourdon's at Hedington, near Oxon,
June 16 †.

“ DEAR COUSIN,

“ Had the family of the BEADLESTAFFS ‡,
“ whereof I, though unworthy, am one, known
“ of your being lately at Oxon, we had in our
“ own name, and in the university's, as it is
“ our office, made you a compliment: but
“ your short stay here robbed us of an oppor-

* The university of Oxford declared publicly in favour of his lordship, and his doctrine of *Passive* OBEDIENCE; and in so doing acted in consistency with its infamous decree in 1683. BABILLARD.

† A village near Oxford.

‡ See N^o 11.

“ tunity

“ tunity of paying our due respects, and you of
 “ receiving an ingenious entertainment, with
 “ which we at present divert ourselves and
 “ strangers. A puppet-show at this time sup-
 “ plies the want of an ACT. And since the
 “ nymphs of this city are disappointed of a
 “ luscious music-speech, and the country ladies
 “ of hearing their sons or brothers speak verses;
 “ yet the vocal machines, like them, by the
 “ help of a prompter, say things as much to
 “ the benefit of the audience, and almost as
 “ properly their own. The licence of a *Terræ-*
 “ *Filius* * is refined to the well-bred satire of
 “ PUNCHENELLO. Now, cousin BICKER-
 “ STAFF, though Punch has neither a French
 “ night-cap, nor long pockets, yet you must
 “ own him to be a *Pretty FELLOW*, a *Very*
 “ *Pretty FELLOW*: nay, since he seldom leaves
 “ the company, without calling son of a whore,
 “ demanding satisfaction, and Duelling, he must
 “ be owned a *Smart FELLOW*, too. Yet, by some
 “ indecencies towards the ladies, he seems to
 “ be of a third character, distinct from any you
 “ have yet touched upon. A young gentleman
 “ who sat next me (for I had the curiosity of
 “ seeing this entertainment) in a tufted gown,
 “ red stockings, and long wig (which I pro-
 “ nounce to be tantamount to red heels, and a

* See *TERRÆ-FILIUS*, or “ The Secret History of
 “ the University of Oxford, in several Essays,” 2 Vol.
 1726.

“dangling cane) was enraged when Punche-
“nello disturbed a soft love-scene with his
“ribaldry. You would oblige us mightily by
“laying down some rules for adjusting the
“extravagant behaviour of this Almanzor of
“the play, and by writing a treatise on this
“sort of dramatic poetry, so much favoured,
“and so little understood, by the learned
“world.

“From its being conveyed in a cart, after
“the Thespian manner, all the parts being re-
“cited by one person, as the custom was before
“ÆSCHYLUS, and from the behaviour of
“Punch, as if he had won the goat, you may
“possibly deduce its antiquity, and settle the
“chronology, as well as some of our modern
“critics. In its natural transitions from
“mournful to merry; as from the hanging
“of a lover to dancing upon the rope; from
“the stalking of a ghost to a lady’s presenting
“you with a jig, you may discover such a de-
“corum, as is not to be found elsewhere than
“in our tragi-comedies. But I forget myself;
“it is not for me to dictate; I thought fit,
“dear cousin, to give you these hints, to shew
“you, that the BEADLESTAFFS do not walk
“before men of letters to no purpose; and
“that though we do but hold up the train
“of arts and sciences, yet, like other pages,
“we are now and then let into our ladies se-
“crets. I am your affectionate kinsman,

“BENJAMIN BEADLESTAFF.”

From

From my own Apartment, July 22.

I am got hither safe, but never spent time with so little satisfaction as this evening; for you must know, I was five hours with three merry, and two honest, fellows. The former sang catches; and the latter even died with laughing at the noise they made. "Well," says TOM BELLFREY, "you scholars, Mr. BICKERSTAFF, are the worst company in the world."—"Ay," says his opposite, "you are dull to-night; prythee be merry." With that I huzzaed, and took a jump cross the table, then came clever upon my legs, and fell a-laughing. "Let Mr. BICKERSTAFF alone," says one of the honest fellows; when he is in "a good humour, he is as good company as any man in England." He had no sooner spoke, but I snatched his hat off his head, and clapped it upon my own, and burst out a-laughing again; upon which we all fell a-laughing for half an hour. One of the honest fellows got behind me in the *interim*, and hit me a sound flap on the back; upon which he got the laugh out of my hands; and it was such a twang on my shoulders, that I confess he was much merrier than I. I was half angry; but resolved to keep up the good humour of the company; and after hollowing as loud as I could possibly, I drank off a bumper of claret, that made me stare again. "Nay,"
says

says one of the honest fellows, "Mr. ISAAC is
 "in the right, there is no conversation in this;
 "what signifies jumping, or hitting one another
 "on the back? let us drink about." We did
 so from seven of the clock until eleven; and
 now I am come hither, and after the manner
 of the wise PYTHAGORAS, begin to reflect
 upon the passages of the day. I remember
 nothing but that I am bruised to death; and
 as it is my way to write down all the good
 things I have heard in the last conversation, to
 furnish my Paper, I can from this only tell
 you my sufferings and my bangs.

I named PYTHAGORAS just now; and I pro-
 test to you, as he believed men after death en-
 tered into other species, I am now and then
 tempted to think other animals enter into men,
 and could name several on two legs, that never
 discover any sentiments above what is common
 with the species of a lower kind; as we see in
 these bodily wits with whom I was to-night,
 whose parts consist in strength and activity;
 but their boisterous mirth gives me great impa-
 tience for the return of such happiness as I
 enjoyed in a conversation last week. Among
 others in that company we had FLORIO, who
 never interrupted any man living when he was
 speaking; or ever ceased to speak, but others
 lamented that he had done. His discourse
 ever arises from the fulness of the matter be-
 fore him, and not from ostentation or triumph
 of his understanding; for though he seldom

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delivers

delivers what he need fear being repeated, he speaks without having that end in view; and his forbearance of calumny or bitterness is owing rather to his good-nature than his discretion; for which reason he is esteemed a gentleman perfectly qualified for conversation, in whom a general good-will to mankind takes off the necessity of caution and circumspection.

We had at the same time that evening the best sort of companion that can be, a good-natured old man. This person, in the company of young men, meets with veneration for his benevolence; and is not only valued for the good qualities of which he is master, but reaps an acceptance from the pardon he gives to other men's faults: and the ingenuous sort of men with whom he converses, have so just a regard for him, that he rather is an example, than a check, to their behaviour. For this reason, as *SENECIO* never pretends to be a man of pleasure before youth, so young men never set up for wisdom before *SENECIO*; so that you never meet, where he is, those monsters of conversation, who are grave or gay above their years. He never converses but with followers of nature and good sense, where all that is uttered is only the effect of a communicable temper, and not of emulation to excel their companions; all desire of superiority being a contradiction to that spirit which makes a just conversation, the very essence of which is

is mutual good-will. Hence it is, that I take it for a rule, that the natural, and not the acquired man, is the companion. Learning, wit, gallantry, and good-breeding, are all but subordinate qualities in society, and are of no value, but as they are subservient to benevolence, and tend to a certain manner of being or appearing equal to the rest of the company; for conversation is composed of an assembly of men, as they are men, and not as they are distinguished by fortune: therefore he who brings his quality with him into conversation, should always pay the reckoning; for he came to receive homage, and not to meet his friends.—But the din about my ears from the clamour of the people I was with this evening, has carried me beyond my intended purpose, which was to explain upon the order of merry fellows; but I think I may pronounce of them, as I heard good SENEPIO, with a spice of the wit of the last age, say, *viz.* “That a merry fellow is the saddest fellow in the world.”

*** Dec. 30, 1709. ‘The Directors of the E. India Company, chose Mr. Gulston ADDISON, an eminent merchant residing at Fort St. George, Governour and President of that place, *vice* Thomas PITT, Esq; who it is said has desired leave to come home.’ POST-MAN, N° 1697. See TAT. N° 46, *Note on Aurengezebe*; and TAT. in 6 Vols. Vol. V. p. 380. *et seqq.* Additional notes.