

in the parlour-window when the train-bands went by, and never since. Whoever gives notice of her, dead or alive, shall be rewarded with a kifs of her lady.

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N<sup>o</sup> 48. Saturday, July 30, 1709.

S T E E L E.

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— *Virtutem verba putant, ut  
Lucum ligna* —

HOR. Ep. vi. 31.

“ They look on virtue as an empty name.”

From my own Apartment, July 29.

**T**HIS day I obliged PACOLET to entertain me with matters which regarded persons of his own character and occupation. We chose to take our walk on Tower-hill; and as we were coming from thence, in order to stroll as far as Garraway's\*, I observed two men, who had but just landed, coming from the water-side. I thought there was something uncommon in their mien and aspect; but

\* GARRAWAY kept a coffee-house at that time, opposite to the Royal Exchange, probably in the place where there is now a coffee-house well known by the same name.

though

though they seemed by their visage to be related, yet there was a warmth in their manner, as if they differed very much in their sentiments of the subject on which they were talking. One of them seemed to have a natural confidence, mixed with an ingenuous freedom, in his gesture; his dress very plain, but very graceful and becoming: the other, in the midst of an over-bearing carriage, betrayed, by frequently looking round him, a suspicion that he was not enough regarded by those he met, or that he feared they would make some attack upon him. This person was much taller than his companion, and added to that height the advantage of a feather in his hat, and heels to his shoes so monstrously high, that he had three or four times fallen down, had he not been supported by his friend. They made a full stop as they came within a few yards of the place where we stood. The plain gentleman bowed to PACOLET; the other looked upon him with some displeasure: upon which I asked him, who they both were? when he thus informed me of their persons and circumstances:

“ You may remember, ISAAC, that I have  
“ often told you, there are beings of a superior  
“ rank to mankind; who frequently visit the  
“ habitations of men, in order to call them  
“ from some wrong pursuits in which they are  
“ actually engaged, or divert them from meth-  
“ ods which will lead them into errors for  
“ the future. He that will carefully reflect  
“ upon

“ upon the occurrences of his life, will find he  
“ has been sometimes extricated out of diffi-  
“ culties, and received favours where he could  
“ never have expected such benefits; as well as  
“ met with cross events from some unseen  
“ hand, which has disappointed his best laid  
“ designs. Such accidents arrive from the in-  
“ terventions of aerial beings, as they are be-  
“ nevolent or hurtful to the nature of man;  
“ and attend his steps in the tracks of ambi-  
“ tion, of business, and of pleasure. Before I  
“ ever appeared to you in the manner I do  
“ now, I have frequently followed you in your  
“ evening-walks; and have often, by throwing  
“ some accident in your way, as the passing by  
“ of a funeral, or the appearance of some other  
“ solemn object, given your imagination a new  
“ turn, and changed a night you have destined  
“ to mirth and jollity, into an exercise of study  
“ and contemplation. I was the old soldier  
“ who met you last summer in Chelsea Fields,  
“ and pretended that I had broken my wooden  
“ leg, and could not get home; but I snapped  
“ it short off, on purpose that you might fall  
“ into the reflections you did on that subject,  
“ and take me into your hack. If you re-  
“ member, you made yourself very merry on  
“ that fracture, and asked me whether I thought  
“ I should next winter feel cold in the toes of  
“ that leg? as is usually observed, that those  
“ who lose limbs are sensible of pains in the  
“ extreme parts, even after those limbs are cut  
“ off

“ off. However, my keeping you then in the  
 “ story of the battle of the Boyne prevented an  
 “ affignation, which would have led you into  
 “ more difasters than I then related.

“ To be fhort: thofe two perfons whom you  
 “ fee yonder are fuch as I am; they are not real  
 “ men, but are mere fhades and figures; one  
 “ is named ALETHES, the other VERISIMILIS.  
 “ Their office is to be the guardians and repre-  
 “ fentatives of Confcience and Honour. They  
 “ are now going to vifit the feveral parts of the  
 “ town, to fee how their interefts in the world  
 “ decay or flourish, and to purge themfelves  
 “ from the many falfe imputations they daily  
 “ meet with in the commerce and converfation  
 “ of men. You obferved VERISIMILIS frowned  
 “ when he firft faw me. What he is provoked  
 “ at is, that I told him one day, though he  
 “ strutted and dressed with fo much ostenta-  
 “ tion, if he kept himfelf within his own  
 “ bounds, he was but a lacquey, and wore  
 “ only that gentleman’s livery whom he is now  
 “ with. This frets him to the heart; for you  
 “ muft know, he has pretended a long time to  
 “ fet up for himfelf, and gets among a croud  
 “ of the more unthanking part of mankind,  
 “ who take him for a perfon of the firft qua-  
 “ lity; though his introduction into the world  
 “ was wholly owing to his prefent compa-  
 “ nion.”

“ This encounter was very agreeable to me,  
 and I was refolved to dog them, and defired

PACOLET

PACOLET to accompany me. I soon perceived what he told me in the gesture of the persons; for when they looked at each other in discourse, the well-dressed man suddenly cast down his eyes, and discovered that the other had a painful superiority over him. After some further discourse, they took leave. The plain gentleman went down towards Thames-street, in order to be present, at least, at the oaths taken at the Custom-house; and the other made directly for the heart of the city. It is incredible how great a change there immediately appeared in the man of Honour, when he got rid of his uneasy companion: he adjusted the cock of his hat a-new, settled his sword-knot, and had an appearance that attracted a sudden inclination for him and his interests in all who beheld him. "For my part," said I to PACOLET, "I cannot but think you are mistaken in calling this person of the lower quality; for he looks much more like a gentleman than the other. Do not you observe all eyes are upon him, as he advances? how each sex gazes at his stature, aspect, address, and motion?" PACOLET only smiled, and shook his head; as leaving me to be convinced by my own further observation. We kept on our way after him until we came to Exchange-alley, where the plain gentleman again came up to the other; and they stood together after the manner of eminent merchants,

merchants, as if ready to receive application; but I could observe no man talk to either of them. The one was laughed at as a fop; and I heard many whispers against the other, as a whimsical sort of a fellow, and a great enemy to trade. They crossed Cornhill together, and came into the full Exchange, where some bowed, and gave themselves airs in being known to so fine a man as VERISIMILIS, who, they said, had great interest in all princes courts; and the other was taken notice of by several, as one they had seen somewhere long before. One more particularly said, he had formerly been a man of consideration in the world; but was so unlucky, that they who dealt with him, by some strange infatuation or other, had a way of cutting off their own bills, and were prodigiously slow in improving their stock. But as much as I was curious to observe the reception these gentlemen met with upon the Exchange, I could not help being interrupted by one that came up towards us, to whom every body made their compliments. He was of the common height, and in his dress there seemed to be great care to appear no way particular, except in a certain exact and *feat* \* manner of behaviour and circumspection. He was wonderfully careful that his shoes and cloaths should be without the least speck upon them; and seemed to think, that on such an accident depended his very life and fortune. There was hardly a man

\* Ready, skillful, ingenious. JOHNSON.

on the Exchange who had not a note upon him; and each seemed very well satisfied that their money lay in his hands, without demanding payment. I asked PACOLET, what great merchant that was, who was so universally addressed to, yet made too familiar an appearance to command that extraordinary deference? PACOLET answered, "This person is the dæmon or genius of credit; his name is UMBRA. If you observe, he follows ALETHES and VERISIMILIS at a distance; and indeed has no foundation for the figure he makes in the world, but that he is thought to keep their cash; though, at the same time, none who trust him would trust the others for a groat." As the company rolled about, the three Spectres were jumbled into one place: when they were so, and all thought there was an alliance between them, they immediately drew upon them the business of the whole Exchange. But their affairs soon increased to such an unweildy bulk, that ALETHES took his leave, and said, "he would not engage further than he had an immediate fund to answer." VERISIMILIS pretended, "that though he had revenues large enough to go on his own bottom, yet it was below one of his family to condescend to trade in his own name; therefore he also retired. I was extremely troubled to see the glorious mart of London left with no other guardian but him of credit. But PACOLET told me, "that traders had nothing to do with  
" the

“ the honour or conscience of their correspond-  
“ ents, provided they supported a general be-  
“ haviour in the world, which could not hurt  
“ their credit or their purses: for, “ said he,  
“ you may, in this one tract of building of  
“ London and Westminster, see the imaginary  
“ motives on which the greatest affairs move,  
“ as well as in rambling over the face of the  
“ earth. For though ALETHES is the real go-  
“ vernor, as well as legislator of mankind, he  
“ has very little business but to make up quar-  
“ rels; and is only a general Referee, to whom  
“ every man pretends to appeal, but is satisfied  
“ with his determinations no further than they  
“ promote his own interest. Hence it is, that  
“ the soldier and the courtier model their ac-  
“ tions according to VERISIMILIS’s manner,  
“ and the merchant according to that of UM-  
“ BRA. Among these men, honour and credit  
“ are not valuable possessions in themselves, or  
“ pursued out of a principle of justice; but  
“ merely as they are serviceable to ambition  
“ and to commerce. But the world will never  
“ be in any manner of order or tranquility,  
“ until men are firmly convinced, that con-  
“ science, honour, and credit, are all in one  
“ interest; and that, without the concurrence  
“ of the former, the latter are but impositions  
“ upon ourselves and others. The force these  
“ delusive words have, is not seen in the trans-  
“ actions of the busy world only, but they  
“ have also their tyranny over the fair sex.  
“ Were

“ Were you to ask the unhappy LAIS, what  
 “ pangs of reflection preferring the considera-  
 “ tion of her Honour to her CONSCIENCE has  
 “ given her? she could tell you, that it has  
 “ forced her to drink up half a gallon this  
 “ winter of Tom Daffapas’s potions: that she  
 “ still pines away for fear of being a mother;  
 “ and knows not but, the moment she is such,  
 “ she shall be a murderers: but if conscience  
 “ had as strong a force upon the mind as ho-  
 “ nour, the first step to her unhappy condition  
 “ had never been made; she had still been in-  
 “ nocent, as she is beautiful. Were men so  
 “ enlightened and studious of their own good,  
 “ as to act by the dictates of their reason and  
 “ reflection, and not the opinion of others,  
 “ CONSCIENCE would be the steady ruler of  
 “ human life; and the words Truth, Law,  
 “ Reason, Equity, and Religion, would be  
 “ but synonymous terms for that *Only* GUIDE  
 “ which makes us pass our days in our own  
 “ favour and approbation.”

\* \* Note. That proper Cutts for the Historical Part of  
 the Paper are now almost finished, by an Engraver lately  
 arrived from *Paris*, and will be sold at all the Toy-shops in  
 London and Westminster. TAT. in folio N<sup>o</sup> 50; *ad*  
*finem.*

N. B. Whoever is in possession of a *Set* of these Cutts, is  
 requested to communicate a sight of them to Mr. Deputy  
 Nichols, in Red Lion Passage; or to give an account of  
 them, through the channel of the GENTLEMAN’S *Magazine*.