

Blush not, my Fair-one, that thy Love applauds thee,
 Nor be it painful to my wedded Wife
 That my full heart o'erflows in praise of thee.
 Thou art by law, by interest, passion, mine:
 Passion and reason join in Love of thee.
 Thus, through a world of calumny and fraud,
 We pass both unreprouch'd, both undeceiv'd;
 While in each other's interest and happiness,
 We without art all faculties employ,
 And all our senses without guilt enjoy.

Nº 50. Thursday, August 4, 1709.

S T E E L E.

Quicquid agunt homines——

nostri est farrago libelli.

Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

“Whate’er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
 “Our medley Paper seizes for its theme.” P.

WHITE’S Chocolate-house, August 2.

The History of ORLANDO THE FAIR.

WHATEVER malicious men may say of
 our LUCUBRATIONS, we have no design
 but to produce unknown merit, or place in a
 proper light the actions of our contemporaries
 who

who labour to distinguish themselves, whether it be by vice or virtue. For we shall never give accounts to the world of any thing, but what the lives and endeavours of the persons, of whom we treat, make the basis of their fame and reputation. For this reason, it is to be hoped that our appearance is reputed a public benefit; and though certain persons may turn what we mean for panegyric into scandal, let it be answered once for all, that if our praises are really designed as raillery, such malevolent persons owe their safety from it, only to their being too inconsiderable for history. It is not every man who deals in rats-bane, or is unseasonably amorous, that can adorn story like *ÆSCULAPIUS**; nor every stock-jobber of the India Company can assume the port, and personate the figure of *AURENGEZEBE*†. My noble ancestor, Mr. SHAKESPEARE, who was of the race of the STAFFS, was not more fond of the memorable Sir JOHN FALSTAFF, than I am of those Worthies; but the Latins have an admirable admonition expressed in three words, to wit, *Ne quid nimis*‡, which forbids my indulging myself on those delightful subjects, and calls me to do justice to others, who make no less figures in our generation: of such, the first

* Dr. RADCLIFFE. See TAT. N° 44; N° 46; N° 47; and N° 67.

† See N° 46.

‡ "Too much of one thing is good for nothing." *Prov.*

and most renowned is, that eminent hero and lover ORLANDO * the Handsome, whose disappointments in love, in gallantry, and in war, have banished him from public view, and made him voluntarily enter into a confinement to which the ungrateful age would otherwise have

* ROBERT FIELDING, Esq; commonly known then by the name of *BEAU Fielding*, a handsome and very comely gentleman, much distinguished in the “*Annals of Gallantry*” at that time. He was tried for felony at the Old-Bailey, Dec. 4, 1706. He had married, as the indictment holds forth, Nov. 25, 1705, the most noble BARBARA duchess of CLEVELAND, having a former wife then living. In the course of the evidence on this trial, it appears, that sixteen days before, viz. Nov. 9, 1705, Mrs. VILLARS, a very bad woman, had artfully drawn him into a marriage with one *Mary Wadsworth* spinster, on the mistaken belief of her being Mrs. *Deleau*, a widow, with a fortune of 60,000*l*. His marriage with the duchess was therefore set aside, and her grace was allowed the liberty of marrying again. He craved the *benefit of his clergy*, and when sentence was given, that *he should be burnt in his hand*, produced the queen’s warrant to suspend execution, and was admitted to bail. Trial of ROBERT FIELDING, Esq; &c. folio. Lond. 1708, *passim*.

FIELDING, having injured his fortune by his gallantry and extravagance in early life, repaired the breaches he had made in it, by his first marriage with the countess of PURBECK, a widow lady of an ancient and noble family in Ireland, who had a large fortune of her own, to which she had added considerably by a former marriage: she was the only daughter and heiress of BARNHAM SWIFT, Lord CARLINGFORD, who was of the same family with the dean of St. PATRICK’S. FIELDING is said to have lived happily for some years with this lady, who was a zealous Roman-catholic, and could have no great difficulty in inducing a man who had no religion, to profess himself a proselyte to her religious persuasion. See TATLER, N^o 51, and *Notes*.

forced

forced him. Ten *lustra* * and more are wholly passed since ORLANDO first appeared in the metropolis of this island: his descent noble, his wit humourous, his person charming. But to none of these recommendatory advantages was his title so undoubted, as that of his beauty. His complexion was fair, but his countenance manly; his stature of the tallest, his shape the most exact: and though in all his limbs he had a proportion as delicate as we see in the works of the most skilful statuaries, his body had a strength and firmness little inferior to the marble of which such images are formed. This made ORLANDO the universal flame of all the fair sex; innocent virgins sighed for him, as ADONIS; experienced widows, as HERCULES. Thus did this figure walk alone the pattern and ornament of our species, but of course the envy of all who had the same passions without his superior merit, and pretences to the favour of that enchanting creature, woman. However, the generous ORLANDO believed himself formed for the world, and not to be ingrossed by any particular affection. He sighed not for Delia, for Chloris, for Chloe, for Betty, nor my lady, nor for the ready chamber-maid, nor distant baroness: woman was his mistress, and the whole sex his seraglio. His form was always irresistible: and if we consider, that not one

* Ten *lustra* amount to half a century. Above fifty.

of

of five hundred can bear the least favour from a lady without being exalted above himself; if also we must allow, that a smile from a side-box has made Jack Spruce half mad; we cannot think it wonderful that ORLANDO's repeated conquests touched his brain: so it certainly did, and ORLANDO became an enthusiast in love; and in all his address, contracted something out of the ordinary course of breeding and civility. However, powerful as he was, he would still add to the advantages of his person, that of a profession which the ladies always favour, and immediately commenced soldier *. Thus equipped for love and honour, our hero seeks distant climes and adventures, and leaves the despairing nymphs of Great-Britain, to the courtships of beaux and wittlings till his return. His exploits in foreign nations and courts have not been regularly enough communicated unto us, to report them with that veracity which we profess in our narrations: but after many feats of arms (which those who were witnesses to them have suppressed out of envy, but which we have had faithfully related from his own mouth in our public streets) ORLANDO returns home full, but not loaded, with years. Beaux born in his absence

* FIELDING embarked in the fortunes of K. JAMES II. who gave him the nomination of colonel, and for whom he raised a regiment in his native county of Warwick.

made

made it their business to decry his furniture, his dress, his manner; but all such rivalry he suppressed (as the Philosopher did the sceptic, who argued there was no such thing as motion) by only moving. The beauteous VILLARIA*, who only was formed for his paramour, became the object of his affection. His first speech to her was as follows:

“MADAM,

“It is not only that nature has made us
 “two the most accomplished of each sex,
 “and pointed to us to obey her dictates in
 “becoming one; but that there is also an
 “ambition in following † the mighty persons
 “you have favoured. Where kings and heroes,
 “as great as ALEXANDER, or such as
 “could personate ALEXANDER‡, have bowed,
 “permit your General to lay his laurels.”

According to MILTON;

The Fair with conscious majesty approv'd
 His pleaded reason.—

* BARBARA, daughter and heiress to WILLIAM VILLIERS, lord viscount GRANDISON of the kingdom of Ireland.

† ORLANDO, though not the last in the motley procession, came after a long promiscuous train of king, lords, and commons.

‡ An allusion to GOODMAN the player, who was one of the multifarious train above-mentioned.

Fortune

Fortune having now supplied ORLANDO with necessaries for his high taste of gallantry and pleasure, his equipage and œconomy had something in them more sumptuous and gallant than could be received in our degenerate age; therefore his figure, though highly graceful, appeared so exotic, that it assembled all the Britons under the age of sixteen, who saw his grandeur, to follow his chariot with shouts and acclamations; which he regarded with the contempt which great minds affect in the midst of applauses. I remember, I had the honour to see him one day stop, and call the youths about him, to whom he spake as follows:

“ Good bastards—Go to school, and do not
“ lose your time in following my wheels: I am
“ loth to hurt you, because I know not but
“ you are all my own offspring: hark ye, you
“ sirrah with the white hair, I am sure you
“ are mine: there is half a crown. Tell
“ your mother, this, with the half crown I
“ gave her when I got you, comes to five
“ shillings. Thou hast cost me all that, and
“ yet thou art good for nothing. Why, you
“ young dogs, did you never see a man be-
“ fore?” “ Never such a one as you, noble
“ general,” replied a truant from Westminster.
“ Sirrah, I believe thee: there is a crown for
“ thee. Drive on, coachman.”

This vehicle, though sacred to love, was not adorned with doves: such an hieroglyphic denoted

noted too languishing a passion. ORLANDO therefore gave the eagle *, as being of a constitution which inclined him rather to seize his prey with talons, than pine for it with murmurs.

From my own Apartment, August 2.

I have received the following letter from Mr. POWEL † of Bath, who, I think, runs from the point between us; which I leave the whole world to judge.

“ TO ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, Esquire.

“ SIR,

Bath, July 28.

“ Having a great deal of more advantageous business at present on my hands, I thought to have deferred answering your TATLER of the twenty-first instant ‡ until the company was gone, and season over; but

* The FIELDINGS give the *Spread Eagle*, as counts of the German Empire. Beau FIELDING having given on his carriage some peculiar part of Lord Denbigh's arms, Basil, the 4th Earl of that family, got a house-painter to daub his coat of arms all over, in the public ring, in broad day.

† “ Our friend the TATLER, under the notion of Mr. POWELL at the Bath, has, in my mind, entered into the depth of the argument in dispute [between BEN HOADLY and the bishop of EXETER] and given a complete answer to all that the reverend bishop either can or will say upon the subject.” “ Correspondence” of JOHN HUGHES, Esq; 1772, Vol. I. Let. 8. p. 38. ‡ See N^o 44.

“ having

“ having resolved not to regard any imperti-
 “ nencies of your Paper, except what relate
 “ particularly to me, I am the more easily in-
 “ duced to answer you, as I shall find time to
 “ do it. First, partly lest you should think
 “ yourself neglected, which I have reason to
 “ believe you would take heinously ill*. Se-
 “ condly; partly because it will increase my
 “ fame, and consequently my audience, when
 “ all the quality shall see with how much wit
 “ and raillery I shew you—I do not care a
 “ farthing for you. Thirdly, partly because
 “ *being without books*†, if I do not shew
 “ much learning, it will not be imputed to
 “ my having none.

* “ REV. SIR,

“ I was in such full business, — that when your letter
 “ of Considerations came to my hands, I could only dip
 “ into it, but had not time to give it a thorough reading;
 “ and when (soon after I came hither) I did read it all
 “ over, it was at first without any design of giving an
 “ answer to it, at least not till I should find more leisure,
 “ and better conveniencies for it than I can have here,
 “ where I not only have no books proper for the purpose,
 “ but may also expect to find more other necessary business,
 “ than the physicians will allow any person in a course of
 “ drinking these waters to give a due attendance to. But
 “ after I had read it over, &c. I soon altered my mind,
 “ and took a resolution of answering you from hence, ac-
 “ cording as I should be able to find leisure and conve-
 “ nience: because I saw I should have little more to do,
 “ than only to undergo the fatigue of writing,” &c.
 “ Bishop of EXETER’S Answer to Mr. HOADLY’S Letter,”
 London, 1709, page 2.

† His Lordship uses these words in his “ Answer,”
 page 3. See N^o 44, p. 439, *Note*. Signed Dr. Hoadly.

VOL. I.

K k

“ I have

“ I have travelled Italy, France, and Spain, and
 “ fully comprehend whatever any German AR-
 “ TIST* in the world can do; yet cannot I ima-
 “ gine, why you should endeavour to disturb the
 “ repose and plenty which, though unworthy, I
 “ enjoy at this place. It cannot be, that you take
 “ offence at my prologues and epilogues, which
 “ you are pleased to miscall foolish and abusive.
 “ No, no, until you give a better †, I shall not
 “ forbear thinking that the true reason of your
 “ picking a quarrel with me was, because it is
 “ more agreeable to your principles, as well as
 “ more to the honour of your assured victory,
 “ to attack a governor. Mr. ISAAC, Mr. ISAAC,
 “ I can see into a mill-stone as far as another,
 “ as the saying is; you are for sowing the seeds
 “ of sedition and disobedience among my pup-
 “ pets, and your zeal for the good old cause
 “ would make you persuade PUNCH to pull the
 “ string from his chops, and not move his jaw
 “ when I have a mind he should harangue.
 “ Now, I appeal to all men, if this be not con-
 “ trary to that unaccountable and uncontroul-
 “ able dominion, which by the laws of nature I
 “ exercise over them; for all sorts of wood and
 “ wire were made for the use and benefit of

* See SPECT. N^o 31, and this ARTIST's *Adv.* p. 502.

† “ And till I can hear of a better reason, &c. I shall
 “ not forbear thinking that the true reason of it was, be-
 “ cause I am (though unworthy, yet by God's permission
 “ and the Queen's favour) a BISHOP; and a BISHOP is
 “ thought by some people to be a sort of an ecclesiastical
 “ GOVERNOR,” &c. *Ibidem*, p. 5.

“ man :

“ man: I have therefore, an unquestionable
 “ right to frame, fashion, and put them toge-
 “ ther as I please; and having made them what
 “ they are, my puppets are my property, and
 “ therefore my slaves: nor is there in nature
 “ any thing more just, than the homage which
 “ is paid by a less to a more excellent being:
 “ so that by the right, therefore, of a superior
 “ genius, I am their supreme moderator, al-
 “ though you would insinuate, agreeably to
 “ your levelling principles, that I am myself
 “ but a great puppet, and can therefore have
 “ but a co-ordinate jurisdiction with them. I
 “ suppose, I have now sufficiently made it ap-
 “ pear, that I have a paternal right* to keep a
 “ puppet-show, and this right I will maintain
 “ in my prologues on all occasions.

“ And, therefore, if you write a defence of
 “ yourself against this my self-defence, I ad-
 “ monish you to keep within bounds; for every
 “ day will not be so propitious to you as the
 “ twenty-ninth of April; and perhaps my re-
 “ sentment may get the better of my genero-
 “ sity, and I may no longer scorn to fight one
 “ who is not my equal, with unequal weapons:
 “ there are such things as *scandalums magna-*

* FILMER published two books, the one on the “ Anar-
 “ chy of Limited Monarchy,” the other on “ Patriarchal
 “ Government;” in which he labours to prove, that all
 government ought to be absolute and monarchical; that
paternal is the same as *royal* authority, and implies *despotic*
 power.

“ *tums**; therefore, take heed hereafter how
 “ you write such things as I cannot easily an-
 “ swer, for that will put me in a passion.

“ I order you to handle only these two pro-
 “ positions, to which our dispute may be re-
 “ duced: the first, whether I have not an ab-
 “ solute power, whenever I please, to light a
 “ pipe with one of PUNCH’s legs, or warm my
 “ fingers with his whole carcase? the second,
 “ whether the devil would not be in PUNCH,
 “ should he by word or deed oppose my sove-
 “ reign will and pleasure? and then, perhaps,
 “ I may, if I can find leisure for it, give you
 “ the trouble of a second letter.

“ But if you intend to tell me of the original
 “ of puppet-shows†; and the several changes
 “ and revolutions that have happened in them
 “ since THESPIS, and I do not care who, that
 “ is *Noli me tangere*! I have solemnly engaged
 “ to say nothing of what I cannot approve.
 “ Or, if you talk of certain contracts with
 “ the mayor and burgessees, or fees to the

* “ Why, Sir, 1. As to other answer, I don’t know
 “ but that I might answer it by an action of *scand. mag.*
 “ but that I should scorn to fight an adversary with un-
 “ equal weapons.”

“ Bishop of EXETER’s Answer,” &c. *ut supra*, p. 27.

† “ Allusions to Bishop BLACKALL’s peevish expressions
 “ in the conclusion of his answer from Bath, to Mr.
 “ HOADLY’s Considerations,” &c. “ *If your reply shall be*
 “ *about original contracts, revolutions, &c. I tell you plainly*
 “ *that I an’t at leisure, nor I shan’t be at leisure, nor I won’t*
 “ *be at leisure, to write you so much as one single line about*
 “ *such matters.*”

“ constables, for the privilege of acting, I
 “ will not write one single word about any
 “ such matters; but shall leave you to be
 “ mumbled by the learned and very ingenious
 “ author of a late book, who knows very well
 “ what is to be said and done in such cases.
 “ He is now shuffling the cards, and dealing
 “ to TIMOTHY; but if he wins the game, I
 “ will send him to play at back-gammon with
 “ you; and then he will satisfy you, that *duce-*
 “ *ace* makes five.

“ And so, submitting myself to be tried by
 “ my country, and allowing any jury of twelve
 “ good men, and true, to be that country*;
 “ not excepting any unless Mr. ISAAC BIC-
 “ KERSTAFF to be of the pannel, for you are
 “ neither good nor true†. I bid you heartily
 “ farewell; and am,

“ SIR,

“ Your loving friend,

“ POWEL.”

* “ Referring myself to be tried by God and my coun-
 “ try, not excepting against any one person’s being on the
 “ pannel, but only Mr. BENJAMIN HOADLY, *Rector of*
 “ *St. Peter’s Poor.*” Ibidem, page 22. The BISHOP’S
 “ Answer,” &c. is dated Bath, May 10, 1709.

† Mr. HOADLY, after his advancement to the see of
 Winchester, having accidentally discovered that Bishop
 BLACKALL’S widow was in indigent circumstances, gene-
 rously settled upon her an annuity of 50l.

** CUTTS for the Hist. Part of this Paper, are adver-
 tised here in the TAT. *in folio*. See N^o 48, *ad finem*, p. 481.

END of VOL. I.