

# The TATTLE R.

By Isaac Bickerstaff Esq;

Invenies dissecti Membra Poetae. Hor.

From Saturday December 10. to Tuesday December 13. 1709.

Will's Coffee-house, December 12.

**I** Was this Evening sitting at the Side-Table, and reading one of my own Papers with great Satisfaction, not knowing that I was observed by any in the Room. I had not long enjoyed this secret Pleasure of an Author, when a Gentleman, some of whose Works I have been highly entertained with, accosted me after the following Manner: Mr. Bickerstaff, you know I have for some Years devoted my self wholly to the Muses, and perhaps you will be surpris'd when I tell you I am resolv'd to take up and apply my self to Business: I shall therefore beg you will stand my Friend, and recommend a Customer to me for several Goods that I have now upon my Hands. I desir'd him to let me have a Particular, and I would do my utmost to serve him. I have first of all, says he, the *Progress* of an *Amour*: digested into Sonnets, beginning with a Poem to the unknown Fair, and ending with an Epithalamium. I have celebrated in it, her Cruelty, her Pity, her Face, her Shape, her Wit, her good Humour, her Dancing, her Singing— I could not forbear interrupting him; This is a most accomplished Lady, said I; but has she really, with all these Perfections, a fine Voice. Pugh, says he, you do not believe there is such a Person in Nature. This was only my Employment in Solitude last Summer, when I had neither Friends or Books to divert me. I was going, says I, to ask her Name, but I find it is only an imaginary Mistress. That's true, replied my Friend, but her Name is *Flavis*. I have, continued he, in the Second Place, a Collection of Lampoons, calculated either for the *Bath*, *Tunbridge*, or any Place where they drink Waters, with blank Spaces for the Names of such Person or Persons as may be inserted in them on Occasion. Thus much I have told only of what I have by me proceeding from Love and Malice. I have also at this Time the Sketch of an Heroick Poem upon the next Peace; Several indeed of the Verses are either too long or too short; it being a rough Draught of my Thoughts upon that Subject. I thereupon told him, That as it was, it might probably pass for a very good Pindarick, and I believed I knew one who would be willing to deal with him for it upon that Foot. I must tell you also, I have made a Dedication to it, which is about four Sides close written, that may serve any one that is tall and understands Latin. I have further, about Fifty Similies, that were never yet apply'd, besides Three and twenty Descriptions of the Sun-rising, that might be of great Use to an Epick Poet. There are my more bulky Commodities: Besides which, I have several small Wares that I would part with at easy Rates; as, Observations upon Life, and Moral Sentences, reduc'd into several Couplets, very proper to close up Acts of Plays, and may be easily introduced by two or three Lines of Prose, either in Tragedy or Comedy.

If I could find a Purchaser curious in Latin Poetry, I could accommodate him with Two Dozen of Epigrams, which, by Reason of a few false Quantities, should come for little or nothing.

I heard the Gentleman with much Attention, and asked him, Whether he would break Bulk and sell his Goods by Retail, or designed they should all go in a Lump? He told me, That he should be very loth to part them, unless it was to oblige a Man of Quality, or any Person for whom I had a particular Friendship. My Reason for asking (said I) is, only because I know a young Gentleman who intends to appear next Spring in a new jingling Chariot, with the Figures of the Nine Muses on each Side of it; and I believe, would be glad to come into the World in Verse. We could not go on in our Treaty, by Reason of Two or Three Criticks that joined us. They had been talking, it seems, of the Two Letters which were found in the Coffin, and mentioned in one of my late Lucubrations, and came with a Request to me, that I would communicate any others of them that were legible. One of the Gentlemen was pleas'd to say, That it was a very proper Instance of a Widow's Constancy; and said, he wish'd I had subjoined, as a Foil to it, the following Passage in *Hamlet*. The young Prince was not yet acquainted with all the Guilt of his Mother, but turns his Thoughts on her sudden Forgetfulness of his Father, and the Indecency of her hasty Marriage.

That it should come to this!  
 But Two Months dead! Nay, not so much, not Two!  
 So excellent a King! That was to this  
 Hyperion to a Sayer! So loving to my Mother!  
 That he permitted not the Winds of Heav'n  
 To visit her Face too roughly! Heav'n and Earth!  
 Must I remember? Why she would hang on him!  
 As if Increase of Appetite had grown  
 By what is fed on? And yet, within a Month!  
 Let me not think on't--- Frailty, thy Name is Woman!  
 A little Month! Or e're those Shoes were old,  
 With which she follow'd my poor Father's Body,  
 Like Niobe all Tears; Why she! e'd'n she!  
 Oh Heav'n! a Brute, that wants Discourse of Reason,  
 Would have mourn'd longer!--- Married with mine

(Uncle!  
 My Father's Brother! But no more like my Father,  
 Than I to Hercules! Within a Month!  
 E're yet the Salt of most unrighteous Tears,  
 Had left the Flushing of her ganted Eyes,  
 She marry'd--- O most wicked Speed! To part  
 With such Dexterity to incestuous Sheets!  
 It is not, nor it cannot come to Good!  
 But break, my Heart; for I must hold my Tongue!

The several Emotions of Mind, and Breaks of Passion, in this Speech, are admirable. He has touch'd every Circumstance that aggravated the Fact, and seem'd capable of hurrying the Thoughts





of a Son into Distraction. His Father's Tenderness for his Mother, expressed in so delicate a Particular; his Mother's Fondness for his Father no less exquisitely described; the great and amiable Figure of his dead Parent drawn by a true Filial Piety; his Disdain of so unworthy a Successor to his Bed: But above all, the Shortness of the Time between his Father's Death and his Mother's Second Marriage, brought together with so much Disorder; make up as noble a Part as any in that celebrated Tragedy. The Circumstance of Time I never could enough admire. The Widowhood had lasted Two Months. This is his First Reflection: But as his Indignation rises, he sinks to scarce Two Months: Afterwards into a Month; and at last, into a Little Month. But all this so naturally, that the Reader accompanies him in the Violence of his Passion, and finds the Time lessen insensibly, according to the different Workings of his Disdain. I have not mentioned the Incest of her Marriage, which is so obvious a Provocation; but can't forbear taking Notice, that when his Fury is at it's Height, he cries, *Frailty, thy Name is Woman!* As railing at the Sex in general, rather than giving himself Leave to think his Mother worse than others.— *Desulerantur multa.*

Whereas Mr. Jeffery Groggram has surrendered himself by his Letter bearing Date December 7. and has sent an Acknowledgment that he is dead, praying an Order to the Company of Upholders for Interrment at such a reasonable Rate as may not impoverish his Heirs; The said Groggram having been dead ever since he was born, and added nothing to his small Patrimony, Mr. Bickerstaff has taken the Premises into Consideration; and being sensible of the ingenuous and singular Behaviour of this Petitioner, pronounces the said Jeffery Groggram a live Man, and will not suffer that he should bury himself out of Modesty; but requires him to remain among the Living, as an Example to those obstinate dead Men, who will neither labour for Life, nor go to their Grave.

N. B. Mr. Groggram is the First Person that has come in upon Mr. Bickerstaff's Dead Warrant.

Florinda demands by her Letter of this Day to be allowed a living Woman, having danced the Derbyshire Hornpipe in the Presence of several Friends on Saturday last.

Granted; Provided she can bring Proof, that she can make a Pudding on the 24th Instant.

Whereas I am informed, That there is a spurious and very incorrect Edition of these Papers printed in a small Volume; These are to give Notice, That there is in the Press, and will speedily be published, a very neat Edition, fitted for the Pocket, on extraordinary good Paper, a new Brevier Letter, like the Elzevir Editions, and adorned with several Cuts by the best Artists. To which is added, a Preface, Index, and many Notes, for the better Explanation of these Lucubrations. By the Author. Who has revised, amended, and made many Additions to the Whole.

N. B. Notice shall be given in this Paper, when I conclude my First Volume.

#### Advertisements.

Whereas there were lately Advertisements in the Publick Prints, of a Globular New Light that was to be put up at St. James's Coffee-house, to be seen there for Approbation, which hath since been perform'd to the general Satisfaction of those that have seen the same; the Person who hath the Patent for the said Light living in Ireland, is willing upon a reasonable Terms to dispense of his Interest therein relating to this Kingdom; and any Person that hath a Mind to treat about the same, may hear of him, and see the said Patent, at the Patent-Office in Paulgrave-Head-Count near Temple-Bar.

Whereas the Author of a certain printed Paper, has published many malitious and scurrilous Reflections upon Sir J. W. Bar. These are to undeceive and satisfy the World, That the Tuition of the young Lady therein mention'd, is appointed to him by the Will of her late Father, and was neither perverted, nor an Heir's; as is very well known to all her Relations; and that his Story of a Presentation to a certain Living in Gloucestershire, is intirely mistaken and false.

On Thursday next will be publish'd,

Atlas Geographus: Or, A Compleat System of Geography, Ancient and Modern. Publish'd Monthly. This Eighteenth for November, 1709. finishes the Government of Brittain; and contains that of Orleans, Champagne, French Lorrain, and Bar; with the History and Genealogy of the Dukes of Lorrain, and the Government of Burgundy; and begins that of Lionnois. With Two Maps. One of the South Part of France; and another of the principal Rivers of the Kingdom. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy; and sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the 18 preceding Months. And Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, Chirurgica, &c. for November and December. Both publish'd Monthly. Pr. 1 s. each.

Whereas there is lately published a neat and beautiful Edition of Bishop Beveridge of Publick Prayer, and frequent Communion, designed to revive primitive Piety; and whereas several of the Clergy and Laity have subscribed to that excellent Book, which is now sold for 1 s. in Sheets, and 1 s. 2 d. bound; this is to desire other pious Persons to encourage and disperse them throughout the Kingdom; which it is not doubted but they will readily do, when considered, a greater Good cannot be done at a less Expence. Those that take a Hundred shall have Ten gratis; and are hereby desired to send in their Names and Numbers speedily, to R. Smith at his Warehouse in Exeter Exchange in the Strand, the Books being ready to deliver. At which Place also may be had, the said Bishop's English Works in Nine Volumes, Price 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. and ready Money for any Library or Parcel of Books.

A Gentleman coming along Thames-street about Six a Clock at Night on the first Instant, hath taken up a Red Letter-case torn at one End, with some Bills and Accounts, and some Receipts of no Use but to the Owner, Payment being stop'd. If the Gentleman that took it up will bring it to the Kenish Hog in Little-Bath-heap, shall have five shillings Reward.

Newly publish'd,

\*. The Case of the Heirs at Law to George Monke, late Duke of Albemarle. Sold by B. Bragge, at the Black Raven in Pater-noster Row. Price 3 d.

New Musick this Day publish'd,

THE most celebrated Airs and Duets in the Opera's of Pyrrhus and Clotilda. Curiously acted and continued for two Flutes, with their Simphonies; introduced in a compleat Manner. Price each Set 2 s. 6 d. Note, Most of them being printed in the Keys they were performed in at the Theatre, renders them as proper for Two Violins, being very sprightly and agreeable to the Instruments. The whole fairly engrave. Printed for J. Walsh, Servant in Ordinary to her Majesty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hariboy in Katherine-street near Somerset-House in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhill near the Royal-Exchange.

THE famous Chymical Quintessence of Bobee Tea and Chocolate together, the first of that kind ever made; in which are essentially inherent the true Vertues of both Tea and Nur, in such that a few Drops of it gives more Nourishment than 20 Dishes of either, and is therefore the highest Restorative in Decays of Nature, consumptive Habits, inward Weakness, Watings and Coughs, Asthma's, Poorness of Blood, &c. invigorating and Strengthening Nature beyond all Food or Phylick. Sold at 5 s. the Bottle at Mr. Lawence's Toyshop, at the Griffin, the Corner of Buckles bury, Poultry.

This Week will be published,

A Full Account of the Conversion of Mr. John Barville, alias Baron, from Popery to the Church of England; with the Manner of his being brought up in the English College at Rome; and also of his being employed in the Popish Service in England. Wherein he plainly discloses all the secret Springs and Mysteries of their Religion, and confutes them by their own Arguments. With several other Remarks upon the horrid Maxims, Practices, and Superstitions, both of the Priests themselves, and of the People deluded by them. By the said J. Barville. Whereunto are added, the Forms of his Abjuration before Dr. Kennet, (in the Parish Church of St. Mary Aldermay) and of several other Gentlemen. And lastly, a Letter of Dr. Kennet, relating several Instances of the like Nature. Printed for J. Philips, at the Black Bull over-against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are continued Instances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been reliev'd by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleet-street. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away in many Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhill: At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above mention'd.

Sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall; where Advertisements are taken in.