

The T A T L E R.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

— *Quid prodest, Pontice, longo
Sanguine censer, pictosq; ostendere Vultus
Majorum ? —* Juv.

From Saturday February 17. to Tuesday February 20. 1710.

From my own Apartment in Channel-Row, Feb. 19.

IT is observable of Men of base Extraction and low Education, that when they have any Thing in them of what the World calls good Sense, they turn it wholly to the getting of Money. They have but that one Point in View, and consequently overlook all either difficult or indirect Ways which lead to it.

If they attain their End, and become rich toward their middle Age, before they decline in Years, and decay in Strength, and that their Appetite of getting is not yet turned into an Avarice of hoarding, if they have any Fire remaining, they commonly feel themselves warmed with a Kind of Ambition of being Somebody, as well as Something. They find a Want of that Respect which they observe to be paid to such who are called Gentlemen, and Persons of Condition, though of small Fortunes. They would give any Consideration to be of an honourable Descent, and alter the Spelling of their Names to bring them on as near as possible to some Name or Seat of Antiquity. If that cannot be brought about, they push for a Knighthood, or an Alliance with some Family of Name or Title, whose Follies or Misfortunes have reduced them to match themselves or Children to Money, however basely lodged, or infamously obtained.

I fell into this Reflection after a Visit made me some Days since by one whom I remember to have known a Link Boy, and who has often lighted me formerly from the *Green-Dragon* in *Fleet-street* to my Lodgings in *Sheer-lane*. We used to call him *Foundling*, a Name given him by his Godfather the Parish, and which he has not yet been able to part with, or vary, though he has found the Secret to be worth very near what they call a Plum, and upon Change has obtained the Appellation of a good Man. He came to me with much Frankness, owning both his past and present Circumstances; but what

made me smile, was, the Request he made me to accompany him to a House in our Row, where lives one *Randall* (as he called him) a *Creature Merchant*. This Person is a great Virtuoso, and deals in Birds and Beasts, though not either as a Butcher or Poulterer; for he nourishes nothing that is eatable, nor ever utters any Commodity but while it is alive.

As we walked toward this Virtuoso's Habitation, which I may call an Abridgment of the Ark, my Friend *Foundling* told me, "He had purchased a fair Seat in the Country, That he had a Mind to appear well in the World; and since he had a Gentleman's Estate, he would endeavour to have every Thing suitable to it; That he had bargained already with the Herald's College for a Coat of Arms; and that his present Errand to *Randall's* was, from among his Variety of Animals to fancy himself a Crest, in which he mightily desired my Assistance and Approbation." I was delighted with the Folly and Frankness of the Man; but it happened he saw nothing that pleased him. As we returned, I advised him to an honest home-bred Crest out of his own Farmers Yard, which was a Cock's Head untrim'd, with the Gills and Comb entire. This he approved, and took his Leave. I was about to reflect on what had pass'd, when suddenly returning he called to me, and coming nearer, told me, he would let me into all his Project, and desired I would step with him to a Waterman's House hard by, where he had lodged a Set of Ancestors, which were to go up next Tide to his Seat upon the River. He desired my Judgment of the Choice he had made of Three Generations to furnish his Parlor. I went with him, not readily comprehending what he meant, till we enter'd the House, where he explained to me, that at *Fleet-Ditch* he had bought the Pictures of three Men and three Women, which were suited well enough to each other, and were to personate his Family up to his Great-Grandfather and Great-Grandmother, which he thought was pretending far enough for one who was in Truth related to no Body that he

knew

knew of in the World. As I was extremely diverted with the Oddness and Extravagance of the Man's Fancy, I was no less satisfied with his Judgment in the Choice of the Pictures; the Habits, and Dispositions of the Figures being suited to Three different Periods and Fashions of Time, and concluding, or rather beginning, in the Great-Grandfather and Great-Grandmother, with a Pair of Trunk Hose, a Ruff, and a Farthingale. I pleased him with my Approbation, and took Leave of him, entertaining my self often since with the Reflections which naturally arise from the Contemplation of Vanity, Wealth, and titular Happiness. I have since heard there is a Marriage likely to be concluded betwixt his Daughter Mrs. Priscilla Foundling and the eldest Son of the Lord *Mortgage*.

Will's Coffee-house, February 19.

When my other Affairs will give me Leave, I now and then saunter unobserved about the Town, and am infinitely entertained with the Variety of Persons, Humours, and Circumstances, I meet with in my Walks. Returning Home the other Evening after a Tour of this Kind, I stepped in here, and having hung up my Cloak, and called for a Dish of Tea, joined my self to the Company at the Long Table. I could not but be surpriz'd to find *Severus*, who has himself an admirable Taste of Learning, and a good Insight into Politicks, surrounded with a Set of vain and empty Pretenders to both. Amongst the rest, I took particular Notice of one whom I had formerly in his proper Capacity made honourable Mention of. 'Tis true, he affected little of the Statesman, but in all Matters relating to Poetry seem'd to consider himself as the ultimate Judge, and with great Volubility of Speech dictated to all about him. He had a perfect Command of that Critical Cant I mentioned in my last, and applied it, in a very Magisterial Manner, to several Passages of *Shakespeare*, *Johnson*, and *Dryden*. I sat some Time at the Table before he offered to take any Notice of me, and he did it at last with such an Air of Superiority, as if he imagined his Name had done Honour to my Paper, instead of receiving any from it; or as if it had been a Piece of Condescension in one of his Figure to own an Acquaintance with the Censor of *Great Britain*. From his Usage of me he gave me a fair Occasion of calling him aside, and telling him of what other Faults I had observed in his Behaviour.

' Sir, (says I) 'tis a real Grief to me to find that the Praises bestow'd upon you have in a great Measure turned your Understanding. I did not mean them for your Ruin, but Encouragement--- I said you were a good Player, not an excellent Critick; pray don't mistake me--- Let me advise you to learn better Behaviour of your Friend Mr. *Penkethman*, he is diverting enough upon the Stage; but off it, understands his Situation in Life, and is a very gull inoffensive Kind of Man. I am inform'd you have great Power in your Hands as to our Theatrical Entertainments; make better use of it, or resign it quickly. The Town is as weary of your Tyranny as those under your Command. To the great Injury of both, you supprets *Powell*, *Booth*, and *Pack*, because they are better Players than your self, or any of your Friends--- Let me hear no more of it--- Good Night to you.

Advertisements.

** On Friday next will be published for this February, *Atlas Geographus*, being the Second Month for Asia. This continues Turkey in Asia, with 2 new Maps, viz. the Holy Land and Syria. Asia shall be completed in 12 Months, ending December next, with good Index, Subscribers Names, and about 40 new Maps, Sanfon's Tables, &c. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy, and sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall; where may be had Compleat Sets for Europe (except Great Britain and Ireland) Those that desire the Maps coloured, being about 60, may have them done by Mr. Moll's Direction, paying 2 s. 6 d. Colouring. Those that want any odd Months for Europe, to perfect their Sets, may have them if they do it in a Fortnight's Time. Note, *Bibliotheca Anatomica* for January, being the 1st Month for the 2d Vol. will be publish'd next Monday, and the 2d Month for this February, with many Cuts, 10 Days after. The 1st Vol. may be had compleat, or any odd Months.

OLDISWORTH's Record-Ink Powder. Each Sixpenny Paper of 3 Ounces makes a Pint of the best Ink, or Quarr, as by Directions, sealed up. Sold by the Stationers of London and Westminster.

** There is just published, *The Circe of Signior Giovanni Battista Gelli*, of the Academy of Florence. Consisting of Ten Dialogues between Men transform'd into Beasts: Giving a lively Representation of the various Passions, and many Inelicities, of humane Life. Don'd out of Italian, by Mr. Thomas Brown. The Second Edition. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 3 s. 6 d.

** Lately publish'd, *A Discourse made by the Lord Bishop of Rochester to the Clergy of his Diocese*, at his Visitation in the Year 1695. Publish'd at their Request. In the Savoy: Printed by John Nutt, and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

At the Dial, up one Pair of Stairs, against *Long Man's Coffee-house at Charing-Cross*, are Morning-Gowns for Men and Women, of all Sorts of rich Brocaded Silks, Japan'd Sattin, striped Thread Sattin, Caps quilted, Canvas Coats, and great Variety of other rich Silks, Stuffs and Callicoes, being a fresh Parcel of choice Goods taken in Execution, and to be sold at lower Rates than any where about London, the Price being on each Gown.

** The Statutes at large, in Three Volumes; *Wia-gate* and *Washington's* Abridgments, with a Supplement to them; *Mr. Clutterbuck's* Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy; *Dr. Gibbon* on the Sacrament, at 1 l. 5 s. per Hundred; *Winchester Manual*; *Bibles* and Common Prayers of all Sorts, ruled or unruled; a fine Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, engraved by *Mr. Sturt*; *Dr. Nicoll's* Paraphrase on the Common Prayer; the New Welch Common Prayer and Psalms, with or without Cuts; and *Tate* and *Brady's* Psalms, with the New Supplement; *Bishop Beveridge's* Catechism; *Dr. Williams's* Catechism; are sold by *R. Whiteledge*, at the Bible and Ball in *Ave-Mary-lane* near *Ludgate*, at the lowest Prices.

ALL Persons who for themselves or Friends, having red and grey Hairs, would have them dy'd or turn'd black, or dark-brown Colour, will find entire Satisfaction, as a great many have already, in the Use of a clear Water found out by *Mr. Michon*, and is to be sold at the said *Mr. Michon's*, Goldsmith, at the Crown and Pearl in *Grafon-street*; at *P. Varenne's*, a Bookseller, at *Seneca's* Head near *Somerset-house* in the Strand; at the *Rainbow* Coffee-house beyond the *Royal-Exchange* in *Cornhil*; at *Hen. Ribytreau's* at the Crown over-against *Exeter-Exchange* in the Strand; by *A. Bell* at the *Cross-Keys* and *Bible* in *Cornhil*; and *Mrs. Brown*, a Tirewoman, at the *Comb* and *Sciffars* in *Wiltmongers* Court, *Southwark*.

WHEREAS on Thursday the 18th of January last was missing, from *Mr. Fisher's* House next to the Corner the upper End of *Old Southampton Buildings* near *Chancery-lane*, some wearing Apparel, and other Things, with a Piece of *Holland* Three Quarters of a Yard in Length, and Ell wide, lined with *Scotch Cloth* stich'd in Flowers, with *Straw-coloured* Silk, almost finished. Whoever will bring the Piece of stitching Work within ten Days Time to the said *Mr. Fisher*, shall have 10 s. Reward, and no Questions asked, and in Proposition for the other Things; or it pawn'd their Money again.

By the *Hampshire Society*, at their Office of Insurance in *Bell-Court*, near *Aldersgate*, Subscriptions are taken on Birth-Days of single Persons, for two Months; on Births of Infants, for six Weeks; on Marriages, for six Weeks; on Clerks, Apprentices, and Servants, for ten Weeks; on the Wedding-Days of married Persons, Widowers, and Widows, and on Birth-Days of all Persons, for six Weeks. By Way of Claim and Dividend. Note, Security is already given for the due Performance of what is propos'd; and the Advantages to such as shall continue Subscribers, will be greater than in any other Society, as may be seen by the Proposals at large, which may be had at the Office gratis. One End of *Bell-Court* comes into *Folter-lane*, directly against *Goldsmiths-Hall*, and the other End into *St. Martin's-le-Grand*.

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

