

The TATLER.

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By Isaac Bickerstaff Esq;

— *Scelus est jugulare Falernum,
Et dare Campano toxica sava Mero.* Mart.

From Tuesday February 7. to Thursday February 9. 1709.

Sheer-Lanc, February 8.

THERE is in this City a certain Fraternity of Chymical Operators, who work under Ground in Holes, Caverns, and dark Retirements, to conceal their Mysteries from the Eyes and Observation of Mankind. These Subterraneous Philosophers are daily employed in the Transmutation of Liquors, and, by the Power of Magical Drugs and Incantations, raising under the Streets of London the choicest Products of the Hills and Valleys of France. They can squeeze *Bordeaux* out of the *Sloe*, and draw *Champagne* from an *Apple*. *Virgil* in that remarkable Prophecy

Inculcisque rubens pendebit Sentibus Uva.

“The ripening Grape shall hang on ev’ry Thorn.

Seems to have hinted at this Art, which can turn a Plantation of *Northern Hedges* into a Vineyard. These Adepts are known among one another by the Name of Wine-Brewers, and I am afraid do great Injury, not only to her Majesty’s Customs, but to the Bodies of many of her good Subjects.

Having received sundry Complaints against these invisible Workmen, I ordered the proper Officer of my Court to ferret them out of their respective Caves, and bring them before me, which was Yesterday executed accordingly.

The Person who appeared against them was a Merchant, who had by him a great Magazine of Wines that he had laid in before the War: But these Gentlemen (as he said) had so vitiated the Nation’s Palate, that no Man could believe his to be *French*, because it did not taste like what they sold for such. As a Man never pleads better than where his own Personal Interest is concern’d, he exhibited to the Court with great Eloquence, That this new Corporation of Druggists had inflamed the Bills of Mortality, and puzzled the College of Physicians with Disceates, for which they neither knew a Name or Cure. He accused some of giving all their Customers Cholicks and Megrims; and mentioned one who had boasted, he had a Tun of Claret by him, that in a Fortnights Time should give the Gout to a Dozen of the healthfulest Men in the City, provided that their Constitutions were prepared for it by Wealth and Idleness. He then enlarged, with a great Show of Reason, upon the Prejudice which these Mixtures and Compositions had done to the Brains of the *English Nation*; as is too visible (said he) from many late Pamphlets, Speeches and Sermons, as well as from the ordinary Conversations of the Youth of this Age. He then quoted an ingenious Person, who would undertake to know by a Man’s Writings, the Wine he most delighted in; and on that Occasion named a certain Satyrist, whom he had discovered to be the Author of a Lampoon, by a manifest Taste of the *Sloe*, which show’d it self in it by much Roughness, and little Spirit.

In the last Place, he ascribed to the unnatural

Tumults and Fermentations which these Mixtures raise in our Blood; the Divisions, Heats and Animosities, that reign among us; and in particular, asserted most of the Modern Enthusiasts and Agitations to be nothing else but the Effects of adulterated *Port*.

The Council for the Brewers had a Face so extremely inflamed and illuminated with Carbuncles, that I did not wonder to see him an Advocate for these Sophistifications. His Rhetorick was likewise such as I should have expected from the common Draught, which I found he often drank to a great Excess. Indeed, I was so surpris’d at his Figure and Parts, that I order’d him to give me a Taste of his usual Liquor, which I had no sooner drank, but I found a Pimple rising in my Forehead; and felt such a sensible Decay in my Understanding, that I did not proceed in the Trial till the Fume of it was entirely dissipated.

This notable Advocate had little to say in the Defence of his Clients, but that they were under a Necessity of making Claret if they would keep open their Doors, it being the Nature of Mankind to love every thing that is prohibited. He further pretended to reason, That it might be as profitable to the Nation to make *French Wine* as *French Hats*; and concluded with the great Advantage that this had already brought to Part of the Kingdom. Upon which he informed the Court, That the Lands in *Hersfordshire* were raised Two Years Purchase since the Beginning of the War.

When I had sent out my Summons to these People, I gave at the same Time Orders to each of them to bring the several Ingredients he made use of in distinct Phials, which they had done accordingly, and ranged them into two Rows on each Side of the Court. The Workmen were drawn up in Ranks behind them. The Merchant informed me, That in one Row of Phials were the several Colours they dealt in, and in the other the Tails. He then showed me on the Right Hand one who went by the Name of *Tom. Tintoret*, who (as he told me) was the greatest Master in his Colouring of any Vintner in *London*. To give me a Proof of his Art, he took a Glass of fair Water; and by the Infusion of Three Drops out of one of his Phials, converted it into a most beautiful pale *Burgundy*. Two more of the same Kind heightened it into a perfect *Languedoc*: From thence it passed into a florid *Hermitage*: And after having gone through Two or Three other Changes, by the Addition of a single Drop, ended in a very deep *Pontack*. This ingenious Virtuoso seeing me very much surpris’d at his Art, told me, That he had not an Opportunity of showing it in Perfection, having only made use of Water for the Ground-Work of his Colouring: But that if I were to see an Operation upon Liquors of stronger Bodies, the Art would appear to a much greater Advantage. He added, That he doubted not but it would please my Curiosity to see the Cyder of one Apple take only a Vermilion, when another, with a less Quantity of the same Infusion, would rise into a dark Purple,

ple,

pte, according to the different Texture of Parts in the Liqueur. He informed me also, That he could hit the different Shades and Degrees of Red, as they appear in the Pink and the Rose, the Clove and the Carnation, as he had *Rhenish* or *Moselle*, *Perry* or *White Port*, to work in.

I was so satisfied with the Ingenuity of this Virtuoso, that, after having admited him to quit so dishonest a Profession, I promised him, in Consideration of his great Genius, to recommend him as a Partner to a Friend of mine, who has heaped up great Riches, and is a Scarlet Dyer.

The Artists on my other Hand were ordered in the Second Place to make some Experiments of their Skill before me: Upon which the famous *Flarry Sippet* stepped out, and asked me, What I would be pleased to drink? At the same Time he filled out Three or Four white Liqueurs in a Glass, and told me, That it should be what I pleased to call for; adding very learnedly, That the Liqueur before him was as the naked Substance or First Matter of his Compound, to which he and his Friend, who stood over against him, could give what Accidents or Form they pleased. Finding him so great a Philosopher, I desired he would convey into it the Qualities and Essence of right *Bordeaux*. Coming, coming, Sir, (said he) with the Air of a Drawer; and after having cast his Eye on the several Tasts and Flavours that stood before him, he took up a little Cruet that was filled with a kind of Inky Juice, and pouring some of it out into the Glass of White-Wine, presented it to me, and told me, This was the Wine over which most of the Business of the last Term had been dispatched. I must confess, I looked upon that sooty Drug which he held up in his Cruet as the Quintessence of *English Bordeaux*, and therefore desired him to give me a Glass of it by it self, which he did with great Unwillingness. My Cat at that Time sat by me upon the Elbow of my Chair; and as I did not care for making the Experiment upon my self, I reached it to her to sip of it, which had like to have cost her her Life; for notwithstanding it flung her at first into freakish Tricks, quite contrary to her usual Gravity; in less than a quarter of an Hour she fell into Convulsions; and had it not been a Creature more tenacious of Life than any other, would certainly have died under the Operation.

I was so incensed by the Tortures of my innocent Domestick, and the unworthy Dealings of these Men, that I told them, if each of them had as many Lives as the injured Creature before them, they deserved to forfeit them for the pernicious Arts which they used for their Profit. I therefore bid them look upon themselves as no better than as a kind of Assassins and Murderers within the Law. However, since they had dealt so clearly with me, and laid before me their whole Practice, I dismissed them for that Time, with a particular Request, That they would not poison any of my Friends and Acquaintance, and take to some honest Livelihood without Loss of Time.

For my own Part, I have resolved hereafter to be very careful in my Liqueurs, and have agreed with a Friend of mine in the Army, upon their next March, to secure me Two Hogheads of the best Stoinach-Wine in the Cellars of *Versailles*, for the Good of my Lucubrations, and the Comfort of my old Age.

For the Benefit of my Readers, I think my self obliged here to let them know, that I always make Use of an old-fashioned c, which very little differs from an o. This has been the Reason, that my Printer sometimes mistakes the one for the other; as in my last Paper, I find, those for these, beheld for behold, Corvix for Corvix, and the like.

Advertisements.

* * * **PROPOSALS** for Printing the **LUCUBRATIONS** of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; by Subscriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be seen, and Subscriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall.

MEN'S Morning-Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Person that failed) to be disposed of at very low Rates; may be seen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-House, against the Horse at Charing-Cross. The Prices being set on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

SIR William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist, whose Medicaments have had so great an Effect and Success in removing all Obstructions in the Optick Nerves, and eradicating all viscidus Humours, Clouds or Atoms, and infallibly prevent **Cataracts** in the Beginning; and both clarify, strengthen and Preserve the Sight, as has been attested by many Persons of Quality and others, who have found the good Effects thereof; is to be advised withal at his House in Durham-yard in the Strand, London; where only his said Medicines are to be sold. He cures the Poor of Cataracts gratis: And also takes off Wens, and cures Wry Necks or Hair Lips, tho' never so deformed.

THE Upper Flask Bowling-Green at Hampstead-Heath, is to be Let, with the Tap or without. Enquire there, or at the Sun Tavern in Holborn, London.

In a Month will be publish'd.

* * * **The Compleat History of Europe**, from 1600 to this Time, in 14 Vol. viz. all the last Century in 5 Vol. containing all the publick and secret Transactions therein; the Characters of the Great Men, as done by my Lord Clarendon; as also of the same Persons done by Sir Sir P. Warwick, Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Rushworth, &c. and of those abroad written by Nani Puffendorf, &c. the History of Europe for 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, and 1709; in all 14 Vol. Printed for H. Rhodes by Fleet-Bridge, J. Nicholson in Little-Britain, and A. Bell at the Cross-Keys, Cornhill. Note, there are not above 100 compleat Sets of the above Vol. (and those for 1702, 1703, and 1704, are reprinted to make so many.) So all Gentlemen, Booksellers in the Country, &c. that intend to have compleat Sets, are desired to order them by the First of March next, when the History of Europe for 1709 will be published, that they may come together.

IN St. Martin's-Court, the upper End of St. Martin's-Lane, in the Liberty of Westminster, is erected an Office of Insurance upon Marriages, by providing Portions for single Persons of both Sexes by Contribution; for the due Performance whereof, Security is settled in Trustees by Advice of Council: Attendance is daily given at the said Office, where Subscriptions are taken, and the Proposals may be had Gratis.

THE are to acquaint the Lovers of Art, That there is an extraordinary Collection of Italian Drawings and Prints of the most eminent Painters and Gravers, to be sold by Hand; the lowest Price being set on the Back-side of each; so that all Gentlemen will at Sight be informed of the Value. Note, That if any Person has either fine Drawings, Prints, Pictures, or other Rarities, they may be disposed of in the same Manner, paying Poundage for such as are sold. There is constant Attendance from 10 of the Clock in the Morning to 5 in the Afternoon, at the House on the Right Hand going up to the House of Lords in the Old Palace-Yard, Westminster.

* * * **Antropologia Nova; or, A New System of Anatomy**; describing the Animal Oeconomy: And a short Rationale of many Distempers incident to Human Bodies. In which are inserted divers Anatomical Discoveries, and Medicinal Observations; with the History of the Parts. Illustrated with above Fourscore Figures, drawn after the Life; and to every Chapter a Syllabus of the Parts described, for the Instruction of young Anatomists. By James Drake, M. D. Fellow of the College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society. In Two Vol. Octavo. Printed for Benj. Walford and William Iohns at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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* * * **Lately published for the Benefit of Families**, A short but exact Account of all the Diseases incident to the Eyes, with the Causes, Symptoms, and Cures. Also Practical Observations upon some extraordinary Diseases of the Eyes. By Sir William Read, Her Majesty's Oculist, and Operator in the Eyes in Ordinary. The Second Edition, corrected. Sold by J. Baker at the Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. Price bound in Call 2 s. 6d.

* * * **Αναρεοντιου Οδου Μελιου, Anacreontis Teii Carmina**. Plurimis quibus haecenus scarbant Mendis purgavit, turbata Metra restituit, Notisque cum nova Interpretatione adjectit Willielmus Baxter. Subjiciuntur etiam duo vetustissimae Poetrix Sapphus elegantissima Odaria, cum novo Commentario; item Theocriti Anacreonticum in mortuum Adonin. Editio altera, aliquanto emaculata et elucubrior: Qua commendatur etiam Barnetii Cantabrigienfis Professoris Lepidum & Bellum Ingenium, & Acumen Criticum. Cadimus, inque vicem praebemus Crura Sagittis. Vivitur hoc Paelo. — L. n. d. n. i. Augustae Imperibatur Impensis Martiae Hawkins, proterque venalis ad Angelum in Aeca Paulina.

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 Fleetstreet. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers 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.