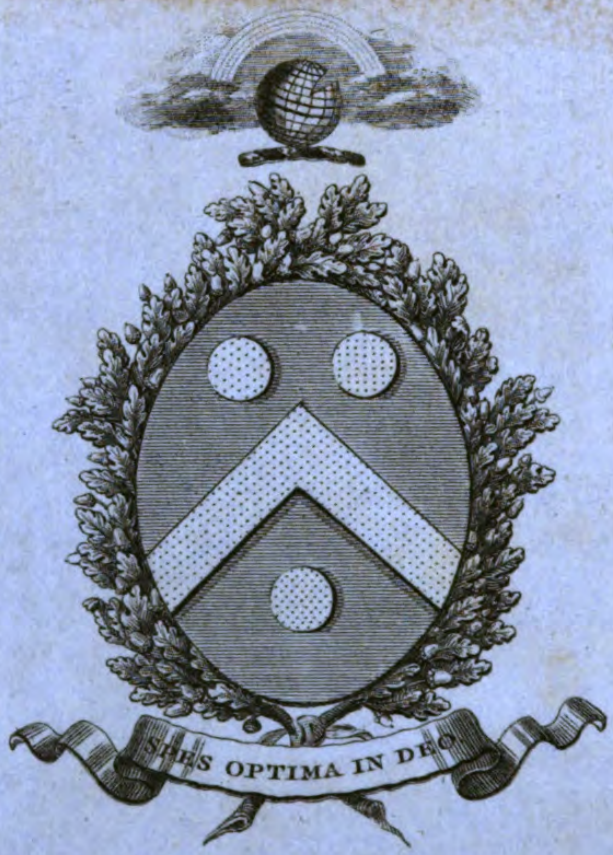

John Thomas Hope.

Paper upon Satire by
Lord Chesterfield Vol 2
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COMMON SENSE:

OR, THE

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MDCCXXXIX.

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 4, 1738.

A Third ORATION *of* DEMOSTHENES *abridg'd; occasion'd by the Insults of* PHILIP *upon the* ATHENIANS.

ATHENIANS,

I Have, upon other Occasions, admonished you of some of those Mistakes which I conceived had contributed very much to the present low Condition of your Affairs, and among the rest I must tell you, the little Regard that is paid to Matters of the greatest Importance, in which the Publick is concerned, has not a little contributed; I have observed the Attention has not lasted longer than while the Point has been debating,—as soon as it was over, some of you retire to your trifling Amusements, without the least Remembrance of what had passed, while others, the hired Mercenaries of some pitiful Declaimer, are sent about to make false Representations of Things, and

to cry up their Corruptor to the Skies.—Ask them what was the Point in Deliberation, they cannot tell any thing of the Matter, but however ſuch a one ſpoke like an Oracle. All this while *Philip* goes on executing his own Projects, and laughing to ſee, to what a Degree of Sloth and Folly the *Athenians* are ſunk.

If you aſk the Partizans of theſe Declaimers whether all theſe fine Harrangues, of which they boaſt ſo much, had yet brought *Philip* to Reaſon; whether they had gained us any Allies Abroad, or mended our Affairs at Home, they think all ſuch Queſtions foreign to the Purpoſe; it is enough for them that ſome noted Corruptor made a fine Speech.

I don't know what Conſolation it will be to you, when the Commonwealth ſhall be ruined, to ſay, it has been undone by fine Speeches. As to my own Part, I had rather ſee it preſerved by wiſe and honeſt Actions, than ruined by the fineſt Harrangues in the World; but to tell you the Truth, there is ſo little Reaſon for this Boaſt, vain and unprofitable as it is, that their Oratory is as poor as mean, and as falſe as their Politicks; but it would ill become me to waſte the Time in deſcanting upon Words, when Matters of great Importance to the Commonwealth are in Deliberation; and let me tell you, it has been one of our Misfortunes to have our Attention lead aſtray and directed to improper Objects; it has happened often of late that we have been thinking of nothing but comparing Harrangues at Home, while the Intereſts and Rights of the Commonwealth were going to ruin Abroad.

I think it is demonſtrable in the Nature of Things, that Actions muſt get the better of Words.——Aſk all thoſe who have ſuffered by the Violences and Depredations of *Philip*, what they are the better for all the fine Harrangues that have been made in this Place.—Or ſuppoſe you ſhould conſider it with Reſpect to your Situation

tuation Abroad, you cannot be ſo void of common Apprehenſion as not to ſee that *Philip* is both courted and feared, by thoſe very States which are the natural Allies of *Athens*, while you are inſulted and deſpiſed.—Do you feel no Shame at the Loſs of your Reputation?———Does it give you no Mortification to ſee thoſe States that formerly courted your Aſſiſtance, that have formerly own'd that they ow'd their very Preſervation to your Councels and Arms, now chuſe to defend themſelves ſingly and alone, rather than ſo much as invite you to their Succour?——What can be the Meaning of this? But that they have loſt all Opinion both of your Courage and Fidelity; they ſuſpect, that if you engage with them you will fail them, and of Conſequence they are better without you; they cannot perſuade themſelves that you will do that for your Allies, which you have not the Spirit to act for yourſelves; they endeavour therefore to make Alliances with thoſe they can depend upon; for it is certain, that all Nations court the Friendſhip of that People which they ſee ready and reſolute to defend its own Rights.

All Republicks that have gone to decay have firſt been divided into Factions; we have two Factions in this City, the one of Men who neither like to be govern'd by Force and Violence, nor to obey like Slaves, but who are for maintaining that Freedom which their Anceſtors enjoy'd before them:———The other is of Men who are for promoting ſevere Laws to keep their Fellow Citizens in Subjection, and who would eſpouſe the Intereſt of any thing, either Native or Foreigner, that might be uſeful to them in gaining a Superiority over their Fellow Citizens, or enriching themſelves at the Expence of the Publick.——You ſee all the Partizans of *Philip* are of the laſt.——If the Rights of *Athens* are invaded, or if your Honour is inſulted, thoſe who commit the Outrage always find a Party in this City to deny, to extenuate, nay even to juſtify the Wrong;

and why do they do it? Because they are Parties concerned themselves; it is the Effect of their own bad Councels, that have brought it upon us; besides, they know full well that these repeated Injuries will break your Spirits, and fit you to bear that Yoak they intended to lay upon you.

It is certain, that those who are engaged in those sinister Designs have a great Advantage over the honest and faithful Part of the Citizens, and the first and principal is, that the Money that passes through their Hands enables them to gain over all the mercenary and venal Spirits amongst you; besides which, they count upon the Assistance of an Army to crush all that shall stand up against them:——The Well-intention'd have none of these Advantages, nor indeed could they make Use of them if they had; besides all this, a certain Stupor has seiz'd you, you seem like Men who have swallowed a large Draught of the Drug call'd Mandragore, which throws those that take it into a profound Lethargy: You have indeed your Hearing, and your Seeing, but your Senses are asleep, otherwise you would not have suffered such pitiful Declaimers to have ruined your Affairs, and triumph over you in the midst of their Iniquity.

Philip cannot be ignorant what a venal and mercenary Set of Men have had the Direction of your Affairs; he despaired of gaining any thing over you as long as that Democracy in which your Strength and Preservation consisted was preserved in its Purity, but since a few Men have usurped so much Power, he knows it must have an Effect upon your Courage, and he counts upon it, that you are no more the same *Athenians* which he encountered at *Eubea*, nor are the States of *Greece* which surround you less sensible of it than *Philip*. There was a Time that in their Quarrels among one another, your Decision was a kind of Law; no sooner was a State injured or oppressed by another than it threw itself at your Feet, implored your

your Protection, and applied to you for Justice: For as it was not the Policy of this Republick to enlarge its Territories, or make new Conquests, your natural Character was, that you yourselves never aim'd to oppress, and at the same Time would not suffer any others to do it; you were the Terror of all ambitious Tyrants; you were, in fine, the Protectors and Patrons of the Liberties of Mankind; but now observe how Things are changed, whatever Differences arise amongst your Neighbours, no regard is paid to you; you are no more appeal'd to, as Arbitrators; you are neither courted as Friends, nor feared as Enemies; and so much is the World possessed with a Notion, that you have lost your Heads as well as your Hearts, that another State is step'd into that Post which you once maintain'd with so much Advantage and Glory; nay the weakest of your Neighbours now dispute with you the most insignificant Points. It moves one's Indignation to see you walk with your Arms a-cross, and, when any Stranger arrives from Foreign Parts, to hear you negligently ask, What News?——What is *Philip* doing? What new Violences has he committed?—— Another perhaps is heard to say, have we not an Army of *Barbarians* in our Pay?——Who commands it? Where is it?———But if any Stranger should ask you, what you do with your own Army, you may answer, that you have both Generals and Colonels as many as your Neighbours,——but what Use is made of them? Why they are as quiet and obedient as some of your Priests,——you fabrick Generals as Statuaries do Figures of Wood and Clay, who never intend them for any other Use, than to stand at their Gates for Shew. — If any Stranger will needs know what Service they are upon, you may tell the plain Truth, and answer, they are taking their Rest, and eating up the Revenues of the Commonwealth.

I cannot help repeating to you the Observation which a *Barbarian* lately made of the *Athenians*,——

When he heard how tamely you bore the Injuries that have been offered to you, he compared you to ſome of thoſe that fight with Fiſts in his Country, for (ſays he) when a cowardly Boxer mounts the Stage, the firſt Blow he receives he lies down, he rubs, and chafes the ſore Part, but is ſo far from ſtriking again that he dares not ſo much as look his Antagoniſt in the Face.

You are ſenſible how much the Politicks of this State have been changed within a few Years, and by this Time you feel what you have got by it.—Formerly you held the Balance of *Greece*, but now ſome of your Orators would perſuade you, that it is a troubleſome Poſt and you are better without it; formerly you never arm'd but to repeal an Enemy, now you think it wiſer to expend your Revenues in maintaining an armed Force, not to fight againſt *Philip*, but to ſtand quiet, and diſtant Spectators of the Inſults that are offered you; it was then thought good Policy to obviate and prevent Miſchief, it is now held wiſer to run after Events, and the beſt Time to deliberate about preventing Evils is after they are paſt all Remedy.

It is ſtrange that you will not examine the Conduct of thoſe who have adminſtered your Affairs; it is ſomething amazing, that you can with any Patience behold how differently they have managed for you and for themſelves. ——— Does not all the World know that ſome of thoſe who a few Years ago were ſo poor they thought themſelves happy to keep out of a Priſon, are now become richer than the ancient Families of *Athens*, and Lord it over their Fellow Citizens? Do you not ſee, do you not feel that the Commonwealth, which was rich when they were poor, is reduced and impoveriſhed; that we who held the firſt Rank amongſt the States of *Greece* are become deſpicable by their Politicks, are obliged to bend under Injuries and Inſults, and that the very Commonwealth is almoſt become a Priſoner within its own Walls.

I con-

I conjure you, in the Name of *Jupiter* and *Apollo*, to rouſe from this Lethargy, look into your own Affairs, there is a larger Revenue brought into your Publick Treaſury every Year, than has been at any Time before; call thoſe that have managed it to a ſtrict Account, ſuffer it not to be vainly and profuſely waſted in erecting Edifices for private Men, and adorning them at an Expence beyond the Palaces of the *Perſian* Monarchs; let it not be diſtributed before your Faces in bribing the venal and mercenary Part of your Citizens, in order to form a Faction to defend from Puniſhment the moſt corrupt as well as moſt ignorant Set of Men that ever breathed the vital Air: Let it be laid out in maintaining the Rights of the Commonwealth, and to recover that Poſt amongſt the States of *Greece* which your Anceſtors held, and which you have loſt ſince your Affairs have been under the Direction of theſe Men.

You have too long been deceived by the temporizing Speeches of cowardly Declaimers, who never offered any other Redreſs for your Grievances except Patience, they are always exhorting you to lie ſtill in Expectation of favourable Events; but all the World knows that favourable Events have not been wanting, but they have been wanting to thoſe Events.—They will tell you, it is beſt to be quiet, for perhaps *Philip* may die, and then there will be an End of theſe Inſults; but I ſay that *Philip* will never die.—Mark me well, *Athenians*, I ſay, as long as ſuch Councels are followed and ſuch wretched Orators direct your Affairs, new *Philips* will riſe: I ſpeak it again, that till the Time ſhall come that ſome Vertue and Wiſdom ſhall enter into the Management of your Affairs at Home, and ſome Courage Abroad, there never will be wanting a *Philip* to inſult you.

Ch

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 11, 1738.

—— Ne vitam transeant, Veluti pecora; qua Natura prona, atque Ventri obedientia finxit——— SALLUST.

TASTE is now the fashionable Word of the fashionable World, every Thing must be done with *Taste*——that is settled; but where and what that Taste is, is not quite so certain, for after all the Pains I have taken to find out what was meant by the Word, and whether those who use it oftnest had any clear Idea annexed to it, I have only been able negatively to discover, that they do not mean their own natural Taste; but on the contrary, that they have sacrificed it to an imaginary one, of which they can give no Account.—— They build Houses in Taste, which they cannot live in with Conveniency,——they suffer with Impatience the Musick they pretend to hear with Rapture, and they even eat nothing they like, for the Sake of eating in Taste.

Not for himself he sees, or hears, or eats,
Artists must chuse his Pictures, Musick, Meats.

POPE.

It is certain the Commandments now so much neglected (if not abrogated) might be observed with much less Self-denial, than these imaginary Laws of Taste, to which so exact and scrupulous an Obedience is paid.

I take

I take Taſte (when not uſed for the Senſation of the Palate, which is its proper Signification) to be a Metaphor to expreſs that Judgment each Man forms to himſelf of thoſe Things, which are not contained in any certain Rules, and which admit of no Demonſtration; thus Circles and equilateral Triangles allow of no Taſte, they muſt be as they are; but the Colours they are drawn in, or the Materials they are made of, depend upon Fancy or Taſte.—In Building there are certain neceſſary Rules founded upon Nature, as that the Stronger muſt ſupport the Weaker, *&c.* but the ornamental and convenient Parts, are the Objects of Taſte; hence ariſes the Propriety of the Metaphor, becauſe Taſte in every Thing is undetermined, and Perſonal, as in the Palate, and all our other Senſes, nay even our Minds are as differently affected as our Palates, by the ſame Things, when thoſe Things are not of a Nature to be aſcertain'd and demonſtrated.

However this Right of taſting for oneſelf, which ſeems to be the natural Privilege of Mankind, is now totally ſurrender'd even in the proper Senſe of the Word, and if a Man would be well receiv'd in good Company, he muſt eat, tho' with Reluctance, according to the Laws of ſome eminent Glutton at *Paris*, promulgated here by the laſt imported *French* Cook, wiſhing all the while within himſelf, that he durſt avow his natural Taſte, for good native Beef and Pudding.

The Abſurdity as well as the real ill Conſequences of this prevailing Affectation has, I confeſs, excited my Wrath, and I reſolved that the Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom ſhould not go on to ruin their Fortunes and Conſtitutions without hearing, at leaſt, the Repreſentations and Admonitions of Common Senſe.

Eating itſelf ſeems to me to be rather a Subject of Humiliation, than of Pride, ſince the Imperfection of our Nature appears, in the Daily Neceſſity we lie under of recruiting it in that Manner. So that one would

think the only Care of a rational Being ſhould be to repair his decaying Fabrick as ſubſtantially and as cheap as poſſible. But the preſent Faſhion is directly contrary, and Eating now is the greateſt Pride, Buſineſs, and Expence of Life; and that too not to ſupport, but to deſtroy Nature.

The frugal Meal was antiently the Time of unbending the Mind by chearful and improving Converſation, and the Table-Talk of ingenious Men has been thought worth tranſmitting to Poſterity.——The Meal is now at once the moſt frivolous and moſt ſerious Part of Life.——The Mind is bent to the utmoſt, and all the Attention exerted, for what? The critical Examination of compound Diſhes, and if any two or three People happen to ſtart ſome uſeful or agreeable Subject of Converſation, they are ſoon interrupted, and over-powered by the extatick Interjections of, *Excellent! Exquiſite! Delicious! pray taſte this, you never eat a better Thing in your Life: Is that good! Is it tender? Is it ſeaſon'd enough? Wou'd it not have been better ſo?* Of ſuch wretched Stuff as this does the preſent Table-Talk wholly conſiſt, in open Defiance of all Converſation and Common Senſe: I could heartily wiſh that a Collection of it were to be publiſhed for the Honour and Glory of the Performers; but for Want of that, I ſhall give my Readers a ſhort Specimen of the moſt ingenious Table-Talk I have lately heard and carried on with moſt Wit and Spirit.

My Lord having taſted, and duly conſidered the *Bechamele*, ſhook his Head, and then offered as his Opinion to the Company, that the Garlick was not enough concealed, but earneſtly deſired to know their Sentiments, and begged they would taſte it with Attention.

The Company, after proper Deliberation, replied, That they were of his Lordſhip's Opinion, and that the Garlick did indeed diſtinguiſh itſelf too much: But the *Maitre D'Hotel* interpoſing repreſented, that they

they were now ſtronger than ever in Garlick at *Paris*; upon which the Company, one and all, ſaid,—*That alter'd the Caſe.*

My Lord having ſagaciouſly ſmelt at the Breech of a Rabbit, wiped his Noſe, gave a Shrug of ſome Diſſatisfaction, and then informed the Company, that it was not abſolutely a bad One, but that he heartily wiſh'd it had been kept a Day longer; ay, ſaid Sir *Thomas*, with an Emphaſis, *a Rabbit muſt be kept,*—*and with the Guts in too,* added the Colonel, *or the Devil would not eat it.* Here the *Maitre D'Hotel* again interpoſed, and ſaid, that they eat their Rabbits much ſooner now, than they uſed to do at *Paris.*——Are you ſure of that, ſaid my Lord, with ſome Vivacity? Yes, replied the *Maitre D'Hotel*, the Cook had a Letter about it laſt Night. I am not ſorry for that, rejoin'd my Lord, for to tell you the Truth, I naturally love to eat my Meat before it ſtinks. The reſt of the Company, and even the Colonel himſelf, confeſs'd the ſame.

This ingenious and edifying Kind of Converſation continued without the leaſt Interruption from Common Senſe, thro' four Courſes, which laſted four Hours, till the Company could neither ſwallow nor utter any Thing more.

A very great Perſon among the Antients was very properly aſked, if he was not aſhamed to play ſo well upon the Fiddle? And one may ſurely with as much Reaſon aſk theſe illuſtrious Moderns, if they are not aſhamed of being ſuch good Cooks.

It is really not to be imagined with what profound Knowledge and Erudition our Men of Quality now treat theſe culinary Subjects, and I cannot but hope that ſuch excellent Criticks will at laſt turn Authors themſelves, nay I daily expect to ſee a Digeſt of the whole Art of Cookery by ſome Perſon of Honour.

I cannot help hinting, by the Way, to theſe accurate Kitchin Criticks, that it does not become them to be

1 Lord Cholmondly
2 Colonel Moreton

be facetious and ſatyrical upon thoſe Diſſertations which Ladies ſometimes hold upon their Dreſs, the Subject being by no means ſo low nor ſo trifling.

Tho' ſuch a Degree of affected Gluttony, accompanied with ſuch frivolous Diſcourſes, is pardonable in thoſe who are little ſuperior to the Animals they devour, and who are only *Fruges conſumere nati*, I am ſurprized and hurt when I ſee Men of Parts fall into it, ſince it not only ſuſpends the Exerciſe of their Parts for the preſent, but impairs them, together with their Health, for the future; and if Fools cou'd contrive, I ſhould think they had contrived this Method of bringing Men of Senſe down to them; for it is certain, that when a Company is thus gorged, glutted, and loaded, there is not the leaſt Difference between the moſt ſtupid, and the wittieſt Man in it.

What Life in all that ample Body, ſay
What Heavenly Particle inſpires the Clay?
The Soul ſubſides, and wickedly inclines
To ſeem but mortal even in ſound Divines.

POPE.

Tho' an Exceſs in Wine is highly blameable, it is ſurely much more pardonable, as the progreſſive Steps to it are chearful, animating, and ſeducing;——the Melancholly are for a while reliev'd, the Grave are enliven'd, and the Witty and the Gay ſeem almoſt inſpired; whereas in Eating, after Nature is once ſatiſfied, which ſhe ſoon is, every additional Morſel carries Dulneſs and Stupidity along with it..

Moreover, theſe glorious Toils are crown'd with the juſt Rewards of all Chronical Diſtempers, the Gout, the Stone, the Scurvy, and the Palſy are the never failing Trophies of their Atchievements.——— Were theſe Honours like ſimple Knighthood, only to be enjoy'd by thoſe who had merited them, it would be no great Matter; but unfortunately, like Baronet-

ſhip,

ſhip, they deſcend to, and viſit their innocent Children.——It is already very eaſy to diſtinguiſh, at Sight, the puny Son of a compound *Entremets*, from the luſty Off-ſpring of Beef and Pudding; and I am perſuaded, the next Generation of the Nobility will be a Race of pale-faced, ſpindle-ſhank'd Lilliputians, the moſt vigorous of whom will not come up to an Abortion of *John* of *Gaunt*'s; nor does the Miſchief even ſtop here, for as the Men of Faſhion frequently condeſcend to communicate themſelves to Families of inferior Rank, but better Conſtitutions, they enervate thoſe Families too, and preſent them with ſickly helpleſs Children, to the great Prejudice of the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Some People have imagined, and not without ſome Degree of Probability, that animal Food communicates its Qualities with its Nouriſhment.—In this Suppoſition it was, that *Achilles*, who was not only born, and bred, but fed up too for a Heroe, was nouriſh'd with the Marrow of Lions; and we all know what a fine Lion he turn'd out at laſt.—Should this Rule hold, it muſt be a melancholly Reflection to conſider, that the principal Ingredients in the Food of our principal Nobility, is *Eſſence of* SWINE.

The *Egyptians*, who were a wiſe Nation, thought ſo much depended upon Diet, that they dieted their Kings, and preſcribed by Law both the Quality and Quantity of their Food. It is much to be lamented, that thoſe Bills of Fare are not preſerv'd to this Time, ſince they might have been of ſingular Uſe in all Monarchical Governments: But it is reaſonable to be conjectured from the Wiſdom of that People, that they allow'd their Kings no Aliments of a bilious or a cholerick Nature, and only ſuch as ſweeten'd their Juices, cool'd their Blood, and enliven'd their Faculties, if they had any.

The common People of this Kingdom are dieted by Laws, for by an Act paſs'd about two Years ago, not

leſs

leſs advantagious to the Crown than to the People, the uſe of a Liquor which deſtroy'd both their Minds and their Bodies was wiſely prohibited, *and by repeated Acts of Parliament, their Food is reduced to a very modeſt and wholeſome Proportion.* Surely then the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom deſerve ſome Attention too, not ſo much indeed for their own Sakes, as for the Sake of the Publick, which is in ſome Meaſure under their Care: For if a Porter when full of Gin could not do his Buſineſs, I am apt to think a Privy Counſellor when loaded with four Courſes will but bungle at his.

Suppoſe, for Inſtance, a Number of Perſons, not *over lively* at beſt, ſhould meet of an Evening to concert, and deliberate upon Publick Meaſures of the utmoſt Conſequence, grunting under the Load and Repletion of the ſtrongeſt Meats, panting almoſt in Vain for Breath, but quite in Vain for Thought, and reminded only of their Exiſtence by the unſavory Returns of an Olio, What Good cou'd be expected from ſuch a Conſultation? The beſt one could hope for would be, that they were only aſſembled for Shew, and not for Uſe; not to propoſe or adviſe, but ſilently to ſubmit to the Orders of ſome one Man there, who, feeding like a rational Creature, might have the uſe of his Underſtanding.

I would therefore recommend it to the Conſideration of the Legiſlature, whether it may not be neceſſary to paſs an Act, to reſtrain the *Licentiouſneſs of Eating*, and aſſign certain Diets to certain Ranks and Stations. ——I would humbly ſuggeſt the ſtrict Vegetable as the propereſt miniſterial Diet, being exceedingly tender of thoſe Faculties in which the Publick is ſo highly intereſted, and very unwilling they ſhould be clogged or incumbered.

But I do moſt ſeriouſly recommend it to thoſe who, from their Rank and Situation in Life, ſettle the Faſhions, and whoſe Examples will in theſe Sorts of Things always be followed, that they will by their Ex-

Example (which will be more effectual than any Law) not only put a Stop to, but reform, the ridiculous, expensive and pernicious Luxury of Tables;—they are the People whom all inferior Ranks imitate, as far as they are able, and commonly much farther:—It is their fatal Example that has seduced the Gentry, and People of smaller Fortune, into this nasty and ruinous Excess.——Let their Example then, at last, reclaim them;—Let those who are able to bear the Expence, and known not to grudge it, give the first Blow to this extravagant Folly;—Let them avow their own natural Taste (for Nature is in every Thing plain and simple) and gratify it decently, at a frugal and wholesome Table, instead of purchasing Stupidity and Distempers at the Expence of their Time and their Estates: And they may depend upon it, that a Fashion so convenient to the Fortunes, and the Constitutions of their Fellow Subjects, will chearfully be followed, and universally prevail, to the great Advantage of the Publick.

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 18, 1738.

I Look upon *Great Britain*, with Respect to its Neighbours, to make much the same Figure that *Athens* did of old amongst the States of *Greece*.

Demosthenes, in some of those Orations he made to the People, tells them, that it was not the Policy of *Athens* to enlarge her Territories; that it was her Character neither to commit Insults herself, nor to bear them from others; that this Reputation had rais'd her to be the Umpire of *Greece*; that while she protected the Weak, she kept

kept the Ambitious in Awe; that ſhe did not only preſerve her own Liberties, but was the common Patroneſs of the Liberties of Mankind; and that her Deciſion was the Law of Nations: But ſince you have had the Misfortune (ſays he) to be governed by Magiſtrates weak, ignorant, and corrupt, how is the Majeſty of *Athens* ſunk! whatever Diſturbances now happen in *Greece*, no State reſorts to you for Juſtice, for what Protection can they expect to find from thoſe who have not Courage to defend their own Rights? Every Day brings an Account of ſome new Outrage committed againſt yourſelves, but Injuries and Affronts are become ſo habitual to you, you ſeem to have loſt your Senſe of Feeling.

You ſee plainly (ſays he) you are no more that *Athens* courted for your Alliance, your Honour is fled, and you are ſcarce regarded as a State.——*Corinth* eſteems you not, *Thebes* hates you, *Sparta* deſpiſes you, and *Philip* inſults you.

I have heard an heroick Saying of a Miniſter in the Reign of Queen *Anne*, *That he hoped to ſee the Day that there ſhould not be a Shot fired in* Europe, *without the Permiſſion of* Great Britain, *or at leaſt without a good Reaſon given wherefore it was done.*

When a Nation raiſes herſelf to be of this Conſequence, ſhe appears amongſt other States like a Queen amongſt her Attendants,——ſuch Reſpect is paid to her, they do not preſume ſo much as to quarrel in her Preſence.

As to the Treatment we have received from *Spain* for many Years paſt, I cannot help thinking that *Spain* has been governed by very falſe Politicks;——their venturing to go on thus, plundering our Merchants, after ſo many repeated Complaints, has ſomething in it that Common Senſe cannot account for: It amazes me that they ſhould not ſtand in Awe of the great Abilities of our preſent Miniſters; ſure the Fame of their Wiſdom muſt have reach'd beyond the Pillars of *Hercules.*

cules.——Do the *Spaniards* consider how much they have to lose, and how little to gain by a War with *England?* They cannot deceive themselves so far as to fancy that they are upon an Equality with us in Point of Strength by Sea.

Perhaps the *Spaniards* have ventured to go these Lengths upon a Presumption, that we should be ashamed to put our Strength against them; but let them beware of what they do, for if they draw Vengeance upon themselves at last, Nobody will pity them, since it is certain that so long a Forbearance has never been practiced in the World before.

I must allow that it is not prudent to proclaim War immediately upon a Ship of another Nation plundering one of our Merchants, but as our Merchants have been long complaining of the Robberies committed upon them, let us enquire what has been practiced at other Times when the like has happened.

When the Subjects of *England* have been plunder'd upon the Seas, it has been usual to grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal to the Sufferers, to make good their Losses upon the Subjects of that Prince by whom they were plundered.

The Author of a Treatise entitled, *De jure maritimo, et navale*, tells us, that not only by the *Jus Gentium* and Civil Law, but by the municipal Laws of this Kingdom, Merchants that have been plundered upon the Seas, have a Right to Letters of Marque and Reprisal, under such Restrictions and Limitations as are prescribed by Law.

First, for Example, Oath must be made of the Depredation committed, with the Time, Place, and to what Value.

Next, an Entry must be made in the high Court of Admiralty of the Names of the Ships or Vessels fitted out to make these Reprisals,——their exact Burthen,——their Number of Men,——Guns, Ammunition,

——for

———for how long Victual'd, and the Names of their Commanders.

All this muſt be done before the Ships put to Sea.

There have indeed been ſome Formalities uſually obſerved previous to the granting theſe Letters of Marque.

As firſt, Application to that Prince (by whoſe Subjects theſe Depredations were committed) for Reſtitution: This is to be done by the Miniſter of the Nation whoſe Merchants have been plunder'd, reſiding at that Court; if there be no Miniſter, by the Conſul; if there be no Conſul, the Merchants themſelves may appoint ſome Perſon to ſollicit for them, having Letters of Requeſt from the Miniſters of their own Prince.

If Juſtice be either deny'd or delay'd, (for in theſe Caſes a Delay is looked upon the ſame Thing as a Denial) then Letters of Marque and Repriſal are to be granted.

The Reaſon why Delays are looked upon to be the ſame Thing as Denials is, that where the Depredation is proved, and Princes have no Mind to make Reſtitution, they never peremptorily refuſe to do ſo,——their Cuſtom is to defer the Matter from Time to Time, under various Pretences, that the Sufferers may be wearied out, if not ruin'd by applying—ſo that the Time limited for full Reſtitution to be made has uſually been, eighteen Months from the firſt Application.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the Second two rich Ships, the *Bona Eſperanza*, and the *Henry Boneadventure*, belonging to Sir *William Courten* and Partners, were plundered by the *Dutch*,——the States General were applied to for Satisfaction to be made to the Owners, which being delayed, Letters of Marque and Repriſal were granted, in which Letters of Marque there is the following Clauſe:

"And whereas after ſeveral Addreſſes made by Sir "*George Downing*, Knight and Baronet, our Envoy "Extraordinary to the States General, (to whom we "gave

" gave our ſpecial Command ſo to do) nothing effec-
" tual hath been done for the Relief of our ſaid Sub-
" jects, *(whom we take ourſelves in Honour and Juſtice*
" *concern'd to ſee ſatisfied and repaid)* we lately com-
" manded the ſaid Sir *George Downing* to intimate
" and ſignify to the ſaid States General, that we ex-
" pected their final Anſwer, concerning full Satiſ-
" faction to be made for the ſaid Ships and Goods,
" by a Time then prefixed, and ſince elapſed, that we
" might ſo govern ourſelves thereupon, that our Sub-
" jects aforeſaid might be relieved according to Right
" and Juſtice, and yet no Satisfaction hath been made,
" ſo that we cannot but apprehend it to be not only
" a fruitleſs Endeavour, but a proſtituting our Ho-
" nour and Dignity to make further Application,
" after ſo many Delays and Slightings.

It is ſet forth in theſe Letters of Marque, not only to be a fruitleſs Endeavour but inconſiſtent with the Honour and Dignity of a Prince to ſue or apply after Slights and Delays have been uſed.

Men firſt form'd themſelves into Societies for the Sake of mutual Defence and Preſervation; when it was found that one Man could not guard himſelf againſt Violence by his own ſingle Strength, he enter'd into a Compact with others in the like Condition, and this was the Original of all Government; as theſe Societies grew to be very populous, they found it neceſſary to appoint ſome Perſon among them to watch for the Publick Weal, and to contribute ſome ſmall Part of their Property to make a Publick Stock for their Defence; ſo that whenever a Member of a Society was attack'd either in his Perſon or Goods, it became the Quarrel of the whole, and the Publick Stock, as well as Publick Strength, were to be employed in his Defence; he had a Right to Protection becauſe he paid for it; and if that Publick Fund to which he had contributed, inſtead of being employed in defending its Members from Violence, was diſſipa-

ted

ted in maintaining a few Particulars in Luxury,——— Government, which was intended as a Benefit, is turn'd into a Curse upon Mankind.

As to our Parts, it is certain no People in the World pay so much for Protection; but then no People in the World are so well protected: If our Taxes are high, we see good Armies and good Fleets maintain'd out of them, and so far from being afraid to grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, that we are able to blow any that shall insult us out of the Sea; yet I cannot help being of Opinion, that if these Letters of Marque had been granted several Years ago, it might have saved some Millions to this Nation. What I have to presume in this Case is, that our Merchants did not apply for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, or that some of the other Formalities requisite were not observed; if it be so, they have no Right to complain; for as I observed before, we are not immediately to declare War, especially where less expensive Methods of doing ourselves Justice lie open to us.

In the Reign of *Richard* the Second, Alderman *Philpot*, who had suffer'd considerably by the *Spaniards*, who had plunder'd some Ships in which he was a great Part Owner, fitted out several arm'd Vessels and made ample Reprisals upon them; but it seems he took that Step without having Letters of Marque granted him, for which Reason he was called to an Account; but as he was honourably acquitted, there is Reason to believe (tho' our Historians have not mention'd it) that he applied for Letters of Marque, and they were refused him; but by his being acquitted, it is plain he had a Right to them; but the Truth of it is, the Administration of the Government in that Reign was placed in such infamous Hands, and the Ministers themselves were so employed in robbing at Home, that they never troubled their Heads about what was doing Abroad, and therefore if I were to quote that Reign, it should be as a Precedent to be avoided, not to be followed.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 25, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

THE late Conteſt about opening a Subſcription for borrowing Money at *Three per Cent*, in order to enable the Government to pay off ſuch of the Publick Creditors as are not willing to take ſo low an Intereſt for the Money they have in our Funds, has occaſioned ſo much Speculation, and ſo many Abſurdities to be inſiſted on, that I hope you'll give the following Remarks and Calculations a Place in your Paper.

I am not ſo idle as to endeavour, in this ſelfiſh Age, to convince a Man that any Thing is for the Publick Good, which he ſees will be an immediate Loſs to him, therefore I ſhall not endeavour to convince any Publick Creditor, *That it is an Advantage to a Mortgager to have Money at* Three per Cent, *rather than to be obliged to pay Four:* Or, *That a low Rate of the natural Intereſt of Money, encourages the Manufactures and Trade of a Nation.* Theſe are antiquated Maxims now found to be void of Reaſon and Common Senſe.

But ſome of our Publick Creditors, and other money'd Men, have endeavoured to Intereſt our Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* in their Cauſe, by perſuading them, that reducing the Intereſt of the Publick Funds would be a Loſs to them; becauſe, ſay they, if our Yearly Income be reduced, we cannot ſpend ſo much,

much, or lay out ſo much Money Yearly with you, as we have formerly done; ſo that *your Trade* muſt diminiſh in Proportion, as *our Intereſt* is diminiſhed.

Altho' this be not true in fact, yet for once I ſhall ſuppoſe it true, and upon that Suppoſition examine, whether our Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, Vintners, Victuallers, *&c.* would be Loſers by this Reduction of Intereſt payable to the Proprietors of the Publick Funds.

For this Purpoſe I muſt ſuppoſe, that, if the Publick Intereſt were reduced, ſome of our *moſt grievous* Taxes would be aboliſhed: Now, as the *Duties* upon *Soap* and *Candles*, are two of our *moſt grievous* Taxes, and as the Produce of theſe two Duties comes near to the Sum the Publick would have ſaved yearly by the Reduction of Intereſt, had it taken Place in general, I muſt ſuppoſe that by ſuch Reduction we would have been freed from theſe two Taxes at leaſt.

After theſe Suppoſitions, the Natural, and, indeed, the only Method of ſtating, whether the whole Body of our Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* would have been Gainers or Loſers by this Reduction of Intereſt and Abolition of Taxes, is, to ſtate what they would have loſt by the ſuppoſed Diminution of their Retail Trade occaſioned by the Reduction, and what they would have gained by the aboliſhing of the *Taxes* upon *Soap* and *Candles*, according to the old Maxim, *a Penny ſaved's a Penny gain'd*; tho' I do not know if our *Four per Cent* Advocates will admit even of this Maxim.

In this Method the Account will ſtand thus:

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Our Publick Redeemable Funds bearing on Intereſt of *Four per Cent* is at preſent *Forty Millions*; but as *a Million* is to be paid off at *Michaelmas* next, I ſhall reckon them at 39000000 *l.*	1560000	00	0

39000000 *l.* and therefore, the Annuity payable upon them from *Michaelmas* next will amount to — —	
The original *Bank* Stock which bears *six per Cent*, is 1600000 *l.* therefore the Annuity upon it must be	96000 00 0
And further, there is a Sum of 400000 *l.* which bears an Interest of 3 ½ *per Cent*, the Annuity upon which amounts to — —	14000 00 0
Total Annuity payable Yearly to the Creditors of the Publick Funds now bearing an Interest of above *Three per Cent*, is——— — —	1670000 00 0
Tho' this be at present the Yearly Income of the Publick Creditors, yet we cannot suppose it is all spent, or laid out among our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* for first we must deduct from it, that Part which belongs to Foreigners residing Abroad; and tho' I have been informed from good Hands, that such Foreigners have at least, *sixteen Millions* in our Funds, yet I shall allow them but *ten Millions*, which is the least Sum usually computed to belong to them; therefore, the Share of the said Total Annuity, belonging to them must be *about* ——— — —	407317 00 0
The Remainder is — — —	1262683 00 0
Then again we know, that a great Part of the Funds belong to our overgrown rich Men, who do not spend *a fourth*, nay, some of them, not *a twentieth* Part of the Interest paid them	

them Yearly by the Publick; so that we may reckon that at least *one Third* of this Remainder is not spent or laid out Yearly among our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* therefore, this *Third* must be deducted, and as it amounts to — — —	420894 00 0
The remaining Sum, which is all we can reckon spent and laid out Yearly among our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* by the Proprietors of our Publick Funds, can amount to no more than — —	841789 00 0
Now, if the Interest payable to the Proprietors of the Publick Funds, were reduced to *Three per Cent*, it would be a Diminution of a little above *one Fourth* of their present Income; therefore those Proprietors who now spend and lay out Yearly among our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* 841789 *l.* could then spend and lay out in the same way only — — —	631342 00 0
The Difference is — — — —	210447 00 0
This Difference of 210447 *l.* is the only Sum from which we can compute the Loss our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* would sustain by the Reduction of Publick Interest, because by the Supposition they would take less Yearly, by this Sum only, than they formerly used to take from the Proprietors of our Publick Funds: Suppose then our Shop-	52612 0

Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, &c. makes 25 *per Cent*. Profit by all Monies laid out with them; in that Case 25 *per Cent*. upon 210447 *l*. amounts to a Yearly Profit of —	

This Yearly Profit therefore it is supposed our Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, &c. would be deprived of, by reducing the Publick Interest to *Three per Cent*; and this is the *only Loss* they could sustain by such Reduction: But now let us see the *Advantage* the Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, &c. of this Nation, would reap Yearly by abolishing the *Home Duties* on *Soap* and *Candles*.

The Net Produce of the *Duty* upon *Soap*, at 1 ½ *d. per Pound*, for the Year ended at *Midsummer* 1736, was — — — —	216471 00 0
The Net Produce of the *Duty* upon *Candles*, at 1 *d. per Pound*, for the said Year, was — — —	148553 00 0
Total Net Produce of those two Duties for one Year, is — —	365024 00 0
The Expence of Management, which is deducted from the Gross Produce, we may reckon at least —	34976 00 0
So that the Gross Produce paid Yearly by the People of *Great Britain* to the Government upon these two Articles only, amounts to —	400000 00 0
But Experience has taught us that every *small Duty* raises the Price of the Commodity upon which it is laid, above *twice* the Value of the Duty, therefore we must reckon, that, beside the Duty paid to the	400000 00 0

Government, the Consumers pay Yearly to the Manufacturers and Retailers of *Soap* and *Candles*, more than they would pay, if there were no *such Duties* subsisting, about the Sum of — — — —	
From whence we must reckon that the People of *Great Britain* in general, would save Yearly, by abolishing these two Duties only, the Sum of — — — —	800000 00 0
Then suppose the Shopkeepers, Tradesmen and others, who, by the Supposition, are to sustain a Loss by the Reduction of Interest, consume but *one half* of the *Soap* and *Candles* consumed in this Kingdom; in that Case we must grant they would save, and consequently gain, Yearly, by abolishing the Duties upon these two Commodities, the Sum of —	400000 00

Upon the whole, it is from these Calculations apparent, that the Account of Profit and Loss by the Reduction of Publick Interest, and the abolishing of these two Taxes, will stand thus:

Shopkeepers, Tradesmen, *&c.* Dr.

By the Reduction of the Interest payable to our Stockholders — —	52612 00 0
Balance, Net Profit — —	347388 00 0
	400000 00 0

Dto. per Contra Cr.

By abolishing the *Duties* on *Soap* and *Candles* — — — —	400000 00 0

But

But as, in this Age, no Man ſeems to regard the Good of the Publick, or of his Neighbour, unleſs it be attended with ſome Advantage to himſelf, I ſhall apply theſe Calculations to the Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen, *&c.* of the Counties of *London*, *Middleſex* and *Surry*, in order to ſee whether they in particular would be Gainers or Loſers by this Reduction of Intereſt and Abolition of Taxes: For this Purpoſe let me ſuppoſe, that *one half* of the Loſs to be ſuſtained by the Reduction, which is 26306 *l.* would fall upon the Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* within theſe three Counties; and again let me ſuppoſe, that the Inhabitants of theſe three Counties conſume but *one fourth* Part of the *Soap* and *Candles* conſumed in this Kingdom; in that Caſe it is plain, that the Inhabitants of the ſaid three Counties only would ſave 200000 *l* a Year by the Abolition: Then let me ſuppoſe, that the Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* within theſe three Counties conſume but *one half* of the *Soap* and *Candles* conſumed by the whole Inhabitants, they will in that Caſe ſave 100000 *l.* a Year at leaſt, by aboliſhing the *Duties* upon *Soap* and *Candles*; ſo that, even with Reſpect to the Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* within the Counties of *London*, *Middleſex* and *Surry*, the Account of Profit and Loſs by the Reduction of Intereſt and Abolition of theſe two Taxes will ſtand thus:

Shopkeepers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* in *London. Middleſex*, and *Surry*, Dr.

By the Reduction of Intereſt payable to our Stockholders — —	26306 00 0
Balance, Net Profit — — —	73694 00 0
	100000 00 0

Dto. per Contra Cr.

By aboliſhing the *Duties* on *Soap* and *Candles* — — — —	100000 00 0
	100000 00 0

From these Calculations it will appear, that every Shopkeeper, Tradesman, even in *London*, *Middlesex*, and *Surry*, would save in the Expence of his Family, and consequently gain more Yearly, by near *three fourths*, if the *Duties* on *Soap* and *Candles* were taken off, than he could be supposed to lose Yearly by the Reduction of Publick Interest; supposing it true, that his Retail Trade was to diminish in Proportion as the Interest due to the Publick Creditors diminished: But that the contrary of this is by far the most probable, I shall now give my Reasons for believing.

By reducing the Interest of our Funds from *four* to *three per Cent.* the Yearly Income of every one of our Publick Creditors would, 'tis true, be reduced; and consequently those, and those only, who before spent their whole Yearly Income, would be obliged to contract their Yearly Expence; for those who now save and heap up a Part Yearly, would only from that Time heap up less than they used to do. Now, as to a Person's Yearly Expence, we must consider it as laid out in the Necessaries and Conveniencies, or the Extravagancies and Vices of Life; and when any Person is obliged to diminish or contract his Yearly Expence, that Diminution must first take Place in the Vices and Extravagancies of Life: Therefore, if the Publick Interest was reduced, we may suppose that there are many who could not, in Case of a Reduction, lay out so much Money in debauching the Wives and Daughters of their industrious Neighbours; in Drunkenness, Pampering, and Gluttony; in Plays, Operas, and Masquerades; or in *French* Wine, fine Hyssom Tea, Quadrille, and the like Vices and Extravagancies; but there are but a few who would be obliged to contract their Expence, with Respect to any of the Necessaries or Conveniencies of Life: From whence we must suppose, that, with Respect to our Retail Trade in general, the principal Loss would fall upon Whores, Bawds, Pimps, Operas, and the like Nurseries of Vice

and

and Extravagance; and that but a very ſmall Part of it would fall upon thoſe who deal in any Thing neceſſary or uſeful for the Support of Life.

This Conſideration will ſhow that the far greateſt Part, and, I am ſure, the only uſeful Part of our Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen, would incur but a very trifling Loſs by that Diminution in their Trade, which would be occaſioned by the Reduction of Intereſt; and whatever Diminution their Trade might that way ſuſtain, would be much more than compenſated by the Increaſe of their Trade among their Neighbour Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen, and among our landed Gentlemen; for let every Shopkeeper and Tradeſman examine into the Characters of his ſeveral Cuſtomers, he will find his Retail Trade depends a great deal more upon landed Gentlemen, and thoſe who deal in Trade as well as he, than upon Perſons who live upon the Intere t of their Money in the Funds; and as the Net Income of every one of the former would be increaſed by being freed from the *Duties* on *Soap* and *Candles*, every one of them would be thereby enabled to lay out more Money Yearly upon the Conveniencies of Life, which would neceſſarily increaſe the Trade of every honeſt and uſeful Shopkeeper and Tradeſman in the Kingdom.

From all which it is, in my Opinion, evident, that the Reduction of the Publick Intereſt, and its neceſſary Conſequence, the aboliſhing of ſome of our heavy Taxes, would be an Advantage to every Shopkeeper and Tradeſman in particular, as well as to the Nation in general; and therefore I am ſurpriſed how any one of them could be ſo far impoſed on as to oppoſe it, or argue againſt it, except ſuch of them as did it with *a corrupt View* of obliging ſome of their Stockjobbing Cuſtomers; but I am much more ſurpriſed, I am really amazed, how any *Militia Captain* durſt venture, with his *Hireling Mob*, to inſult, in the very Heart of the City of *London*, one of the Chief Magiſtrates of the City of

London, for proposing such a Reduction; especially, when that *Captain* had before his Eyes so late an Example of a Brother *Militia Captain*, in another Part of the Kingdom, who suffered an ignominious Death for obeying the private Orders he had, or imagin'd he had, from those who had advanced him to that Post which put it in his Power to do so much Mischief to his Fellow Citizens.

I could add many other Arguments for shewing how beneficial a Reduction of Publick Interest, and an Abolition of Taxes would be to every Shopkeeper and Tradesman in the Kingdom; but I shall conclude with this Observation, that unless many of our *Taxes* be speedily *abolished*, and many of our *Tax Gatherers dismissed*, neither of which can be done without a Reduction of Publick Interest, our *Trade* will certainly be *ruined* by Means of the *former*, and our *Liberties* may be *overturned* by Means of the *Latter*.

I am, Sir,

June 6th, 1737. *Your constant Reader*

And humble Servant.

POSTSCRIPT.

HOW our Correspondent got his Information we do not know; but by the Accounts given in last Session it appears, that the Net Produce of the Excise upon Candles, for the Year ending at Midsummer 1736, was but 147526 *l.* and the Charges of Management, *&c.* was 14814 *l.* and the Net Produce of the Excise upon Soap was but 157327 *l.* and the Charges of Management, *&c.* 16133 *l.* By the same Accounts it appears, that these two Branches of the Customs, for the Year ending at *Christmas* 1735, stand thus: The new Duty on Candles, Gross Produce 161 *l.* Net Produce 123 *l.* Additional Duty on Ditto, Gross Pro-

Produce 161 *l.* Net Produce 131 *l.* The new Duty on Soap, *&c.* Gross Produce 10950*l* Net Produce 8884 *l.* additional Duty on Ditto, *&c.* Gross Produce 5716 *l.* Net Produce 4520 *l.* Therefore the Gross Produce of what is paid by the People of *Great Britain*, to the Government, upon Soap and Candles, amounts only to 352788 *l.* and consequently they would save but 705576 *l.* by the abolishing of these Taxes. This will make a small Alteration in the Account of Profit and Loss, but there will still be a considerable Balance in Favour of the former.

SATURDAY, *March* 4, 1738.

Ch

I Took my Leave some Time ago of the *Daily-Silly-Gazetteers*, and promised to take no farther Notice of them; but then I only promised that Impunity to their Folly and Absurdity. Now, whether they understood that Amnesty to extend farther than I mean't it, or whether, with the last three or four Shillings paid them by Mr. *Pounce* with a P, they likewise received Orders, to be saucy and impertinent, I can't tell: But be that as it will, they have of late been so impudently personal upon one worthy Gentleman that I can't help stepping a little out of my Way to give them a Kick. Nor is this the greatest Provocation they have given me; for, notwithstanding the Regard I have for the Character of that young Gentleman with whom they are so free; I am more incens'd against them for disturbing the Ashes of the Dead, and for presuming, as they do, to

touch *Cicero* with their impure, and unhallowed Hands. I therefore begin, by absolutely forbidding them even to mention, directly or indirectly, the Name of *Cicero*, till they have first read, and understood him in the original; which, as I take it, amounts to a perpetual Prohibition.

I have so much Charity for the poor Devils, as to believe they would not write at all if they could help it, and that they would write better if they could: I never look'd upon their daily Labours as voluntary, but consider'd them as the Production of Heads and Stomachs equally empty, and I really took in their Papers out of Charity; for, as to any other Use I make of them, I might be supplied cheaper; but I must tell them that if they grow personally scurrilous, I shall withdraw my Charity, and *Common Sense* shall pursue them, though indeed I fear it will never overtake 'em.

By what I can understand of their Papers, they seem to have a great Dislike to a certain young Gentleman, whom they have sometimes almost called by his own Name, and of late by a hard *Latin* Name.—I confess it is very natural they should dislike him, nor am I in the least surpriz'd that he should be the Object of their Satire, when I consider the useful Subjects of their Panegyricks. But then I must intimate to them, that they proceed very injudiciously, and do him a Service which they little intended.--Would they hurt him, they should commend him, for they are very sure that nobody will take their Words for any thing; but when such wretched Advocates, and profligate Panegyrists of Corruption, Oppression, Fraud, and all Political Immorality, direct their Satire at one Man, it is marking him out to the Publick as a Person eminently distinguished by all the Opposites of those Vices.—The Execution too of their Design, is as injudicious as the Design itself. They, somewhere or other, had an imperfect Account of one *Cicero*, who had no Mind that one *Cæcilius*, a young Man, should be the Pro-

Profecutor of one *Verres*, an *old Rogue*, and that this ſame *Cicero* had told this *Cæcilius*, that he was too vain and enterprizing for ſo young a Man, and wholly unequal to the Taſk he undertook. This they thought was a pure Scrap of Hiſtory for them, and reſolved to apply it immediately; when behold! the Misfortune that always attends Ignorance and Preſumption! all the particular Circumſtances of that Affair made againſt them, and ſuggeſted ugly Applications elſewhere. When I ſaw that they made this young Gentleman *Cæcilius*, I was really afraid for them, and went on with Impatience to ſee who they would make *Verres*: But I perceived they had prudently avoided this Danger, and wiſely (as they thought) dubb'd their Patron *Hortenſius*; without knowing that it does not much mend the Matter: For it ſeems *Hortenſius*, who was a great Lover of Pictures and Statues, was brib'd by a Sphynx of curious Workmanſhip and of ineſtimable Value, to appear as the Advocate of the moſt flagitious Fellow, and the moſt infamous Cauſe that *Rome* ever knew. He proſtituted his Eloquence to the Defence of Peculat and Corruption, and, by ſkreening the moſt infamous of Men, became little leſs ſo himſelf: This Circumſtance is an unlucky one, I leave it with them to conſider of.

As to their *Cæcilius* himſelf, it is well known to every Body but them, that he was a ſham Proſecutor, ſet on by *Verres* himſelf to prevent a real one. He had been a Sharer both of his Plunder, and of his Guilt; and, upon a pretended and concerted Quarrel between them, offer'd himſelf as the propereſt Perſon to proſecute this Affair. But *Cicero*, who was in earneſt, and determin'd that Juſtice ſhould be done upon ſo notorious an Offender, diſcover'd and defeated this Stratagem; obtain'd the Management of the Cauſe, puſh'd it with Vigour and Abilities, and got the Criminal condemned. Was the Character of *Cæcilius* really applicable to this young Gentleman; were there any Hopes,

that he could ever be brought to ſkreen the moſt notorious Corruption, I dare ſay he would meet with the Approbation, inſtead of the Cenſure, of this vertuous Society; and I am apt to think, that it is his Unlikeneſs to *Cæcilius*, and his Reſemblance of *Tully*, which have drawn their Indignation upon him.

A late very ingenious Author has moſt judiciouſly obſerv'd, in his incomparable, and ſhort Eſſay towards a Character, *&c.* That Pictures ought to be like the Perſons they are drawn for, nay ſo like, as to be known by their Acquaintance: But theſe wretched Rogues are conſcious they are ſuch bad Painters, that, under the Signs they daub, they always write the Name; it is ſometimes a certain *young Gentleman who is tall and lean*; at other Times it is one, *who was Cofferer about ſeventeen Years ago*; and indeed if it was not for theſe Helps, I, who am their only Reader, ſhould be at a great Loſs to know whom they mean.

I have often wonder'd what ſort of Fellows this ingenious Society was compoſed of; for, that their Paper is a *Moſaick* Work of Folly is evident, and I imagine it conſiſts of a Parcel of poor Devils, who have either fail'd in their ſeveral Trades, or who had never Parts enough to be bound out, aſſiſted ſometimes by what they call an able Hand, ſuch as a Mungrel Lawyer, a tatter'd Reverend, or a facetious Clerk of an Office, who, by ſending them a Paper now and then, get them a Holy-day from their daily Drudgery: And here I can't help condoling with them for the irreparable Loſs they have lately ſuſtained by the untimely and violent Death of Mr. *Carr*, who, I am told, was reckoned their Top-Hand. So far is certain, that the Under-Sheriff, to whom that unhappy Author gave his Papers, was ſo ſtruck with the Similitude of Style between *them* and the *Daily-Gazetteers*, that he was hear'd to ſay, However juſtly Mr. *Carr* might have ſuffered, the Adminiſtration would ſtill have a great Loſs of him.

As

As to those of his Fraternity who still survive, and write, I have no more Time to lose upon them, than just to say, that when they answer this (if they are order'd so to do) I absolutely bar their supposing it to be written by the Gentleman himself whom it is designed to vindicate. This they have often practised, and seem to think it very cunning; whereas it cannot possibly pass on any Mortal: For there is not, certainly, more than *one* Man in the Kingdom, whose Condition is so bad that he could not find a Friend to write in Defence of him, when attack'd, without being *paid for it*.

Having said thus much to these miserable Journeymen, whom the World and I equally despise; I will just drop one Word to their Paymaster, whoever he may be: Which is, that if he either encourages or suffers these Scurrilities upon the *private* Concerns and Characters of others, who have always scorn'd to attack him out of his *Publick Character*, let him strictly examine himself, and his own Circumstances, and consider whether ample Returns may not be made him by better Pens, and with more Truth, than ever were, or will be employ'd on his Side.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *March* 11, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

THE Narrowness of my Fortune awakens in me many Shifts and Contrivances, which the World terms Inconveniencies and Hardships, but which either Custom, or a right Way of thinking has now rendered not only easy, but agreeable to me. Among these, I am oblig'd to buy the Learning I have occasion for at old Stalls, and in little Allies, rather than trouble those Literati the Booksellers, whom the Ignorance and Affectation of the Great have render'd so rich, so proud, and so exorbitant. However, my Oeconomy in Books is sometimes broken into, by a certain Eagerness in my Temper to come into immediate Possession of what pleases me. I am too apt to be captivated by specious Titles; not unlike a Man who falls in Love with a fine Face, without considering, that it may be the Title-Page of a Body fill'd with Ailments and Corruption. But of all my dear Bargains none ever mortified, or disappointed me more, than a Purchase which I made some Days ago, of two tatter'd Volumes, (hanging on the Rails in *Moorfields*) entitled, *The History of Addresses*. You will allow, Sir, that had such a History been well written, my Sixteen Pence had not been flung away upon Waste Paper: But I found the Book a very imperfect Sketch of what it promised: And the second Volume,

Volume, like the ſecond Volume of a famous Hiſtory, more fill'd with Trifles, party Rage, and inſipid Malice, than the firſt.

Certainly, Sir, the Name of a Hiſtory raiſes our Expectations greatly. We hope to find in it the minuteſt Circumſtances belonging to the Subject it treats of: And therefore many judicious Writers have chang'd the Word Hiſtory into Memoirs, or Commentaries, and by that Means have avoided thoſe ſevere Criticiſms which they otherwiſe would have fallen under. But whoever wrote the Hiſtory of Addreſſes, he is ſo far below the Dignity of an Hiſtorian, and indeed ſo far unworthy of Notice, that I ſhall entirely quit all Thoughts of him, and only ſpeak my Sentiments upon the Topic which he has handled in ſo unſkilful a Manner.

Addreſſes were at firſt deſigned as grateful Tokens of Joy and Love from the People to their Sovereign; or elſe, as humble, yet proper Remonſtrances of certain Oppreſſions, which they labour'd under: They were drawn up not only by the moſt able, but the moſt worthy Magiſtrates of every Corporation: They were founded upon Truth, and carried with them that Weight which is concomitant to Truth: They were likewiſe perfect Compoſitions in their Kind, and from thence, I preſume, any Gentleman, whoſe Character and Manners render him acceptable in the World, is call'd *a Man of Addreſs.* From thence alſo a Lover, who is laying honourable Siege to his Miſtreſs's Heart, is ſaid, *to be paying his Addreſſes to her*; that being the moſt proper Expreſſion to denote an humble Suit, offer'd with ſuch a becoming Dignity as entitles it to Succeſs. But whatever the firſt Inſtitution of Addreſſes might be, it is very certain they have long been the Channel to convey Flattery and Nonſenſe to the Throne: Grievances have been either not felt, or not complain'd of: Adulation (too acceptable to Mankind in general, and to Princes in particular) is the only

only Point in View: So that Dedications and Addresses are always put upon the same Footing, by the best Judges of that Sort of Writing: Yet in one Point they differ widely, the former being written to get Money, the latter to give it away. And of this, what can be a stronger Proof than that remarkable Address from the Inhabitants of *Totness*, who offer'd to their Sovereign *twenty Shillings*, and *more in the Pound*, if his Necessities requir'd it.

But that we may not have too mean an Opinion of the Addresses in our own Times, let us look back upon those of our Ancestors.—The Addresses to *James the First*, for we will begin with him, as Queen *Elizabeth* had a real Title to the highest Encomiums; I say, the Addresses to that Monarch are filled with the sycophantic Pedantry in which he delighted, and which has justly been since the Abhorrence and Contempt of all Mankind. To his Son *Charles the First*, the Style, by Degrees, was alter'd: From a few real Grievances, a thousand imaginary Outrages were complained of; 'till, at last, Remonstrances from the People were only so many Libels against the King: The Consequences of which are too well known, and felt at this Day, and the only Remark I shall make upon them, is, that King *Charles* could never have been brought to the Block without *Address*.

After the Murder of that King, Hypocrisy, Cant, and Nonsense were the Characteristicks of the Commonwealth. *Oliver Cromwell*, whose Understanding was equal to his Villanies, laugh'd at the Elect in his Sleeve, but receiv'd their fanatical Addresses, with his Eye-Balls towards Heaven and his Heart towards Hell.

To him succeeded *Richard:* And he, even he was loaded with Addresses. *Richard* (for what Use we can't tell) preserv'd them all most carefully, and lock'd them up in a Box. After his Abdication, being ask'd, what was in this Box, which he took with him wherever he travell'd, he replied, or is said to reply,

reply, " *The Lives and Fortunes of the Good People of* " *England.*

The Box is now in Poſſeſſion of an old Gentlewoman in *Southwark*, and I have procured, with ſome Difficulty, one of the Addreſſes to that *innocent Uſurper*. It comes from his good People of *Huntington*, the *natale Solum* of *Oliver* his Sire, and I preſent it to you as the Standard for all future Addreſſes, which may hereafter boaſt, that they had their Original in *Common Senſe*.

To his moſt Serene Highneſs Richard, *&c.*

The humble Addreſs of the Inhabitants of the County of *Huntington*.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

" HAD not the Senſe of ſo ſad a Providence, in " our late and incomparable Loſs of *your dear* " and *Princely Father*, been ſo deep on our Hearts, " whoſe County had the Honour to be the Place of " his Nativity, it might more eaſily, and much ſooner " have been expreſſed: But ſo ſoon as our Griefs " could well ſpeak out, we crave Leave to preſent this " humble Addreſs; moſt heartily to condole with " your Highneſs the Loſs of ſo noble a Father, and ſo " great a Prince, in whoſe Hands were depoſited the " Safety, Freedom, and every Being of the three Na- " tions: But the Wiſdom of God hath ordered, that " this our *David*, after he had ſerved his Generation, " is fallen aſleep; and that which indeed only alle- " viates our Grief, and which we hope may turn Sor- " row into Joy, is, that *Solomon* his Son reigneth in " his Stead, even that *Solomon* who was alſo born in " our *Bethleem*; and therefore we cannot but, among " the Thouſands of our *Iſrael*, moſt eſpecially congra- " tulate the happy Succeſſion of your moſt Serene

" High-

" Highness, whose we are, and shall ever say, *Peace,*
" *Peace be unto your Highness, and Peace to your Helpers,*
" for your God helpeth you, even that God who, by
" your most deserved and peaceable Inthronement,
" hath remarkably confuted the Hopes of your Ene-
" mies and the Fears of your real and most faithful
" Friends; and we are confident, will not fail nor
" forsake your Highness, but bless you with a double
" Portion of the Spirit of Courage, Wisdom, and
" Understanding, that you may build an House for
" the Lord, and a House for his Kingdom; that your
" Throne may be greater than the Throne of your
" Father *David*. For the happy effecting all which,
" as we daily bow our Knees to the God and Father
" of our Lord Jesus, so we shall, through the Assist-
" ance of God, be ready, according to our Duty, to
" adhere to your Highness with our Estates and
" Lives.

SATURDAY, *March* 18, 1738.

POLITICAL Writers should imitate those Pilots who are appointed to set up Beacons upon the Sea Coast, in order to direct Mariners how to avoid Shoals and Quicksands:—It is their Business to hold out proper Lights wherever they apprehend the Danger lies.

The Individuals of that great Hive we call the People, are generally too much occupied in their several Avocations to be at Leisure to examine the Designs of those who govern: It is therefore the Duty of every private Man, who has any Knowledge in Affairs of a Pub-

Publick Nature, to allarm his Fellow Subjects as often as he ſees any Meaſures taking which may affect their Rights or Properties.

Penal Laws, and high Taxes (eſpecially if the Method of collecting them be attended with Circumſtances grievous and oppreſſive) are Points that cannot be too often touch'd upon:—They throw ſo great a Weight into the Miniſterial Scale, that they may deſtroy that Balance of Power betwixt the Regal and Popular Branches of the Government, which muſt be kept equal, or Liberty cannot be preſerv'd.

Standing Armies are always expenſive, and in Times of Peace unneceſſary, and therefore the People cannot be render'd too jealous of them: For certain it is, that a Miniſter who pays an Army, and beſtows the Preferments, may make what Uſe of it he pleaſes; and when once People come to hold their Liberties at the Will and Pleaſure of a Miniſter, it is a very precarious Tenure.

But I find it has long been the Opinion of ſome of the wiſeſt, as well as the honeſteſt Men in this Nation, that an over-grown Civil Liſt (if ſuch a Thing ſhould ever happen) might prove a Rock upon which our Conſtitution might ſplit.——Money has a ſtrange magnetick Vertue of attracting Power: —— Whoever is Maſter of the People's Purſe, will be Maſter of their Liberties; but the Purſe and the Sword to be both truſted in the ſame Hands, is a little too much in a Limited Government.——When the People therefore give up both, they leave themſelves naked and defenceleſs; and if they afterwards ſmart for it, they will not be much pitied, when all the Excuſe they can give for their Folly is, that they did not think a bad Uſe would be made of them.

Our Forefathers were bred up in a Notion, that a Standing Army was inconſiſtent with a Free Government; and therefore they never would admit ſuch a Thing in Time of Peace, nor did they ever part with the

the Purſe :——Their Repreſentatives, elected without Bribery, took no Bribes themſelves ; and, of Conſequence, never gave the Strings of the People's Purſe into the Hands of the Miniſters, to put their unhallowed Fingers in and take out what they pleas'd.——This muſt be the infamous Work of a baſe and degenerate Age, when Publick Spirit ſhall be departed from amongſt us, and thoſe who ſhall be entruſted by the People ſhall think of nothing but enriching their private Families at the Expence of their own Honour and the Liberties of their Conſtituents.

I hope we ſhall never behold ſuch a Scene, yet it muſt be own'd, that heavy Taxes intail'd upon us,—Funds, anticipated and mortgaged to pay the Intereſt of an immenſe Debt contracted during the Courſe of a long War, have made a ſtrange Alteration in the Circumſtances (I hope it will not do ſo in the Conſtitution) of this Nation. The Civil Liſt has alſo been encreas'd ſince the Nation has laboured under the Burthen of ſo large a Debt ; but no doubt it was abſolutely neceſſary, and therefore all good Subjects ought to rejoice at it.

There is one Thing which all Governours ought to bear in Mind, that whatever Neceſſities may be pretended, the Wealth of the Nation muſt not be drawn out of thoſe Hands which improve it, and which alone can employ it to bring in more ;—the Wealth which is in the Hands of the Great and the Few, goes out for Luxury, and leſſens the Publick Stock ; that Share which is in the Hands of the Induſtrious and the Many, is employ'd in Manufactures and all Kinds of Commerce, and of Conſequence encreaſes that Stock.

But ſuppoſe, where it is engroſſed by the Few, it ſhould not be ſent out, but be lock'd up at Home, ſtill it muſt cauſe a Stagnation in the Body Politick ;——ſtanding Waters grow corrupt, and a ſtill Air often breeds Infection.—That Stock of Wealth which a Nation holds, like Air and Water, muſt be kept in continual Motion, to preſerve the Body Politick in Health.

It

It is certain, that, as the Wealth of the Nation runs into few Hands, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce will in Proportion decline; and I am much afraid that, upon Examination, it will be found, that what is now gain'd upon the general Balance of Trade is vastly short of what it has been at other Times, and of Consequence the People are not able to pay so much to the Government as they have done.

I shall not enter into the Causes of this Decay at present :—I will only say, that no wise Government will lay such Taxes upon the People as must drein them of that Stock which enables them to carry on their several Arts, and to subsist with Comfort.—The vulgar Story, of the Man who thought, by Degrees, to bring his Horse to live without eating, is very applicable to the present Case; when he had reduced him to a Grain of Oats in a Day, the Horse died.—If any cruel and insolent Minister, wise in his own Conceit, should think of trying this Experiment upon the People, it will certainly have the same Effect; the People cannot live without Nourishment: And if they are to be treated like Beasts of Burthen, it must be with the same Care that wise Masters treat all Animals from whom they expect any Service.

All I contend for is, that the Wealth of the Nation must not be engrossed by a few, let those few be either Ministers, Stock-jobbers, or both; and since we have named a large Civil List as one of those Draws which must cause too great a Revulsion, it will not be amiss to take some Notice of the gradual Rise and Encrease of the Civil List Revenue.

I will go no farther back than the Reign of King *Charles the First*, when the Publick Revenue, appropriated for the Support of the Army, Fleet, and Civil List, amounted to no more than 851491 *l.* a Year, much short of what is paid to the Civil List alone in our Times, as shall be shewn in its proper Place. It is true, there was no Standing Army kept up in those Times;

Times; there were no more Troops than were absolutely necessary for garrisoning our few fortified Towns and Forts upon the Sea Coast; but as the Expence of the Navy, and all Employments Civil and Military were paid out of that Sum, it is not to be supposed that half of it could be applied to the Civil List alone.

Next, as it was a Reign of Faction and Trouble, many unhappy Accidents happened, which call'd for a more than ordinary Expence.

I cannot forbear mentioning another Thing that brought a very great Charge upon the Crown, which was, that *Mary* of *Medicis*, Queen Mother of *France*, and Mother to our then Queen, having been driven out of that Kingdom by the Power of Cardinal *Richlieu*, came hither for Refuge, and was generously supported by the King at the Rate of an hundred Pounds *per* Day, for the Space of three Years, without a Shilling being demanded from the People for that Purpose, or any Deficiency pretended in the Civil List.

Upon the Restoration of King *Charles the Second*, there was such an universal Joy spread thro' the Nation, the People were on one Side in such high good Humour for the happy Change, and on the other so sensibly touch'd with the Injuries the Royal Family had suffer'd, that they were in a Disposition to grant any Thing to make them amends; and yet the whole Revenue, given for Civil List, Army, Navy, and all other Expences of the Government, was but 1833219 *l.*

It must be observed, that there were several new Expences upon the Crown unknown to former Times, the Troops of Life-Guards, as likewise the Foot-Guards were now appointed. ——*Tangier*, which was given to *England* by the King's Marriage with the Infanta of *Portugal*, required a large Garrison, and the Place being every now and then attacked by the *Moors*, the keeping its Fortifications in continual Repair was a great Charge; besides this, there was a Queen-Dowager living, whose Dower was paid out of it; also a

Duke

Duke of *York*, and Duke of *Gloucester*, now grown to Men's Estate, to be supported according to their high Rank.

I cannot here omit a Remark that has been made by almost all our Writers upon Politicks from that Time to this, which is, that the Preservation of the Liberties of this Nation were owing to the Duke of *Ormond*, and to the Earls of *Southampton* and *Clarendon*, who, instead of employing Tricks to *escroc* all they could for the Civil List, on the contrary check'd and opposed the Forwardness of the People who were going to load the Crown with too great a Revenue, and advised the King to place his Strength and Safety rather in the Affections of his People, than a large Civil List.

Had the Throne at that Time been surrounded with Robbers, what a fine Opportunity there was for Plunder; they might have robbed without Fear of being call'd to an Account; — an immense Civil List might have put it in their Power to have laid Parliaments aside; or, which is worse, to have bribed and corrupted them, and so have made them the Tools and Instruments of the People's Servitude.

In the Reign of King *James the Second*, the Revenue of the Government, including that of the Duke of *York* which was now consolidated with it, amounted to 2133000 *l.* which serv'd for Civil List, for a large Army, for a Fleet, and all other Expences whatsoever. Out of this the Queen-Dowager was maintain'd, and likewise the Prince and Princess of *Denmark*.

There was a Rebellion in this Reign which occasion'd an extraordinary Expence, and short as it was, there was a Debt of 800000 *l.* contracted in the former Reign, paid off, and when the King went away he left a considerable Sum of Money in the Exchequer.

Upon the Prince of *Orange*'s being made King of *England*, the Civil List, Army, and Navy were divided, the Allowances for them were made separate and distinct

diſtinct Revenues, and 600000 *l. per Annum* was given for the Maintenance of the Civil Liſt alone.

Out of this Revenue he maintain'd himſelf and a Queen-Regent, *Catharine* Queen-Dowager, the Prince and Princeſs of *Denmark*, and Duke of *Glouceſter*.

In the next Reign, which was that of Queen *Ann*, I believe the Civil Liſt was intended to be the ſame, *viz.* 600000 *l. per Annum*; but by the Interruption of Trade, during the Courſe of a long War, the Funds fell ſhort, and by the large Sums ſhe gave out of it, which are taken Notice of below, the late Lord *Godolphin* has often declared to his particular Friends, That, one Year with another, the Queen's Civil Liſt amounted to little more than 500000 *l. per Annum*.

☞ Firſt, She generouſly gave 100000 *l.* towards the Expence of the War: This was done to eaſe her People, at her own Expence, of Part of the Burthen which lay upon them; and this Sum would have remained a Debt upon the Nation to this Day, beſides paying the Intereſt of it all this while, had ſhe not given it out of her own Pocket.——She likewiſe made the Publick a Preſent of 36000 *l. per Annum* out of her Share of the Revenues of the Poſt-Office: To the Clergy ſhe gave the firſt Fruit and Tenths.

As to her Privy Purſe, it was the Poor's Box, a perpetual Fund for Charity. And it appear'd after her Death, (for ſhe made no Oſtentation of her Charities herſelf, nor were Flatterers employ'd to trumpet them about) that ſeveral People had Penſions from the Privy Purſe; Penſions not given as Bribes to do the dirty Work of a Miniſter, but merely out of Charity for the Support of indigent Families.——If ſhe was frugal, it was to enable her to be generous, and ſhe would have thought that ſhe defrauded her People, if ſhe had been niggardly in order to lock up that Money in Cheſts which ſhould circulate among them, or had ſent it to Foreign Banks; and therefore all ſhe could ſpare, ſhe return'd back again to them as their Right.

It

It muſt be obſerv'd, that all this was done without any Thing that looked like ſordid Saving, no retrenching her Servants in their Tables, Allowances, or Perquiſites ;——the Hoſpitality within Doors was equal to the Charity without.

Immediately upon his late Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Crown, the Civil Liſt was increaſed to 700000 *l. per Annum* ; here was at leaſt 100000 *l.* a Year gain'd.— It is true, his preſent Majeſty, when Prince of *Wales*, receiv'd 100000 *l.* out of it ; but, if it be conſidered, that when it was but 600000 *l. viz.* in the Reign of King *William*, the Queen-*Dowager*, the Prince and Princeſs of *Denmark*, and Duke of *Glouceſter* were maintain'd from thence, a hundred thouſand Pounds Addition is a vaſt Increaſe.

I ſhall carry this Account no farther at preſent :— I ſhall only obſerve, that we have no Mines of Gold and Silver, but the Induſtry of our Inhabitants; if that Induſtry be ſo burthened that it cannot exert itſelf as uſual, Commerce muſt languiſh, the Publick Stock of the Nation muſt decreaſe, and a Face of Poverty will over-ſpread the Land.——Statutes of Mortmain againſt bequeathing of Charities will be unneceſſary, when the People have nothing left to give.

The Nation labours under an immenſe Debt : If the Taxes laid to pay the Intereſt of that Debt, added to an immenſe Civil Liſt, have over-loaded Trade, ſome Method muſt be found out to lighten the Veſſel.—— I conceive that common Prudence might point to us ſeveral Methods of ſaving :—A Reduction of the preſent Standing Army, no doubt, would give great Eaſe ; but a Reduction of the Civil Army would do more, I mean that immenſe Number of Civil Employments, which are generally diſtributed among ſuch Perſons as hardly pay any Allegiance to their King, and who own no other Sovereign, nay ſcarce any other God, than the Miniſter.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *March* 25, 1738.

MY Lord *Bacon* has compared Money to Manure: If it is gather'd in Heaps (ſays he) it does no good; on the contrary, it grows offenſive: But ſpread it never ſo thin over the Surface of the Earth, and it ſhall inrich the whole Country. Thus the Stock of Wealth a Nation poſſeſſes muſt expatiate, or it is of no Benefit to the Publick.——It becomes a Grievance when engroſs'd by a few Hands.

As an immenſe Civil Liſt is one of thoſe Dreins that may divert it from its proper Channels, it will be very proper to beſtow a few more Thoughts upon that Subject.

We took Notice in our laſt, that the Civil Liſt in the Beginning of the late Reign, was increaſed to 700000 *l. per Annum*, which is more, by one hundred thouſand Pounds a Year, than ever it had been before.

In the Beginning of the preſent Reign it was rais'd to 800000 *l. per Annum*; here is another hundred thouſand Pounds a Year added to it.

A remarkable Circumſtance that attended this laſt Settlement ought to be obſerv'd, which is, That, if the Funds appropriated fell ſhort, the People were to make good the Deficiency; but if they exceeded, no Account was to be given of the Overplus.

I will not dertermine, whether this was exactly conſiſtent with that Equality which ſhould be obſerved in all Bargains;—as it was done by the Repreſentatives of

of the People fairly elected, I shall take it for granted it was the most just and equal in the World.—But let us go on.—The next Year an extraordinary Sum of 155000 *l.* was granted to the Civil List; the Circumstances that attended that Affair have made so much Noise, and created so much Ill-Blood in this Nation already, that I think the most prudent Thing we can do will be to say no more of it.

Before we proceed farther, I think it will be necessary to premise, that every Saving to the Civil List, as well as every new Acquisition, ought to be counted an Addition, by which Way of computing we shall find, that the present Civil List is greatly increased since it was first settled.

There is thirty six thousand Pounds a Year old Pensions, which were always paid out of the Civil List, now charg'd upon other Funds, and of Consequence upon the People, which is certainly an Addition of thirty six thousand Pounds a Year to the Civil List.

The Surplus of the Civil List Lottery, 1713, amounting to sixteen thousand four hundred Pounds *per Annum*, is also added to the Civil List, which two Sums make fifty two thousand four hundred Pounds a Year.

There are several Things which certainly belong to the Civil List, and which I never hear'd reckon'd as Branches of it, and which, I dare say, do not make any Part of the 800000 *l. per Annum*, as the Revenue of *Scotland*, which I have heard reckon'd at forty thousand Pounds *per Annum*.

If it be objected, that this Sum is all granted away in Pensions in that Kingdom, I don't doubt but it is well laid out, and that these Pensions are given to none but Persons whose Merit is very well known to our most excellent Ministers; but however, as these Pensions would otherwise be a Charge upon the Civil List, it ought to be reckon'd as Part of it.

There is alſo a Revenue in *Ireland* belonging to the Crown, ariſing from the Poſt-Office, Quit-Rents, Hearth-Money, Crown Rents, *&c.* which ought alſo to be eſteem'd Part of the Civil Liſt, tho' it certainly is not reckon'd in the 800000 *l. per Annum.*

It is poſſible that the greateſt Share of this may be alſo granted in Penſions; for I have been told of ſeveral worthy Men, whoſe Faces may be ſeen every Day at a certain great Man's Levee, and who do not know what Latitude that Kingdom lies in, yet have the good Fortune to be penſion'd upon that Eſtabliſhment; as alſo, ſome F——— Ladies of great Vertue, whoſe Names being a little too hard for an *Engliſh* Tongue to pronounce, I ſhall, for that Reaſon, omit them; however, as this is alſo a Saving to the Civil Liſt, it ought to be reckon'd as Part of it.

I muſt not omit the ſeventy thouſand Pounds *per Annum* taken from the Sinking Fund (that ſacred Fund which was to pay off the Publick Debts) and added to the Civil Liſt upon the paſſing the Gin Act.—This was granted upon a Preſumption, that the Duty muſt leſſen; but conſidering the fifty Pounds which, by this Act, is to be paid for every Licenſe, and conſidering the great Number of Licences taken out, and the vaſt Quantities of theſe Spirits that are ſtill drank, there is Reaſon to think the Duty riſes very high ſtill: And it may be ſeen by Eſtimates formerly laid before Parliament, that, in Proportion as the Duty upon Spirits ſunk, the Exciſe upon Beer and Ale always riſes.

High Duties occaſion a Decay of Trade, a Decay of Trade puts People upon hazardous Methods of maintaining their Families; Smugling is one of theſe, and Smugling is attended with infinite Seizures, and certainly the Crown's Share of thoſe Seizures muſt make a conſiderable Addition to the Civil Liſt in a Year. I think theſe accidental Acquiſitions are not reckon'd Part of the 800000 *l. per Annum.*

I have

I have ſaid nothing of the vacant Places, Commiſſions, Governments, *&c.* Numbers of theſe are ſometimes vacant four, five, ſix Months at a Time: It *muſt* make no contemptible Sum in a Year. I conceive I may be allowed to propoſe a Quere, whether the Savings upon theſe does not go to the Civil Liſt?

If any Body denies that the Civil Liſt has the Benefit of theſe Vacancies, I ſhould take it as a particular Favour if they would inform me, to what other Fund they are applied.

I cannot make a juſt Computation of the Value of old Grants, which from Time to Time may fall in to the Crown; but I have been inform'd of ſome other Things of great Value, beſides the Allom Mines in *Yorkſhire*, which have fallen to the Crown, by the Duke of *Buckingham*'s dying without Iſſue, which are a Yearly Addition to the Civil Liſt.

The old naval Stores, ſold from Time to Time, muſt amount to a very great Sum. I do not poſitively aſſert the Civil Liſt has the Benefit of them, but, as it is a very conſiderable Article, I ſhould be glad to be inform'd to what the Produce of them is applied.

I have not mentioned the fourſcore thouſand Pounds given upon the Occaſion of the Marriage of the Princeſs of *Orange*, which is double to what any Daughter of *England* ever had before. What made the Demand unexpected was, that at the Time the Civil Liſt was ſettled ſo high, ſeveral Members were ſo indiſcrete to aſſure their Friends without Doors, that no more would ever be aſk'd upon any Occaſion whatſoever.

About the Time the *Eaſt-India* Company applied for enlarging the Term of their Charter, it is ſaid, they coin'd Gold Medals to a great Value. If it be true, I am afraid they came into ſome dead Hand; becauſe I have not met with any of them in Circulation; but as I do not ſuppoſe that any Part of them went to the Civil Liſt, I ſhall make no Computation of the Value of them.

But as I am to mention the Savings of the Civil Lift, I cannot forbear taking Notice of one, which is occasion'd by a melancholy Accident, an Accident that has thrown the whole Nation into Tears, I mean the Decease of her Majesty, whose extensive Generosity, and Contempt of Money, a Quality inseparable from great Minds, are too well known to stand in Need of any Panegyrick here.——By this melancholy Circumstance there will be a large Yearly Saving to the Civil Lift.

It is no Wonder that some Persons should offer to farm the Civil Lift at 900000 *l. per Annum*, for I am told, the same Persons, upon some new Lights they have had relating to this Affair, would now very willingly give a Million, and be very thankful to those who should help them to the Bargain.

All this while I have not mentioned the Revenue of the Electorate of *Hanover*, which, no Doubt, is very large, and much larger since the present Royal Family's Accession to the Crown of *England*, by the Purchase of *Bremen* and *Verden*, two considerable Provinces. I do not say they were purchased with *English* Money, for I know, by the Act of Settlement it is provided, that we are not to be put to any Expence upon the Account of the Dominions of *Hanover*; however, it is certain, it makes no Part of the 800000 *l. per Annum*.

I forgot to mention, amongst the Savings, the Allowance of his R——H——s before he came to *England*, as also what he has receiv'd since less than his present M——y, when P——ce of *W——s*, receiv'd; all which, I conceive, ought to be counted as an Addition to the Civil Lift.

As to my own Part, I always thought his M——y was the proper Judge what Allowance was fit to be given to his R——l H——s the P——ce: As his M——y was several Years in the same Situation himself, certainly no Person living knows so well what

what is sufficient to support the Rank and Dignity of a P——ce of *W*——*s*, and if less is issued out of the Civil List now, for that Purpose, than has been in other Reigns, it ought to give Joy and Satisfaction to the whole Nation; and so far from being a Cause of Displeasure, we ought to return our grateful Thanks to his Majesty for putting us to as little Expence as possible, for no doubt the Publick will have the Benefit of this as well as of every other Saving that can be made out of the Civil List.

Our Princes formerly liv'd upon their Crown Lands, which was a kind of Hereditary Revenue; but these having been in a great Measure granted away, their Maintenance now comes out of the Purse of the People; so that the whole Civil List may be called Publick Money. This being granted, I conceive our Parliaments have as much a Right to apply all of it that is more than necessary for supporting the Dignity of the Crown, to other Uses, as they had first to grant it; but we have Reason to think, from his Majesty's known Justice and Generosity, that their Interposition will be unnecessary, and that it will be done without them.

We have taken Notice already what vast Things Queen *Ann* did for the Publick, out of a Civil List of little more than five hundred thousand Pounds a Year: As it is not to be doubted, but the same Oeconomy and Frugality will prevail, the present large Civil List, instead of being a Grievance, may become a Blessing to the Nation, by being turn'd into a Kind of Fund for paying off the Publick Debts.

It is true, that all Precautions against the Inconveniencies of an over-grown Civil List may be unnecessary at a Time that no Man talks either of an avaritious Court, or a corrupt Administration; but it is not amiss to warn the People to beware of it, because if such a Thing should ever happen, there are various Ways by which the Court might, by Degrees, be able to draw the whole Stock out of the People's Pockets.

The Government of our Iſlands and Plantations upon the Continent of *America* might be ſold, or given to neceſſitous Fellows for paying a Rent out of the Profits as long as they held them; in Conſideration of which, they might have a *Carte blanche* to fleece and plunder, and of Courſe all Complaints againſt them would be ſuppreſſed, and the Sufferers always be ſent away without Redreſs.

Our Saviour drove the Money Changers out of the Temple; but if we ſhould ſee an avaritious Court and a corrupt Adminiſtration, they would be brought into the Temple again, and all the Dignities of the Church would be ſold to the beſt Bidders.

Charters, Grants, and Patents would bring fine Griſt to the Mill, and Titles might be conferr'd on the very Scum of Change-Ally; for it would be ſufficient Merit that they had cheated their Fellow Subjects of Money enough to pay for them: In fine, every Thing that ſhould be the Reward of Merit, or intended for the Publick Service, would be turn'd into a Job; by all which the Wealth of the Nation would ſoon be drawn within a very narrow Circle, and graſp'd by ſuch Harpies as would never part with it again.

An immenſe Civil Liſt will neither make us formidable Abroad, nor rich at Home; for when our Wealth is drawn from thoſe Channels, by paſſing thro' which it nouriſhes the Commonwealth, our Weakneſs will be ſeen and known by Foreign Nations.

Wealth in the State is like Blood in the Body of Man, it muſt circulate thro' all the Veins and Arteries, otherwiſe the Body Politick will languiſh and decay; the inferior Members muſt have their Share of Nouriſhment as well as the Head and Heart.

It is true, that the Head was by Nature appointed to command the whole Man; but if the Head ſhould ſpeak thus to the ſubordinate Members, "I am your "Maſter, and you move only by my Orders; you, "my Hands, were made to work for me; and you,

"my

" my Legs, to bear me ; I will, by Vertue of that
" Power I have over you, take to myſelf that Blood
" and Spirits with which you have hitherto been nou-
" riſhed.

It is no Doubt but ſuch a fooliſh Head might grow to an enormous Size, but it would be in Danger of falling to the Ground for all that; for the Hands would neither be able to work for it, nor the Legs to bear it long.

Upon the whole, there is nothing which concerns the general Intereſt of the Society ſo much as to guard againſt an over-grown Civil Liſt, and therefore I ſhall think publick Spirit dead, if I ſhould ſee Mens Attention engaged two or three Months about the Change of a Secretary, a Chamberlain, or a Chancellor of the Exchequer, which perhaps is no more than a private Contention betwixt a Knave in Place, and a Fool out, or, *vice verſa*, the Fool in and Knave out; and if ſixteen thouſand Pounds a Year be added one Year to the Civil Liſt, thirty thouſand another, and ſeventy thouſand a third, it ſhould be no more than a nine Days Wonder.

SATURDAY, *April* 1, 1738.

Kent, Feb. 11, 1737.

SIR,

I AM an old Country Gentleman of about 1000 *l. per Annum*, well timber'd, and, by what I can find, we have had neither a Rogue nor a Fool in the Family, the one to encreaſe the Eſtate, nor the other to ſquander it away.

It ſeems to have been a Maxim in our Family, that we had no Right to ſpend what we did not get; and the Eſtate has deſcended from Heir to Heir without any Incumbrance till *Charles the Firſt*'s Time, when it was mortgaged for 1000 *l.* to ſerve that unfortunate Prince, which has continued a Debt upon it ever ſince. ——The original Mortgage is now in the Iron Cheſt, and the fine Silver embroidered Coat, that was worn about three Times at Court after the Reſtoration, hangs in the Preſs juſt by; the former has been always ſhewn as a Teſtimony of the Regard we paid the Royal Family; and the latter, that my Grandfather got nothing for venturing his Life and encumbring his Eſtate: My Family have been often choſe Members of Parliament ſince, but their Votes never got them any Thing, and I have got a Manuſcript Speech or two upon Subjects that are now almoſt Treaſon to mention: ——The Borough too, for which we uſed to ſerve, is ſtrangely altered: At the laſt Election I made but one Vote, and that was the Butcher. I have often had a Mind to fell ſome Timber and pay off that ſame Mortgage; but we have a Tradition in the Family, that when-

whenever a Tree is fell'd in the 30 Acre Wood, the Poſſeſſor of the Eſtate died in a Year afterwards; but if I could marry *Molly* to her and my own Mind, I'd venture it, for I got the Gout at the laſt Election, in endeavouring to ſerve my Country, by oppoſing two Gentlemen that voted for the Exciſe, that 'tis with Pain, Mr. *Common Senſe*, that I now write to you; and as all my Concern now is about my *Daughter*, when ſhe is well diſpoſed of I don't care how ſoon I die. I ran a couple of hundred Pounds in Debt too, but having had a pretty good Crop of Hops tee Year, I have juſt paid that off.

The Occaſion of my giving you this Trouble is, we have got a Sett of Players near us; my Neighbour *Birch*, who was made a Juſtice of the Peace when I was turn'd out at the laſt Election, ſays, 'tis againſt Law to Act Plays:———He is a Man not very deep learn'd, as they ſay, but writes a good Hand with a Knife and a cleft Stick, which we call Scores; and they tell me, he is to have a Place in the Exchequer; I know he was bred in this Sort of Way, for I have ſeen Bundles of his Wooden Receipts. enough to make a Bonfire: In ſhort, he told 'em they ſhould not act; but Madam *Birch*, who———you underſtand me, was bred at a Boarding-School, ſigns the Warrants, *&c.* was moved by a handſome Letter from the Maſter of the Players, prevail'd upon his Worſhip to let 'em act, and ſhe ſits in the beſt Seat of the Barn where they act every Night.

Molly ſent to all her Acquaintance, and away we went to ſee a Play; I am ſure I laugh'd heartily, and ſo did every Body except *Tom Fidget*; in ſhort, I thought *Tom* the beſt natur'd Fellow I ever ſaw, and, if my Girl lik'd him, deſign'd he ſhould change his Name and marry her: But he has been up two or three Terms to the *Temple*, and I never ſaw a Fellow ſo much alter'd.—He wears a Wig with one Lock of a Side and one behind, and a Pump with a great Buckle

within an Inch of his Toe;—he uſed to ride well a hunting, and I gave him a Horſe of my own Breed out of *old Dragon*, he has had him managed, as he calls it, and now he won't gallop above a Mile in an Hour.——His Song uſed to be, *There was three jolly Huntſmen:* But now 'tis, *Si caro caro ſi.*——He ſat next to *Molly* at the Play, ſaid it was damn'd Stuff, and worſe acted:——but if ſhe was once to ſee an Opera and hear *Farinelli*, ſhe would never deſire to ſee another *Engliſh* Play as long as ſhe liv'd.——In ſhort, after a few Words, ſhe bid him hold his Tongue, and, I believe, call'd him Fool, for admiring what he did not underſtand.— I don't believe ſhe'll have him, for ever ſince her Couſin *Bridget* of *Tooly-Street* was with her in the Country, ſhe has hated the Name of *Farinelli*, and you cant't vex her more than to talk of his Performances.

When I firſt heard of an Act againſt Plays and the Players of Interludes, *&c.* I thought it was to forbid theſe Foreigners acting, and to ſend them, with their uſeleſs unnatural Pipes, back again to their own Country.——I little thought my own Countrymen were to ſtarve to ſupport them; and, pray, why are all Diverſions to be confin'd to *Weſtminſter?* I think it a great Hardſhip I may not have a Laugh in Country if I pay for it, and I think *Molly* has as much a Right to be diverted as any Sack Poſſet Lady in Town; beſides, it has long been a Complaint of the Country Gentlemen, that their Wives and Daughters are alway running to ſee the Diverſions of the Town; and when there are no Plays to be acted in the Country, this Deſire will encreaſe: I don't deſire *Molly* ſhould go there, for my Neighbours learn nothing but to be ſo proud they won't darn their own Linnen, and all their Talk is of nothing but *Mantelets*, *Frokins*, *Farinelli*, and *London Midwives*.

I thought, Sir, it had been a Maxim, never to rob People of their Bread without putting them in a Capa-

city

city to get more: Pray, who will take any of these Players, or what Employment can they follow; will *Bazazett* mend a Gap, or *Cato* make a good Tapster? ——*Desdemona* will never mend my Stockings, nor shall Mrs. *Patch*, wait upon my Daughter.——Had they been found destructive to Trade in the Country, it would have been another Thing; but I don't find they carry any Money out of it: And I'll swear they are the only fine dress'd Folks that do not. Or had they been so necessary to the Town, the Conntry must have spared them, had there been a Want of proper Men to act Lords and Pimps, Buisy Bodies and Iagoes, Dutchesses and intriguing Chambermaids.

But they say, there's a little Playhouse in the *Haymarket* that is a perfect *Pandora*'s Box, and that one *F*———*ng* fills it, and every Night the Audience used to carry away Squibs and Crackers, which they let off in the Country, and sometimes at Court; if this be so, let the Court set another Shop of the same Trade in the same Street. There are Court-Writers enough, that can write and make nothing of it; there's *Cibber*, he wrote *Cæsar in Egypt*, let him write *Cæsar in*———, let the Scenes be adorn'd with Beef-eaters and Guards, and Drums and Trumpets, and have a nightly Review there.——I would have all People diverted, and those that have no Relish in their Ears, let them feast their Eyes; but lest there should be some who (out of Curiosity may chance to come there) may like to hear,——let there be Musick,—let there be an Ode,—and let, oh, let *Sun and joyous Day* appear. By this Means the long blinded World will see the meaning of his elaborate Performances: —There let the Fools with their Foreign Education, who have dangled Abroad from Court to Court, and have lived so long in them, that when they come Home they can't live out of one, nightly Resort.

Let *Cibber* write for the Court, and *Fi*———*ng* for the Country, and every Night the latter will have a great

great Number of your Relations, for whom I have the greateſt Reſpect, tho' not ſo happy as to be of kin to them.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

RUSTY BACON.

SATURDAY, *April* 8, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

SOME Time ſince read a Letter in your Paper written in the Style and Character of an Officer of the Army, and ſign'd, *Frank Firelock*; the Writer of which Letter ſeems to lament, that the once honourable Profeſſion of a Soldier ſhould fall into ſuch univerſal Contempt, as it has done within a few Years.

He has aſſigned ſome Reaſons for it; but in my humble Opinion, there are ſeveral more which he has not touch'd upon.

He takes Notice, that, by a Peace of upwards of five and twenty Years, not one in a hundred of thoſe that compoſe the preſent Army ever ſaw the Face of an Enemy; a Circumſtance that will always make a Soldier look little, tho' it ſhould not be his own Fault: But beſides, if the People ſhould have a Notion, that an Army, Strangers as much to the Honour as to the

Dangers

Dangers of their Profeſſion, are kept up only to cock their Hats and look big upon their Fellow Subjects at Home, it muſt unavoidably render them Objects of Hatred as well as Contempt; and therefore I hope they never will think ſo.

He obſerves, that in other Times, Armies have been looked upon as the Schools of Honour, and at the ſame Time he owns, that the Induſtry which one Man has employ'd to corrupt all Ranks of Men, has infected the Army as well as the C———. If this be ſo, I cannot ſee what Right a Soldier has to be treated as Gentleman.

But *Firelock*, perhaps, will ſay, that there are ſtill ſome Men of Honour left in the Army; and that it is very hard that they ſhould ſuffer for the Behaviour and Actions of a few Scoundrels that have crept in amongſt them. I anſwer, I really believe there are, and I allow it to be hard, that they ſhould be confounded with the ſervile and the baſe; but he ſhould conſider, that it is the Fate of all who keep bad Company to ſuffer in their Reputations for doing ſo; all Bodies of Men whatſoever have a Character ſtamp'd upon them by the World according to the Behaviour of the upper Part, tho' they happen to be the feweſt in Number.

If, for Example, you ſhould ſend Men of no Capacity to do your Buſineſs with Foreign States, you will be look upon as a Nation of Ideots.

If you bear Inſults from Foreigners, you will be treated as a Kingdom of Poltroons.

If your Miniſters ſhould govern by Corruption, and know no Policy but that of Bribery, it will be no ſooner known in the World than your Country will be looked upon as a Den of Thieves.

The ſame holds good with Reſpect to Profeſſions, —if thoſe who poſſeſs the ſuperior Poſts of the Army ſhould prove to be a cringing Set of Sycophants, owing their Preferment to ſuch ſcandalous Services as a Man

Man of Honour would rather ſuffer Death than ſubmit to, thoſe who are in the inferior Poſts muſt expect to ſhare the Scandal, and the very Profeſſion itſelf will become ignominous.

You will ſay, it is not juſt thus to confound Characters, and to put the Scoundrel and the Man of Honour upon an equal Foot :——I will own it ; but how ſhall the World know that there are Men of Honour amongſt them ?

Thoſe in the high Poſts are ſeen and known, they ſhine in Gold, and dazzle you with the Splendor of their Equipages ; in ſhort, they draw the Eyes of the World upon them :——When one of them is preferr'd, it is a natural Enquiry to aſk, for what Services was this Man rais'd, what Trophies had he gain'd ? In what Siege, or what Battle did he diſtinguiſh himſelf ? And then you hear that he has cringed, fawn'd, or that he has deſerted and betray'd his Friends : His Infamy becomes the Subject of every Coffee-Houſe, and every private Converſation.—Whereas, your Soldier of Honour may be neither ſeen nor ſpoke of; he may be kept under ; he may, in a Manner, be buried in an obſcure Poſt, and be made uſe of only as a Footſtool for a Poltroon to riſe over his Head by.

I know it has happen'd in Time of War, that an Officer has ſometimes been promoted out of his Turn ; but then it generally is for ſome Action attended with ſo much Bravery, that it would be an Injuſtice not to diſtinguiſh ſuch a Man : And in that Caſe his Brother Soldiers never murmur ; for it is obſerved, that there is not, among any Profeſſion whatſoever, ſo much true Generoſity to be met with as among the Soldiery, (I mean thoſe that really deſerve to be call'd Soldiers ;) but in Time of Peace, whenever you ſee a Fellow put over the Heads of Men of Service, you may depend upon it, it is for ſome dirty, ſcandalous Merit, that nothing but a moſt profligate Tool could ſubmit to.

I think

I think no Situation can be more melancholy than that of a brave and honeſt Officer, who has qualified himſelf well for his Profeſſion; who has ſerved at a Time it was an Honour to ſerve; who has gained the Poſt he holds by his Blood, to ſee ſome ſervile Minion of a Miniſter, a Fellow that perhaps is not worthy to wipe his Shoes, put over his Head; when at the ſame Time his Circumſtances may be ſo narrow that he is not in a Condition to throw up his Commiſſion, nor pull that Fellow by the Noſe who has had the Impudence to ſtep into a Poſt which was his Right, leſt he and his Family ſhould ſtarve. I don't know, I ſay, any Situation that can be ſo grievous to a generous Mind; and yet I am afraid it is the Caſe of many a brave Fellow in the World at this Hour.

As for my own Part, I love a Soldier; but I would have you to underſtand, Sir, that I do not call that Man a Soldier who has gain'd a Command in the Army by dirty Services, which have nothing to do with the Profeſſion; who ſtruts with a Cockade, but never appear'd in Arms but at a Review; who thinks it ſafer to make a Breach in the Conſtitution than in an Enemy's Town; and who has not the Courage to attack any Thing but the Liberties of his Country; no, Sir, I ſhall never give the Name of Soldiers to ſuch Heroes as theſe; I conſider them only as the Blackguard of a M———, and let them gain what Preferment they will, I ſhall never call them by any other Name than what they deſerve.

If any Man in Power ſhould ever make ſuch a villanous uſe of an Army, as to beſtow all the Preferments in it towards corrupting the Legiſlature, he muſt be a Perſon of an uncommon Front, who ſhould venture to aſſert after that, that a ſtanding Army is not dangerous to the Conſtitution.———It is certain, it may be dangerous without ſuch Meaſures, but when it once comes to that, there is an End of all Doubt about the Matter.

We

We have Reason to hope such an Attempt will never be made, because sure Destruction must follow that Man, and all that belong to him, if he should miscarry in the Attempt;—he must throw away the Scabbard, and resolve to destroy us, that it may not be in our Power to destroy him.

Tho' I have declared, that I love a Soldier, yet I love my Country more; and therefore I am sorry there should be any Occasion to keep up an Army in this Nation during a Peace that has lasted so many Years. If we should be obliged to go to War, (as it seems absolutely necessary) nothing will be found of use to us but our Ships and our Seamen, and it were almost worth a War to put an End to all Pretences for keeping up a standing Army.

I am afraid we shall be apt to look upon an Army as dangerous to the Liberties of this Nation, could it he maintained even without Expence to the People; and on the other Side, were it not dangerous, the Expence is heavily felt in the present indebted Circumstances of this Nation: So that there is every Reason in the World to induce us to ease ourselves of that Burthen.

I have somewhere read an Observation that has been made upon Armies, which will fit all Countries and all Times: My Author says, that a Military Force are either Servants arm'd for waging War at a Distance, for revenging Insults, for maintaining new Conquests, or else for keeping the People at Home (at whose Expence they are maintain'd) in awe.—When it is the latter, (says he) that Government is a Tyranny, whatever specious Name may be put upon it.

Now let us grant, that the present standing Army has not been maintain'd to keep the People at Home in awe, and to support Tyranny; let us likewise suppose, that the present Administration, being uncorrupt, wanted no Army to defend them against the Resentment of the People; when all this is allowed, yet I can-

cannot think the Nation has received any great Benefit by the having had an Army ſo many Years.

I humbly conceive, that we have not greater Weight in the Affairs of *Europe* than we had before we maintain'd an Army: I do not think that Foreign Nations pay greater Court to us now than they did in former Times; it does not appear, I ſay, that we are either more fear'd, or more reſpected: In a Word, that the Government is become either more popular at Home, or more formidable Abroad, than when no ſtanding Force was kept in this Nation.

As to the Obſervation made by your Correſpondent, *Frank Firelock*, that there is a great Decay of that nice Senſe of Honour in the Army which uſed to adorn and diſtinguiſh the Soldier's Character, I think that alone is a good Reaſon why we ſhould wiſh to ſee the Army diſbanded. I am ſorry to hear that pure Stream ſhould be tainted and corrupted among the Soldiery. It were to be wiſh'd, that they had kept up their Senſe of Honour, were it for no other Reaſon but that a little of it may remain ſomewhere in the Nation.

If any Man will argue, that there is leſs Danger to the Liberties of a Nation, from an Army commanded by ſuch pacifick Officers as are before deſcribed, than from one commanded by Men who ſhould owe their Preferment to nothing but their Valour and Conduct in War, I muſt beg pardon if I differ in Opinion from him; for I cannot help thinking, that let an Army have never ſuch Poltroons at its Head, it will always be able to keep the quiet and peaceable Part of the Subjects in awe; and you may be ſure an Army ſo officer'd will never be employ'd upon any other Service.

I hinted before, that if Military Preferments ſhould be beſtow'd to influence and corrupt thoſe who were choſen to ſerve in another Capacity, it is the moſt dangerous and wicked uſe that an arbitrary Miniſter can poſſibly make of an Army; the gallant Soldier that has

has been uſed to look an Enemy in the Face will never ſtoop to ſo baſe and infamous a Service. And I am of Opinion, that if a corrupt Fellow in Power, or any of his Minions ſhould dare to propoſe any Drudgery of this Nature to one who was really a Soldier, he would have very good Luck if he eſcaped with his Ears.

I take it for granted, if ever this be done, they will know to whom they propoſe it. It is not the fighting Man that is wanted for theſe Services; thoſe that dare not fight may undermine; and therefore People every Way qualified, no Doubt, will be choſen for the Purpoſe.

He that can procure a Seat (no Matter by what Methods) in a certain Aſſembly, will immediately be qualified to be a Governour, a General, or a Colonel of a Regiment.——Let him not be frighten'd out of his poor little Wits, for he ſhall only fight with his Tongue, and all the Military Diſcipline he ſhall ever be put upon ſhall be a blind Obedience to the Orders of the grand Corruptor.

In all the Misfortunes that happen to us in this Life, there is ſomething more or leſs grievous according to the Circumſtances and Character of thoſe by whom we ſuffer.———Were I to be conquer'd in War, methinks, it would leſſen my Affliction were it done by a *Turenne*, a *Eugene*, or a late Duke of *Marlborough*; were I to live at a Time that the Liberties of my Country were to be loſt, ſhould it be contrived by the Schemes of a *Richlieu* or a *Burleigh*, it would be ſome ſmall Conſolation to me in my Miſery.

If ever it ſhould be our Fate to be enſlaved, may it be brought about at leaſt by Villains of ſome Parts in the Cabinet, as well as of ſome Courage in the Field.—May we never be cheated, betray'd, and undermined; ———may our Miſeries never be encreaſed by the killing Reflection, that we were undone by Fools and Cowards; nay, may it be done bravely and by open Force,

Force, rather than by Treachery and Fraud.—In a Word, may we be worried by Lions, rather than knaw'd to Death by Rats.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

SATURDAY, *April* 15, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

THERE is, in *Tully*, a Deſcription of a Republick, which ſeems very fully to repreſent our *Engliſh* Conſtitution, ſuch as it is in Theory, whatever it may be in Fact. His Words are theſe, *Statuo eſſe optime conſtitutam republicam, quæ ex tribus generibus illis, regali, optimo, & populari confuſa modice, nec puniendo irritet animum immanem ac ferum, nec omnia pretermittendo licentiâ cives deteriores reddat.* A Government conſiſting of a Prince, a Houſe of Hereditary Peers, and another of fit Perſons, freely and fairly erected, to repreſent the Body of the Commons, anſwers the Idea form'd by *Cicero* of the moſt excellent and moſt unexceptionable Commonwealth. This is, or ought to be the Government of *England*. The executive Power is lodg'd in the King, to which Power are added ſuch Prerogatives and Pre-eminencies, as are abundantly ſufficient to maintain his Safety, his Honour, and his Dignity, both at Home and Abroad. To each of the two Houſes belong ſuch ſeparate Priviledges as are proper to preſerve the Powers with which the

the Representatives of the People are entrusted: So that, upon this general Sketch, our Constitution is preferable to any other Form of Government whatever.

It is therefore the Duty of every honest *Engliman* to preserve, as much as in him lies, every Part of the original Constitution, to keep it pure and entire, and to consider, that the most minute Deviation from it, in any Thing material, cannot be made without Prejudice, either to the Prerogative of the King, or the Liberties of the Subject: And there is the more Reason to guard against any Innovation, be it ever so small, because the Nature of so nice and delicate a Frame is too apt to be easily disturb'd, and by the least Dislocation, in any one Part, the whole may be unhing'd. It is natural for a King to aim at an Encrease of his Authority: And it is natural for each House to endeavour to enlarge it's Jurisdiction, and to lessen and break in upon the Power of the Crown: So that as long as Men are subject to the Passions of Revenge, Ambition, and Avarice, so long are our Laws in Danger of an Alteration for the worse.

The Weakness of some Men, and the Wilfulness of others, may cause frequent Disputes as to the real Constitution itself, which indeed, in some Parts of it (like the sacred Writings) are not quite clear to the best and most unbiass'd Understandings: But the essential Points of it (like the Scriptures also) are well known and perfectly understood: Nor can they be mistaken, but for want of Courage, Attention, or Integrity.

I cannot therefore help repeating, even in this short Letter, the indispensible Necessity which every Lover of his Country is under to watch most carefully the Situation of the State in all its Branches, in Times of the least apparent Danger, as well as those of the greatest; for whoever will consider the several Schemes which have been invented for establishing the Freedom of Men united in Societies, will find, that Slavery is

not

not ſo much owing to the Want of proper Laws, as to the Want of preſerving thoſe Laws. There are few civilized Nations whoſe Laws do eſſentially contradict and overthrow any Fundamental Maxims of Juſtice: On the contrary, all People pretend to build their Laws upon ſuch Maxims, as have Reaſon and Uprightneſs for their Baſis: The Miſchief therefore to be apprehended is, a Departure from thoſe Laws, and from the eſtabliſhed Cuſtom of proceeding in Caſes where the Liberty of the Subject is concerned. There are indeed ſome immaterial Points which may be chang'd, and profitably too perhaps for the Commonwealth: But when ſuch a Change is propoſed (which the different Circumſtances of Times and Things may require) the beſt Rule to judge of the Advantage or Detriment which is like to reſult from it, is to conſider impartially, whether it is better or worſe for the Liberties of the People. On thoſe Liberties is the Foundation of our Government built: For thoſe Liberties have our Anceſtors ſtruggled: Nor is the King's Right to be leſſen'd any more than the Rights of his Subjects. The Balance muſt be equal, and then, and then only, we ſhall be happy.

I am, Sir,

Your conſtant Reader

And humble Servant,

ABRAHAM BALLAST.

I Agree entirely with my Correſpondent, in the Publick-ſpirited Care which he recommends to all his Countrymen, and in his Deſire of keeping the Scales exactly even between the King and the People; but I hope he will forgive me, if I differ from him in the high Opinion he has entertained of the Excellence of

our

our Conſtitution, and if I point out ſome Parts of it where there is ſome room for Amendment. For Example, we believe that no Law is, or can be made, to which all Men, by their Repreſentatives, do not give their Conſent; but as Repreſentatives are choſen only by the Majority of Electors, thoſe of the Minority, ſtrictly ſpeaking, have not their Repreſentatives. It may be ſaid, that there can be no other Way of chuſing, and that the Conſent of the Minority muſt be ſuppos'd to be included in that of the Majority, otherwiſe there could hardly be any Choice, as every individual Elector will ſcarce ever agree in the Choice of one and the ſame Repreſentative. This is very true, and therefore ſhews, that we really value ourſelves upon a Branch of our Conſtitution which is not perfect, nor ever can be ſo.

The Power in the Crown to create any Number of Peers, on any Occaſion, is a moſt dangerous Prerogative, and may undo the Nation at one Stroke. Queen *Elizabeth* (whoſe Memory every true *Engliſhman* muſt revere) was ſo ſparing of her Honours, that *Rapin* blunderingly tells us, "Scarce a County at King "*James*'s Acceſſion had Knights enough to ſerve in "Parliament". All wiſe Princes will follow her Example. They will conſider, that the Power they make Uſe of againſt the Commonwealth may one Day be turn'd againſt themſelves: And that, by making Honours too cheap, thoſe ſplendid Jewels of the Crown will loſe their intrinſic Value, and the Crown itſelf ſhine with leſs Luſtre than it ought.——But how tottering is that State whoſe Welfare depends upon the Wiſdom of the Sovereign! and how little Difference is there between an Arbitrary Government, *ab origine*, and one which may be made ſo at Will. Happy for us, the preſent Times ſecure us amply from all Danger; but God only knows what this Nation is to expect from *Prince Poſterity*.

The

The Liberty of chuſing Members of Parliament by ſome of the moſt wretched and poor Towns, as well as by the greateſt Cities, is a Point worthy the Conſideration of judicious Men, and might perhaps be alter'd for the better. The largeſt County in *England* returns but two Members, the leaſt Borough in it returns as many. If the ſmall Boroughs therefore in each Country were deſtroyed, and the ſame Number of Members return'd for the Shire itſelf, and the chief Town in it, would not a Danger be removed which the preſent free and happy Choice of Repreſentatives make us leſs apprehenſive of than we ought to be?

I confeſs I am not entirely ſatisfied with that celebrated Part of our Conſtitution, our Trials by Juries; which are made up very frequently of mean and ignorant Perſons, and for that Reaſon liable either to Corruption, or Miſtake. This Power perhaps might be better lodg'd with a certain Number of Judges, who are Men bred to the Knowledgle of the Laws (a Science of great Latitude and Intricacy) if their Impartiality entitled them, as well as their Learning, to ſuch a Truſt. It might be hop'd that, as their Places are for Life, they would be leſs dependant on the Court, and leſs under the Influence of the Crown, than thoſe Reverend Perſonages the Biſhops, whoſe Tranſlations may make them ſometimes tread out of the Paths of Righteouſneſs to worſhip *Belle* and *the Dragon*.

Bills of Attainder, tho' no Part of the Conſtitution, yet are often made Uſe of in Times when ſuch great Evils are thought neceſſary to prevent greater. But the Patrons of thoſe Bills ſeem to be ſenſible, in ſome Degree, of the Hardſhip of them. However they endeavour to juſtify the Neceſſity of them, by ſaying, that, as no Legiſlature can provide for all Contingencies, the beſt Way to prevent the frequent Commitment of new Crimes, is to be regardleſs of any Precedent for the Puniſhment, where there is no Precedent

for

for the Offence. As for Example, ſay they, If a Man burns the whole Fleet of *England*, it is not Treaſon; yet no Body ſurely could think it unjuſt in the Parliament, to puniſh the Perſon who did it, as guilty of Treaſon. But this Argument cannot convince me of the Juſtice of the Puniſhment, even if it was poſſible that the whole Navy ſhould be fired. Could ſuch a Conflagration be brought about (which from the Fleet being always diſpers'd is impoſſible) my Method to puniſh the Perſon guilty of ſo enormous a Fact, ſhould be the utmoſt Severity the Laws in being would allow, and I dare ſay, there are Laws in being by which it might be puniſh'd. Nay farther, I would readily conſent to make a Law more ſevere than thoſe already made, to prevent the like Crime from ever being committed again. The Miſchief being paſt, the Death of the Criminal could not repair it; a Law in future therefore might be made, without that Injuſtice which always attends a Law *ex poſt facto*.——There is another Objection againſt theſe Bills of Attainder, which in my Eye carries great Weight. It is, that theſe Bills being paſs'd by King, Lords, and Commons, the three conſtituent Parts of the Legiſlature, the Perſon accus'd ſhould, in common Juſtice, have ſome Trial, ſuch as is uſually at leaſt, before each Part: But this is never his Caſe; for the King, without whoſe Concurrence the Bill cannot be effectual, never hears him: His Defence is made only before the two Houſes, and conſequently one of his Judges condemns him unheard. But if any Man, diveſted of all Prejudice and Siniſter Views, does really believe, that the eſtabliſhed Methods of Trial, in a free Government, may be ſuſpended in order to puniſh thoſe who cannot, according to the regular and conſtant Methods of Trial, be convicted of any Crime, he would, I am perſuaded, change his Opinion, and loudly complain of Injuſtice, ſhould he himſelf be ſo unfortunate as to ſuffer by one of theſe extraordinary Bills. He would then probably

bably think, that if an Action can justly be thought criminal which is not so legally, it must be that of having consented to condemn a Person who cannot be prov'd to have transgress'd the Laws of the Land. These Bills therefore, like poison'd Weapons, are to be us'd, if ever, only to punish those who have promoted them against others. And to fortify what has been before-mention'd, I need only quote my *Lord Coke*, who says, " *Omnis nova constitutio futuris formam im-* " *ponere debet, & non preteritis*".

If a very large Number of Forces had been thought necessary, by the Legislature, for our Preservation at this Time, I should have said, that, among all the Political Maxims liable to be disputed, there is one so solidly established, that it may be look'd upon as agreed and uncontested, *(viz.) That a Standing Army* and *Freedom are inconsistent*. But, at present, I shall only observe, that our Constitution is extremely unhappy, if we must run such manifest Hazard of losing our Liberties, in order to preserve them.

I shall conclude the loose Hints which I have flung out in this Paper, with the Words of *Valerius*, in a very eloquent and a very important Speech, which he made in the Senate of *Rome*. " The more Eyes " there are upon the Conduct of every Branch of our " Legislature, the more secure will be our Liberty, " and the more perfect our Constitution.

SATURDAY, *April* 22, 1738.

WHEN the Treaty of *Utrecht* was in Agitation, the moſt effectual Methods that the Nature of the Thing would admit, were taken, to hinder the Crowns of *France* and *Spain* from being worn by the ſame Head; and that was, by providing a Renunciation to be made on the Part of *Philip* to the Crown of *France*.——If the two Kingdoms were but under different Governments, it was not doubted but the natural Diſlike of the two Nations to each other, as well as their Intereſts, which now and then muſt jar, would have ſuch an Effect, that *Europe* would ſoon be freed from all Apprehenſions of their acting as the ſame People.

In a few Years after this Treaty had been made, the good Effects of it began to appear.——We ſaw *France* and *Spain* divided and at Variance with each other: This was a fortunate Event for *Great Britain*, ſince one of the moſt reaſonable Motives for our engaging in that expenſive War was, the Danger to the Liberties of *Europe* from too cloſe an Union betwixt thoſe two great Powers; but now they were driving ſeparate Intereſts:——*Spain* was forming Intrigues to raiſe Commotions within the Bowels of *France*; and we ſaw *France* openly attacking *Spain*, taking her Towns, and burning her Ships of War upon the Stocks.——The Enmity betwixt the two Nations could be carried no farther.

There is a certain Attention abſolutely requiſite in all Miniſters, which makes them ready to lay hold on Occa-

Occaſions, and profit by Events, and they muſt be poor Politicians that cannot improve the Miſtakes of others to the Advantage of their own Country: And here it will be natural to enquire, what Advantage we made of this Breach.—Did we artfully foment the ill Humour?—Did we throw our Weight into that Scale where our Intereſt ſhould have carried us, and thereby procure ſome Privilege in Point of Commerce which we had not enjoy'd before?—Did we erect ourſelves into Arbitrators and dictate the Terms upon which they were to ceaſe to be Enemies? A Poſt that will always be able to pay itſelf its own Reward.

If we deſpiſed this Method, and thought it wiſer to fall in with the ſtrongeſt Side, and endeavour to raiſe up that Power again, by which ſome of the moſt popular Men in the Nation were undone, a few Years before, for not having totally deſtroy'd, I am afraid the World has not entertained the better Opinion of our Politicks ever ſince.

It was thought then, and many think to this Hour, that our Intereſt, as well as Inclination, ſhould have induced us to have taken Part with *Spain*; in which Caſe, it is probable, there is no Advantage in Trade which we might not have obtained of them.

They ſay, it is difficult for one Nation to draw another into Meaſures directly oppoſite to its naturally Intereſts. And the Quarrel, at that Time, betwixt theſe Powers ſeems to be ſo wrong on the Side of *France*, that, had it been improved in the leaſt to our Advantage, I ſhould certainly have believ'd it to have been artfully contrived and work'd up by the Skill and Dexterity of ſome of our Miniſters at Home. It is certain, they have not been charged with it; however, I will not ſurmiſe that it was *France* that drew us in, to act the Part we did, in order to undo us with *Spain* for ever.

I am ſometimes doubtful, whether it was an Error in Politicks on our Side; for if it had, methinks ſome

Measures might have been taken in all this Time to rectify it, because it is plain, that, whenever *Spain* is embarrass'd with other Powers, her natural Hope and Dependance must be on *England*; their Interest, I say, must bring them to us.

They have as much Reason to be jealous of the Power of *France*, as we; and they will think that our antient Quarrels with *France*, added to the Fear of her present reviving Greatness, must temper us for their Purpose: So that they will imagine, that common Prudence, without any other Motive, ought to engage us on their Side.—A Quarrel between us should be like the falling out of Lovers, it should require but very little Address to make us fonder than ever.

It is true, that since these Misunderstandings first broke out, we have made Treaty upon Treaty—with them—without them—for them, and against them, and all won't do; we have had such sudden and violent Fits of Kindness for them, that we have laid out immense Sums only in making them Compliments, yet this won't do neither——what can it mean? Does *Spain* despise us for our Complaisance to her?

This has given the Enemies of our Ministers a Handle to insinuate, that *Spain* has some Infidelty to charge us with; that there may be secret Articles in some of these Treaties, wherein some Restitutions have been promised which have not been performed; and a *Spaniard* can never forgive a Breach of Honour: That Insults have been suffered all this while for fear that some Secrets should break out. These are Things that are insinuated, tho', I hope, falsely; but be it as it will, their Hatred to us seems to be of such a Nature, as is not to be cured by Submission.——We have kiss'd the Rod long enough, and, we may count upon it, they never will be sincere Friends with us till they are beaten into it.

The Nation calls loud for War, all Ranks of Men have a Feeling of the Losses and Sufferings of our Mer-

Merchants, and the very common People are enraged at the Insults and Indignities that have been offered the Nation: These are Omens of Success—We have a large Navy, and a Commonality that never refuse to fight; Luxury and Effeminacy, introduced and propogated by a Rabble of Upstarts in Places, have not reach'd our Seamen; they know neither Bribery nor Corruption, and therefore, I am positive, they will not flinch at the Sight of a *Spaniard*.

Our Land Army cannot be employ'd in this Quarrel, unless a few should be sent on Board the Ships by Way of Marines; if they should, the common Soldiers will fight, provided their Officers will head them. ——If there should be any pacifick Heroes in this Army, who have made several Compaigns, cringing and fawning at Levees, but none in the Field; if they should happen to be sent, the Seamen will make them fight too, or they'll throw them over board: And I don't know but that would be doing the Nation more Service than beating the *Spaniards*.

But if there are Persons of this Character in our present Army, they are certainly in the upper Posts, and, of Consequence, will not be obliged to go upon these Expeditions;—besides, I believe there is a certain Gentleman who has a powerful Interest, who will keep them at Home, because he is very fond of their Company:——And, I believe, the Nation would not wish to see such Men at the Head of brave Fellows.———Let them therefore, stay at Home and take Care of themselves; let them behave as they have lately done, talk and——for a Standing Army one Day, and for pacifick Measures the next. Whether they would be shamefaced before an Enemy, let others judge; it is certain, they are not to be put out of Countenance in another Place.

But the Truth on't is, there can be no Action beyond taking a *Galloon* or a *Guarde de Costa*, for the *Spaniards* are not able to look us in the Face; they

have made ſo many Expeditions to *Africk* and to *Italy*, that their Finances are exhauſted, we have had a breathing Time of twenty five Years; it is very hard if we have not recovered Spirits enough to engage an Enemy already waſted and exhauſted.

But it ſeems this is not all, there are ſome amongſt us frightened at *France*.——The Tables are ſtrangely turn'd within a few Years,——how are we ſure, ſay they, that *France* will not take Part with *Spain?* And we muſt bear any Thing rather than offend *France*. —If this be an Objection againſt our entring into a War with *Spain*, it is an Objection that will laſt till we have not another Ship to loſe.

Our Circumſtances, as well as thoſe of *France*, are vaſtly different from what they were formerly, when we were engaged in War with them.—In thoſe Days their Trade was low, and they could loſe but little by a Sea War; ours was high, and, of Conſequence, we had a great deal to loſe; but they have made ſo good Uſe of this long Peace, by paying of their Debts, and leſſening their Taxes, that they have a great Advantage over us in working up their Manufactures, by which their Commerce is enlarged and extended, and their Shipping vaſtly encreas'd;——they have riſe in Trade upon all *Europe*, and are ſtill riſing, ſo that now they have more to loſe, and we (I'm ſorry to ſay it) much leſs than formerly.——A riſing Trade may be ruin'd by a War; a ſinking Trade has a Chance to revive by it.——It may be our Buſineſs to break with *France*, but it cannot be their Buſineſs to break with us.

We have had no Reaſon to think, ſince the Affairs of *France* have been under its preſent Adminiſtration, that its true Intereſt is not underſtood there, or that it will not be purſued upon this Occaſion. While an ambitious Prince ſat upon her Throne, ſhe attempted to reduce her Neighbours by the Arts of War; but ſhe has been much more ſucceſsful in doing it ſince, by

by the Arts of Peace. She did, indeed, enter into a War with the Emperor, when ſhe found him not ſo pliant as ſhe wiſh'd, and when ſhe ſaw, by the Complexion of his Allies, that Circumſtances were favourable for her; but ſhe made a Peace again, while ſhe had vaſtly the Advantage of the War, and was content with a moderate Gain, *Great Britain* looking on all that while; which plainly proves, that War is not her Game.——She owes us a Naturality, but without claiming it as a Debt, ſhe will certainly take that Part; becauſe ſhe muſt find her Account in it.

It is poſſible, indeed, ſhe may offer her Mediation, for ſhe ſeems inclin'd to take the Trouble of all Kinds of Arbitrations quite off our Hands, as well as the Fatigue of holding the Balance of Power. So that whatever Diſturbances may happen in *Europe*, we ſhall not, probably, be invited by *France* to interpoſe hereafter.

But theſe Gentlemen are haunted with frightful Dreams, and ſay, what if *France* ſhould take Advantage of the Diſaffection of our People at Home, and pour in Troops upon us in Favour of a Family Abroad, and ſo ſubvert the Government?——This is an Objection that may alſo laſt till we are ſo reduced by our Loſſes, that the Crown itſelf may be ſcarce worth contending for, a Way of ſecuring a Government perfectly new.

It is an Objection that is much ſtronger in Time of Peace, than in Time of War; for in Time of War we are never without Squadrons ready equipp'd and man'd, which muſt make any Attempt of that Kind impracticable; but can they be Friends to the preſent Eſtabliſhment that tell the People, the whole Nation muſt be beggar'd to preſerve the Eſtabliſhment?—Is it not a ſcurvy Compliment to the preſent Miniſters to inſinuate, that they are ſo hated, that the People would lay hold of any Opportunity, and ſubvert the Government itſelf, in order to get rid of them? If this were

really true, a Man might readily anſwer, ſatisfy the People, diſpoſe of the Miniſters according to their Merit, and make the Government ſafe.

I know that the Perſons of whom we are ſpeaking will not hear any Thing like this——their Attachment is to Perſons, not to Things——they have nothing to do with the Proſperity of the Nation, their Concern is for the Proſperity of him who handles the Publick Money.——With them the Fundamentals of our Government are chang'd.——It was a Maxim, that the King can do no wrong; with theſe, a Miniſter can do no wrong. Say what you will of the Perſon that wears the Crown, if you will but ſpare him that manages the Treaſury, there is a Divinity that ſurrounds the polluted Perſon of any Creature that ſigns Warrants for Money, that renders it ſacred.—In him Ignorance is a God-like Quality, and Corruption to be adored. If Diſtreſſes fall upon the Publick, the Cauſes muſt not be examined, leſt it ſhould come to the Door of him that is the Author of them.—Periſh the Nation, periſh all Mankind, it is indifferent to them, provided Penſions, Bribes, and Salaries are punctually paid. There are Maggots in the State, which are engender'd in the rotten and putrified Parts of Government, and muſt be nouriſhed by that Corruption to which they owed their Being; they muſt defend their Stable, for if it be ſwept clean the Vermin muſt all periſh; therefore, when we ſpeak of Publick Affairs, their Cry ſhould be no more regarded than the babling of an Eccho: They have no Voices of their own, they only repeat the Sounds which are infuſed into them from ſome above them.

I believe it might be proved to a Demonſtration, that neither the *French* nor the *Spaniards* can diſtreſs *England*, as long as thoſe within ſhall do their Duty to the Publick. Common Prudence in Councel, with a little common Honeſty in the Management of Affairs, would ſecure us againſt all the World; but our

Vitals

Vitals may be eaten out by Domeſtick Enemies, tho' Foreign Enemies ſhould not be able to hurt us: Therefore, let us cry out, with *Job* in his Diſtreſs,

May the Congregation of Hypocrites be deſolate, and may Fire conſume the Tabernacles of Bribery.

SATURDAY, *May* 6, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

——Sublimi Flagello
Tange. HOR.

SIR,

WHEN you took the Title which is prefix'd to your Paper, I expected your Deſign was much more general than you have hitherto ſhewn it to be: You have, indeed, endeavoured to convince the World, what is *Common Senſe*, and to perſuade them to it by its Amiableneſs and Reaſon. But you have not explained what is *not Common Senſe*, a Taſk much more extenſive, and, I think, more uſeful to Society. For Men are miſled by Prejudice, miſguided by Pride, and enticed by Foibles from this plain Rule of Action. It is a Condition of Mind which more People ſtand in Need of being reduced to, than kept up in. Remove the Excreſcences of Affectation, Faſhion, Party, and Paſſion, and the Man will of himſelf *ſubſide* into Common Senſe; which does not (as moſt People falſely imagine) conſiſt in any particular

Portion of Intellects, in exercising any Degree of Ability, or shining in any Sphere of Life; but is a Kind of negative Wisdom, which every Man has when he does not expose his Follies.——The Ass in the Fable was an Ass of Common Sense, till he jump'd into his Master's Lap, and took the Lion's Skin without covering his Ears.

Some want Common Sense at some Times only, others in some Instances; many an honest Man guides himself by it, who could not understand its Definition; and many a wise Man wants it, who could explain it every Way but by his Example. I have observed it in a Cobler, and lamented the Neglect of it in a Statesman.

Your Predecessor, the Spectator, had great Success by this Method I propose; and reduced his Contemporaries to dress, talk, and act with more Regard to Common Sense than Posterity have done since his Departure; not so much by instructing them in what was right and agreeable to it, as by shewing them what was wrong, and laughing them out of those Extravagancies and Whims that carried them beyond it. For Mankind have a strange Inclination to branch out into Extreams, and will be dilating themselves into the Ridiculous, unless some judicious Hand takes the Trouble to prune their Luxuriances, and by that Means make them bear the Fruits of Common Sense.

Mr. *Lock*, in his Essay on Human Understanding, observes, "That Madmen do not appear to have lost "the Faculty of Reasoning, but, having join'd toge- "ther some Ideas very wrongly, they mistake them "for Truths, and err as Men who argue right from "wrong Principles. For, by the Violence of their "Imaginations, having taken their Fancies for Rea- "lities, they make right Deductions from them. "Thus you shall see a distracted Man, fancying him- "self a King, with a right Inference require suitable "Attendance, Respect, and Obedience; others, who "have fancied themselves made of Glass, have used

"the

" the Caution neceſſary to preſerve ſuch brittle Bodies.
" Hence it comes to paſs, that a Man who is very ſo-
" ber, and of a right Underſtanding in every Thing
" elſe, may in one Particular be as frantick as any in
" Bedlam.

Whether this be not too general, and conſequently too dangerous a Definition of Madneſs, I will not pretend to determine, and I ſhould be ſorry to ſee it ſo far prevail, as to have every one who fell within that Deſcription ſent to the Court of thoſe imaginary Monarchs. But it is certainly a very juſt Account of the Deprivations of Common Senſe: For if we examine ſtrictly what makes Men ridiculouſly deficient in this uſeful Quality, we ſhall find, it is not a Want of ſufficient Capacity to act agreeably to the Station of Life they are in, and to make a proper Uſe of the Reaſon and Talents Nature has given them, but ſome ſtrange miſtaken Principle about themſelves; ſome deſire to appear what they are not, or more than they are.

For Inſtance, if a *plain Man* of a low Capacity would condeſcend to be nothing but *a Lord*, he would make a *great Figure* in *his* Station; but if he ſhould clap on *a Pair of red Stockings*, and then, fancying himſelf an Orator, harangue the Houſe, he immediately deviates from Common Senſe, but yet can't be ſaid wholly to have loſt it. For ſtrip him of this falſe Notion of himſelf, this *Mentis Gratiſſimus Error*, and the Man is cured of his Frenzy, and paſſes the reſt of his Life in Silence and Common Senſe.

Again, if *another* whoſe *Age* and *Figure* might inform him (if he had not more convincing Proofs) that he is not qualified for a *Beau Garçon*, ſhould take it into his Head to attempt *Feats of Gallantry*, and expect *to lie with a fine Woman without paying for it*, may he not be laugh'd, or *perſecuted* ſome Way or other, back again into Common Senſe?

But theſe are Foibles incident to human Nature, and are the genuine Effects of Self-Love: It is too cruel

cruel therefore to consider Errors of this Kind in any stronger Light than as Transgressions against your Jurisdiction. But there are other fashionable Excesses from Reason, which, as they have no Foundation in Nature, and can't be the Result of any human Passion, I am afraid will hardly escape being thought to fall within Mr. *Lock*'s System, by the thinking Part of the World, unless the Success of your Paper proves the contrary.

It is not long since, as I was taking a Ride to *Hamstead*, and engaged in Contemplations on the Beauty and Verdure of the Meads that lye round that Summer Retreat of the trading Part of this Metropolis; when an End was put to them by a Youth who drove furiously towards me, in a Carr not unlike that of *Alexander the Great*, except in its prodigious Height; happily for me, the Turnpike interposed, or my Horse (being none of the nimblest) would not have been able to have convey'd me safely out of his Way. From the Respect he was treated with by the Turnpike-keeper, I perceived, to my Surprise, that he was not a Coachman, but some Person of Distinction in that Disguise. When I was got out of Danger, I began to reflect on this unaccountable Foible, which I have been since informed is a fashionable one, and fell into a Kind of Resentment, mix'd with Pity, towards so mean an Inconsistency of Character.

This Conduct may certainly, according to Mr. *Lock*'s Opinion, be considered as a Species of Madness. For it can surely proceed from nothing but an unaccountable Prepossession of Mind, that he (tho' a Person of Quality perhaps) is a Coachman. Accordingly we see, by a right Inference from this Notion, he habits himself in a Close-Frock, flaps his Hat, fills his Mouth with Mundungus (or, if that is disagreeable, *with something that may look like it*) and talks, swears, eats, and whistles like a very Coachman. Then takes some *Brother Whip* of Note for his Friend; and if, notwithstanding

ſtanding theſe Precautions, he has ſtill ſome little Appearance of the Gentleman, he will perhaps, to prevent the leaſt Suſpicion of that Kind, buy a *Three-end Coach, fill it with his Servants, and drive theſe imaginary Paſſengers with all the Regularity of a Stage.*

As a Behaviour leſs ſtrange and inconſiſtent has ſent many a poor Fellow to *Bedlam*, unleſs you can diſmount them from the Coach-box, and by gentle Means bring them to themſelves, I can ſee no Reaſon why they ſhould not have the ſame Fate. For it is ſurely of leſs Conſequence to the Publick, to permit a Coſtermonger to ſtrut about Streets in the mock Majeſty of a King, than to let theſe terreſtrial *Phaetons* looſe in the Avenues of this great City, to the Danger and Affright of his Majeſty's trading Subjects (who, at this Time of the Year, give *their Families* an Airing in a one Horſe Chaiſe) and to the Torture of one of the nobleſt and moſt uſeful Animals in the Creation.

I could mention many other faſhionable Inſtances of this Kind, if the Compaſs of your Paper would permit me; but theſe are, I hope, ſufficient to ſhew how neceſſary it is for you, Sir, to watch theſe Epidemical Frenzies as they riſe, and poliſh away theſe Cruſts and Excreſcences, before you can bring the World to perceive the Luſtre of Common Senſe. And as I am a Man of no Profeſſion, whoſe Life is wholly employ'd in ſpeculative Pleaſures, and who can profit the Publick no other Way, I ſhall dedicate my Obſervations to your Service: And I hope to live to hear theſe faſhionable Madmen ſay (with *Abel* in the *Alchymiſt*) *I went to Dr.* Common Senſe, *and he cured me for Twopence.*

With the Ladies this is the only Method by which you can hope for Succeſs: Since to ſhew them that Common Senſe alone will become them, is the beſt Perſuaſive to them to wear it; and, by expoſing a contrary Conduct, you will either improve your Fair

Readers,

Readers, or give them the Pleasure of laughing at those they would otherwise imitate, envy and admire.

I would have the Ladies understand, that every Extravagance in Dress or Behaviour is at least a Crime against Common Sense, and the unfortunate Product of some false Principle, which Fancy or Pride has established in their Minds: And whoever can't be cured of it by your Application, falls under Mr. *Lock*'s Description, and can be restored only by Dr. *Monroe*.

Tho' I will indulge the Ladies, at this Time of the Year, in that Species of Madness, Mr. *Lock* mentions, of fancying themselves *Glass*, if they will but use the Cautions necessary to preserve such brittle Beings.

Yours, A. Z.

SATURDAY, *May* 13, 1738.

Mr. COMMON SENSE,

I Believe you may have wondered at not hearing from me in so long a Time, and will, perhaps, be more surprized at the Reason I am going to give you.--In short, Sir, I am, at length, thoroughly convinced that the utmost Perfection which human Wisdom is capable of attaining to is, Silence; and that, when a Man has learn'd to hold his Tongue, he may be properly said to have arrived at the highest Pitch of Philosophy.

I am so very fond of this Virtue, that I shall do a kind of Violence to it (for Silence implies holding the Pen as well as the Tongue) to trumpet forth its Praises;

ſes; I am perſuaded, if any Virtue has had that univerſal Aſſent, which Mr. *Lock* ſeems to deny, it muſt be allowed to be this.

Solomon, the wiſeſt of Men, declares loudly in Commendation of this Virtue. *In the Multitude of Words*, ſays he, *there wanteth not Sin: But he that refraineth his Lips is wiſe.*

Again,—*he that hath Knowledge ſpareth his Words.*

Again,—*even a Fool, when he holdeth his Lips, is counted wiſe; and he that ſhutteth his Lips is eſteemed a Man of Underſtanding.* And in ſeveral other Places throughout his Proverbs.

King *David* is ſo fond of Silence, that he applauds himſelf for abſtaining *even from good Words*; which, tho', it ſeems, it was extremely troubleſome to him, yet he was ſo reſolute in his Perſeverance in this Virtue, that, rather than let a Word go from him, he was determined to put a *Bridle*, or, as I have ſeen it render'd from the *Hebrew*, a *Muzzle*, on his Mouth.

The Stoicks, the greateſt, wiſeſt and moſt virtuous of all the Sects of Heathen Philoſophers, had this Virtue in ſuch Eſtimation, that it is well known what a long Silence was neceſſary to qualify a Graduate in their Schools.—Whether theſe great Men imagin'd, as ſome have inſinuated, that Wiſdom, like good Ale, ripened and refined itſelf by being well corked, I will not decide; whether they might not, with greater Juſtice obſerve, that Wiſdom, like Air, being ſtopp'd in one Place, would naturally find a Vent in another, and ſo by keeping the Mouth cloſe ſhut, iufuſe itſelf into the Muſcles of the Face, and thereby create what we call a wiſe Look, a Quality ever held in great Eſteem, and of ſingular Uſe in all Philoſophical Societies.

Homer, a Poet of deep Penetration, to give his Reader a vaſt Idea of the Wiſdom of the *Greeks*, makes particular Mention of the profound Silence in which their Army marched.

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Οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἴσαν σιγῇ μένεα πνείοντες Ἀχαιοὶ.

But, indeed, ſuch are the Honours which Antiquity has conferred on this admirable Quality, that I may ſay, with *Cicero*, *ſi velim omnia percurrere dies deficeret*; I ſhall therefore confine myſelf, in the Reſidue of this Letter, to my own Country, which I can with Pleaſure obſerve to have been inferiour to no other in her Eſteem of Silence.

To begin with our Philoſophers.——The *Spectator*, whom the *French* call *Le Socrate moderne*, was ſo perfect an Obſerver of Silence, that he aſſures us, he ſeldom proceeded farther in Converſation than to a Monoſyllable: That he had often paſſed by the Name of the Dumb Man: To which I need not add the great Ceremony and Difficulty with which his Mouth was once publickly opened. In a Word, he ſeems to value himſelf more on his Taciturnity than his Eloquence, and, notwithſtanding the univerſal Applauſe his Works procured him, ſeems to have taken to himſelf more Merit from what he had not ſaid, than from what he had.

2dly, It is well remember'd, that, ſomewhat leſs than a 100 Years ago, Silence had obtained ſo much Ground in our Religious Meetings, that the ſilent Breathings of the Spirit diffuſed themſelves all over the Nation, ſome notable Remains of which we have at this Day among the People called *Quakers*;—— the Profoundneſs of whoſe ſilent Meetings I have often beheld with great Pleaſure; nor can I help obſerving how the Inſinuation of a certain Reverend Dean, in a ſerious Eſſay of his, that true Chriſtianity has been put to Silence ſome Time ago among us.

But this Virtue bloſſoms no where ſo much as among the Politicians.——A certain ludicrous Poet, in a Piece called *The Hiſtorical Regiſter*, wherein he introduced ſeveral Politicians on the Stage, gives this Character of Silence to the Chief of them; but I am afraid, in ſo doing, he did not act very politickly for himſelf: For

For I have obſerved, that his Muſe has been ſilent ever ſince.

I have heard of a Coffee-Houſe Politician, who, by long Study and deep Attention to the Art of Politicks, has contracted as great a Fondneſs for Silence as ever *Don Quixote* had for Knight Errantry. It is reported of this whimſical Perſon, that he would bribe People to hold their Tongues. I have heard, that if any Fellow attempted to make a Noiſe in the Coffee-Houſe he was ſure to have a Sum of Money of the old Gentleman, to procure his future Silence; which, they tell me, produced ſome comical Events.

As Mankind are generally apt, in their Opinions, to pay great Regard to the Value the Perſon ſets on himſelf, and to eſteem the Beauty of Women and Wit of Men in Proportion to the Difficulty which attends their Enjoyment: So this old Gentleman, by his great Parſimony of Words, at laſt procured ſuch a Veneration for every Thing he uttered, that my Grandfather, in whoſe Time he lived, has aſſured me, that, on his offering to open his Mouth, the whole Audience have attended as if Frier *Bacon*'s Brazen Head had been on the Table. In ſhort, this Gentleman (whoſe Profeſſion was that of a Haberdaſher of Small Wares) acquired at laſt ſuch a Reputation in the Coffee-Houſe, by his Taciturnity, that no one ever ſpake but himſelf; and being now become the Oracle of the Houſe, he uſed to make certain weighty Motions concerning Tobacco, Coffee, *&c.* and when no one anſwered him, he always ordered accordingly, pronouncing, with a grave Accent, SILENCE GIVES CONSENT.

But if we ſearch narrowly into theſe Characters, which the *French* call *outrez*, we may commonly diſcover in them Contradictions equal to their Abſurdities: For this odd Fellow, who had ſo violent an Antipathy to ſome Noiſes, had as great a Fondneſs for others. Thus he is ſaid to have been a paſſionate Admirer

mirer of a Drum, at the ſame Time when he always fainted at the Sound of a Muſquet, and his Antipathy to the human Organs themſelves was not without ſome Particularity, and, indeed, ſeems to have been not ſo much to the Sounds as to the Ideas they conveyed: Of which I have heard the following Inſtance.

One of the Waiters of the Coffee-Houſe, whom they called *Young Will*, was ſo notorious a Babbler, that it was generally thought the old Gentleman aboveſaid would have inſiſted on his being turned away; but what was their Surprize, when they beheld him clap *Young Will* on the Back and tip him Sixpence, crying out, *that's my good Boy*, for tho' thou talkeſt more than any Body, no Man can accuſe thee of having ever ſaid any Thing.

So much for this old Coffee-Houſe Politician: But pray, Mr. *Common Senſe*, will you be ſo good as to inform us, who live at this Diſtance, whether any of this Gentleman's Succeſſors are yet living; whether there reigns as profound a Silence in the Coffee-Houſe at preſent as this Gentleman maintain'd in it as long as he lived.

There was a great Noiſe ſome Time ago concerning *Spaniſh* Depredations, which we did not like.——I do aſſure you, Sir, as great an Enemy as I am to Noiſe, I ſhould not be diſpleaſed at the Muſick of a few Broad-Sides: Methinks, I could hear you with Pleaſure on that Head; for if we are quite ſilent at Home, it is probable we may hear on both Sides our Ears from Abroad: But ſure we may have better Expectations from the glorious Warmth of our King, and the ready Zeal of his Parliament to ſupport him therein. After this, no ſilent Steps are to be apprehended, and therefore, I ſhall be ſilent on that Head.

But it is now Time for me to relapſe into my uſual Silence, therefore, after having congratulated you on your prudent ſpeaking but once a Week, while the

Gazet-

Gazetteer chatters every Day, I ſhall, in a ſilent Manner, aſſure you, *I am*,

Devon, April 1, 1738.

Your moſt humble Servant.

MUM BUDGET.

SATURDAY, *May* 20, 1738.

Weſtminſter, 1737.

SIR,

YOUR Correſpondent, whoſe excellent Piece appear'd in your Paper of the 19th of *November*, has touch'd upon the *North-Britiſh* Statutes againſt Leaſing-making, in ſuch a Manner as to be a Panegyrick on the wiſe Contrivers of ſuch Laws at firſt, and the ſharpeſt Reproach to thoſe who, in after Times, perverted them. Forgive me for mentioning a few Particulars in Illuſtration of a Branch ſo intereſting in the Hiſtory of that Country.

It is not to be doubted, that the Laws againſt Leaſing-making were as ancient as the Monarchy of *Scotland*.—The Baſis of their Government was a mutual Confidence *between the King and his People. One of their* Malcolms *divided among his Subjects all the Lands of* Scotland, reſerving nothing to himſelf but the Royal Dignity, and the Moot-hill of *Scoon*, the Place from which their Laws were delivered, throwing himſelf almoſt intirely upon their Affections for his Support. Tho' the Supplies for the King's Maintenance, and the Publick Service, *were granted by Parliaments*, and theſe

theſe Parliaments met at *Scoon*, or ſome other Palace *belonging to the King*, yet there is no Surmiſe in the *Hiſtory of Scotland*, that, *in reſerving* the Moot-hill of *Scoon*, the King had reſerved to himſelf the Monopoly of his Parliaments.

The earlieſt Mention of ſuch Laws, is in a Collection of the Laws of *Robert the Firſt*, ſurnam'd *Bruce*.

In that diſcerning Reign, it was enacted, That no Man be a Conſpirator, or Inventer of Narrations, or of Rumours, by which Occaſion of Diſcord may ariſe betwixt the King and his People. And if any Man ſhall be found and attainted thereof, incontinent, he ſhall be taken and put in Priſon: And there ſhall be ſurely keeped until the King declare his *Will concerning* him.

This Penalty of being in the King's Will, occurs frequently in the *Scotiſh Statutes: The Meaning* is unſettled, and, if I miſtake not, in a late Caſe, (the Riot of *Glaſgow*) being in the King's Will, was conſtrued, by the Crown Lawyers, as the ſame Thing with a Capital Puniſhment. In that Caſe, ſuch an Interpretation would perhaps have been too hard; but no Man can ſay that the Traducer of a Nation deſerves leſs than Death.

In the Times of *James the Firſt of* Scotland, *the Matter was put out of Doubt; for then it was ſtatuted, Part* 2, *Act* 43. *That Leaſing-makers and Tellers of them, which may ingender Diſcord betwixt the King and his People, wherever they* may be gotten, ſhall be challenged by thoſe who have Power, *and loſe Life and Goods to the King.*

Sir *George Mekenzie*, in his *Obſervations* on this Law, ſays, That it was made to determine the Uncertainty of the Act of King *Robert*.

It appears, by the Law-Books of *Scotland*, that their Kings were too noble minded to be ſollicitous what might be reported of them to their Subjects. They truſted to their Actions for the Nation's good Opinion, and this valuable Law was not ſo much as ſuppoſed to

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concern the Revilers of the King. The ſecret Back-bitters of a Subject, whoſe Actions are too obſcure for his Soverign's Knowledge, and much more the Beſiegers of a Royal Ear with falſe Complaints of the whole People, were the only Objects of this Law.

Till the Days of King *James the Fifth*, Matters reſted upon this generous Footing; but that Prince, having begun to deviate from his better Beginnings, and to abandon *himſelf to Avarice, Luſt of Power*, and the Diſpoſition of his own Miniſters; it was then found reaſonable, by a Complaint in Parliament, That the King ſhould be debas'd to the Condition of the *meaneſt Subject, and that not only the former Acts concerning Leaſing-making ſhould be approv'd, but that, if any Manner of Perſon makes any evil Information of his Highneſs to his Barons and Lieges, they ſhall be puniſhed in ſuch Manner, and* by the ſame Points, as they who make Leaſings of his Grace to his Lords, Barons, and Lieges.

The *Author* mentioned above, ſays, in his Remarks on this Law, That, tho' there was a clear Parity of *Reaſon* for *puniſhing Leaſing-makers of the King, in the ſame Way as* Leaſing-makers of the Subject, yet (ſays he) our Anceſtors would not extend Crimes by Conſequence: Plainly denoting, that, till that Time, abuſing a good Sovereign was a Crime ſo little known, or ſo contemptible, in *Scotland*, as not to be the Object of a Statutory Puniſhment: And the ſame Thing will hold true for ever.—I confeſs, I think there is more Dignity of Sentiment in the Antique Sages of *Scotland*, who baniſh'd a Suppoſition ſo indecent, than in the Caution of his Succeſſors.

And ſo the Event ſhew'd: For this Artillery of Leaſing-*making ſo formidable to bad Miniſters, in the* Hands of the People, that (as your Correſpondent ſays) it is a Wonder they could carry on Buſineſs with it, now being turn'd to batter the People, the old Law ſicken-

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ed and died; and the new Miniſterial Law grew in Vigour, and over-turn'd the Conſtitution.

In Queen *Mary*'s tumultuous Reign (which immediately followed that of her Father *James the Fifth*) it was made Leaſing-making to ſpeak ill of the *French*.

When her Son King *James* ſucceeded, to his Miſfortune, a worthleſs Minion got Poſſeſſion of him, and ſeduced his unguarded Youth; and then it was made *Leaſing-making* to ſpeak, or write, of the Hiſtory or Conſtitution of the Kingdom: But, the very next Year, a new Set of Cronies, having diſplaced the former in the King's Favour, ſanctified and ſecured themſelves and all their Proceedings with an Act of *Leaſing-making*.

Theſe Acts were adviſed by the *Scotiſh* Miniſters: They were procured and paſs'd by their Arts, not by Bribery; for they had not Money to bribe their Parliaments: They were contrived to make them (the Miniſters) ſafe, and it muſt be allowed, they were made ſafe by them; but how? At the Hazard of the Prince himſelf; for knowing how well their Security was eſtabliſhed by theſe Laws, they became ſo arbitrary and inſolent, that the Body of the Nation join'd in the Revolution to humble them.——Whigs and Tories forgot all their Diſtinctions, at that Time, I think evident from the Subſcriptions of the *Scotiſh* Convention, by their Reſolution of declaring themſelves a lawful Meeting before they would open the King's Letter. And thus theſe very Acts, calculated for the Security of the Miniſters, laid a Foundation for the Ruin of the Family upon the Throne.

The *Scots* ſeem, at laſt, to have been tired out with the continual Oppreſſions occaſion'd by inforcing and extending theſe Miniſterial Statutes. But, a few Years before the Union, they were willing (it would ſeem) to let Friends go with Foes, and repealed not only the Act of *James the Fifth*, and all Acts poſterior to it, but included that of *James the Firſt* in the general Con-

Condemnation; perhaps for Want of attending to the Difference between that Law and those which follow'd. However, I have the Pleasure to see that the Antedeluvian Act of *Robert Bruce* has escap'd this Inundation; and as it is not repeal'd, and is too important to be construed obsolete, I am willing to think, that this Omission was kindly intended, as an Act to save the People, while the Ministers were doom'd to be drown'd.

This old Statute, *then, is the only one* in being at present; and, by the *Scotish* Law, Leasing-making Ministers are still *in the* King's Will: Let it be conjectured, from the Horror of the Crime, and the Sense of the People, what that Will should be.

After the Union, the Laws of *Scotland*, in Cases *of Treason, were* made *the* same *with* ours. But your Correspondent well distinguishes between Leasing-making and Treason, as *Parent and Child*; in their Guilt, I fear, there is little Difference: What there is, lies on *the Side of the First*; Treason may proceed from Enthusiasm, Misinformation, or *Prejudice*; *but* Leasing-*making is the Mother*, by which the Egg is hatched. Yet, by the Treason Laws, the best Traitor must be drawn and quarter'd, *while the worst* Leasing-maker, who has instigated him, *is only* to be hang'd, which is a little unequal; be *it so then: And it is well it is* no worse:——A Leasing-making Minister may be hang'd at least, if he makes Leasing of *Scotland*. Whether he can do that without Leasing-making of GREAT BRITAIN, I leave to your Correspondents learn'd in the Law.—In my poor *Comprehension, misrepresenting* of SCOTLAND (*and, according* to my Information, *Scotland* has been *scandalously* misrepresented) may either be preceded, accompany'd, or soon followed, by a Misrepresentation of all the United Kingdoms.

Your Correspondent has done ample Justice to the Memory of the ancient Legislators of *Scotland*. I thought it might not be unacceptable, to shew the Variations

riations of the Moderns from their Plan, and the *Difference there may* be between the Times when the People, and those when the Ministers, complain'd of Leasing-making.

Yet this old *Law, excellent as it was, had not provided against all Cases.*——King *James the First's* Law *says, that Leasing-makers* shall be challenged of those who have *Power*. *Alas!* what if the very *Leasing-maker* be punished, the Slanderer of the People is the only Person having Power? How shall the Evidence come to the Royal Ear, which he has stopt and invested? What the Sagacity of a *Scotish* Legislative could not prevent, it is hoped, the Wisdom of a *British* Parliament may find a Remedy for. How terrible its Effects may prove, may be instanced by a Story from the Chronicles of *Scotland*, which I should have sent you, did I not apprehend that, according to the new Doctrine of Libels, your Printer might be brought into some Trouble by it; but if you think fit, you may refer your Readers to the History of *Scotland*; and whoever will look into the Life of *Robert the Third*, he will find a most villainous Instance of Leasing-making, which ended in a very tragical Manner.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *May* 27, 1738.

I Made a Visit the other Morning to a Friend, in the *Temple*, and found him engaged with an ingenious Mechanick, who is the Maker of a certain little Musical Instrument, which, of late, is carried in the Pockets of all your Men of Wit and Pleasure about the Town. He gave me to understand, that this Expence was owing to an Accident which happened to him the Night before: For it being his Chance to pass thro' *Temple-Bar* at a Time when the Multitude were giving the Discipline of the Kennel to one of those Beasts of Prey commonly stil'd Informers, an Artist, known among the Vulgar by the Name of a Pick-pocket, found Means of diving to the Bottom of one of his Pockets, and convey'd from thence the following Moveables, the Goods of *Frank Townly*, of the *Middle Temple*, Esq; *viz.*

A Letter-Case, finely wrought and gilt, in which were no Bank Notes.

It contain'd, four Subscription Receipts for Books not yet printed, and which, perhaps, never will be printed:

A Blank Ticket in the Bridge Lottery, worth now about as much as before it was drawn:

Two Milliners, and three Taylors Bills, unpay'd:

A Billet-doux from a celebrated Toast of *Covent-Garden*, commonly call'd, the *Kitten*.

Besides the Letter-Case, he lost a silk Garter with a Buckle, snatched from one of the Legs of the said

Kitten:——By the ſame Token, ſhe garters above Knee.

A Box of Pills, with Directions for taking two over Night, and three in the Morning——to drink ſomething warm after they begin to operate, and to be careful not to catch Cold:

Two Catcals——the one a Baſe, the other a Treble.

It was the laſt of theſe Loſſes which my Friend was about to ſupply.——There were a great many of them lying upon the Table, ſome in *Pinchbeck*, ſome in Silver. The Artiſt had employed the utmoſt of his Skill in adorning them:——On one Side, you might ſee the comick Maſk and tragick Buſkin curiouſly engraved; on the other, a felonious Critick ſnatching a Laurel from a poor Poet's Brow:—The Workmanſhip exceeded the Materials.

While I was viewing all the Wonders of this little Tube, the Terror of the Poet and the Player, a thouſand Reflections roſe in my Mind. I thought on the cruel Palpitations it would cauſe in the Hearts of many unfortunate Adventures for Fame, as yet unborn.

Being in the midſt of my Meditations, my Friend, the Templar, taking one of them in his Hand, and looking round it, repeated the following Verſes.

Pretty Tube of mighty Power,
Charmer of an idle Hour, &c.

When he had finiſhed his Soliloquy, I applied it to my Lips, and giving it Breath, it ſent forth the moſt harſh unmuſical Sound had ever wounded my Ears. My Friend ſmil'd to ſee me frightened at my own Noiſe, and, taking it from me, was ſo good as to give me a Solo upon it himſelf, which he performed with a Skill not to be acquired without great Practice. This Flouriſh of his anſwer'd with the like Harmony by a Couple of Cats, who, at the Call of *Venus*, were met

upon

upon the Top of a Houſe facing the Window of the Room wherein we ſat.

After the moſt curious Examination I could make of it, I do not think that I ever ſaw any Thing like it, either in the *Muſeum* at *Oxford*, or in the Collection of Sir *H*——— *S*———, who, to his own immortal Honour, as well as to the great Emolument of his Country, has ſpared neither Pains or Expence in accumulating Rarities of equal Uſe and Importance to Mankind.

It differs very much from the *Tibia* of the Antients, as may be ſeen by ſeveral antique *Baſſo Relievos* in *Italy*, where that Inſtrument appears perfect, to this Day: Nor has it any Reſemblance to the *Calamus*, or Shepherds Pipe of *Arcadia*, one of which I myſelf ſaw, in the Cabinet of that learned Antiquary *Signor Coſone Bagatello* of *Padua*. Beſides, had it been in Uſe among the Antients, it could not have eſcaped the Obſervation of the *German Literati*, and we ſhould have ſeen two or three Folios written upon it, by the Sages of a Nation who have ſupplied the Commonwealth of Learning with ſuch Loads of Lumber.—— From all which I conlude, it muſt be of modern Invention.

What confirms me more in this Opinion is, that *Pancirollus* has not mention'd it in his Treatiſe *de rebus inventis & deperditis*, I take it, therefore, that the Invention of it is later than the Uſe of the Compaſs, Gunpowder or Printing Be that as it will, *Frank Townly* is of Opinion, that it may be of infinite Utility to our Country; and he told me, that this little Tube, placed in judicious Hands, would contribute more towards reforming the Stage, and introducing a good Taſte in Dramatick Poetry, than all the Criticiſms of *Rapin* and *Rymer*:—That a good Critick ought no more to be without his Cat-cal, than a Soldier without his Sword.

The Artiſt who made it was very attentive all this while. He began to put on a Look of Importance, and told us, that perhaps it might come at firſt from Outlandiſh Countries; but it was quite a different Thing, from what it was when he firſt knew it, for that we can improve tho' we cannot invent; that, ſince the late Act to licenſe Plays and the Players of Interludes, *&c.* he himſelf had ſat up Night and Day to try Experiments upon it; and that, by long Study, he had ſo enlarged the Compaſs of it, that it now took in three Notes more of the Gamot than ever it had done before.—— As Operas were going down, he did not doubt but *Myn Heer Handel* himſelf would compoſe for it; that he hoped to get a Patent to be the ſole Maker of it, for he had a Siſter who was a Servant to the kept Miſtreſs of a Man in Power, by whoſe Intereſt he hoped to procure it; and he was ſure he ſhould ſoon get an Eſtate by it, provided the Laureat would leave off writing Odes, and would write again for the Stage.

There being a new Play in the Bills for that Night, *Townly* propoſed to me to accompany him, and ſome others of our Acquaintance, to it.——We went at the proper Hour, and placed ourſelves in the Center of the Pit, amidſt a Sort of People who come to that Place, not to ſhew their Cloaths, but to improve their Underſtandings; it is they who ſet a Value upon Works of this Nature, and from their Opinions the Publick pronounces a Thing to be either good or bad.

I believe the Author might deſign it for a Comedy, but it was of that Kind which the *French* call *Aſſoupiſſant.*——However, all due Attention was paid to it for the Space of two Acts.——*Townly*, at length, finding nothing in it to keep up his Attention, began to tune his Flagellet, which, like the Sound of the laſt Trumpet, rouſed the whole Audience from that quiet Slumber into which they had been laid by the Scenes upon the Stage.———He lead this Orchaeſtra all that Night,

Night, and I will do him the Juſtice to ſay, he never ſounded in the wrong Place. He was accompanied by ſuch a Number of others, in various Keys, that it became a *Concerto groſſo:* I will not ſay it was quite ſo ſweet as the Muſick of the Spheres, and yet I ſuſpected that a Party from the *Italian* Opera in the *Hay-market* had thruſt themſelves into this Concert, in Hopes to revive their ſinking Opera again by damning all Plays; for methought I could plainly diſtinguiſh ſome of *Farinelli*'s Notes, as well as certain Graces of *Gaferelli*, not to mention a Squeek in Imitation of *Strada*.

But commend me to a certain Critick in the Gallery, who damn'd the Play with a Yawn.—This Perſon kept his Fire to the laſt; whether he had been really aſleep, and waked from ſome Dream, or only pretended it, he fetch'd a Yawn, or rather a Groan, making Night hideous, and ſo ſcared the whole Audience, that it put an End to the Concert below.

But I ſhould have taken Notice before, that ſome Sparks behind the Scenes, (I wiſh I knew them) were for compelling us to like the Play by Force of Arms, and threatened to bring the Guards upon the Stage to bully us out of Applauſe. Upon which, I did not think it inconſiſtent either with my Age or Gravity to hiſs for the Good of my Country, and I became almoſt reconciled to the ſquawling of the Cat-cal, when I heard its Muſick exerted in the Cauſe of Liberty: Nor was I leſs pleaſed with the Spirit of an Audience who would not give up their Opinions to Criticks who were to diſpute the Rules of the Dramma with Bayonets fix'd to the End of their Muſkets; for had I been in the Place of that Logician who diſputed with a *Roman* Emperor, I ſhould not, like him, have yielded, becauſe his Imperial Majeſty commanded fifty Legions.

Tho' I ſhall oppoſe every Thing which looks like Tyranny, either in Criticiſm or in Politicks, yet I will own I could wiſh that ſome Method, leſs tumul-

tuous, could be found out of giving our Judgments upon the Works of the ingenious: I would not have the Seat of Wit, and the Empire of the Muſes, diſturbed with Noiſe and Confuſion.——That a Spirit of Oppoſition ſhould riſe up againſt the licenſing of Dramatick Poetry, is no Wonder:——A true *Briton* would no more have our Wit exciſed, than our Wine;——it will render both ſpiritleſs and adulterate. But my Objection to the preſent Practice is, that where the Reſentment is only intended againſt the Licenſer, the Poet may ſuffer;——like the Frogs in the Fable when pelted by Boys, he may ſay to the Audience, that, tho' it be Sport to them, it is Death to him.

As I have conſidered this Affair with all the Attention which a Matter of ſuch Importance deſerves, I will, and, by Vertue of that Authority which I veſted in myſelf when I aſſumed the Character of a Publick Writer, offer ſome Regulations for a more orderly Judgment to be ſtamped upon the Works of our Dramatick Writers.

I therefore humbly propoſe, that a certain Number of Criticks, from our ſeveral Inns of Courts, ſhall meet in one of the *Temple* Halls, to conſider and draw up proper Rules and Directions for the Uſe of the Catcal the firſt Night of every New Play.

That they ſhall have Power to ſend for Perſons, Papers, and Records.

That they ſhall appoint ſome Perſon, duly qualified, to compoſe for the ſaid Inſtrument.

That the Compoſition ſhall conſiſt of three ſelect Pieces of Muſick, different in their Kind.

That the firſt ſhall be play'd at the End of the Prologue, and at no other Time, and ſhall be underſtood to be for the Entertainment of the Licenſers.

That the ſecond ſhall never be play'd but when an Actor commits ſome flagrant Fault.

That neither of theſe ſhall be taken to reflect in the leaſt upon the Poet.

That

That the third ſhall be play'd at the End, and only when the Play merits to be damn'd.

That no Perſon ſhall be allowed to aſſiſt in this Concert who has not read *Horace*, *Rapin*, and *Rymer*.

That no Gentleman of the Univerſity be allowed to ſound a Cat-cal till he has been two Years in Town.

That *Frank Townly*, or ſome other Critick of equal Lungs, be appointed to lead the Orchaeſtra, and likewiſe to beat Time.

That Ladies be allowed to uſe Cat-cals if they pleaſe.

That a *Tibicina*, or ſmall Flagellet, of a more curious Workmanſhip, and of a ſweeter Tone, be made on Purpoſe for their uſe.

That it ſhall be tied, with a Silver or Gold Ribbon, to the Sticks of their Fans.

That the Ladies which conſtitute the *Shakeſpeare*'s Club be the principal Perſons to appoint ſuch of their own Sex as may uſe theſe Flagellets.

That no Lady be judg'd qualified to play in this Concert that has not read the *Spectators*.

That the Criticks in the Pit, out of Reſpect, ſhal be ſilent when the Ladies begin to ſound.

That all Expreſſions which are offenſive to Modeſty or good Manners, be left to the Cenſure of the Ladies.

That no Lady, under the Degree of a Toaſt, be appointed to lead their Orchaeſtra.

That the Critick in the Gallery have full Liberty to yawn when the Play is over, provided he does not like it: Any Thing contain'd in theſe Orders to the contrary notwithſtanding.

SATURDAY, *June* 3, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

I Perused with Attention the Scheme you proposed to the Publick (*January* 28) for uniting the opposite Factions, which have so miserably divided this Kingdom, by obliging all Persons, in a certain Assembly, to resign up their Natural Noses into the Hands of the First Minister for the Time being.

As a *British* Subject, I cannot but look on myself to be a Party concerned in whatever Coalition may be projected, and am perswaded I have a most unquestionable Right to be consulted on all Measures propounded for that End.

I shall, therefore, make no Apology, for offering my Sentiments; but shall lay before you the Errors whereto I apprehend your Plan is subject: After which, if I find *Common Sense* of the same Opinion with myself, I may chance to communicate another Plan, of my own drawing, liable to abundantly fewer Mistakes, which render the Plan already laid down, by you, in my Opinion, morally impracticable.

I agree with you intirely in the following Points:

1st. That it is of the highest Importance to the whole Nation to find out some Means which may effectually

fectually deſtroy the unhappy Diviſions hitherto ſubſiſting among us, and which may cement all Parties.

2dly. That it will be abſolutely impoſſible ever to unite the contending Factions *without Doors*, unleſs Unity be previouſly eſtabliſhed *within*.

3dly. That Unity *within Doors* can never be eſtabliſhed on any ſolid Foundation, if it be not grounded on the *Miniſterial Bottom*.

Thus far I have the Pleaſure of finding that you and I are of the ſame Opinion: But then I can by no Means come into the Meaſures you propoſe to attain thoſe deſireable Ends.

As it is a Standing Maxim with *Common Senſe*, that ſecond Thoughts are beſt; if, therefore, you will condeſcend to think a ſecond Time on the Plan you have propoſed, I may chance to have you on my Side.

I think it is as follows:

To prevent any Diviſion of Noſes *within Doors*, and to ſecure a Coalition of them all on the *Miniſter*'s Side, you propoſe, that every Perſon, to intitle himſelf to a Seat there, ſhall reſign his own Noſe, and wear, in the Stead of it, one cut out of the *Miniſterial Bottom*.

If ſome worthy Gentlemen are pliable enough to be led by their own Noſes, is it reaſonable they ſhould be obliged to undergo the painful Operation of having their Noſes cut off, merely to be inoculated with others from the *Miniſterial Bottom?* I think not, it is enough that they conſent to be led by that Member: It little imports, therefore, to whom the Materials of the Noſe did originally belong.

Beſides, this Method of inoculating Noſes might, in Time, have an Effect directly oppoſite to what it was firſt intended to produce.

At preſent, while every Man retains his own Noſe on his own Face, every Noſe the Miniſter takes hold of (if it be well fix'd) will drag its Owner after it; and he muſt follow, to avoid being mark'd with Infamy: Whereas, when no Man's Noſe is his own, it may

chance, at ſome critical Period, that the Miniſter, pinching a little too hard, may pull after him nothing but his own Sympathetick Snout, and the Perſons who remain behind *un-nos'd* will immediately (to hide their Shame) clap on their original Noſes; which every one will always have in Readineſs: For they are allowed, by your Scheme, to wear them at their Buttons. Thus, may not an unforeſeen Diviſion of Noſes happen *within Doors* thro' the very Means made Uſe of to prevent it? And what may be the Conſequence of the Diviſion *without*, no one, I believe, has Noſe good enough to ſmell out.

Perhaps you will ſay, that the Natural Noſes of the Corrupt Party may be liable to the ſame Objections with your Artificial Ones, and for a Reaſon very obvious to be gueſs'd:—That is, they may happen not to be quite ſo ſound at Bottom as might be wiſh'd; ſo that they may be drawn out of their Sockets with a moderate Tweag, and, while the Noſe is left in the *Miniſter*'s Hand, the Body might chance to go another Way; which will be Matter of Laughter and Rallery *without Doors*:—To prevent which, I think I have found out a good Expedient.

I humbly propoſe, therefore, that there may be a general Salivation, that all the *Partiſans* of a certain *great Perſonage*, to a Man, may be fluxed: For, by your Favour, they are reckoned a Crew of very *ſcurvy Fellows*;———that they ſhall all lie down about the Middle of *January*; and, becauſe Doctor *Freind*, in his *Hiſtory* of *Phyſick*, is of Opinion, that the longeſt Salivations are the ſureſt, they ſhall not riſe till the End of *May*.—This, I hope, may ſerve to ſecure the Foundation of their Noſes.

Another Reaſon which may be offered againſt your Schem, is the Difficulty of putting it in Execution. It is not probable that the Noſes now in Poſſeſſion will give a Preference to Noſes ſo very *Poſterior* to themſelves. And, except they are all tweag'd into a Degree

gree of Insensibility, which may incapacitate them for smelling a Fox, it will be no easy Matter to make any of them stoop so low, for a borrow'd Nose, which will always scent strong enough of the Kennel to expose their Inclination to dirty Work.

Now, to my Knowledge, there are some *in-Door* Noses of so exceedingly delicate a Texture, that they will even sneeze at the very *Aura* of the Minister passing by them. And how to twinge these Noses into Compliance, *hic labor, hoc opus!*——The bare Attempt, instead of a Coalition, might create a very fatal Opposition.

What makes stronger against your Scheme of *Nasal-Inoculation* is, that the Multitude of Incisions, the Execution of it would require, must necessarily indanger, if not subvert the *Ministerial Bottom.* For, however small we suppose the Size you allot to each particular Nose, the Amputation must be considerable in the Whole. And might not this prove very detrimental to the *M——r*'s Intellects? Which, in some *M——* are providentially situated in those Parts, the better to receive their necessary Influence from the Foot. And this is the Reason why the *M——rs* are always so wise a *Posteriori*.

I have even been credibly informed, that the *Daily-Gazetteer* takes all his Predictions from thence, and that the serious Application of its ingenious Authors to the different Manner in which their Patron scratches that Part, at different Times, has render'd them so infallible in foretelling Events *a Posteriori*.

However, we will not insist on the Truth of this *Postulatum*. But wherever a *Minister*'s Brains are lodg'd, whether in his Head or in his Posteriors, it must be own'd, that any Amputation from either would be of dangerous Consequence to the State.

I am sensible, notwithstanding, that there is some Difference between these two important Extremities. A Minister, for Example, might part with his Ears,

and

and retain the ſame projecting Brains he ever had: Tho' I will not pretend to ſay whether he might not be more circumſpect in his Projects, while he had Ears to looſe. But be that as it may, any the leaſt Amputation, muſt greatly weaken a Miniſter's *Bottom*, and conſequently occaſion a Wriggling very pernicious to the State.

There is one Objection more which will totally overthrow your Scheme. The Objection is this: That no ſuch Operation can be made without the utmoſt Indignity to that innobled Part; the Impreſſion which, for aught any one knows, may have frequently been ſtamp'd upon it, gives it a certain Sanction againſt the rude Attempts of meaner Powers. I am even inclined to believe that (was any one profane enough to intend any Inciſions on that venerable Part) the illuſtrious *Callus*, which the gracious Kicks may have ſpread over it, would blunt the Edge of the keeneſt Patriot-Fury, eſpecially, if there be any Truth in that vulgar Proverb: *There is no hewing Blocks with a Razor*.

From whence, I think, it ſufficiently appears, that your Scheme neither can be put in Practiſe; nor ought to be, if it could. Therefore, I make no Doubt but, on ſecond Thoughts, you will lay it aſide.

To the Publick, *and to* Common Senſe,

A Friend and humble Servant,

RECTA RATIO.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *June* 10, 1738.

Nunquam aliud Natura aliud Sapientia dicit. Juv.

SIR,

Formerly attempted to point out a Way of bringing the World to Common Sense, by the Rule of Reduction; by paring away the Redundancies of the Mind, till it is left in the becoming Simplicity of Common Sense. My Examples at that Time were of *Male* Offenders only, and, I hope, I produced such Instances as might convince any impartial Person, that, by proper Means, Coxcomb after Coxcomb may be gently led off the Stage, and persuaded to part with every glaring Particularity which drew them out of the Croud of Mankind to be laugh'd at.

I have since had some Opportunities of making Observations on the *Other Sex*, and I do not conceive it absolutely impossible to bring about the same Reformation here: For Common Sense is, in the Mind, what Gentility is in the Body; no particular Part or Perfection, but a certain amiable Result from the whole; and consists chiefly in the Absence of Aukwardness and Affectation. It is attainable by both Sexes and all Conditions; for it consists only in acting within the Limits of their several Capacities, and, with *a decent Humility*, condescending to be what they are. It is lost but by the unhappy Influence of some misplaced Am-

Ambition, and we are trick'd out of it, *specie virtutis & umbrâ.*

But as the Fair Sex are too numerous a Body to attack in the Gross with the Artillery of one Sheet of Paper; I shall separate them into Parties, and at present apply myself to the *Wives*: Tho' much will be advanced which will concern the Sex in general.

I am far from thinking, that a Lady may not love Company, Dress and Diversions, without any other View than as they are their own Reward. But she will nevertheless offend against Common Sense if, by *immoderate Zeal* for distinguishing herself there, she gives her Husband the same Uneasiness, and the World the same Advantage over her Reputation, which a more criminal Conduct would do.

FLORINDA shines in all the Elegance of Dress and Gaiety of Behaviour Abroad, but entertains her Spouse with the sluttish Preparations only of her future Finery, and the Dregs of those Spirits she has wasted upon the Publick. She is with him in a perpetual dirty Disabille, smear'd over with Washes, and stinking at least of *faded Perfumes*. This Neglect of Domestick Cleanliness is one of the greatest Banes to Conjugal Felicity, for it must, by Degrees, grow distastful to the fondest Husband, and offensive to every other: At the same Time it informs the World *what* is expected Abroad, and *what* is not expected at Home.

CLEORA, on the other Hand, is impertinently *nice*. Whoever comes to her House, is immediately devested of his Shoes, and presented with Slippers, which the Servant gives him with his Mistress's Service, and desires *he would not walk off the Matts*. Her Husband is perpetually teaz'd with her insignificant Prudence, and she suffers as much from a Spot in her Cloaths, or her Floor, as she could from one in her Reputation. This *ridiculous Sollicitude* about *Trifles* is as inconsistent with Common Sense as the other Extreme, tho' it often passes under the false Appellation of *Good Housewifery*.

Lady

Lady FADLER (without falling into the Vice of Gaming) plays at Cards more than Common Sense can allow. Her whole Circle of Pleasures, the sole View of her Life, the ultimate End of all her Designs, is a Party at Sixpenny *Quadrille*. The Diversions, when taken thus to Excess, spoil the Companion, give a Peevishness to the Temper, and break in upon those Hours which Common Sense has allotted to better Purposes: Besides, when a Woman has lost her Money, her Husband not only bears the Expence, but the Blame too.——*He prophecy'd she should lose*——*He is the Picture of ill Luck.*———*She never could hold a Card when he advised her not to go:*———And then all the Irregularities of Temper, which Decency restrained before Company, are freely vented upon him, and the lost Games are play'd over again in Bed to the poor sleepless Man, *to convince him, his Wife did not lose her Money like a Fool.*

HONORIA shews her Wit and her Power over her Menials; she scolds, documentises and discharges them by Way of Entertainment to her Visitors: But, at the same Time, she is convincing them of her good Management, she pays too dear for such Praise, by forfeiting her Pretensions to either Good-Manners, or Common Sense. This Foible is still more flagrant where the Husband is the Object of it; when his Faults or Deficiencies are revenged upon his Acquaintance: And, if any Thing has gone amiss in the Morning, he not only perceives it *in* his Dinner, but *at* it likewise; where she, poor injured Lady, sits at the Head of his Table in all the Agonies of concealed Ill-Nature, and her Discourse consists *of half Sentences* and *dark Allusions*, disagreeable to him and unintelligible to all others present; so that the Guests can only stare each other wildly in the Face, without any Possibility of interposing, and sit with a malicious Sneer, praying for her, and heartily commiserating him.

PHIL-

PHILLIS is the discontented Mate of a sober honest Tradesman, but would fain pass upon the World for a Woman of Fashion: She *dyes*, *alters* and *turns* her little Stock of Finery into all the Changes which Fancy and Affectation produce in every Brain of Quality. Her whole Time at Home is employ'd in preparing herself to shine once a Week in a Side-Box; where all her Pleasure is to be seen, and her greatest Misfortune (which constitutes others Pleasure) is meeting her Friends and Acquaintance. I would have her consider that, let her aim at what she will, she can be at most but the finest Lady of her Husband's *Ward:* She may be envy'd there, but will be laugh'd at every where else. On the other Side, if her Good Man would take Courage and (stripping her of those tawdry Attempts to be a fine Lady) place her, with a suitable Countenance and in a decent Dress, behind his Counter, she might then attract Customers instead of Beaus, and would be *mortified* into a Wife of *Common Sense.*

The Compass of your Paper will not permit me to particularise more of these Offenders, wherewith this Metropolis so abounds: Nor is it my Design to give you a Catalogue of them. I desire only, by these few Examples, to shew the Fair what Kind of Foibles are Offences against Common Sense. That they may know that, to be a Wife of Common Sense, is not to be merely *a virtuous Wife*, but something *more:* For Vices are not Crimes against Common Sense: They fall under another Jurisdiction. But the Transgressions which are the Objects of your Labours are those *Indiscretions* which flow from false Notions of themselves, and which make them appear ridiculous or inconsistent Abroad, and those *Negligences* or *Pecadillos* at Home, which reduce the happy Pair into a perfect *Apathy* towards each other, and, in those of more sanguine Constitutions, are productive of *Sullen Silences*, *Tart Repartees*, *Malicious Hints* and *Nocturnal Altercations.*

Toge-

Together with this *Passion for* Cards, I would banish every *violent Attachment*, whatever be the Object of it; Lap-Dogs or Children, Female Friends, or, what is often the Disguise of bad Purposes, the innocent Desire of Publick Approbation: for every Attachment, when indulg'd, will ingross too much of a Female Mind, and leave too little Room for Domestick Cares: It becomes improper, when best placed, if it breaks out *in tiresome Sollicitudes and ill-tim'd Fondnesses*. With all violent Attachments, I would likewise prohibit all *vain Attempts* at being foremost in *the best* of Qualities: For I declare, that a Woman of Common Sense, can be neither the Finest Women, the Best-dress'd Woman, the Politest Woman, the Wisest Woman, the Wittiest Woman, or the most Religious Woman: She can only be the *best Sort of* Women in Town.

The *Tea-Table* is a Place which seems to *prescribe* for an exempt Jurisdiction from Common Sense, and therefore I will not break in upon any of its known Immunities or Privileges; such as Scandal, Slander, Ridicule, Fibs, and common inoffensive Nonsense: But I must interpose when they there deviate into Politicks, or begin to redden with Party-Rage. For all Female Conjectures about Foreign Transactions, and all Propositions to settle the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, are absolutely inconsistent with Common Sense. The Conversation therefore must be restrained *infra quatuor Maria*; unless some one in Company expects a Husband or a Parrot, a Relation or a Monkey, from Beyond-Sea, in which Cases, the Excess of Joy natural to such Occasions must have some Allowance for Vent.

As to Domestick Politicks, I can by no Means admit of their retailing their Husbands Sentiments, or imparting what *they would have spoken and voted in the House, if they had been there* And as to those Ladies who differ from their Spouses in Politicks, as well as other Topicks, it must be indecent in them to abuse those of a different Opinion from themselves.

I would

I would likewise restrain all Attempts at Wit and Poetry, which always carry them beyond the Bounds of Common Sense, and are too often productive of *Flights* and *Ecstacies* unbecoming the Character of a Matron.

I could wish they would also refrain from making either themselves or their Families the Subjects of Discourse. I will admit of divulging all other Secrets, in Compliance to that *Pruriency of Mind* with which Ladies are naturally affected upon hearing them: But *Family Secrets*, if of Importance, give their Acquaintance a great Advantage over their Fame or Fortunes, seldom productive of any Good; and if they are of no Importance to themselves, it is but natural to suppose them of as little to any one else. I know a Lady who is, unhappily, of so retentive a Memory, as to be able to recollect every Transaction of her insignificant Life, and has, at the same Time, so strong a Regard to Veracity and Punctuality, that she will not permit you to be mistaken in, or ignorant of the minutest Circumstance.

When I have laid these many Embargo's on Female Conversation, I am sorry my Regard to Common Sense obliges me to add one more; *viz.* That a Lady (if she has the least Value for it) should not be exorbitantly copious upon any Subject whatever.

I am not inclinable to make any further Additions on this Topick, lest my Fair Readers should suspect it to be a Work of Difficulty to preserve a due Observance to Common Sense in every Part of their Deportment. I am apprehensive they will begin already to cry out, *Where is this Woman to be found?*——But if they did, I would bid them turn their Eyes towards EUDOCIA.

EUDOCIA is happy in having a Man of Sense for her Husband; but still more so in prefering his Affection to the fashionable Follies which her Sex adore.—— Her Life is a just Mixture of Domestick Cares and Innocent

nocent Diversions. In the former, She is indefatigably busied in embellishing Private Life, and bringing him, whose Felicity is her chief Aim, to look upon her Company, and his own Home, as a sure *Asylum* from the Noise, Fatigues and Crosses of the World. There he is certain of meeting his EDUOCIA ever chearful and serene, and every Thing about him suited to his Taste and to his Fortune. No *strain'd Magnificence* in one Part of his Oeconomy, supported by a *penurious Meanness* in another, but the Whole one consistent Scheme of *elegant Frugality*.

In all Things under her Care, as in Herself, he sees a Neatness and Propriety, without any implicit Regard to Fashions, or a ridiculous Neglect of them.—When she appears in Publick, she is the finest Woman in the Company, without desiring or designing to be so, the *best* dress'd because not the *most*; and the Politest, by a most gentle but unaffected Simplicity and Chearfulness of Behaviour. She considers Company and Diversions, not only as present Entertainments, but also as the future Amusements of Conversation, and the Means of making herself more agreeable at Home.

She there views the Foibles of her own Sex, without censuring them any other Way than by her Conduct; and hears the polite Discourses of others, that She may the better relish her Husband's.

Thus EUDOCIA meets that Esteem, without seeking it, which so many other Women vainly sollicit by *Art* and *Affectation*; enjoys all their harmless Pleasures without disturbing those of conjugal Society, and cultivates a Friendship at Home, which will improve and delight in Age when the glittering Idols of Female Adoration are no longer entertaining.

To her Husband, She improves every Felicity by partaking it, and is a Relief in every Misfortune: *To herself*, she prepares a Scene of Joys, which fade not in Fruition, nor end even with Life; *To the rest of her Sex*, she affords a lively Example of the happy Influence

ence of Common Sense in Domestick Life: *And to the Publick*, a Pattern which (could you prevail upon your Fair Readers in general to imitate her Conduct) would revive the lost *Spirit* of *Independence*, which nothing but *Extravagance* and bad *Oeconomy* have destroyed.

Yours, A. Z.

SATURDAY, *June* 17, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

AS I am an old Batchelor of an easy Fortune, and without Avarice or Ambition, I have little or no Care or Business, and therefore often amuse myself with Things which pass unobserved by the Rest of Mankind. Being of a frugal Temper, I lodg'd in *Westminster* for Cheapness, and from the Window of my Apartment, have a View of those Trees in the Cotton-Garden, where some *Rooks* have *lately* taken up their Residence.

In the Beginning of this last Spring, I was very observant of the Art and Conduct of these Creatures in their Manner of building their Nests, and of their Behaviour towards each other. I was for some Time extremely pleased with their Honesty, and with the great Regard they shewed towards the Property of each other, notwithstanding the rapacious Idea to which we have affixed the Name they usually bear. A *Rook* of the Human Species, is a Creature who has no Notion

tion of Juſtice, is always ready to rob his Neighbour of his Property, when he can do it with Safety; but from the Behaviour of the Rooks, my Neighbours, I for ſome Time imagin'd, that a *Rook* of the Feathered Kind was a quite different Animal; that they had the greateſt Regard to Juſtice, and held it as a Maxim, that even the *moſt puſilanimous* Creature ought to injoy the Benefit of what it has acquired by its Induſtry: For tho' many of their Neſts were contiguous, yet no one of them offered to pull a Stick from its Neighbour's, in order to add to its own; but would rather fly to a Tree at ſome Diſtance, ſearch out a Twig fit for its Purpoſe, and with great Labour tear it from the Branch, carry it in his Bill to its Neſt, and there, with the Help of its Mate, lay it in its proper Place, with as much Art and Skill as moſt of our Species are capable of.

For this Reaſon, I entertained for ſome Days a very good Opinion of the honeſt Diſpoſition of my Neighbours, and could not diſcover the Reaſon why we had affixed their Names to ſuch a villanous Idea; but one Evening, after ſeveral of the firſt Neſts were near compleated, I obſerved that a Pair of *Rooks* had begun to build their Neſt in a Tree at ſome Diſtance, which they carried a pretty good Length that Night before they went to rooſt; and during the whole Operation were ſo very obſervant of the Property of their Neighbours, that they never touch'd any of their Poſſeſſions, or approached nearer to them than was abſolutely neceſſary *in flying to and from their own.* It is true, they did now and then pull a Twig from ſome of the extreme Branches of the Trees upon which the others had planted their Neſts; but as they never touched a Branch on which any Neſt was *actually* built, this ſeemed to be no Breach of the Laws of *Rookery*, and was, I ſaw, practiſed by *every one* of the Reſt as well as by them.

As

As yet I had no Occasion to alter the Opinion I had conceived of my Neighbours; but, next Morning, a little before Sun rising, I was awakened out of a profound Sleep by a most extraordinary Noise among them. As the Morning was serene and warm, I got out of Bed, slipp'd on my Night-Gown, threw my Sash up, and look'd out to see what was the Matter. Whereupon I observed, that the whole *Posse* had fallen upon the poor Couple of *Rooks* who had built their Nest at a Distance, as before-mentioned, and were pulling it all to Pieces, and carrying the Materials of it to their own Habitations.

This new Scene afforded me great Amusement, but mixed with Anxiety and Concern for the two poor Creatures who were the Sufferers. I stay'd at my Window till I saw their Nest intirely demolished, and every Stick of it removed; during which Time I was diligent in observing the Behaviour of the two who, as I thought, seemed to be under a legal, or a military Execution. They seem'd to bear the Whole with great Patience and Resignation, and, instead of resenting what had been done, away they flew to the Tree where their *Plunderers* were sitting, and fell a *cawing* and *chattering* with them, as if no such Thing had happened. As I did not understand their Language, I do not know what passed between them; but I observed they did not bring back so much as *one Twig* of what had been taken from them.

However, it is probable they received some Promises of Restitution, with which they returned to their Tree, as appeared to me, highly satisfied; and that Afternoon they began to rebuild their Nest in the same Place, depending, as I suppose, upon the Promises which had been made them: But next Morning their Nest was again pulled to Pieces in the same Manner, and all the Materials taken from them. Again they flew to their Enemies Habitations to *negotiate*, as I shall beg Leave to call it, again they began to rebuild, and again

again their Neſt was deſtroyed and *plundered* for two or three Days ſucceſſively.

As I have Abundance of Curioſity, this Scene raiſed in me various Speculations, and made me extremely inquiſitive, in order to find the Cauſe, why my Neighbours ſhould behave in ſuch a Manner to this poor Pair of *Rooks*, and not to any other Pair who had begun to build their Neſt in that Garden. Whether theſe two New-comers had been guilty of thieving, or any other Crime, and that this was inflicted by Way of Puniſhment: Or whether they were Aliens, and that the others would not allow them to ſettle any where at all near their Colony; I did not know: But being every Day very much at my Window, and very obſervant of the Behaviour of my Neighbours, I obſerv'd ſome few Days after, a Circumſtance, which cleared up all my Doubts. I obſerved that another Pair of *Rooks*, who likewiſe ſeemed to be New-comers, had begun to build their Neſt upon the ſame Tree, and almoſt upon the ſame Branch, in which was built the Neſt which had been ſo often deſtroyed. As ſoon as I ſaw this, I began to ſuſpect they would be attacked in the ſame Way the former Pair had been, which made me take my Stand at my Window next Morning by Day-break; and accordingly as I expected, the Attack was begun a little before Sun-riſing, but with different Succeſs; for this new Couple *bravely* defended their Works, compleated them in a few Days, and have ever ſince the firſt two or three Days injoyed their Poſſeſſion in great Peace and Tranquility.

Upon this the firſt Couple began again to build, but with the ſame Succeſs as before; for what they built that Day was demoliſhed the next Morning; ſo that they have had no Neſt, nor have brought forth any Young this Seaſon; which I am ſure of, becauſe I have always obſerved them ſitting alone and forlorn upon the Tree, and, as I imagined, with a piteous Look bemoaning the Loſs of the Neſt they had not the

the *Courage* to defend. Nay they ſeem now to be the *Out-caſts* of the *Rookiſh* Race; for no one of the Reſt, not even their next Neighbours, will keep them Company.

As this appeared to me a moſt remarkable and a very entertaining *Phenomenon* in Nature, I took great Notice of, and have ſince ſeriouſly reflected upon, the different Behaviour of the two Couples of *Rooks*, and the ſeveral Incidents which I thought might contribute to the different Succeſs which attended them.

As to the firſt Couple I obſerved, that when the Reſt came to attack them, they ſat upon their Neſt *chattering* and making a great Noiſe, but neither of them offered to make Uſe either of Bill or Talons, the natural Weapons of the Feather'd Kind, nor did either of them attempt to give ſo much as one Blow to any of the *Rooks* who were pulling their Neſt to Pieces; but both ſat fluttering with their Wings, and *cawing* in a piteous Tone, as if they had been *pulling* up their *Breeches*, and *begging* for *Mercy*, or for a *ſhort Reſpite*.

Sometimes, indeed, one of them, which I took to be the Male, would fly out a little from his Neſt, look very ſtern, and endeavour to appear reſolved to make *Repriſals*; but as ſoon as he came near any of the Enemies Neſts, or near any *Rook* loaded with the *Spoils* of his *own*, he immediately dropp'd his Creſt, and, inſtead of attacking, would only fall a *cawing*, and then return to his Mate, upon which he and ſhe would begin a *joynt Squawl*, as if they were *congratulating* one another upon the *Succeſs* of his *Enterpriſe*.

At laſt, when he found that neither *Prayers* nor *Threats* would prevail, I obſerved him fly to a Hole in the Tree, where I found he had lay'd up a Magazine of *Oats*, great Quanties of which he carried and offered to thoſe *Rooks* who were demoliſhing his Neſt. This had ſome Effect; for while they were eating up what *he had given them*, they ſtopped demoliſhing

lishing the Nest; but as soon as they had done, they began to renew their *Depredations*, which sent him again to his Magazine; so that, till he had *nothing more to give*, the Nest was not entirely demolish'd.

This was, as near as I could observe, the Deportment of that Couple of *Rooks* who had their Nest always destroy'd; but as for the other Couple, I observ'd, that as soon as they saw the Enemy approach, they both *flew out* a little Way from their Nest, and instead of waiting the Attack, they began the Battle with all imaginable Fury. Bills, Talons, and Wings, were made Use of by both with the utmost Dexterity; and tho' they were attacked by, I believe, twenty to one, yet they lost no Ground, but made the Feathers of their Enemies fly about them. In short, they behaved with such *Resolution* that no one of the Enemy durst approach their Nest, except one only, who got hold of a small Twig, and pulled it away; but in an Instant, one of the Proprietors came sowse upon him, and not only beat him to the Ground, but pulled the Twig from him, carried it back to the Nest, and without the least Delay, or uttering, as I may say, the least Word, returned to the Assistance of his Mate; so that after an Engagement of near 20 Minutes, the Enemy were obliged to retire, with nothing but aking Bones, as I suppose, and the Loss of a great many of their best Feathers.

Next Morning, and the Morning after, the Attack was renewed, but each Day with less Vigour than the former. The Assailants always found that, upon their Approach towards the Nest, the two Possessors *march'd out* from their Station, and attacked them before they could come within what I may call the utmost Frontier. Even the 4th Morning they made an Appearance as if they were to renew the Assault; but so soon as they saw the *brave* Possessors *sally out* to meet them, they retired with the utmost Precipitation; and ever since that Day, this *brave* Couple have not only pos-

ſeſſed their Neſt in *Tranquility*, but ſeem to be in great *Favour* and *Eſteem* with the whole *Rookery*.

But the Circumſtance which gave me the moſt Diverſion was, That after the laſt Couple had made their Quarters good, the firſt Couple, I ſuppoſe, notwithſtanding their having been quiet Spectators of the whole Conflict, expected their *Protection*, and therefore began to rebuild. For ought I know, they had perhaps ſome Encouragement to expect the Protection, or at leaſt the *Mediation* of theſe two whom I may now call their next Neighbours; but in this they were certainly *deceived*; for I obſerved that, ſo ſoon as an Attack was begun upon them, the next Morning, they applied to the neighbouring Couple; whereupon one of that Couple, I ſuppoſe the Female, came to the Neſt they had begun to build, and by *cawing* and *chattering* along with them, pretended, as I imagine, to aſſiſt them in defending it; but this appeared to me to be nothing but *Grimace*; for neither of the two offered to ſtrike a Stroke in their Behalf; and while the Female ſat *cawing* with them, her Mate mix'd among the Reſt, and not only ſeemed to *inſtigate* them to attack, but even *joined* with them, and carried off ſeveral Sticks which he put in his own Neſt.

By this Means the Neſt of this poor *daſtardly* Couple of *Rooks* was again utterly demoliſhed, ſince which they have never attempted to rebuild; but have generally ſat drooping upon the Tree, and ſeem to me to be obliged to do many *ſervile Offices* for their *next* Neighbours; none of which they dare refuſe, for I obſerve they are often buffeted and hunted about by the *Rooks* upon the other Trees, and are never defended by their *next* Neighbours, but when they are doing ſome *ſervile Office for them*.

Tho' this Story may ſeem a little extraordinary, and perhaps incredible, yet I can aſſure you, Sir, that as to the Facts, ſo far as they appeared to me, it is true in every Particular. Thoſe who are curious in their Obſer-

Obſervations upon Nature, may draw many Inferences from it: As for my own Part, I ſhall draw only this one, That it ſeems to be *a Maxim* eſtabliſhed among the *Rooks*, *That they who cannot or dare not defend their Poſſeſſions, or Properties, do not deſerve to have any.*

I am, Sir,

Your Friend and Reader,

EDWARD EASY.

SATURDAY, *June* 24, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

AS your Lucubrations are intended to correct the Conduct of your Countrymen, and to perſuade them, if poſſible, to follow the Dictates of *Common Senſe*, nothing will be more neceſſary than to have a conſtant Eye upon their Publick *Diverſions*; that you may ſet a *Stigma* upon ſuch as are beneath the Dignity of Human Nature, or which ſeem rather calculated to *ſeduce* the Unwary, than *recreate* the Idle; and that you may give a Sanction to thoſe which *unbend* the Mind without *corrupting* it, and which ſerve as an Amuſement for the *Preſent* Time without indangering the Happineſs of the *Future*.

The Mind is at no Time ſo apt to receive Impreſſions of any Sort as when it is *ſoftened* by Diverſions; ——whatever is ſtamp'd upon it at ſuch Times leaves a deep Mark behind it.—Subſequent Reflection ſerves only to multiply the Images, but not eraſe them.

The celebrated Mr. *Lock* was ſo well appriſed of this Truth, that, in his *Eſſay* upon *Education*, he recommends the making Learning a *Diverſion*, and *playing* Children into Knowledge. If this Scheme had been univerſally follow'd ſince his Time, I believe there would be ſcarcely ſeen ſo many Blockheads in the World at preſent, who, by the *ſerious* and laborious Method of teaching now in Vogue, have been terrified into Ignorance and Idleneſs.

Pleaſure is what we all ſo ſteadfaſtly purſue, that there only needs Faſhion to give any Thing that Name; and the Deſire of Imitation will make it follow'd till the Force of Cuſtom has rendered it agreeable.

The firſt Winter *Farinelli* adorn'd the *Britiſh* Stage, there was not a Mercer's Wife, from *Charing-Croſs* to the Top of *Ludgate-Hill*, who did not run to the *Hay-Market* with the Profits of the Day, in order to *yawn* over Muſick they had no Reliſh for, and to liſten to a Language they did *not underſtand:* But the Deſire of *ſeeming* to be diverted carried them there ſo often, that, without acquiring any real Liking for *Operas*, ſeveral of them were *uneaſy* if they did not ſpend at leaſt one Evening in the Week there. But, *Thanks to Faſhion* which firſt introduced this ridiculous Diverſion, in Complaiſance to a very few who were really delighted with Muſick, there is no longer Need of *doing Penance* there in order to be thought a *Sectary* of Pleaſure; that exotick Taſte is grown again out of Vogue, and a Lady may now confeſs, that ſhe prefers a good *Engliſh Play* to any *Italian Opera* without raiſing the *Indignation of the Tea-Table.*

The

The great Encouragement which has been given, for these two Winters pass'd, to the acting of *Shakespeare*'s Plays, makes me hope Fashion is at last going to side with Virtue, and if ever Publick Diversions are made Auxiliaries to Common Sense, Morality may once more have a Chance of becoming *fashionable*; and tho' from the natural Amiableness of Virtue, Fashion can never be able *intirely* to bainsh her from the World; yet, if ever they two were to join Forces, Vice might very easily be put out of Countenance.

But it is the *Play-Houses alone* which give us the least Glimpse of this pleasing Prospect: I wish there were no *other Places* were Fashion seems to have taken a quite *contrary Turn.*

As we are all so much the Creatures of Fashon as to count that alone Diversion, which she has pleased to licence as such; and as our Minds, being at those Times most unguarded, are then less capable of resisting any Kind of Attacks; it well deserves the serious Consideration of every *Great Man* and *Pretty Woman*, who have it in their Power to set the Fashion, that they introduce such as may tend to advance, or at least not discountenance, Virtue. But if ever *the one*, to satisfy his *Avarice* or *Ambition*, or *the other*, to gratify her *Vanity* or *Inclinations*, shall bring up Fashions inconsistent with, and destructive of Morality and Good Sense, the Venom will be likely to spead wide, and Time alone (and that with Difficulty) will be capable of eradicating so fatal a Gangrene out of Society.

But to shew *the great Effect* our Diversions have upon our Lives, there will need no more than to give a short History of LUCINDA. Your Fair Readers will, I hope, from her learn of what infinite Consequence it is to them to be cautious in the Choice of their *Amusements*; and I had rather instruct them by Example than by Precept.

LUCINDA had but just enter'd into her fifteenth Year when her Mother brought her up to *London*, in

Hopes that a polite Education, join'd to a lovely Person, might make Amends for the Smallness of her Fortune, which did by no Means equal her Merit. The Retiredness of her Life, for the two first Years, which were employ'd wholly in acquiring the proper Accomplishments of her Sex, made her pass without much Notice till the third Winter, when she appear'd more in Publick; and soon became the Idol of the Men, as well as the Envy of the Women. A natural Liveliness of Fancy, accompanied with an agreeable Simplicity, rendered her as much the Admiration of those who conversed with her, as a gentile Make and fine Complexion gain'd her the Adoration of all who saw her.

It was with the greatest Pleasure that her Mother beheld her thus out-stripping her fondest Wishes. She flatter'd herself now, that she had the Choice of the whole Town. Moderate Offers were not to be listened to,—a good Estate without a Title was not worthy of Acceptance.

LUCINDA was to be seen at every Publick Assembly;——was it Court-night, she was there;—was there an Opera; she was there; nor was she less constant to the *Park* than the *Church*, and for the *same Reason*: ——Wherever she appear'd she attracted the Eyes of the Company, and was the Subject of every Conversation. All the Gay Sparks were ambitious of her Acquaintance, and desirous of proving themselves polite by their Civilities to her.

Among the foremost was young FLORIO, who was not less constant than her Shadow; and tho' his Addresses were at first only the Effect of Gallantry, yet he soon conceived a Passion which was real.——As his Fortune was very small, he knew no Proposals from him would meet with Success, so determined to endeavour to gratify his Inclinations at the Expence of her Innocence.——A graceful Person, a sprightly Wit, a Title, and a Cockade, fitted him for the Attempt.—— He always made his Attacks when he perceived her

Virtue

Virtue leaſt guarded.——*The Drawing-Room* was moſt favourable to his Deſign: Faſhion having made it a publick Diverſion, ſhe never fail'd being there, and as there was nothing to excite her Attention, or keep her Honour awake, in that Place, her Mind was then moſt ſuſceptible of his Flattery.——He invited her to *private Parties* of Dancing, where he was ſure to be her Partner, then watch'd his Opportunity when her Inclinations were ſupplied by the Motion and the Muſick. ——He had not yet perfected his Conqueſt; ſhe ſeem'd not to comprehend what he deſired, yet appear'd delighted with his Company.——A *Maſquerade* was the only Publick Diverſion which ſhe had not been at; one at leaſt was *allowable* out of *Curioſity*; beſide, there were two *married Ladies* would bear her Company; no one ſhould know her Dreſs but FLORIO, and he would *guard her* from all Inſults.

He knew when to take Advantage. The *Novelty* of the Entertainment,— the *Gaiety* of the Place,——the *Dancing*,——the *Maſque*,—all equally conſpired to aſſiſt him. They were eaſily ſeparated from their Company for two Hours, and *Venus* ſmil'd to ſee young FLORIO ſucceſsful. But alaſs! Succeſs is too often an Antidote to Love: He grew weary of his Prize when he had perfected the Conqueſt. Her *Imprudence* and his *Vanity* ſoon diſcovered the Amour. She was obliged to retire from the World and from Shame, into a cheap Country, and thin Neighbourhood, to live upon the Intereſt of fifteen hundred Pounds. Thus was poor LUCINDA *entertain'd* out of her Innocence, and *diverted* into Infamy and Contempt.

I cannot conclude this Paper without taking ſome Notice of the Diverſion of the Year:—The Multitudes who reſort daily to *Vaux-Hall* make it neceſſary to ſay ſomewhat upon that Entertainment.

The Gardens are prettily diſpoſed, and when illuminated make a beautiful Scene;—the Variety of Company differently employed,—the Contraſt between the

instrumental Musick in the middle Grove, and the natural Harmony of the Woods, in the more retired Parts, render the Whole a very agreeable Amusement. As I am in Hopes too the warbling of the Nightingales, and the Verdure of the Trees, may tend to reclaim to a *Toleration of the Country* such of the Fair Sex as are at this Time preparing to leave this Metropolis, I am contented to let them go thither, but under the following Restrictions, *viz.*

That their Parties always consist of an *odd Number*, —there is something in the Garden which so much resembles the Description of a *Mahometan Paradise*,—— that perhaps, if they should be suffered to go *in Pairs*, they may be *tempted* to imitate all the Diversions of *such a Place*. I must also insist, that there be no more Smoking in the Middle of the Company, lest the Stink of the Tobacco should drive some of the Fair Guests into the more private Walks for *a little fresh Air*, and Conversation may then perhaps grow *unaccountably serious*. I could wish likewise, that they who take Water at *White-Hall* would not make *too frequent Visits* there,——at least not in the *same Party*.

As for the honest Citizens who carry their Wives and Families there for an Evening's Entertainment, I wou'd by no Means stint them in their Diversions; *upon Condition*, that the good Lady promises not to fall too much *in Love* with *Musick*, nor *teaze* her Husband next Winter to carry her to the *Opera*.

Under these Restraints I can admit it for a *passa tempo*, and am glad Fashion has introduced one so reasonable.

A. Z.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *July* 1, 1738.

I Lately read a Book, intitled *Travels* into the *Inland Parts* of *Africa*, wherein the Author, describing the Camelion, tells us, That the Eyes are so placed in its Head, that with one Eye it sees all Things before, and with the other every Thing behind.

It immediately struck me, that this little Animal is a true Emblem of what a Minister of State ought to be. Most certainly, the Eyes of a Minister (I mean the Eyes of his Understanding) should be so disposed, as to give him a Light into Things pass'd, and Things to come: Thus, I say, they ought to be disposed; but such is the Misfortune of some Countries, that their Ministers Eyes are fixed in a Position directly contrary to those of the Camelion; they are so unaccountably placed, they can neither see before nor behind; they have nothing but an indirect View; in a Word, they are so narrow-sighted they can descern nothing but their own private Interest.

These are a Kind of Statesmen whom we may properly call *Moles* in *Politicks*, ever working in the Dark; nay, they hate all Light, and with good Reason: It glares in their Eyes, and adds to their Blindness, while it discovers to the Rest of the World the dirty Work in which they are constantly engaged.

These *Moles* are easily known by their Manner of working; for they never attempt to prevent Mischiefs before they happen, much less to cure them after: All they pretend to is, to botch Things up by short

and temporary Expedients; and therefore whenever a Nation is obſerved to make Uſe of that wretched Policy of putting off the Evil Day, you may be ſure ſhe has the Misfortune of being govern'd by *Moles*.

Sir *William Temple*, while he was Ambaſſador in *Holland*, wrote to one of the Miniſters at Home to the following Effect.——"That he hoped they would "negotiate in ſuch a Manner as intirely to put an "End to all the Affairs which were to come on the "*Tapis*, ſo that the Nation might never be troubled "more with Diſputes about them."

"If we only fly at the Game as it riſes (adds he) it "will not do our Buſineſs: Hunting and Hawking "may now and then ſupply a Diſh for the Table, "but will never maintain the Family: We muſt "treat, therefore, ſo much in Earneſt as to convince "all the World, that we intend to go to the Root of "the Evil, and that we will not be content with de-"ferring Inconveniencies; for if it ſhould be ſuſpec-"ted, that we only live by the Day, and content "ourſelves with patching Things up, juſt as they "break out, it will draw new Troubles upon us, and "there will be no End of our Difficulties.

I am ſenſible, that Reputation in Publick Affairs is as much deſpiſed as it is in Private; but it is deſpiſed by none but thoſe who have loſt it: Yet it is the Language of Numbers among us, that, If we are deſpiſed, what need we value it? What are we the worſe for it?

It is no Secret that we have a Number of Perſons now among us who are no more than mere Pipes, for ſome corrupt Manager to ſound what Stops he pleaſes upon; or, to ſpeak in the Words of our excellent Poet in his Character of one of them,——they are Puppets who ſqueak whatever the Prompter dictates.

Machiavel lays it down for a Maxim, That *Fame* is *Power*:— It is too well known to be conteſted, that it creates Power where it is not, and preſerves it where it is—A Fame for Bravery, or for Politicks, is to a King-

dom

dom, the very same Thing as Credit is to a private Person;—with good Credit, a Man shall grow rich tho' his Stock be small; with Fame, a Nation may grow powerful without Victories, nay without drawing the Sword: For, while Fame lasts, it will not be provoked to draw it:—By Fame it preserves its own Rights undisturbed, and it is owing to its Fame that it is courted to decide those of others.

Fame may be lost various Ways: It may be lost without Battles or War, a Nation may negotiate itself out of all Reputation. I could name the Time when the Grand Pensionary of *Holland* said of another State, "There was such a Giddiness and Inconstancy in "their Counsels, there was no venturing to ingage "with them upon any Terms; for they were not to "be depended upon three Days.

Perhaps there may be Exceptions from these general Rules: A Nation may be insulted and despised without losing its Fame. The War which this Crown was ingaged in, against *France*, was carried on with so much Spirit and Vigour, that it left a Fame behind it which lasted some Years, and established in all Nations a high Opinion of us; yet it seems those Impressions are long since worn out, and have given Way to other Impressions of a quite contrary Nature.

I conceive we were not treated with any great Respect, when we were ordered, with the Air of a Command, to quit the Islands of *S. Lucia* and *S. Vincent*, nor was the refusing to pay the Honour due to the *English* Flag in one of our own Harbours (*Plimouth Sound*) more civil than the other.

When the King of *Portugal* ventured to stop, or arrest one of our Ships of War in the River *Tagus*, it does not look as if he stood in any great Awe of us upon Account of our Reputation; and the continual Depredations committed by the *Spaniards*, for a long Course of Years, would tempt one to think, that they had forgot what Power it was which, within the Memory

mory of Man, made *France* and *Spain* both tremble; or at leaſt, that they thought we were no more the ſame People who gained the ſignal Victories of *Hochſtadt*, *Ramelies* and *Oudenard*.

But allowing that theſe Impreſſions of Contempt have not been owing to any weak or puſilanimous Conduct on our Side, yet I am perſuaded it will require brave and vigorous Meaſures to remove them; and, till they are removed, we muſt live under the Apprehenſions of continual Inſults, and ſhall be able to call nothing our own.

If ever it ſhould be our Misfortune to be ingaged in Quarrels with any of the Neighbouring Powers, I am of Opinion, we ſhall never bring ourſelves off by running about the World, and, like Beggars, knocking at the Gates of every Court in *Europe*, praying them to ſave us;—I believe there is ſcarce any Inſtance of one Nation ſaving another out of Charity. In Politicks, as well as other Affairs, Charity begins at Home, and I ſhould be apprehenſive that, inſtead of charitably aſſiſting us, we might be treated like ſturdy Beggars, and every one knows that is, not only to be turn'd away from the Door, but ſometimes ſent to the Houſe of Correction.

They ſay, that the wiſeſt and ſafeſt Art of Government, is the moſt eaſy, and that is to govern with the People. What I mean by governing with the People, is to take along with you their Humours and Inclinations.—Queen *Elizabeth*'s Miniſters, before any new Meaſure was taken, uſed to feel the Peoples Pulſe upon it, by cauſing a Report to be ſpread, that ſuch a Thing was in Agitation: If they found it well received, it was put in Execution; if not, it was dropt. It was by theſe honeſt and laudable Wiles that ſhe grew ſo popular while ſhe lived, and her Memory has been ſo revered ever ſince.

There is this particular good Fortune attending the Rupture which is likely to happen with *Spain*, that all

Men

Men think it absolutely necessary; the Merchant, the Sailor, the money'd and the landed Man, call loud for War; every Soul is in that Sentiment, except the Courtier and the Soldier; but when I say Soldier, I ought to explain myself: I do not mean the brave Officer who owes what he has to Military Service. I mean the servile Tool, who, by a Barbarism in our Language, is stil'd a Soldier, tho' he ow'd his Preferment to the heroick Service of wiping a Minister's Shoes. ——If there are any such as these, perhaps they may change Countenance when you speak of War; nay, which is more ridiculous, they may look wise.

I am confident that all the World will approve the most vigorous Measures can possibly be taken upon this Occasion; and we desire no more than their Approbation, for we do not want their Help: We have so great a Superiority in Strength over *Spain*, that it would be scandalous to ask for Succour, the very submiting to a Mediation is more than we ought perhaps in Policy to submit to, in a Case where we are able to command. ——I hinted before, that Charity begins at Home; and therefore I should be apprehensive that those who were to act the Part of Mediators might reward themselves at our Expence.

Tho' I believe I have already observed somewhere, yet I cannot help repeating it again, that we possess all the Advantages one Nation can desire to have over another. We have not only Force, but we have Justice on our Side:—Patience we have tried already, and, tho' Philosophers tell us, that Patience is a Vertue, it is a Vertue which will do in Philosophy only: It will not answer in Politicks. We have held out longer already than the Siege of Troy;———they were fighting ten Years before they surrendered, but we have been surrendering ten Years before we begin to fight: For, whatever we may think, the Rest of the World have thought, that *Spain* has been ten Years at open War with us already.

Let

Let the cringing Soldier look as frightened as he will at Home, and let *Spain* exert all her Strength against us Abroad, they can do no worse than they have been doing these many Years, and what they will certainly continue if we should still remain passive.——The Consequences of a War may be dreadful to *Spain*, but cannot be so to us.

As to any Inconveniencies it can bring upon the Nation, they cannot be of any great Moment; nor can they last long:——There are no Hostile Measures can possibly be entered upon to bring *Spain* to Reason, which can sweep away half so many Lives, as if we should send an unactive Fleet to lie at the *Bastimentos*; nor can the Expence of a War (which must be a short one) amount to much more than that of a *Spithead* Expedition. So that such a War, which may be Destruction to the *Spaniards*, may (comparatively speaking) be to us only Sport and Diversion.

SATURDAY, *July* 8, 1738.

THE Dislike which the People have long conceived against the Writings of those who are listed on the Mercenary Side, increases more and more; so that, now, whenever you see a Person take up one of those Papers which are given away *gratis*, he no sooner casts his Eyes on the Title, but he throws it down again with as much Detestation as if he thought it would infect his Fingers.

It is for this Reason that we, who oppose Corruption, find so little Incouragement to answer any Thing they advance, that we have, now and then, almost come

come to a Resolution to let their Daily silly *Gazetteers* die as if they had never existed.

But nowithstanding that they can neither hurt One Party, nor serve the Other, that they are of the Nature of those insipid Things, which can neither vex nor please, they still go on; and no Encouragement is wanting to ingage Malice and Dulness to enter the Lists: Any poor ignorant Devil, who can but hold a Pen in his Hand, and blot a Sheet of Paper, is sure of a good Pension on that Side of the Question; the worthy Patrons are so good never to trouble their Heads about the Wit, the Stile, or the Sense.——He who will but advance Falshoods, and, with a Resolution worthy of a Man incapable of blushing, repeat them again and again, after they are fully disproved, is looked upon, in all Points, qualified to serve in that Cause.

The Legion of Writers who work in the *Gazetteer* is composed of Men of all Trades and Professions;—broken Attornies, broken Gamesters, nay broken Fiddlers. I have been told of one of the latter, who, not having Capacity sufficient for the fillest Profession in the Universe, took it into his Head to turn Political Writer; and, tho' he has been now above three Years justifying our most excellent Ministers, the Rogue has been so idle, he has not yet learned to spell.

One of our Correspondents is of Opinion, that we ought now and then to draw these People from their Obscurity, and that it would do the Cause of Truth no small Service to produce what they have to say against it; at the same Time, perhaps, we might thereby oblige our Adversaries, who might be glad to see what they write, read in our Papers, since it will not be read in their own.

To do them Justice, they omit no little Arts, in order to be taken Notice of by the Publick. As they have too much Reason to be sensible of the Prejudice the World has against them, they endeavour to trick them out of a Reading, by changing their Title and Pub-

Publisher: But it seems this will not do; for, whatever Mask they put on, there is a cloven Foot appears by which they are constantly discovered.

One of these Artifices was put in Practise this Summer, soon after the breaking up of the Parliament; a Paper, under the following Title (after having been strongly advertised) comes out——*A* Word *in* Season, or, *An* Examination, *whether it is, or is not, our* Happness, *that the sole* Power *of making* Peace *and* War *is in the* KING?——*To which are added, Some* Thoughts *humbly offered to the Consideration of the Publick, relating to the* Depredation *of the* Spaniards, *and the* Methods *proposed for* Redress: *In a* Letter *from an* Exportor *of* Corn *to a* West-India *Merchant*.

Here is Title enough however; and one would be almost tempted to think, that *Walsingham*, of loquacious and nonsensical Memory, was risen out of his Grave to write more Politicks: But, whether the Workman of this elaborate Piece was *Freeman*, or *Osborn*, or the *Author* of the Half-penny Post, or Lord *Fanny*; or whether it is the united Work of all their wise Heads put together, it is as silly a Thing as we, who do not much esteem those Gentlemen, would wish to see come out from that Quarter.

It begins by telling us " how very wise a Minister " Lord *Godolphin* was, but that his Praises are never " drawn out now, but with a View of lessening ano- " ther Great Man, who, with equal Integrity and " Wisdom, has devoted himself to the Service of his " Country, and has supported the Good of the " Whole, preferable to that of any Particular.

Here our Author well observes, that it must be a most provoking Insult upon a Great Man to hear another praised, and therefore, I think, there ought to be a Bill brought into the House, that no Person of Vertue, Honour or Integrity shall be named, in any Writing whatsoever, during the Natural Life of these Authors

Authors very good Patron, unleſs it be by Way of Abuſe.

After ſuch a Declaration, I expected this Writer would have mentioned ſome of the great Feits which the Perſon whom he ſo highly extols had done for his Country; and I read on with ſome Eagerneſs, having long entertained a Deſire of receiving ſome Information upon that Head: But our Author thinks fit to finiſh without mentioning a Syllable of the Matter. Yet, as he has in general intimated, that the Great Man has ſupported the Good of the Whole, preferable to that of any Particular——I may be allowed to underſtand that he means, the Intereſt of his Country rather than his own particular Intereſt; and therefore I ſhould be extremely glad that, in ſome future Paper, they would give the Publick a true State of the Nation, with Reſpect to Trade, Debts, and Taxes: Alſo a clear Account of the Circumſtances of this Gentleman's own private Fortune at the Time he firſt came into Publick Buſineſs, and likewiſe acquaint us exactly with the State of both as they ſtand at preſent, in order to prove how he has advanced the Intereſt of his Country, and neglected his own, and to ſilence the Clamours of Malecontents.

He comes next to ſpeak of the *Spaniſh* Affair, of which he ſays, " Admit that the *Depredations* of the " *Spaniards* have been mere Depredations and Plunder, " is there no Reparation to be had but an immediate " Recourſe to Fire and Sword? And ſo ruining " a great many more Families than have already " ſuffered?

I ſuppoſe our ingenious Author muſt mean *Spaniſh* Families, ſome of which would certainly ſuffer in Caſe of a War; for as to *Engliſh* Families, I will beg Leave to aſſure him, that they will ſuffer no more than they muſt ſuffer by forbearing Hoſtilities.

" Are we (continues he) to be brought to plunge " ourſelves into a War by the hot Reſentments of a

few

" few Party-Men, not Merchants? Which could not
" be a just one, in the Sight of God or Man, without
" first trying all the honourable Means in our Power
" to prevent it?

The *Depredations* of the *Spaniards* have continued near twelve Years; and, by this worthy Gentleman's Manner of talking, one would think, that no honourable Means had been yet employed to obtain Redress in an amicable Way; for which, I think, the Ministers are not much obliged to him.

Our Author is one of those Heroes who seems to be as much terrify'd at the Apprehensions of a War, as if he had lately been preferr'd to the Command of a Regiment. For he tells us, That *War would give a Wound to Trade*,——I am sure that Peace has given most desperate Wounds to Trade.——But to go on.—— *That the Administration would be justly the Contempt of our Neighbours, as well as an Execration at Home, if the utmost Efforts were not made pacifickly to adjust the subsisting Differences.*—I am very glad to hear, from such excellent Authority, that they are not contemptible Abroad, because some Persons in this Kingdom were wicked enough to believe otherwise.

But before we quit this Gentleman, I think we ought to make him some Compliment upon the Elegance of his Stile,——that *Administration being an Execration*, is fine Stuff, whether you consider it in Point of *Sense*, or *English*. As, I suppose, this will not be the last Time this ingenious Gentleman will dedicate his Labours to the Service of the Ministers, let him, in his next Essay, give this Phrase a new Turn, and it will serve very well again. Instead of an *Administration is an Execration*, let him say, an Execration is an Administration, and it will do every Bit as well; for there is such a peculiar Strength and Beauty in all the Writings on that Side of the Question, that, whether you read them backwards or forwards, they are equally good, both in Respect to Sense and Stile: And, as every

every Gentleman may be allowed to make the moſt of his Writings, they may do by theirs as expert Botchers do by old Cloaths; when they are worn thread-bare on one Side, turn them, and they will look new on the other.

After he has gone on a great While in this perſuaſive Manner, arguing for pacifick Meaſures, his Courage is at length rouſed, and he threatens Defiance to the *Spaniards* in the true Stile of a Maſter of the noble Science of Defence; for he ſays,——" If, after all the " Advances on our Parts, the haughty *Spaniards* " ſhould refuſe to bow, and wholly deny us that Re- " paration which Honour and Juſtice, the Law of " Nature and the Law of Nations, demand at their " Hands, let them ſtand clear.

It is gallantly expreſſed, that's certain, and I have no Objection againſt it, but that it is ſtolen almoſt Word for Word out of the laſt Challenge from *Hockley in the Hole*, which, perhaps, may be known by the *Spaniſh* Miniſter here, and then it will not have the good Effect which might otherwiſe be hoped from ſo gallant a Declaration.——However, let us come to what the Author ſays farther.

" And when theſe Daſtard Souls (meaning the *Spa-* " *niards* who have been cutting off our Ears) ſhall " have rouſed the *Britiſh* Lion, they will tremble at " his Roar.

This is bravely ſpoke again; but I ſhould be apprehenſive that, when the Lion is rouſed, ſome great, over-grown, fat, ugly Fellow may lay hold of his Tail, and pull him back at the Inſtant he is going to lay his Paws upon the *Spaniard*; becauſe I have ſeen ſomething like it in a Picture: Beſides, I would have him do more than roar; he may roar with the Rage and Indignation of being hinder'd to revenge himſelf on his Enemies, which may make the *Spaniards* laugh rather than tremble.

Our

Our Author, to make an End of the Encomium on our Miniſters, compares them to a Rock, which is not to be moved, either in a Storm, or in a Calm.——— I am afraid this Compariſon is a little unlucky: A Rock is a Thing which wants Senſe as well as Feeling, which are very improper Qualities in a Miniſter. Miniſters ſhould know the Diſtreſſes of their Country, and even feel them; and I am apprehenſive that the Diſaffected may give this a malicious Turn, and ſay; that the *Spaniards* believe them to be mere Rocks, or they would never have dared to act as they have done.

There is a Deal of fulſome Flattery in this *Thing*, which I have not quoted, becauſe I would not make my Readers ſick, and which ſhews you plainly for whoſe Reading this ſtupid Traſh was deſign'd; but I have had my End already, in ſhewing how theſe People plunge into Nonſenſe and Abſurdities, whenever they pretend to anſwer One Side, or juſtify the Other.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *July* 15, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

Fæcunda Culpæ Secula Nuptias
Primum inquinavere, et Genus et Domos.
Hoc Fonte derivata Clades,
In Patriam Populumque fluxit. HOR.

EVERY Injury to an Individual, is an Offence against Society; as well because Individuals are Members of Society, as because Evil spreads by Example and Imitation. Crimes therefore become greater in Proportion to the pernicious Effects produced by them, to the Propensity which others have towards them; and to the Superior Influence which accompanies the Actions of those by whom they are perpetrated.——Where all these Circumstances concur in one Action, it is, and should be deemed the NE PLUS ULTRA of Human Malice, or Corruption.

As Love and Affection are the great Natural Bands in which all the Links of Social Being are fastened and secured, Institutions, which improve, strengthen and regulate them, are the most useful and necessary; and of these, MARRIAGE is the first and the most essential. It not only regards the Support, Prosperity and Peace of those who now exist, but the very Being and Continuance of our Species in a future Race; and this in so evident and absolute a Degree of Necessity, that it

it is, perhaps, the only Institution which, having obtained in the earliest Ages of the World, has ever since been universally observed, even by the most rude and uninformed Nations.

Breaches of this Tye are not only bad, from the many Evils they produce, but from the Crimes they necessarily suppose antecedent to them: Fraud, Dissimulation and Perjury, are the Instruments of ADULTERY, as, indeed, they are of almost every Species of Iniquity; and such Instruments are not thrown away when they have served one bad Purpose, but are laid by in order to be employed, on any other, with an additional Ease and Dexterity, acquired by the Practice and Exercise of them.——Such are the Evils inseperable from *Adultery*, and such they were judged to be by the wisest and best regulated States, in which the severest Punishments were provided for it, and more particularly in that Selected State wherein GOD himself was the chief Ruler and Legislator.

The criminal Excesses, restrained by Marriage, flow from the strongest and most universal of Natural Appetites; and nothing so effectually weakens this *Sacred Barrier*, as a glaringly open and avowed Contempt of it from those whose Opinions the Populace regard with Reverence, and whose Actions, thro' Vanity, they are fond to imitate.

The Indulgence, therefore, of a Lawless Passion for the Wife of another, in one of those who are in that high Rank to lead, or command the Fashion, declared and practised before the lowest of the Multitude, is attended with every Circumstance which fills up the Measure of Iniquity:—When there are no Struggles of Reason or Conscience against vicious Inclinations, but a certain Insensibility of Guilt is joined to the open Practise of Evil, the hardened Profligate, forsaking every specious Excuse for unlawful Pleasures, asserts the Innocency thereof, and exposes his own Infamy for Applause and Imitation.

This

This ſhameleſs Triumph of Vice was juſtly accounted the wildeſt Enormity practiſed by the weakeſt and worſt of Tyrants: His favourite Minions were the chief Actors in it; Armies were drawn out in Battle Array, and the *Roman* People made Spectators of the Pageant.——There Vice was ſeen to reign, and Wealth, Titles and Dignities were the Rewards of its vileſt Inſtruments, of Pimps, Panders and Paraſites.

Happy would the World be, if all the Rulers of Nations were free from the ſhameful Failings and Infirmities which render other Men unfit for any Truſt or Station: But tho' the Divinity of Monarchs is not quite ſo pure from Human Alloy, as to make this the Caſe of all who hold the Reins of Empire, yet it might be hoped, from common Humanity, that they ſhould not incourage the Growth of thoſe Crimes for which they afterwards puniſh the unhappy Criminals. If Princes muſt triumph in Iniquity, if there muſt be Witneſſes of their Guilt, let them be ſuch as are neareſt and likeſt unto themſelves; for from ſuch, Applauſe may be more ſurely expected, and to ſuch, Example is leaſt prejudicial. Whatever ſupplimental Ties, when Religion and Morality are ſhaken off, may confine the Great within the Bounds of Social Duty: However Vices may be, in them, united with their contrary Vertues, and exiſt quite ſeparate from any other Crimes of the ſame Species; tho', for Example, the Falſhood and Suppleneſs of a Courtier may be rendered perfectly conſiſtent with the Juſtice and Spirit of a Judge and a Senator, yet it is certain, that the like happy Effects are not to be obſerved in thoſe of a lower Rank and Station. The Shop-keeper, who profanes the Sabbath-Day, will aſſuredly cheat on every other Day; and the ſame Treachery and Deceit, with which the Apprentice deprives his Maſter's Daughter of her Chaſtity, will be employed to pilfer the Goods which are intruſted to his Charge. In theſe Men one Crime begets another, and every Aſ-

ſault

ſault on any Principle of Vertue ſtrikes at the Foundation, and looſens the whole moral Fabrick. Such is the Connection of Crimes in thoſe of a low Degree, and ſuch is the inevitable Train of Ruin laid for the Bulk of Mankind, by the barefaced Vices of the Great and the Mighty.

I was led into the foregoing Reflections by a Paragraph, in a Letter, which I lately received from *France*, wherein my Correſpondent informs me, that his Moſt Ch——n M——y, upon a late publick Occaſion, ſhewed ſome moſt particular Diſtinctions to his Miſ—ſs, the Marchioneſs *de M———y*. The M——'s Example was followed by his Chief Officers, and the Favourite Lady was treated with Military Honours, equal to thoſe which the *Roman* Legions, under certain of their Emperors, beſtowed on the *Mater Caſtrorum*, while the poor Queen, who was alſo preſent, ſeemed to be intirely forgotten and neglected.

This Paragraph awakened in me another Reflection, which proves, that we are not ſo much more happy than other Nations, from the excellent Conſtitution of our Government, as from the many Vertues of the unparalelled P——e who r——s over us. Who, without Surpriſe and Admiration, can compare this extraordinary Occurrence with that tender Regard which our mighty Sovereign expreſſed for his Royal C———t while living, and with that unſpeakable Exceſs of Grief and Anguiſh into which her Death tranſported him?

From hence we may ſafely conclude, that, while our neareſt, and moſt formidable Neighbour grows weak and degenerate thro' Corruption, the Caſe is far different among us, where the Sanction of Royal Example, joined to the preſent prevailing Reverence for Law, Religion and Juſtice, will ſoon intirely baniſh Incontinence and Luxury, and place in their Room thoſe Vertues without which no People deſerve Liberty, or ever long injoyed it.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *July* 22, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

I Have always been ſo diſtruſtful of my *own* Judgment, and have had ſuch a great Opinion of the Judgment and Honeſty of my *Relations*, that I have been ſeveral Times, in Matters of no ſmall Conſequence, perſuaded by them to act contrary to my own Reaſon and Inclinations; and, particularly, at *their* Inſtance, have broke off divers Matches which were not any Way diſagreeable to me.

They had repreſented your Sex in ſo unfavourable a Light, that, to me, it ſeemed almoſt impoſſible for a *Married* Woman to be happy: Nay, ſome of them made no Scruple to reflect, in a very groſs Manner, even upon their *own Huſbands*, and to wiſh themſelves *ſingle* again a thouſand Times over, the more effectually to diſcourage me. In all this I thought them *ſincere*, and was thereupon almoſt determined to live as I was, and to die an Old Maid.

But, for ſeveral Years paſs'd, having watched them a little more narrowly, ſeen them in their unguarded Moments, and found them aiming not ſo much at my

Happineſs as my *Fortune*, I have ſomewhat altered my Intention.

It is no Way neceſſary to the Purpoſe of this Letter to enter into Particulars; otherwiſe I could give you *many* Inſtances of the mean low Artifices they have uſed, from Time to Time, to *ſave themſelves* by throwing little Expences upon *me*; which, to avoid Diſputes, I took no Notice of; and becauſe I did not *ſpeak* of them, they concluded that I did not *ſee* them. From hence they took Incouragement to go forward into groſs Impoſitions, which the ſtrongeſt Partiality in their Favour can by no Means excuſe, and which nothing but the moſt ſordid, ungenerous and mercenary Temper could have perſuaded them to practiſe upon me.

But at that Time they thought themſelves ſure of me, becauſe they were ſenſible that I had not incouraged the Addreſſes of any Suitor for ſome Time: Indeed no one offered who I had any Reaſon to think would make me much happier than I am at preſent; 'till, about three Months ago, a Gentleman, in the Neighbourhood, of unblemiſh'd Character, and one of whom not only I myſelf had a good Opinion, but for whom all my Relations have always profeſſed a very extraordinary Value, made me his Addreſſes.

You cannot conceive what Aſtoniſhment and Diſorder this Incident threw them into, and what infinite Pains they have taken to tarniſh the fair Character which they had hitherto given him. A thouſand little Arts were made uſe of to ſet me againſt him; but what they moſt inſiſted upon was, that, if I married one who was ſo much my Inferior, both in *Family* and *Fortune*, I ſhould never be *looked upon* by any Perſon of Faſhion while I liv'd: All my *Friends* and *Acquaintance* would deſert me; and the like. I could not, for my Life, conceive how this could be, becauſe my Lover has all along *viſited* and been *viſited* by all the beſt Families

Families in the Neighbourhood; and why they ſhould drop his Acquaintance *becauſe he had married to Advantage*, is a Difficulty which neither I can *get over*, nor my Relations *make out*.

In Point of *Family*, we have nothing to boaſt of on either Side: For as to *our* Family (which my Relations ſo much value themſelves upon) it has not been diſtinguiſh'd from the Common Herd of Mankind above *fifty* or *ſixty* Years at the *utmoſt*; and the Perſon who has offered his Service to me, tho' he cannot, perhaps, produce a long Liſt of illuſtrious *Anceſtors*, yet is *Himſelf* moſt certainly a *Gentleman*, both by his *Education*, his *Profeſſion*, and his *Behaviour*; and, if I marry him, will perhaps be the *only Gentleman* in the whole Family.

As to his Fortune, it is indeed ſomething Inferior to mine; and here lies all the Inequality between us: Tho' I ought to acquaint you, that he has a competent Subſiſtence, ſufficient to maintain him, in a *ſingle* Capacity, in as creditable and gentile a Manner as my Fortune and his put together will be able to maintain us in a *married one*, and eſpecially if we ſhould have Children, which is a Suppoſition not at all impoſſible.

But what ſticks moſt with theſe *Couſins* of mine (for you muſt know I have no nearer Relations than Couſins) is my having all along declared, that my *Perſon* and *Fortune* ſhould *go together*, and that he who had *one* ſhould have *both*:——And this is my fix'd Reſolution.

But this they tell me is againſt the *Laws* of God, the *Laws* of *Man*, and the *Laws* of *Common Senſe*. Now, in order to ſatisfy them, I have taken the Opinion of a very conſiderable *Lawyer*, and a very eminent *Divine*, who both of them agree, That I have a moſt *indiſputable Right to do what I will with my own*; and, as far as I can judge, *Common Senſe* tells me the very ſame: But leſt I ſhould be a little too partial in

Favour of *my own* Sentiments, I have taken the Liberty to ask *your's*, which, I dare say, you will ingenuously give me.

I would not willingly offend, either against *Religion*, or against the *Law*, or against *Common Sense*. As to the *two former*, I am perfectly satisfied; and as to the *last*, tho' I have no Manner of Doubt upon me, yet, being a little scrupulous in my Temper, I have ventured to give you this Trouble, that I might be clear in them *all*.

But before I receive your Judgment, it may not be amiss to acquaint you, that, there is not one Person among all my Relations (I mean such as object against the Match) who either *deserves*, or *wants* my Fortune. They are all of them possessed already of twice as much as they can find in their Hearts either to *enjoy themselves* or *give in Charity* to those who *stand in Need*; and they have, every one of them, likewise used me *extremely ill*. My *Poor* Relations are all of them *for* the Match, and for it too upon *my own Terms*; for which Reason I propose to reward their disinterested Generosity; and my Lover, who has a Soul much larger than his Fortune, desires I will do it in a handsome Manner, and *so* as it may not be in *his* Power to reverse it.

Perhaps, you will be so kind as to excuse me, if I lay before you two or three more of those *Reasons* which induced me to give my Fortune to my Husband.

In the first Place, if I give my Fortune to those Relations who expect it, I shall only add to their *Possessions*, but not at all to their *Injoyment*, because, as I observed just now, they are already *possessed* of more than they *enjoy*.

In the next, it is agreed on all Hands, that, if the Gentleman, who has offered me his Service, had it in his Power to make me a *Settlement for Life double* to the yearly Income of my Fortune, he might *command*

my

my Fortune upon the Foot of a *Smithfield Bargain*. And why ſhould he *not* have it, tho' he cannot make ſuch a Settlement? His Value and Reſpect for *me*, and mine for *him*, may be as great as if he *could*: And why ſhould not I expreſs my Value and Reſpect for him in the ſame Manner *as if he could?* It is his *Misfortune* not to have an Eſtate anſwerable to mine, but not his *Fault*; and ſhall I take the Advantage of his Misfortune, and deny him what he has, perhaps, as good a Title to as if he had a ſuitable Eſtate? I can never do it: *Want* of *Fortune*, in my Opinion, does not imply *Want* of *Merit*; nor are People always *deſerving* in Proportion as they are *wealthy*, but often very much otherwiſe.

My *neareſt Relations*, indeed, tell me, That *Nearneſs of Relation* gives the beſt Title, and not Merit: But if it does, ſurely my *Huſband* will have a *better* Title than any *one* elſe; for he will certainly be my *neareſt Relation*; unleſs they will ſay, that a *Couſin* is a *nearer Relation* than a *Huſband*.

Beſides, I am taught to think, and am verily perſuaded, that it is true, that, after Marriage, my Huſband and I ſhall, in ſome Senſe, make but *one Perſon*, and that he will be a *Part*, and perhaps the *better Part*, of myſelf; and if ſo, I think I ought *no more* to give my Fortune from *him*, than I would give it from *myſelf*. And indeed, if I love him *as well* as I do myſelf, which *at leaſt* I ought to do, I cannot give it from him.

Theſe are ſome of the Reaſons upon which I am reſolved, if I marry, to give my Fortune to my Huſband. Whether theſe Reaſons, and that Reſolution grounded upon them, are agreeable to *Common Senſe*, it is *your* Province to determine, and *your* Judgment ſhall determine *me*.

The *Length* of this *Letter* may be owing, perhaps, to that incurable Loquacity which is eſſential to all

Maids above Thirty, and therefore I hope you will excuse it.

I am, with the utmost Deference and Regard,

Sir, your constant Admirer,

And most humble Servant,

INGENUA.

ANSWER.

My Fair Correspondent, in this Representation of her Case, has suggested *so many*, and those such *undeniable Reasons*, for bestowing her Fortune upon her Husband, that she has left me nothing at all to do, but to wish her as good a Husband as she deserves; and to acquaint the Gentleman, that I need not wish him Joy of a prudent, sensible, and affectionate Wife, because he will certainly have one, if he espouses this discerning Lady.

SATURDAY, *August* 5, 1738.

Turpe Senilis Amor. OVID.

THO' I am an old Fellow, yet I am never so well pleased as when I find myself in the Company of an agreeable Woman. To confess the Truth, I am of a very amorous Constitution, and, at this Instant, I am, *to the best of my Knowledge and Belief*, most desperately in Love. Wherefore, I cannot but condemn the *Latin* Poet, whom other-

otherwiſe I admire as a great and happy Genius, for his injurious Reflections on old Age, and for branding a Grey-Headed Lover with that coarſe and indecent Epithet, which you read at the Head of my Paper. I am of Opinion poor *Ovid* recanted this Doctrine when he grew old himſelf, and that he had his Amours at *Tomos* as well as at *Rome* : And who could blame him, if thus he endeavoured to render the Place of his Exile more tolerable ? But, howſoever unfaſhionable it might have been among the *Romans* for an Old Man to profeſs himſelf a Lover, it is certain, that, in our Age, a more juſt and elegant Way of thinking has prevailed in all polite Nations.

When I was in *France*, there was ſcarce an Old Gentleman in that Kingdom without a Miſtreſs, nor a Married Woman, who had not her *Compere* as well as her *Galant* : The firſt was in Love with her, and ſhe was in Love with the other. One was for her Convenience, the other for Uſe : For, in all Parties of Pleaſure, the *Compere* was at the whole Expence of the Entertainment ; and beſides was daily preſenting his Miſtreſs with Toys and Jewels, ever ready to pay her Play-Debts, and furniſh Money for all her Occaſions. This laudable Cuſtom has ſome Time ſince been introduced into *England*, and it is to be hoped, in a few Years more, it will be univerſally obſerved by all Perſons of Figure and Diſtinction. For what can be more commodious for the Fair Sex ? Or what Sort of Lover can be ſo deſirable as an Old One, who makes no Terms for himſelf, but, at firſt Sight, ſubſcribes to a *Carte Blanche*, and reſigns his Liberty and Property, his Body and Spirit, into the Hands of his Miſtreſs ? I think it has been agreed by the Poets and Philoſophers of all Ages, who have ſtudied the Nature and Manners of Women, that their predominant Paſſion is the Love of Power. And this can never be ſo effectually attained as by captivating the Heart of ſome Old Monarch, his Lieutenant, Prime Miniſter, or Vizir.

As often as this happens (and this happens almost as often as a Sovereign Prince attains to his Grand Climacteric) we may expect to see a more surprising Metamorphosis than any of those which *Ovid* has recorded. Are we not assured, that the wisest Man, and one of the greatest Kings the World ever saw, was such a Slave to Beauty, in his old Age, that he deserted his God to please his Mistress? And *Mark Anthony*, when he was an old Soldier, lost all his Courage and his Honour, and lost the World too, because he would not deprive himself of *Cleopatra*'s Company for a few Days. I often please myself with reading *M. de la Motraye*'s ANECDOTES, *a* Book which has been of great Use to me in my Political *Dissertations*, and from which I have transcribed the following Story.

A King of *Persia*, who was in the 63d Year of his Age, grew so dotingly fond of one of his Concubines, a fair *Circassian* named *Roxana*, that he obliged himself, by a solemn Oath, never to refuse her any Thing she should request of him. The Lady made her Advantage of this Monarch's Weakness, and every Day, by some new and extravagant Demand, took Occasion to gratify her Ambition, her Avarice, or her Revenge. During the Career of her Power, a certain *European* Merchant, who had sold her some Jewels, in order to engage her Interest and Protection at Court, made her a Present of a beautiful little Dog, which had been taught to dance, and play a thousand antick Tricks. In a short Time, *Roxana* became as fond of her Dog, as the King was of her: Only she lamented, that the little Creature was not indowed with Speech, and could not therefore make a proper Reply to those indearing Expressions she used, as often as she caressed him. One of her Eunuchs, then present, told her, she need not grieve on this Account; for he knew a Philosopher, named *Hali*, then living in the Suburbs of *Ispahan*, who could teach her Dog to speak the *Persian* Language as articulately as he spoke it himself: That

he

he had learned this Art from a *Grecian* Sage, who had not only given Speech to Dogs, and other Animals of his Country, but had rendered them as learned and knowing as thoſe great Men among the Ancients who had been bred in the Schools of *Athens*. *Hali* was immediately ſent for, made acquainted with his Buſineſs, and required to attend the next Morning to give the Dog his firſt Leſſon. It was in vain for the poor Man to remonſtrate againſt the Poſſibility of ſuch an Undertaking. He was anſwered, it was the King's Command, and muſt not be diſputed: That if he performed what was injoined him, in the Space of thirty Days, he ſhould be amply rewarded: If he failed, he ſhould loſe his Head.

Hali, we may imagine, conſidered the King's Command as the Artifice of his Enemies, and as a Trap which they had laid for his Life. He communicated his Diſtreſs to his eldeſt Son, a Youth of Nineteen, who had a ready Wit and excellent Parts, which had been well cultivated and improved by his wiſe Father's Inſtructions. He had beſides a moſt ingaging Manner of Addreſs, a great Sweetneſs of Temper, and a beautiful Perſon. *Mirza* (for that was the Young Man's Name) burſt into Tears, when he heard the King's Orders: But, immediately recovering himſelf, he told his Father, he had thought of a certain Method to divert the Danger which threatened their Family.

For this Purpoſe, he deſired *Hali* to preſent him the next Morning to the chief Eunuch, as his Daughter, and as a Perſon well inſtructed in her Father's Art, and who would ingage, at the Hazard of her own Life, as well as his, to execute the King's Injunction, and thereby merit his Grace and Favour. *Hali* look'd upon his Son with Amazement, and perſuading himſelf, that he ſpoke by the Inſpiration of the Prophet, who had taken their Houſe under his Protection, he made no Difficulty of complying with young *Mirza*'s Requeſt.

Accordingly, next Morning, *Mirza*, disguised in a Virgin's Habit, was conducted to the Chief Eunuch, and by him led into *Roxana*'s Apartment; where he perform'd his Part so well, that, before the Month expired, it was reported all over the Seraglio, that the Philosopher's Daughter had taught the little Dog not only to speak, but to speak like a Wise Man, and answer pertinently to every Question. The King would needs be assured of the Truth of this Prodigy. He made a Visit to his Favourite. She confirmed the Report; and the Dog, being presented to him, was commanded to give a Proof of his extraordinary Talents by answering respectfully whatever the King should be pleased to ask him.

The Monarch seated himself on a *Sofa*, and taking the Dog in his Arms gently stroked his Head, *(and* he stroked it, and she stroked it, and she stroked it, and he stroked it)* and then he proposed this Question; *say, thou pretty Animal, who am I?* After a short Silence, *Roxana* intreated the King to tell her, if he was not highly delighted with the Answer which the little Beast had made him? And whether he could ever have believed the Thing, if he had not heard it? The King protested, he had not heard a Word. At which *Roxana* seemed much concerned, and looking earnestly in the King's Face, demanded again, if his Majesty had not heard the Dog answer him in the Words following? *You are the Son of the Sun, the Lieutenant of the Prophets, and the King of Kings; you are dreaded by your Enemies, adored by your Subjects, and passionately beloved by my Fair Mistress.*

The King of *Persia* rose up amazed and confounded: But still insisting, he did not hear the Dog speak. *Roxana* lifted up her Hands, and thus addressed herself to

* I have translated this *Parenthesis* Word for Word. It seems to have some allegorical Sense which I do not comprehend. The Gentlemen who are learned in the Doctrine of *Innuendos* may, probably, discover the Author's Meaning.

to *Mahomet, Thou Messenger of* God, *protect and defend the King. Increase his Honour, lengthen his Life, preserve his Understanding, and open his Ears? And, O never,—never let him feel the Infirmities of old Age.* Then, the Dog being ordered to speak a little louder, she begg'd the King to make a second Trial, which he did with great Success. For he now declared, he heard the little Creature distinctly utter every Word, just as *Roxana* had before repeated.

This occasion'd an universal Joy in the *Seraglio*, Nothing was talk'd of for some Days, but the Speaking Dog. His Answer to the King was written in Letters of Gold, and preserved in the Archives of the Empire. The pretended Daughter of *Hali* was dismissed with a noble Reward: And her Father was soon afterwards promoted to one of the best Governments in *Persia*.

The Author of this Tale concludes it with the following Reflection. Old Age very seldom proves a Blessing to Great Men, especially to those who have any Share in the Government of the World. The *Persian* Monarch, who ruled so many Nations, and esteemed himself a Favourite of the Gods, and the First Man in the Universe, was not permitted the Use of his Eyes or his Ears. He was the Dupe of his Slave, and the Jest of his whole Court: But no one durst tell him so; and he died without knowing it.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *August* 12, 1738.

Illevetus miles sensim et sapienter amabit : Multaque tironi non patienda feret.

I Was a little too hasty in condemning *Ovid* for that Expression which I chose for the *Motto* of my last *Paper*. I have since been assured, by a learned Critick, that, instead of *Turpe Senilis Amor*, we should read *Dulce Senilis Amor*, *The sweetest Thing, or the pleasantest Sight in the World, is an Old Man in Love.* This Reading may certainly be justified by many similiar Passages, which we meet with in the same Author ; and especially as it is agreeable to the Advice he gives the *Roman* Ladies, in his Third Book *De Arte Amandi*, where he recommends to their Choice an Old Lover preferably to all others; *For such a one*, says he, *will love discreetly and constantly, will bear every Thing, and find Fault with nothing.*

I am much pleased, that the Sentiments of this great Master in the Art of Love are conformable to my own, and that I can defend my present Subject by his Instructions. I have, indeed, very seldom published any Opinions, but what are obvious to the Common Sense of Mankind ; and I have endeavoured to express myself clearly, that I might not be misunderstood by any of my Readers, who understand plain *English*, and plain Truth. But, notwithstanding all my Care, I have sometimes been disappointed : And I perceive the Moral of my *Persian* Tale has been mistaken by most of the Court-Ladies, for whose Use I chiefly designed it.

They

They imagine, I would insinuate, by that Story, that no Old Lover is worth the Acceptance of a fine Woman, unless he be a Royal Sovereign. This was far from my Thoughts: For where is such a one to be found? True, there is one Old Gentleman at *Rome*, and another at *Luneville*. But the first is not to be approached without the Consent of all his Relations; and altho' the other is a very generous and good-natur'd Prince, and perhaps may like a pretty Woman well, yet he is not quite so great a Monarch, nor consequently in so good a Condition to support his Mistress, as some of our *Indian* Governors. For my Part, I would have our *British* Ladies look no farther than their own Country, and be contented and humble enough to throw out their Lure beneath a Throne. We have old Lords, and old Bishops, old Generals and old Judges, old Knights, Commissioners, and Directors, of several Orders, and Denominations; Men, who are possessed of more Wealth and Power, than they know how to use. For this Game it is *Ovid* (was he now living among us) would direct my fair Country-Women to spread their Nets, and with great Assurance promise them nice Sport, and good Success; which neither the Gravity of the Divine, nor the Cunning of the Politician, nor the Courage of the Soldier, nor the Caution of the Old Citizen, should be able to disappoint.

It was the Saying of a very upright and learned Judge, that *there is no Wisdom below the Girdle*; and he proved the Truth of it by marrying his Cook-Maid. And, surely, it is impossible for a wise old Man to give his Mistress a greater Proof of his Affections than by changing the whole Course of his Life and Actions, and suddenly becoming a Fool for her Sake.

However this Maxim is not to be received without Exceptions. For I have known where Love, in extreme old Age, has produced very different Effects, by improv-

improving the Underſtanding, ſoftening the Temper, and changing Vices into Virtues.

I have a near Relation, who, when he was but a Youth, was noted for his Avarice. This Vice, as it generally does, increaſed with his Years. When he was turned of Fifty, old *Euctio* in *Plautus*, or the *Avare* of *Moliere*, was not a more ſordid Character.

By the Influence of ſome lucky Planet, about ſix Months ago, he fell in Love. Since that, he has wholly altered his Manner of Living. He ſpares no Expence to gratify his Paſſion: And the ſame Man who, ſome little Time ago, denied himſelf Neceſſaries, and would not have given a Guinea to a Phyſician to ſave the Life of his only Son, would now give away his Gold by Handfuls to preſerve the Life of a Dog, belonging to his Miſtreſs.

What was it but Love, which inſpired *Anacreon*, at the Age of Fourſcore, with all his Wit and Vivacity? And a great Genius among the Moderns tells us; That he had no other Paſſion to keep him in Breath. "What Avarice, Ambition, Quarrels and Law Suits "do to others, *ſays he*, Love does more commodi- "ouſly to me. It makes me active, vigilant, and "ſober. It holds up my Chin, ſtretches my Nerves, "and prevents any ſour Looks from diſgracing my "Countenance. It warms me again, at leaſt in my "Dreams; and diverts a thouſand troubleſome and "melancholy Thoughts, with which Idleneſs and bad "Health are apt to load old Age.

Plato, that Prince of Philoſophers, argues very rationally, and, perhaps, from his own Experience, that old Age will not exempt a Man from the Paſſion of Love, or prevent thoſe Emotions which we all feel at the Sight of a fair Object: And therefore he has ordained, among his Laws, that whoever had performed any Signal Exploit in War, ſhould have the Right of demanding a Kiſs, or even a greater Favour, from any of his Country-women, notwithſtanding their Qua-

Quality, or his own Age and the Deformity of his Perſon.

I could heartily wiſh to ſee this Law eſtabliſhed here, and extended to all Perſons, in Eccleſiaſtical and Civil, as well as in Military Employments, whether they are Peers or other Senators; provided, they are zealouſly attached to the preſent Adminiſtration, and are grown Old in the Service of their Country. As ſuch a wiſe Inſtitution would render it ſafe and honourable for an old Man to fall in Love, ſo it would induce many grave Divines and Philoſophers to claim the Benefit of this new Law, who now ſigh in Secret, to prevent the Ridicule, to which a Publick Declaration might expoſe them. Of theſe Veterans I would have a Society formed, and incorporated by Letters-Patent, by the Style and Title of The *Band* of *Old Lovers*. They ſhould be diſtinguiſhed from other Perſons of the ſame Quality by their Tunics, or Robes of Ceremony, made of Flame-colour'd Satin, and embroidered with flying *Cupids*, Hearts and Darts; as the Robes of Diſtinction among the *Chineſe* Mandarins are embroidered with flying Dragons: Provided always, that no B———p, Dignitary, or other Eccleſiaſtical Perſon, ſhall be obliged to wear his Tunic in the Pulpit, unleſs he be appointed to preach before——— This Band, or Society ſhould be governed by a Preſident, or Captain, who muſt be a Perſon of great Figure and Merit, but very amorous, and as ready to take Fire as a Piece of rotten old Wood. He ſhould have a ſtout Heart and invincible Courage, and yet he ſhould cry, like a Baby, if his Miſtreſs but prick'd her Little-Finger. He ſhould have a Stern Countenance and a Majeſtick Deportment; but, at the Word of Command, he ſhould not ſcruple to play at Hot-Cockles, or ride round St. *James*'s Park on a Hobby-Horſe. He ſhould be a Man of great Wealth, that he might be able to diverſify his Shape, and once a Day fall into his *Danae*'s Lap in a Shower of Gold:

For,

For, in this Form, he will reflect a Luſtre on his Brethren, and be more agreeable to his Miſtreſs, if ſhe be a Woman of Taſte, than the Youth and Beauty of *Adonis*, or the Nerves of *Hercules*, with empty Pockets.

It ſhould be provided, by the Charter of Incorporation, that no Man be admitted into the Band before the 60th Year of his Age, reſerving nevertheleſs a Power to the Crown, to grant a Diſpenſation, under the Broad Seal, on extraordinary Emergencies. For ſince it is found by Experience, that ſome Men are older at 50, than others at 60 or 70, it is not reaſonable they ſhould be excluded merely for Want of Years: And therefore, if they are otherwiſe duly qualified, a Writ of Eligibility ſhould go out in their Favour.

It ſhould be farther directed, that a Meeting of theſe venerable *Inamoratos* be held, once a Month, in the Painted-Chamber, or in ſome other convenient Room to be appointed for that Purpoſe; where the Intereſts and Concerns of the Society may be debated and ſettled, and all Forms of Love-Letters, Billets, Compliments, Speeches and Meſſages to be addreſſed to their Miſtreſſes, may be agreed on, as likewiſe the proper Hours for private Viſits and Aſſignations. As to the Form or Manner of toying in Publick, of winking, ſhrugging, ſqueezing the Hand, treading on the Toe, *&c.* the Gentlemen of the Band ſhall be determined by the Example of their Captain; and no other amorous Signs or Tokens ſhall be allowed, or deemed faſhionable, but ſuch as are practiſed by him.

When, hereafter, my Scheme ſhall be better digeſted, I may, perhaps, ſuggeſt ſome farther Regulations for the Benefit of this Society, of which I hope to be a Member. How happy ſhall I eſteem myſelf, if I may live to ſee a Decrepit old *Briton* reverenced and reſpected not on Account of his Birth, or his Quality, not for his Wiſdom, or his Riches, not becauſe he is in great Office, or in great Favour, but becauſe HE IS IN LOVE?

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *August* 19, 1738.

THE *Volsci* and *Equi*, two different People of *Italy*, having received Intelligence, that a Plague raged in *Rome* which did sweep away great Numbers of its Inhabitants, thought to take Advantage of this unhappy Event to reduce the Power of that City: In order to which, they began by falling upon the *Latines*, whom we may call the natural Allies of the *Romans*.

This Enterprise was formed upon a Presumption, that the *Romans*, not being in a Condition to send Succours to the *Latines*, the latter would not be able to oppose them single, and that, as soon as they had overrun them, the *Romans*, being deprived of all Assistance from their Allies, and already much reduced by the Pestilence, would become a very easy Conquest alone.

So soon as the Confederates had entered the *Latine* Territories, the *Latines* sent Advice of it to the *Romans*, and demanded Succours. The *Roman* Senate being assembled to consult what Measures were proper to be taken, answered them to the following Effect— "That the Plague made such Havock among their "People, that they were afraid the Succour they "should be able to send them would not be so great "as might be necessary; however they would, with "all Expedition, come and assist them as much as was "possible in their Condition." Nor did they fail to execute what they promised.——A Proceeding so resolute, and so little expected, discouraged the Confederates

rates to ſuch a Degree, that they ſoon made Peace with the *Latines*. Had *Rome* been governed, at this Time, by cowardly, weak and corrupt Heads, they would have taken quite contrary Meaſures. The Contagion then raging in their City, would have furniſh'd them with a plauſible Excuſe for remaining neuter, and leaving their Allies to the Mercy of their Enemy. Perhaps they might have gone farther, and made ſome mean and ſcandalous Submiſſions, which might, for a ſhort Time, have deferred the evil Day, but muſt have intirely loſt them afterwards the Confidence of their natural Allies, and have made them deſpicable among all the neighbouring States for their Breach of Faith, and Want of Courage.

But it is obſerved, by *Machiavel*, of this brave People, that, in all their Diſtreſſes, they never departed from their Majeſty and Grandure; they never quitted true Policy, for little temporary Expedients: By which Means they eſtabliſhed ſo high a Reputation, that their very Fame contributed not a little towards their giving Laws to the World.

If any Perſon ſhould invidiouſly give out, that theſe Things are mentioned with an Eye to our Affairs at Home, I conceive they cannot with any Juſtice be underſtood in that Senſe: For, I think, it has never been imputed to our moſt excellent Miniſters, that they are laying Schemes to conquer the World. We have no Reaſon to fear a Grand Alliance againſt *Us*, as there once was againſt *France*, to prevent our gaining Univerſal Empire. We ſee no Uneaſineſs on theſe Accounts, either Abroad or at Home, and the worſt Enemies of our Miniſters (and God knows they have Enemies enough) have not charged them with Ambition, or being poſſeſſed with a Spirit of Conqueſt. I own, I am glad to find we are not ſuſpected of it; for if the World ſhould take up the Opinion, that we have ſuch dangerous Deſigns, no Man can ſay what Troubles it might draw upon us. *France* by it drew

all

all *Europe* upon her Back, and was humbled in the Midſt of her Glory.

She will take Care, if I am not much miſtaken, never again to give the World ſuch Jealouſies: She has ſuffer'd ſo much already, by graſping at all, that her ill Succeſs will probably make her wiſe, and be content with a moderate Portion. It may lay the Foundation of Happineſs for her People: It may ſave the Blood and Treaſure of her Subjects, and give quite another Turn to her Politicks.

Already ſhe ſeems to work with very different Views: For, inſtead of conquering Provinces Abroad, ſhe is cultivating the Arts of Peace at Home. Inſtead of forming Schemes to impoveriſh other Nations, ſhe is contriving to inrich her own: Her Treaſures are no longer waſted in wild and expenſive Projects to alarm her Neighbours; they are laid out in mending Highways and in repairing Fortifications, cutting Canals, promoting Commerce, and making *France* the Wonder and Delight of all the Strangers who viſit the Country.——I ſee therefore no true Reaſon for being alarm'd at the preſent Grandure of *France*, when ſhe puts nothing in Practice to become Great, but what is in the Power of every other State to do as well as ſhe, and what every State will do where there is either Vertue or Wiſdom in the Government.

I will not deny but it would be better for us, that all the Schemes of the *French* Miniſters had been contrived to inrich themſelves and their Families, rather than to inrich their Country. We ſhould have no Reaſon to grieve, if we ſaw the publick Treaſure waſted in corrupting the moſt profligate of the Nobility and Gentry to defend the Miniſter againſt the Publick, inſtead of defending the Publick againſt its Enemies: If the People were loaded with Taxes and harraſſed with Exciſemen: If neceſſitous Fellows were ſent to govern their Iſlands, with ſuch Inſtructions as gave them a Liberty to plunder and ruin them: If every Branch of

of their Trade had ſuch Burdens laid upon it as ſhould force it into other Chanels: If their Miniſters had already ſuffered, and were ſtill determined to ſuffer the groſſeſt Injuries, and the higheſt Indignities, rather than enter upon a War, and yet, at the ſame Time, ſhould force the Sailors from on board all their Merchant Ships to Man Fleets which were fitted out at a moſt intolerable Charge to the Publick; Fleets which they were reſolved ſhould never ſtrike a Stroke, and which, perhaps, were never deſigned to ſtir out of their own Harbours: If their Merchants were every Day robbed and murdered, and yet cruelly hindered from making Repriſals on their Enemies: Theſe Things, no Doubt, would ſoon cauſe almoſt a total Stagnation of Trade, by raiſing Inſurance to ſuch a Height as would make every Branch of it impracticable. And yet, certainly theſe Things would not hurt us: But to rail at a Government becauſe they do not think fit to ruin their own People, is a very odd Pretence for a Quarrel.

If they are growing powerful Abroad, by a mild and gentle Exerciſe of their Government at Home, it is as ſilly to make that a Matter of Reproach, as it would be, to rail at a Man for governing his Family with Prudence, and raiſing Fortunes for his Children by honeſt, induſtrious and laudable Methods.

Yet there are thoſe who cannot hear *France* named with any Patience or Temper.——It is a Kind of Madneſs which has ſeized a poor, crazy News-Writer,—— his Brain is turn'd with it. Methinks, it is like the Dog barking at the Moon for no other Reaſon but becauſe it ſhines.

It is true, *France* was not long ſince engaged in a War, which is the only Pretence for charging her with Ambition. But ſhe never entered upon a War with more Juſtice and Honour: And even then ſhe did not ſhew any great Ambition of making Conqueſts, when ſhe gave Peace to her Enemies in the Midſt of her Succeſſes.

ceſſes.——We may call it *giving Peace*, for it is plain, by what has happen'd ſince Betwixt the *Emperor* and the *Turk*, that it was in the Power of *France*, at that Juncture, to have done what ſhe pleaſed in the Empire. 'True, ſhe was no Loſer by the War; and why ſhould ſhe? No wiſe Nation, when provoked to a War, but will make her Enemies pay the Charges. *France* had *Lorrain* on Account of her Expences in the laſt War: And, as *Spain* has put us to a vaſt Expence in order to obtain Satisfaction for the Injuries and Inſults done the Nation, I make no Doubt but that we ſhall not only oblige the *Spaniards* to reſtore what they have already robbed our Merchants of, and that we ſhall effectually ſecure our Rights and Poſſeſſions for the future, but that we ſhall alſo oblige them to pay the Charge we have been at in fitting out a Fleet of above a hundred Ships of War:——So far am I from giving any Credit to the ridiculous Reports ſpread Abroad by the *Spaniards*, That we dare not go to War; that we not only ſhall reſt content with the Injuries we have already ſuffered, but that, in order to prevent greater, we are even to give them up ſome of our moſt valuable Poſſeſſions.

I conceive, in the preſent Diſputes with *Spain*, there is no Reaſon for apprehending Danger from *France*; which I mention becauſe I have obſerved our new-promoted Heroes here are ſeen to tremble when the *French* are but named. They have a Miniſter of a pacifick Diſpoſition, who has ſhewn them, that taking Advantage of the Miſtakes of their Neighbours Abroad, and comforting their People at Home, are ſurer Methods of aggrandiſing a Nation than Battles and Victories. If ſhe gains Univerſal Empire, it will be without the Expence of Blood or Treaſure; it is poſſible ſhe may gain it by the Fame of her Wiſdom: She will not attempt it by Arms; for I think it is plain, that War is not her preſent Game.

Indeed

Indeed, if *France* ſhould riſe to that Dignity as to become the Sovereign Court to which all other Nations muſt reſort for Juſtice; If, under the Title of Mediator, all Mankind muſt needs appeal to her, I muſt own, we ſhould make a very pitiful Figure by her Side, and ſhe might be affirmed to give Laws to the Univerſe.

After *Rome* had conquered all Nations, ſhe reſtored to every one of them their own Laws and their own Kings: But ſhe reſerved to herſelf the Sovereign Right of judging and deciding their Quarrels. By this ſhe held them in a State of Dependance; by this ſhe in ſome Meaſure reign'd over them: And when they ſubmitted to appeal to her, they acknowledged her to be their Superior.

If the growing Power of *France* gives Uneaſineſs to our Politicians here, why do they not take Meaſures to make it leſs; which I will be bold to ſay may be done without ſtriking a Blow.—It is not by laying Taxes upon our People, but eaſing them of thoſe with which they are already burdened: It is not by raiſing Armies, but diſbanding them, that we muſt reduce the Power of *France*. If we covet Peace, we muſt practiſe the Arts of Peace; we muſt practiſe the ſame Arts which we ſee *France* uſe with ſo great Succeſs. Whenever we become greater, *France* will certainly be leſs.

We have lately ſeen People ſo violent againſt *France*, that they were for putting to Death every Man who would not cut a *Frenchman*'s Throat; and who afterwards became ſo humble to it, as not to name it without Fear and Reverence. Look over the late Lord *Oxford*'s Trial, and examine the Liſt of the worthy Managers, and you will ſee how ſome Men are changed ſince thoſe Days! Indeed, their Slaves tell you, they have ſtill as much Averſion to *France* as ever, but that they keep their Malice *in petto* from the Impulſes of diſcreet Cowardiſe.——It may be ſo; for it is no ſtrange Thing to ſee Men, and thoſe even in the

highest Stations, insolently rude where they dare not strike; yet fawn and cringe where they know how to be civil.

But let Men's Pretences be what they will, the World will judge of them by their Actions.

It may happen, that one Nation, which is the natural Enemy of another, may nevertheless take no Measures but what may contribute to its Glory, and strenuously promote its Interest. This may happen where there is great Ignorance, or Corruption, or both, in the Administration; in which Case, they make Enemies in their own Country, without making one Friend in that whose dirty Business they are doing.

I can never think the Power of *France* will be reduced by those who are for laying everlasting Burdens upon the Trade of *England:* Who are for diverting the Sinking Fund from paying off the Publick Debts. I am confident it will never be effected by those who are for running the whole Wealth of the Nation into the Civil List; because this is effectually doing the Business of all those Nations whose Interest it is to see *England*, poor, low and miserable.

Tho' I am for doing Justice to the Merit of our Ministers, in drawing no Enemies upon us by laying Schemes to conquer the World; yet I hope I shall never live to see any Administration in *England* govern in such a Manner as to establish in Foreign Countries a Notion, that there is neither Wisdom, Strength, nor Courage enough left in our Nation to defend its own Rights. If we should once come to give up Points thro' Fear, our Ruin is not far off.——There will at all Times be some jarring Interests betwixt one Common-wealth and another.——Something there will be which one State would be very well pleased to have granted and yielded up to it by another: And if, in order to obtain it, it requires no more than to put on a Fighting Face, what can be the End of such a cowardly, despicable Nation.

Methinks

Methinks a Government, in this Situation, is in the Condition of the Booby *'Squire* in a *Comedy*.——Every Sharping *Rascal* in the Play, when he wants Money, raises it upon the 'Squire, only by putting on a threatning Countenance. The 'Squire, frightened out of his Wits, at last hires a *Bully* to stand by him, whom he calls his *Back*, but whom, I think, we may call his *Mediator*. The *Mediator* has very often an Understanding with the *Sharpers*, whom he suffers still to impose upon the *'Squire*, and yet he raises Contributions for defending him. The *Oaf* is now treated alike by *Friend* and *Foe*; the *Bully* shews him his Sword and looks angry, then the *'Squire* must *come-down*; he must have Recourse to some Expedient, to put off the Evil Day: And thus they play him off, from one to the other, as long as he has a Shilling in his Pocket, or a Rag to his A——se; with this mortifying Circumstance, That his Distress is a Jest to all Mankind, who never commiserated any Ill-Treatment done to one who has convinced the World of his being both FOOL and COWARD.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *August* 26, 1738.

I Lately gave the Publick ſome Account of a ſilly M——— *Paper*, with a very long Title, which, with no ſmall Pains and Difficulty, I laboured thro': For I think it a much greater Fatigue to read one of their dull Papers, than to write two of my own.

I endeavoured to give my Readers a general Idea of that elaborate Performance, judging that to take it to Pieces, or give a particular Criticiſm of its ſeveral Parts, would have been as abſurd, as if a Painter ſhould pretend to draw a Monſter, which had neither Head, or Tail, Limbs or Shape.

Tho' I really think it the Drudgery of a Porter to read the Productions on that Side of the Queſtion, yet I propoſe to give myſelf that Trouble, now and then, when ſome particular Piece is publiſhed, upon which the Mercenaries lay a more than ordinary Streſs; of which, I preſume, I ſhall not fail of having Intelligence.

Your *Oſborns*, your *Freemans*, have nothing to fear from this Declaration: They ſhall not have the Honour of a Laſh.——But whenever all the Chiefs of the Faction lay their wiſe Noddles together, and the Mountain produces a Mouſe, it is fit the Eyes of the Publick ſhould be turn'd towards it.

There is one of theſe lately publiſhed, which has no other Right to be taken Notice of, but that it is the Work of many Heads. It comes from their Maſter-

Workmen, and contains, as I am credibly informed, the Party's whole Fund of Wit and Politics.

It sets out with a certain Air of Solemnity, by telling us,—" That nothing has been the Occasion of " more fatal Mischiefs, than when they who have " had the Direction of publick Affairs have been ob- " liged, thro' Clamour and Importunity, to follow " the Tide of Popular Opinion; which is seldom or " never formed upon a true Judgment of the State and " Nature of Things; but, on the contrary, is gene- " rally the Effect of blind Prejudice, and of unrea- " sonable Resentment, and of Passions artfully work'd " up.

This general Maxim may fit any other Time as well as the present: Besides, in itself, it is not just; for tho' Instances may be given where Popular Opinions, and Popular Prejudices have been wrong, yet many more Instances can be produced where they have been right: And particularly in those Free States where the Election to all Offices and Commands was in the People, we find them (till Corruption had got in among them) more than Nine Times in Ten preferring Men of great Abilities, and rejecting those of no Merit.

But suppose we should grant what is not true, that it is dangerous to follow Popular Opinions, it no Way concerns us; we cannot be hurt by it: For it has not been the hard Fate of our most excellent Ministers to be borne down by the Tide of Popular Opinion, or Popular Prejudice. If Popular Opinion had been against them in every Measure they have taken; if they have gone their own Way without the least Regard to it; they alone are answerable for the Consequence.

If the Authority of Ministerial Writers could have any Weight, we could prove from them, that our Ministers have constantly despised Popular Opinion, and Popular Prejudice; and they have had no small

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Applauſes poured upon them by their Flatterers for acting in Oppoſition to Popular Opinion.

It is true, they might ſupport themſelves better againſt Popular Opinion and Popular Prejudice, than any who have gone before them: For it has been their good Fortune to have the Repreſentatives of the People of the ſame Opinion with them; whatever the People themſelves might be.——They have made Treaty upon Treaty; but never have been impeach'd for any——they have had ſuch a very implicit Truſt repoſed in them, that they have had every Thing they aſk'd; they have wanted neither Money, nor Fleets, nor Armies: Nothing has been denied them which was neceſſary to put any of their Projects in Execution.

The Hands of other Miniſters have been tied; Money has been given ſparingly; and, when any has been given, they have been called to a ſtrict Account about the Application; they have been controuled and limited in Point of Power; ſo that, where Affairs have not gone on ſucceſsfully, ſomewhat might be urged in their Defence: But our moſt excellent Miniſters have had no Difficulties of this Nature to ſtruggle with; they have had every Thing they could deſire.——If the Nation has been impoveriſhed, the Government has known no Want; nay, the Repreſentatives of the People ſeem to have been ſo ſenſible that the Publick Money has been applied according to their Intention, that they have ſcarce demanded any Account at all.

Provided the Nation is really in a happier Situation at Home, if it makes a better Figure Abroad than it ever did, all is well; otherwiſe, there is not ſo much as a Hook left to hang a ſingle Excuſe upon.

Let us come to his next Paragraph.—" It is by ſuch " impious and execrable Ways as theſe (ſays he) that " many People, who have been happy under the " wiſeſt and beſt conſtituted Governments, have been " made the Inſtruments of their own Ruin; and

" while they have been endeavouring to grasp at
" more Liberty than is consistent with the Peace and
" Order of Society, have forged Chains for them-
" selves and their Posterity.

Allowing all this to be true, how does it relate to Us? Are there any Instances, for twenty Years pass'd, where People have been grasping at more Liberty than is consistent with the Peace and Order of Society?—They have indeed, in a legal and orderly Way, opposed many Things which they took it into their Heads to believe incroach'd upon their Liberty: But, I think, they * succeeded but once; and when they did succeed, they gained nothing: They only preserved the same Privileges which their Ancestors, since this has been a Monarchy, injoyed before them. But, by such Discourses as these, I will beg Leave to say, they are put in Mind of what they lost where they did not succeed.

Our Author says farther,—" It is absolutely ne-
" cessary that, in all great Events and Emergencies of
" State, the People should repose a Confidence in
" those at the Helm of the Government.

I hope this Writer does not mean that, it is necessary the People should repose a Confidence in all Ministers, whether they deserve it or not:—I will answer for it, that where that happens, they will soon forge Chains for themselves with a Witness.—But I must tell him farther, that the Confidence he so much recommends must arise from the Credit which those at the Helm of Affairs are in with the World:—It must arise from the Fame of their Abilities and of their Honour. Steddy and honourable Actions beget a Reputation, and that Reputation will beget Confidence; and you cannot repose a Confidence except where you have a good Opinion.

I know that it is natural for Men to endeavour to impose upon themselves, as well as upon others, in Things

* *In the* Excise-*Scheme.*

Things they wish may happen: But, with all that, you will find it very difficult to believe a Liar, tho' it is your Interest that what he says should prove true; or to expect wise and steddy Measures from Men whom you know by Experience to be irresolute, weak, and corrupt.———Confidence, therefore, is the Reward of a good Character.

If this Author had told us, that, in all great Events and Emergencies of State, it is absolutely necessary to place some Persons at the Helm of such unquestionable Abilities, and such a Reputation for Honour and Integrity, that the People will be ready to repose a Confidence in them, he would certainly have said something to the Purpose.

Our Author is of Opinion, that it is Matter of the utmost Difficulty to get the better of those Prejudices which so generally prevail in the Minds of the People, and yet which, if not removed, may have such a fatal Effect over the Affairs of the Commonwealth.

Perhaps this may be true, which only shews how necessary it is for Men in great Affairs to preserve a good Character with the World: It is also as true, that such a Prejudice which generally arises from Mens Actions and Behaviour, cannot be removed but by a Conduct directly contrary to that by which it was gain'd.—It never can enter into Peoples Heads to believe, that Men should turn wise or honest of a sudden, whose whole Lives have been a mixed Scene of Knavery and Folly: They must certainly see the Change, and feel the Effects of it, before they will believe it.

As to our Author's Insinuation (which I suppose must support all he has advanced besides) that the People may have Prejudices instilled into them against those at the Helm by the Arts of disaffected Men, whose Interest it may be to deceive them,——I will allow as much of it as can ever happen to be true; that

is to ſay, I will not deny but that, when new Men, whoſe Capacities have never been tried, and whoſe Honour and Integrity have never been proved, are brought into Publick Affairs, it may be poſſible for Popular Men to raiſe Prejudices againſt them in the Minds of the People: But then theſe Prejudices can laſt no longer than 'till the Men are known; when they have gained a Character for themſelves by a laudable, upright Conduct; when the People ſee their Country feared and reſpected Abroad, and feel the Effects of a mild Adminiſtration at Home, thoſe at the Helm may then defy all the Arts of diſaffected Men; and whoever they be who attempt to raiſe Prejudices againſt them, will find that they only labour to cruſh and undo themſelves.

SATURDAY, *Sept.* 2, 1738.

WE who live at ſo great a Diſtance from thoſe Times when the Common-wealths of *Greece* and *Rome* flouriſh'd in their Glory, are apt to admire that Vertue by which they preſerv'd their Liberties ſo many Ages; nay, we are diſpoſed to think, that all their Laws and Cuſtoms were the Effects of the moſt conſummate Wiſdom and Policy: But we have among us ſome Writers who are ſo good as to endeavour to cure us of theſe idle Prejudices.

Thoſe ingenious Gentlemen, who have the Honour to be hired by our moſt excellent Miniſters, have taken no

no ſmall Pains to rectify ſeveral Miſtakes, which we, as well as our Fore-Fathers, have laboured under.

The Policy, practiſed in all Free States, of ſtriving by all practicable Means, to keep up the natural Courage of their People, is one of thoſe Errors in Politicks which the Writers before-named think ought not to be imitated by Modern Stateſmen, who exceed your *Solons* and *Scipios* as much in Wiſdom, as they do in Honour and in Publick Spirit.

One of theſe Pen-Men, having his Eye to the preſent Situation of Affairs, condemns the People *for being always extremely conceited of their own Valour, and full of falſe Notions of Honour.*——— How our People may ſtand, as to their Valour, we cannot ſay: for it is a great while ſince it has been tried; and they have been obliged to ſuppreſs it ſo long under the moſt ſevere Provocations, that we think it would be no Wonder if, by this Time, they were beaten quite out of it; as to Honour, we may preſume they are in a fair Way of being cured of all Notions, whether true or falſe, relating to it; at leaſt if the Example and Precept of ſome Great Men can have any Force.

He ſays farther, *That, in Proportion as the People ſet a Value upon their own Courage, they hold in Contempt that of their Neighbours.*——If by Neighbours he means the *Spaniards*, I think them in the Wrong; for, of late, they have had no Reaſon to ſuppoſe that the *Spaniards* want Courage.

Therefore (ſays he) *they will never hear of any Thing which does not encourage the high Opinion they entertain of themſelves.*—Then they muſt not liſten to our Miniſterial Writers, who will not flatter them upon that Head, tho' Flattery be their Trade.

They are fully perſuaded, before they enter into a War, that they need only fight to conquer; no Reaſon nor Eloquence will ever be able to convince them, that any Mea-

ſures can be right which ſeem to check or reſtrain that Impetuoſity of Spirit.

I believe no People ever did conquer, who had not the ſame Opinion of themſelves; and therefore all wiſe Governors ever ſtrove to encourage that Notion in them: They who diſtruſt their own Courage, and fancy they ſhall be defeated, are half-beaten before they engage: And it is always looked upon to be a happy Omen for the People to think themſelves ſuperior to their Enemies in Courage. But, notwithſtanding this, the People are in general no Lovers of War; and with good Reaſon: Becauſe it is they who muſt bear the whole Burden of it; and, if it proves unſucceſsful, the Loſs and Damage muſt be theirs: Wherefore, whenever the People call loud for War, it is a ſhrewd Sign they ſuffer ſome very great Grievances in Peace.——However, our Author thinks this Spirit for War a very dangerous Thing: He gives a dreadful Deſcription of it.—*It is a Spirit which ſpreads Terror and Devaſtation wherefoever it breaks its Bounds, yet which the People are always better pleaſed to ſee ruſh in Torrents down the Rock, than ſlide in a ſafe and eaſy Channel thro' the Plain.*

It will hardly admit of a Diſpute, that the People of all Nations are in general averſe to War; I ſay in general, tho' now and then particular Circumſtances may happen to induce them to be of another Opinion. But be that as it will, I believe the warlike Spirit of our People has been held within Bounds for ſome Years of late: It has neither ruſhed down the Rock, nor ſlided thro' the Plain: It has cauſed neither Terror nor Devaſtation: Not one of our Neighbours makes the leaſt Complaint of us upon this Head; and therefore, I take this to be a mere Flouriſh of the Author's, without any other Meaning but purely for the Sake of making Uſe of what he judged to be (no Doubt) a mighty pretty Metaphor.

But,

But, I ſuppoſe, our Author thinks he has done notable Service to his Patrons, by advancing Maxims which have no Foundation in Truth, and illuſtrating them by a thread-bare Example which is nothing at all to the Purpoſe, that of *Fabius Maximus*, who baffled *Hannibal* by avoiding to come to a Battle.

If we were to compare the Circumſtances of *Rome* and *Carthage*, in thoſe Days, with thoſe of two Powers at this Time, and examine the Similitude betwixt the Character of *Fabius*, and that of a certain *Perſon* now living, we ſhould find them agree as exactly as any other direct Contradictions in Nature, and no otherwiſe.

Before *Fabius* was created *Dictator*, the *Romans* had received two great Overthrows: They had been defeated at *Trebia* and at *Traſimene*; all their old Soldiers cut off, and alſo moſt of their Generals.——*Hannibal* had ravaged half *Italy*, and filled *Rome* herſelf with Aſtoniſhment and Terror.——*Fabius*, with a raw, new-raiſed Army, unuſed to Action, was to oppoſe the moſt experienced General then in the World, and as able a one, perhaps, as ever had been in the World, at the Head of a gallant Army of *Veterans*, dipp'd in the Blood of their Enemies, and fluſhed with repeated Victories. But *Fabius*, under theſe Difficulties, did not admoniſh his Countrymen to beg and ſue to *Hannibal* for Peace, and to take any Inſults, put up any Injuries rather than continue the War. No, the firſt Action of his *Dictature* was to order Publick Prayers to be made to the Gods, to advert the People, that theſe Overthrows did not befal them thro' Want of Courage in their Soldiers, but thro' the Neglect of Divine Ceremonies in their Generals. He therefore exhorted them, to appeaſe the Gods, but not to fear the Enemy; and this Courſe he took (ſays *Plutarch*) not to fill their Minds with Superſtition, but to raiſe their Courage; for he was himſelf of a Spirit not to be daunted by any Difficulty, or Danger.

When he came to act at the Head of his Army, like a prudent and judicious Leader, he weighed his own Situation and Circumstances with those of the Enemy; he considered, that *Hannibal* was far from his own Country, where there was a powerful Faction struggling against him; he was not Master of one Sea-port Town in *Italy*; so that, if *Carthage* was disposed to support him, and send him Recruits, he could not receive them; his Army was continually wasting by Hunger and Diseases; he had no Magazines to subsist them, nor Money to pay them, no Cities to befriend them, and no Walls to protect them; he saw nothing he could call his own; he was forced to live from Hand to Mouth, and procure daily Bread for a great Army by Plunder; from all which *Fabius* wisely judged, that, if *Hannibal* did not come to a Battle very soon, he must be undone.

Contrariwise, the *Romans* had their Friends and Allies about them, ready to supply them with Horses and Provisions; they had Magazines of all Sorts, and a free and open Communication with *Rome*, from whence they could receive Recruits: So that *Fabius* was gathering Strength, while *Hannibal* was declining. ——Besides this, it was of no small Consequence to accustom a raw, unexperienced Army to the Sight of an Enemy, and to inure them to Action by skirmishing before he ran the Hazard of a Battle.

"But then, (says our M——l Author) there were "Prejudices rais'd against *Fabius* for not pushing the "War with that Precipitation which People, possessed "with high Notions of their own Power, thought ne-"cessary".—It is true, there was a hot-headed Master of the Horse, and perhaps some others, who had more Courage than Experience in War, who were immediately for Fighting *Hannibal*; but even these very hot-headed People who, at first, branded the Caution of *Fabius* with the Name of Cowardise, soon changed their

their Note, and afterwards admired, nay almost adored, as more than Human, that Prudence, which could see so far, and foretel what would happen so contrary to their Judgment.

Let us allow *Fabius* to have acted as a prudent and a wise Man should do, and let us allow that those who condemn'd his Conduct to be rash, inconsiderate, silly People; what Parallel can it bear to the Circumstances of any two States now existing? Are the *Spaniards* in the same Condition with the *Carthaginians?* Have they gained so many Victories? Have they also a *Hannibal?* Where is this *Hannibal* of theirs that we have never heard of him?—Where is the mighty Army of *Veterans*, headed by a Hero, who has caused all this Dread and Terror of the Power of *Spain?*—Is it hid at *Knightsbridge*, with Prince *Prettyman*'s Army; or where else does it lye concealed?—Our M——l Advocates tell us, we are not acquainted with the secret Springs, the imperceptible Movements of Affairs. It is certain we are not acquainted with this terrible *Hannibal*, nor ever heard of his conquering Army. If this be the imperceptible Cause of all the Forbearance and Delay, we are ignorant indeed.

Fabius, by avoiding to come to Action, wasted the *Carthaginian* Strength: I am much afraid that of *Spain* must increase by the same Conduct.——The *Carthaginians* had neither Magazines nor Money; the *Spaniards* want neither.—Magazines they are sufficiently provided with; and as to Money, they have had Time to enrich themselves by the Spoils of plundered Merchants: So that, if Money be the Strength and Sinews of War, they may engage their Adversaries with their own Forces. *Fabius*, by acting upon the Defensive, almost ruin'd the *Carthaginians*; and some others, by not acting at all against the *Spaniards*, perhaps, have made them Great and Mighty.

Our Writers on that Side of the Question are observed to be extremely lucky at making Comparisons:

Thus

Thus have they found out a Likeneſs betwixt the Circumſtances of the *Carthaginians* in thoſe Times, and the *Spaniards* of to-Day; becauſe no two Things can be more unlike, and very wiſe Inferences they draw from it.—If ſuch Advantages were gain'd (think they) by forbearing to fight for three Months, how much wiſer muſt it be to forbear for fifteen Years?——By Vertue of the ſame happy Talent, they have found out a Reſemblance betwixt an Ancient and a Modern *Fabius*; tho' all the Similitude which any one elſe can make out in their Actions, is, that the Ancient *Fabius* ſold his own Eſtate to pay the Ranſom of ſome Soldiers who were taken Priſoners; and the Modern *Fabius* ſtole the Soldiers Corn and Fodder.

SATURDAY, *Sept.* 16, 1738.

IT is no ſmall Pleaſure to all thoſe who have any Concern for the Publick, to hear, that the Court of *Spain* is at laſt brought into a Temper to do Juſtice, and that the *Spaniards* are going to make immediate Satisfaction (without Force of Arms) for the Injuries they have been long committing upon the Subjects of this Nation.

Thoſe the moſt ſanguine for War wiſh'd for no more than to ſee honourable Satisfaction made to their Country (without Bloodſhed, if it could be ſo obtained) for the Loſſes it has ſuffered and the Inſults it has received; for Peace is the Aim of all Wars, except ſuch as are undertaken from Motives of Ambition, and a Spirit

a Spirit of Conquest; and this is a Spirit which, to our great Comfort, the very Enemies of our excellent Ministers have never charged them with.

If all the Parties concerned are sincere, the Affair must be brought to a speedy Conclusion.—Where the Succession to a Kingdom, or a Province is in Dispute, the Rights and Pretensions of the several Claimants must be considered and discussed, which must take up Time: But, in this Affair betwixt *us* and the *Spaniards*, there is no Occasion for either Mediators or Umpires; and the Nature of the Dispute will not admit of Delays.

If it should be referred to a Congress, and if it must have the Form of a publick Treaty, the World will begin to suspect, that either the one Side or the other means no more than to amuse. It is known by Experience, that publick and solemn Congresses are very often designed for nothing but Parade and Shew:—The Congress of *Cambray* (to the best of my Memory) lasted four or five Years, and broke up at last without settling any one Point; the Congress of *Soissons*, tho' it did not last so long, had the same Success: Whereas the *Emperor* and *France*, when they were lately at War, settled and concluded Pretensions of a most intricate Nature in less Time than must be allowed to the Plenipotentiaries to meet at a Congress after they are named; and the Reason was, both Parties were in Earnest.

Spain may be well content to let Things remain in their present Situation;—to them, it is but putting off the Payment of a long Debt which they may think bears no Interest.—They may find their Account in Delays for other Reasons;—they may be contriving Projects against some other of their Neighbours;—they may want Time to form proper Alliances, and to make a Friend of that great Power which is best able to thwart and disturb them: The Ambition of *Spain*, I say, may have an Eye upon *Tuscany*; and it

may

may be of great Importance to them to be a little while diſengaged.——If we ſhould give them Leiſure to do all this, before any Thing betwixt us be ſettled, we may ſee the Scene ſtrangely alter'd;——they may turn ſhort upon us, and reſume their old Language; and when our Miniſter at *Madrid* demands Satisfaction in the Name of our K———, this ſhort Anſwer may be return'd him again; *Qu'il ſe tranquiliſe, ou qu'il declare la Guerre.*——We cannot be amuſed longer, unleſs our Miniſters have a Mind to be amuſed; nor can there be any *Fineſſe* on our Side in drawing this Affair into a Length; we can *dupe* nobody by it but ourſelves.

The ſlow Methods of obtaining Satisfaction by Memorial and Treaty, have been tried long enough in vain.——It is now nine Years ſince Commiſſaries were firſt named, for examining and deciding the ſeveral Pretenſions of thoſe who had ſuffered by the Depredations of the *Spaniards:* Reſtitution was to be made in ſix Months after the Commiſſaries ſhould make their Report, and they were obliged to make their Report within three Years after ſigning the ſaid Treaty.

It is certain the Merchants were extremely diſappointed when they found they were to be three Years longer out of their Money; for they flattered themſelves, that, by the Nature of the Affair, they might receive Reſtitution in ſix Months:——Some other Gentlemen were as much ſurpriſed as they, and one in particular declared, in the Houſe of Commons, that he thought it would be much better to divide the Money which that Commiſſion would coſt the Nation among the Sufferers, than go that Way to work:——Whether he ſuſpected that it never was deſign'd to come to *any thing*, or what his Thoughts were, I know not; but it ſeems he had the Fate of *Caſſandra* to prophesy true, and yet not to be believed; for the Commiſſaries did not ſo much as meet till the three Years were expired.——Upon this, the Time for deciding

deciding of Claims was prolonged for three Years more; ſo here were ſix Years certain gained to *Spain*.

If it be aſk'd, what the Commiſſaries did in the ſecond three Years? I am told they met two or three Times in a Month; took a Deal of Care of themſelves, and came Home again; but what they did for the Merchants never came to my Knowledge.

I have heard many of the Merchants wiſh, that the Gentleman's Propoſal in the Houſe of Commons had taken Place; for the Commiſſion, in this Number of Years, amounts to a conſiderable Sum of Money; and it is to be hoped, that the Gentlemen to whom it was given (ſince they have done nothing for it) will return what they received for it for the Uſe of the Merchants, or for the Uſe of the Publick; for I cannot ſee that they can with any Modeſty keep it: Nay it is eſſential, for their own Reputations as well as that of the Miniſter, that they ſhould do ſo, for the World is cenſorious, and may perhaps ſay, that, even in Points wherein the Nation is moſt diſtreſs'd, Occaſions are laid hold of to *eſcroc* more and more from the Publick to fill the Pockets of thoſe who will ſubmit to do the dirty Work of a Miniſter in a certain Place, where it muſt be fatal to the Liberties of *England*, that any Man ſhould be influenced.

By the Treaty of 1721, made at *Madrid*, it was ſtipulated, That all Ships, Merchandiſes, Goods, Effects, *&c.* taken or ſeized, either in *Spain* or in the *Indies*, ſhould ſpeedily be reſtored. This Treaty was confirmed by another Treaty, call'd the *Treaty* of *Alliance* betwixt *France*, *Spain*, and *England*.——So fortified with Treaties, one would think we were invincible; yet eight Years paſſed without a Cockboat being return'd. Then comes the Treaty of *Seville*, which we hinted at before. This Treaty, we were told, would make Amends for all the reſt; but, from three Years, the ſettling of Claims was put off to ſix, which are now come to nine; which nine, added to the eight

Years

Years from the Treaty of *Madrid*, makes in all seventeen Years that we have been negociating for Restitution, and the *Spaniards* have been taking our Ships all that while.

The Use I make of this Account, is to shew, that if the Satisfaction which the Nation now expects is again to undergo the tedious Form of a Treaty, it will be impossible to persuade the People, that our M—— are not *playing Booty*; I say, that they are not playing the Game into the Enemies Hands: It will certainly be believed, that something hangs over them which obliges them to humour *Spain* at any Rate, rather than come to such *Eclaircisement* as may bring to Light some Secrets which may inflame the Nation against them.—I am sorry to say it, but the very Word *Treaty* is almost become ridiculous; there is a Negociator who has made such a foolish Bustle in the World, that he has been compared to a Monkey in a Glass-Shop, who never stands still, and never moves but he does some Mischief.

If *Spain* has no Demands upon us but what appear, we shall soon get out of this uneasy and ruinous Situation, so destructive to our Commerce; and I cannot think, that our Ministers have concealed the true Cause of our Misunderstanding with *Spain* from the Publick, and from the Representatives of the People: ——It would be a Crime of the highest Nature to keep them in the Dark;—the Parliament is the great Council of the Nation;——they are to advise the King in all Exigencies of the State. If the Spring from whence our Troubles flow be hid from them, their Resolutions may be directed to the wrong Point; they may disoblige the Natural Friends of the Nation Abroad, when they should punish its Unnatural Enemies at Home:——Besides, if a Foreign Power finds the Ministers under such a Dilemma that they dare not own the Engagements they have entered into, they must be very poor Politicians if they make not their

own

own Advantage of it; and Miniſters in ſuch Circumſtances are alike unfit to make either Peace or War.

I take it, that the *Spaniards* are too well acquainted with the Abilities of the great Man who directs our Affairs to attempt to impoſe upon us; and I am far from thinking, that he will connive at our being impoſed upon: Doubtleſs the Articles will be drawn up with ſo much Clearneſs and Perſpicuity, that no *Double Entendre* will creep in which may be wreſted to our Diſadvantage, in caſe of any future Miſunderſtanding.

The Merchant will trade with Spirit when he knows that the *Spaniards* have renounced all Right to take, ſtop, examine, or viſit our Ships trading to and from our Iſlands and Plantations.

The Colony of *Georgia* has already coſt the Nation a great Sum of Money: People will be encouraged to ſettle there, when they know they are ſafe, and that the *Spaniards* have given up all Claim to it.

The Bay of *Campechy* may be call'd the Property of *England*:——We were the firſt Poſſeſſors of it, and, by a Treaty ſigned at *Madrid*, *July* 18, 1670, by Sir *William Godolphin*, on the Part of *England*, and the Count *de Pegnaranda*, on the Part of *Spain*, the *Spaniards* gave up all Right to it.—How the *Spaniards* came to get Poſſeſſion of it ſince, I cannot tell; but I am ſure we have not given it up to them by any Treaty.——I make no Doubt but the *Spaniards* will now be obliged to quit it; or, at leaſt, that we ſhall have the Liberty of cutting Logwood there.

Nor ſhall we be moleſted in loading Salt at the Iſland of *Tortuga*.

We ſhall no more be uneaſy about *Gibraltar*, which, no Doubt, will be confirmed to us by this Agreement.

If it be urged, That it will be unneceſſary to mention Things which all the World knows we have undoubted Right to, I think not; becauſe our Rights have been diſputed; and it is to be hoped, nothing will be

be left unſettled which may prove a Bone of Contention hereafter.

The Expence of ten thouſand Seamen extraordinary for this Year will amount to a great Sum; but that we need give ourſelves no Pain about: For I take it for granted, the *Spaniards* will be obliged to pay it.—We have the ſame Right to have our Bill of Coſts allowed us, as a Man has who is compelled to go to Law for a juſt Debt;—it is as much Equity in one Caſe as in the other, and has been the Practiſe ever ſince there have been Wars betwixt different Nations.——If after all the Trouble and Vexation which we have received from *Spain*, we ſhould give up Points of Right, it will be looked upon as a diſhonourable Compoſition, and will occaſion new Diſcontent at Home, and draw Contempt upon us from Abroad.

Upon the whole, I hope we may depend upon it, that this is no little, miniſterial Trick to gain Time; it is no pitiful Expedient to put off the Evil Day, and make the Miniſtry eaſy for a Time; but a judicious Agreement grounded on a ſolid and laſting Foundation, which will once more unite the two Nations, and throw them into their natural Intereſts.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Sept.* 23, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

WORDS being only arbitrary Signs by which we convey our Ideas to another, in order to render ourſelves intelligible, we ſhould uſe them in the ſame Signification with thoſe with whom we converſe: For Converſation can no more be carried on between ſuch as have annexed different Ideas to the ſame Sound, than it can between thoſe who make Uſe of Sounds to which they have annexed no Ideas at all; the only Difference is, that, in the latter Caſe, the one can form no Judgment of what the other has been ſaying, and, in the firſt Caſe, he will form a wrong one.

There is no Occaſion to cite Mr. *Locke*, to prove the Juſtneſs of this Obſervation; the conſtant Practice of every Controverſial Writer, who has a Deſire to be underſtood, juſtifies me in making it: And that I may not be ungrateful to the ingenious Authors of the *Gazetteer*, their making Uſe of ſuch Words as LIBERTY, GOVERNMENT, *&c.* in a vague and indeterminate Signification, is an additional Proof of my Aſſertion.—But, tho' the Method of defining Terms is of the greateſt Utility in Controverſy, yet the Pedantry of it will obſtruct its obtaining in polite Converſations; and perhaps, in the Generality of Company, the Fault does

does not ſo much conſiſt in making Uſe of Words, in different Significations, as in uſing Words to which neither the Speaker nor the Hearer has annexed any determinate Idea at all.——That this is frequently the Caſe, will appear by reflecting in what Manner we introduce the Words, WIT, WISDOM, CUNNING, PARTS, JUDGMENT, *&c.*—How often we confound them in their Significations, and uſe them indiſcriminately for each other.

As I do not know any Words in our Language ſo generally made Uſe of, and ſo little underſtood, I will endeavour to give your Readers a Definition of them; which being exhibited to the Publick under the Patronage of COMMON SENSE will, I hope, render their real Meanings leſs precarious for the future.

To begin then with *Wiſdom*, which is *the making Uſe of proper Means to obtain a proper End*, as *Judgment* is *the comparing the various Means together, and chuſing the proper one:* For Mr. *Locke*'s Definition, which is *the carefully ſeparating Ideas wherein can be found the leaſt Difference, thereby to avoid being miſs-led by the Similitude*, more properly belongs to *Speculative Judgment*, but the Term *Judgment*, as uſed when confounded with *Wiſdom*, which may be called *Practical Judgment*, ſeems rather to be included in the other Definition. Thus we ſee that *Wiſdom* is *Judgment*, and ſomething more; for *Judgment* is likewiſe comprehended in *Cunning*, which is *the making Uſe of proper Means to obtain an improper End.*

As if, at any Time, a Miniſter ſhould make Uſe of proper Means to ruin his Country, for his own private Advantage (which is certainly an improper End) *he may be ſaid to be a* Cunning Man, *but can be by no Means be allowed to be a* Wiſe One.——But, to the Honour of the preſent Age, it muſt be acknowledged, that, upon the Principles here laid down, Cardinal *Fleury* is a Wiſe Man.——I ſhall forbear mentioning any One nearer Home, leſt my ſo doing might be deemed Flattery:

tery:—*But History will, most certainly, transmit to Posterity every one in his own proper Colours.*

What we generally call *Parts*, I take to be *a quick Conception of Ideas, with a Perception of their Differences*; and *Wit*, in the Words of a very eminent Writer, is *a quick Conception and a happy Delivery*: So that *Wit* and *Parts* ought no more to be confounded, than *Wisdom* and *Judgment*: This being *a Power* to *assemble Ideas* and *a Capacity* to *distinguish* them; That *a lively Representation* of *Ideas variously assembled*.—It may, perhaps, be objected, That these Definitions are not entirely adequate: I will say nothing in their Defence, but that I believe they will answer every Purpose of common Conversation; and that is all I propose by them.

I was long at a Loss how to account for these Words, being more indiscriminately made Use of than any others in our Language. I formerly imagined this was owing to the few Persons who were, in any tolerable Degree, possess'd of the Qualities which they are made Use of to express: But I am now willing to believe that Solution has more Ill-nature in it than Truth, and am of Opinion I can assign for it another Cause which is more probable.

It is the Nature of Mankind that, whatever Quality we are in Possession of, we are willing to persuade ourselves and others, that it virtually contains every other necessary Quality whatsoever; as is said of the Pine-Apple, that it contains the Taste of what is delicious in every Fruit. The Case is the very same in Regard to any Science we profess:—We endeavour to prove it has every Perfection, in order to magnify ourselves who are Professors of it. Thus Poetical Criticks pretend all Kind of Learning may be met with in *Homer*; and Sir *Edward Coke*, out of his Regard for the Law, makes *Reporters* of MOSES and the APOSTLES, and stiles CHRIST, Lord *Chief-Justice* of the whole *World*, as the most honourable Title he could bestow upon

upon him; in like Manner as the *French*, in one of their Carols, call him *Le* DAUPHIN *du* CIEL:—And, doubtless, was a *Hottentot* to paint his God, he would make him a deformed *Negro*; as a zealous *Carpenter* would speak of his as the *Architect* of the *Universe*.

This being the Case, the Men of *Wit* and *Parts* (for *they* commonly go together) have at all Times arrogated to themselves *Judgment* and *Wisdom*, and claimed them as an Appendage to the *others*; and as they have always had a great Influence over Mankind, the Majority have quietly submitted to his Usurpation: Hence these Qualities have been looked upon as the same, and the Terms made Use of as synonimous.

That this is not without Foundation, will appear from *Matt. Prior*'s Definition in his *Solomon*, where he says;

Avails it then, O Mortals, to be Wise,
To see this cruel Scene with quicker Eyes,
To know with more Distinction to complain,
And, have superior Sense in feeling Pain?

which is by no Means a Description of *Wisdom*, tho' it is a most beautiful one of *Wit* and *Parts*.

I am very ready to submit to the just Dominion of *Wit*, but cannot patiently suffer *it* to *excise* our Understandings and make every other Quality its Tributary. —*Wisdom*, tho' a less glaring Perfection, is certainly a more useful one:—*Wit* is a *poison'd Arrow*, which often proves fatal to him who makes Use of it,—*Wisdom* a *Coat* of *Mail*, which must necessarily defend whomsoever wears it.—The *one* may be compared to a *Squib*, whose Crackling entertains the Populace, yet frequently burns the Hand which holds it:—The *other* is like a *Lantern*, which makes little Shew, yet is of greater Utility in directing us in our Way.

But not to rob *Wit* of its due Merit, it must be confess'd to be of Service in recommending us to the Fair Sex,

Sex, who prefer Converſation, as they do Men, for being in a *gaudy Dreſs*; and if the Owners of it would eſteem it, like a Laced Coat, only as a Recommendation of them to Company, there would be no Reaſon to complain; but the Misfortune is, they are both of them too often regarded as real Perfections: Therefore, as a Sample with what Caution *Wit* ought to be managed, I will conclude this *Letter* with a brief Relation of a certain Accident which happened to me above twenty Years ago.

When firſt I came Abroad into the World, a natural Sprightlineſs in Converſation made me paſs among my Acquaintance for a WIT. I quickly perceived the Superiority which, by this Means, I gain'd over them, and was not a little delighted with it: I turned my whole Study to the Maintenance of this Character: My Profeſſion, which was the Law, was neglected as deſtructive of this Quality, and Books of Poetry and Invention were ſubſtituted in its Place.——I had proceeded in this Method for a Year or more, when a Gentleman of Faſhion, willing to countenance a young Fellow, invited me to dine with ſome of the *Men* of *Wit* of that Time.—I was extremely delighted with this Good-Fortune, and was reſolved to diſtinguiſh myſelf upon the Occaſion.——I addreſſed my whole Diſcourſe to the *Top-Wit* of the Company, and flatter'd myſelf, I appeared to great Perfection; when, unluckily, the Gentleman I had been courting, who was confeſſedly the greateſt Genius of the Age, ſaid to the Perſon who ſat next him, "That he could no "more bear to be always talking *Wit*, than he could "to live upon Sweet-Meats:" This was certainly not intended for my Hearing, but being ſpoke out of the Fulneſs of his Heart, was ſaid to a Gentleman who was ſo much my Friend as to acquaint me with it next Day:—At firſt, I confeſs, it gave me ſome Uneaſineſs; but upon conſidering, that *there was no* Wit *in wanting* Common Senſe,——I determined, for the future, to

to endeavour rather to be *Sensible* than *Witty*; comforted with this Reflection, That *if* SENSE *was not* WIT, *it was* SOMETHING *much better*. *A. Z.*

The following being a Piece *of* Antiquity, *will appear best in its own Dress: And, tho' some of the Words may seem a little obsolete, we shall not take upon us to alter either the Stile or the Orthography.*

MAKING a Visit, the other Day, to a particular Friend, who was ill of an Ague, to divert and pass away Time, he produced a Parcel of old *Manuscripts*. Among these was a *Dialogue* between a *Gentleman*, a *Lawyer* and a *Scholar*, written in a very bad Hand. This contains the private or secret *History* of ROBERT DUDLEY, made Earl of *Leicester* by Queen ELIZABETH; who must have been, if what is here said be true, one of the vilest and most abandoned Men ever help'd to govern *this*, or any *other* Nation. As Lovers of our Country, tho' we are all safe at present, yet we cannot help wishing that such another ROBERT may never more in *England* be at the Head of the Ministry. We can neither of us tell whether this *Piece* was ever printed; but if it was, we apprehend it is now only to be found in the Hands of the Curious. For this Reason, I have sent you the *Title-Page*, a *Copy* of *Verses* set before the Work, which are more to be valued for their Truth, than Metre, with a queint *Epitaph* of the said Earl out of another of these *Manuscripts*; and if I thought it would be agreeable, perhaps hereafter I may send you a few Abstracts of the whole Book, which contains a Narrative of the basest and most horrid Actions any *Machiavelian* Statesman could possibly be guilty of, and may consequently serve to warn succeeding Ages against the Choice of, and Submission to, such wicked, and rapacious Ministers.

Yours, ARISTOBULUS.

The

The TITLE.

Anno Dom. 1584.

The *Copy* of a *Letter*, written by a *Master* of *Arts* of *Cambridge*, to his *Friend* in *London*; containing some Talk pass'd of late between two worshipful, and grave Men, about the present State; and some Proceedings of the Earl of *Leicester*, and his Friends in *England*.

Conteined, spoken, and published, with most earnest Protestation of all dutiful Good-Will, and Affection towards her most excellent Majesty and the Realm, for whose Good only it is made common to many.

The Heavens shall reveal the wicked Man's Iniquity, and the Earth shall stand up against him. JOB 20. 27.

Non est bonum ludere cum Sanctis.

Read then, but not to speak again;
  Speak, but not what thou readest here:
News for to hear all Men are fayne,
  But wysly few that News can bear.
    No Table-Talk is herein taught:
    In there owne Words are many caught.
The Ragged * Staffe, that Stay was to the State
  (As some Men thought) is bent another Way;
As here ys taught, so fickle is the Fate,
  Of those who oft do bear the greatest Sway,
    Let all take Heed how they aspire too high;
    For when they fall, of all the lowest lie.
The Stately *Bear*, that at the Stake would stand,
  Against all Mastiffs stout that wold come forth,
Is musseled here, and ringed with one Hand,
  Yea vile reputed, and of little Worth.

* *He was of the Family of the Earls of* Warwick, *and his Arms the* Bear *and* Ragged-Staffe.

Great ROBIN, whom before all could not take,
Is here by Sheppard's Curres made for to quake.
Thus may we learn there is no *Staffe* so stronge,
But may be broken into Shivers small:
No *Bear* so fierce, the cruel Beasts amonge,
But Age, or cunning Gins, may work his Fall.
Let no Man trust in Earth to find a Place,
Which may preserve him from a foul Disgrace.
Truths, or Untruths, whatsoever they be,
Which here you reade, yet not in vayne,
Read over theis, and you shall see
That this does prove the greatest Gayne,
To be content and not desire:
For all do fall who do aspire.
Vir Sapit, qui pauca loquitur.

The EPITAPH.

Here lieth the worthy *Warriour*, who never bloodied Sword;
Here lyeth the noble *Counsellor*, who never held his Word;
Here lyeth his *Excellencie*, who ruled all the State;
Here lyeth the Earl, of *Lecester*, whom all the World did hate.

Sepultus apud Warwick 10 Octobris 1588.
Obiit apud Wichwood *Com*. Oxon. 4. Septembris.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Sept.* 30, 1738.

A LETTER *from* COMMON HONESTY *to* COMMON SENSE.

LOVING KINSMAN,

THE ſevere Treatment I have conſtantly met with, the univerſal Scorn and Contempt ſo manifeſtly ſhown me by all Ranks and Degrees of Men, has ſo ſenſibly affected my Conſtitution, that I thought of nothing leſs than making a total *Exit* from this ungrateful World. But the kind Reception which you (who are well known to be a Collateral Branch of our Family) have lately met with has ſomewhat raiſed my drooping Spirits, and incouraged me to ſhow my Head once more ; tho' I am ſo worn to a Skeleton, that the few of my Friends and Acquaintance who are yet living, I believe, will hardly know me again.

When I ſpeak of my own Sufferings, you may, perhaps, be moved with ſome Compaſſion, when you reflect on the Difficulties you have met with, and the Severities you have undergone, tho' no Way comparable to what has become almoſt habitual to me.

You have indeed, for ſome Years, been under a Sort of Proſcription from Courts and Miniſterial Employments : But, at the ſame Time, you have injoy'd a quiet and comfortable Retreat with the few Patriots

who have renounced all Preferments to adhere to you, and have not forſaken your Cauſe in the worſt of Times; while I have not been only rendered incapable of any Office or Public Truſt, but ſuch has been the Malice of my Enemies, that I am even deny'd the Happineſs of private Society, like a Criminal branded with Infamy; it is become ſcandalous, according to the preſent Mode, to be ſeen in my Company, or to entertain the leaſt Correſpondence with me; tho', God knows, I have always led a blameleſs, inoffenſive Life, and am ſo univerſally hated and deſpiſed only becauſe I can't help People to ſupport the reigning Luxury and Extravagance and grow rich all on a ſudden, without either Merit or laudable Indeavours.

You know the Misfortunes which befel our Family at a certain Period of Time; and the deplorable Condition I was left in, without any Countenance or Support, at an Age when it could hardly be expected I ſhould ſhift for myſelf. However I thought it neceſſary to indeavour getting into ſome Buſineſs for my immediate Subſiſtance, and apply'd myſelf to a very eminent Tradeſman in the City, requeſting to be taken into his Service: But, to my great Grief, this firſt Attempt proved unſucceſsful. He told me, "I could not be of any Uſe "to him in the Retail-Way; that there was no "Inſtance of ſuch a One as myſelf ever being "behind a Counter; and, in ſhort, that he would "not adviſe me to think of being any Ways con-"cerned in Trade, for that I ſhould not find "any Dealer fond of employing me, eſpecially as "I was a Foreigner, and not free of the City". However, in Compaſſion to my Wants, the Tradeſman had Good-Nature enough to give me a Letter of Recommendation to a noted Attorney of his Acquaintance, who (as he aſſured me) very much

much wanted my Assistance, and must therefore be glad to entertain me on honourable Terms.

This seeming Friendship gave me some Hopes; and I immediately went with my Credentials as directed, being determined to apply myself wholly to the Learned Profession. — I was soon introduced: But, to my inexpressible Concern, met with a Cold Reception. —— He sat lolling in a great Elbow-Chair, and answered me with a Yawning, "What is your Name, Sir? *Common Honesty*, Sir, "I replyed. —— *Com——mon Hon——esty!* cries "he, (yawning again) I have read the Letter "you brought, but am sure *Common Sense* never "sent you hither: — I cannot, by any Means, re-"ceive you into my House; — you can be of no "Manner of Use to me in my Branch of Busi-"ness: — All the imaginary Services you may do "will never bear the Expence of your Maintenance; "for I cannot employ you in one Cause in twen-"ty; if I should, I might be in Danger of los-"ing many Clients, who would naturally suspect "your betraying their Secrets; and if they were "once to know I have any Dealings with you, "it would blast my Character. —— Besides (adds "he) young Man, was I minded to bear with "all these Inconveniencies at the Request of my "Friend who recommended you to me, you would "never find the Practise of the Law turn to any "Account for yourself, you are so odious among "those of our Profession, that it is a great Question "with me, whether you would ever be admitted "as an Attorney; — but if you should, how will "you live? —— Who the Devil do you think will "employ you? Most People will be afraid of "trusting their Business in your Hands. — There-"fore I would advise you to turn your Thoughts "to some other Profession; —— and, if you can "do nothing better, get yourself Or——d: You

 "surely

" ſurely can't be obnoxious to the C——y; they " will at leaſt give you ſuch outward Counte- " nance that you will never want a Reaſonable Sup- " port and Maintenance.

Finding this ſolid Reaſoning would bear no Contradiction, and being thoroughly convinced I had miſtaken myſelf greatly in this ſecond Attempt, I maturely conſidered the wholeſome Advice given me, and began to form ſome Method of putting it in Execution; and in Effect ſoon thought of a Perſon I imagined very proper for my Purpoſe: — And who ſhould this be but a certain R— R——, who, when young, had great Obligations to our Family in recommending him to his firſt Preferment in the C———, the Remembrance of which, I hoped, would eſtabliſh me in his Favour.

I attended him, one Morning early, and waited an Hour before I could be admitted to Audience; when, my Patience being almoſt worn out, on a ſudden the Word was given for the Stranger to *come in to my Lord.* I immediately went in and pay'd my Reſpects to him in a moſt ſubmiſſive Manner. " How do you do, young Man? ſays " the P———; I have not ſeen you a great " While:— I thought you was dead, or gone A- " broad. — And pray, what has brought you hi- " ther now? I gave him the beſt Account I could of my paſs'd Misfortunes, and preſent unhappy Caſe; and while I was employing all my Rhetoric to move his Pity and Compaſſion, his Lordſhip was reading; which Inattention to my Requeſt gave me little Hopes of Succeſs. At laſt, he ſuddenly lays down his Book, and turned up his Head towards the Ceiling (for I remarked he could not look me in the Face, and therefore I inferred he was aſhamed to ſee me) and then ſpake thus. " You " talk of the Obligations I have had to your Fami- " ly; I know of none: Some little Civilities indeed

" paſs'd

" paſs'd between Me and them at College, when " your Father officiouſly thruſt himſelf upon me " as a Tutor, and to direct me at my firſt Set- " ting-out in the World: But if I had truſted to " his Judgment, Underſtanding or Credit, I might " have remained at College ſtill". And then he declared, he knew of no Obligations he had to any one belonging to me, ſo that he could not, in any Sort, intermeddle in my Affairs, which he apprehended was incompatible for One in his Station, and might be a Hindrance to his farther Advancement; and wiſhed me to provide for myſelf in the beſt Manner I could; for (ſay he) *you may be aſſured of it, you will have no Aſſiſtance from me.*

From the Example of this R———t R———d, and the Diſcourſe I had with others of what paſs'd at this Interview, I found that, for the Want of Intereſt at Court, which I knew myſelf to be wholly unprovided of, I judg'd there was little Hopes of Perferment in this Road, even if I ſhould get O———d; the Utmoſt to be expected was ſome poor *Welſh* L————g, or a Starving C——y in Town: Theſe Reflections, and the Experience I had, ſoon weaned me of all Thoughts of dedicating myſelf to the Service of the C———.

Having now try'd three different Methods for my Advancement, which I found impracticable, I knew not well what Project next to fall on; in this State of Incertainty my Wants daily increaſed, which brought me almoſt to Deſpair. However I walked out, one Morning, and by Accident met with a Recruiting Serjeant. I bethought myſelf the Army refuſed nothing, and therefore, ſince I could do no better, was determined to liſt for a Soldier, — I called the Serjeant aſide, and offered myſelf to his Diſpoſal, telling him at the ſame Time, as is uſual in like Caſes, my Name and Place of Birth. The Serjeant, inſtead of greedily

embracing the Offer, ſtood ſome Time in Suſpence, ſcratching his Forehead, and at laſt ſay'd; " I am " afraid, my Lad, you will never learn the Mili- " tary Diſcipline, or make any Figure in the Field; " and, ſhould you liſt in our Regiment, you will " be very troubleſome, both on a March, and in " Quarters; for no Camarade will care to meſs with " you. —— However, as our Captain is in great " Want of Men, I will venture to introduce you.

We went away directly to the Captain's Quarters, where the Serjeant having told our Buſineſs, and I having anſwered the ſame Queſtions as before, our noble Captain ſhook his Head, and ſay'd, " I might, prehaps, be fit for Sea-Service; but " that I was not of a proper Size for his Com- " pany ", and then demanded of the Serjeant, where he pick'd me up, and how he came acquainted with me? The Serjeant reply'd, with great Truth, He never ſaw or heard of me before in his Life, and accidentally met me a little While ago. " Send " him packing then, cries the Captain; this Fel- " low would make a Mutiny in the Regiment; " beſides I know all his Family are diſaffected " to the preſent E———t in C——— and S——, " and therefore I would not take him on any " Conſideration.

My Evil Genius ſtill purſuing me, I had Recourſe to another Expedient. — I remember'd my Father, in his Life Time, had a Place in the T———, which he injoy'd till the Death of his Patron, a Great Man who preſided at that Board, by which Means I had ſome little Inſight into the Buſineſs of that Office, and therefore I had no more Wit than to fancy I might be uſeful to his Succeſſor. I made indeed but a plain Appearance as to Dreſs; however I reſolved to equip myſelf in the beſt Manner I could, go one Morning to his Levee, and try my Fortune once more.

On

On my Arrival at his Door, whether I was despised for not being a Beau, or for not coming in a Coach, or whether I was taken for a S— L— just come to Town with my own Wants and my Ancestors Merits, I cannot say; but, to my great Surprise, *Abraham Brass*, the Porter, told me, *his Master was not at Home*. This I knew to be false, and therefore would have gone in notwithstanding, but *Abraham* shut the Door in my Face.

I could not imagine the Cause of this Treatment, being sure the Fellow did not know me; however, having Time to recollect myself a little, till Opportunity offer'd by opening the Door for somebody's going out, I accosted *Abraham* very courteously. "Sir (says I) you have insulted me "without any Provocation, I must desire the Fa-"vour to be admitted". And told him my Name and the Business I had with his Master, who I knew often valued himself on his Intimancy with my Family: But alas! I only made *Bad Worse*.— He fell furiously upon me in the most opprobrious Language imaginable; called me all the Rascals and Scoundrels he could think on; swore, "I should "never enter the Doors while he was Porter, and "that I was one of those concerned in mobbing "his Master about the *Excise-Bill*, and that I on-"ly came there for some wicked Design on his "Person, or to rob the House; and that, if I did "not instantly depart and be gone, he would "charge a Constable with me, and swear the Peace "against me.

On this Outrage, I thought it proper to retire some Distance from the Door, where I took the Opportunity, as several well-dress'd Gentlemen were going in, to tell them my Case, with the Insult and Abuse I had met with from *Abraham*; begging of them to acquaint his Honour with the Behaviour of his Servant: But not a Word could I

get out of one of them. Some ſhook their Heads and others ſtarted from me as if I was infected. At laſt a grave, elderly Gentleman, with a Bundle of Papers in his Hands, going into the Great Man's, ſtop'd a little to hear my Complaints, and was ſo kind as to open his Mouth. " I have " (ſays he) Sir, ſome ſmall Knowledge of your " Family, with whom I was acquainted before I " came into a Public Employment: But what " Buſineſs have you here? Complaining of *Abraham* " *Braſs*'s Behaviour will be to no Purpoſe: He " knows his Maſter's Mind to whom he ought " to be Civil, and whom he may be rude to; and, " depend upon it, you are ſo univerſally hated by " the whole Family, whoſe Intereſt it is that you " ſhould never come within theſe Doors, that you " are not ſafe in ſtaying longer ſo near them, leſt " a worſe Evil befal you: Nay, I don't know if " it was ſuſpected I now ſpeak to you in ſo friend- " ly a Manner, but it might be as much as my " Place is worth: Therefore I adviſe you to make " off as ſoon as poſſible.

By this Time, Kinſman, you may ſuppoſe I was in a very melancholy Condition, when I happen'd to meet with a Country Gentleman who, without any Heſitation, on the firſt Repreſentation of my Circumſtances, took me into his Service, and entertained me at his Country Seat with great Kindneſs and Humanity. He intruſted me with the Management of all his Affairs and adviſed with me on the moſt Important Tranſactions of his Life. In this Situation I looked back on the Miſery of my former Condition with Joy and Satisfaction changed for the preſent, and being arrived at the Bounds of my Ambition, Peace and Content, deſpiſed all worldly Greatneſs with the Spirit of a Philoſopher.

But

But as nothing in this World is permanent, the Devil put it into my Lady's Head to live in Town; and that my Master might not oppose her Design from the Expenses attending the Removal, she persuaded him to offer himself as a Candidate for the insuing Election in a Neighbouring Borough, from the Success of which she imagined great Perferments would be had for the whole Family. The Scheme was resolved on, and I was presently dispached away to the Place of Election, as one my Master confided in to make timely Interest, he intending to follow me in a few Days. I set out on this Errand with no very good Will; foreboding my own Destruction in the Event, and when I came to my Journey's End, I met with as little Success; — the Electors, one and all, took a mortal Antipathy to me at first Sight, and, instead of making Friends, I made so many Enemies, who on my Master's Arrival insisted I should be forthwith discharged his Service, or he must not expect one Vote there. My Master's Passion to succeed in his Election tempted him to comply. Immediately I was dismissed with a private Intimation, That, "tho' I "was useless in an Election, yet, if I went to Town "and waited with Patience, I should be taken in "again for the Management of my Master's private "Affairs."—I knew no Remedy but Submission. I went off as privately as I could, and soon after my Master's Arrival in Town I waited on him in Hopes of what I expected being performed. But never was a Man so changed as my Master! He told me, to my great Grief and Surprise, "That he had no farther "Service for me of any Kind, being now ingaged "to take other Measures than when he lived retired "in the Country: That he was firmly resolved never "again to be under that Restraint by any Servant as "he had by me: That his Election cost him a Deal "of Money for a double Return, and, if he did not

"play

" play his Cards well, all would be loſt, and, being " under ſolemn Ingagement never to have any the " leaſt Correſpondence with me, he concluded with, " *forbidding me his Houſe.*

Having thus, loving Kinſman, try'd all reaſonable Methods of getting a Livelihood, and having at preſent no Means of Subſiſtance, my Application, which is the laſt I ſhall make, is to you; and finding you have ſet up a NEWS PAPER, my humble Requeſt is to be taken into your Service.

There has formerly been a ſtrict Union and Friendſhip betwixt the two Branches of our Family, COMMON SENSE and COMMON HONESTY, tho' I own Your's to be of ſuperior Rank and Dignity, having ſupply'd the World with many K. and Q. But, tho' we have not arrived to that Honour, you have found us uſeful in our Station; and it can be proved by many Inſtances in Hiſtory, that *Common Senſe* never flouriſhed or made any conſiderable Figure without the Aſſiſtance of *Common Honeſty*.

I know the Difficulties of my own Condition, and how hard it is unſupported to make my Way thro' the World: But as we have ſo often contributed to your Support, and none of your Anceſtors ever met with any material Checque or Misfortune while our Branch of the Family was countenanced by them, therefore as we fell, ſo I hope we ſhall riſe together.

I don't ſuſpect you will ever write for the M——, in which Caſe I know I ſhall be intirely uſeleſs to you; the only Favour I aſk is, ſome Employment under you in the mean Time, which will be gratefully acknowledged by

Your Affectionate Kinſman,

COMMON HONESTY.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Oct.* 7, 1738.

THE Spur-gall'd *Hackneys* of the Administration have seem'd, of late, to give-up the Defence of their *Patron*, and his Measures, and have chosen the Method of Recrimination upon the Question beg'd. — " Those who are " OUT (*say they*) only want to be IN, and if they " were *in*, would pursue the same Measures which " they now blame and oppose ". — How do they know either of these Points? — As to the first, it is very notorious, that many who are now *out*, might either have been continued *in*, or receiv'd again with Advantage, if they had thought proper. — As to the second, it is very improbable, that, if they where *in*, they would chose to pursue such Measures as they see have brought those who are *in* under such a Number of Difficulties, and such a Load of Unpopularity.

They must be incorrigibly week, indeed, who don't grow wiser by the Errors and Misfortunes of others; and, I dare answer for it, that, if those who are *out* of Power, were *in* Power, they would attempt no *Excise* Schemes: — They would not prevent the *Reduction* of *Interest*, nor industriously misapply the Nation's last Resourse from the Load of Debt it groans under, and consequently leave it in so helpless a Situation, as to be wrong'd and insulted, with Impunity, by any *Power* in *Europe*. — These are Things, I say, which Common Sense, independant of Common Honesty, would hinder them from doing, and

and consequently are not to be apprehended from the next Administration, let it consist of whom it will.

The *Hacks* love to play upon the Words *Patriot* — *pretended Patriot* — *Pseudo Patriot*, &c. and are equally witty upon Patriots, in Verse and in Prose; But I really believe they don't know the Meaning of the Word;———their Learning, I am sure, won't explain it to them, and their Acquaintances, I am convinced, won't furnish them with Instances. I will, therefore, take the Pains of defining a Patriot to them, and in so fair and impartial a Manner, that they shall be obliged to agree with me in the Definition of the Character, tho' we may possibly differ about the Application of it.

I look upon a Patriot to be one who pursues the Good of his Country, preferably to, and independantly of all private Considerations and Advantages.

He envies no Man's Power or Profit, and never opposes Measures for the Sake of the Men, but opposes Men on Account of their Measures ——— If he desires to deprive Ministers of Power, it is because they abuse it; — if he desires Power himself, it is only to use it for his Country's Good and Advantage.

He thinks nothing useful but what is honest, and will no more oppose the good Measures of other People in Power, than connive at, and over-look their bad ones, in order to imitate, or reap the Benefit of them, when in himself.

It is not necessary that Patriots should not accept Employments: On the contrary, as our Constitution is now chang'd, he may do his Country more Service in Place than out of Place. But then, as he will not obtain that Place by any unjustifiable Means, neither will he use it to unjustifiable Purposes, but will quit it more readily than he took it, rather than concur with, or not oppose Measures which, in his Conscience, he thinks wrong or pernicious.

He

He will not make Uſe of his Power to inrich Himſelf, or his Relations, nor improperly diſpoſe of, among his undeſerving Kindred, thoſe Employments which, at the ſame Time they ſhould be the Rewards of Merit, require alſo Abilities for the due Diſcharge of them.

If, employ'd by the Crown, he will not attempt to extend its Power, nor invade the Liberties of the People, even tho' he would make the beſt Uſe of that Power himſelf; knowing the Danger and Injuſtice of eſtabliſhing a Precedent of that Kind which is the moſt likely to be follow'd by thoſe who are the moſt likely to make a bad Uſe of it.

His Meaſures will not want the Infamy of Corruption to ſupport them;——the Infamy will be in oppoſing them.

This is what I call a Real Patriot; and he who differs from this Deſcription I fairly deliver him up to *Freeman* and *Company* to unpatriot and revile as much as they pleaſe, or, what would be worſe for him, to commend.

The Scriblers, I am ſure, will agree with me in this *Character*;—but then they will bid me produce the Man *it* fits.—— I do not deal in *Panegyric*, which is always ſuſpected of Self-Intereſt. —— But, if there be a Man who, from his firſt Appearance in the World, always diſtinguiſh'd himſelf in the Cauſe of Liberty, and of his Country; who, from a very uncommon Diſintereſtedneſs, gave-up Half the Salary of the firſt Employment he injoy'd, and who readily quitted a ſecond more conſiderable for the Sake of oppoſing Meaſures which he thought inconſiſtent with the Good of the Public; who, with the Spirit of one of the firſt *Romans*, and the Eloquence of a *Cicero*, has conſtantly uſed both his Tongue and his Pen in Defenſe and Support of Liberty; who, as *Lycurgus* inforced the Obſervation of his Laws by a voluntary Exile, has given the ſureſt Pledge of his Reſolution

to

to purſue invariably that glorious End, by tying himſelf down, by the ſtrongeſt Declaration, never to accept of any Employment whatſoever, that his Actions, however juſt, may never be ſuſpected to proceed from any other Motive than the Love of his Country.

If there be ſuch a Man, he comes very near, if not quite up to the Deſcription above-mention'd — What Intereſt but the Public Intereſt can ſuch a Man have in oppoſing or promoting any Meaſures? Surely he who can never be *in* Place muſt be free from the Suſpicion of oppoſing, — becauſe he is *out*; and, if added to theſe Circumſtances, this Perſon ſhould have likewiſe a very great paternal Fortune of his own, Who would ſuffer more than he in Times of Confuſion and Diſturbance? Or who would ſhare more the Peace and Proſperity of his Country? — Thus ſecured, on one Hand, by a voluntary Incapacity from the Temptations of a Court, and, on the other, by a Fortune and a Family, from ſeeking or ſuffering Diſorder and Confuſion; If ſuch a Perſon has, for a conſiderable Number of Years, unweariedly oppoſed Meaſures in general, it is the ſharpeſt Cenſure, and *living* Condemnation, can poſſibly be of the Promoters of them. — Let the Miniſterial *Hacks* produce me one ſuch *living* Juſtification of their Meaſures, if they can.

Mr. *Freeman* is pleaſed to ſay, in his Ingenious *Dialogue*, That going out of a Place is not ſuch a round-about Way of getting into one; — but he is not ſo good as to make this out: Therefore, I would fain ask him, Whether he would not think it a very round-about Way, to give up his Half-Crowns, the liberal Rewards of his preſent Labours, in Hopes of three Shillings from a future Adminiſtration? — I am apt to think he would not underſtand that Way of Reaſoning. — And among all the Tricks his

his Patrons have tried, that, I think, has not been one of them.

Mr. *Freeman* adds, as candidly as pleasantly, That, was it to do again, he believes some Folks would not part with a White Stick, or a Regiment of Horse :— Mr. *Freeman* is a very incompetent Judge of what these Folks would do, who, I dare say, in no one Particular think like him: ——— But I am of Opinion, and so I believe is the greatest Part of Mankind, that they might recover what they lost with Interest, if they repented of the Sacrifice they made to the Good of their Country, and their own Conscience :——The great Indulgence which has been shewn to some *Penitents* would, probably, be shewn to them, if they thought fit either to desire or accept it.

I therefore advise these wretched blunt Tools of Power, these wooden Saws, to have done with Invective and Recrimination, for which they have neither Abilities or Matter; but let them betake themselves to fulsome Panegyric, for which they have now a fine Field open :——Let them commend the Vigour and Courage of their Pay-Masters, whose invincible *Armada*, fitted out at little or no Expence to this Country, has intimidated all *Europe*, and procured a *Treaty* by which ample Reparation is to be made for all our pass'd Injuries, and effectual Security required for our future Commerce and Navigation; and let them lead the thankful *Chorus* of our *British* Merchants with grateful Acclamations for the Protection they have received.

SATUR-

Ch

SATURDAY, *Oct.* 14, 1738.

SUCH is the Uncertainty and Unſtability of the Things of this World, that there is ſcarce any Event, which ought to ſurpriſe us, or any Thing new to be ſaid upon it.——The greateſt Empires, and beſt modelled Governments, have been ſuddenly overturn'd by unexpected Concurrences of unlucky and unforeſeen Accidents. ——Notwithſtanding which, when one ſees great and ſudden Revolutions happen, one can't help falling into trite Obſervations, which a thouſand Events of the ſame Kind had ſuggeſted to thouſands of People before.

I confeſs this happened to me lately, when I heard that *Operas* were *no more*, and that too, at a Time when the Vigour and Succeſs, with which a Subſcription was carried on, both by the Great and the Fair, ſeem'd to promiſe them in their fulleſt Luſtre.——"Shall the Kings, and the Miniſters of the Earth, "cry'd I, be ſurpriz'd when their beſt-concerted "Schemes are defeated? Schemes which it is gene-"rally the *Common Intereſt* of Mankind to defeat, "and muſt we behold, unmoved, the fatal Cata-"ſtrophe of that great Deſign, which the *Common* "*Pleaſures* of Mankind ſeem'd ingaged to ſupport." ——Many other Reflections occurred to me, which, tho' I thought new at the Time, I am ſince perſuaded were made by the *Aſſyrians*, the *Medes*, the *Perſians*, and others, upon the Subverſion of their ſeveral Em-

Empires, and therefore I ſhall not trouble my Readers with them.

But I came at laſt to conſider (as I always do) how far, and in what Manner, this great Event might poſſibly affect the Publick, and whether the Ceſſation of *Operas*, would prove a National Loſs, or a National Advantage: For Publick Diverſions are by no Means Things indifferent; they give a Right or a Wrong Turn to the Minds of the People, and the wiſeſt Governments have always thought them worth their Attention, the very wiſeſt Government in the World (I mean, to be ſure, our own) thought ſo not above two Years ago, and prudently ſubjected all our Publick Entertainments to the Wiſdom and Care of the *Lord Chamberlain*, his *Licenſer*, or his *Licenſer*'s Deputy-*Licenſer*.

Was I to follow the Examples of the greateſt Hiſtorians, I ſhould ſearch into, and aſſign, the Cauſes of this *Revolution*, and might poſſibly affirm, with more Certainty than they commonly do, that the *Unſkilfulneſs* of the *Compoſers*, the immoderate *Profit* of the *Performers*, the *Partialities* of the *Governors*, and the *Influence* of *Foreign Miſtreſſes*, naturally produced this Event:——But I wave, at preſent, theſe Reflections in order to conſider the Effects of Muſick in general.

Muſick was held in great Eſteem among the Ancients, particularly the *Greeks*, who looked upon it as the neceſſary Part of the Education of their Youth, and thought the due Regulation of it worthy the Care of their Laws; inſomuch that *Timotheus* was condemned, by a Decree of the *Lacedemonians*, for introducing Innovations in their Muſick, and corrupting the True, eſtabliſh'd Taſte:——Which Decree *Bœtius* has preſerved to us in the Original.——It ſays, that *Timotheus* of *Miletam*, being come into their Town, had ſhewn great Diſregard to the ancient Muſick, and the ancient Lyre; that he had multiplied the Sounds of one, and the Strings of the other, and that, inſtead of

of the plain, expreſſive Manner of Singing, he had invented a fantaſtical new one, where he had introduced the *Chromatick*, &c. he was therefore publickly reprimanded, by the *Ephori*, and his Lyre was ordered to be altered.

This is not to be wondered at, conſidering the aſtoniſhing Effects which the beſt Hiſtorians aſſure us Muſick had in thoſe Days; and of which I ſhall give ſome Inſtances.

The *Pyrrhic Tune*, as is well known, had ſuch a Martial Influence, that, in a very little Time, it ſet the Audience a Fighting, whether they would or not. —This *Tune*, by the Way, muſt have infinitely exceeded our beſt modern *Marches*, which, by what I have been able to obſerve in *Hide-Park*, rather ſets our Army a Dancing, than a Fighting.——I aſcribe this Difference wholly to the Unſkilfulneſs of our modern Compoſers; for I will never believe that my Countrymen have not as much Potential Courage in them as the *Greeks*, if properly excited; I therefore wiſh the *Pyrrhic Tune* had been tranſmitted down to us, to have been uſed in *proper Places*, and upon *proper Occaſions*.

The *Phrygian* Muſick inclined as much to *Love*; and *Quintillian* tells us, that *Pythagoras*, having obſerved a young Man ſo inflamed by this *Phrygian* Modulation that he was going to offer Violence to a Lady of Condition, immediately ordered the Inſtruments to play in a graver Meaſure, called the *Spondee*, which inſtantly check'd the Gallant's Deſires, and ſaved the Lady's Chaſtity.——A ſtrong Inſtance this of the Force of Muſick, and the Sagacity of the Philoſopher; tho' by the Way, if that *Phrygian* Movement had the ſame Effect upon the Lady which it had upon the Gentleman, the Philoſopher's Interpoſition might poſſibly be but unwelcome.——Our *Operas* have not been known to occaſion any Attempts of this violent Nature; which I likewiſe impute to the Defects

fects of the Compoſition, and not to any Degree of Inſenſibility, or Modeſty, in our Youth, and who, it muſt be owned, give a fair Hearing to Muſick, and whoſe ſhort Bobs ſeem admirably contrived for the better Reception of Sounds.

Dion Chryſoſtimus informs us, that the Muſician *Timotheus*, playing one Day upon the Flute before *Alexander* the *Great*, in the Movement called *Ortios*, that Prince immediately laid hold of his *Great Sword*, and was with Difficulty hindered from doing Miſchief,—reſtrain'd, no Doubt, by ſome prudent, and pacifick Miniſter.—And Mr. *Dryden*, in his celebrated *Ode* upon St. *Cæcilia*'s Day, repreſents that Hero, alternately affected, in the higheſt Degree, by tender or martial Sounds, now *languiſhing* in the *Arms* of his *Courteſan*, *Thais*, and anon *furious*, ſnatching a *Flambeau*, and *ſetting Fire* to the *Town* of *Perſepolis*. This we have lately heard, ſet to Muſick by the Great Mr. *Handel*, who, for a Modern, certainly excels in the *Ortios*, or *Warlike Meaſure*:——But we have ſome *Reaſon to think* that the Impreſſions which it was obſerved to make upon the *Audience* ſoon gave Way to the *Phrygian*, or *Laſcivious Movement*.

I am apt to believe that in Muſick, as in many other Arts and Sciences, we fall infinitely ſhort of the Ancients:—For, I take it for granted, that we ſhould be open to the ſame Impreſſions, if our Compoſers had but the Skill to make them.——However, tho' Muſick does not now cauſe thoſe ſurpriſing Effects which it did formerly, it ſtill retains Power enough over Mens Paſſions, to make it worth our Care: And I heard ſome Perſons, equally ſkill'd in Muſick and Politicks, aſſert, that King *James* was ſung and fiddled out of this Kingdom by the *Proteſtant* Tune of *Lillybullero*;——and that *Somebody* elſe would have been fiddled into it again, if a certain treaſonable, *Popiſh*, *Jacobite* Tune had not been timely ſilenced by the unwearied

unwearied Pains and Diligence of the Adminiſtration.

The Bag-pipe, I am credibly informed, has been known to have a wonderful Effect upon our Countrymen the *North-Britons*, and to influence whole Clans; which I am the more inclin'd to believe, becauſe I have really ſeen it do ſtrange Things here.

The *Swiſs*, who are not a People of the quickeſt Senſations, have at this Time a Tune, which, when play'd upon their Fifes, inſpires them with ſuch a Love of their Country, that they run Home as faſt as they can; which Tune is therefore, under ſevere Penalties, forbid to be play'd when their Regiments are on Service, becauſe they would inſtantly deſert. Could ſuch a Tune be compoſed here, it would then indeed be worth the Nation's While to pay the Piper, and one could eaſily ſuggeſt the proper Places for the Performance of it: For Inſtance, it might be of great Uſe at the Opening of certain Aſſemblies, where Prayers have already proved ineffectual, and the Serjeant-at-Arms, and the Gentleman-Uſher of the Black-Rod, ſhould be inſtructed to play it in Perfection.—The *Band* of *Court-Muſick* would of Courſe execute it incomparably, where it would doubtleſs have all the Effect *could be expected:* I would therefore, moſt earneſtly recommend it to the Learned Doctor *Green*, to turn his Thoughts that Way.——It is not from the leaſt Diſtruſt of Mr. *Handel*'s Ability that I addreſs myſelf preferably to Doctor *Green:* But Mr. *Handel* having the Advantage to be by Birth a *German*, might probably, even without intending it, mix ſome Modulations, in his Compoſition, which might give a *German* Tendency to the Mind, and therefore greatly leſſen the National Benefit, I propoſe by it.

How far the polite Part of the World is affected by the Ceſſation of *Operas*, I am no Judge myſelf; but I aſked a Young Gentleman of Wit and Pleaſure about Town, Whether he did not apprehend that he ſhould be

be a Sufferer by it, in his Way of Buſineſs, for that I preſumed thoſe ſoft and tender Sounds ſooth'd and melted the faireſt Breaſts, and fitted them to receive Impreſſions? He anſwered me very frankly, That, as far as he could judge, the Loſs would be but inconſiderable to their Profeſſion; that ſome Years ago, indeed, the Taſte of Muſick being expreſſive, and pathetick, had inſpired tender Sentiments, and ſoftened ſtubborn Virtue; but the Faſhion being of late, for both the Compoſers and the Performers, only to ſhew what Tricks they could play, had rather taught the Ladies to play Tricks too, than made the proper Impreſſions upon them; and that he oftner found them tired than ſoftened at the End of an *Opera*. But he confeſſed that they might happen to miſs the *Opera* Books a little, becauſe, as moſt of his Profeſſion could make a Shift to read, the *Engliſh* Verſion at leaſt, they found, in thoſe incomparable *Drammas*, Sentiments proper for all Situations, which might not otherwiſe have occurred to them, and which, by Emphatical Signs and Looks, they could apply to the proper Objects; inſomuch that he had often known very pretty Sentimental Converſations carried on thro' a whole *Opera* by theſe References to the Book.

Having thus ſhewn the Power and Effects of Muſick, both among the Ancients and the Moderns, and the good and ill Uſes which may be made of it, I ſhall ſubmit it to Perſons wiſer than myſelf, what is to be done in this important *Criſis*.—I look upon *Operas* to have been the great *National Eſtabliſhment* of *Muſick*, and I am perſuaded that innumerable *Sects* will riſe from their Ruins, and break into various *Conventicles* of Vocal and Inſtrumental, which, if not attended to, may prove of ill Conſequence. But in this, as in every Thing elſe, I put my Truſt in the Wiſdom of the Miniſters, who daily ſhew, that nothing is above their Skill, or below their Care.——Kingdoms and Gin-Sellers tremble at their Fleets, and their Informers.

mers.—Terrible Abroad, and Lovely at Home, they put me always in Mind of that beautiful Deſcription which *Taſſo* gives of one of his Heroes;

Se'l vedi folminar, fra L'Arme, auvolto
Marte *le ſtimi*; Amor *ſe ſcopre il Volto.*

If you were to ſee him, ſays he, glittering in his Armor, and in all the Thunder of War, you'd take him for *Mars*, the *God* of It; but when that's over, and he lays-by his Helmet, you'd think him the *God* of *Love*.

SATURDAY, *Oct.* 21, 1738.

IT is an Obſervation made by ſome Author, whoſe Name I have forgot, that Liberty and Riches make People rough and inſolent; and that Poverty and Oppreſſion render them civil and polite.—Poverty and Oppreſſion will certainly render them ſubmiſſive; which, with People who do not diſtinguiſh, may paſs for Politeneſs:—But, agreeing to the Whole of this Maxim, I find, according to the moſt exact Calculation can be made, that about twenty-thouſand Horſe, Foot and Dragoons, an Army of Exciſe-men of double that Number, with fifty-thouſand Informers, will go near-Hand to civiliſe a Nation, to the higheſt Degree of Politeneſs, which may conſiſt of eight or nine Millions of People.

I am credibly informed, that it was from long Contemplation on the Truth of this Maxim, that a certain Projector became inſpired with the Exciſe-Scheme.

—It

——It is now many Years ſince he has been meditating a Reſolution to leave nothing untried which might tend to civiliſe his Countrymen; while he, Good Man! was humbly content to be himſelf the moſt unmannerly Fellow in the Kingdom.

It is true, he miſcarried in that pious Deſign by the perverſe Oppoſition of a People not always attentive to their own Good;——but their Ingratitude has not been able, to deſtroy his honeſt Intentions. He is awake when others ſleep, and ſtudies Night and Day to the ſame pious End.—In little, as well as great Things, the Good of his dear Country is uppermoſt in his Thoughts:—Even the ſubjecting of Plays and Players to the Power of a Ch———n was owing to the ſame laudable Intention of reforming our Manners.

But here, by the Way, I can't forbear lamenting the Misfortune it is ſometimes to pleaſe the Publick. —There was a Poet whoſe little Pieces became the Delight of the Town, and gave Bread to a Company of Comedians at the Little Theatre in the *Hay-Market*: ——But Wit and Satire, as he himſelf obſerved, are like ſome Medicines, which will not operate upon ſound Conſtitutions, but when they meet with a rotten Carcas they play the Devil; and our Projector happening to have a great many ſore Places about him, our Poet's Pills gave him the Gripes.——To make ſhort of my Tale; it was decreed they muſt fall.—— Our Projector, whoſe frank Heart was ever a Stranger to Malice, reſolved, ſince he could not damn the Poet, to ruin him, and ſend the Players a begging.——It is a melancholy Story to tell; but I have been informed, that *Alexander* the *Great* was not long ſince preſſed in a Collier, and, what goes to his Soul, is, that he is forced to ſerve on Board a pacifick Fleet:——*Julius Cæſar*, who gained twenty Victories over the *Gauls*, is forced to carry a Brown Muſket for Bread, in an Army which never ſaw the Face of an Enemy, and

never will; while the Queen of *Egypt*, who charmed the Heart of this Heroe, was discovered among a Band of *Welsh* Peasants making Hay.——It seems that soon after the Power of sending Kings and Conquerors a begging was vested in the Ch——n, it was resolved to bring a Foreign Company of Players from Abroad, and place them upon that Stage from whence our own had been just expelled; and, as a Relation of the Projector had himself play'd the Part of *Harlequin* in Foreign Countries, tho' without any Success (for Nature did not form him to please) he was thought the propereſt Person for this Purpose.—Away he goes, the Subject of his Journey being a great Mystery,——I shall take no Notice of the Time he employed, nor the Leather he lost in riding Post; but the important Secret breaks out at last, and a Company of Outlandish Comedians arrive.

So soon as the Bill appeared for their Playing, with the Word AUTHORITY placed at Top, the Publick was stung to the Quick, and thought themselves concerned to exert that Liberty they enjoy, to resent the Affront put upon them by the Ch——n. They filled the House, and play'd off all the Artillery of Cat-calls, Bells, *&c.* against the Stage, and the miserable Comedians suffered for Sins not their own.

——Quæque Ipse miserima vidi
Et quorum pas magna fui——

When it was over, I retired to the Tavern with some of those whom I saw most active in the Pit, and took the Liberty to represent to them, That I was afraid their Behaviour that Night might appear to Strangers to be a little cruel, and barbarous: To which one of them answered me, "That the Audience had "a legal Right to shew their Dislike to any Play or "Actor in the Manner here done; for the Common "Law of *England* was nothing but Common Custom, "and the antient Usage of the People,——that the Ju-

"dicature

" dicature of the Pit had been acknowledged and ac-
" quiesced to, from Time immemorial, in Matters re-
" lating to the Stage; and tho' they were obliged to
" give no other Reason than, that they did not ap-
" prove of these Actors, he would say something
" more.

" It is well known (added he) that the Act for put-
" ting the Stage under a Regulation (as the Phrase
" was) went against the Grain of the Publick,——
" they declared against it, but had not Interest enough
" to hinder its passing,—we looked upon it as a Step
" towards restraining the Liberty of the Press,——we
" think that every Thing, which is the Product of
" our own Country, should be suffered to pass free,
" but more particularly the Wit and Learning of our
" own Growth;—for we can't help thinking, that
" we shall see nothing but sad insipid Stuff upon the
" Stage, while the Ch——n and his Deputies (who,
" for aught we know, may be his Footmen) have a
" Power over every Word to be spoke there. How-
" ever, when the Act pass'd, we submitted, and tho'
" it was reported, that a Foreign Company of Ac-
" tors would be sent for, we did not believe it; for we
" could not suppose that, while the Discontent occa
" sion'd by that Act was fresh in every one's Memory,
" a Ch——n should grow so wanton with his new
" Power, as to insult the Publick, in this Manner.
" ——As to the Pretence, that they were sent for to
" divert a Foreign Woman who does not understand
" *English*, she should have engaged them to play at
" her own House, or rather her Lodgings, and have
" invited her own Company: It is not to be doubted
" but she will soon be rich enough to pay them, for
" we dare say she did not come into this Country to
" learn the Language.——But as they were to take
" their Fate with the Publick, we were free to receive
" them as we pleased; and since Mr. Ch——n would
" not *license* our Actors, we would not *license* his.

I could not deny but there was ſome Reaſon in what this Gentleman ſaid: and I remember, when the Curtain was drawn up, and I beheld Files of Muſqueteers with Bayonets fixed to the Ends of their Pieces, as ready to ingage, and a Dapper *Hugonot* ſtanding up in the Pit, with a Paper in his Hand, as if he was going to declare War againſt the whole World, it put me in Mind of a Story which is told of our preſent incomparable Laureat;——He took it into his Head once to wiſh himſelf King of *France*, and being aſked, for what Reaſon?——"Becauſe (ſays he) "I would publiſh an *Edict*, That the Players ſhould "act no Plays but my own, and that the Publick "ſhould be obliged to like them."——I don't know what ſo wiſe a Man as the Laureat would do if He was King of *France*; but I think I know Hiſtory enough to venture to aſſert, that no King of *France*, or Any one by his Authority, ever controuled the Judgment of the Publick in Things of this Nature, or pretended to impoſe upon them what to approve or diſlike;——*fari quod ſentiat* is a pretty *Motto*, and any inſolent Man may put it upon his Coach, whether he underſtands it or not; but I hope other People, tho' they are not inclined to be his Slaves, may uſe it as well as he.

I am growing ſerious upon this Subject, contrary to my Intention; but there is Something occurs to me which might have happened that Night which makes me grave in Spite of my Reſolution to be otherwiſe, I am thinking, if the Fears of that little officious Fellow, who was going to read the Proclamation, had not made him ſteal off, what might have been the Conſequence.——Perhaps a hundred Gentlemen of Fortune, and every one of as good a Family as any Perſon in the Adminiſtration, muſt have incurred the Penalty of Felony, for having only done what, in ſome Countries which do not pretend to our Liberties, a Man would not be fined a Crown.——But there is

Reaſon

Reaſon to hope that this Accident will bring about a ſignal Good to this Nation, and that it will occaſion the Repeal of an Act which, by being abuſed, may put the Life of every Gentleman in *England*, one Time or other, in the Power of a Miniſter; for there never will be wanting ſome low Tool, who, to ingratiate himſelf with a Miniſter, and in hopes to get a Place, will thruſt himſelf into every Aſſembly of Gentlemen charged with this *Proclamation*, if he ſuſpects that either they, or what they meet upon, may be diſagreeable to any of thoſe in Power.

As to the poor People (I mean the Comedians) I really pity them.——They were incouraged to come from their own Country, and, being unacquainted with our Diſputes, could not think they ſhould give Offence:———They have, without any Intention on their Side, been made the Inſtruments of affronting the Town, and been placed upon the Stage to ſtand the publick Reſentment, and been treated like the *Enfans perdu* in the Army.——Their Journey muſt have coſt them a great Deal of Money;—and if thoſe who have drawn them into this Scrape do not pay them all their Expences, and give them ſomething beſides to comfort them for the Mortification they muſt have ſuffered, in being ſo treated, I ſhall think it a very great Cruelty;—nay I ſhall think they treat theſe poor Players as ill as they have treated the Town.

SATURDAY, *Oct.* 28, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

I Had just taken Pen in Hand, in order to write to you, when your *Paper* of *Saturday* last was brought me: And tho' my Subject be the same, yet as my Thoughts upon it are different, I send them you to communicate to the Publick, if you think proper.

The *Craftsman*, in his *Dissertation* upon *Parties*, makes the following excellent Reflections —— *It is the Duty of those who govern to discern the Spirit of the People, to consider even their Passions, to have a Regard to their Weaknesses, and to shew Indulgence to their Prejudices; and Ministers who punish what they might prevent, are more culpable than those who offend.*

This wise and popular Maxim ought certainly to be the Rule of all Governments: But in Countries which are Free, it is an indispensible Duty never to depart from it, upon any Pretence whatsoever.——I shall not now examine how far it has been followed of late Years; however the mentioning it brings me to consider the late Act for regulating the Stage, and some Things which have been the Consequence of that Act.

By an Act of the twelfth of Queen *Anne*, all Persons having a legal Settlement, that is, all Householders paying

paying Scot and Lot, were qualified to practise the Trade and Profession of Stage-Players; but Actors strolling about the Country, without a legal Settlement, were to be deem'd Rogues and Vagabonds, and subject to be punish'd as such.

By the late Act, a great Change is made. Persons having a legal Settlement are disqualified from exercising the Profession in which, perhaps, they were bred, unless the Lord Chamberlain shall please to give them a License, and Rogues and Vagabonds are qualified by a License: So that a Power is lodged in a Servant of the Court to dispense with a Law; a new Power, I say, is given, without any new Necessity express'd in the Bill, which I think is not common, and which seems to make some little Alteration in our Constitution.

Indeed, the Chamberlain's Power of Licensing Rogues and Vagabonds is confined to the *Liberties* of *Westminster*, and the Places of his Majesty's Residence, or what we call the *Verge* of the *Court*.

I am doubtful whether this Clause may not be attended with some Inconveniencies: For if Rogues and Vagabonds can be protected no where but near the Court, it may draw thither such Swarms of them as may prove a great Nusance to the Neigbourhood.

That this Act will prevent the Ministers from being satirised, is a Matter of which I am dubious;—for it will be impossible to hinder the Publick from making Applications, Parallels and Anti-parallels:—Whenever the Ministers are corrupt, all Encomiums upon Vertue will be understood as so many *Ironies* upon the Corruptions of those in Power, while the exposing of Vice may be received as a direct *Satire* upon them:——You must eradicate from Mens Minds the Ideas of Vice and Vertue, or turn your most noble Dramatick Pieces into pitiful Farces, consisting of nothing but Trick and Grimace, before you can ever bring this to pass.

I am ſuppoſing all this While, that the total Deſtruction of the Stage was not intended by the late Act; and yet the Power given to the Chamberlain by it is ſo extenſive, that I think, by a very little Stretch, he may do it:———There are two Theatres indeed which act by Vertue of Letters Patent from his Majeſty's Predeceſſors;—but as the Chamberlain may prohibit any Play, and ſilence any Actor, if he ſhould gradually prohibit them all, who can diſpute it with him?——Or ſuppoſe he ſhould only prohibit thoſe Plays which are moſt popular, I believe the Publick would be as well pleaſed to have no Stage at all, as not to have the Plays they like.

But if Things ſhould be carried even to this Extremity, I am of Opinion the Stage will not fall; for the Chamberlain's Power (terrible as it is made by this Act) extends no farther than over thoſe who repreſent Plays for Money, and I have a Notion, that Gentlemen and Ladies would, in this Caſe, act ſome of the beſt Plays themſelves, for their own Entertainment and that of their Friends:—It would be particularly agreeable in the Country; as it would render it ſociable, it would be the Intereſt of Fathers and Mothers to promote it, as it might be a Means to diſpoſe of their Daughters:—For nothing would ſet-off a young Woman's Charms to ſo much Advantage as the Action neceſſary in the playing a gentile Part.——As theſe Plays would draw the whole Country together, there would infallibly be a Number of Hearts caught, and I ſhould not doubt but, at the End of every Meeting, to hear of a great many Marriages.

As to the Country Gentlemen, they would, by theſe Means, have good Opportunities of intermixing the Exerciſe of the Mind with that of the Body, and furniſh their Heads with Sentiments which inſpire the Love of Vertue and of Liberty, inſtead of filling them with *October*;——they would alſo acquire a graceful Manner of Speaking, which would fit them for the Pub-

Publick Buſineſs of their Country when they were choſen to repreſent it.

It would be a very honourable Way of a Gentleman's keeping up his Intereſt among his Inferior Neighbours, by conveying good Sentiments into their Minds and mending their Morals.——I ſhould therefore think it adviſeable, that the Play of *Paſquin* ſhould be acted in every Borough in *England*, a little before the next Elections.— I think it might caution the People againſt the Artifices of thoſe who come to corrupt their Honeſty with adulterate Wine, and more adulterate Promiſes.

It requires a cunning Head and an artful Hand to draw-up a publick Bill in ſuch Manner as to make it anſwer all the private Ends of the Projectors and Manufacturers of it, and at the ſame Time to make it look plauſible to the World ;— the private Motives muſt be conceal'd under Pretences of Publick Good, even when they are directly deſtructive of it: By which Means it may happen, that the too great Fear of expoſing them to Light, may diſappoint the Purpoſes of them.

The poor Player may be laid under an Incapacity of following his Trade ; but it will be difficult to impoſe the ſame Reſtraint upon the Whole People :—— A Few, for the Good of the Whole, may be confined and limited ; but the Whole cannot (I mean in a Free State) becauſe, when that is done, it muſt be to humour the Malice of one Man, or a very few, which muſt demonſtrate to the People that they are no longer a Free Nation.

There ſeems to be ſuch a Connexion betwixt *Liberty* and the *Stage*, that ſo long as the *firſt* remains, there will be ſuch Things as *Plays* ; and ſo long as there is a *Theatre*, Liberty will maintain its Ground there, tho' it ſhould be baniſh'd from every other Aſſembly in the Kingdom.—The Chamberlain may indeed prohibit what the Nation likes ; but he will never be able

to make them like what he approves:—In vain will Laws be made to ſubmit Works of Wit and Genius to the Judgment of one Man;——the Publick will acknowledge no ſuch Laws.—Let a bad Play be preſented to the Stage, back'd with the Authority of a thouſand Licenſes, it will certainly be damn'd when it appears before the Audience, whoſe Judgments are neither to be awed nor bribed:—The Force of publick Opinion bears down all before it.—The mighty *Julius Cæſar* could neither influence, nor controul it.——At his Requeſt, *Labierus*, a *Roman* Knight, contended with another Poet.—When their *Pieces* were repreſented before the People, they unanimouſly prefer'd the *Work* of the other; which made *Cæſar* cry out to *Labierus*, *Etiam favente me, victus es Labieri.*—So that Liberty was exerciſed in the Treatre even under an Uſurper, nay in direct Oppoſition to his Opinion———any Thing which has the leaſt Appearance of an Impoſition upon the Faculties of the Mind, which Nature deſigned ſhould be free and unconfined, will prove like a Reſiſtance to a Spring, or Obſtacles to a Torrent;—one augments the Strength of the firſt, the others add to the latter's Force and Rapidity.

The *French* Comedians were certainly within the Deſcription of Rogues and Vagabonds, according to both the Acts before-mentioned; for they have no legal Settlement here: Nay I am told, they have none in their own Country.—If it be urged, that the Chamberlain's Licenſe, like the King's Pardon to Traytors, reſtored their Blood, and rendered them legal Actors, they have injoyed the Benefit of that Licenſe, for they have not been taken up by Vertue of a Warrant from any of his Majeſty's Juſtices of Peace, nor treated as Vagabonds; which is all the Chamberlain's Licenſe could do for them. But the Publick, which has a Right to reject New Plays, has alſo a Right to reject New Players, and the Publick was not in a Humour to receive them.

The

The Manner of their being introduced upon the Stage looked as if there was a Design of forcing them upon the Publick by the powerful Arguments of Sword and Gun; Arguments which I had much rather see made Use of against the *Spaniards* Abroad, than our non-arm'd People at Home; and when the Gentlemen of the Pit exerted themselves, and discovered that Spirit of Opposition (a Spirit which I hope will always shew itself against whatever has the Appearance of Force) and had prevailed, I will own that, as to my own Part, Pity succeeded in my Breast to Resentment, and I began to compassionate the Condition of the poor Comedians, who, as I am assured, were invited to come over, and have been at considerable Expences to put themselves into a Condition to act here.——— They knew, that other Companies of *French* Comedians, who, at different Times, were here before, had been well received, and I am told, they flattered themselves with much better Success, because they had the Reputation, in their own Country, of being much better Actors than those we have seen before.— As they knew nothing of this new Law for the *Regulation* of our *Stage*, nor of the strange Alterations it had wrought in the Dispositions of the People, they could have no Intention to affront the Publick.——— But, as to those who sent for them, I leave you to judge how much they study the Spirit of the People; how much they consider their Passions; and what Indulgence they are inclined to shew to their Prejudices, *&c.* And, upon the Whole, I agree with you, That, if they do not make Good the Loss of these poor Comedians, who may be near ruined by this Journey, the Treatment is both inhuman and injust.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Nov.* 4, 1738.

I think, the beſt Criticks have obſerved, That *Dialogue* requires a peculiar Stile, different from all other Kinds of Writing:——The Eaſe and Freedom of Converſation muſt appear in it:——It muſt abound with certain Turns of Repartee which will give the Readers an agreeable Surpriſe:——It ſhould reſemble a natural Converſation, tho' it may be a little better than what the Generality of People are ſuppoſed to ſpeak *extempore*, as a Picture may be like, tho' handſomer than the Original.

Another Rule to be obſerved is, that every Perſon muſt ſpeak in Character;—the Porter muſt not have the Sentiments or Language of the Gentleman, nor the Gentleman run into the Vulgar Cant of the Porter:—The Cit, the Pedant, and the Fop, muſt be diſtinguiſhed by what they ſay, as plainly as they could be by their Air or Dreſs in the Streets.

But tho' an Author intends to repreſent very bright Perſonages in his *Dialogue*, they can have no more Wit than he is able to afford them; by which Means it happens that, in ſeveral Comedies, the Clown and the Man of Parts are no otherwiſe to be diſtinguiſhed than by what is furniſhed out of the Wardrobe.

I am drawn in to diſcourſe upon this Subject by reading the moſt ſtupid *Dialogue* that was ever yet compoſed out of four and twenty Letters, which was publiſhed in the *Gazetteers* two or three Weeks ſince, tho' it was my Fate not to ſee it till within theſe few Days.

——The

——The *Dramatis Personæ* of this *Dialogue* happen to be some of the most distinguished Characters which the present Age has produced;——the two first have filled eminent Employments in the State, upon which they cast a Lustre by the great Abilities they shewed in the Discharge of them:——But great Talents in one Man must make another look very little who wants them and happens to succeed in the same Station: and therefore it is no Wonder if these Gentlemen have been envied, when out of Power, by those who have been despised while in it.

The third Person in this *Dialogue* is that Genius in Poetry who is an Honour to our Nation, and of whom we may say, as of the Phœnix, that there is scarce one such born in an Age.—It may be easily imagined how exactly the Language of a *Gazetteer* must be adapted to such Characters!

As I take it for granted that very few of our Readers ever give themselves the elegant Pleasure of looking into any of their *Papers*, we shall present them with a short Specimen of this *Dialogue*, for their Entertainment.

The first Speech is put into the Mouth of Mr. *P—y*, who speaks as follows to *L——— B———*.

"Upon my Word, Sir, you have, in this last Poli-
"tical Mortar-piece, made such Amends for your
"long-lamented Absence, as would induce your
"Friends to wish you from them again, on Condition
"of having such a Point put to your Patriot Quill.

Dr. *B——y* has cleared up many obscure Passages in the *Latin* Poets, but I defy him, with all his Labour and Learning, to find out any thing like Sense here —*making Amends for long Absence by a Political Mortar-piece*—and *his Friends wishing him absent that such a Point might be put to his Quill*,—is inimitable:—The Readers will be apt to ask, What Point he means?—Why, such a Point as a Political Mortar-piece.——I take

take it, they have here hit the true Obſcure in Nonſenſe to great Perfection.

What makes it particular is, that theſe People lately exerted all their Dulneſs to ridicule the Method of *Dialogue-writing* upon Matters of State, and yet immediately after publiſh a *Dialogue* of their own, in which three Perſons, ſuppoſed to be Friends, are introduced to abuſe one another, to abuſe ſome Writers whom they are ſaid to have patroniſed, and even to abuſe themſelves: So exactly have they obſerved the Rules of Dialogue!

The firſt Author they fall upon is the *Craftſman*, whoſe Writings, from firſt to laſt, have certainly been conſiſtent, and whoſe Sufferings for them I take to be a Kind of Pledge to the Publick that he will not deviate from thoſe Principles of Liberty he has hitherto purſued;—but the Charge againſt him is for Dulneſs, ſince he has wanted (as they ſay) his uſual Aſſiſtance. ——If theſe Writers could be ſo happy as to arrive at the ſame Kind of Dulneſs, I fancy their Patron would double their Wages.——But to come to the Point.

It is poſſible the *Craftſman* may have received Succour from known and unknown Friends: I only gueſs ſo, by what has happened to this *Paper*, which, in the little Time it has ſubſiſted, has received conſiderable Aſſiſtance from excellent Hands; they may therefore reproach us, that ſome of the beſt Things we publiſh are none of our own; whereas Nobody can ſay that ever they received the leaſt Aſſiſtance from any Perſon of Common Senſe.

If the *Craftſman* was really grown dull for Want of his uſual Aids, it may be Matter of Joy to them, tho' certainly it would not be ſo to the Publick; and if I was of that Opinion, I ſhould congratulate their Patron upon it: But I am ſo far from thinking ſo, that I am poſitive he muſt very lately have ſtruck theſe Writers dumb, had not Shame and They took Leave of each other.

The

The ſecond Perſon aimed at is the Author of a *Paper* which about a Year ſince, pyrated the *Title* belonging to *this*, and was falſely paſſed, for a little While, as coming from the ſame Hands, and which, for that Reaſon, has been totally neglected by the Publick.—— As we know nothing of him, we ſhall ſay nothing of him, but leave it to the honeſt Bookſeller, who was principally concerned in that Pyracy, to anſwer for him.

The third Charge concerns the Perſon who was the firſt Projector of this *Paper*, and has written moſt of the *Eſſays* which have appeared in it ever ſince.—— This ſhall have a ſhort Anſwer, tho' it comes from a Pen which can never hurt any Reputation.

Our *Dialogue-Writers* are pleaſed to aſſert, that the Author laſt named did, for many Years ſollicit Favours and Benevolence from the Perſons againſt whom he now writes, and that, if he had ſucceeded with them, he never would have appeared in the Cauſe he now eſpouſes, or to that Effect.——As this is ſpoken with much Malice, it looks as if theſe Gentlemen were conſcious to themſelves that to ſollicit Favours from their Patrons is the moſt ſcandalous Thing a Man can be accuſed of, and tho' I little thought that they and I ſhould ever be of the ſame Opinion, yet for once I will agree with them; and therefore I ſay, if ever it ſhould appear, that the Writer of theſe *Eſſays* ſollicited Favour or Benevolence from the Perſons hinted at by them, or ever deſired to be employed by them, or had any Concern, or ever ſollicited directly or indirectly to have any Concern with them, he will acknowledge himſelf to be a Scoundrel; which is all the Defence he can make to this Accuſation.

But ſince I am entered into the anſwering of Charges, I muſt take Notice of another which is fallen upon the *Craftſman* and upon *us*, in ſome *Gazetteers* of a later Date than the former.

After

After a long Preamble of our laying Hold on all Occasions to abuse Persons in Power, it is said, That we have aspersed them, as if they had given Licenses to a Foreign Company of Players, while many of our own were disabled by Law from getting their Bread in the same Way.——I am afraid we shall not be able to acquit ourselves of this Charge so clearly as of the former; for it must be own'd that, in speaking of what has happened in Respect to the *French* Comedians, we have gone upon a Presumption, that they had a License:———But the *Gazetters* assert, that no License was granted them, and have repeated it two or three Times, which is as much as to tell the World, that a Foreign Company of Players were incouraged to come over here upon a Promise of Protection, and very innocently on their Side, were made instrumental in breaking thro' an Act of Parliament; and that the Civil and Military Power have both been made Use of against the Laws of the Land.——It must be owned, that this is a very pretty Confession.

If what the *Gazetteers* say be true, should we not ask, What is become of the Officer who commanded the Soldiers upon such a Service? What is become of the Soldiers?—But particularly, What is become of that fine Gentleman the J———e? Has he made his Escape?—Are there Warrants out for apprehending him, and the Rest? For, I think, it is very natural to expect to see them hold up their Hands at the *Old Baily*.

When a Man falls into an Error which affects others, he ought to recant it and make the best Satisfaction for it he is able: But I confess, I am puzzled what Terms to use in asking Pardon for this Mistake.——I think it must be somewhat like what follows. "Gentlemen, "for Want of true Information, we have run into a "Mistake, and most grossly misrepresented you, for "which we are heartily sorry; but, as it is the first "Fault of that Kind we ever committed, we hope for "Pardon both from you and the Publick, and promise

"that

" that we never will hereafter even suspect you of
" deviating into any Thing like——

It is a very odd Manner of begging Pardon, yet it is the best the Thing will bear. As to the *Gazetteers*, we may presume they were ordered to make this Declaration, otherwise I can see no Reason, in common Prudence, for blabbing out a Thing which their Enemies had not so much as charg'd their Pay-Masters with; but it is of a Piece with that Wisdom which is so conspicuous in every Thing they do, and so I leave them to extricate themselves from this Blunder as well as they can.

SATURDAY, *Nov.* 11, 1738.

EVERY Age has its fashionable FOLLIES, as well as its fashionable VICES: But, as *Follies* are more numerous than *Vices*, they change oftner, and every four or five Years produce a new one.— I will indulge my Fellow-Subjects in the full Injoyment of such Follies as are inoffensive in themselves, and in their Consequences.——Men, as well as Children, must have their Play-Things; But when *Hæ nugæ seria ducunt in Mala*, I shall take the Liberty to interpose, represent and censure.

FASHION, which is always at first the Off-spring of little Minds, and the Child of Levity, gains Strength and Support by the great Number of its Relations, 'till at length it is received, and adopted by better Understandings, who either conform to it to avoid Singularity, or who are surprised into it, from Want of Attention to an Object which they look upon as indifferent

different in itself, and so dignify and establish the Folly.

This is the Case of a present prevailing Extravagancy; I mean the absurd and ridiculous Imitation of the *French*, which is now become the Epidemical Distemper of this Kingdom: Not confined to those only from whom one expects no better; but it has even infected those whom one should have thought much above such Weaknesses; and I behold, with Indignation, the sturdy Conquerors of *France* shrunk and dwindled into the imperfect Mimics, or ridiculous *Caracaturas* of all its Levity.——The Travesty is universal; poor *England* produces Nothing fit to eat, or drink, or wear.——Our Cloaths, our Furniture, nay our Food too, all is to come from *France*; and I am credibly inform'd, that a Poulterer at *Calais* now actually supplies our polite Tables with half their Provisions.

I don't mean to undervalue the *French*:——I know their Merit; they are a chearful, industrious, ingenious, polite People, and have many Things in which I wish we did imitate them. But, like true Mimics, we only ape their Imperfections, and awkwardly copy those Parts which all reasonable *French-men* themselves contemn in the Originals.

If this Folly went no farther than disguising both our Meats and our Selves in the *French* Modes, I should bear it with more Patience, and content myself with representing only to my Country Folks, that the one would make them sick, and the other ridiculous: But when even the Materials for the Folly are to be brought over from *France* too, it becomes a much more serious Consideration.——Our Trade and Manufactures are at Stake, and what seems, at first Sight, only very silly, is in Truth a great National Evil, and a Piece of civil Immorality.

There is surely some Obedience due to the Laws of the Land, which strictly prohibit the Importation of

these

these Fooleries; and independantly of those Laws, there is a strong Obligation upon every Member of a Society to contribute all he can to the Benefit of that Society from which he himself receives so many Advantages:——These are moral Duties, if I know what moral Duties are: But I presume they are awkward ones, and not fit to restrain the unbounded Fancy of fine Gentlemen, and fine Ladies, in their Dress and Manner of Living: And it is, certainly, much more reasonable, that our Trade should decay, and our Manufacturers starve, than that People of Taste and Condition should content themselves with the wretched Produce of their own Country.

Methinks there is something very mean in being such avowed Plagiaries; and I wonder the *British* Spirit will submit to it.——Why will our Countrymen thus distrust themselves?——Let them exert their own Genius and Invention, and I make no Doubt but they will be able to produce as many original Extravagancies as all the Mareschals of *France* can do. ——How much more glorious would it be for those Ladies who establish the Fashion here, to consider at the same Time their own Dignity, and the public Good?——Let them not servilely copy, or translate *French* EDICTS, but let them *enact* Original Laws of their own.——I look upon the Birth-Day Cloaths of a fine Woman to be the Statute of Dress for that Year; and (by the Way) the only Statute which is complied with.——I therefore humbly intreat, that it may be *enacted* in *English*. Seriously, if three or four Ladies at the Head of the Fashion would but value themselves upon being cloathed intirely with the Manufactures of their own Country, and, from the Plenitude of their Power, pronounce all Foreign Manufactures *ungentile*, *awkward*, and *frippery*, the Legions who dress under their Banner would soon be as much ashamed of dressing against their Country, as they are now of being thought even Natives of it.——This would

would be moreover the real Imitation of the *French*, who like Nothing but their own.

What I have ſaid with Relation to my Fair Country-women holds equally true, as to my Fine Country-men, to whom I cannot help hinting, over and above, that they make very ridiculous *Frenchmen*, and might be very valuable *Engliſhmen*.—— Every Nation has its diſtinguiſhing Mark and Characteriſtic.——If we have a Solidity which the *French* have not, they moſt certainly have an Elaſticity which we have not; and the Imitation is mutually awkward.—— *Horace* juſtly calls Imitators, *ſervum pecus*; and, to do him Juſtice, he is himſelf an *Original*.——If my Country-men would be thought to be *converſant with* Horace, *as they moſt of them would be*, I am ſure they will find in him no Inſtance of *Foppery*, *Luxury*, or *Profuſion*.

We have heard with Satisfaction, that ſome conſiderable Perſons in this Kingdom, from a juſt and becoming Concern for our diſtreſſed Tradeſmen and Manufacturers, diſcountenance (as far as poſſible) this pernicious Folly: And, though I make no Doubt but, at the End of this long Mourning by which Trade has ſuffer'd ſo immenſely, ſome Meaſures will be taken to this Effect *elſewhere*: This would be the moſt likely Way of eradicating the Evil; and, as it is by no Means unprecedented to annex certain Conditions to the *Honour and Privilege of Subjects appearing in the Preſence of their Sovereign*,—ſurely none can be juſter nor more reaſonable than, that they ſhould conform to the Laws, and contribute to the Good of their Country.

But the Miſchief does not ſtop here neither:—— For now we are not content with receiving our Faſhions, and the Materials for them, from *France*, but we even *export* ourſelves in order to *import* them.—— The Matter, it ſeems, is of too great Conſequence to truſt to Hear-ſay Evidence for; but we muſt go our-

ourſelves to view thoſe great Originals, be able to ſay, of our own Knowledge, how ſuch a Glutton eats, and how ſuch a Fool dreſſes, and return loaded with the prohibited Tinſel, and Frippery of the *Palais.*—Half the private Families in *England* take a *Trip*, as they call it, every Summer to *Paris*; and I am aſſured, that near four hundred thouſand Pounds have been remitted thither, in one Year, to ſupply this Extravagancy!——Should this Rage contiuue, the Act of Parliament, propoſed in one of Mr. *Congreve*'s Comedies, to prohibit the Exportation of Fools, will in Reality become neceſſary.——Travelling is, unqueſtionably, a very proper Part of the Education of our Youth, and, like our Bullion, I would allow them to be exported: But People of a certain Age beyond refining, and once ſtamped here, like our Coin, ſhould be confined within the Kingdom.—The Impreſſions they have received make them current here, but obſtruct their Currency any where elſe, and they only return diſguiſed, defaced, and probably much leſſened in the Weight.

The ſober and well-regulated Family of a Country-Gentleman is a very valuable Part of the Community; they keep up good Neighbourhood by a decent Hoſpitality; they promote good Manners by their Example, and incourage Labour and Induſtry by their Conſumption.——But when once they run *French*, (if I may uſe the Expreſſion) and are to be poliſhed by this *Trip* to *Paris*, I will venture to aſſure them, that they may, from that Day, date their being ridiculous for ever afterwards.——They are laughed at in *France*, for not being like the *French*; they are laughed at here for indeavouring to be like them; and what is worſe, their mimicking their Luxury brings them into their Neceſſity, which ends in a moſt compleat Imitation indeed, of their mean and ſervile Dependance upon the Court.

I could

I could point out to these Itinerant Spirits a much shorter, less expensive, and more effectual Method of travelling and *frenchifying* themselves; which is, if they would but travel to *Old Soho*, and stay two or three Months in *le Quartier des Grecs*;——Lodgings and Legumes are very cheap there, and the People very civil to Strangers.——There too they might possibly get acquainted with some *French* People, which they never do at *Paris*; and, it may be, learn a little *French*, which they never do in *France* neither:—— And I appeal to any One who has seen those venerable Personages, of both Sexes, of the *Refugees*, if they are not infinitely more gentile, easier, and better dressed, in the *French* Manner, than any of their modern *English* Mimics.

As for our Fair Country-women in particular, they are so valuable, so beautiful a Part of our own Produce, and in which we so eminently excel all other Nations, that I can by no Means allow of their Exportation:——They are surely (if I may say so) much more valuable *Commodities* than Wooll, or Fullers-Earth, the Exportation of which is so strictly prohibited by our Laws, lest Foreigners should have the manufacturing of them;——which Reasoning holds stronger, upon many Accounts, in this Case, than in the two others.

Let it not be urged, that the Loss arising from these Follies are but a trifling Object with Relation to our Trade in general.——This, for aught I know, might have been true some Years ago:—But such is the present unhappy State of our Trade, that I doubt no Object is now a trifling one, or below the Attention of every Individual.——After six-and-twenty Years Peace, we labour under every one of the Taxes which subsisted at the Conclusion of the last expensive War, without reckoning some new ones laid on since; while other Nations, gradually eased of that

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Burden, under-work, and under-ſell us in every Foreign Market.——The laſt valuable Part of our Trade, how has it been attack'd for theſe many Years? And how——has it been protected? It would be unreaſonable to expect, that the Adminiſtration, ingroſſed by much greater Cares, ſhould attend to ſo trifling a Conſideration as Trade; nor can one wonder that it has intirely eſcaped the Attention of Parliaments, when one conſiders, that ſo many Affairs of a much higher Nature have, of late, ſo advantageouſly employ'd them.——But it, therefore, becomes more peculiarly the Care of every Individual; and if, from the Reformation only of thoſe Follies here mention'd, five or ſix hundred thouſand Pounds a Year may be ſaved to the Nation, which I am convinced is the Caſe, how incumbent is it upon every one to ſacrifice a little private Folly to ſo much public Good?——It may at leaſt be a Reprieve to our Trade and Manufactures from that Ruin which, at beſt, ſeems to be too near them, and poſſibly too the Examples of *ſome* private People may, at laſt, ſhame *others* (whoſe more immediate Care it ought to be) into ſome Degree of Attention to what they have ſo long ſeemed to neglect and deſpiſe.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, *Nov.* 18, 1738.

THERE is Nothing casts so bright a Lustre upon the Actions of those employ'd in the Administration of a Government as a just Regard for the Lives and Fortunes of their Fellow-Subjects, in the Circumstance of a nice and judicious Choice of Persons proper to fill the Seats of Justice.——The whole People in all Nations are interested in the Characters of those who are appointed to interpret and execute the Laws; but in Countries of Trade it is much more so, because a great Number of Disputes must unavoidably arise out of Commerce, which cannot happen in other Nations: So that every Man's Property may one Time or other lie before the Judge.

I take it, that it is not always he who is the most learned in the Law, who is best qualified to sit in the Seat of Justice; much less is he, who has no Qualification but a Knack of prating which some call Eloquence.——This last Accomplishment may be of great Use to the Pleader, to get him Money and Business while he is at the Bar; for it will serve his private Turn if it only tickles and amuses the Client, tho' it does him no other Service: But, to say the best of it, it is oftner employ'd to deceive, than inform the Judgment.——It should therefore be left at the Bar, and seldom or never rise to the Bench, where Integrity and a sound Judgment are the Qualifications absolutely required.

It

It is a true Obſervation made long ago, that thoſe who excel in a certain Volubility of Tongue, with a great Readineſs and Command of Words, and are therefore commonly call'd Orators, are ſeldom Perſons of Judgment.——A Judge ſhould have a ſolid Underſtanding, his Conceptions and Ideas muſt be clear, and he muſt be ingenious to diſtinguiſh Truth from the falſe Gloſſes, and little Subtilties, which Pleaders always indeavour to throw over a bad Cauſe; and therefore one who is merely a florid Orator will not be able long to ſupport the Dignity of the Bench with any great Honour.

But, above all, a Judge ſhould be a Perſon of ſingular Integrity of Mind, as well as remarkable Steadineſs of Behaviour.— Upon the Bench, he ſhould certainly act as if we had neither Acquaintance, Friends nor Relations exiſting.——I need not, I preſume, take Notice that he muſt be intirely free from, or (if I may uſe the Expreſſion) untainted with the Prejudices of Party; for wherever that Malignity infects the Mind of a Judge, it proves a Sourſe of perpetual Injuſtice: So that it ſeems unneceſſary to mention it at all.

A juſt and honeſt Adminiſtration will, at all Times, inquire into the private Lives and Characters of thoſe whom they intend to inveſt with the Scarlet Robe:——For as it is not to be worn, as formerly, only during the Pleaſure of thoſe who beſtow it, they cannot diveſt them of it again, tho' it ſhould be afterwards found that they are not gifted with Talents equal to it.

The Vertues and Vices of one who has never acted in a publick Station cannot, perhaps, be generally underſtood, or known; but Men are apt to diſcover their Paſſions in little Things: He who is a Tyrant in his own Family, or among his Neighbours, will be a Tyrant on the Bench; and I ſhould take it for a Certainty, that he who acted unjuſtly

by his Clients, or his Tenants, will make a very unjuſt Judge:——And, therefore, it is neceſſary to know how Men have acted in a private Character.

I think there are many Inſtances of Princes, who, having a Deſign to prefer Men to Seats of Juſtice, have firſt made Uſe of Arts, to try them, throwing Temptations in their Way; and, according as they have ſtood the Teſt, have either rejected or confirmed them. I am very ſenſible, that ſome Men in Power have pretended, that it is extremely difficult for a Miniſter to defend himſelf againſt the Importunities of bold and forward Men who are everlaſtingly puſhing for Preferment; and I am not inſenſible, that they are ſometimes worried with the Sollicitations of Creatures without Shame, who think that often asking is a mighty good Title to any Employment whatſoever:——But I will beg Leave to ſay, that where this happens it is their own Faults; for if they ſought out Merit, and prefer'd it when they found it, thoſe Men of Front would begin to deſpair; and tho' ſuch Miniſters would not have ſuch crouded Levees as others, they would have Friends who would do them both Honour and Credit, which the others never have:——And if a Miniſter ſhould excuſe himſelf for preferring ſome undeſerving Animal, by ſaying, that he had teiz'd him into it by the Force of his Impudence, we muſt expect to ſee nothing but Abuſe of Juſtice under ſuch an Adminiſtration.

In former Times, the Judges were generally choſen from among that Order of the Long Robe which we call Serjeants——Thoſe who, by a long Courſe of Practice and Experience, were known to have attained a moſt conſummate Knowledge of the Common Law, were diſtinguiſh'd from their Brethren by the Honour of the Coif; and this Order was looked upon to be a Kind of Nurſery for Judges.

Judges.—— The Order ſtill continues, tho' I think the ſame Regard is not pay'd to it as heretofore; for we ſee Men often lifted into a Seat of Juſtice from a more inferior Rank, without reſting there:—— It is true that, by a private Call, they paſs thro' *Serjeants*-Inn:—But they uſe it like a Turn-Stile to run thro', and do it with ſo much Haſte and Precipitation, that they ſcarce ſtop by the Way to ſalute their Brethren.

But here I ought not to paſs by in Silence how well the Great Men of the preſent Adminiſtration have ſatisfied the Hopes and Expectations of the People, as well as their own Conſciences, in diſintereſted and moſt upright Choice of Perſons to fill the Seats of Juſtice; not only in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, but their fatherly Care has extended to the Kingdom of *Ireland* and Principality of *Wales*; and, tho' theſe Subjects are farther removed from the Eye of the Court, they are equally in its Care and under its Protection:—— The Miniſters have done what we have ſaid before all good Miniſters ought to do;—— they have ſought out for obſcure Merit, and lo! they have found it.——They have, I ſay, drawn into Light and Obſervation Merit which, was it not for their kind Patronage, and fatherly Care, might have remained obſcure and unobſerved to the Day of Judgment.

But to return from whence we have digreſs'd.— It is not the Man with a glib, florid Tongue, nor he who is learned in Chicane, and ingenious in Quibble, who will grace the Seat of Juſtice, but it is the Man of ſound Intellects, honeſt and uncorrupt of Heart.—— Without Doubt, a ſolid Judgment ought to be a ſtrong Recommendation; but a well-diſpoſed Mind ought to be a much ſtronger,——not but that they often accompany each other; and we have Reaſon to know, by the Experience of ſeveral Years, that none is ſo eaſily corrupted, no Crea-

ture has ſo ſtrong a Biaſs to be a Knave, as a Blockhead.

Of all the Truſts which a Government has to beſtow, that of a Judge requires, that the Perſon upon whom it is conferr'd ſhould enter upon it with a moſt unexceptionable Character.—The ſame Rule which we obſerve in judging of Women will direct us to judge of Men.——When a Woman once declares, that ſhe does not care what the World ſays of her, I give her for gone, and I take it for granted, that, if ſhe is not a Proſtitute already, ſhe intends to be ſo:——And if a Man ſhould make the ſame Declaration, it is my Opinion, that he is already fit for any Villainy which the moſt corrupt Miniſter can put him upon;—but if ſuch a Perſon ſhould be placed upon a Bench, would any Man think his Property ſafe?——As to my own Part, if I had a Cauſe to be heard before a Judge who I knew had betrayed ſome Truſt which had been repoſed in him, and acted with a moſt profligate Contempt of Reputation, before he was raiſed to the Bench, I ſhould think myſelf irretrievably ruined, tho' my Cauſe was the honeſteſt and cleareſt of any had ever been brought before a Court of Judicature.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Nov.* 25, 1738.

I Little expected the Honour of ever hearing again from the fine Gentleman who, ſome Time ſince, was diſtinguiſhed in this Paper by the Title of the Drapper *Hugonot:* I took it for granted, that he was moved off the Premiſes, and was fled at leaſt as far as the *Cevennois*; for conſidering the Parts he lately acted in the Pit and in the *Gazetteer*, I thought he never would have ſhewn his modeſt Countenance in this Country more.——But it ſeems thoſe who are either above or below Reputation, are never to be conquered in Battles of the Pen. Our Dapper Heroe ſcorns to yield, for no other Reaſon but becauſe he has been defeated, and therefore he returns to the Charge, with the Reſolution of a Man who is not——to be put to the Bluſh.

I intended to have beſtowed upon him only a few Lines, by Way of *Poſtſcipt:* But as his Brother *Wit*, who ſubſcribes himſelf *Sidney*, has taken up the Cudgels in his Quarrel, and as I don't know but the whole Poſſe of Miniſterial Dunces may have Orders to make a Point of this Defenſe, we hope that will ſerve as a ſufficient Apology to the Publick for our taking up ſo much of their Time, to-Day, about a Perſon, whom, we find, they ſcarce think worthy even of Ridicule.

It is pleaſant enough to hear him rave about Falſhoods charg'd upon him in this *Paper*, and yet is not able to diſprove any one Fact; nay, the only Thing he has ventured to deny is the Charge of being a very

contemptible Creature, but as neither he nor we (tho' we have ſtrong Circumſtances on our Side) can poſitively decide that Point, we muſt be obliged to leave it to the Publick who, certainly, are the beſt Judges, ——whether they deſpiſe him or not.

As to his being ſtamp'd with the Name of *Hugonot*, which ſticks ſo much in his worſhipful Stomach, we ſhall ſay a Word or two more upon that Head.——— I think he is intitled to the ſame Diſtinction with his Country Folks of *Spittle-Fields*, and *Les Quartieres Des Grecs*——Who, ſince they have honoured this Country with their Reſidence, have undoubtedly had Children; but, as we don't know who are and who are not born here, if they ſhould all think fit to deny the *Cevennois*, No-body will, I fancy, take the Pains to diſprove them: Wherefore, ſo ſoon as ever he diſowned it, we gave it up.

In his firſt Defence he denies that he knew anything of Files of Muſqueteers being upon the Stage: Whereupon we put him in Mind of the Officer who called to him from one of the Boxes, and told him, " if there " were not Soldiers enough, he had Orders to ſend " more."——To which he returns this prevaricating Anſwer: *That he might know there were Soldiers at the Theatre, without knowing they were upon the Stage.*

He next defies us to prove he knew any thing of the Soldiers upon the Stage.——This Aſſurance amazes me, tho' I am no Stranger to the Character of my Man.—I do aſſert, that, before the Curtain was drawn up, he ſaid to the Officer, " That, if the Soldiers were " to appear upon the Stage, it would have a very " good Effect." To which the Officer anſwered, " That he would order the Serjeant to obey him." And, accordingly, they were commanded upon the Stage.—Let him deny this if he dares.——The Officer is a Gentleman, and I am very ſure, if call'd upon, he will not ſhuffle, or prevaricate, to bring you off.

Did

Did you not declare, Sir, you was sent by Direction (by the By he must be a hopeful Tool of a J———e who will act as he is directed!)——Was it not openly talk'd of in every Coffee-House, from *Whitechapel* to St *James*'s, that the Use now made of an Act of Parliament which originally gave universal Disgust, was such an Insult upon the Nation as was not to be indured? And must not your Directors know that the Gentlemen of the Pit would oppose the Players Acting? And were not both you and the Soldiers sent to compel the Town, by Force, to receive them, even contrary to Law? For so it certainly was, as they had no License.

You ask very pertly, *What would this Man (meaning your humble Servant) have examined? Whether there was a Riot or not? That I believe* (say you) *is out of all Doubt.*——Is it out of all Doubt? So much the worse for your Worship.——You ask next, *Will the Players having no License justify a Riot?*—No certainly; but it makes those who aided and abetted them guilty of that Riot, that is to say, the Soldiers on the Stage, and a certain little, busy Animal in the Pit, of whom you seem to entertain a wonderful Conceit.——I will not deny but, if the Proclamation had been read (which Some-body was so wicked as to attempt to read) the Gentlemen of the Pit, tho' they were opposing an unlawful Act, must have been obliged to disperse, as well as the Players.

I will now give you my humble Opinion, how I conceive a Gentleman in the Commission of the Peace might have behaved in such an Affair.——If any Person had pretended to have sent him Directions what to do, (tho' it had been even the First Minister) he would have returned such an Answer as the Affront deserved, and not have gone:—But if a Gentleman in the Commission had accidentally happened to be there, and had seen any thing tending towards a Riot, before the Play began, he might have demanded of the Players, in

French, to produce their Licenſe.——If they had no ſuch Thing, he might have told the Gentlemen of the Pit, in good *Engliſh*, that the Players were acting contrary to Law, and that, if they proceeded, he would commit them; which would have made all eaſy:——But a Gentleman in the Commiſſion of the Peace need not have join'd a Body of Soldiers in aiding and abetting thoſe who were acting againſt Law, nor need he wickedly have *drawn* a *Proclamation* upon the Audience, which, perhaps, might have ſubjected ſome of them to the Penalties of Felony.

They who will ſubmit to Orders, muſt go according to Orders; and, very poſſibly, it was not in a certain Gentleman's Inſtructions to demand the Licenſe —for that would have ſpoiled the whole Deſign. It has however convinced all Mankind, that there is a Neceſſity for repealing the Riot Act.——It was paſs'd at a particular Criſis when the Government was threatned with imminent Danger of Inſurrections all over the Kingdom, and the very Perſon who brought it into the Houſe ſaid, that, undoubtedly, it would be repealed when the Danger ſhould be over.——There is Reaſon to apprehend that Gentlemens Lives are not ſafe even in the Midſt of their Diverſions, while ſuch a dangerous Weapon is lodg'd in certain Hands: For who can anſwer but ſome low, Trading Tools may be put into the Commiſſion of Peace, whoſe only Merit may be that they will act againſt Law at the Command of their Superiors?

We ſaid, that if there had been a Riot, or any Body kill'd, thoſe who were aiding and abetting the Perſons in an illegal Act, muſt be guilty both of the Riot and the Murder.——To which you anſwer, *this is a Doctrine the Juſtice is a Stranger to.*——I believe ſo too; but it is a Doctrine the Juſtice ought not to be a Stranger to.

You ſay next, *it is ſuch Law as was never heard of in* Weſtminſter-Hall.——O fie! Mr. J——e, this is

is carrying that Matter too far, and I am aſhamed for you——you ſhould have had the Grace to have adviſed with ſome Attorney's Clerk of a Year's ſtanding at leaſt, before you ventured to expoſe yourſelf in this outrageous Manner.———Bleſs us!——what will the Conſtable and Beadle ſay, when they find out that Mr. J———e is not half ſo good a Lawyer as either of themſelves.

Indeed, my Friend, it requires a great Deal more Art than you are Maſter of, to give any tolerable Colour to ſuch Behaviour as yours.—He who acts wrong ſhould have a large Fund of Wit to defend himſelf, or at leaſt Wit enough to hold his Tongue; neither of which fall to your Share.———Had any Life been loſt in that Riot, as you call it, your Condition, and that of the Soldiers, would have come up to the Caſe of Lord *Dacres*.——He, and ſome others, out of a Frolick, had a Mind to go a Deer-ſtealing, which was look'd upon, in young Gentlemen, as a Piece of Gallantry in thoſe Days. Going into a Houſe by the Way, they fell into Company with ſome other Perſons, and there happening a Quarrel, one of his Lordſhip's Friends was kill'd. They were all tried for it; my Lord and his Company were brought in guilty of Murder; the others only of Man-ſlaughter: The Reaſon was, it appeared, That my Lord and his Friends were in an unlawful Act, and therefore were anſwerable for every bad Conſequence which might happen in the Purſuit of it.

Firſt: It appears plainly, that the Comedians were in an unlawful Act.

Secondly: It appears, that ſome Soldiers, and a little buſy Gentleman, who is neither Soldier nor Lawyer, did aid and abet them in that unlawful Act.

Thirdly: It appears, that they did it by Direction, which aggravates the Crime, becauſe it ſhews it was premeditated.

Fourthly, and laſtly: It appears, that, according to our Laws, they run the Hazard of being hang'd.

I foreſee that your Ambition will be your Ruin, and you will have Reaſon to curſe the Day when you firſt aſpired at the high Honour of being made a J———e. Happy had it been for you to have been humbly content to have writ Petitions for invalid Soldiers, or diſabled Sailors, or tranſlated Letters, from *French* to *Engliſh*, or from *Engliſh* to *French*, with a Board at your Door, modeſtly inſcribed HERE LIVETH A TRANSLATOR, than to be rais'd ſo vaſtly high as to make your Head giddy.

You muſt know I am a Piece of a Fortune-Teller, and therefore I could not help putting on my Spectacles that Night, and examining the Lines of your Phiſiognomy, which (I am ſorry to ſay) forebode ſome ſcurvy Miſchance to happen to you.——Your evil Genius is buſy, and I am afraid will make Uſe of your Folly and Vanity to undo you.———Your Friends (if you have any) cannot do better than to lock you up, and keep you from the Uſe of Pen, Ink and Paper, and alſo from the Sight of great Men; for, if the Rules of my Art do not fail me, the firſt illegal Jobb you are put upon, which raiſes any Clamour, you will be given up, and then there's an End of his Worſhip! However, I hope there will be Time allow'd you to repent;——and you will certainly be pitied by all the Oyſter-Wenches of *Holborn*, who, no Doubt, will ſay, as they commonly do of other unfortunate Gentlemen, that you are a very handſome Man; which will be ſome Comfort to a Perſon who does not want Vanity: Not to mention the Tears of all the Gin-Informers who will attend to ſee your *Exit*.——As to my own Part, I am in ſuch Charity with you, that, if you ſend to me, I promiſe to write your Laſt Dying Speech, *Gratis*.

You deſire we may ſhew the Publick ſome Inſtances of your Valour, which we thought altogether unneceſſary;

ceſſary;——but, ſince you inſiſt upon it, with ſo much Eagerneſs, to oblige you, I can only ſay, that, a few Years ſince, there was a certain Account, in our *News-Papers*, of a Civil War which broke out between a Couple of *Weſtminſter* J———es, who, meeting in a Coffee-Houſe, one of them was ſo *cowardly* as to cane the other; but however the Perſon caned was ſo *valorous* as to take the Law. Now the World was malicious enough to report, that yourſelf was One of the Two; but I deſire to be excuſed from naming which of them, for I would not willingly ſay any thing to diſcompoſe a Gentleman under your unhappy Circumſtances.

As to your raving againſt me, I impute it to that Diſtraction of Mind, which your Fears have thrown you into, and therefore I forgive it:———But I think your Friends may make Uſe of it to your Advantage; and if you fall into a new Scrape, they may plead *non compos mentis* for you, and I myſelf could be of Service in proving it.

If you ſhould recover your Senſes, I don't doubt but you will own that I am the beſt Friend you ever had:——I have help'd you to a Caſe of Law;——a Thing you never knew in your Life before:——If I have made you mad, it may be the Means of ſaving your Life:——But if your malicious Stars have decreed it otherwiſe, I have promiſed to write you *Laſt Dying* Speech: What would you have more?——I think there is nothing elſe to be done, but to pray for you, and ſo my poor unfortunate, little Monſieur RAGOTIN, *Adieu* for ever.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Dec.* 2, 1738.

The Answer of COMMON SENSE *to* COMMON HONESTY.

Loving Kinsman,

I Am scarce able to express the Pleasure your Letter gave me; for it came to my Hands at a Time that I really began to fear there was not one of your Branch of our Family left in the Land of the Living.——I assure you, there was nothing I long'd for so much, as the Satisfaction of seeing your Face once more before I died; but where to begin my Enquiry seem'd a very puzzling Affair:—— Some advised me to seek you among the Gentlemen of the long Robe; but this Advice was owing to their Ignorance of a Piece of secret History relating to your Branch of the Family, I mean, that Injunction which one of your Fore-fathers left upon his Death-bed, to his Posterity, that none of them should ever engage in the Practice of the Common Law: And therefore, without making any Enquiry, I went into the City: All the Account I receiv'd there was from some old Traders, who said, that they remember'd such a Person upon Change before the Establishment of Funds and Stocks, but they supposed you were either broke, or dead, or retired into the Country, for they could not recollect to have seen you since.——I then took a Tour

Tour about the Country, where I met with ſeveral that knew you, who told me, that the high Taxes had obliged you to break up Houſe-keeping, and that, not being longer able to maintain the ſame Hoſpitality your Fore-fathers had done before you, you were retired to *America*; for they had heard you ſay, you were reſolv'd to paſs the reſt of your Days among Savages.

Upon this I return'd to Town, where it was whiſper'd me, that you had been taken up for a Plot againſt the G———.

I was not without Apprehenſion that there might be ſomething in this laſt Report; for I had been credibly inform'd, that a certain great Man had conceiv'd a moſt implacable Averſion to you;——that, at his own Table, when he was ſurrounded by his Fools and his Flatterers, his general Topick of Converſation was either to rail at you, or, in his ruſtick, ill-bred Way, to ridicule you; and thoſe SIGNS of Men who are his Favourites, and who are no more than Ecchoes of him, have often been heard to ſay, that they hoped to ſee you hang'd:——But your Letter has clear'd up my Doubts, and ſince I know you are alive, and at Liberty, I am eaſy.

As to your Requeſt, to be taken into my Service, I conſent to it *De bon cœur*.——I have already done ſomething for a remote Relation of ours who was out of all Buſineſs,——you muſt have heard of him, his Name is WIT; he formerly writ for the Stage, but being excluded from the Theatre, by the late licenſing Act, I employ him now and then to write a Paper for me.——What he has done has been very well received by the Publick; but they hate him, at Court, as they do the Devil.

I am ſorry you did not conſult me, before you took thoſe Steps mentioned in your Letter in order to introduce yourſelf again into the World:——It might have ſaved you ſome Trouble, and not a little

little Mortification.——I ſhould certainly have put it out of your Head to think of getting into a publick Employment; for, tho' there are ſtill living a great many Well-wiſhers to our Family, they are in no Condition to prefer us:——Beſides, that Enemy of yours, whom I mention'd before, is in League with a common Proſtitute (who, of all Creatures living, hates you the moſt) without whoſe Advice and Aſſiſtance he does no one Thing in this World; nay, his own Tools confeſs, that if ſhe was to leave him but one Week, he muſt certainly be undone.——The Intimacy betwixt them is publickly known, ſo that to name her, is not publiſhing a Scandal: She is call'd BRIBERY.

Whether it is a Marriage, or only an Amour betwixt them, they have Iſſue two Daughters, *Luxury* and *Poverty*;——the firſt is ſome Years older than her Siſter, whom, for that and ſome other Reaſons, ſhe takes upon her to command; ſhe makes the unhappy Creature her Slave, takes from her all ſhe earns by her Labour, and ſquanders it away in a thouſand Extravagances.

To deſcribe her truly, ſhe is a capricious, vain, ſenſeleſs Creature, with a thouſand Vices, and yet ſhe has more Folly than Vice; for, tho' ſhe ſcarce allows her Siſter Food and Raiment, ſhe will have her always cloſe at her Heels, as if ſhe was proud to let the World ſee how ſhe treats her.——I leave you to judge, whether a Perſon of your Character could expect Preferment in ſuch a Family.

But there is ſome Hope, that you may meet with better Quarter, if you will but croſs the Sea; for I have been inform'd, by a very learned Genealogiſt, that the preſent Cardinal *Fleury* is deſcended from a Branch of our Family that was ſettled in *France*: Beſides, there is a Female Relation of ours, who went over to that Kingdom ſome Years ago, that has great Power and Intereſt there, and, as it is poſſible you

may

may not have heard her Story, I will tell it you in as few Words as I can.

I ſhall deſcribe her Perſon no farther than by obſerving, that there was ſuch an inexpreſſible Sweetneſs in her Looks, and Modeſty in her Behaviour, that at her firſt Appearance in this Town it was expected ſhe would have been admired by all the World, and have been, at leaſt, a reigning Toaſt: But thoſe, at the Head of the Faſhion thought otherwiſe;—— that Beauty, which would have delighted Perſons of any Taſte, could not move them ſo much as to be civil to her;——they did not only ſlight her themſelves, but they encouraged every Body elſe to ſlight her.——If ſhe went to viſit the Wife of a great Man, the firſt Time ſhe was told, my Lady is not at Home; the ſecond Time, the Porter, after the rude Manner of thoſe that are better fed than taught, bid her go about her Buſineſs, his Lady would not ſee her.——At laſt, the very Citizens began to affront her; and a Mercer's Wife, in a pert Manner, told her, ſhe'd have her to know, ſhe kept no ſuch Company: And when ſhe appear'd at the Drawing-Room, or an Aſſembly, Nobody would ſpeak to her.——Such was the Treatment ſhewn to our Kinſwoman, whoſe Name was OEconomy.

What added to her Mortification was, that two ugly Creatures, the moſt oppoſite to her both in Perſon and Mind, as well as oppoſite to each other, were careſs'd by the People who ruled the Roaſt.—— One of theſe was a moſt infernal Hag, of Aſpect hideous, her Name was Avarice; the other, a proud, flaunting Huſſy, call'd Profusion; it is not to be expreſs'd what Court was paid theſe two ugly Monſters:——If they were ſeen at Court, or the Opera, every Body bow'd to them, every Body made Way for them; they were even employ'd in Affairs, and had their different Departments in Buſineſs.——*Avarice* was the Manager when a Job offer'd for the private Advan-

Advantage of the Men of Buſineſs; when any Thing was to be done for the Publick, it was left to *Profuſion*; and the Cant among them was, that Nobody underſtood the Buſineſs of the Treaſury but Madam *Profuſion*,——— Nobody was fit to be truſted with publick Money but Madam *Profuſion*.

Our Kinſwoman, finding herſelf thus ſlighted, withdrew from a taſteleſs Town, and retired into *France*, were, at firſt, ſhe was treated with the ſame Civilities that are ſhewn to all Strangers in that Country; but when they became better acquainted with her excellent Qualities, all the World was in Love with her, ſhe had the Honour to be introduced to Court by no leſs a Perſon than the Cardinal Miniſter himſelf.———To make ſhort of my Story: In order to ingage her to ſtay in their Country, they naturalized her, and propoſed a very honourable Match to her, and accordingly ſhe was married; ſince which, ſhe has had two fine Children, PLENTY and CONTENT:——Thoſe that have ſeen them ſay, they are as handſome as their Mother.

But I ſhould have inform'd you, that her good Senſe gain'd her more Admirers even than her Beauty; the Miniſter himſelf has taken from her a Scheme for the interior Government of the Kingdom, which is the beſt that ever was put in Practice; they find, by Experience, it comforts the People, leſſens the Taxes, and pays the publick Debts.

This being the Caſe, I hope, at worſt, we may meet with Quarter in that Country;———I ſay *we*, for there appears ſuch a Diſlike to our Family, among the Great, that if I ſhould be baniſh'd by a B———, I ſhould not wonder at it. If that ſhould happen, we had beſt troop off together, and, as we ſhall not carry much Wealth with us, we may be obliged to apply to the Miniſter, and therefore I have already prepared ſuch a Letter as I think will be proper to write to him upon our firſt Landing, a Copy of which I here ſend you for your Approbation.

Nous

Nous prenons la liberté de nous adresser à votre Eminence, sans le secours d'aucune recommendation, excepté celle que nous devons à nos malheurs même ; puisque les malheureux ont toujours eu le droit de s'attendre à la faveur des ames grandes & génereuses.—— *On nous apelle la* Probité *& le* Bon-Sens : *Nous sommes deux pauvres* Refugiées, *chassées de leur pays par* ** *& par* **, *& reduites à la nécessité de recourir à la protection de vôtre Eminence.*

Nous croyons devoir informer vôtre Eminence, que nous avons l'honneur d'être alliées trez-proches de la Dame Oeconomie, *que vous aves reçûs en* France *d'une maniere si gracieuse.*——*Le Sang qui coule dans nos veines est le même que celui de cette digne Parente, à qui la* France *doit l'etat fleurissant où elle se trouve ; car nous avons entendu plusieurs* Francois *avouer generusement, que les Blessures, qui la* France *avoit recuë dans le cours d'une Guerre longue, ruïneuse & malheureuse, sont entierement gueries, & qu'il ne reste même aucune trace des cicatrices.*——*C'est encore à elle que ce Royaume est redevable de l'état où il est de pouvoir donner la Loy à ses Conquérans : Mais si la Providence n'avoit point réuni en la personne de vôtre Eminence un Esprit droit & éclairé, avec un Cœur vertueux & integre, vous n'auriéz point écouté la voix de la* Sagesse ; *en sorte que le mérite du succes est en grande partie dû à vôtre Eminence même.*

Il ne nous conviendroit point de rien dire à nôtre propre recommendation ; &, par conséquent, nous nous en raportons à vôtre Eminence sur la maniere dont vôtre Sagesse *jugera à propos de nous employer, aprés vous etre informé de notre caractere. Nous avons l'honneur d'etre,* Monseigneur,

De Vôtre Eminence

Les tres humbles, &c.

As

As you may not have ſtudied the French *Tongue, I have tranſlated it into* Engliſh, *for your Reading.*

" We take the Liberty of addreſſing your Emi-
" nence, without any Recommendation, except that
" which we owe to our Misfortunes; for the Un-
" fortunate have ever been entitled to the Favour
" of great and generous Minds.——We are call'd,
" *Common Honeſty* and *Common Senſe*, two poor Re-
" fugees, driven from our Country by ** and by **,
" and now reduced to a Neceſſity of applying to
" your Eminence for Protection.

" We think we ought to let your Eminence
" know, that we have the Honour to be nearly re-
" lated to the Lady *Oeconomy*, who has been ſo
" graciouſly receiv'd in *France*.——— The Blood
" which runs in our Veins is the ſame with hers,
" by whoſe Scheme *France* is rais'd to its preſent
" flouriſhing Condition; for we have heard ſeveral
" *French* Gentlemen generouſly own, that the Wounds
" receiv'd during a long, waſting, unſucceſsful War,
" are quite heal'd, nor is there ſo much as a Scar
" to be ſeen; nay, that it is owing to her, that
" *France* is, at this Day, able to give Laws to its
" Conquerors: But had not Providence united in the
" Perſon of your Eminence, an honeſt and uncorrupt
" Heart with a good Underſtanding, you would not
" have liſten'd to the Voice of Wiſdom; ſo that the
" Merit is, in a great Meaſure, owing to your E-
" minence.

" It would not become us to ſay any thing in
" our own Praiſe, and therefore we ſhall leave it
" to your Eminence to employ us in ſuch Manner
" as, upon Enquiry into our Characters, your Emi-
" nence, in your great Wiſdom, ſhall think fit.——
" We have the Honour to be your Eminence's

Moſt obedient humble Servants, &c.

If

If any Thing occurs to you, which you think proper to be added to this Letter, or if you can advise any Thing else, in the present low Condition of our Family, be so good to communicate it, and it shall be thankfully receiv'd by

Your affectionate Kinsman,

and most obedient Servant,

COMMON SENSE.

SATURDAY, *Dec.* 9, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR, *London, Nov.* 24. 1738.

ALTHO' the Writers in the *Gazetteer* are generally so low, or stupid, that they do not deserve your Notice, yet, when a dangerous Falshood appears in that Paper, or a formed Design to impose upon the Innocent and Ignorant, they ought to be exposed. For this Purpose, I hope you will give the following Answer to their Paper of *Saturday* last, a Place in your Journal.

The Design of it is, to persuade us, that the Trade of this Kingdom is at present in a flourishing Condition; and that we are great Gainers upon the general Ballance of our *Imports* and *Exports*; the contrary of which is so well known, and the Arguments they make use of are so very weak, that I should not have been at the Pains to have given him an Answer, had I not been

been informed that this motley Piece is the Production of one who has *too long* had a great Share in all our Negotiations, and the Chief Direction of all our Plantation Affairs.

This Author, who signs himself *S. Export*, instead of *Monsieur Ballance*, which is his true Name, begins with a notorious Falshood; but, as it may appear plausible to those who are unacquainted with the Theory of Trade, I think it necessary to give him an Answer. He says, "The present Established State of Publick "Credit; the Reduction of the Interest of Money; "and the visible Increase of the National Stock, in "the Tonnage of our Royal Navy and Trading "Ships, in our Buildings, Furniture, wrought Plate, "and Jewels; the Increase of Cattle, and Improve-"ments of Land; are incontestible Proofs of our "Trade's being in a flourishing Condition.

The present established State of Publick Credit is so far from being an *incontestible* Proof of our Trade's being in a flourishing Condition, that it is a Proof of the contrary; for our Trade is so loaded in every Branch, and private Credit so precarious, by Means of the many Bankruptcies occasioned by the Lowness of Trade, that every Man who has got a little Money, endeavours to throw it into our Funds, because he can get nothing by it in Trade, and runs a great Risk of losing the Principal, if he lends it out at Interest upon private Credit. For this Reason, every Man who understands the Nature of Trade, and has a Regard for his Country, must be sorry to hear of the Rise of our Stocks; and I am convinced, no one Step we have taken, has done more Harm to our Trade, than that of erecting Publick Funds; because our Publick Credit has, at last, effectually destroyed all Personal Credit between Man and Man, with Regard to the borrowing and lending of Money.

That the Interest of Money is lately reduced upon our Publick Funds, and upon large Mortgages of Land,

Land, is true; and it would have been reduced lower than it is, if our Sinking Fund had been religiouſly applied to the ſacred Uſe for which it was intended, and no new Publick Debt contracted: But that the Intereſt of Money is lately reduced upon Perſonal Credit among the lower Claſs of Merchants, Tradeſmen, and Manufacturers, where a low Intereſt is of moſt Uſe to Trade, is falſe; for tho' there may ſtill be ſomething done in the Way of diſcounting Bills and Notes, at a moderate *Premium*, there is now no ſuch Thing as lending Money for a Term of Years upon the Perſonal Credit of Merchants or Tradeſmen. However, granting that the Intereſt of Money had been lately, in all Caſes, reduced, this Effect may have proceeded from ſome late Diſcouragements in Trade; becauſe ſuch Diſcouragements would of Courſe make many draw their Money out, in order to employ it at Intereſt; and till a great Part of the Sum ſo drawn out, is employed in the Purchaſe of Land, Intereſt muſt continue low; but this Effect will ſoon ceaſe, if Trade does not revive.

The Increaſe in the Tonnage of our Navy is a Proof of the Increaſe of our Taxes, and I wiſh they had never been increaſed for any other Purpoſe, but it is no Proof of the Increaſe of our Trade; and the Increaſe in the Tonnage of our Trading Ships, if there be any, is owing to the Increaſe of our Plantations, an Effect which neceſſarily proceeds from the Nature of Plantations; for I am ſure their Increaſe does not proceed from the Encouragement they have met with from us: But as to our Foreign Trade, I believe, it might be demonſtrated, that the Tonnage of our Shipping employed in it has lately decreaſed; and, I'm afraid, will decreaſe more and more, if proper Meaſures are not ſpeedily taken to prevent it.

The Increaſe of our Buildings, Furniture, wrought Plate, and Jewels, is a Proof of the Increaſe of Luxury, but ſurely it is no Proof of the Increaſe of Trade; for

for a Man who is employed in Trade, knows better what to do with his Money, than to employ it in ſuch Vanities; and if this Matter be ſtrictly enquired into, it will be found, that this Increaſe in our Luxury is chiefly among Place-men, Stockjobbers, and other Plunderers of their Country, who, like common Gameſters and common Proſtitutes, uſually ſpend in Extravagance, what they have got by Plunder.

Laſtly, our Improvements of Land is a natural and neceſſary Conſequence of the Reduction of Intereſt; therefore ſuch Improvements, ſuppoſing the Fact to be true, can be no *inconteſtible* Proof of our Trade's being now in a flouriſhing Condition; and the Increaſe of Cattle is a neceſſary Conſequence of the Improvement of Land: But all the Improvements we have lately made in this Way, are principally to be aſcribed to the preſent prevailing Humour of dividing and incloſing our Commons, which muſt diminiſh the Value of our other Lands, unleſs our People increaſe in Proportion, and this is impoſſible, if our Trade be upon the Decline.

Mr. *Export*'s next Step is to prove, that our *Exports* exceed our *Imports*. In this Calculation he acknowledges it impoſſible to be exact, without having Recourſe to the *Cuſtom-houſe* Accounts. This, I believe, he might eaſily have had, and would have had, if he could have from thence drawn any good Argument for what he advances. But I ſhall go farther, and ſay, that in this Caſe the *Cuſtom-houſe* Accounts are not to be truſted to, even tho' the true Value of every Commodity there entered were exactly aſcertained; becauſe there may be many Impoſitions, tho' not Frauds, in theſe Accounts; as has been proved by the Author of a Pamphlet, publiſhed at the End of laſt Seſſion of Parliament, intitled, *A Letter from a Merchant who has left off Trade, to a Member of Parliament; wherein the Caſe of the* Britiſh *Manufacture of Linnen is fairly ſtated.* The Peruſal of which I ſhall recom-

recommend to your Readers, and therefore ſhall not repeat his Arguments.

However, Mr. *Export* tells us, "He doubts not "to be able to convince all unprejudiced Readers, "from the ſole Force of *Preſumptive Proofs*, that our "*Exports* exceed our *Imports*, in that Senſe wherein "the Queſtion, relating to the Advantages ariſing "from our Trade, can be juſtly and impartially con-"ſidered.

For this Purpoſe, he begins as moſt Men do, who are engaged upon the wrong Side of a Queſtion: He charges his Antagoniſt, Mr. *Freeport*, with a Poſition which, I am ſure, he never laid down, nor could any Man but a *Gazetteer* make Uſe of ſuch a one. He inſinuates, as if he had ſaid, that we ought to value our *Imports* as they ſtand us in when they are in our Ware-houſes, loaded with the Freight, Inſurance, Duty, and other Charges; and then he triumphs in ſhewing, that ſuch Goods ought to be valued only at the prime Coſt, at which they were bought in the Country from whence they were imported.

This, ſurely, is what no Man ever denied, provided they are imported in *Britiſh* Ships, and inſured by *Britiſh* Inſurers. But who would expect that this doughty Reaſoner ſhould fall into juſt ſuch another Blunder as he falſely charges his Antagoniſt with; for he ſays, that in all Supputations of this Kind, Regard ſhould be had only to the prime Coſt of the Commodity imported, without adding the Proviſo, of the Commodities being imported in *Britiſh* Bottoms: Whereas, it is certain, that in all Computations of this Kind, when the Commodity is imported in Foreign Bottoms, and inſured by Foreign Inſurers, Regard ſhould be had to the Price it is ſold for in this Kingdom by the Importer, which muſt be a good deal higher than what it was bought at in the Coun-

try

try from whence it is imported; and with Regard to our *Exports*, the Caſe is the ſame.

When a Commodity is exported in *Britiſh* Bottoms, it ought to be valued at the Price it is ſold for by the Exporter in the Country to which it is exported; but when it is exported in Foreign Bottoms, it ought to be valued at the Price it is ſold for here, by the Merchant to the Exporter, which, barring Accidents, is always leſs than what it is ſold for by the Exporter, in the Country to which he exports it; which ſhews the great Advantage of importing and exporting in our own Veſſels; becauſe by ſo doing, the Nation loſes leſs by our *Imports*, and gains more by our *Exports*, than it can do otherwiſe.

This ought to be now particularly taken Notice of; becauſe we have already begun to carry on a great Part of our *Baltick* and *Hamburgh* Trade in Foreign Bottoms; and this, I'm afraid, will ſoon be the Caſe of every other Foreign Trade, unleſs we fall upon a Way of enabling our People, eſpecially here about *London*, to build and navigate their Ships cheaper than they can do at preſent. If this had been duly conſidered, I am convinced we would never have revived the *Salt Duty*; for tho' a *Farthing* may appear a Trifle to a Gentleman, a Trader muſt conſider that 960 *Farthings* make a *Pound*.

After Mr. *Export* has thus tirumphed in anſwering an Argument which no Man ever made Uſe of againſt him, he proceeds to lay down one of the moſt extraordinary Poſitions that was, I believe, ever put in Writing or Print. He ſays, "That all Imports for "Re-exportation, either rough or meliorated, or ſuch "as we uſe in our Woollen or other Manufactures, "or for the neceſſary Support of Life, becauſe we "receive a Benefit from them, therefore they are not "to be accounted for, or placed to the Debt of the "National Account of *Imports* and *Exports*." This

Poſition,

Position, indeed, he is cunning enough not to put in the expreſs and conciſe Terms, in which I have ſtated it; becauſe, if he had, it would not have ſtood in Need of an Anſwer; for every Man would, at firſt View, have diſcerned it to be ridiculous: But every one will ſee, that this is his Meaning; becauſe he from thence infers, "That, in the ſtating of this Account, we have none of thoſe Commodities to account for, that are re-exported rough or meliorated; nor any of thoſe that are of abſolute Neceſſity in the Improvements of our Manufactures, or of Uſe towards the Conveniency or Magnificence of our Buildings or Furniture; we have (ſays he) thoſe *Imports only* to account for, that contribute to or promote what is properly underſtood to be Luxury; and therefore (he concludes) that from the Value of theſe at prime Coſt, *and of theſe only*, ſhould the Ballance of our Trade be computed.

Upon this impudent and fallacious Poſition, Mr. *Export* has founded all his *preſumptive Proofs*. From hence he takes Occaſion to exclude from the Number of thoſe *Imports* that are to be placed to the Debt of the National Account of *Imports* and *Exports*, "all our *Imports* of Iron and Copper from *Sweden*; of Iron, Wool, Dying-Stuffs, and Oil, from *Spain*; of Wool, and Copper, from *Barbary*; of Hemp, Flax, Hemp and Flax-Seed, Yarn, Pitch, Tar, Pot-aſhes, Plank, Board, Timber, and Maſts, from the *Baltick* and *Norway*; of Raw-ſilk, from *Italy* and *Sicily*; of Cotton, Mohair, Gaules, and ſeveral other Commodities, from *Turkey*; of Madder, and many other Articles from *Holland*; and of all ſuch *Eaſt-India* Goods, and Foreign Linnens, as are re-exported, either to Foreign Countries, or to our own Plantations;" tho' every Man that underſtands Trade muſt grant, that the Goods carried to our own Plantations, or any other Part of our own

Dominions, are not properly exported, but transported.

Those who understand Trade, or know any Thing of what is called the Ballance of Trade, will easily see the Ridiculousness of this Way of Reasoning; but to make it plain to those who do not, I shall suppose, a *Farmer* has such a Number of Children and Grand-Children, that he stands in no Need of Servants or Labourers: Suppose these Children, bred up to such a Variety of Employments, that the *Farmer* not only provides himself and Family with many of the Necessaries and Conveniencies of Life, and with most Sorts of Manufactures; but also sells off large Quantities of Provisions and Manufactures yearly: And suppose the Value of what he thus sells off yearly, to amount to 1000 *l*; which, I shall, for Argument's Sake, call his *Exports*.

Now we cannot suppose that this *Farmer*, or any *Farmer*, can provide himself, from the Produce of his Farm, with every Thing that is necessary for the Support of his Family, and with all the Materials that are necessary for cultivating and managing his Farm, and for working up his Manufactures; therefore, let me suppose, that he buys up yearly, some Cattle, Hogs, Poultry, *&c.* to be sold off again at an advanced Price; that he is obliged to buy Iron, Steel, Timber, *&c.* yearly, for cultivating and managing his Farm; that he is obliged to buy Salt, Copper, Brass, Pewter, Iron, Steel, *&c.* for the Support and Use of his Family; that he is obliged to buy Wool, Raw-silk, Hemp, Flax, Oil, Dying Stuffs, *&c.* for working up his Manufactures; and that the Value of all these Necessaries amounts to 500 *l.* a Year. Then let me suppose, that this *Farmer* indulges himself and Family with many Luxuries and Vanities, which he cannot furnish himself with from the Produce of his Farm; and is therefore obliged to purchase yearly from others, to the Amount of 400 *l.* a Year. These

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Neceſſaries and Luxuries I ſhall, for the ſame Reaſon, call his *Imports*; and then I ſhall ſuppoſe, that he pays 200 *l.* a Year quit Rent to his Landlord.

After theſe Suppoſitions, let me conſider, if this *Farmer* be in a thriving Condition, or in the high Road to Deſtruction? If Mr. *Export* were to anſwer this Queſtion, he would gravely tell us, that we muſt not place to the Debt of this Man's Account of *Imports* and *Exports*, the 500 *l.* a Year he pays for thoſe Things that are neceſſary for ſupporting his Family, *&c*; we muſt place to the Debt of his Account, only the 400 *l.* a Year he pays for the Luxuries and Vanities of Life; and that conſequently we muſt conclude, he gains upon the Ballance of Trade 600 *l.* yearly; therefore, according to this Way of reaſoning, our *Farmer* would be in a flouriſhing Condition.

But if any *Farmer* in *England* were to anſwer this Queſtion, tho' he had never caſt an Account but upon his Fingers, or with a Bit of Chalk upon a Board, he would tell us, That, as this Man's Income amounts to but 1000 *l.* a Year, and his Out-goings to 1100 *l.* a Year, he muſt run 100 *l.* behind Hand yearly; and conſequently muſt ſoon be undone; unleſs he falls upon a Way to increaſe his Income, or diminiſh his luxurious Out-goings; for none of his other Out-goings can be diminiſhed, without diminiſhing at the ſame Time his Income.

I ſhall apply this no farther, but only to take Notice, that the Expence the Nation is at for Penſions to Foreign Princes; for maintaining our Foreign Miniſters, Travellers, and Mummy-Hunters; and for paying the Intereſt growing due yearly to thoſe Foreigners who have a Share in our Funds, may be compared to the Quit-rent paid by this *Farmer*; ſo that we may be Gainers upon the General Ballance of our Trade, and yet, if this Gain does not equal at leaſt that Expence, we muſt be in the high Road to Perdition; which, I am much afraid, is our Caſe at preſent.

From hence every Man muſt ſee the Fallacy of Mr. *Export*'s Reaſoning; and I muſt ſay, it is ſuch an audacious Atrempt to impoſe upon the Underſtanding, that I was ſurpriſed to ſee it put in Print. In a florid Harangue made in a publick Aſſembly, where People have not Time to weigh what is ſaid, ſuch an Attempt would have been equally criminal, but not near ſo impudent: It might there have been ſuppoſed to afford an Excuſe at leaſt for thoſe who are *willing* to be impoſed on; but to ſee ſuch an Argument made uſe of in a printed Paper, which People have Time to read and conſider, is ſhewing the utmoſt Contempt for the Common Senſe and Underſtanding of every Man in the Kingdom.

What! ſhall we, in order to compute the Ballance of our Trade, reckon all our Re-exportations, and all our Manufactures made of Foreign Materials, or by Means of Foreign Materials, and afterwards exported, at their full Value; and ſhall we reckon nothing for thoſe Commodities we import, for enabling us to make thoſe Re-exportations, or for thoſe Materials we import, for enabling us to make up and export thoſe Manufactures? Shall we reckon all thoſe Neceſſaries of Life we produce and export, at their full Value; and ſhall we reckon nothing for thoſe Neceſſaries of Life which we are obliged to import?

This is a Miſtake ſo glaring, it could not proceed from Ignorance or Inattention: It could proceed from nothing but a malevolent and wicked Deſign to lull the People of this Nation aſleep, in order to prevent their taking Notice of, or providing againſt, that Ruin which, I'm afraid, is coming Poſt upon them.—Can ſuch an Author expect to be treated like a Gentleman? —Can any Man uſe him worſe than he deſerves.

I am, Sir,

Your Friend, becauſe you are a Friend to the Liberties, the Trade, and the People of Great-Britain.

SATUR-

SATURDAY, *Dec.* 16, 1738.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR, *Oct.* 30, 1738.

'TIS to be hoped, that the Preliminary Articles, lately agreed to by *Spain*, will end in a safe and lasting Peace; but, since not only Preliminaries, but Treaties themselves, have sometimes failed, we should stand prepared to act as becomes *Englishmen* at all Events; and not smother our Resentment against repeated Injuries, out of a mean Apprehension, that some of our Neighbours may take it ill that we presume to do ourselves common Justice. Such Notions are inconsistent with the Character of the Nation. Some of your Readers may have seen the celebrated Medal struck, in Q. *Elizabeth*'s Time, on the Defeat of the *Spanish Armada*, with the Motto of *Dux Femina Facti:* And may also have, probably, met with the *Extempore Latin* Reply made by that renowned Queen to *Paul de Jaline*, the *Polish* Embassador, who taxed her with breaking the Law of Nature and Nations, by intercepting the Supplies sent to *Philip* the II. by *Sigismund* King of *Poland*; and declared, that his Master, who was related to the House of *Austria*, would take proper Measures to obtain Satisfaction, if it was not immediately granted. Her Majesty's Answer was as follows, as may be seen in *Speed*'s History of *England*, Page 1199.

Heu! quam decepta fui! expectavi Nuncium, tu vero Querelam mihi adduxisti. Per Literas te accepisse Legatum, te vero Heraldum invenio. Nunquam in vita talem Orationem audivi. Miror, sane miror tantam et tam insolutam in publico Audaciam, neque puto si Rex tuus adesset, talia verba protulisset. Sin aliquid tale tibi in Mandatis commisit (quod quidem valde dubito) attribuendum, quod cum Rex sit juvenis, et non tam jure Sanguinis quam Electionis, atque etiam noviter electus, non tam bene percipiat quid inter Reges convenit quam Majores sui nobiscum observarunt, et alii fortasse deinceps observabunt. Quod at te attinet, videris multos Libros perlegisse, Libros tamen Principum non attigisse, neque intelligere quid inter Reges convenit.

Alas! how greatly am I disappointed! I expected a friendly Message, but, instead of that, am shocked with Reproaches. I apprehended, from your Credentials, that you came as an Embassador of Peace, but you appear before me as a Herald prepared to declare War. Never in my Life did I hear so insolent an Harangue, and am not a little surprized at so great and uncommon an Assurance shewn upon so publick an Occasion: Nor can I believe, if your Master had been here in Person, he would have dropt any such Expressions. However, if he did give you any such Orders (which, indeed, I greatly question) it must be imputed to the Inexperience of his Youth, and his being raised to the Royal Dignity not by Hereditary Descent, but by Election, and that so lately too that he is at a Loss to know how to behave himself towards others of the same Rank, with that Decency which his Predecessors ever did, and his Successors probably may observe towards us. As to what relates to yourself, you

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seem to have turned over many Books, but to have been little experienced in the Rules observed in Courts, and to have no due Taste of of that Politeness of Behaviour which ought ever to subsist between Princes.

Cum vero Jus Naturæ et Gentium commemoras, hoc cito esse Jus Naturæ et Gentium, ut cum Bellum inter Reges intercedat, liceat alteri alterius undique allata Præsidia intercipere, et ne in damnum suum convertantur prævidere: Hoc scito esse Jus Naturæ et Gentium. Ubi itidem Domum Austriæ narras (quam jam tanti facis) non te lateat ex eadem Domo non defuisse qui Regnum Poloniæ Regi tuo intercipere voluissent.

However, since you seem to insist much upon the Law of Nature and Nations, I must inform you, that the Law of Nature and Nations is this; That when Wars break out between Princes, each hath a Right to intercept all Supplies sent to his Enemy, from what Quarter soever they come, and to prevent their being made Use of to his Disadvantage. This, I would have you to know, is the Law of Nature and Nations. And whereas you talk much of the House of *Austria*, on which you now seem to set so high a Value, is may be worth your while to reflect, how lately one of that Family attempted to deprive your Master of the *Polish* Throne.

De reliquis, quæ cum multa sint, et singulatim deliberanda, non sunt hujus loci ac temporis; accipies quod a quibusdam Consiliariis huic rei

As to what other Affairs you mention, since there are many of them, and each will require a particular Consideration, they are not fit for this Time and Place; but

designatis deliberandum fuerit. Interim valeas et quiescas.

you will hereafter receive a proper Answer from such of my Council whose Province it is to inspect those Affairs. In the mean Time farewell, and be quiet.

After which, the Queen, turning to her Attendants, said; God's Death! my Lords, I have been forced To-day to scour up my old *Latin* that had lain long in Rusting.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

ONE of your Correspondents clearly shewed, that we made Use of some Words in a very vague and uncertain Signification, and from his Definitions of Wisdom and Cunning, which are certainly the true ones, I believe your Readers will conclude, *there is much more of the latter in the World, at present, than the former*; but this is but just touch'd upon, the rest of the Paper is a witty Invective against Wit. But, Sir, the present Time requires the World to be more serious: *Have* you not undertaken the Cause of the Publick, and was there ever any Time that it more wanted Assistance? *Did not* our injured Merchants lay their Complaints before the Parliament for a third Time? *Did not*, in Consequence of this, the Parliament address his Majesty to obtain Satisfaction? *Did* they not strengthen his Royal Hands, that he might demand Restitution with more Authority? *And*, have not more Ships been put into Commission than were, at any one Period of Time, during all the last War? When this Fleet is returning Home again without striking a Stroke, will you be amusing your Readers with Subjects of Entertainment, as if there was nothing

nothing required their Attention. Let me tell you, Sir, to be defining Wit now, *is playing upon the Harp while* Rome *is in a Flame.*

Give your Countrymen a true Definition of Peace, *of a safe and honourable Peace: From thence* let them reflect, whether we have been in a State of Peace for the last seventeen Years; let them judge of the Peace now said to be concluded with the *Spaniards*, whether it is built upon a *lasting Foundation*, or a *Temporary Expedient*. This, Sir, will be acting up to the Part you have taken upon you, and will be a real Advantage to your Fellow-Subjects.

The Nation has received repeated Insults, without returning a Blow; but this is not owing to Cowardise, but a peaceable Disposition: For, at last, the Warrior has been roused; we have clenched our Fist, and our Arm has been prepared to strike; but the Arm is withdrawn, and the Blow has not been given: To what, then, shall we attribute this? The Answer can be but one, To have obtained a safe and honourable Peace; but, at the Terms of this Peace are yet a Secret, we may venture to guess at it in a negative Way, and explain *what the Terms cannot be.*

It is certain, *it cannot be upon giving the* Spaniards a *Power to search our Ships upon the high Seas.* By the Treaties now subsisting between the two Crowns, we have an undoubted Right to sail to and from our own Colonies, without being searched by any; when this Right has been invaded, and we, at a great Expence, have fitted out a Fleet in order to obtain Satisfaction, if we give up this Right, *I may venture to pronounce the Peace dishonourable, and, not only dishonourable, but, destructive too.* It will be in vain to say, it may be given up, with Safety, *within certain Latitudes:* If once they have a Right to exercise it *any where*, except in their own Ports, we cannot be certain they will not exercise it *every where*. I have been credibly inform'd, that it was proved, that an *English* Ship was condemned in one

of the Courts of *Spain*, for having Log-wood on board, when, by the Depositions of the Master and several of the Sailors, it appeared they had none; but the Method of proceeding with this,———The whole Ship's Crew were kept under Hatches till after Trial, and a *Spaniard* was appointed for their Councel, who confess'd all which was alledged against him, and, upon this, Judgment was given for Confiscation. This is using us *as the Pope does the Devil when he canonizes a Saint*; his Holiness appoints Satan a Councel, and then orders him what to say.———After such a flagrant Instance of their Injustice, can we be certain, that they would not serve us in the same Manner *as to the Latitude?* Or, rather, may we not be certain, that they would? If once they had a Right to search, it would be easy for them to get one of their own Councel to make Confessions of the Latitude; thus would our injured Merchants be *confess'd out of their Property*, with this single Comfort, that *they gave their Councel no Fee.* But the Nation cannot suffer so useful a Set of Men to be treated in this Manner; and the most useful Set of Men they are, of any, in the Nation: For, *if Trade procures Riches, and Riches are said to be the Sinews of the Government, the Merchants may well be called the Props and Pillars of the State.* But, surely, we have no Occasion to be under the least Apprehension, that this will be one of the Terms of Peace, *an honest and able Ministry* will not come into such a Concession; or, if they should, *the Independent Representatives of a Free People* will never give their Sanction to it; they will, doubtless, *speak their Minds* upon a Subject of such fatal Consequence to their Constituents. And what Argument can be made Use of to persuade them to it? Are we afraid we shall want Men to defend our Rights? The late Armament proves the contrary: Or if we should print the Story of Captain *Jenkins*, and have it cried in the Market-Towns, there is not one honest *John Trot* in all the

Country

Country whose Fingers would not itch for a *Spaniard*'s Ear. *We may, therefore, conclude*, That, as the Parliament have voted, NO SEARCH, the Ministry will repeat the Words, and NO SEARCH will be echoed thro' the Kingdom.

SATURDAY, *Dec.* 23, 1738.

I shall lay aside Politicks for this Week, and, instead thereof, shall entertain my Holyday Readers with some Memoirs of the Life of a certain great Man, deceas'd.

I Have often been thinking, that, among the Number of Quacks and Empiricks, in almost every Art and Profession whatsoever, there has now and then appear'd some extraordinary Person, whose distinguishing Character, or remarkable Fate, might furnish us with very useful Reflections at the same Time that they afford us an agreeable Entertainment. They are Meteors, indeed, that blaze but a short Time: They strike us with a momentary Admiration, but presently vanish and are eclips'd for ever. I cannot, within my Remembrance, recollect any of these Adepts, who lasted so long, and impos'd so successfully on the Publick, as that notorious Thief and Thief-catcher *Jonathan Wild*. He was the *Deliciæ sui temporis*, and, at one great Period of his Life, seem'd rather born to a Ribband about his Shoulders, than a Rope about his Neck. His Levee was crouded with Personages of the first Rank, who never regretted any Expence or Imposition, that gave them

them an Opportunity of paying their Court to ſo illuſtrious a Man. *Jonathan* was a merry facetious Fellow, had a very dextrous Volubility of Speech, yet receiv'd them rather with an awkward Familiarity, than with that Submiſſion and Civility which he ow'd to his Superiors. It is true, they all met with what they came for; but, generally, at ſo extravagant a Rate, that they were ſeldom Gainers by the Acquiſition.

Condeſcention in People of a high Rank has often an ill Effect upon thoſe in a low one. This was very evident in the Caſe of *Jonathan Wild*. He grew inſufferably arrogant: He had his Levee-days, and would be only ſpoke to upon thoſe Days. The reſt of the Week was given up to his Pleaſures, his Thieves, and his Miſtreſſes: And in this Manner he paſs'd his Life, 'till he, his Companions, and his Strumpets were all hang'd.

As Anecdotes of Men, who have render'd themſelves eminent either for Vice or Virtue, are greedily ſought after by the World in general, and by the Learned in particular, it may not be unacceptable to give an Epitome of the Birth, Riſe, and Character of this Son of Fortune, who finiſh'd his Days at *Tyburn*.

Jonathan was born, of honeſt Parents, at *Wolverhampton* in *Staffordſhire*, in or about the Year 1682. He was educated at a publick School, where he made ſome Progreſs in Writing and Arithmetick; but, even in thoſe early Days, diſcover'd a violent Turn to Picking and Stealing. He marry'd young, and, bringing his firſt Wife (for he had afterwards a Second) up to Town, ſettled himſelf in a ſmall Houſe, upon little or no Subſiſtence but the Induſtry of his Head and Hands. Men of evil Diſpoſitions ſoon find out each other: And *Jonathan* naturally became known to the moſt leading Thieves in *London*. He was careſs'd by the whole Gang, and ſeem'd to have been

been form'd for their Purpose. But, as Theft prosper'd not so much at that Time, as it has since, he had contracted so great Debts, and was in so low Circumstances, that utter Ruin threaten'd him daily, had not an Accident, which must have crush'd any other Man, given a Turn to his Fate: For he was flung into Prison for Debt, or Knavery, or both, and to that Imprisonment ow'd his future Rise. Immediately, upon his Confinement, he was visited by the chief Pick-pockets in the Nation; and met with their general Applause for his gallant Behaviour before the *Justices* who committed him. He was desir'd to take the Common-wealth of Thieving into his own Hands; and was told, by the Brotherhood, that, although the Cyllenian Art did not flourish, at present, as it ought, yet it might be hop'd, and not without Reason, that the Times were coming, when Gentlemen of that Profession would be encourag'd and employ'd; and, if those Times should come, who so proper as he to preside over the industrious Fraternity? These were the Comforts administer'd to him during his Captivity in *Woodstreet Compter*: From whence, by the Assistance of Friends, (who put a Stop to any further Proceedings against him) he came forth with a large Addition of Fame and Interest among the Gang. It will be needless to mention the particular Difficulties, which *Jonathan* met with after his Imprisonment, and upon his first settling himself at the Head of his Republick. Whatever they were, he overcame them all, and about 1720 we find him in the Meridian of his Glory, giving Laws to his Subjects, and hanging or sparing such amongst them as he thought proper.——An Anonymous * Writer of his Life (from whom I have taken most of the foregoing Particulars) speaks of him in these Words:

"If

* Vide, *Select Tryals at the* Old-Baily. *Vol.* 2. *p.* 79.

" If his People (as he used to call them) obey'd " his Orders, in letting him into the Secret of their " Robberies, and committing the Goods to his Dis- " posal, he assur'd them, that they might depend " upon his Protection: And, indeed, he had so " much Honour, that, to the utmost of his Power, " he always perform'd what he promised them. This " Punctuality so established his Credit, that, if he " sent for any of them with a Promise of a safe " Conduct, they would go to him, tho' they knew " it was in his Power to hang them. When they " came, if they agreed with his Proposals, they " parted good Friends; but, if they prov'd obstinate, " tho' he had an Information against them, he " would say: *I have given you my Word, that you* " *should come and go in Safety, and so you shall:*— " *But, look to yourselves, when you see me again, you* " *see an Enemy.*

" Nor is it a Wonder, (continues the same Author) " that he acquir'd so great an Ascendency over " them; when he was not only willing, but com- " monly able to keep his Word, whether it was to " hang 'em or save 'em. If they follow'd his In- " structions, they were sure he would not disturb " 'em; and tho' they were apprehended by others, " he seldom fail'd of procuring their Discharge in a " little Time.

Thus it appears, that *Jonathan* was, at once, the *Screen* and *Bulwark* of his Party: By which we may observe, of how great Use Honour and Punctuality are even among Thieves. I have already mention'd his fatal Catastrophe at *Tyburn*: And yet he had so much Shame left in him, that he chose to die rather by private Means, than to expose himself to the Insults of a Rabble, not more virtuous, but more fortunate than himself. He was certainly a Man of Parts; and had he set out in the World in an honest, instead of a dishonest Road, we might have seen him

reckon'd

reckon'd a Patriot, instead of a Pick-pocket. His Friends were Miscreants, fit only for the Gallows or Plantations; but he regarded them as his Friends, and as such rewarded them. When they prov'd treacherous to him, he punish'd them as Villains to the Villainy he profess'd: And it must be confess'd, that, in his whole Conduct, he shew'd a Steadiness, that wanted nothing but better Principles to support it.—— One almost regrets that such a Man should be lost in such a Cause; and yet, as long as this Nation and Language subsists, Infamy and Reproach will be affix'd to the Name of *Jonathan Wild*.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

MR. EXPORT, one of the —*famous* Authors in the GAZETTEER, has been pleased to publish two *long* Letters in that —*famous* Paper, by Way of *Answer* to mine, which you published in your *Journal* of the 9th. I know you have no Correspondence with *any* of those —*famous* Authors; but I hope you will, by publishing this in your next, let Mr. EXPORT know, that in case he should *hereafter*, *by chance*, hit upon *any one* plausible Argument against what I have said, I shall *answer* it in the FARTHING POST, which is the *only* Paper, not given *gratis*, that ought to be employed, in *prosecuting* a Dispute with *any* Author that writes in the GAZETTEER.

I am, Sir,

Dec. 18. 1738. *Yours, &c.*

SIR,

SIR,

AS I look upon *Criticism* to be a most essential Part of Polite Literature, and as *Good Sense* must be the Foundation of *True Criticism*, I hope the following *Imitation* of HORACE may find a Place in your *Paper*, which I always read with great Pleasure: Being,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

Cambridge. J. O.

HORACE: *Book* II. *Ode* 14th. Imitated.

I.

HOW swift, alas! the rolling Years
Haste to devour their destin'd Prey!
A Moth each winged Minute bears;
Which still, in vain, the Stationers,
From the dead Authors, sweep away,
And Troops of Canker-Worms, with secret Pride,
Thro' gay Vermillion Leaves, and gilded Covers glide.

II.

Great *B—nt—y*, should thy Critic Vein
Each Day supply the teaming Press;
Of Ink should'st thou whole Rivers drain,
Not one *Octavo* shall remain,
To shew thy Learning and Address,
Oblivion drags them to her silent Cell,
Where great King *Arthur*, and his Nobles dwell.

III. Au-

III.

Authors of every Size and Name,
Knights, 'Squires, and Doctors of all Colours,
From the Purſuit of laſting Fame
Retiring, there a Manſion claim,
Dear *Dick*, ſuch is the Fate of Scholars!
And will you, with deluſive Hope miſ-led,
For various Readings toil which never will be read?

IV.

With Silver Claſps, and Corner Plate,
You fortify the fav'rite Book:
Fear not from Worms nor Time thy Fate,
More cruel Foes thy Works await,
The Butler, with th' impatient Cook,
And Paſtry Nymphs with Trunk-makers combine
To eaſe the groaning Shelves, and ſpoil the fair Deſign.

SATURDAY, *Jan.* 6, 1739.

IT is now about two Months ſince I obſerv'd an Advertiſement, often repeated in our News-Papers, concerning a large Parcel of Theatrical Goods to be diſpoſed of in *Soho-Square*. I was curious to be inform'd in all Circumſtances relating to a Sale which ſeem'd ſo out of the common Way of Trade.

The Account given me was, that the late Act for regulating the Stage, had defeated *Scipio* as well as *Hannibal*,

Hannibal, and obliged both these Heroes to disband their Legions; that it had also forced several unfortunate Princes to abdicate their Thrones, which becoming vacant, the allodial Effects which once belong'd to these crown'd Heads, having been taken in Execution by the Bailiffs, were sold to the Merchants of *Monmouth-street*, and others.

I learn'd the following Particulars in Relation to this Sale: The Armour in which the Ghost of *Hamlet* makes its Appearance, as well as a certain Quantity of Arms, Drums, Trumpets, Colours, *&c.* were purchased by the Son of a *Change-Ally* Broker, whose Father having gain'd immense Riches by the Frauds of that Profession, and having purchased an Estate and a fine Seat in the Country, the Goods before mention'd are hung up in his Honour's Hall as the Trophies of his Ancestors:——— *Richard* the Third's Shield was bought by a Brasier, and is converted into a Pot-lead:——The Crown and Scepter of *Harry* the Eighth went off for old Iron.

The following are Comedy Goods.——Two Tinsel Suits of Cloaths, worn by Sir *Courtly Nice* and Lord *Foppington*, which bore a pretty good Price, but are not to be paid for till the Day of Marriage; they were seen at Court the last Birth-night, and those who wore them were admired by the Ladies as the best dreſt Persons there.

The Whiskers of Captain *Hackum* were purchased by Commission for a Person of Condition, lately prefer'd to the Command of a Regiment, and will be seen in *Pyde-Park* the next Review Day, to the great Terror of the *Spaniards*.

The old *Rostrum* used by *Mark Antony* when he harangues the Populace upon the Death of *Julius Cæsar*, was purchased, very cheap, by Orator *Henley*. ———There was also a small Parcel of Thunder and Lightning, and a Shower of Snow, the latter very much soil'd, but Nobody bid for them;——The Sea

was

was ſold by the Pound, at the common Price of Waſte Paper; the Clouds are now hanging up in *Rag-Fair*: ——As to the Halters in *Timon* of *Athens*, they were the only Things which the Players kept for their own Uſe.

———*Nam ſic juvat ire ſub Umbres.*

As the Converſation naturally turn'd upon the Revolutions occaſion'd by the Act for regulating the Stage, there was a Perſon in the Company that pretended to very good Intelligence, who told us, that the Projector of it, having laid a Reſtraint upon the Genius of others, was reſolv'd to give a Looſe to his own, and, by the Aſſiſtance of the *Laureat* and the *Gazetteers*, had already written a Farce, of which, ſome of the Actors having ſeen a Copy, it was their Opinion, that the Audience would tear up the Benches, and throw them at their Heads, if they repreſented ſuch damn'd Stuff; but this did not diſcourage him, for having a Company of Players in his own Pay, whom he has always uſed to acting the moſt ſcandalous Parts, he intends to make them repreſent it upon a Stage of his own: As I could give a hundred Inſtances of his being moſt ſcandalouſly ignorant of the Unities of Action, Time, and Place, I ſhall certainly write a Criticiſm upon this Farce as ſoon as it appears, and, to prepare myſelf for it, have been refreſhing my Memory by reading over the beſt Criticks, when I don't doubt but I ſhall convince the World, that he has the worſt Head for conducting a Drama of any Perſon that ever meddled with the Stage.

I take this Opportunity, likewiſe, of acquainting the Publick, that I intend ſhortly to bring a Play upon the Stage myſelf, for I have been ſtudying for ſeveral Months how a Man that has a Talent to ridicule Vice and Folly may be ſtill uſeful to his Country, notwithſtanding the Power given by this Act to the Chamberlain.

I remem-

I remember a noble Author hath ſaid, that when the Imaginations of ingenious Men are confin'd and reſtrain'd by Power, and they find that it is not ſafe for them to ſpeak their Minds, they will have Recourſe to Burleſque, or Buffoonry, to expreſs what they think.—I have taken this Hint, and am reſolv'd to hold my Tongue, and yet I am determined to be deviliſh Satyrical upon the Projector, and to mawl the Licenſer of the Stage, as well as the Deputy Licenſer, and alſo his Deputy; all this ſhall be done without a Word ſpoke in my Comedy.—To let the Publick into a Secret, my Play ſhall be danced.

I don't doubt but the Writers on the corrupt Side will attempt to ridicule my Dancing, becauſe it is poſſible they may have heard that I am a Cripple by the Gout; but I would have them to know, that tho' I am diſabled from the Practice, I am deeper in the Theory than ever:——I am like an old General that can project the Operations of a Campaign, direct the Order of Battle, and adviſe how the Enemy may be attack'd, tho' he is not able to take the Field in Perſon.——To ſpeak without a Figure, I hope to make others dance, tho' I can't dance myſelf.——I have, by long Study, compoſed a Language for the Looks and Geſtures; and I don't doubt but, in a little Time, Motion will become as intelligible as Words.

It has been no ſmall Mortification to me to find, that *France* hath carried the Vogue from all the World, both for Politicks and Dancing.——We have elſewhere obſerv'd, that there is a Kind of Sympathy betwixt Politicks and Muſick; the Relation betwixt Politicks and Dancing is ſo much ſtronger, that, without ſtraining the Metaphor too high, we may ſay, the preſent Cardinal *Fleury* is a moſt excellent Dancer:—All the World acknowledges his Superiority in this Science, by allowing him (contrary to the Laws of Dancing) to lead up every Dance in *Europe*, while they are humbly content to dance after him, and think themſelves

ſelves very happy that he gives them Leave to pay the Fidlers.

The Plot of my Play, is well contrived; nor are the Incidents leſs diverting; and I flatter myſelf that the Publick will think the Humour well work'd up. ——My Deſign is, to bring the preſent Poſture of Affairs in *Europe* upon the Stage in a Political Dance; *Nivelon* has rehears'd his Part, he dances a Cardinal very well: I have alſo written a Part for Mr. *Lun.*— The Parts of the *German* and *Dutch* Plenipotentiaries may be danced by any heavy Actors, of which, I hope, the Houſe is not unprovided:———The Part of the Projector may be perform'd by a Candle-ſnuffer; for, as he will have nothing to do but to bribe, to be bubbled, and be kick'd, it is only equipping a clumſy Fellow with a Bag of Counters, and the Buſineſs is done.——The Title of my Play ſhall be, *The Balance of* Europe, *with the comical and diverting Blunders of* Sacamo *the Weigh Maſter.*

This new Species of Comedy will certainly puzzle the Criticks.—As to my own Part, ſince I have taken Care to write all my Steps, Nods, and Grimaces exactly according to the Rules of *Ariſtotle*, I may challenge them to do their worſt.——The Licenſer will have nothing to ſay to me, for I have taken the Opinion of Counſel learned in the Law, and I have it under their Hands, that I am neither within the Letter nor the Meaning of the Act.

This Contrivance will go a great Way towards defeating the Doctrine of *Innuendo*; for ſuppoſe a Poet ſhould bring an Actor of a ridiculous Figure upon the Stage, ſcratching his Head with one Hand, and pulling up his Breeches with another, what can a ſpecial Jury make of it?

The Caſe ſtands thus: The Licenſer can reſtrain the Tongues of the Actors, but they ſtill enjoy the free Uſe of their own Legs, their own Arms, and their own Muſcles: If I live, and that Liberty remains,

mains, Vice and Folly ſhall not eſcape Satire.—— I have ſome Repartees in my Play, which I think will ſting the bribed Party to the Quick:— I promiſe there ſhall not be a Geſture or a Motion in the whole Piece but ſhall be written on the Side of Vertue and Publick Spirit; and I'll make every pretty Actreſs in the Houſe turn out her Toes for the Good of her Country.

The Players need not be under any Apprehenſion of ſuffering by acting my Play:—The Town will receive, with good Humour, any Thing that is brought upon the Stage unlicenſed; ſo that I don't fear but both the Houſe and myſelf will get a good Sum of Money by it.

As to the little buſy Creature whom I once deſcribed under the Title of the dapper *Hugonot*, if he ſhould thruſt himſelf in, charg'd with his Pocket Piſtol, with Deſign to inſult the Audience, I have taken Care to provide for his Entertainment; for I have contriv'd a Trap that ſhall convey him out of Sight the Minute he ſtands up in the Pit, which Trap ſhall carry him under the Stage, where he ſhall be met by ſome of Doctor *Fauſtus*'s Devils, who ſhall beſtow a little Diſcipline upon him; after which, he ſhall be rais'd above the Stage in a Machine, by another Trap, and, in a proper Habit, be expoſed to the Deriſion of the Galleries, with an Inſcription over his Head ſetting forth his Crimes, which, I hope, will cure him of the Itch of ſeeking Adventures, for the future, at the Theatre.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, *Jan.* 13, 1739.

We mention'd, in our laſt, that the Projector had written a Farce; ſince which, a Copy of it was ſent us by a Perſon to whom it was communicated. It muſt be obſerv'd, that the Projector, his Brother, the Poet Laureat, and ſixteen of the *Gazetteer* Authors, having join'd all their Heads together, the following Piece was produced, and was to have been acted by the *French* Players, if they had continued here this Winter.

La SCENE eſt a PARIS.

L'ECOLE de la POLITIQUE: Ou, PANTALON reçeu Miniſtre.

Parodie de la derniere Scene du Malade Imaginaire, De Moliere.

Remiere Entre de Ballat, March de la Faculte Miniſteriale, au Son des Inſtruments.

Les Collecteurs de L'*Exciſe*; Les Collecteurs de la *Douane*; Les Officieres de la *Poſte*; Les Commis de la *Chambre des Contes*; Les Directeurs des *Companies*; Les Chapelains de la *Cour*; le Docteur *Codex*; un Troup des Penſionaires; le Poete *Laureate*; la Mere *Oſborne*; le Mylord *Fanny*; le Chevalier *Billy*; Maqueraux, Eſpions, Delateus, entrent les Premiers.

Apres

Apres eux viennent, deux a deux, les Commiſſaires de toutes les Impoſts; puis les Docteurs en Politique; qui vont ſe placer aux deux Cotèz du Theatre.

Le Preſident coiffé d'une grande Perruque, faite de Billets de *Banque* frizèz; ſon Habit doublè de Debentures de *l'Armée*, avec des Parements de Billets de la *Marine*; avec un Neud d'Epaule composè du Contract de la *Banque*, et du Contract du Fourage:—— Une grande Bourſe, pleine des Guinées, attachée a ſa Cienture, qu'il diſtribut a toute la Compagnie avant qu'il prend ſa Place.

Le Premier Docteur habillé en *Harlequin*, ſon Habit etant tout lardè des *Traités*, des *Preliminaires*, des *Conventions*, des *Memoriales*, &c. &c.

Le Preſident aſſis dans un Fauteauil qui eſt a Milieu, & *Pantalon*, qui doit eſtre reçeu Miniſtre, ſe place dans un Chaiſe plus bas.

The SCENE is at PARIS.

The SCHOOL of POLITICKS: Or, PANTALON made a Miniſter.

Being a Parody of the laſt Scene of the *Malade Imaginaire*, of *Moliere*.

THE Scene opens with the Proceſſion of the Miniſterial Faculty, to the Sound of Muſick.

The Collectors of the Cuſtoms, the Officers of the Poſt-Office, the Clerks of the Treaſury, the Directors of the ſeveral Companies, the Court Chaplains, Doctor Codex, *a Troop of Penſioners conſiſting of Perſons of all Profeſſions, the Poet Laureat, Mother* Oſborn, *the Lord* Fanny, *the Chevalier* Billy, *Pimps, Spies and Informers, walk croſs the Stage.*

After

After these move, two by two, the Commissioners of all the Taxes; then the Doctors in Politicks; who place themselves on each Side of the Stage.

The President is dress in a large Perri-wig, made of Bank Notes curl'd up; his Coat is lined with Army Debentures, turn'd up and trimm'd with Navy Debentures; his Shoulder-Knot is made of the Bank Contract, and Forage Contract: ——— *He has a large Purse, full of Guineas, tied to his Waste, which he distributes among the Company before he takes his Place.*

The first Doctor is in the Habit of a Harlequin, his Coat being loaded with Treaties, Preliminaries, Conventions, Memorials, &c.

The President is seated in an arm'd Chair placed in the middle of the Stage; Pantalon, *who is to be receiv'd a Minister, is placed upon a small Chair at the lower End.*

The Rest being *Latin*, we shall refer such of our Readers as do not understand that Language, to the Vicar of the Parish to translate it for them.

Le President.

SAvantissimi Doctores,
Politici Professores,
Qui hic assemblati estis;
Et vos altri Messiores,
Commissionares et Collectores,
Inimici de les *Tories*;
Atque tota Compagnia,
Sit Vobiscum Harmonia
Salus, Favor, et Argentum,
Atque bonum Appetitum.
Non possum, Docti Confreri,
En moi satis Admireri
Qualis bona Inventio
Est Politica Professio,
Quæ, suo Nomine solo,

Facit a Jogo vivere
Tant des Gens omni Genere.
Dunque il eſt noſtræ Sapientiæ,
Boni Senſus atque Prudentiæ,
De fortment travailliare
A nos bene conſervare,
Et prendere Gaurdam a non recivere
In noſtro Corpore Indocto
Quam Perſonas incapabiles
Et totas Dignas remplire
Iſtas Plaças honorabiles.
C'eſt pour cela, que nunc convocati eſtis
Et credo quod trouvabitis
Dignam Materiam Miniſtri
In Savanti Homine, que voici,
Quem dono ad interrogandum,
Et a Fond Examinandum,
Veſtris incapacitatibus.

Premier Docteur.

Si mihi Licentiam dat Dominus Præſes,
Et tanti Docti Doctores,
Et Aſſiſtantes Illuſtres,
Au tres ſavanti Candidato,
Quem eſtimo et honoro,
Demandabo Cauſam et Rationem quare
Argentum facit bene votare?

Pantalon.

Mihi a docto Doctore
Demandatur Cauſam et Rationem quare,
Argentum facit bene votare?
A quoi reſpondeo,
Quia eſt in eo
Virtus dormitiva,
Cujus eſt Natura
Conſcientiam aſſoupire.

Chœur.

Chœur.

Bene, Bene, respondisti;
Dignus, Dignus, es intrare
In nostro docto Corpore.

Second Docteur.

Demandabo tibi, Docte Candidate,
Quid, in Affaris Forinibus,
Convenit facere?

Pantalon.

Principio Bravare,
Postea Guarantare,
Ensuita Mediare.

Chœur.

Bene, Bene, *ut supra.*

Trosieme Docteur.

Mais si duo Puissances,
Imperator et *Hollandoises*
Non volunt agreare,
Quid Methodum trouvare?

Pantalon.

Cum Ambobus Traitare,
Ambos Guarantare,
Cum Ambobus Rumpare.

Quatrieme Docteur.

Demandabo tibi, Docte Candidate,
Si habes Expedimentum,
Bene Probatum et Inventum,
Tenere semper Contentum
Liberum nostrum ***** ?

Pantalon.

Plaças multas donare,
Postea haranguare,
Ensuita votare.

Cinquieme Docteur.

Sed si P———
Electum sit male-contentum,
Vult Ministrum chassere,
Quid illi facere ?

Pantalon.

Housam bene purgare,
Novas Plaças creare,
Postea haranguare,
Ensuita votare.

Sixsieme Docteur.

Docte Domine Candidate,
Propons tibi ad respondendum,
Quid est nobis faciendum,
Si *Diego* non vult accommodare,
Si Naviros vult plunderare
Merchandos nostros massacrare,
Et Oreillos Matellorum Amputare ?

Pantalon.

Flotam magnam assemblare,
Postea multo fanforonare,
Sub Pœnâ Mortis Ordonare
Admirallos de non battare.

Septieme Docteur.

Demandabo tibi, Docte Candidate,
Quid ad E——— governandam,
Et Animas nostras conservandam,
Trouvas a propos facere ?

Pantalon.

Beneficium donare,
Postea consecrare,
Ensuita translatare.

Huitième

Huitieme Docteur.

Super istas Policias
Doctus Candidatus dixit Miravillias :
Mais, si non ennuio Dominum Præsidem,
Doctissimum Facultatem ;
Et totam honorabilem
Companiam econtantem,
Faciam illi unam Questionem,
Cum exercitu in Pace
Quid convenit facere ?

Pantalon.

Soldieros Powderare,
Officieros far votare,
Malvotantes cassierare.

Chœur.

Bene, Bene, respondisti, &c. *ut supra.*

Le *President* a *Pantalon.*

Juras guardare Statuta
Per Facultatem præscripta,
Sine Sensu aut Jugeamento ?

Pantalon.

Juro.

Le *President.*

Essere, in Omnibus
Debatis et Questionibus,
Meo Aviso,
Aut bono, aut mauvaiso ?

Pantalon.

Juro.

Le *President.*

De non jamais servire
Ministris aucunis
Quam nobis præsentibus

Pro Amicis nostris providentibus,
La Nation dût elle crevare,
Et tota *Europa* abimare ?

Pantalon.

Juro.

Le *President.*

Ego, cum bono Stipendio,
Dono tibi, et concedo,
Virtutem et Puissanciam
Traitandi,
Guarantandi,
Mediandi,
Blunderandi,
Confoundendi,
Corrumpendi,
Pillagendi,
Stockjobbandi,
Ruinandi,
Dominandi,
Impunè per totam Nationem.

Les Excisemen, Commissionaires, *&c. viennent faire la Reverence en Cadence a* Pantalon.

Pantalon.

Ministres Emmenentissimi,
Tuque Præses prudentissime,
Ce seroit, sans Doute, a moi Chosa folla,
Inepta et ridicula,
Vobis Louangeas donare,
Qui non Louangeas deservatis,
Nec d'etre blamati curatis,
Dummodo bene mangeatis,
Et Plaças vestras possedetis ;
Agreate que, avec meo Voto,
Pro toto Remerciamento,
Rendam Gratiam Corpori tam Docto ;

Vobis

Vobis, Vobis debeo
Bien plus que a Naturæ, et a Patri meo.
Natura, et Pater meus,
Duncium me habent factum ;
Mais vouz (ce que eſt bien plus)
Me havetis factum Miniſtrum,
Qui hoc in Corpore, que voila,
Imprimat Reſentimentum
Quod durerà tant que meum Employmentum.

Chœur.

Vivat, vivat, cent fois vivat,
Novus Miniſtrus, qui tam bene reſpondit,
Mille, Mille Annis, et mangeat, et parlet,
Et parlet, et negotiet, et bibet.

Les Commiſſaires, *&c. danſant au Son des Inſtruments.*

Premier Docteur.

Puiſſe toti Anni
Luy eſſere boni,
Et favorabiles,
Et non habere jamai
Quam courtas Seſſiones
Parvas Oppoſitiones,
Et magnas Acquiſitiones.

Exeunt Omnes.

Anglice.——Away with them all.

SATURDAY, *Jan.* 20, 1739.

Divide & impera.

SIR,

THE Union of a People among themselves, has been ever found their strongest and surest Support; it has not only enabled some very small States to resist the most potent Empires, but it has also raised them to a Pitch of Greatness, which, in their Turn, rendered them formidable.

There are few Instances of Conquests from without, where intestine Divisions have not first opened a Way to the *Arms of the Invaders*; and there is not one single Example of *Domestick Tyranny*, which does not owe its Rise to this Cause. If the *Multitude* were *united*, it would not be possible for their *Enemies* to prevail against them; the *Friends* of *Oppression* can never be more than a *Party*, and they can only succeed by dividing *those* into *Parties*, whose *collected Strength* would prove too powerful for them to conquer. This Truth is so clearly demonstrable, that it gives us the surest Test by which to try the different *Designs* of Men, and to mark out the *Invaders* from the *Friends of Liberty*.

Those who would *knit together* the *Members* of a *Community* must surely mean the *Support of the whole*; it is *impossible to suppose the contrary*, unless we can first suppose, that they, who are *wicked* enough to wish the *Ruin* of a People, will be weak enough to employ for that

that End the only infallible Means of Publick Safety and Preſervation; this Way to Deſtruction would, indeed, be *ſtrangely round about*. But let us ſuppoſe, for once, the Fact to be true, what can follow from it? There can be but this one Conſequence, that a *People* ſhall enjoy the *Good* that *was not intended* for them, by a *happy Blunder* in *Thoſe* who laboured for *worſe Purpoſes*. The Champions of *Liberty* will therefore receive *all* as Friends who engage in the *ſame Cauſe*, and purſue the ſame Meaſures; they will know no other *Diſtinction*, they will endeavour to aboliſh all *others*, nor ſuffer *Thoſe* to be *diſunited* by *Names*, whoſe *Views* and *Intereſts* are inſeperably *joined*. But the *Plotters* for *Arbitrary Power* muſt make uſe of an *other Manner of acting*, as totally different from *this*, as is the *Purpoſe* for which it will be employ'd.

To divide thoſe who are to be deſtroy'd, is the *oldeſt* and the moſt *univerſally practiſed Maxim* of *Tyrants*, and is ſo viſibly calculated for its *deteſtable End*, that it is itſelf a Demonſtration of the Deſign. A *Stratagem* ſo well *known*, and ſo often brought into *Execution*, one ſhould think would be hardly ſufficient to *impoſe* ſtill upon the *World*; but the Fact is otherwiſe, the *Device* ſtill *ſucceeds*, nor ſhould I be ſurpriſed if ſome *trul pious* and *ſage Divines* would conſtrue its repeated and wonderful Succeſſes into a miraculous Effect of the *Hand* of *Providence*, *eſtabliſhing* and *ſupporting* the *Divine Right of Kings*.

But *this Maxim* is not confined alone to the *Service* of *crown'd Heads*; it may equally ſerve for every *Scheme* of *Power* in all the *ſubordinate Spheres* of *Government*, and be employed to ſecure an unjuſt *Monopoly* of *Authority* and *Wealth* to an *ambitious* and *rapacious Miniſter*. Such a Man under *monarchal Government*, will firſt *ſeparate* the *King* from his *People*, but *chiefly* from *Thoſe* who *beſt* deſerve *Favour*, that he may engroſs it *intire* to *himſelf*; he will *weaken* and *remove* all the *natural Supports* of the *Throne*, and ſubſti-

tute *Devices* and *Expedients* of his *own* in their Stead, to which no other Minister would descend. When this is done, he will easily prove every other Man *unfit* to supply his *Place*, he will shew how essential *he* and his *Power* are to the Security of *that* which *leans wholly upon them*, and from thence demonstrate that every Assault on him threatens Ruin to the entire Fabrick.

Thus rivetted and secured he will form a *Party* for *himself*, of *those*, who by the *Weakness* of their *Understandings*, the *Necessity* of their *Circumstances*, and the *Meaness* and *Depravity* of their *Hearts*, are the easiest *bribed* into *any Measures*, are the most *obsequious Instruments* in the *Execution* of *them*, and will ever remain the *most entirely dependent* on *his Administration*, as being the *unfittest* to be *employed* in *any other*. Thus he shall compose a *chosen People* from the *Poor*, the *Dull*, and the *Wicked*, but with *Necks* more *pliant* and *supple*, than that *favour'd Generation's* of whom we read in the *sacred Story*.

Those who wear the *Marks* of his *Political Reprobation*, the *Brave*, the *Wise*, and the *Honest*, he will endeavour to render *suspicious* to the *Multitude*, and to *each other*; he will revive among them *antient* and *exploded Prejudices*; he will frighten the *Weak* and the *Credulous*, with *fabled Apparitions* of a long since *departed Spirit*; he will impute to *some*, ambitious *Designs* and *self-interested Views* distinct from the *common Object*; to *others*, the *Mistakes* and *Follies* of their *Youth*, as if *Errors* in *Judgment* were never to be amended by *succeeding Reflection* and *Experience*, *Prejudice of Education* never to be got the Better of by *Truth* and *enlightened Reason*, seconded with every other powerful Motive of *Honour*, *Justice*, and *Interest*; and, lastly, as if a *total Alteration* of *Circumstances* could not render *that* glaringly *Criminal* at *one Time*, which, *at an other*, might have worn a more *favourable Appearance*.

But

But if there ſhould be *one*, who, by the Felicity of his *Birth* and *Education*, was early entered in the *glorious Cauſe* of *Liberty*, to which he ever after *adhered*; if bleſſed with an ample *paternal* Fortune, he gave equal Proof of a *diſintereſted Spirit* when in *Publick Employments*, and of a *prudent Oeconomy* in his *Domeſtick Management*, if, by a *Temper* thus happily compoſed, *ſaving* but not *avaritious*, he is equally removed from *Deſires of Gain* or Fears of Want; if there be *ſuch a Man* of *unblemiſh'd Morals*, of a *ſuperior Underſtanding*, and of a *Spirit ſenſible*, perhaps too much ſo, to the *leaſt Reproach*; what can *Miniſterial Malice* invent to defame him? *What* can be *deviſed* by the *Tools* of *Power*, much leſs *propoſed* to *ſuch a Man*, which their own corrupt Minds could think ſufficient to make him part with a *Character* and *Name*, which no *Fortune* and no *Place* or *Title* can equal?

But if, in Deſpite of *Truth*, *Reaſon*, and *Probability*, *Calumnies* will be deviſed reflecting on *ſuch a Perſon*; if, for this End, *abſurd Tales* be framed, ſuch as every Tale muſt be that would *aſperſe him*, to *impoſe* upon the *Publick*; ſhould not *they* reſent it as an *Indignity* offered to their *Underſtandings*, and as an *Injury* to *one*, who has long fought their Battles with an *unwearied Courage*, and an *unſhaken* Conſtancy!

Such an Attempt would, no doubt, be received by every *Engliſhman* with ſuitable *Scorn* and *Indignation*, except *thoſe* who have been long taught to *refuſe Nothing*. It would link *thoſe* firmer together whom it would be *intended to divide*, and inſpire, with new *Spirit*, an *Oppoſition* to *thoſe*, who would thus give new Proofs of their *Inſufficiency* to govern, by the *Abſurdity* and *Meanneſs* of their *Expedients*; and of their Deſigns to *deſtroy*, by their *Attempts* to *diſunite*.

Mr.

Mr. COMMON SENSE,

I Have belong'd to the Sea Service above five and thirty Years, have been in ſeven Engagements, five Times wounded, and once taken Priſoner. The Sufferings I mention I think of with Pleaſure, and am willing to ſerve my Country with the laſt Drop of my Blood. But ſome Hardſhips of another Nature which we Seamen have of late Years been ſubject to I cannot but expreſs with ſome Reſentment and Indignation; and that is, our being ſo frequently taken into Service, and every now and then diſcharged with ſo little Regard and Decency that we are not uſed even with Common Humanity. Theſe Hardſhips which I have too oft ſeen and ſuffered, have led me to reflect on the little Encouragement given to the Navy, compared with the Advantages attending the Land Service.

That our Fleets are the Honour, the Defence, the Strength of *Great Britain*, the Support of our Trade, the Dependance of our Friends, and the Terror of our Enemies, nobody will diſpute: And yet the Perſons to whom theſe great Advantages are owing, are conſidered in the moſt mean and deſpicable Light. When a Man has ſpent the beſt of his Time in the Dangers and Hardſhips a Sea Life is always expoſed to, and has had all the Succeſs as to Preferment which that Service allows, the greateſt Reward he can hope for is (as a Commiſſioner or a Flag) an Appointment of five or ſix Hundred Pounds a Year; and that only for Ten or a Dozen Perſons out of ſo great a Number. But what is all this to the Number and Salaries of Colonels (to deſcend no lower). Brigadeers, Major-Generals, Lieutenant-Generals, Governors of *Edinborough*, *Portſmouth*, *Plymouth*, *Hull*, *Gibraltar*, *Port-Mahon*, and all the Iſlands, Caſtles, Forts, *&c.* of leſs Conſideration. Add to all this the Court-Preferments enjoyed by the Gentlemen of the Army; as Secretary of State, Gentle-

Gentlemen of the Bed-Chamber, Equerries, Pages of Honour, and so on. Whereas there are not three People belonging to the Sea Service who have any other Preferment in the whole Administration than their Posts in the Navy, or relating to it. I will be bold to say, that one Man now in Employment, by multiplying Preferments, has an Income double to what the Salaries of all the Admirals joined together at this Time amount to. A Stranger that should observe this would believe, that it is the Army that is the Strength and Honour of the Nation, that it is They who defend our Trade and awe our Enemies, and not the Fleet.

It puts my Blood into a Ferment to hear the Use of a Standing Army extolled by the venal Tongues of Court Favourites. I know no other Use these Land-Locusts are of to the Publick but to oppress their Quarters, harrass the Country by their Marches, insult the Gentry whose Estates pay their Subsistance, awe the Boroughs, influence Elections, and make the People uneasy and disaffected. These BROOM-STICKS (for from their Use they may justly be so stiled) are fit for nothing but Rods for the People's Backs. It was an excellent Observation of the present Cardinal *de Fleury*—The *English* Fleet awes their Enemies; their Army themselves.

When ill Usage has driven half our Seamen into Foreign Service, the Nation will, too late, be sensible which ought to be most respected and encouraged, the gaudy Butterflies or the rough honest Tarrs.

Yours,

SAMPSON MAINMAST.

SATUR-

Ch

SATURDAY, *Jan.* 27, 1739.

To the Author of COMMON SENSE.

SIR,

I Have lately read, with the greatest Satisfaction, the Account printed in our publick Papers of the signal Victory obtained by his Majesty's *Hanoverian* Troops over the *Danes*, notwithstanding the great Inequality of the Numbers; the *Danes* being at least Thirty, and the *Hanoverians* at most five hundred Men; the *Danes* having, moreover, the important Fortress of *Steinhorst* to protect, and the Counsels of Counsellor *Wedderkop* to direct them.

As the best Account of this great Action is in the *Daily Gazetteer* of the 25th of *December* last, which Nobody reads, I will, for the Satisfaction of the curious, transcribe it from thence.

" *Hanover*, *December* the 12th, O. S.——On the " 4th Instant a Detachment of *Hanoverians*, consist- " ing of *five hundred Men*, *with two Field-Pieces*, " march'd to take Possession of the Territory of *Stein-* " *horst*, which belongs to the Privy Counsellor *Wed-* " *derkop*, wherein were posted *thirty Dragoons* in the " Service of the King of *Denmark*. The Colonel " who commanded the Detachment no sooner arriv- " ed, but he sent a Lieutenant to the *Danish* Captain " in the Castle to acquaint him, that he was come " with Orders to take Possession of it, and, if he re-

" fused,

" fused, to turn him out by Force.——The *Danish*
" Captain having answered the Lieutenant, that he
" was commanded to repel Force by Force, the two
" Officers had such high Words, that they drew their
" Swords and fought a Duel, in which the *Danish*
" Captain was kill'd on the Spot, and the Lieute-
" nant mortally wounded. The *Hanoverian* Colonel
" having advanced with his Troops in the Interim,
" to begin the Attack, a *very smart Skirmish ensued*,
" wherein several Soldiers were killed on both Sides.
" ———The *Danes* then drew up their Draw-bridges
" and retired into the Castle, where they defended
" themselves a while; but the *Hanoverians* having,
" by the Means of great Hooks, pluck'd down the
" Bridges, they entered the Castle and took Possession
" of it, by Vertue of an Instrument drawn up by *a*
" *Lawyer, and a Scrivener*, whom they had sent for
" from *Hamburg*, for that Purpose.

This Action is, in my Mind, as great an Instance of Prudence, Generosity, Magnanimity, and Moderation, as any we read of in Antiquity.——Considering the Strength of the Castle and the Number of the Garrison, it was certainly prudent to send no less than five hundred Men to attack it.——The Colonel shews his Generosity, in the first Place, by sending a very *civil Message* to the commanding Officer, to let him know he was come to take Possession of the Castle, and to *turn him out by Force*; and then the Ardour of his Courage, by not staying for an Answer, but beginning the Attack in the *Interim*.———After he had possessed himself of the Fortress by his *Hooks*, and other Warlike Instruments, he declines the Right of Conquest, which he might undoubtedly have insisted upon, but quiets the Possession by Vertue of an Instrument prepared by a Lawyer and Scrivener, whom he had sent for from *Hamburg* for that Purpose.

This important Fortress, together with the Estate about it, I am assured is worth, as to the *Dominium utile*,

utile, no leſs than a thouſand Pounds a Year; and ineſtimable, as to the *Dominium ſupremum*, as it is a Check to the *Northern* Powers: But the Title being pretty intricate and doubtful, his Majeſty bought it a Pennyworth of the Duke of *Holſtein*, the laſt Time he viſited his *German* Dominions, paying, I think, no more than thirty-thouſand Pounds for it.

I have met with ſome timerous People, who apprehend ill Conſequences from this Affair.——The King of *Denmark*, (ſay they) incens'd at this Treatment, will certainly throw himſelf into the Arms of *France*, which hath, for ſome Time, been endeavouring to engage him, as well as other *Northern* Powers, proviſionally in her Intereſts, to facilitate her future Schemes of Power and Greatneſs.———Nay, more, (ſay they) the King of *Denmark* may probably reſent this upon *Hanover* itſelf, and march a conſiderable Body of Troops there; in which Caſe, *Hanover* will cry out, *Murther!* call upon *England* for Help, and we may be obliged to ſend more Fleets to the *Baltick*, and be ingaged in a War upon Account of a diſputed Poſſeſſion, too inconſiderable even for a Law-Suit. ——But thoſe who talk in this Way are but ſhallow Politicians, and have not an adaquate Notion of the Strength and Importance of our Foreign Dominions, or of the Goodneſs of *thoſe Troops*.——On the contrary, it ſeems evident to me, that the King of *Denmark* will think twice before he engages in Meaſures diſagreeable to that State, whoſe Strength, Courage, and Conduct he hath of late ſo ſenſibly experienced; but ſhould he take any raſh and inconſiderate Step, *Hanover* alone is more than a Match for him, and *England* neither can, nor will be engaged in that Quarrel; and eſpecially at a Time that our Expences and Fleets are employ'd in obtaining *ample Reparation* for our Merchants; and future *Security for our Trade*, which, it may be, is not quite yet accompliſhed.

Upon

Upon this Occaſion, give me Leave, Sir, to ſuggeſt to you my Thoughts, upon the Luſtre and Advantage which *England* receives from being ſo happily annexed to his Majeſty's *German* Dominions, in Anſwer to the vulgar Prejudices too commonly entertained againſt them.

While *England* was unconnected with any Dominions upon the Continent, we had only our Fleets to prevent, and reſiſt Inſults from other Powers; whereas, by our happy Union with *Hanover*, we have a Body of above twenty thouſand Men, *moſt excellent Troops*, to act wherever we think proper, without the leaſt *Danger or Expence* to *England*, by which too, particularly, we bridle the *North*.

The Dutchy of *Bremen* is of infinite Advantage to *England*, as it ſupplies us with great Quantities of Linnen both for Home Conſumption, and Re-exportation, to the great Eaſe of our Linnen Manufacturers, who would otherwiſe be obliged to make ten Times the Quantity they do now.

Hanover may be likewiſe of Uſe to us by its Example, ſince there can not be a ſtronger Inſtance of the Advantages ariſing to a Country, from a wiſe and frugal Adminiſtration, than the great Improvements of that Electorate under the ſucceſſive Governments of his late and his preſent Majeſty.

The whole Revenues of the Electorate, at the Time of his late Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne of theſe Realms, did not amount to more than three hundred thouſand Pounds a Year, and yet, ſoon afterwards, the conſiderable Purchaſe of *Bremen* and *Verden* were made for above five hundred thouſands Pounds Sterling. Not long after this, the Number of Troops in the Electorate was rais'd much above what it was before thought able to maintain, and hath continued ever ſince upon that high Eſtabliſhment.

Since his preſent Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Electorate, ſeveral Acquiſitions have alſo been made, and the

the very last Time his Majesty visited those Dominions he bought in, at the Price of above a hundred thousand Pounds, the Revenues of the Postage of the Electorate, which was an hereditary Grant to the Counts of *Platen*:——And in *August* last his Majesty concluded the Purchase, and paid above *thirty thousand Pounds* for the Fortress and Estates of *Steinhorst*. So that, upon the Whole, notwithstanding that the Expences for the current Service of the Year equal, at least, the Revenue of the Electorate, yet, by a prudent and frugal Management, a *Million Sterling* at least hath been laid out, over and above, in new Acquisitions.

If such frugal Means had been pursued, we should have been in a better Condition than we are now.—— I cannot help recommending to the Ad——— here, to follow the Example of their *German* Brethren, to have Spirit enough to act, and Frugality enough to put the Nation in a Condition of doing it.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

ANGLO-GERMANICUS.

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The Reader is to observe that the following Papers are designedly omitted in this Collection, the Subjects of them not being of general Use, *viz. April* 29. *July* 29. *September* 9. *December* 30.