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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 20. Thursday, May 26. 1709.

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N^o 20. *Thursday, May 26. 1709.*

-----THOUGH the *Theatre* is now breaking, it is allowed still to sell Animals there; therefore, if any Lady or Gentleman have occasion for a tame Elephant, let them enquire of Mr. *Pinkethman*, who has one to dispose of at a reasonable rate. The downfall of *May-Faire* has quite sunk the price of this noble Creature, as well as of many other curiosities of nature. A Tiger will sell almost as cheap as an Oxe; and I am credibly informed, a man may purchase a Cat with three legs, for very near the value of one with four. I hear likewise, that there is a great desolation among the Gentlemen and Ladies who were the ornaments of the town, and used to shine in plumes and diadems; the Heroes being most of them pressed, and the Queens beating hemp. Mrs. *Sarabrand*, so famous for her ingenious Puppet-show, has set up a shop in the *Exchange*, where she sells her little troop under the term of Jointed Babies. I could not but be solicitous to know of her, how she had disposed of that rake-hell *Punch*, whose lewd life and conversation had given so much scandal, and did not a little contribute to the ruin of the *Faire*.

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She told me, with a sigh, That despairing of ever reclaiming him, she would not offer to place him in a civil family, but got him in a post upon a stall in *Wapping*, where he may be seen from sun-rising to sun-setting, with a glass in one hand, and a pipe in the other, as Centry to a brandy-shop. The great revolutions of this nature bring to my mind the distresses of the unfortunate *Camilla*, who has had the ill luck to break before her voice, and to disappear at a time when her beauty was in the height of its bloom. This Lady entered so thoroughly into the great characters she acted, that when she had finished her part, she could not think of retrenching her equipage, but would appear in her own lodgings with the same magnificence that she did upon the stage. This Greatness of Soul has reduced that unhappy Princess to an involuntary retirement, where she now passes her time among the woods and forests, thinking on the Crowns and Scepters she has lost, and often humming over in her solitude,

*I was born of royal race,
Yet must wander in disgrace, &c.*

But for fear of being over-heard, and her quality known, she usually sings it in *Italian*;

*Naqui al Regno, naqui al Trono
E pur sono
Iventurata Pastorella——*

Since I have touched upon this subject, I shall communicate to my Reader part of a letter I have received from a friend at *Amsterdam*, where there is a very noble Theatre; though the manner of furnishing it with Actors is something peculiar to that place, and gives us occasion to admire both the politeness and frugality of the people.

M*y friends have kept me here a week longer than ordinary to see one of their Plays, which was performed last night with great applause. The Actors are all of them Tradesmen, who, after their day's work is over, earn about a Gilder a night by personating Kings and Generals. The Heroe of the Tragedy I saw, was a journey-man Taylor, and his first Minister of State a Coffee-man. The Empress made me think of Parthenope in the Rehearsal; for her Mother keeps an Ale-house in the suburbs of Amsterdam. When the Tragedy was over, they entertained us with a short Farce, in which the Cobler did his part to a miracle;*
but

but upon enquiry, I found he had really been working at his own trade, and representing on the stage what he acted every day in his shop. The profits of the Theatre maintain an Hospital: For as here they do not think the profession of an Actor the only trade that a man ought to exercise, so they will not allow any body to grow rich on a profession that in their opinion so little conduces to the good of the Common-wealth. If I am not mistaken, your Play-houses in England have done the same thing; for, unless I am misinformed, the Hospital at Dulledge was erected and endowed by Mr. Allen a Player: And it is also said, a famous Sbe-Tragedian has settled her estate, after her death, for the maintenance of decayed Wits, who are to be taken in as soon as they grow Dull, at whatever time of their life that shall happen.

N^o 42. Saturday, July 16. 1709.

-----*Celebrare Domestica Facta.*

-----THIS is to give notice, That a magnificent Palace, with great variety of Gardens, Statues, and Water-works, may be bought cheap in *Drury-Lane*; where there are likewise several Castles to be disposed of, very delightfully situated; as also Groves, Woods, Forests, Fountains, and Country Seats, with very pleasant Prospects on all sides of them; being the Moveables of *Christopher Rich, Esq;* who is breaking up house-keeping, and has many curious pieces of furniture to dispose of, which may be seen between the hours of six and ten in the evening.

The I N V E N T O R Y.

Spirits of right *Nants* Brandy, for lambent Flames and Apparitions.
 Three bottles and a half of Lightning.
 One shower of Snow in the whitest *French* paper.
 Two showers of a browner sort.
 A Sea, consisting of a dozen large waves, the Tenth bigger than ordinary, and a little damaged.
 A dozen and a half of Clouds, trimmed with black, and well conditioned.
 A Rainbow a little faded.
 A fet of Clouds after the *French* mode, streaked with Lightning, and furbelowed.

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