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**The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.**

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

No 250. Tuesday, November 14. 1710.

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to the same shameful figure, excepting some few that were punched through the belly. In the midst of this general calamity, when every body thought our misfortune irretrievable, and our case desperate, we were thrown into the Furnace together, and (as it often happens with cities rising out of a fire) appeared with greater beauty and lustre than we could ever boast of before. What has happened to me since this change of Sex which you now see, I shall take some other opportunity to relate. In the mean time I shall only repeat two Adventures, as being very extraordinary, and neither of them having ever happened to me above once in my Life. The first was, my being in a Poet's Pocket, who was so taken with the brightness and novelty of my appearance, that it gave occasion to the finest Burlesque Poem in the *British Language*, entituled from me, *The splendid Shilling*. The second Adventure, which I must not omit, happened to me in the year 1703, when I was given away in charity to a blind man; but indeed this was by a mistake, the person who gave me having heedlessly thrown me into the Hat among a penyworth of Farthings.

N<sup>o</sup> 250. *Tuesday, November 14. 1710.*

*Scis etenim justum gemina suspendere lance*

*Ancipitis libræ.-----*

Perf.

*From my own Apartment, November 13.*

**I** Last Winter erected a Court of Justice for the correcting of several Enormities in Dress and Behaviour, which are not cognizable in any other Courts of this Realm. The Vintner's case, which I there tried, is still fresh in every Man's memory. That of the Petticoat gave also a general satisfaction, not to mention the more important points of the Cane and Perspective; in which, if I did not give Judgments and Decrees according to the strictest Rules of Equity and Justice, I can safely say, I acted according to the best of my Understanding. But as for the

Proceed-



Proceedings of that Court, I shall refer my Reader to an account of them, written by my Secretary, which is now in the Press, and will shortly be published under the title of, *Lillie's Reports*.

As I last year presided over a Court of Justice, it is my Intention this year to set my self at the head of a Court of Honour. There is no Court of this nature any where at present, except in *France*, where, according to the best of my Intelligence, it consists of such only as are Marshals of that Kingdom. I am likewise informed, that there is not one of that honourable Board at present who has not been driven out of the field by the Duke of *Marlborough*: But whether this be only an accidental or a necessary Qualification, I must confess I am not able to determine.

As for the Court of Honour of which I am here speaking, I intend to fit my self in it as President, with several Men of Honour on my right hand, and Women of Virtue on my left, as my Assistants. The first place of the Bench I have given to an old *Tangeren* Captain with a wooden leg. The second is a Gentleman of a long twisted Periwig without a Curl in it, a Muff with very little Hair upon it, and a threadbare Coat with new Buttons, being a person of great worth, and second brother to a Man of Quality. The third is a Gentleman-Usher, extremely well read in Romances, and Grandson to one of the greatest Wits in *Germany*, who was some time Master of the Ceremonies to the Duke of *Wolfembuttel*.

As for those who sit further on my right hand, as it is usual in publick Courts, they are such as will fill up the number of faces upon the Bench, and serve rather for ornament than use.

The chief upon my left hand are, an old Maiden Lady, that preserves some of the best Blood of *England* in her veins.

A *Welsh* woman of a little stature, but high spirit.

An old Prude that has censured every Marriage for these thirty years, and is lately wedded to a young Rake.

Having thus furnished my Bench, I shall establish Correspondencies with the Horse-guards, and the Veterans of *Chelsea-College*; the former to furnish me with twelve Men of Honour as often as I shall have occasion for a Grand Jury, and the latter with as many good Men and true for a Petty Jury.

As for the Women of Virtue, it will not be difficult for me to find them about mid-night at Crimp and Basset.

Having



Having given this publick notice of my Court, I must further add, that I intend to open it on this day sevensight, being *Monday* the twentieth instant; and do hereby invite all such as have suffered injuries and affronts, that are not to be redressed by the common laws of this land, whether they be short Bows, cold Salutations, supercilious Looks, unreturned Smiles, distant Behaviour, or forced Familiarity; as also all such as have been aggrieved by any ambiguous Expression, accidental Juggle, or unkind Repartee; likewise all such as have been defrauded of their right to the Wall, tricked out of the Upper end of the table, or have been suffered to place themselves in their own wrong on the back-seat of the Coach: These, and all of these, I do, as is above-said, invite to bring in their several cases and complaints, in which they shall be relieved with all imaginable expedition.

I am very sensible, that the Office I have now taken upon me will engage me in the disquisition of many weighty points that daily perplex the Youth of the *British* Nation, and therefore I have already discussed several of them for my future use; as, How far a man may brandish his Cane in the telling a story, without insulting his hearer? What degree of contradiction amounts to the Lye? How a man should resent another's Staring and cocking a Hat in his face? If asking pardon is an atonement for treading upon ones toes? Whether a man may put up a box on the ear received from a stranger in the dark? Or, Whether a Man of honour may take a Blow of his Wife? with several other subtilties of the like nature.

For my direction in the Duties of my Office, I have furnished my self with a certain Astrological pair of Scales which I have contrived for this purpose. In one of them I lay the Injuries, in the other the Reparations. The first are represented by little Weights made of a metal resembling Iron, and the other in Gold. These are not only lighter than the weights made use of in *Averdupois*, but also than such as are used in *Troy-weight*. The heaviest of those that represent the injuries, amount to but a Scruple; and decrease by so many sub-divisions, that there are several imperceptible weights which cannot be seen without the help of a very fine Microscope. I might acquaint my Reader, that these Scales were made under the influence of the Sun when he was in *Libra*, and describe many Signatures on the Weights both of Injury and Reparation: But as this would look rather to proceed from an ostentation of my own Art than any care for the Publick, I shall pass it over in silence.

*Tuesday,*