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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 256. Tuesday, November 28. 1710.

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*When dinner calls, the implement must wait
 With holy words to consecrate the meat.
 But hold it for a favour seldom known,
 If he be deign'd the honour to sit down.
 Soon as the Tarts appear, Sir Crape withdraw,
 Those dainties are not for a spiritual maw.
 Observe your distance, and be sure to stand
 Hard by the Cistern with your Cap in hand:
 There for diversion you may pick your teeth,
 Till the kind Voider comes for your relief.
 Let others who such meannesses can brook,
 Strike countenance to ev'ry great man's look;
 I rate my freedom higher.*

This Author's Raillery is the Raillery of a friend, and does not turn the Sacred Order into Ridicule, but is a just Censure on such persons as take advantage from the necessities of a man of merit, to impose on him hardships that are by no means suitable to the dignity of his profession.

N^o 256. *Tuesday, November 28. 1710.*

— *Nostrum est tantas componere Lites.* Virg.

The Proceedings of the Court of Honour, held in Sheer-lane on Monday the 20th of November 1710, before Isaac Bickerstaffe Esq; Censor of Great Britain.

Peter Plumb, of London, Merchant, was indicted by the Honourable Mr. Thomas Gules, of Gule-hall in the County of Salop, for that the said Peter Plumb did in Lombard-street, London, between the hours of two and three in the afternoon, meet the said Mr. Thomas Gules, and after a short Salutation, put on his Hat, value five-pence, while the Honourable Mr. Gules stood bare-headed for the space of two seconds. It was further urged against the Criminal, That during his discourse with the

the Prosecutor, he feloniously stole the Wall of him, having clapped his back against it in such a manner that it was impossible for Mr. *Gules* to recover it again at his taking leave of him. The Prosecutor alledged, that he was the Cadet of a very ancient family, and that according to the principles of all the younger Brothers of the said family, he had never sullied himself with business, but had chosen rather to starve like a Man of Honour, than do any thing beneath his Quality. He produced several witnesses, that he had never employed himself beyond the twisting of a Whip, or the making of a pair of Nut-crackers, in which he only worked for his diversion, in order to make a present now and then to his friends. The Prisoner being asked what he could say for himself, cast several reflections upon the Honourable Mr. *Gules*; as, that he was not worth a groat; that no body in the city would trust him for a halpenny; that he owed him money which he had promised to pay him several times, but never kept his word: and in short, that he was an idle, beggarly fellow, and of no use to the publick. This sort of Language was very severely reprimanded by the Censor, who told the Criminal, that he spoke in contempt of the Court, and that he should be proceeded against for contumacy, if he did not change his style. The Prisoner therefore desired to be heard by his Council, who urged in his defence, that he put on his Hat through ignorance, and took the Wall by accident. They likewise produced several witnesses, that he made several motions with his Hat in his hand, which are generally understood as an invitation to the person we talk with to be covered; and that the Gentleman not taking the hint, he was forced to put on his Hat, as being troubled with a cold. There was likewise an *Irishman* who deposed, that he had heard him cough three and twenty times that morning. And as for the Wall, it was alledged, that he had taken it inadvertently, to save himself from a shower of rain which was then falling. The Censor having consulted the Men of Honour who sat at his right hand on the Bench, found they were of opinion, that the defence made by the Prisoner's Council did rather aggravate than extenuate his Crime; that the motions and intimations of the Hat were a token of superiority in conversation, and therefore not to be used by the Criminal to a man of the Prosecutor's Quality, who was likewise vested with a double title to the Wall at the time of their conversation, both as it was the upper hand, and as it was a shelter from the weather. The evidence being very full and clear, the Jury, without going out of Court, declared their opinion unanimously by the mouth of their Foreman, that the Prosecutor was bound

in Honour to make the Sun shine through the Criminal, or, as they afterwards explained themselves, to whip him through the lungs.

The Censor knitting his brows into a frown, and looking very sternly upon the Jury, after a little pause, gave them to know, that this Court was erected for the finding out of Penalties suitable to offences, and to restrain the outrages of private justice; and that he expected they should moderate their Verdict. The Jury therefore retired, and being willing to comply with the advices of the Censor, after an hour's consultation, declared their opinion as follows:

That in consideration this was *Peter Plumb's* first offence, and that there did not appear any *Malice prepense* in it, as also that he lived in good reputation among his neighbours, and that his taking the Wall was only *se defendendo*, the Prosecutor should let him escape with life, and content himself with the flitting of his nose, and the cutting off both his ears. Mr. *Bickerstaffe* smiling upon the Court, told them, that he thought the punishment, even under its present mitigation, too severe; and that such Penalties might be of ill consequence in a trading Nation. He therefore pronounced sentence against the Criminal in the following manner: That his Hat, which was the instrument of offence, should be forfeited to the Court; that the Criminal should go to the Warehouse from whence he came, and thence, as occasion should require, proceed to the *Exchange*, or *Garraway's* Coffee-house, in what manner he pleased; but that neither he nor any of the family of the *Plumbs* should hereafter appear in the streets of *London* out of their Coaches, that so the foot-way might be left open and undisturbed for their betters.

Dathan, a peddling *Jew*, and *T. R.*—, a *Welshman*, were indicted by the keeper of an Ale-house in *Westminster*, for breaking the peace and two earthen Mugs, in a dispute about the antiquity of their families, to the great detriment of the house, and disturbance of the whole neighbourhood. *Dathan* said for himself, that he was provoked to it by the *Welshman*, who pretended, that the *Welsh* were an ancients people than the *Jews*; whereas, says he, I can shew by this Genealogy in my hand, that I am the Son of *Mesbeck*, that was the Son of *Naboth*, that was the Son of *Shalem*, that was the Son of—The *Welshman* here interrupted him, and told him, That he could produce Shennalogy as well as himself; for that he was *John ap Rice*, *ap Shenkin*, *ap Shones*. He then turned himself to the Censor, and told him in the same broken accent, and with much warmth, that the *Jew* would needs uphold, that King *Cadwallader* was younger than *Issachar*. Mr. *Bickerstaffe* seemed very

very much inclined to give sentence against *Dathan*, as being a *Jew* but finding reasons, by some expressions which the *Welshman* let fall in asserting the antiquity of his family, to suspect that the said *Welshman* was a *Pre-Adamite*, he suffered the Jury to go out, without any previous admonition. After some time they returned, and gave their Verdict, that it appearing the persons at the Bar did neither of them wear a Sword, and that consequently they had no right to quarrel upon a Point of Honour; to prevent such frivolous Appeals for the future, they should both of them be tossed in the same Blanket, and there adjust the superiority as they could agree it between themselves. The Censor confirmed the Verdict.

Richard Newman was indicted by Major *Punto*, for having used the word, *Perhaps it may be so*, in a dispute with the said Major. The Major urged, that the word, *Perhaps*, was questioning his Veracity, and that it was an indirect manner of giving him the Lye. *Richard Newman* had nothing more to say for himself, than that he intended no such thing, and threw himself upon the mercy of the Court. The Jury brought in their Verdict special.

Mr. *Bickerstaffe* stood up, and after having cast his eyes over the whole Assembly, hemmed thrice. He then acquainted them, that he had laid down a Rule to himself, which he was resolved never to depart from, and which, as he conceived, would very much conduce to the shortening the business of the Court; I mean, says he, never to allow of the Lye being given by Construction, Implication, or Induction, but by the sole use of the word it self. He then proceeded to show the great mischiefs that had arisen to the *English* Nation from that pernicious Monosyllable; that it had bred the most fatal Quarrels between the dearest friends; that it had frequently thinned the Guards, and made great havoc in the Army; that it had sometimes weakened the City Trained-bands; and, in a word, had destroyed many of the bravest men in the Isle of *Great Britain*. For the prevention of which evils for the future, he instructed the Jury to present the word it self as a Nuisance in the *English* Tongue; and further promised them, that he would, upon such their presentment, publish an Edict of the Court for the entire banishment and exclusion of it out of the discourses and conversation of all civil Societies.

This is a true Copy,

Charles Lillie.

Monday

Monday next is set apart for the Tryal of several Female Causes.

N. B. The Case of the Hassock will come on between the hours of nine and ten.

Sir Richard Steele assisted in this paper.

N^o 257. Thursday, November 30. 1710.

In nova fert animus mutatas dicere formas

Corpora: Dii, coeptis (nam vos mutastis et illas)

Aspirate meis.-----

Ovid. Met.

From my own Apartment, November 29.

EVERY Nation is distinguished by productions that are peculiar to it. *Great Britain* is particularly fruitful in Religions, that shoot up and flourish in this climate more than in any other. We are so famous abroad for our great variety of Sects and Opinions, that an ingenious friend of mine, who is lately returned from his Travels, assures me, there is a Show at this time *carried up and down in Germany*, which represents all the Religions in *Great Britain* in Wax-work. Notwithstanding that the pliancy of the matter in which the images are wrought makes it capable of being moulded into all shapes and figures, my friend tells me, that he did not think it possible for it to be twisted and tortured into so many skewed faces and wry features as appeared in several of the figures that composed the Show. I was indeed so pleased with the design of the *German Artist*, that I begged my friend to give me an account of it in all its particulars, which he did after the following manner:

I have often, says he, been present at a show of Elephants, Camels, Dromedaries, and other strange creatures, but I never saw so great an Assembly of Spectators as were met together at the opening of this great piece of Wax-work. We were all placed in a large hall, according to the price that we had paid for our seats: The Curtain that hung before the