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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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No 262. Tuesday, December 12. 1710.

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leave with them is, to regard every Town-woman as a particular kind of Siren, that has a design upon their Noses; and that, amidst her flatteries and allurements, they will fancy she speaks to them in that humorous Phrase of old *Plautus*:

Ego tibi faciem denasabo mordicùs.

“ Keep your face out of my way, or I’ll bite off your Nose.

N^o 262. *Tuesday, December 12. 1710.*

*Verba togæ sequeris, juncturâ callidus acris,
Ore teres modico, pallentes radere mores,
Doctus et ingenio culpam defigere ludo.* Perf. Sat. 5.

Journal of the Court of Honour, &c.

T *Imothy Treatall*, Gent. was indicted by several Ladies of his Sister’s acquaintance for a very rude affront offered to them at an entertainment, to which he had invited them on *Tuesday* the 7th of *November* last past, between the hours of eight and nine in the evening. The Indictment set forth, that the said *Mr. Treatall*, upon the serving up of the supper, desired the Ladies to take their places according to their different age and seniority, for that it was the way always at his table to pay respect to Years. The Indictment added, that this produced an unspeakable confusion in the Company; for that the Ladies, who before had pressed together for a place at the upper end of the table, immediately crowded with the same disorder towards the end that was quite opposite; that *Mrs. Frontly* had the insolence to clap her self down at the very lowest place of the table; that the Widow *Partlett* seated her self on the right hand of *Mrs. Frontly*, alledging for her excuse, that no ceremony was to be used at a Round Table; that *Mrs. Fidget* and *Mrs. Fescue* disputed above half an hour for the same Chair, and that

that the latter would not give up the cause till it was decided by the Parish Register, which happened to be kept hard by. The Indictment further said, that the rest of the company who sat down, did it with a Reserve to their Right, which they were at liberty to assert on another occasion; and that Mrs. *Mary Pippe*, an old maid, was placed by the unanimous Vote of the whole company at the upper end of the Table, from whence she had the confusion to behold several Mothers of Families among her inferiors. The Criminal alledged in his defence, that what he had done, was to raise mirth, and avoid ceremony, and that the Ladies did not complain of his rudeness till the next morning, having eaten up what he had provided for them with great readiness and alacrity. The Censor frowning upon him, told him, that he ought not to discover so much levity in matters of a serious nature, and (upon the Jury's bringing him in guilty) sentenced him to treat the whole Assembly of Ladies over again, and to take care that he did it with the Decorum which was due to Persons of their Quality.

Rebecca Shapely, Spinster, was indicted by Mrs. *Sarah Smack*, for speaking many words reflecting upon her reputation, and the Heels of her Silk Slippers, which the Prisoner had maliciously suggested to be two Inches higher than they really were. The Prosecutor urged, as an aggravation of her guilt, that the Prisoner was her self guilty of the same kind of Forgery which she had laid to the Prosecutor's charge, for that she the said *Rebecca Shapely* did always wear a pair of Steel Bodice, and a false Rump. The Censor ordered the Slippers to be produced in open Court, where the Heels were adjudged to be of the statutable size. He then ordered the Grand Jury to search the Criminal, who, after some time spent therein, acquitted her of the Bodice, but found her guilty of the Rump; upon which she received Sentence as is usual in such cases.

William Trippitt, Esq; of the *Middle Temple*, brought his Action against the Lady *Elizabeth Prudely*, for having refused him her hand as he offered to lead her to her Coach from the Opera. The Plaintiff set forth, that he had entred himself into the list of those Volunteers who officiate every night behind the boxes as Gentlemen-Ushers of the Playhouse; that he had been at a considerable charge in white Gloves, Periwigs, and Snuff-boxes, in order to qualify himself for that employment, and in hopes of making his Fortune by it. The Council for the Defendant replied, that the Plaintiff had given out that he was within a month of wedding their Client, and that she had refused her hand to him in ceremony, lest he should interpret it as a promise that she would give it

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him

him in marriage. As soon as their Pleadings on both sides were finished, the Cenfor ordered the Plaintiff to be cashiered from his Office of Gentleman-Usher to the Play-house, since it was too plain that he had undertaken it with an ill design; and at the same time ordered the Defendant either to marry the said Plaintiff, or to pay him half a Crown for the new pair of Gloves and Coach-hire that he was at the expence of in her service.

The Lady *Townly* brought an Action of Debt against Mrs. *Flambeau*, for that Mrs. *Flambeau* had not been to see the said Lady *Townly*, and with her joy, since her marriage with Sir *Ralph*, notwithstanding she the said Lady *Townly* had paid Mrs. *Flambeau* a visit upon her first coming to town. It was urged in the behalf of the Defendant, that the Plaintiff had never given her any regular notice of her being in town; that the visit she alledged had been made on a *Monday*, which she knew was a day on which Mrs. *Flambeau* was always abroad, having set aside that only day in the week to mind the affairs of her family; that the servant who enquired whether she was at home, did not give the Visiting knock; that it was not between the hours of five and eight in the evening; that there were no Candles lighted up; that it was not on Mrs. *Flambeau*'s day; and in short, that there was not one of the essential points observed that constitute a visit. She further proved by her Porter's book, which was produced in Court, that she had paid the Lady *Townly* a visit on the twenty fourth day of *March*, just before her leaving the town, in the year 1709-10, for which she was still Creditor to the said Lady *Townly*. To this the Plaintiff only replied, that she was now only under covert, and not liable to any debts contracted when she was a single Woman. Mr. *Bickerstaffe* finding the Cause to be very intricate, and that several Points of Honour were likely to arise in it, he deferred giving Judgment upon it till the next Session day, at which time he ordered the Ladies on his left hand to present to the Court a Table of all the Laws relating to Visits.

Winifred Leer brought her Action against *Richard Sty*, for having broken a Marriage Contract, and wedded another Woman, after he had engaged himself to marry the said *Winifred Leer*. She alledged, that he had ogled her twice at an Opera, thrice in St. *James's* Church, and once at *Powel's* Puppet-show, at which time he promised her Marriage by a side-glance, as her friend could testify that fate by her. Mr. *Bickerstaffe* finding that the Defendant had made no further overture of Love or Marriage, but by looks and ocular engagement; yet at the same time
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considering how very apt such impudent Seducers are to lead the Ladies Hearts astray, ordered the Criminal to stand upon the Stage in the *Hay-market*, between each Act of the next Opera, there to be exposed to publick view as a false *Ogler*.

Upon the rising of the Court, Mr. *Bickerstaffe* having taken one of these Counterfeits in the very fact as he was ogling a Lady of the Grand Jury, ordered him to be seized, and prosecuted upon the Statute of Ogling. He likewise directed the Clerk of the Court to draw up an Edict against these common Cheats, that make Women believe they are distracted for them by staring them out of countenance, and often blast a Lady's reputation whom they never spoke to, by saucy looks and distant familiarities.

Sir Richard Steele assisted in this paper.

N^o 265. *Tuesday, December 19. 1710.*

Arbiter hic igitur factus de lite jocosâ.

Ovid. Met.

Continuation of the Journal of the Court of Honour, &c.

AS soon as the Court was fate, the Ladies of the Bench presented, according to order, a Table of all the Laws now in force, relating to Visits and Visiting-days, methodically digested under their respective heads, which the Censor ordered to be laid upon the table, and afterwards proceeded upon the business of the day.

Henry Heedless, Esq; was indicted by Colonel *Touchy*, of Her Majesty's Trained-Bands, upon an Action of Assault and Battery; for that he the said Mr. *Heedless* having espied a Feather upon the shoulder of the said Colonel, struck it off gently with the end of a Walking-staff, value three pence. It appeared, that the Prosecutor did not think himself injured till a few days after the aforesaid blow was given him; but that having ruminated with himself for several days, and conferred upon it with other Officers of the Militia, he concluded, that he had in effect been cudgelled.