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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 8. Friday, March 9.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633)

to him for help, and question not but he will either avert them, or turn them to my advantage. Though I know neither the time nor the manner of the death I am to die, I am not at all solicitous about it; because I am sure that he knows them both, and that he will not fail to comfort and support me under them.

N^o 8. Friday, March 9.

*At Venus obscuro gradientes aëre sepsit,
Et multo Nebula circum Dea fudit amictu,
Cernere ne quis eos-----*

Virg.

I Shall here communicate to the world a couple of Letters, which I believe will give the Reader as good an entertainment as any that I am able to furnish him with, and therefore shall make no apology for them.

To the SPECTATOR, &c.

SIR,

I Am one of the Directors of the Society for the Reformation of manners, and therefore think my self a proper person for your correspondence. I have thoroughly examined the present state of Religion in *Great Britain*, and am able to acquaint you with the predominant vice of every Market-town in the whole Island. I can tell you the progress that Virtue has made in all our Cities, Boroughs, and Corporations; and know as well the evil practices that are committed in *Berwick* or *Exeter*, as what is done in my own family. In a word, Sir, I have my correspondents in the remotest parts of the nation, who send me up punctual accounts from time to time of all the little irregularities that fall under their notice in their several districts and divisions.

I am no less acquainted with the particular quarters and regions of this great town, than with the different parts and distributions of

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the

“ the whole nation. I can describe every parish by its impieties, and
 “ can tell you in which of our streets Lewdness prevails, which Gaming
 “ has taken the possession of, and where Drunkenness has got the better
 “ of them both. When I am disposed to raise a fine for the poor, I
 “ know the lanes and allies that are inhabited by common Swearers.
 “ When I would encourage the Hospital of *Bridewell* and improve the
 “ Hempen manufacture, I am very well acquainted with all the haunts and
 “ resorts of female Night-walkers.

“ After this short account of my self, I must let you know, that the
 “ design of this paper is to give you information of a certain irregular
 “ Assembly which I think falls very properly under your observation, e-
 “ specially since the persons it is composed of are criminals too conside-
 “ rable for the animadversions of our Society. I mean, Sir, the midnight
 “ Masque, which has of late been very frequently held in one of the
 “ most conspicuous parts of the town, and which I hear will be con-
 “ tinued with additions and improvements. As all the persons who
 “ compose this lawless assembly are masqued, we dare not attack any
 “ of them in *our way*, lest we should send a woman of Quality to *Bride-
 “ well*, or a Peer of *Great Britain* to the *Counter*: Besides, their
 “ numbers are so very great, that I am afraid they would be able to rout
 “ our whole fraternity, though we were accompanied with all our guard
 “ of Constables. Both these reasons, which secure them from our au-
 “ thority, make them obnoxious to yours; as both their disguise and
 “ their numbers will give no particular person reason to think himself
 “ affronted by you.

“ If we are rightly informed, the rules that are observed by this new
 “ Society are wonderfully contrived for the advancement of Cuckoldom.
 “ The women either come by themselves, or are introduced by friends,
 “ who are obliged to quit them, upon their first entrance, to the con-
 “ versation of any body that addresses himself to them. There are
 “ several rooms where the parties may retire, and, if they please, shew
 “ their faces by consent. Whispers, squeezes, nods, and embraces, are
 “ the innocent freedoms of the place. In short, the whole design of
 “ this libidinous assembly, seems to terminate in assignations and in-
 “ trigues; and I hope you will take effectual methods, by your publick
 “ advice and admonitions, to prevent such a promiscuous multitude of
 “ both sexes from meeting together in so clandestine a manner. I am

Your humble Servant, and Fellow-labourer, T. B.

Not

Not long after the perusal of this Letter, I received another upon the same subject; which, by the date and stile of it, I take to be written by some young Templar.

SIR,

Middle-Temple, 1710-11.

“ WHEN a man has been guilty of any vice or folly, I think the
 “ best attonement he can make for it, is to warn others not
 “ to fall into the like. In order to this I must acquaint you, that some
 “ time in *February* last, I went to the *Tuesday's Masquerade*. Upon my
 “ first going in I was attacked by half a dozen female Quakers, who
 “ seemed willing to adopt me for a brother; but upon a nearer exami-
 “ nation I found they were a sisterhood of Coquettes disguised in that pre-
 “ cise habit. I was soon after taken out to dance, and, as I fancied, by
 “ a woman of the first Quality, for she was very tall, and moved grace-
 “ fully. As soon as the minuet was over, we ogled one another through
 “ our masques; and as I am very well read in *Waller*, I repeated to her
 “ the four following verses out of his Poem of *Vandike*.

*The heedless Lover does not know
 Whose eyes they are that wound him so;
 But confounded with thy art,
 Enquires her name that has his heart.*

“ I pronounced these words with such a languishing air that I had
 “ some reason to conclude I had made a conquest. She told me that she
 “ hoped my face was not akin to my tongue; and looking upon her
 “ watch, I accidentally discovered the figure of a coronet on the back
 “ part of it. I was so transported with the thought of such an amour
 “ that I plied her from one room to another with all the gallantries I
 “ could invent; and at length brought things to so happy an issue, that
 “ she gave me a private meeting the next day, without page or footman,
 “ coach or equipage. My heart danced in raptures; but I had not lived
 “ in this golden dream above three days, before I found good reason to
 “ wish that I had continued true to my Laundress. I have since heard,
 “ by a very great accident, that this fine Lady does not live far from
 “ *Covent-Garden*, and that I am not the finest Cully whom she has pas-
 “ sed her self upon for a Countess.

“ Thus, Sir, you see how I have mistaken a *Cloud* for a *Juno*; and if
 “ you can make any use of this adventure, for the benefit of those who

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“ may

“ may possibly be as vain young coxcombs as my self, I do most heartily
 “ give you leave. I am, SIR,

Your most humble Admirer, B. L.

I design to visit the next Masquerade my self, in the same habit I wore
 at *Grand Cairo*; and till then shall suspend my Judgment of this midnight
 entertainment.

N° 9. Saturday, March 10.

-----*Tigris agit rabidâ cum tigride pacem*
Perpetuam, sævis inter se convenit urfis.

Juv.

MAN is said to be a sociable animal, and, as an instance of it, we
 may observe, that we take all occasions and pretences of form-
 ing our selves into those little nocturnal assemblies, which are
 commonly known by the name of *Clubs*. When a sett of men find
 themselves agree in any particular, though never so trivial, they establish
 themselves into a kind of fraternity, and meet once or twice a week,
 upon the account of such a fantastick resemblance. I know a considera-
 ble market-town, in which there was a Club of fat men, that did not
 come together (as you may well suppose) to entertain one another with
 sprightliness and wit, but to keep one another in countenance; the
 room where the Club met was something of the largest, and had two en-
 trances, the one by a door of a moderate size, and the other by a pair of
 folding-doors. If a Candidate for this corpulent Club could make his
 entrance through the first, he was looked upon as unqualified; but if he
 stuck in the passage, and could not force his way through it, the folding-
 doors were immediately thrown open for his reception, and he was fa-
 luted as a Brother. I have heard that this Club, though it consisted but
 of fifteen persons, weighed above three tun.

In