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

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

No 547. Thursday, November 27.

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There are many more demonstrations of a supreme Being, and of his transcendent wisdom, power and goodness in the formation of the body of a living creature, for which I refer my reader to other writings, particularly to the sixth book of the poem, entitled *Creation*, where the Anatomy of the human body is described with great perspicuity and elegance. I have been particular on the thought which runs through this Speculation, because I have not seen it enlarged upon by others.

N<sup>o</sup> 547. *Thursday, November 27.*

*Si vulnus tibi monstratâ radice vel herbâ  
Non fieret levius, fugeres radice vel herbâ  
Proficiente nihil curarier-----*

Hor.

**I**T is very difficult to praise a man without putting him out of countenance. My following correspondent has found out this uncommon art, and, together with his friends, has celebrated some of my Speculations after such a concealed but diverting manner, that if any of my readers think I am to blame in publishing my own commendations, they will allow I should have deserved their censure as much, had I suppressed the humour in which they are conveyed to me.

S I R,

“ I Am often in a private assembly of wits of both sexes, where we generally descant upon your Speculations, or upon the subjects on which you have treated. We were last *Tuesday* talking of those two volumes which you have lately published. Some were commending one of your papers, and some another; and there was scarce a single person in the company that had not a favourite Speculation. Upon this a man of wit and learning told us, he thought it would not be amiss if we paid the *Spectator* the same compliment that is often made in our publick prints to Sir *William Read*, Dr. *Grant*, Mr. *Moor* the Apothecary, and other eminent physicians, where it is usual for the patients to

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“ publish the cures which have been made upon them, and the several  
 “ distempers under which they laboured. The proposal took, and the  
 “ Lady where we visited having the two last volumes in large paper in-  
 “ terleaved for her own private use, ordered them to be brought down,  
 “ and laid in the window, whither every one in the company retired,  
 “ and writ down a particular Advertisement in the stile and phrase of  
 “ the like ingenious compositions which we frequently meet with at the  
 “ end of our News-papers. When we had finished our work, we read  
 “ them with a great deal of mirth at the fire-side, and agreed, *Nemine*  
 “ *contradicente*, to get them transcribed, and sent to the *Spectator*. The  
 “ Gentleman who made the proposal entered the following Advertise-  
 “ ment before the Title-page, after which the rest succeeded in order.

“ *Remedium efficax et universum*; or, An effectual remedy adapted to  
 “ all capacities; shewing how any person may cure himself of ill-nature,  
 “ pride, party-spleen, or any other distemper incident to the human system,  
 “ with an easy way to know when the infection is upon him. This Pa-  
 “ nacea is as innocent as bread, agreeable to the taste, and requires no  
 “ confinement. It has not its equal in the universe, as abundance of the  
 “ Nobility and Gentry throughout the kingdom have experienced.  
 N. B. “ No family ought to be without it.

*Over the two Spectators on Jealousy, being the two first in the  
 third volume.*

“ I *William Crazy*, aged threescore and seven, having been for several  
 “ years afflicted with uneasy doubts, fears and vapours, occasioned by the  
 “ youth and beauty of *Mary* my wife, aged twenty five, do hereby for  
 “ the benefit of the publick give notice, that I have found great relief from  
 “ the two following doses, having taken them two mornings together  
 “ with a dish of Chocolate. Witness my hand, &c.

*For the benefit of the poor.*

“ In charity to such as are troubled with the disease of Levee-hunting,  
 “ and are forced to seek their bread every morning at the chamber-doors  
 “ of great men, I *A. B.* do testify, that for many years past I laboured  
 “ under this fashionable distemper, but was cured of it by a remedy which  
 “ I bought of Mrs. *Baldwin*, contained in a half-sheet of paper, marked  
 “ N<sup>o</sup> 193. where any one may be provided with the same remedy at the  
 “ price of a single penny.

“ An



“ An infallible cure for *Hypocondriack Melancholy*. N<sup>o</sup> 173. 184. 191.  
 “ 203. 209. 221. 233. 235. 239. 245. 247. 251.

Probatum est.

*Charles Easy.*

“ I *Christopher Query* having been troubled with a certain distemper in  
 “ my tongue, which shewed it self in impertinent and superfluous inter-  
 “ rogatories, have not asked one unnecessary question since my perusal  
 “ of the prescription marked N<sup>o</sup> 228.

“ The *Britannick Beautifier*, being an Essay on Modesty, N<sup>o</sup> 231.  
 “ which gives such a delightful blushing colour to the cheeks of those  
 “ that are white or pale, that it is not to be distinguished from a natural  
 “ fine complexion, nor perceived to be artificial by the nearest friend :  
 “ is nothing of paint, or in the least hurtful. It renders the face delight-  
 “ fully handsome ; is not subject to be rubbed off, and cannot be parallel-  
 “ led by either wash, powder, cosmetic, &c. It is certainly the best  
 “ beautifier in the world.

*Martha Gloworm.*

“ I *Samuel Self*, of the parish of *St. James's*, having a constitution  
 “ which naturally abounds with acids, made use of a paper of directions  
 “ marked N<sup>o</sup> 177. recommending a healthful exercise called *Good-nature*,  
 “ and have found it a most excellent sweetner of the blood.

“ Whereas I, *Elizabeth Rainbow*, was troubled with that distemper in  
 “ my head, which about a year ago was pretty epidemical among the  
 “ Ladies, and discovered it self in the colour of their hoods, having  
 “ made use of the doctor's cephalic tincture, which he exhibited to the  
 “ publick in one of his last year's papers, I recovered in a very few days.

“ I *George Gloom* have for a long time been troubled with the  
 “ spleen, and being advised by my friends to put my self into a course  
 “ of *Steele*, did for that end make use of remedies conveyed to me se-  
 “ veral mornings in short Letters, from the hands of the invisible Do-  
 “ ctor. They were marked at the bottom *Nathaniel Henroost, Alice*  
 “ *Threadneedle, Rebecca Nettle-top, Tom Loveless, Mary Meanwell,*  
 “ *Thomas Smoaky, Anthony Freeman, Tom Meggot, Rustick Sprightly, &c.*  
 “ which have had so good an effect upon me, that I now find my self  
 “ chearful, lightsome and easy ; and therefore do recommend them to all  
 “ such as labour under the same distemper.



Not having room to insert all the advertisements which were sent me, I have only picked out some few from the third Volume, reserving the fourth for another opportunity.

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N<sup>o</sup> 549. Saturday, November 29.

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*Quamvis digressu veteris confusus amici,  
Laudo tamen-----*

Juv.

I Believe most people begin the world with a resolution to withdraw from it into a serious kind of solitude or retirement, when they have made themselves easy in it. Our unhappiness is, that we find out some excuse or other for deferring such our good resolutions till our intended retreat is cut off by Death. But among all kinds of people there are none who are so hard to part with the world, as those who are grown old in the heaping up of riches. Their minds are so warped with their constant attention to gain, that it is very difficult for them to give their souls another bent, and convert them towards those objects, which, though they are proper for every stage of life, are so more especially for the last. *Horace* describes an old usurer as so charmed with the pleasures of a country life, that in order to make a purchase he called in all his money; but what was the event of it? why in a very few days after he put it out again. I am engaged in this series of thought by a discourse which I had last week with my worthy friend Sir ANDREW FREEPORT, a man of so much natural eloquence, good sense, and probity of mind, that I always hear him with a particular pleasure. As we were sitting together, being the sole remaining members of our Club, Sir ANDREW gave me an account of the many busy scenes of life in which he had been engaged, and at the same time reckoned up to me abundance of those lucky hits, which at another time he would have called pieces of good fortune; but in the temper of mind he was then, he termed them mercies, favours of providence, and blessings upon an honest industry. Now, says he, you must know, my good friend, I am so used to consider my self as creditor and debtor,