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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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compunction of heart ; when they consider, that in order to give a spirit to a desperate cause, they have, by their false and treacherous insinuations and reports, betrayed so many of their friends into their destruction.

N^o 8. *Monday, January 16.*

*Adveniet qui vestra dies muliebribus armis
Verba redarguerit.*

Virg.

I Have heard that several Ladies of distinction, upon the reading of my fourth paper, are studying methods how to make themselves useful to the publick. One has a design of keeping an open Tea-table, where every man shall be welcome that is a friend to King *George*. Another is for setting up an assembly for Basset, where none shall be admitted to *Punt*, that have not taken the oaths. A third is upon an invention of a dress which will put every *Tory* Lady out of countenance : I am not informed of the particulars, but am told in general, that she has contrived to shew her principles by the setting of her commode ; so that it will be impossible for any woman, that is *disaffected*, to be in the fashion. Some of them are of opinion that the Fan may be made use of with good success, against Popery, by exhibiting the corruptions of the Church of *Rome* in various figures ; and that their abhorrence of the superstitious use of Beads, may be very aptly expressed in the make of a pearl Neck-lace. As for the civil part of our constitution, it is unanimously agreed among the leaders of the sex, that there is no glory in making a man their slave, who has not naturally a passion for liberty ; and to disallow of all professions of Passive-obedience, but from a lover to his Mistress.

It happens very luckily for the interest of the *Whigs*, that their very enemies acknowledge the finest women of *Great Britain* to be of that party. The *Tories* are forced to borrow their Toasts from their antagonists ; and can scarce find beauties enough of their own side, to supply a single round of *October*. One may, indeed, sometimes discover among

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the malignants of the sex, a face that seems to have been naturally designed for a *Whig* Lady: but then it is so often flushed with rage, or sowered with disappointments, that one cannot but be troubled to see it thrown away upon the owner. Would the pretty malecontent be persuaded to love her King and country, it would diffuse a cheerfulness through all her features, and give her quite another air. I would therefore advise these, my gentle Readers, as they consult the good of their faces, to forbear frowning upon loyalists, and pouting at the government. In the mean time, what may we not hope from a cause, which is recommended by all the allurements of beauty, and the force of truth! It is therefore to be hoped that every fine woman will make this laudable use of her charms; and that she may not want to be frequently reminded of this great duty, I will only desire her to think of her country every time she looks in her glass.

But because it is impossible to prescribe such rules, as shall be suitable to the sex in general, I shall consider them under their several divisions of Maids, Wives and Widows.

As for Virgins, who are unexperienced in the wiles of men, they would do well to consider how little they are to rely on the faith of lovers, who in less than a year have broken their allegiance to their lawful Sovereign; and what credit is to be given to the vows and protestations of such as shew themselves so little afraid of perjury. Besides, what would an innocent young Lady think, should she marry a man without examining his principles, and afterwards find herself got with child by a rebel?

In the next place, every wife ought to answer for her man. If the husband be engaged in a seditious club, or drinks mysterious healths, or be frugal of his candles on a rejoicing night, let her look to him, and keep him out of harms way; or the world will be apt to say, she has a mind to be a widow before her time. She ought in such cases to exert the authority of the curtain lecture; and if she finds him of a rebellious disposition, to tame him, as they do birds of prey, by dinning him in the ears all night long.

Widows may be supposed women of too good sense not to discountenance all practices, that have a tendency to the destruction of mankind. Besides, they have a greater interest in property than either maids or wives, and do not hold their jointures by the precarious tenure of portions or pin-money. So that it is as unnatural for a Dowager, as a Freeholder, to be an enemy to our constitution.

As

As nothing is more instructive than examples, I would recommend to the perusal of our *British* virgins the story of *Clelia* a *Roman* spinster, whose behaviour is represented by all their historians, as one of the chief motives that discouraged the *Tarquins* from prosecuting their attempt to regain the throne, from whence they had been expelled. Let the married women reflect upon the glory acquired by the wife of *Coriolanus*, who, when her husband, after long exile, was returning into his country with fire and sword, diverted him from so cruel and unnatural an enterprize. And let those who have out-lived their husbands, never forget their country-woman *Boadicia*, who headed her troops in person against the invasion of a *Roman* army, and encouraged them with this memorable saying, *I, who am a woman, am resolved upon victory or death: but as for you who are men, you may, if you please, chuse life and slavery.*

But I do not propose to our *British* Ladies, that they should turn *Amazons* in the service of their Sovereign, nor so much as let their nails grow for the defence of their country. The men will take the work of the field off their hands, and shew the world, that *English* valour cannot be matched, when it is animated by *English* beauty. I do not however disapprove the project which is now on foot for a *Female Association*; and, since I hear the fair confederates cannot agree among themselves upon a form, shall presume to lay before them the following rough draught, to be corrected or improved, as they in their wisdom shall think fit.

“ **W**E the Consorts, Relicts, and Spinsters of the Isle of *Great Bri-*
 “ *tain*, whose names are under-written, being most passionately
 “ offended at the falshood and perfidiousness of certain faithless men, and
 “ at the lukewarmth and indifference of others, have entered into a vo-
 “ luntary Association for the good and safety of our constitution. And
 “ we do hereby engage our selves to raise and arm our vassals for the
 “ service of his Majesty King *George*, and him to defend with our tongues
 “ and hearts, our eyes, eye-lashes, favourites, lips, dimples, and every
 “ other feature, whether natural or acquired. We promise publickly and
 “ openly to avow the loyalty of our principles in every word we shall
 “ utter, and every patch we shall stick on. We do farther promise, to
 “ annoy the enemy with all the flames, darts and arrows with which na-
 “ ture has armed us; never to correspond with them by sigh, ogle, or
 “ billet-doux; not to have any intercourse with them either in snuff or
 “ tea; nor to accept the civility of any man’s hand, who is not ready

“ to use it in the defence of his country. We are determined in so
 “ good a cause to endure the greatest hardships and severities, if there
 “ should be occasion; and even to wear the manufacture of our coun-
 “ try, rather than appear the friends of a foreign interest in the richest
 “ French brocade. And forgetting all private feuds, jealousies and ani-
 “ mosities, we do unanimously oblige our selves, by this our Association,
 “ to stand and fall by one another, as loyal and faithful sisters and fellow-
 “ subjects.

N. B. This Association will be lodged at Mr. *Motteux's*, where atten-
 dance will be given to the subscribers, who are to be ranged in their re-
 spective columns, as maids, wives, and widows.

N^o 9.

Friday, January 20.

*Consilia qui dant prava cautiis hominibus,
 Et perdunt operam, et deridentur turpiter.*

Phædr.

THOUGH I have already seen, in *The Town-Talk*, a Letter from
 a celebrated *English-Man* to the Pretender, which is indeed an
 excellent answer to his Declaration, the title of this paper ob-
 ligen me to publish the following piece, which considers it in different
 lights.

*The Declaration of the Free-Holders of Great-Britain, in answer to
 that of the Pretender.*

WE, by the Mercy of God, Free-Holders of *Great-Britain*, to the
 popish Pretender, who stiles himself King of *Scotland* and *Eng-
 land*, and Defender of our Faith, DEFIANCE. Having seen a libel,
 which you have lately published against the King and people of these
 realms under the title of a DECLARATION, We, in justice to the sen-
 timents of our own hearts, have thought fit to return you the following
 answer; wherein we shall endeavour to reduce to method the several
 particulars, which you have contrived to throw together with much ma-
 lice, and no less confusion.

We