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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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N^o II. *Friday, January 27.*

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

BY our latest advices, both from town and country, it appears, that the Ladies of *Great Britain*, who are *able to bear arms*, that is, to smile or frown to any purpose, have already begun to commit hostilities upon the men of each opposite party. To this end we are assured, that many of them on both sides *exercise* before their glasses every morning; that they have already cashiered several of their followers as mutineers, who have contradicted them in some political conversations; and that the *Whig* Ladies in particular design very soon to have a general review of their forces at a play bespoke by one of their leaders. This set of Ladies, indeed, as they daily do duty at Court, are much more expert in the use of their airs and graces than their female antagonists, who are most of them bred in the country: so that the sisterhood of loyalists, in respect of the fair malecontents, are like an army of regular forces, compared with a raw undisciplined Militia.

It is to this misfortune in their education that we may ascribe the rude and opprobrious language with which the disaffected part of the sex treat the present Royal Family. A little lively rustick, who hath been trained up in ignorance and prejudice, will prattle treason a whole winter's evening, and string together a parcel of silly seditious stories, that are equally void of decency and truth. Nay, you sometimes meet with a zealous matron, who sets up for the pattern of a parish, uttering such invectives as are highly mis-becoming her, both as a woman and a subject. In answer therefore to such disloyal termagants, I shall repeat to them a speech of the honest and blunt Duke *du Sully* to an assembly of *Popish* Ladies, who were railing very bitterly against *Henry* the Fourth, at his accession to the *French* throne; Ladies, said he, *you have a very good King, if you know when you are well. However set your hearts at rest, for he is not a man to be scolded or scratched out of his kingdom.*

But

But as I never care to speak of the fair sex, unless I have an occasion to praise them, I shall take my leave of these ungentle damsels; and only beg of them, not to make themselves less amiable than nature designed them, by being rebels to the best of their abilities, and endeavouring to bring their country into bloodshed and confusion. Let me therefore recommend to them the example of those beautiful associates, whom I mentioned in my eighth paper, as I have received the particulars of their behaviour from the person with whom I lodged their Association.

This Association being written at length in a large roll of the finest vellum, with three distinct columns for the maids, wives, and widows, was opened for the subscribers near a fortnight ago. Never was a subscription for a *Raffling* or an *Opera* more crowded. There is scarce a celebrated beauty about town that you may not find in one of the three lists; insomuch, that if a man, who did not know the design, should read only the names of the subscribers, he would fancy every column to be a catalogue of Toasts. Mr. *Motteux* has been heard to say more than once, that if he had the portraits of all the associates, they would make a finer auction of pictures, than he or any body else had exhibited.

Several of these Ladies indeed criticised upon the form of the Association. One of them, after the perusal of it, wondered that among the features to be used in defence of their country, there was no mention made of *Teeth*; upon which she smiled very charmingly, and discovered as fine a set as ever eye beheld. Another, who was a tall lovely prude, holding up her head in a most majestick manner, said, with some disdain, she thought a *good Neck* might have done his Majesty as much service as smiles or dimples. A third looked upon the Association as defective, because so necessary a word as *Hands* was omitted; and by her manner of taking up the pen, it was easy to guess the reason of her objection.

Most of the persons who associated, have done much more than by the letter of the Association they were obliged to; having not only set their names to it, but subscribed their several aids and subsidies for the carrying on so good a cause. In the virgin column is one who subscribes fifteen lovers, all of them good men and true. There is another who subscribes five admirers, with one tall handsom black man fit to be a Colonel. In short, there is scarce one in this list who does not engage herself to supply a quota of brisk young fellows, many of them already equipt with hats and feathers. Among the rest, was a pretty sprightly Coquette, with sparkling eyes, who subscribed two quivers of arrows.

In

In the column of wives, the first that took pen in hand, writ her own name and one vassal, meaning her husband. Another subscribes her husband and three sons. Another her husband and six coach-horses. Most in this catalogue paired themselves with their respective mates, answering for them as men of honest principles, and fit for the service.

N. B. There were two in this column that wore Association ribbons: the first of them subscribed her husband, and her husband's friend; the second a husband and five lovers; but upon enquiry into their characters, they are both of them found to be *Tories*, who hung out false colours to be spies upon the Association, or to insinuate to the world by their subscriptions, as if a Lady of *Whig* principles could love any man besides her husband.

The widows column is headed by a fine woman who calls herself *Boadicea*, and subscribes six hundred tenants. It was indeed observed that the strength of the Association lay most in this column; every widow, in proportion to her jointure, having a great number of admirers, and most of them distinguished as able men. Those who have examined this list, compute that there may be three Regiments raised out of it, in which there shall not be one man under six foot high.

I must not conclude this account, without taking notice of the ASSOCIATION-RIBBON, by which these beautiful confederates have agreed to distinguish themselves. It is indeed so very pretty an ornament, that I wonder any *English* woman will be without it. A Lady of the ASSOCIATION who bears this badge of allegiance upon her breast, naturally produces a desire in every male-beholder, of gaining a place in a heart which carries on it such a visible mark of its fidelity. When the beauties of our Island are thus industrious to shew their principles as well as their charms, they raise the sentiments of their country-men, and inspire them at the same time both with loyalty and love. What numbers of profelytes may we not expect, when the most amiable of the *Britons* thus exhibit to their admirers the only terms upon which they are to hope for any correspondence or alliance with them! It is well known that the greatest blow the *French* nation ever received, was the dropping of a fine Lady's garter, in the reign of King *Edward* the Third. The most remarkable battels which have been since gained over that nation, were fought under the auspices of a blue RIBBON. As our *British* Ladies have still the same faces, and our men the same hearts, why may we not hope for the same glorious achievements from the influence of this beautiful breast-knot?