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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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“ in point of trade, and if I disagree with her about any of my ships at
 “ sea, wonders that I will dispute with her, when I know very well that
 “ her great grandfather was a Flag officer.

“ To compleat my sufferings, she has teased me for this quarter of a
 “ year last past, to remove into one of the Squares at the other end of
 “ the town, promising, for my encouragement, that I shall have as good
 “ a Cock-loft as any Gentleman in the Square; to which the honourable
 “ *Oddly Enville*, Esq; always adds, like a Jack-a-napes as he is, that he
 “ hopes it will be as near the Court as possible.

“ In short, Mr. SPECTATOR, I am so much out of my natural ele-
 “ ment, that to recover my old way of life I would be content to begin
 “ the world again, and be plain *Jack Anvill*; but alas! I am in for life,
 “ and am bound to subscribe my self, with great sorrow of heart,

Your humble Servant, John Enville, Knt.

N^o 305. *Tuesday, February 19.*

*Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis
 Tempus eget-----*

Virg.

OUR late News-papers being full of the project now on foot in the
 Court of *France*, for establishing a Political Academy, and I my
 self having received Letters from several Virtuoso's among my
 foreign correspondents, which give some light into that affair, I intend
 to make it the subject of this day's Speculation. A general account of
 this project may be met with in the *Daily Courant* of last *Friday* in the
 following words, translated from the *Gazette of Amsterdam*.

Paris, February 12. “ It is confirmed, that the King has resolved to
 “ establish a new Academy for Politics, of which the *Marquess de Tor-*
 “ *cy*, Minister and Secretary of State, is to be protector. Six *Academi-*
 “ *cians* are to be chosen, endowed with proper talents, for beginning to
 “ form this Academy, into which no person is to be admitted under
 “ twenty

“ twenty five years of age : they must likewise have each an estate of two
 “ thousand livres a year, either in possession, or to come to them by in-
 “ heritance. The King will allow to each a pension of a thousand livres.
 “ They are likewise to have able masters to teach them the necessary
 “ Sciences, and to instruct them in all the Treaties of Peace, Alliance,
 “ and others which have been made in several Ages past. These mem-
 “ bers are to meet twice a week at the *Louvre*. From this Seminary
 “ are to be chosen Secretaries to Ambassies, who by degrees may advance
 “ to higher employments.

Cardinal *Richelieu*'s Politicks made *France* the terror of *Europe*. The Statesmen who have appeared in that nation of late years, have on the contrary rendered it either the pity or contempt of its neighbours. The Cardinal erected that famous Academy which has carried all the parts of polite learning to the greatest height. His chief design in that institution was to divert the men of Genius from meddling with Politics, a province in which he did not care to have any one else to interfere with him. On the contrary, the Marquis *de Torcy* seems resolved to make several young men in *France* as wise as himself, and is therefore taken up at present in establishing a nursery of statesmen.

Some private Letters add, that there will also be erected a Seminary of Petticoat Politicians, who are to be brought up at the feet of Madam *de Maintenon*, and to be dispatched into foreign Courts upon any emergencies of state; but as the news of this last project has not been yet confirmed, I shall take no farther notice of it.

Several of my Readers may doubtless remember that upon the conclusion of the last war, which had been carried on so successfully by the enemy, their Generals were many of them transformed into Ambassadors; but the conduct of those who have commanded in the present war, has, it seems, brought so little honour and advantage to their great Monarch, that he is resolved to trust his affairs no longer in the hands of those military Gentlemen.

The regulations of this new Academy very much deserve our attention. The Students are to have in possession, or reversion, an estate of two thousand *French* livres *per Annum*, which, as the present exchange runs, will amount to at least one hundred and twenty six pounds *English*. This with the Royal allowance of a thousand livres, will enable them to find themselves in Coffee and Snuff; not to mention News-papers, Pen and Ink, Wax and Wafers, with the like necessaries for Politicians.

A man must be at least five and twenty before he can be initiated into the mysteries of this Academy, though there is no question but many grave persons of a much more advanced age, who have been constant Readers of the *Paris Gazette*, will be glad to begin the world anew, and enter themselves upon this List of Politicians.

The Society of these hopeful young Gentlemen is to be under the direction of six professors, who, it seems, are to be speculative Statesmen, and drawn out of the body of the Royal Academy. These six wise masters, according to my private Letters, are to have the following parts allotted them.

The first is to instruct the Students in *State Legerdemain*, as how to take off the impression of a Seal, to split a Wafer, to open a Letter, to fold it up again, with other the like ingenious feats of dexterity and art. When the Students have accomplished themselves in this part of their profession, they are to be delivered into the hands of their second Instructor, who is a kind of *Posture-master*.

This Artist is to teach them how to nod judiciously, to shrug up their shoulders in a dubious case, to connive with either eye, and in a word, the whole practice of *Political Grimace*.

The third is a sort of *Language-master*, who is to instruct them in the Style proper for a Foreign Minister in his ordinary discourse. And to the end that this College of Statesmen may be thoroughly practised in the political stile, they are to make use of it in their common conversations, before they are employed either in foreign or domestic affairs. If one of them asks another, what a clock it is, the other is to answer him indirectly, and, if possible, to turn off the question. If he is desired to change a *Louis d'or*, he must beg time to consider of it. If it be enquired of him, whether the King is at *Versailles* or *Marly*, he must answer in a whisper. If he be asked the news of the last *Gazette*, or the subject of a Proclamation, he is to reply, that he has not yet read it: or if he does not care for explaining himself so far, he needs only draw his brow up in wrinkles, or elevate the left shoulder.

The fourth professor is to teach the whole art of political characters and hieroglyphics; and to the end that they may be perfect also in this practice, they are not to send a Note to one another (though it be but to borrow a *Tacitus* or a *Machiavil*) which is not written in cypher.

Their fifth professor, it is thought, will be chosen out of the society of Jesuits, and is to be well read in the controversies of probable doctrines, mental reservations, and the rights of Princes. This learned man

is

is to instruct them in the grammar, syntax, and construing part of *Treaty-Latin*; how to distinguish between the spirit and the letter, and likewise demonstrate how the same form of words may lay an obligation upon any Prince in *Europe*, different from that which it lays upon his Most Christian Majesty. He is likewise to teach them the art of finding flaws, loop-holes, and evasions, in the most solemn compacts, and particularly a great *Rabbinical Secret*, revived of late years by the fraternity of Jesuits, namely, that contradictory interpretations of the same article, may both of them be true and valid.

When our Statesmen are sufficiently improved by these several Instructors, they are to receive their last polishing from one who is to act among them as *Master of the Ceremonies*. This Gentleman is to give them lectures upon those important points of the *Elbow Chair*, and the *Stair-head*, to instruct them in the different situations of the right-hand, and to furnish them with bows and inclinations of all sizes, measures and proportions. In short, this Professor is to give the society their *stiffening*, and infuse into their manners that beautiful political starch, which may qualify them for *Levéés*, *Conferences*, *Visits*, and make them shine in what vulgar minds are apt to look upon as trifles.

I have not yet heard any further particulars, which are to be observed in this Society of unfledged Statesmen; but I must confess, had I a son of five and twenty, that should take it into his head at that age to set up for a Politician, I think I should go near to disinherit him for a block-head. Besides, I should be apprehensive least the same arts which are to enable him to negotiate between Potentates, might a little infect his ordinary behaviour between man and man. There is no question but these young *Machiavils* will, in a little time, turn their College upside-down with plots and stratagems, and lay as many schemes to circumvent one another in a frog or a salad, as they may hereafter put in practice to over-reach a neighbouring Prince or State.

We are told that the *Spartans*, though they punished theft in their young men when it was discovered, looked upon it as honourable if it succeeded. Provided the conveyance was clean and unsuspected, a youth might afterwards boast of it. This, say the Historians, was to keep them sharp, and to hinder them from being imposed upon, either in their publick or private negotiations. Whether any such relaxations of morality, such little *jeux d'esprit*, ought not to be allowed in this intended Seminary of Politicians, I shall leave to the wisdom of their Founder.

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In the mean time we have fair warning given us by this doughty body of statesmen; and as *Sylla* saw many *Marius's* in *Cæsar*, so I think we may discover many *Torcy's* in this college of *Academicians*. Whatever we think of our selves, I am afraid neither our *Smyrna* or *St. James's* will be a match for it. Our *Coffee-houses* are, indeed, very good institutions, but whether or no these our *British* schools of politics may furnish out as able *Envoys* and *Secretaries* as an *Academy* that is set apart for that purpose, will deserve our serious consideration: especially if we remember that our country is more famous for producing men of integrity than *Statesmen*; and that on the contrary, *French* truth and *British* policy makes a conspicuous figure in NOTHING, as the *Earl of Rochester* has very well observed in his admirable *Poem* upon that barren subject.

N^o 311. Tuesday, February 26.

*Nec Veneris pharetris macer est; aut lampade fervet:
Inde faces ardent, veniunt a dote sagittæ.* Juv.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

“ I Am amazed that among all the variety of characters, with which
 “ you have enriched your Speculations, you have never given us a
 “ picture of those audacious young fellows among us, who com-
 “ monly go by the name of *Fortune-stealers*. You must know, Sir, I am
 “ one who live in a continual apprehension of this sort of people, that
 “ lye in wait, day and night, for our children, and may be considered as
 “ a kind of kidnappers within the law. I am the father of a young heiress,
 “ whom I begin to look upon as marriageable, and who has looked upon
 “ her self as such for above these six years. She is now in the eigh-
 “ teenth year of her age. The *Fortune-hunters* have already cast their
 “ eyes upon her, and take care to plant themselves in her view whene-
 “ ver she appears in any public assembly. I have my self caught a young
 “ jack-a-napes, with a pair of silver fringed gloves, in the very fact. You
 “ must know, Sir, I have kept her as a prisoner of state ever since she
 “ was in her teens. Her chamber windows are cross-barred, she is not
 “ permitted