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

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

N° 367. Thursday, May 1.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53621](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53621)

As it is of a Dramatic nature, and peculiarly appropriated to the stage, I can by no means approve the thought of that angry lover, who, after an unsuccessful pursuit of some years, took leave of his Mistress in a ferenade of Cat-calls.

I must conclude this paper with the account I have lately received of an ingenious artist, who has long studied this instrument, and is very well versed in all the rules of the Drama. He teaches to play on it by book, and to express by it the whole art of criticism. He has his base and his treble Cat-call; the former for Tragedy, the latter for Comedy; only in Tragy-comedies they may both play together in consort. He has a particular squeak to denote the violation of each of the unities, and has different sounds to shew whether he aims at the poet or the player. In short, he teaches the Smut-note, the Fustian-note, the Stupid-note, and has composed a kind of air that may serve as an Act-tune to an incorrigible play, and which takes in the whole compass of the Cat-call.

N<sup>o</sup> 367. *Thursday, May 1.*

----- *Periturae parcite chartae.*

Juv.

I Have often pleased my self with considering the two kinds of benefits which accrue to the publick from these my Speculations, and which, were I to speak after the manner of Logicians, I would distinguish into the *Material* and the *Formal*. By the latter I understand those advantages which my Readers receive, as their minds are either improved or delighted by these my daily labours; but having already several times descanted on my endeavours in this light, I shall at present wholly confine my self to the consideration of the former. By the word *Material* I mean those benefits which arise to the publick from these my Speculations, as they consume a considerable quantity of our paper manufacture, employ our Artisans in printing, and find business for great numbers of indigent persons.

Our paper-manufacture takes into it several mean materials which could be put to no other use, and affords work for several hands in the collecting  
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of them, which are incapable of any other employment. Those poor retailers, whom we see so busy in every street, deliver in their respective gleanings to the Merchant. The Merchant carries them in loads to the paper-mill, where they pass through a fresh set of hands, and give life to another trade. Those who have mills on their estates, by this means considerably raise their rents, and the whole nation is in a great measure supplied with a manufacture, for which formerly she was obliged to her neighbours.

The materials are no sooner wrought into paper, but they are distributed among the presses, where they again set innumerable artists at work, and furnish business to another mystery. From hence, accordingly as they are stained with news or politicks, they fly through the town in *Post-men*, *Post-boys*, *Daily-courants*, *Reviews*, *Medleys*, and *Examiners*. Men, women, and children contend who shall be the first bearers of them, and get their daily sustenance by spreading them. In short, when I trace in my mind a bundle of rags to a quire of *Spectators*, I find so many hands employed in every step they take through their whole progress, that while I am writing a *Spectator*, I fancy my self providing bread for a multitude.

If I do not take care to obviate some of my witty Readers, they will be apt to tell me, that my paper, after it is thus printed and published, is still beneficial to the publick on several occasions. I must confess I have lighted my pipe with my own works for this twelve-month past: my Landlady often sends up her little daughter to desire some of my old *Spectators*, and has frequently told me, that the paper they are printed on is the best in the world to wrap spice in. They likewise make a good foundation for a Mutton-pye, as I have more than once experienced, and were very much sought for last *Christmas* by the whole neighbourhood.

It is pleasant enough to consider the changes that a linnen fragment undergoes, by passing through the several hands above-mentioned. The finest pieces of Holland, when torn to tatters, assume a new whiteness more beautiful than their first, and often return in the shape of letters to their native country. A Ladies shift may be metamorphosed into Billet-doux, and come into her possession a second time. A Beau may peruse his cravat after it is worn out, with greater pleasure and advantage than ever he did in a glass. In a word, a piece of cloth, after having officiated for some years as a towel or a napkin, may by this means be raised from a dunghill, and become the most valuable piece of furniture in a Prince's cabinet.

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The politest nations of *Europe* have endeavoured to vie with one another for the reputation of the finest printing: absolute Governments, as well as Republicks, have encouraged an art which seems to be the noblest and most beneficial that was ever invented among the sons of men. The present King of *France*, in his pursuits after Glory, has particularly distinguished himself by the promoting of this useful art, insomuch that several books have been printed in the *Louvre* at his own expence, upon which he sets so great a value, that he considers them as the noblest presents he can make to foreign Princes and Ambassadors. If we look into the Commonwealths of *Holland* and *Venice*, we shall find that in this particular they have made themselves the envy of the greatest Monarchies. *Elzevir* and *Aldus* are more frequently mentioned than any Pensioner of the one or Doge of the other.

The several presses which are now in *England*, and the great encouragement which has been given to learning for some years last past, has made our own nation as glorious upon this account, as for its late triumphs and conquests. The new Edition which is given us of *Cesar's* Commentaries, has already been taken notice of in foreign *Gazettes*, and is a work that does honour to the *English* Press. It is no wonder that an Edition should be very correct, which has passed through the hands of one of the most accurate, learned, and judicious writers this age has produced. The Beauty of the paper, of the Character, and of the several Cuts with which this noble work is illustrated, makes it the finest book that I have ever seen; and is a true instance of the *English* Genius, which, though it does not come the first into any art, generally carries it to greater heights than any other country in the world. I am particularly glad that this Author comes from a *British* printing-house in so great a magnificence, as he is the first who has given us any tolerable account of our country.

My illiterate readers, if any such there are, will be surprized to hear me talk of Learning as the glory of a nation, and of Printing as an art that gains a reputation to a people among whom it flourishes. When mens thoughts are taken up with avarice and ambition, they cannot look upon any thing as great or valuable, which does not bring with it an extraordinary power or interest to the person who is concerned in it. But as I shall never sink this paper so far as to engage with *Goths* and *Vandals*, I shall only regard such kind of reasoners with that pity which is due to so deplorable a degree of stupidity and ignorance.

*Tuesday,*