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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

N° 488. Friday, September 19.

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the greatest writers, who have been never suspected either of superstition or enthusiasm.

I do not suppose, that the soul in these instances is entirely loose and unfettered from the body: it is sufficient, if she is not so far sunk, and immersed in matter, nor intangled and perplexed in her operations, with such motions of blood and spirits, as when she actuates the machine in its waking hours. The corporeal union is slackned enough to give the mind more play. The soul seems gathered within her self, and recovers that spring which is broke and weakned, when she operates more in concert with the body.

The Speculations I have here made, if they are not arguments, they are at least strong intimations, not only of the excellency of a human soul, but of its independance on the body; and if they do not prove, do at least confirm these two great points, which are established by many other reasons that are altogether unanswerable.

N^o 488. *Friday, September 19.*

Quanti emptæ? parvi. Quanti ergo? octo assibus. Eheu! Hor.

I Find, by several Letters which I receive daily, that many of my Readers would be better pleased to pay three half-pence for my paper, than two-pence. The ingenious *T. W.* tells me, that I have deprived him of the best part of his breakfast, for that, since the rise of my paper, he is forced every morning to drink his dish of Coffee by it self, without the addition of the *Spectator*, that used to be better than lace to it. *Eugenius* informs me very obligingly, that he never thought he should have disliked any passage in my paper, but that of late there have been two words in every one of them, which he could heartily wish left out, *viz.* *Price Two-pence.* I have a Letter from a Soap-boiler, who condoles with me very affectionately, upon the necessity we both lie under of setting an higher price on our commodities, since the late Tax has been laid upon them, and desiring me, when I write next on that subject, to speak a word or two upon the present duties on castle-soap. But there is none

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of these my correspondents, who writes with a greater turn of good sense and elegance of expression, than the generous *Philomedes*, who advises me to value every *Spectator* at six-pence, and promises that he himself will engage for above a hundred of his acquaintance, who shall take it in at that price.

Letters from the female world are likewise come to me, in great quantities, upon the same occasion; and as I naturally bear a great deference to this part of our species, I am very glad to find that those who approve my conduct in this particular, are much more numerous than those who condemn it. A large family of daughters have drawn me up a very handsome remonstrance, in which they set forth, that their father having refused to take in the *Spectator*, since the additional price was set upon it, they offered him unanimously to abate him the article of bread and butter in the Tea-table account, provided the *Spectator* might be served up to them every morning as usual. Upon this the old Gentleman, being pleased, it seems, with their desire of improving themselves, has granted them the continuance both of the *Spectator* and their bread and butter; having given particular orders, that the Tea-table shall be set forth every morning with its customary bill of fare, and without any manner of defalcation. I thought my self obliged to mention this particular, as it does honour to this worthy Gentleman; and if the young Lady *Latitia*, who sent me this account, will acquaint me with his name, I will insert it at length in one of my papers, if he desires it.

I should be very glad to find out any expedient that might alleviate the expence which this my paper brings to any of my Readers; and, in order to it, must propose two points to their consideration. First, that if they retrench any the smallest particular in their ordinary expence, it will easily make up the half-penny a day, which we have now under consideration. Let a Lady sacrifice but a single ribband to her morning studies, and it will be sufficient: Let a family burn but a candle a-night less than the usual number, and they may take in the *Spectator* without detriment to their private affairs.

In the next place, if my Readers will not go to the price of buying my papers by retail, let them have patience, and they may buy them in the lump, without the burden of a tax upon them. My Speculations, when they are sold single, like cherries upon the stick, are delights for the rich and wealthy; after some time they come to market in greater quantities, and are every ordinary man's money. The truth of it is, they have a certain flavour at their first appearance, from several accidental circumstances

stances of time, place and person, which they may lose if they are not taken early; but in this case every Reader is to consider, whether it is not better for him to be half a year behind-hand with the fashionable and polite part of the world, than to strain himself beyond his circumstances. My bookseller has now about ten thousand of the third and fourth Volumes, which he is ready to publish, having already disposed of as large an edition both of the first and second Volume. As he is a person whose head is very well turned to his business, he thinks they would be a very proper Present to be made to persons at christenings, marriages, visiting-days, and the like joyful solemnities, as several other books are frequently given at funerals. He has printed them in such a little portable Volume, that many of them may be ranged together upon a single plate; and is of opinion, that a salver of *Spectators* would be as acceptable an entertainment to the Ladies, as a salver of sweetmeats.

I shall conclude this paper with an Epigram lately sent to the writer of the *Spectator*, after having returned my thanks to the ingenious Author of it.

S I R,

“ HAVING heard the following Epigram very much commended, I
 “ wonder that it has not yet had a place in any of your papers;
 “ I think the suffrage of our Poet-laureat should not be overlooked, which
 “ shows the opinion he entertains of your paper, whether the notion he
 “ proceeds upon be true or false. I make bold to convey it to you, not
 “ knowing if it has yet come to your hands.

On the SPECTATOR, By Mr. TATE.

— Aliusque et idem
 Nasceris — Hor.

WHEN first the Tatler to a mute was turn'd,
 Great Britain for her Censor's silence mourn'd:
 Robb'd of his sprightly beams, she wept the night,
 Till the Spectator rose, and blaz'd as bright.
 So the first man the Sun's first setting view'd,
 And sigh'd, till circling day his joys renew'd;
 Yet doubtful how that second Sun to name,
 Whether a bright successor, or the same.
 So we: but now from this suspence are freed,
 Since all agree, who both with judgment read,
 'Tis the same Sun, and does himself succeed.

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 Saturday,