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

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

N° 499. Thursday, October 2.

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felves, and to eat no meats that are not killed or prepared their own way. This shuts them out from all table-conversation, and the most agreeable intercourses of life; and, by consequence, excludes them from the most probable means of conversion.

If, in the last place, we consider what providential reason may be assigned for these three particulars, we shall find that their numbers, dispersion, and adherence to their religion, have furnished every age, and every nation of the world, with the strongest arguments for the christian faith, not only as these very particulars are foretold of them, but as they themselves are the depositaries of these and all the other prophecies, which tend to their own confusion. Their number furnishes us with a sufficient cloud of witnesses, that attest the truth of the old bible. Their dispersion spreads these witnesses through all parts of the world. The adherence to their religion makes their testimony unquestionable. Had the whole body of *Jews* been converted to christianity, we should certainly have thought all the prophecies of the Old Testament, that relate to the coming and history of our Blessed Saviour, forged by Christians, and have looked upon them, with the prophecies of the *Sibyls*, as made many years after the events they pretend to foretell.

N<sup>o</sup> 499. *Thursday, October 2.*

-----*Nimis uncis*  
*Naribus indulges*-----

Perf.

**M**Y friend WILL. HONEYCOMB has told me, for above this half year, that he had a great mind to try his hand at a *Spectator*, and that he would fain have one of his writing in my works. This morning I received from him the following Letter, which, after having rectified some little orthographical mistakes, I shall make a Present of to the public.

*Dear*

Dear SPEC.

“ I Was, about two nights ago, in company with very agreeable young  
 “ people of both sexes, where talking of some of your papers which  
 “ are written on conjugal love, there arose a dispute among us, whether  
 “ there were not more bad husbands in the world than bad wives. A  
 “ Gentleman, who was Advocate for the Ladies, took this occasion to  
 “ tell us the story of a famous siege in *Germany*, which I have since found  
 “ related in my historical Dictionary, after the following manner. When  
 “ the Emperor *Courade* the third had besieged *Guelphus*, Duke of *Ba-*  
 “ *varia*, in the city of *Hensberg*, the women finding that the town could  
 “ not hold out long, petitioned the Emperor that they might depart out  
 “ it, with so much as each of them could carry. The Emperor knowing  
 “ they could not convey away many of their effects, granted them their  
 “ petition; when the women, to his great surprize, came out of the  
 “ place with every one her husband upon her back. The Emperor was  
 “ so moved at the sight, that he burst into tears, and after having very  
 “ much extolled the women for their conjugal affection, gave the men  
 “ to their wives, and received the Duke into his favour.

“ The Ladies did not a little triumph at this story, asking us, at the  
 “ same time, whether in our consciences we believed that the men of  
 “ any town in *Great Britain* would, upon the same offer, and at the same  
 “ conjuncture, have loaden themselves with their wives; or rather whe-  
 “ ther they would not have been glad of such an opportunity to get rid  
 “ of them? To this my very good friend *Tom Dapperwit*, who took up-  
 “ on him to be the mouth of our sex, replied, that they would be very  
 “ much to blame if they would not do the same good office for the wo-  
 “ men, considering that their strength would be greater, and their bur-  
 “ dens lighter. As we were amusing our selves with discourses of this  
 “ nature, in order to pass away the evening, which now begins to grow  
 “ tedious, we fell into that laudable and primitive diversion of Questions  
 “ and Commands. I was no sooner vested with the regal authority, but  
 “ I enjoined all the Ladies, under pain of my displeasure, to tell the  
 “ company ingenuously, in case they had been in the siege abovemention-  
 “ ed, and had the same offers made them as the good women of that  
 “ place, what every one of them would have brought off with her, and  
 “ have thought most worth the saving? There were several merry answers  
 “ made to my question, which entertained us till bed-time. This filled  
 “ my mind with such a huddle of ideas, that upon my going to sleep, I  
 “ fell into the following dream. “ I

“ I saw a town of this Island, which shall be nameless, invested on every side, and the inhabitants of it so straitned as to cry for quarter. The General refused any other terms than those granted to the above-mentioned town of *Hensberg*, namely, that the married women might come out with what they could bring along with them. Immediately the gate flew open, and a female procession appeared, multitudes of the sex following one another in a row, and staggering under their respective burdens. I took my stand upon an eminence in the enemies camp, which was appointed for the general rendezvous of these female carriers, being very desirous to look into their several loadings. The first of them had a huge sack upon her shoulders, which she set down with great care: upon the opening of it, when I expected to have seen her husband shoot out of it, I found it was filled with China-ware. The next appeared in a more decent figure, carrying a handsome young fellow upon her back: I could not forbear commending the young woman for her conjugal affection, when to my great surprize, I found that she had left the good man at home, and brought away her gallant. I saw the third, at some distance, with a little withered face peeping over her shoulder, whom I could not suspect for any but her spouse, till upon her setting him down I heard her call him dear *Pugg*, and found him to be her favourite Monkey. A fourth brought a huge bale of cards along with her; and the fifth a *Bolonia* Lap-dog; for her husband, it seems, being a very burly man, she thought it would be less trouble for her to bring away little *Cupid*. The next was the wife of a rich usurer, loaden with a bag of gold; she told us that her spouse was very old, and by the course of nature, could not expect to live long; and that to shew her tender regards for him, she had saved that which the poor man loved better than his life. The next came towards us with her son upon her back, who, we were told, was the greatest rake in the place, but so much the mother's darling, that she left her husband behind with a large family of hopeful sons and daughters, for the sake of this graceless youth.

“ It would be endless to mention the several persons, with their several loads, that appeared to me in this strange vision. All the place about me was covered with packs of ribband, brocades, embroidery, and ten thousand other materials, sufficient to have furnished a whole street of toy-shops. One of the women, having a husband that was none of the heaviest, was bringing him off upon her shoulders, at the same time that she carried a great bundle of *Flanders-lace* under her

“ arm;

“ arm; but finding her self so over-loaden, that she could not save both  
 “ of them, she dropped the good man, and brought away the bundle.  
 “ In short, I found but one husband among this great mountain of bag-  
 “ gage, who was a lively cobler, and kicked and spurred all the while  
 “ his wife was carrying him on, and, as it was said, had scarce passed a  
 “ day in his life without giving her the discipline of the strap.

“ I cannot conclude my Letter, Dear SPEC. without telling thee one  
 “ very odd whim in this my dream. I saw, methought, a dozen women  
 “ employed in bringing off one man; I could not guess who it should  
 “ be, till upon his nearer approach I discovered thy short phiz. The  
 “ women all declared that it was for the sake of thy works, and not thy  
 “ person, that they brought thee off, and that it was on condition that  
 “ thou shouldst continue the *Spectator*. If thou thinkest this dream will  
 “ make a tolerable one, it is at thy service, from,

*Dear SPEC, Thine, sleeping and waking,*

WILL. HONEYCOMB.

The Ladies will see, by this Letter, what I have often told them, that  
 WILL. is one of those old-fashioned men of wit and pleasure of the  
 town, that shews his parts by raillery on marriage, and one who has of-  
 ten tried his fortune that way without success. I cannot however dismiss  
 his Letter, without observing, that the true story on which it is built  
 does honour to the sex, and that in order to abuse them, the writer is  
 obliged to have recourse to dream and fiction.

