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In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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 N^o 38. *Monday, April 30.*

----- *Longum, formosa, vale* -----

Virg.

IT is the ambition of the male-part of the world to make themselves esteemed, and of the female to make themselves beloved. As this is the last paper which I shall address to my fair readers; I cannot perhaps oblige them more, than by leaving them as a kind of legacy a certain secret which seldom fails of procuring this affection, which they are naturally formed both to desire and to obtain. This *Nostrum* is comprised in the following sentence of *Seneca*, which I shall translate for the service of my country-women. *Ego tibi monstrabo amatorium sine medicamento, sine herbâ, sine ullius veneficæ carmine: si vis amari, ama. I will discover to you a Philter that has neither drug, nor simple, nor enchantment in it. Love, if you would raise love.* If there be any truth in this discovery, and this be such a specifick as the Author pretends, there is nothing which makes the sex more unamiable than party-rage. The finest woman, in a transport of fury, loses the use of her face. Instead of charming her beholders, she frights both friend and foe. The latter can never be smitten by so bitter an enemy, nor the former captivated by a Nymph, who, upon occasion, can be so very angry. The most endearing of our beautiful fellow-subjects, are those whose minds are the least imbittered with the passions and prejudices of either side; and who discover the native sweetness of the sex in every part of their conversation and behaviour. A lovely woman, who thus flourishes in her innocence and good-humour, amidst that mutual spite and rancour which prevails among her exasperated sisterhood, appears more amiable by the singularity of her character; and may be compared, with *Solomon's* bride, to a lilly among thorns.

A Stateswoman is as ridiculous a creature as a Cott-quean. Each of the sexes should keep within its particular bounds, and content themselves to excel within their respective districts. When *Venus* complained to *Jupiter* of the wound which she had received in battel, the father of the

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gods smiled upon her, and put her in mind, that instead of mixing in a war, which was not her business, she should have been officiating in her proper ministry, and carrying on the delights of marriage. The delicacy of several modern Criticks has been offended with *Homer's Billingsgate* warriors; but a scolding Heroe is, at the worst, a more tolerable character than a Bully in petticoats. To which we may add, that the keenest satyrift, among the ancients, looked upon nothing as a more proper subject of raillery and invective, than a female gladiator.

I am the more disposed to take into consideration these Ladies of fire and politicks, because it would be very monstrous to see feuds and animosities kept up among the soft sex, when they are in so hopeful a way of being composed among the men, by the Septennial Bill, which is now ready for the Royal assent. As this is likely to produce a cessation of arms, till the expiration of the present Parliament, among one half of our Island, it is very reasonable that the more beautiful moiety of his Majesty's subjects should establish a truce among themselves for the same term of years. Or rather it were to be wished, that they would summon together a kind of Senate, or Parliament, of the fairest and wisest of our sister subjects, in order to enact a perpetual neutrality among the sex. They might at least appoint something like a Committee, chosen from among the Ladies residing in *London* and *Westminster*, in order to prepare a Bill to be laid before the assembly upon the first opportunity of their meeting. The regulation might be as follows:

“ That a Committee of Toasts be forthwith appointed; to consider the present state of the sex in the *British* nation.

“ That this Committee do meet at the house of every respective member of it on her visiting-day; and that every one who comes to it shall have a vote, and a dish of Tea.

“ That the Committee be empowered to send for billet-doux, libels, lampoons, lists of Toasts, or any other the like papers and records.

“ That it be an instruction to the said Committee, to consider of proper ways and methods to reclaim the obstinately opprobrious and virulent; and how to make the ducking-stool more useful.

Being always willing to contribute my assistances to my country-women, I would propose a preamble, setting forth, “ That the late civil war among the sex has tended very much to the lessening of that antient and undoubted authority, which they have claimed over the male part of the Island; to the ruin of good housewifery; and to the betraying of many important secrets: that it has produced much bitterness of speech,
“ many

“ many sharp and violent contests, and a great effusion of Citron-water:
 “ that is has raised animosities in their hearts, and heats in their faces:
 “ that it has broke out in their ribbons, and caused unspeakable confusions
 “ in their dress: and above all, that it has introduced a certain frown into
 “ the features, and a sourness into the air of our *British Ladies*, to the
 “ great damage of their charms, and visible decay of the national beauty.

As for the enacting part of the Bill, it may consist of many particulars, which will naturally arise from the debates of the Tea-table; and must, therefore, be left to the discretion and experience of the Committee. Perhaps it might not be amiss to enact, among other things,

“ That the discoursing on politicks shall be looked upon as dull as
 “ talking on the weather.

“ That if any man troubles a female assembly with Parliament-news,
 “ he shall be marked out as a blockhead, or an incendiary.

“ That no woman shall henceforth presume to stick a patch upon her
 “ forehead, unless it be in the very middle, that is, in the neutral part
 “ of it.

“ That all fans and snuff-boxes, of what principles soever, shall be
 “ called in: and that orders be given to *Motteux* and *Mathers*, to deliver
 “ out, in exchange for them, such as have no tincture of party in them.

“ That when any Lady bespeaks a Play, she shall take effectual care,
 “ that the audience be pretty equally chequered with *Whigs* and *Tories*.

“ That no woman of any party presume to influence the legislature.

“ That there be a general amnesty and oblivion of all former hostilities
 “ and distinctions, all publick and private failings on either side: and that
 “ every one who comes into this neutrality within the space of
 “ weeks, shall be allowed an ell extraordinary, above the present standard,
 “ in the circumference of her petticoat.

“ Provided always nevertheless, That nothing herein contained shall
 “ extend, or be construed to extend, to any person or persons, inhabiting
 “ and practising within the hundreds of *Drury*, or to any other of that
 “ society in what part soever of the nation in like manner practising and
 “ residing; who are still at liberty to rail, calumniate, scold, frown and
 “ pout, as in afore-times, any thing in this Act to the contrary notwith-
 “ standing.