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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 107. Tuesday, July 14.

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 N^o 107. Tuesday, July 14.

-----tentanda via est-----

Virg.

I Have lately entertained my Reader with two or three letters from a traveller, and may possibly, in some of my future papers, oblige him with more from the same hand. The following one comes from a projector, which is a sort of correspondent as diverting as a traveller: his subject having the same grace of novelty to recommend it, and being equally adapted to the curiosity of the Reader. For my own part, I have always had a particular fondness for a project, and may say, without vanity, that I have a pretty tolerable genius that way myself. I could mention some which I have brought to maturity, others which have miscarried, and many more which I have yet by me, and are to take their fate in the world when I see a proper juncture. I had a hand in the Land-bank, and was consulted with upon the reformation of manners. I have had several designs upon the *Thames* and the *New-river*, not to mention my refinements upon lotteries and insurances, and that never-to-be-forgotten project, which if it had succeeded to my wishes, would have made gold as plentiful in this nation as tin or copper. If my countrymen have not reaped any advantages from these my designs, it was not for want of any good will towards them. They are obliged to me for my kind intentions as much as if they had taken effect. Projects are of a two-fold nature: the first arising from publick-spirited persons, in which number I declare myself: the other proceeding from a regard to our private interest, of which nature is that in the following letter.

S I R,

“ A Man of your reading knows very well that there were a sett of
 “ men, in old *Rome*, called by the name of *Nomenclators*, that
 “ is in *English*, men who could call every one by his name. When a
 “ great man stood for any publick office, as that of a Tribune, a Consul,
 “ or a Cenfor, he had always one of these *Nomenclators* at his elbow,
 “ who

“ who whispered in his ear the name of every one he met with, and by
 “ that means enabled him to salute every *Roman* citizen by his name
 “ when he asked him for his vote. To come to my purpose, I have
 “ with much pains and assiduity qualified my self for a *Nomenclator* to
 “ this great city, and shall gladly enter upon my office as soon as I meet
 “ with suitable encouragement. I will let my self out by the week to
 “ any curious country Gentleman or foreigner. If he takes me with
 “ him in a coach to the ring, I will undertake to teach him, in two or
 “ three evenings, the names of the most celebrated persons who frequent
 “ that place. If he plants me by his side in the pite, I will call over to
 “ him, in the same manner, the whole circle of beauties that are dispo-
 “ sed among the boxes, and at the same time point out to him the per-
 “ sons who ogle them from their respective stations. I need not tell you
 “ that I may be of the same use in any other publick assembly. Nor do
 “ I only profess the teaching of names but of things. Upon the sight of
 “ a reigning beauty, I shall mention her admirers, and discover her gal-
 “ lantries, if they are of publick notoriety. I shall likewise mark out e-
 “ very toast, the club in which she was elected, and the number of votes
 “ that were on her side. Not a woman shall be unexplained that makes
 “ a figure either as a maid, a wife, or a widow. The men too shall be
 “ set out in their distinguishing characters, and declared whose proper-
 “ ties they are. Their wit, wealth, or good humour, their persons, sta-
 “ tions, and titles, shall be described at large.

“ I have a wife who is a *Nomenclatress*, and will be ready, on any oc-
 “ casion, to attend the Ladies. She is of a much more communicative
 “ nature than my self, and is acquainted with all the private history of
 “ *London* and *Westminster*, and ten miles round. She has fifty private
 “ amours which no body yet knows any thing of but her self, and thirty
 “ clandestine marriages that have not been touched by the tip of a tongue.
 “ She will wait upon any Lady at her own lodgings, and talk by the
 “ clock after the rate of three guineas an hour.

N. B. “ She is a near kinswoman of the Author of the *new Atalantis*.

“ I need not recommend to a man of your sagacity the usefulness of
 “ this project, and do therefore beg your encouragement of it, which
 “ will lay a very great obligation upon

Your humble Servant.

After this letter from my whimsical correspondent, I shall publish one
 of a more serious nature, which deserves the utmost attention of the
 publick,

publick, and in particular of such who are lovers of mankind. It is on no less a subject, than that of discovering the *Longitude*, and deserves a much higher name than that of a project, if our language afforded any such term. But all I can say on this subject will be superfluous, when the Reader sees the names of those persons by whom this letter is subscribed, and who have done me the honour to send it me. I must only take notice, that the first of these Gentlemen is the same person who has lately obliged the world with that noble plan, entitled, *A Scheme of the Solar System, with the Orbits of the Planets and Comets belonging thereto. Described from Dr. Halley's accurate table of Comets, Philosoph. Transact. N^o 297. founded on Sir Isaac Newton's wonderful discoveries, by Wm. Whiston, M. A.*

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, Esq; at Button's Coffee-house near
Covent-Garden.

S I R,

London, July 11. 1713:

“ HAVING a discovery of considerable importance to communicate to
“ the publick, and finding that you are pleased to concern your
“ self in any thing that tends to the common benefit of mankind, we
“ take the liberty to desire the insertion of this letter into your *Guardi-*
“ *an.* We expect no other recommendation of it from you, but the al-
“ lowing of it a place in so useful a paper. Nor do we insist on any
“ protection from you, if what we propose should fall short of what we
“ pretend to; since any disgrace, which in that case must be expected,
“ ought to lie wholly at our own doors, and to be entirely born by our
“ selves, which we hope we have provided for by putting our own
“ names to this paper.

“ 'Tis well known, Sir, to your self, and to the learned, and trading,
“ and sailing world, that the great defect of the art of Navigation is, that
“ a ship at sea has no certain method, in either her eastern or western
“ voyages, or even in her less distant sailing from the coasts, to know her
“ Longitude, or how much she is gone eastward or westward; as it can
“ easily be known in any clear day or night, how much she is gone north-
“ ward or southward: the several methods by lunar Eclipses, by those
“ of *Jupiter's* Satellites, by the appulses of the moon to fixed stars, and
“ by the even motions of Pendulum clocks and watches, upon how so-
“ lid foundations soever they are built, still failing in long voyages at sea
“ when they come to be practised; and leaving the poor sailors to the
“ great inaccuracy of a long-line, or dead reckoning. This defect is so
“ great,

“ great, and so many ships have been lost by it, and this has been so long
 “ and so sensibly known by trading nations, that great rewards are said to
 “ be publickly offered for its supply. We are well satisfied, that the dis-
 “ covery we have to make as to this matter, is easily intelligible by all,
 “ and readily to be practised at sea as well as at land; that the Latitude
 “ will thereby be likewise found at the same time; and that with proper
 “ charges it may be made as universal as the world shall please; nay, that
 “ the Longitude and Latitude may be generally hereby determined to a
 “ greater degree of exactness than the Latitude itself is now usually found
 “ at sea. So that on all accounts we hope it will appear very worthy the
 “ publick consideration. We are ready to disclose it to the world, if we
 “ may be assured that no other persons shall be allowed to deprive us of
 “ those rewards which the publick shall think fit to bestow for such a dis-
 “ covery; but do not desire actually to receive any benefit of that na-
 “ ture, untill Sir *Isaac Newton* himself, with such other proper persons as
 “ shall be chosen to assist him, have given their opinion in favour of this
 “ discovery. If Mr. IRONSIDE pleases so far to oblige the publick as
 “ to communicate this proposal to the world, he will also lay a great obli-
 “ gation on

His very humble Servants,
 Will. Whiston,
 Humphry Ditton.

N^o 108. *Wednesday, July 15.*

Abjetibus juvenes patriis et montibus æqui. Virg.

I Do not care for burning my fingers in a quarrel, but since I have com-
 municated to the world a plan, which has given offence to some Gen-
 tlemen whom it would not be very safe to disoblige, I must insert
 the following remonstrance; and at the same time promise those of my
 correspondents who have drawn this upon themselves, to exhibit to the
 publick any such answer as they shall think proper to make to it.

Mr.