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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

No 118. Monday, July 27.

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N^o 118. *Monday, July 27.*

— *Largitor ingeni*
Venter —

Perf.

I Am very well pleased to find that my Lion has given such universal content to all that have seen him. He has had a greater number of visitants than any of his brotherhood in the *Tower*. I this morning examined his maw, where among much other food I found the following delicious morsels.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, Esq;

Mr. GUARDIAN,

I Am a daily peruser of your papers, I have read over and over your
 “ discourse concerning the Tucker; as likewise your paper of
 “ *Thursday* the 16th instant, in which you say it is your intention to keep
 “ a watchful eye over every part of the female sex, and to regulate them
 “ from head to foot. Now, Sir, being by profession a Mantua-maker
 “ who am employed by the most fashionable Ladies about town, I am
 “ admitted to them freely at all hours, and seeing them both dress and
 “ undress, I think there is no person better qualified than my self to
 “ serve you (if your Honour pleases) in the nature of a *Lions*. I am in
 “ the whole secret of their fashion, and if you think fit to entertain me in
 “ this character, I will have a constant watch over them, and doubt not
 “ I shall send you from time to time such private intelligence, as you
 “ will find of use to you in your future papers.

“ Sir, this being a new proposal, I hope you will not let me lose the
 “ benefit of it: but that you will first hear me roar before you treat with
 “ any body else. As a sample of my intended services, I give you this
 “ timely notice of an improvement you will shortly see in the exposing of
 “ the female chest, which in defiance of your Gravity is going to be un-
 “ covered yet more and more; so that to tell you truly, *Mr. Ironside*, I
 “ am in some fear lest my profession shou’d in a little become wholly un-

B b 2

“ necessary

“ necessary. I must here explain to you a small covering, if I may call
 “ it so, or rather an ornament for the neck, which you have not yet ta-
 “ ken notice of. This consists of a narrow lace, or a small skirt of fine
 “ ruffled linnen, which runs along the upper part of the stays before, and
 “ crosses the breasts, without rising to the shoulders; and being as it were
 “ a part of the Tucker, yet kept in use, is therefore by a particular name
 “ called the modesty-piece. Now, Sir, what I have to communicate to
 “ you at present is, that at a late meeting of the stripping Ladies, in
 “ which were present several eminent toasts and beauties, it was resolved
 “ for the future to lay the modesty-piece wholly aside. It is intended at
 “ the same time to lower the stays considerably before, and nothing but
 “ the unsettled weather has hindered this design from being already put
 “ in execution. Some few indeed objected to this last improvement, but
 “ were over-ruled by the rest, who alledged it was their intention, as
 “ they ingeniously expressed it, to level their breast-works entirely, and
 “ to trust to no defence but their own virtue.

I am S I R, (if you please) your secret Servant,

Leonilla Figleaf.

Dear Sir,

“ **A**S by name, and duty bound, I yesterday brought in a prey of pa-
 “ per for my Patron's dinner, but by the forwardness of his paws,
 “ he seemed ready to put it into his own mouth, which does not enough
 “ resemble its Prototypes, whose throats are open sepulchers. I assure
 “ you Sir, unless he gapes wider, he will sooner be felt than heard.
 Witness my hand,

Jackall.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, Esq;

Sage NESTOR,

“ **L**IONS being esteemed by Naturalists the most generous of Beasts,
 “ the noble and majestic appearance they make in Poetry, where-
 “ in they so often represent the Hero himself, made me always think that
 “ name very ill applied to a profligate set of men, at present going about
 “ seeking whom to devour; and though I cannot but acquiesce in your
 “ account of the derivation of that title to them, it is with great satis-
 “ faction I hear you are about to restore them to their former dignity, by
 “ producing one of that species so publick spirited, as to roar for refor-
 mation

“ mation of manners. I will roar (says the clown in *Shakespear*) that it
 “ will do any man’s heart good to hear me; I will roar, that I will make
 “ the Duke say, let him roar again, let him roar again. Such success and
 “ such applause I do not question but your Lion will meet with, whilst
 “ like that of *Sampson* his strength shall bring forth sweetness, and his en-
 “ trails abound with honey.

“ At the same time that I congratulate with the Republick of beasts up-
 “ on this honour done to their King, I must condole with us poor mortals,
 “ who by distance of place are rendered incapable of paying our respects to
 “ him, with the same assiduity as those who are ushered into his Presence
 “ by the discreet Mr. *Button*. Upon this account, Mr. *IBONSIDE*, I
 “ am become a suitor to you, to constitute an out-riding Lion; or if you
 “ please a *Jackall* or two, to receive and remit our homage in a more
 “ particular manner than is hitherto provided. As it is, our tenders of
 “ duty every now and then miscarry by the way, at least the natural self-
 “ love that makes us unwilling to think any thing that comes from us
 “ worthy of contempt, inclines us to believe so. Methinks it were like-
 “ wise necessary to specify, by what means a present from a fair hand
 “ may reach his brindled Majesty, the place of his residence being very
 “ unfit for a Lady’s personal appearance.

I am your most constant Reader

and Admirer,

N. R.

Dear NESTOR,

“ IT is a well known proverb, in a certain part of this kingdom,
 “ love me, love my dog; and I hope you will take it as a mark of
 “ my respect for your person, that I here bring a bit for your
 “ Lion. * * *

What follows being secret history, it will be printed in other papers;
 wherein the Lion will publish his private intelligence.



Wednesday,