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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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was his own contemporary, could not mention without rapture, where he records the last poetical composition of *David*, of *David the son of Jesse*, of *the man who was raised up on high*, of *the anointed of the God of Jacob*, of *the sweet psalmist of Israel*.

N^o 139. *Thursday, August 20.*

-----*prisca fides facta, sed fama perennis.* Virg.

Most venerable NESTOR,

“ I Find that every body is very much delighted with the voice of
 “ your Lion. His roarings against the Tucker have been most
 “ melodious and emphatical. It is to be hoped, that the Ladies
 “ will take warning by them, and not provoke him to greater outrages;
 “ for I observe, that your Lion, as you your self have told us, is made
 “ up of mouth and paws. For my own part, I have long considered
 “ with my self how I might express my gratitude to this noble animal that
 “ has so much the good of our country at his heart. After many
 “ thoughts on this subject, I have at length resolved to do honour to him,
 “ by compiling a history of his species, and extracting out of all Authors
 “ whatever may redound to his reputation. In the prosecution of this
 “ design I shall have no manner of regard to what *Æsop* has said upon
 “ the subject, whom I look upon to have been a republican by the unwor-
 “ thy treatment which he often gives to this King of beasts, and whom,
 “ if I had time, I could convict of falshood and forgery in almost every
 “ matter of fact which he has related of this generous animal. Your
 “ romance writers are likewise a set of men whose authority I shall build
 “ upon very little in this case. They all of them are born with a parti-
 “ cular antipathy to Lions, and give them no more quarter than they do
 “ Giants, where-ever they chance to meet them. There is not one of
 “ the seven champions, but when he has nothing else to do, encounters
 “ with a Lion, and you may be sure always gets the better of him. In
 “ short, a Knight-errant lives in a perpetual state of enmity with this no-
 “ ble creature, and hates him more than all things upon the earth, except

“ 2

“ a Dragon. Had the stories recorded of them by these writers been
“ true, the whole species would have been destroyed before now. Af-
“ ter having thus renounced all fabulous authorities, I shall begin my Me-
“ moirs of the Lion with a story related of him by *Aulus Gellius*, and
“ extracted by him out of *Dion Cassius*, an historian of undoubted ve-
“ racity. It is the famous story of *Androcles* the *Roman* slave, which I
“ premise for the sake of my learned Reader, who needs go no fur-
“ ther in it if he has read it already.

“ *Androcles* was the slave of a noble *Roman* who was proconsul of *A-*
“ *frick*. He had been guilty of a fault, for which his master would have
“ put him to death, had not he found an opportunity to escape out of his
“ hands, and fled into the deserts of *Numidia*. As he was wandering
“ among the barren sands, and almost dead with heat and hunger, he
“ saw a cave in the side of a rock. He went into it, and finding at the
“ further end of it a place to sit down upon, rested there for some time. At
“ length to his great surprize a huge overgrown Lion entered at the mouth
“ of the cave, and seeing a man at the upper end of it, immediately made to-
“ wards him. *Androcles* gave himself for gone; but the Lion, instead
“ of treating him as he expected, laid his paw upon his lap, and with
“ a complaining kind of voice fell a licking his hand. *Androcles*, after hav-
“ ing recovered himself a little from the fright he was in, observed the Lion's
“ paw to be exceedingly swelled by a large thorn that stuck in it. He
“ immediately pulled it out, and by squeezing the paw very gently, made
“ a great deal of corrupt matter run out of it, which probably freed the
“ Lion from the great anguish he had felt some time before. The Li-
“ on left him upon receiving this good office from him, and soon after
“ returned with a fawn which he had just killed. This he laid down at
“ the feet of his benefactor, and went off again in pursuit of his prey.
“ *Androcles*, after having sodden the flesh of it by the sun, subsisted up-
“ on it until the Lion had supplied him with another. He lived many days
“ in this frightful solitude, the Lion catering for him with great assiduity.
“ Being tired at length of this savage society, he was resolved to deliver
“ himself up into his master's hands, and suffer the worst effects of his
“ displeasure, rather than be thus driven out from mankind. His master,
“ as was customary for the Proconsuls of *Africk*, was at that time get-
“ ting together a present of all the largest Lions that could be found in
“ the country, in order to send them to *Rome*, that they might furnish
“ out a show to the *Roman* people. Upon his poor slave's surrendring
“ himself into his hands, he ordered him to be carried away to *Rome* as

VOL. IV.

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“ soon

“ soon as the Lions were in readiness to be sent, and that for his crime
 “ he should be exposed to fight with one of the Lions in the Amphithe-
 “ atre, as usual, for the diversion of the people. This was all perform-
 “ ed accordingly. *Androcles*, after such a strange run of fortune, was
 “ now in the area of the Theatre amidst thousands of spectators, expe-
 “ cting every moment when his antagonist would come out upon him.
 “ At length a huge monstrous Lion leaped out from the place where he
 “ had been kept hungry for the show. He advanced with great rage to-
 “ wards the man, but on a sudden, after having regarded him a little
 “ wistfully, fell to the ground, and crept towards his feet with all the
 “ signs of blandishment and caresses. *Androcles*, after a short pause, dis-
 “ covered that it was his old *Numidian* friend, and immediately renew-
 “ ed his acquaintance with him. Their mutual congratulations were ve-
 “ ry surprising to the beholders, who, upon hearing an account of the
 “ whole matter from *Androcles*, ordered him to be pardoned, and the
 “ Lion to be given up into his possession. *Androcles* returned at *Rome*
 “ the civilities which he had received from him in the desarts of *Africk*.
 “ *Dion Cassius* says, that he himself saw the man leading the Lion about
 “ the streets of *Rome*, the people every where gathering about them, and
 “ repeating to one another, *Hic est leo hospes hominis, hic est homo medi-*
 “ *cus leonis. This is the Lion who was the man's host, this is the man*
 “ *who was the Lion's physician.*

N^o 140. Friday, August 21.

----- *quibus incendi jam frigidus ævo*
Laomedontiades, vel Nestoris hernia possit.

Juv.

I Have lately received a letter from an Astrologer in *Moor-fields*, which
 I have read with great satisfaction. He observes to me, that my Li-
 on at *Button's* Coffee-house was very luckily erected in the very
 month when the sun was in *Leo*. He further adds, that upon convers-
 ing with the above-mentioned Mr. *Button* (whose other name he ob-
 serves, is *Daniel*, a good omen still with regard to the Lion his cohabi-
 tant)