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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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No 140. Friday, August 21.

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“ 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)

tant) he had discovered the very hour in which the said Lion was set up; and that by the help of other lights, which he had received from the said Mr. *Button*, he had been enabled to calculate the nativity of the Lion. This mysterious Philosopher acquaints me, that the sign of *Leo* in the Heavens immediately precedes that of *Virgo*, by which, says he, is signified the natural love and friendship the Lion bears to virginity, and not only to virginity but to such matrons likewise as are pure and unspotted, from whence he foretells the influence which the roarings of my Lion are likely to have over the female world for the purifying of their behaviour, and bettering of their manners. He then proceeds to inform me, that in the most exact astrological schemes, the Lion is observed to affect, in a more particular manner, the legs and the neck, as well as to allay the power of the Scorpion in those parts which are allotted to that fiery constellation. From hence he very naturally prognosticates, that my Lion will meet with great success in the attacks he has made on the untucked stays and short petticoat, and that, in a few months, there will not be a female bosom or ankle uncovered in *Great Britain*. He concludes, that by the rules of his art he foresaw, five years ago, that both the Pope and my self should about this time unite our endeavours in this particular, and that sundry mutations and revolutions would happen in the female dress.

I have another letter by me from a person of a more volatile and airy genius, who finding this great propension in the fair sex to go uncovered, and thinking it impossible to reclaim them entirely from it, is for compounding the matter with them, and finding out a middle expedient between nakedness and cloathing. He proposes, therefore, that they should imitate their great grandmothers the *Britbs* or *Picts*, and paint the parts of their bodies which are uncovered with such figures as shall be most to their fancy. The bosom of the Coquette, says he, may bear the figure of a *Cupid*, with a bow in his hand, and his arrow upon the string. The Prude might have a *Pallas*, with a shield and Gorgon's head. In short, by this method, he thinks every woman might make very agreeable discoveries of her self, and at the same time show us what she would be at. But, by my correspondent's good leave, I can by no means consent to spoil the skin of my pretty country-women. They could find no colours half so charming as those which are natural to them; and though like the old *Picts*, they painted the sun it self upon their bodies, they would still change for the worse, and conceal something more beautiful than what they exhibited.

I shall therefore persist in my first design, and endeavour to bring about the reformation in neck and legs, which I have so long aimed at. Let them but raise their stays and let down their petticoats, and I have done. However, as I will give them space to consider of it, I design this for the last time that my Lion shall roar upon the subject during this season, which I give publick notice of for the sake of my correspondents, that they may not be at an unnecessary trouble or expence in furnishing me with any informations relating to the Tucker before the beginning of next winter, when I may again resume that point if I find occasion for it. I shall not, however, let it drop without acquainting my Reader, that I have written a Letter to the Pope upon it, in order to encourage him in his present good intentions, and that we may act by concert in this matter. Here follows the copy of my Letter.

To Pope Clement the Eighth, NEST OR IRONSIDE, Greeting.

Dear Brother,

“ I Have heard, with great satisfaction, that you have forbidden your
 “ Priests to confess any woman, who appears before them without
 “ a Tucker, in which you please me well. I do agree with you, that it
 “ is impossible for the good man to discharge his office, as he ought,
 “ who gives an ear to those alluring penitents that discover their hearts
 “ and necks to him at the same time. I am labouring, as much as in me
 “ lies, to stir up the same spirit of modesty among the women of this
 “ Island, and should be glad we might assist one another in so good a
 “ work. In order to it, I desire that you will send me over the length
 “ of a *Roman Lady's* neck, as it stood before your late prohibition. We
 “ have some here who have necks of one, two, and three foot in length,
 “ some that have necks which reach down to their middles, and, indeed,
 “ some who may be said to be all neck and no body. I hope, at the
 “ same time you observe the stays of your female subjects, that you have
 “ also an eye to their petticoats, which rise in this Island daily. When
 “ the petticoat reaches but to the knee, and the stays fall to the fifth rib
 “ (which I hear is to be the standard of each, as it has been lately settled
 “ in a junto of the sex) I will take care to send you one of either sort,
 “ which I advertise you of before hand, that you may not compute the
 “ stature of our *English* women from the length of their garments. In
 “ the mean time I have desired the master of a vessel, who tells me that
 “ he shall touch at *Civita Vecchia*, to present you with a certain female
 “ machine which, I believe, will puzzle your Infallibility to discover the
 “ use

“ use of it. Not to keep you in suspense, it is what we call in this coun-
 “ try a hooped-petticoat. I shall only beg of you to let me know, whe-
 “ ther you find any garment of this nature among all the reliques of your
 “ female saints, and, in particular, whether it was ever worn by any of
 “ your twenty thousand virgin martyrs.

Yours, usque ad aras,

NESTOR IRONSIDE.

I must not dismiss this Letter without declaring my self a good Pro-
 testant, as I hint in the subscribing part of it. This I think necessary to
 take notice of, lest I should be accused, by an Author of *unexampled*
 stupidity, for corresponding with the head of the *Romish* Church.

N^o 152. *Friday, September 4.*

*Quin potius pacem eternam pactosque hymenæos
 Exercemus-----* Virg.

THERE is no rule in *Longinus* which I more admire, than that
 wherein he advises an Author who would attain to the Sublime,
 and writes for eternity, to consider, when he is engaged in his
 composition, what *Homer* or *Plato*, or any other of those Heroes in the
 learned world, would have said or thought upon the same occasion. I
 have often practised this rule, with regard to the best Authors among the
 ancients, as well as among the moderns. With what success, I must leave
 to the judgment of others. I may at least venture to say with Mr. *Dry-*
den, where he professes to have imitated *Shakespear's* stile, that in imi-
 tating such great Authors I have always excelled my self.

I have also by this means revived several antiquated ways of writing,
 which, though very instructive and entertaining, had been laid aside, and
 forgotten for some ages. I shall in this place only mention those allego-
 ries wherein virtues, vices and human passions are introduced as real
 actors. Though this kind of composition was practised by the finest Au-
 thors among the ancients, our countryman *Spencer* is the last writer of
 note who has applied himself to it with success. That