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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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If now you have a mind to see all the Ladies of the mole-hill, observe first the pismire that listens to the emmet on her left hand, at the same time that she seems to turn away her head from him. He tells this poor insect that she is a Goddess, that her eyes are brighter than the sun, that life and death are at her disposal. She believes him, and gives her self a thousand little airs upon it. Mark the vanity of the pismire on your left hand. She can scarce crawl with age, but you must know she values her self upon her birth; and if you mind, spurns at every one that comes within her reach. The little nimble coquette that is running along by the side of her, is a Wit. She has broke many a pismire's heart. Do but observe what a drove of lovers are running after her.

We will here finish this imaginary scene; but first of all, to draw the parallel closer, will suppose, if you please, that death comes down upon the mole-hill, in the shape of a cock-sparrow, who picks up, without distinction, the pismire of quality and his flatterers, the pismire of substance and his day-labourers, the white-straw officer and his sycophants, with all the goddesses, wits, and beauties of the mole-hill.

May we not imagine that Beings of superior natures and perfections regard all the instances of pride and vanity, among our own species, in the same kind of view, when they take a survey of those who inhabit the earth; or, in the language of an ingenious *French* Poet, of those pismires that people this heap of dirt, which human vanity has divided into climates and regions?

N^o 154. Monday, September 7.

Omnia transformant sese in miracula rerum.

Virg.

I Question not but the following letter will be entertaining to those who were present at the late masquerade, as it will recall into their minds several merry particulars that passed in it, and, at the same time, be very acceptable to those who were at a distance from it, as they may form from hence some Idea of this fashionable amusement.

To

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, Esq;

Per viam Leonis.

S I R,

“ I Could scarce ever go into good company, but the discourse was on
 “ the ambassador, the politeness of his entertainments, the goodness
 “ of his *Burgundy* and *Champaign*, the gaiety of his masquerades, with
 “ the odd fantastical dresses which were made use of in those midnight so-
 “ lemnities. The noise these diversions made at last raised my curiosity, and
 “ for once I resolved to be present at them, being at the same time provo-
 “ ked to it by a Lady I then made my addresses to, one of a sprightly hu-
 “ mour, and a great admirer of such novelties. In order to it I hurried
 “ my habit, and got it ready a week before the time, for I grew impati-
 “ ent to be initiated in these new mysteries. Every morning I dressed my
 “ self in it, and acted before the looking-glass, so that I am vain enough
 “ to think I was as perfect in my part, as most who had oftner frequen-
 “ ted these diversions. You must understand I personated a *Devil*, and
 “ that for several weighty reasons. First, because appearing as one of that
 “ fraternity, I expected to meet with particular civilities from the more
 “ polite and better bred part of the company. Besides, as from their u-
 “ sual reception they are called familiars, I fancied I should, in this Cha-
 “ racter, be allowed the greatest liberties, and soonest be led into the se-
 “ crets of the masquerade. To recommend and distinguish me from the
 “ vulgar, I drew a very long tail after me. But to speak the truth, what
 “ persuaded me most to this disguise was, because I heard an intriguing
 “ Lady say, in a large company of females, who unanimously assented
 “ to it, that she loved to converse with such, for that generally they were
 “ very clever fellows who made choice of that shape. At length, when
 “ the long wished for evening came, which was to open to us such vast
 “ scenes of pleasure, I repaired to the place appointed about ten at night,
 “ where I found nature turned top-side turvy, women changed into men
 “ and men into women, children in leading-strings seven foot high, cour-
 “ tiers transformed into clowns, Ladies of the night into saints, people
 “ of the first quality into beasts or birds, gods or goddesses; I fancied
 “ I had all *Ovid's Metamorphoses* before me. Among these were sever-
 “ ral monsters to which I did not know how to give a name;

worse

Than fables yet have feigned, or fear conceived,

Gorgon's and Hydra's, and Chimera's dire.

Milton.

“ In the middle of the first room I met with one drest in a *Shroud*.
 “ This put me in mind of the old custom of serving up a death’s head at
 “ a feast. I was a little angry at the dress, and asked the Gentleman
 “ whether he thought a dead man was fit company for such an Assembly;
 “ but he told me, that he was one who loved his money, and that he con-
 “ sidered this dress would serve him another time. This walking coarse
 “ was followed by a gigantic woman with a high crowned hat, that stood
 “ up like a steeple over the heads of the whole assembly. I then chanced
 “ to tread upon the foot of a female *Quaker*, to all outward appearance;
 “ but was surprized to hear her cry out D---n you, you son of a---
 “ upon which I immediately rebuked her, when all of a sudden resuming
 “ her character, *Verily*, says she, *I was to blame, but thou hast bruised*
 “ *me sorely*. A few moments after this adventure, I had like to have been
 “ knocked down by a shepherdes, for having run my elbow a little in-
 “ advertently into one of her sides. She swore like a trooper, and threat-
 “ ned me with a very masculine voice; but I was timely taken off by a
 “ *Presbyterian Parson*, who told me in a very soft tone, that he believed
 “ I was a pretty fellow, and that he would meet me in *Spring-garden* to-
 “ morrow night. The next object I saw was a *Chimney-sweeper* made
 “ up of black crape and velvet, (with a huge diamond in his mouth)
 “ making love to a butterfly. On a sudden I found my self among a
 “ flock of *Batts*, *Owls* and *Lawyers*: But what took up my attention
 “ most was, one drest in white feathers that represented a *Swan*. He
 “ would fain have found out a *Leda* among the fair sex, and indeed was
 “ the most unlucky Bird in the company. I was then engaged in dis-
 “ course with a *running footman*, but as I treated him like what he ap-
 “ peared to be, a *Turkish Emperor* whispered me in the ear, desiring me to
 “ *use him civilly, for that it was his master*. I was here interrupted by
 “ the famous large figure of a *woman hung with little looking-glasses*. She
 “ had a great many that followed her as she passed by me, but I would not
 “ have her value her self upon that account, since it was plain they did
 “ not follow so much to look upon her as to see themselves. The next
 “ I observed was a *Nun* making an assignation with a *Heathen God*, for
 “ I heard them mention the *little piazza* in *Covent-Garden*. I was by
 “ this time exceeding hot and thirsty, so that I made the best of my way
 “ to the place where wine was dealt about in great quantities. I had no
 “ sooner presented my self before the table, but a *Magician* seeing me,
 “ made a circle over my head with his wand, and seemed to do me ho-
 “ mage. I was at a loss to account for his behaviour; until I recollected
 “ who

“ who I was: This however drew the eyes of the servants upon me, and
“ immediately procured me a glass of excellent *Champaign*. The *Magi-*
“ *cian* said I was a spirit of an adust and dry constitution; and desired
“ that I might have another refreshing glass, adding withal, that it ought
“ to be a brimmer. I took it in my hand and drank it off to the *Magi-*
“ *cian*. This so enlivened me, that I led him by the hand into the next
“ room, where we danced a Rigadon together. I was here a little of-
“ fended at a jackanapes of a *Scaramouch*, that cry'd out, *Avaunt Satan*;
“ and gave me a little tap on my left shoulder, with the end of his lath-
“ sword. As I was considering how I ought to resent this affront, a
“ well-shaped person that stood at my left hand, in the figure of a *Bell-*
“ *man*, cry'd out with a suitable voice, *Past twelve a clock*. This put
“ me in mind of bed-time: Accordingly I made my way towards the
“ door, but was intercepted by an *Indian King*, a tall, slender youth,
“ dressed up in a most beautiful party-coloured plumage. He regarded
“ my habit very attentively; and after having turned me about once or
“ twice, asked me *whom I had been tempting*; I could not tell what was
“ the matter with me, but my heart leaped as soon as he touched me,
“ and was still in greater disorder, upon my hearing his voice. In short,
“ I found, after a little discourse with him, that his *Indian* majesty was
“ my dear *Leonora*, who knowing the disguise I had put on, would not
“ let me pass by her unobserved. Her awkward manliness made me guess
“ at her sex, and her own confession quickly let me know the rest. This
“ Masquerade did more for me than a twelve months courtship: For it
“ inspired her with such tender sentiments that I married her the next
“ morning.

“ How happy I shall be in a wife taken out of a Masquerade, I cannot
“ yet tell; but I have reason to hope the best, *Leonora* having assured me
“ it was the first and shall be the last time of her appearing at such an en-
“ tertainment.

“ And now, Sir, having given you the history of this strange evening,
“ which looks rather like a dream than a reality, it is my request to you,
“ that you will oblige the world with a dissertation on Masquerades in
“ general, that we may know how far they are useful to the publick, and
“ consequently how far they ought to be encouraged. I have heard of
“ two or three very odd accidents that have happened upon this occasion,
“ as in particular, of a *Lawyer's* being now big-bellied, who was present at
“ the first of these entertainments; not to mention (what is still more strange)
“ an *old man* with a long beard, who was got with child by a *milk-maid*;
“ but

“ but in cafes of this nature, where there is fuch a confufion of fex, age,
 “ and quality, men are apt to report rather what might have happened,
 “ than what really came to pafs. Without giving credit therefore to a-
 “ ny of thefe rumours, I fhall only renew my petition to you, that you
 “ will tell us your opinion at large of thefe matters, and am,

SIR, &c.

Lucifer.

N^o 155. *Tuesday, September 8.*

----- *libelli Stoici inter sericos*
Facere pulvillos amant.

Hor.

I Have often wondered that Learning is not thought a proper ingredi-
 ent in the education of a woman of quality or fortune. Since they
 have the fame improveable minds as the male part of the fpecies, why
 fhould they not be cultivated by the fame methods? why fhould reafon
 be left to it felf in one of the fexes, and be difciplined with fo much
 care in the other?

There are fome reafons why learning feems more adapted to the female
 world, than to the male. As in the firft place, becaufe they have more
 fpare time upon their hands, and lead a more fedentary life. Their em-
 ployments are of a domeftick nature, and not like thofe of the other
 fex, which are often inconsistent with ftudy and contemplation. The
 excellent Lady, the Lady *Lizard*, in the fpace of one fummer furnifhed
 a gallery with chairs and couches of her own and her daughters working;
 and at the fame time heard all Dr. *Tillotfon's* Sermons twice over. It is
 always the cuftom for one of the young Ladies to read, while the others
 are at work; fo that the learning of the family is not at all prejudicial to
 its manufactures. I was mightily pleafed, the other day, to find them all
 bufie in *preferving* feveral fruits of the feafon, with the *Sparkler* in the
 midft of them, reading over *the Plurality of Worlds*. It was very en-
 tertaining to me to fee them dividing their fpeculations between jellies
 and ftars, and making a fudden tranfition from the fun to an apricot, or
 from the *Copernican* fyftem to the figure of a cheefe-cake.

A