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THE
 TATLER.

Nº 51. Saturday, August 6, 1709.
 STEELE ^a.

Quicquid agunt homines—
nostri est farrago libelli.
 Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

‘ Whate’er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
 Our medley paper seizes for it’s theme.’ P.

White’s Chocolate-house, August, 5.

Continuation of the Historiette of Robert Fielding, Esq. under
 the fictitious Name of Orlando the Fair ^b.

FORTUNE being now propitious to the gay Orlando, he dressed, he spoke, he moved as a man might be supposed to do in a nation of pygmies, and had an equal value for our approbation or dislike. It is usual for those who profess a contempt for the world, to fly from it and live in obscurity; but Orlando, with a greater magnanimity, contemned it, and appeared in it, to tell them so. If therefore, his exalted mien met with an unwelcome reception, he was sure

^a Addison was most probably concerned in this, and the three following papers, Nº 52, Nº 53, and Nº 54. See in Nº 63, and notes, grounds of this opinion.

^b See Nº 50, and notes on Beau Fielding, &c.

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always to double the cause which gave the distaste ^c. You see our beauties affect a negligence in the ornament of their hair, and adjusting their head-dresses, as conscious that they adorn whatever they wear. Orlando had not only this humour in common with other beauties, but also had a neglect whether things became him or not, in a world he contemned. For this reason, a noble particularity appeared in all his œconomy, furniture, and equipage. And, to convince the present little race how unequal all their measures were to an antediluvian as he called himself, in respect of the insects which now appear for men, he sometimes rode in an open tumbrel, of less size than ordinary, to show the largeness of his limbs and the grandeur of his personage to the greater advantage ^d. At other seasons, all his appointments had a magnificence, as if it were formed by the genius of Trimalchio of old, which shewed itself in doing ordinary things, with an air of pomp and grandeur. Orlando therefore called for tea by beat of drum; his valet got ready to shave him by a trumpet to horse; and water was brought for his teeth, when the sound was changed to boots and saddle.

In all these glorious excesses from the common practice, did the happy Orlando live and reign in an uninterrupted tranquillity, until an

^c See N. B. at the close of this N^o p. 10.

^d Fielding's dress was always extraordinary, and the liveries of his footmen were equally fantastical; they generally wore yellow coats, with black feathers in their hats, and black faces. *Memoirs of Gamesters*, by Theoph. Lucas, gent. 12mo. 1714, p. 208.

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unlucky accident brought to his remembrance, that one evening he was married before he courted the nuptials of Villaria^e. Several fatal memorandums were produced to revive the memory of this accident; and the unhappy lover was for ever banished her presence, to whom he owed the support of his just renown and gallantry. But distress does not debase noble minds; it only changes the scene, and gives them new glory by that alteration^f. Orlando therefore now raves in a garret, and calls to his neighbour-fkies to pity his dolours, and to find redress for an unhappy lover. All high spirits, in any great agitation of mind, are inclined to relieve them-

^e Villaria means Barbara Villiers, the daughter and heiress of William Villiers, lord viscount Grandison in the kingdom of Ireland, who died of the wounds he received at the battle of Edgehill, in 1642. Her portrait, in the figure of Pallas, may be seen in the gallery of beauties at Windsor. She was born in or about the year 1642. The duchess had a constant income of 100l. a week, paid her out of the Post-office, and a house at Chiswick, where, in about two years after her divorce from Fielding, she became dropical, swelled to a monstrous size, and died Oct. 9, 1709, aged 69. *Annals of Queen Anne*, year 81, 1710, p. 387, *et seq.*

^f The author of memoirs of Fielding, in the *Select Trials*, admits, that for all the ludicrous air and pleasantries of this narrative, the truth of facts and characters is in general fairly represented; but denies his being reduced to vent his dolours in a garret. The imprisonment, however, mentioned by that memorialist, seems to justify this circumstance of the relation. It appears from Fielding's last will, dated April 21, 1712, that he was perfectly reconciled to Mary Wadsworth, for he styles her there 'his dear and loving wife;' and, after leaving legacies among his friends to the amount of 1300l. constitutes her his whole and sole executrix. In cohabitation with her, and under her care, he died of a fever, at their house in Scotland-yard, aged 61. *Select Trials*, vol. v. *passim*. *Memoirs of Gamesters*, p. 216.

felves by poetry: the renowned porter of [§] Oliver had not more volumes around his cell in his college of Bedlam, than Orlando in his present apartment. And, though inserting poetry in the midst of prose be thought a licence among correct writers not to be indulged, it is hoped the necessity of doing it, to give a just idea of the hero of whom we treat, will plead for the liberty we shall hereafter take, to print Orlando's soliloquies in verse and prose, after the manner of great wits, and such as those to whom they are nearly allied.

Will's Coffee-house, August 5.

A GOOD company of us were this day to see, or rather to hear, an artful person do several feats of activity with his throat and windpipe. The first thing wherewith he presented us, was a ring of bells, which he imitated in a most miraculous manner; after that, he gave us all the different notes of a pack of hounds, to our

[§] Cromwell's porter is said to have been the original from which Caius Gabriel, father of Colley Cibber, copied one of the lunatic figures on Bedlam gate, which are, says his son, no ill monuments of his fame as an artist. That this man was remarkably tall is very probable from the figure of a large O on the back of the terrace at Windfor, reported to have been the standard of his height, and from the print of him in the London Cries, 1711, in folio. Be this as it may, his christian name was Daniel; he was many years in Bedlam, and when his cure was despaired of, he was allowed the use of his library, in which the most conspicuous book was a large bible, given to him by Nell Gwynn. He is said to have turned his brain by plodding in books of mystical divinity, and to have had much of the cant which prevailed at that time.

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great delight and astonishment. The company expressed their applause with much noise; and never was heard such a harmony of men and dogs^h: but a certain plump merry fellow, from an angle of the room, fell a crowing like a cock so ingeniously, that he won our hearts from the other operator in an instant. As soon as I saw him, I recollected I had seen him on the stage, and immediately knew it to be Tom Mirrourⁱ, the comical actor. He immediately addressed himself to me, and told me, he was surprised to see a virtuoso take satisfaction in any representations below that of human life; and asked me, whether I thought this acting bells and dogs was to be considered under the notion of wit, humour, or satire? ‘Were it not better,’ continued he, ‘to have some particular picture of man laid before your eyes, that might incite your laughter?’ He had no sooner spoke the word, but he immediately quitted his natural shape, and talked to me in a very different air and tone from what he had used before: upon which, all that sat near us laughed; but I saw no distortion in his countenance, or any thing that appeared to me disagreeable. I asked Pacolet, what meant that sudden whisper about us? for I could not take the jest. He answered, ‘The gentleman you were talking to assumed your air

^h A Mr. Clench of Barnet, who diverted the town with such feats as are here mentioned, imitating a drunken man, an old woman, dogs quarreling, &c.

ⁱ Mr. Richard Estcourt, a comedian celebrated for his great mimic powers, and convivial talents. See Spect. N^o 358, and N^o 467.

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and countenance so exactly, that all fell a-laughing to see how little you knew yourself, and how much you were enamoured with your own image. But that person,' continued my monitor, 'if men would make the right use of him, might be as instrumental to their reforming errors in gesture, language, and speech, as a dancing-master, linguist, or orator. You see he laid yourself before you with so much address, that you saw nothing particular in his behaviour: he has so happy a knack of representing errors and imperfections, that you can bear your faults in him as well as in yourself: he is the first mimic that ever gave the beauties, as well as the deformities, of the man he acted. What Mr. Dryden said of a very great man, may be well applied to him:

‘ —————He seems to be
 Not one, but all mankind's epitome.’

You are to know, that this pantomime may be said to be a species of himself: he has no commerce with the rest of mankind, but as they are the objects of imitation; like the Indian fowl, called the Mock-bird, who has no note of his own, but hits every sound in the wood as soon as he hears it; so that Mirrour is at once a copy and an original. Poor Mirrour's fate, as well as talent, is like that of the bird we just now spoke of; the nightingale, the linnet, the lark, are delighted with his company; but the buzzard, the crow, and the owl, are observed to be his mortal enemies. Whenever Sophronius meets Mirrour, he receives him with civility

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and respect, and well knows a good copy of himself can be no injury to him ; but Bathillus shuns the street where he expects to meet him ; for he, that knows his every step and look is constrained and affected, must be afraid to be rivalled in his action, and of having it discovered to be unnatural, by its being practised by another as well as himself.

From my own Apartment, August 5.

LETTERS from Coventry and other places have been sent to me, in answer to what I have said in relation to my antagonist Mr. Powell ; and advise me with warm language, to keep to subjects more proper for me than such high points^k. But the writers of these epistles mistake the use and service I proposed to the learned world by such observations : for you are to understand, that the title of this paper^l gives me a right in taking to myself, and inserting in it, all such parts of any book or letter which are foreign to the purpose intended or professed by the writer : so that suppose two great divines should argue, and treat each other with warmth and levity unbecoming their subject or character, all that they say unfit for that place is very proper to be inserted here. Therefore from time to time, in all writings which shall hereafter be published, you shall have from me extracts of all that shall

^k See Examiner, Vol. i. N^o 12, *ad finem*; and Vol. iv. N^o 40.

^l See Dedication to Tat. Vol. i. Tat. N^o 3, N^o 5, N^o 9, N^o 64 ; letter signed Josiah Couplet ; and N^o 271.

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appear not to the purpose; and for the benefit of the gentle reader, I will shew what to turn over unread, and what to peruse^m. For this end I have a mathematical sieve preparing, in which I will sift every page and paragraph; and all that falls through I shall make bold with for my own use. The same thing will be as beneficial in speech; for all superfluous expressions in talk fall to me also: as when a pleader at the bar designs to be extremely impertinent and troublesome, and cries, ‘Under favour of the court—with submission my lord—I humbly offer’—and, ‘I think I have well considered this matter; for I would be very far from trifling with your lordship’s time, or trespassing upon your patience—however, thus I will venture to say—’ and so forth. Or else, when a sufficient self-conceited coxcomb is bringing out something in his own praise and begins, ‘Without vanity, I must take this upon me to assert.’ There is also a trick which the fair sex have, that will greatly contribute to swell my volumes: as, when a woman is going to abuse her best friend, ‘Pray,’ says she, ‘have you heard what is said of Mrs. Such-a-one? I am heartily sorry to hear any thing of that kind of one I have so great a value for; but they make no scruple of telling it; and it was not spoken of to me as a secret, for now all the town rings of it.’ All such flowers in rhetoric, and little refuges for malice, are to be noted, and naturally belong only to Tatlers. By this method you will im-

^m See Welsted’s Works, 8vo. 1788, p. 428; and Spect. N^o 124.

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mediately find folios contract themselves into octavos, and the labour of a fortnight got over in half a day.

‘ This is to give notice, that if any able-bodied Palatine will enter into the bonds of matrimony with Betty Pepin, the said Palatine shall be settled in a freehold of forty shillings *per annum* in the county of Middlesex ⁿ.’

ⁿ See N^o 24; and Pylades and Corinna, vol. i. p. 67. 8vo. 1733. This Betty Pepin was the kept mistress of a baronet, who at the time here referred to resided near Brentford, and was often concerned in contested elections.

N. B. At a performance of *The Scornful Lady*, for the benefit of Mrs. Oldfield, Fielding pressing forward to shew himself, trod on Mr. Fulwood, a barrister in Gray’s-inn, and in answer to the charge of rudeness, clapt his hand on his sword. Fulwood instantly drew, and wounded Fielding in the belly; this irascible lawyer was the same night killed in a duel by capt. Cusack, whom he challenged at the theatre in Lincoln’s-inn-fields. It is said Fielding wanted courage, that he ran a link-boy through the body, and that he was caned and wounded by a Mr. Price. See N^o 51. p. 2. Reference to this N. B.

N° 52. Tuesday, August 9, 1709.
 STEELE AND ADDISON °.

Qui. quid agunt homines—

nostri est farrago libelli.

Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

‘Whate’er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
 Our medley paper seizes for its theme.’ P.

DELAMIRA RESIGNS HER FAN.

LONG had the crowd of the gay and young stood in suspense, as to their fate in their passion to the beauteous Delamira; but all their hopes are lately vanished, by the declaration that she has made of her choice, to take the happy Archibald^p for her companion for life. Upon her making this known, the expence of sweet powder and jessamine are considerably abated; and the mercers and milliners complain of her want of public spirit, in not concealing longer a secret which was so much the benefit of trade. But so it has happened; and no one was in confidence with her in carrying on this treaty, but

° This paper is ascribed to Steele, but most probably Addison was really the author of it. See in N° 36, N° 51, N° 63, and notes, the probability of this conjecture.

^p The honourable lord Archibald Hamilton, of Motherwell, son to William third duke of Hamilton, was probably the happy Archibald here meant. He was member of parliament for Lanerkshire, afterwards governor of Jamaica, and about this time married lady Jane Hamilton, youngest daughter of James earl of Abercorn. It seems to follow, that lady Jane Hamilton, who died at Paris in 1752, was the Delamira here celebrated.