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THE
 TATLER.

N^o 115. Tuesday, January 3, 1709-10.
 STEELE AND ADDISON ^a.

— *Novum intervenit vitium et calamitas,
 Ut neque spectari, neque cognosci potuerit :
 Ita populus studio stupidus in funambulo
 Animum occupârat.* TER. Prol. de Hecyra.

A tumult so uncommon interven'd,
 As neither could be seen, nor understood ;
 So taken were the people, so engag'd
 With a rope-dancer ! COLMAN.

Sheer-lane, January 2.

I WENT on Friday last to the opera, and was surprised to find a thin house at so noble an entertainment, until I heard that the tumbler ^b was

^a N^o 115 is not among the papers of Addison republished by Mr. Tickell; nor is it attributed to Addison by Mr. Byron; nevertheless, it is highly probable that Addison was the author of the whole, or at least of a part of it. It is ascribed to Addison. 1. On the strength of the slight alteration directed to be made in it, at the close of N^o 117. 2dly, Because what relates to the knight of the Peak, is much in Addison's manner, and apparently of the nature and in the number of the pleasantries and oblique strokes which would never have come into daylight without shelter; the real author was therefore concealed by Steele, both from the public and from Mr. Tickell. See also N^o 117, *ad finem*.

^b See N^o 108, written by Addison; parag. 2.
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not to make his appearance that night. For my own part, I was fully satisfied with the sight of an actor, who, by the grace and propriety of his action and gesture, does honour to an human figure, as much as the other vilifies and degrades it. Every one will easily imagine I mean signior Nicolini ^c, who sets off the character he bears in an opera by his action, as much as he does the words of it by his voice. Every limb, and every finger, contributes to the part he acts, in-
 somuch that a deaf man might go along with him in the sense of it. There is scarce a beautiful posture in an old statue which he does not plant himself in, as the different circumstances of the story give occasion for it. He performs the most ordinary action in a manner suitable to the greatness of his character, and shews the prince even in the giving of a letter, or dispatching of a message. Our best actors are somewhat at a loss to support themselves with proper gesture, as they move from any considerable distance to the front of the stage; but I have seen the person of whom I am now speaking enter alone at the remotest part of it, and advance from it, with such greatness of air, and mien, as seemed to fill the stage, and at the same time commanded the attention of the audience with

^c Nicholini Grimaldi, called signior Nicolini de Napoli, came into England in 1708, and made his first appearance in the opera of Camilla. He was dignified with the title of cavaliero di San Marco, not more for his singing, than his personal merit. Mr. Galliard affirms, as Steele, or whoever was the author of this paper does here, that he was both a fine actor, and a good singer. He is commended in like manner in both capacities, Spectator, N^o 405.

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the majesty of his appearance. But, notwithstanding the dignity and elegance of this entertainment, I find for some nights past, that Punchinello has robbed this gentleman of the greater part of his female spectators. The truth of it is, I find it so very hard a task to keep that sex under any manner of government, that I have often resolved to give them over entirely, and leave them to their own inventions. I was in hopes that I had brought them to some order, and was employing my thoughts on the reformation of their petticoats, when on a sudden I received information from all parts, that they run gadding after a puppet-shew. I know very well, that what I here say will be thought by some malicious persons to flow from envy to Mr. Powell; for which reason I shall set the late dispute between us in a true light^d. Mr. Powell and I had some difference about four months ago, which we managed by way of letter, as learned men ought to do; and I was very well contented to bear such farcafms as he was pleased to throw upon me, and answered them with the same freedom. In the midst of this our misunderstanding and correspondence, I happened to give the world an account of the order of esquires; upon which Mr. Powell was so diffingenuous, as to make one of his puppets, I wish I knew which of them it was, declare, by way of prologue, that one Isaac Bickerstaff, a pretended esquire, had written a scurrilous piece, to the dishonour of that rank of men; and then,

^d See Nº 44, Nº 45, and notes.

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with more art than honesty, concluded, that all the esquires in the pit were abused by his antagonist as much as he was. This public accusation made all the esquires of that county, and several of other parts, my professed enemies. I do not in the least question but that he will proceed in his hostilities; and I am informed that part of his design in coming to town, was to carry the war into my own quarters. I do, therefore, solemnly declare, notwithstanding that I am a great lover of art and ingenuity, that if I hear he opens any of his people's mouths against me, I shall not fail to write a critique upon his whole performance; for I must confess, that I have naturally so strong a desire of praise, that I cannot bear reproach, though from a piece of timber. As for Punch, who takes all opportunities of bespattering me, I know very well his original, and have been assured by the joiner who put him together, that he was in long dispute with himself, whether he should turn him into several pegs and utensils, or make him the man he is. The same person confessed to me, that he had once actually laid aside his head for a nutcracker. As for his scolding wife, however she may value herself at present, it is very well known, that she is but a piece of crab-tree. This artificer further whispered in my ear, that all his courtiers and nobles were taken out of a quick-set hedge not far from Islington; and that doctor Faustus himself, who is now so great a conjurer, is supposed to have learned his whole art from an old woman in that neighbourhood, whom he long served in the figure of a broom-staff.

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But, perhaps, it may look trivial to insist so much upon mens' persons; I shall, therefore, turn my thoughts rather to examine their behaviour, and consider, whether the several parts are written up to that character, which Mr. Powell piques himself upon, of an able and judicious dramatist. I have for this purpose provided myself with the works of above twenty French critics, and shall examine, by the rules which they have laid down upon the art of the stage, whether the unity of time, place, and action, be rightly observed in any one of this celebrated author's productions; as also, whether in the parts of his several actors, and that of Punch in particular, there is not sometimes an impropriety of sentiments, and an impurity of diction.

White's Chocolate-house, January 2.

I CAME in here to-day at an hour when only the dead appear in places of resort and gallantry, and saw hung up the escutcheon of sir Hannibal^e, a gentleman who used to frequent this place, and was taken up, and interred, by the company of upholders, as having been seen here at an unlicensed hour. The coat of the deceased is, three bowls and a jack in a green field; the crest, a dice-box, with the king of

^e Sir James Baker, commonly called the knight of the Peak, as this writer has been credibly informed, was the person supposed to be here alluded to, under the fictitious name of sir Hannibal. He is mentioned under his own name, N^o 118, in the postscript of John Partridge's letter from the banks of Styx.

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clubs and pam for supporters. Some days ago the body was carried out of town with great pomp and ceremony, in order to be buried with his ancestors at the Peak. It is a maxim in morality, that we are to speak nothing but truth of the living, nothing but good of the dead. As I have carefully observed the first during his lifetime, I shall acquit myself as to the latter now he is deceased.

He was knighted very young, not in the ordinary form, but by the common consent of mankind.

He was in his person between round and square; in the motion and gesture of his body he was unaffected and free, as not having too great a respect for superiors. He was in his discourse bold and intrepid; and, as every one has an excellence as well as a failing, which distinguishes him from other men, eloquence was his predominant quality, which he had to so great perfection, that it was easier to him to speak, than to hold his tongue. This sometimes exposed him to the derision of men who had much less parts than himself; and indeed his great volubility, and inimitable^f manner of speaking^g, as well as the great courage he shewed on those occasions, did sometimes betray him into that figure of speech which is commonly distinguished by the name of gasconade. To mention no other, he professed in this very place, some days before he died, that he would

^f Folio, inestimable altered to inimitable, by direction in N^o 117.

^g See N^o 36, and N^o 73

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be one of the fix that would undertake to assault me; for which reason I have had his figure upon my wall until the hour of his death^h: and am resolved for the future to bury every one forthwith who I hear has an intention to kill me.

Since I am upon the subject of my adversaries, I shall here publish a short letter, which I have received from a well-wisher, and is as follows.

‘ SAGE SIR,

‘ You cannot but know, there are many scribblers, and others, who revile you, and your writingsⁱ. It is wondered that you do not exert yourself, and crush them at once.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your most humble admirer and disciple.’

In answer to this, I shall act like my predecessor Æsop, and give him a fable instead of a reply.

It happened one day, as a stout and honest mastiff, that guarded the village where he lived

^h See N^o 93, and N^o 105.

ⁱ Steele by being the ostensible editor, and sometimes the author of the publications in the Tatler against the sharpers, to use his own words, ‘ brought a war upon himself,’ in the course of which, he was not only reviled, but threatened with personal assaults, and assassination. A proof of this is related on the respectable authority of the late admiral Forbes, and seems to be alluded to in the preceding part of this very paper. The curious may see the particulars, in the account given of lord Forbes in a note on Tat. N^o 271. See also Steele’s Apology, &c. 4to. 1714, p. 84.

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againſt thieves and robbers, was very gravely walking, with one of his puppies by his ſide, all the little dogs in the ſtreet gathered about him, and barked at him. The little puppy was ſo offended at this affront done to his fire, that he aſked him why he would not fall upon them, and tear them to pieces? To which the fire answered with great compoſure of mind, ‘ If there were no curs, I ſhould be no maſtiff.’

N^o 116. Thurſday, January 5, 1709-10.
 ADDISON ^k.

— *Pars minima eſt ipſa puella ſui.* OVID.
 The young lady is the leaſt part of herſelf.

Sheer-lane, January 4.

THE court being prepared for proceeding on the cauſe of the petticoat, I gave orders to bring in a criminal, who was taken up as ſhe went out of the puppet-ſhew about three nights ago, and was now ſtanding in the ſtreet, with a great concourſe of people about her. Word was brought me, that ſhe had endeavoured twice or thrice to come in, but could not do it by reaſon of her petticoat, which was too large for the entrance of my houſe, though I had ordered

^k This paper, N^o 116, is aſcribed to Addiſon on the authority of the MS. notes of Chriſtopher Byron, eſq. communicated by J—n H——y, of M. See N^o 74, note. It is likewiſe re-printed as Addiſon’s, doubtleſs on the authority of the liſt delivered by Steele to Mr. Tickell.

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both the folding doors to be thrown open for its reception. Upon this, I desired the jury of matrons, who stood at my right-hand, to inform themselves of her condition, and know whether there were any private reasons why she might not make her appearance separate from her petticoat. This was managed with great discretion, and had such an effect, that upon the return of the verdict from the bench of matrons, I issued out an order forthwith, that the criminal should be stripped of her incumbrances, until she became little enough to enter my house. I had before given directions for an engine of several legs, that could contract or open itself like the top of an umbrella, in order to place the petticoat upon it, by which means I might take a leisurely survey of it, as it should appear in its proper dimensions. This was all done accordingly; and forthwith, upon the closing of the engine, the petticoat was brought into court. I then directed the machine to be set upon the table, and dilated in such a manner as to shew the garment in its utmost circumference; but my great hall was too narrow for the experiment: for, before it was half unfolded, it described so immoderate a circle, that the lower part of it brushed upon my face as I sat in my chair of judicature. I then inquired for the person that belonged to the petticoat; and to my great surprise was directed to a very beautiful young damsel, with so pretty a face and shape, that I bid her come out of the crowd, and seated her upon a little stool at my left hand. ‘My pretty maid,’ said I, ‘do you own yourself to

have been the inhabitant of the garment before us?’ The girl, I found, had good sense, and told me with a smile, that, notwithstanding it was her own petticoat, she should be very glad to see an example made of it; and that she wore it for no other reason, but that she had a mind to look as big and burly as other persons of her quality; that she had kept out of it as long as she could, and until she began to appear little in the eyes of her acquaintance; that if she laid it aside, people would think she was not made like other women. I always gave great allowances to the fair sex upon account of the fashion, and, therefore, was not displeased with the defence of my pretty criminal. I then ordered the vest which stood before us to be drawn up by a pulley to the top of my great hall, and afterwards to be spread open by the engine it was placed upon, in such a manner, that it formed a very splendid and ample canopy over our heads, and covered the whole court of judicature with a kind of filken rotunda, in its form not unlike the cupola of Saint Paul’s. I entered upon the whole cause with great satisfaction as I sat under the shadow of it.

The counsel for the petticoat were now called in, and ordered to produce what they had to say against the popular cry which was raised against it. They answered the objections with great strength and solidity of argument, and expatiated in very florid harangues, which they did not fail to set off and furbelow, if I may be allowed the metaphor, with many periodical sentences and turns of oratory. The chief argu-