
T H E

Lady's Drawing Room.

D A Y the F I R S T.

TH E R E is no Place whatever, in which the Ladies have so much the Opportunity of shewing themselves to Advantage, as in their own *Drawing Rooms*. — Beauty, indeed, will force its Way to Admiration, in the Park, the Opera, or Play-house ; but then the handsome *Ideot* and the *Woman of Wit* are on the same Foot : It is thro' the *Ear* alone the Soul can judge of *real Merit*, and the Man who permits his *Eye* to be the Disposer of his *Heart*, will often have Cause to be ashamed of his Want of Penetration. But when a Lady embellishes her Charms with an agreeable Manner of Conversation and good Humour, the Conquest she makes will not only be lasting, but the Lover, tho' he should even happen to be rejected, will glory in his Chains.

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It is not, however, every Lady that has the Happiness to think this Way.—Beauty is apt to depend too much on itself, and she who is possess'd of any great Share of it, or imagines she is so, too often thinks it beneath her Care to display those more truly valuable Talents she has receiv'd from Nature; and hence it is, not from Want of Ability, but Want of Consideration, that we are ordinarily entertain'd with Subjects so little worthy of Attention, in the Circles of the Fair. A new Mode in Dress,—the Improvements made in it by some, and the Disadvantage it is to others to follow it too closely, shall perhaps take up a whole Evening in one *Drawing Room*; while in another, Cards engross the Assembly: In the latter, scarce a Word is to be heard, but in the Faces of those that play there are frequently such Passions delineated as are little to their Advantage; — in a third, you find more Speakers than Hearers.—Some new broach'd Scandal is on foot, and all are eager to give the first Information. Here the Curious have a full Opportunity of gratifying their favourite Passion, with a Detail of the Intrigues of the whole Town. The love-sick Maid, the wanton Wife, or amorous Widow cannot be guilty of the least false Step, which falls not under the Observance of those Criticks in Fame.—The seemingly uxorious Husband, who in all Company extols the Merit of his Wife, and talks of nothing but their mutual Fondness, cannot keep his Amour with her Chambermaid undiscover'd by the prying Eyes of this Cabal.—The new wedded Bride, cover'd with Blushes, and
who

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who seems to tremble at the Approach of Night, cannot prevent, with all her Care, these inquisitive Fleerers from examining her past Conduct.——Nor the Beau, with a splendid Equipage, and no Estate, pass here without the most strict Scrutiny into the Means by which his Grandeur is supported.——Is the false Hair, fine Cosmetick, or any other Assistant to Beauty laid on with so much Art, that the rival Belle cannot distinguish it from natural?——In fine, is there any Irregularity in Conduct, ——any Indecorum in Behaviour or Dress;——any Defect in Beauty which is not here fully expatiated upon? Scandal and Ridicule seem here to reign with uncontested Sway, and but rarely suffer the Intrusion of any other Topick of Conversation.

Thus, in most *Drawing Rooms*, do the Ladies either conceal their Wit, or prostitute it to Subjects utterly unworthy of it.

Not so at the incomparable *Ethelinda's*——*Ethelinda*, endued by Heaven and Nature with Beauty to command all Hearts, and who of all her Sex stands least in Need of Language to make known the Perfections of her Mind!——her Eyes alone are sufficient Testimonies of that everlasting Spring of Wit which feeds their radiant Fires;——the sweet Composure which sits on every fine turn'd Feature, speaks the angelick Harmony that reigns within her Breast, and that Majesty which is inseparable from her whole Person, declares the Dignity of her Sentiments, without the Aid of Words; yet does not this great and amiable Lady disdain to improve her Charms by an elegant

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Conversation with those she permits to see her ; for tho' once the Pride and Darling of a Court she was born to ornament, she now avoids all Courts, and from the giddy Pomp, so dazzling to little Minds, and Noise and Hurry of a tumultuous titled Throng, retires to indulge true Happiness among a selected Few in her own *Drawing Room*.

All idle Ceremonies,——all Cards,——all Scandal are banish'd hence.——Wit and good Humour are the only Things in Fashion here : The fine Sense of *Ethelinda* is too well known for any one, not utterly lost in his own Vanity, to utter before her those Impertinencies which pass well enough, nay, and are sometimes applauded in other *Drawing Rooms*, and the Sweetness of her Disposition too conspicuous for any one to hold an Argument in her Company to the Prejudice of an absent Person. —— None can be possess'd of a Virtue which her harmonious Tongue does not magnify ; or a Fault which she does not shadow over by enhancing the Value of some good Quality in the Person guilty of it.——She excuses the *Whims* of the *Virtuoso*, on Account of his *Philosophy*.——The *Vanity* of the *Poet*, for the Sake of his *good Verses*.——The *Austerity* of the *Prude*, in Respect to the *Virtue* she assumes ; and even the *Affectation* of the *Coquet*, for the *Diversion* she affords the *Company*. Rarely indeed do any of these find Place in her Circle ; but when by Chance they do in a manner force themselves into it, they are treated by her, while present, with a Sweetness and Affability which hinders them from seeing how
displeasing

displeasing their Foibles are to her, and after they are gone, she either not mentions them at all. or with the Lenity I have said.

I had the Honour some Time ago to be introduced, by a particular Friend, into this Theatre of Politeness, and was received by the charming *Ethelinda* with that enchanting Condescension she always behaves with to her Inferiors, in order to remove that Constraint her high Birth might otherwise lay them under, and deprive them of that Freedom of Speech which is the Life of Conversation.

We went too early to find much Company there; except the Sopha on which the admirable *Ethelinda* was seated, there were but three Places taken up. The one by *Philetas*, a Gentleman than whom there is scarce to be found a Person more accomplish'd, that has a greater Capacity, or a Taste more refin'd. He was then just arriv'd at those Years which look back with Shame on the Inadvertencies of a green Youth, and far from those which threaten a Decay of Vigour or Understanding: He can be grave without Austerity, a plain Speaker without Bluntness; and gay, without derogating from that Dignity of Sentiment and Behaviour so necessary to give Weight to Words, and to command Respect.—The second was fill'd by *Dorinthus*, a Man of Quality, but infinitely more distinguish'd for the Excellency of his Morals, and fine Breeding, than for his Rank.—The Third of this amiable Company was *Bellimonte*, by some call'd the *Lovely*, by others the *Witty*: 'Tis certain, indeed, she so well deserves both these

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Appellations, that 'tis difficult to determine in which of them she most outshines the Generality of her Sex. That Friend to whose Interest I was indebted for my Admission is call'd *Aristo*, and the Deference I found here paid him, convinced me that he was no less deserving than I had always believed him to be. As soon as the first Compliments were over, and we had seated ourselves : *Aristo*, said *Ethelinda* to him with a Smile, we were entering into a Discourse of the Passions :——Pray, favour us with your Opinion, which of them it is that renders a Person most obnoxious to Society ; and consequently, which it is a generous Mind ought chiefly to guard itself against ?

As I know not, Madam, answer'd he, on what Occasion this Argument was first started, it will be very difficult for me to draw any Conclusion.——Much may be said both for and against all the Passions, if we consider the good and bad Consequences each of them sometimes produce ; but for my Part, I am so far from being an Enemy to those Emotions of the Soul, which are call'd the Passions, that I think, without them, we should be dull, spiritless Creatures, and incapable of every social Virtue.

Aristo is in the right, rejoin'd *Philetas*, it is to the Instigations of the Passions that we owe all the great and generous Actions that have been done in the World. Even Virtue would be cold, and we should act but faintly in her Cause, were we not animated by somewhat more than barely the Performance of a Duty. The Stoicks, who boast of subduing
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all the Motions incident to Humanity, are but a sour, ill-natur'd Set of Mortals, neither happy in themselves, nor capable of making others so :——They content themselves with doing no Mischief in the World, without ever attempting any Action which might be of Service either to Mankind in general, or the Commonwealth in particular, of which they are unworthy Members.

It must be a bad Cause indeed, said *Bellimante*, laughing, that so much Wit cannot defend ; but all you can alledge will never convince me, that even that Inactivity you mention is not to be preferr'd to those Disorders, and Irregularities, which are excited by the Passions.

Doubtless, Madam, reply'd *Dorinthus*, as it is better not to be at all than to be Wicked, so it is better to have no Passions, than such as in their Effect, are pernicious to Society ; but this I do not look upon to be the Fault of the Passions themselves, but of the Extravagance or Corruption of the Heart that harbours them.——Every *Virtue*, when carried beyond a certain Limit, becomes a *Vice*.——Those strong Propensities, those Desires which are born with us, are certainly implanted in our Minds, in order to invigorate the Prosecution of praise-worthy Aims ; so that it is not the Passions, but the Bent we give them, which occasions all the Mischief complain'd of.——

What is *Ambition*, but a noble Thirst of Glory, and a Wish to attain the Reward due to the great Action it inspires us to attempt ?——

Without this, what General would expose his

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Blood? What Statesman waste his Labours for his Country's Service? But when the Point in View is gain'd, and the still restless Mind wants something more, and flies to unwarrantable Means to satisfy its Cravings; then does Ambition become dangerous, and often involves not only the Person thus actuated, but whole Kingdoms in Confusion. The same may be said of all the Passions. — Even *Envy*, the worst and basest Emotion of the Mind, has its Rise from *Emulation*, than which there cannot be a greater Incentive to laudable Actions: So that, in fine, all Passions regulated by Virtue, become so many Ornaments to it, as those under the Direction of a vicious Inclination, are so many Engines of Ruin, Confusion, and Destruction.

What *Dorinthus* has said on this Head, reply'd *Ethelinda*, carries a Self-conviction with it, and one cannot, without being wholly ignorant of what passes in one's own Mind, deny the Truth of it. But, since all the Passions, tho' ever so laudable in themselves, are liable to bring us into Inconveniencies, by being too much indulg'd; I must return to my former Question, which of them it most behoves us to keep within its due Bounds?

Tho' the least qualified of this Company, said *Aristo*, to give the Illustrious *Ethelinda* the Satisfaction she desires, yet as the Question was first put to me, I will take upon me to answer, that in this Case, no definitive Rule can be admitted; Circumstances and Constitution make a wide Difference. For Example, the Man *cold* and *phlegmatick* by Nature, would find

find little Advantage in mortifying those *transient* and *faint Inclinations*, which now and then seize him, on the Sight of a *beautiful Woman*.——Nor would the World be a whit the happier, should the Wretch, born to *command* only his *Dog*, endeavour to moderate some Desires he may possibly feel within himself to *lord it* over his Fellow Subjects.——To the *Princes*, and the *great Ones* of the Earth, and in fine, to all who have the *Power* to *oppress*, it belongs to quell those Seeds of *Tyranny*, which else might render those beneath them miserable.——To the *warm* and *sanguine Complexion*, it belongs to curb those violent Emotions which are called *Love*.——In the same Manner you may reason on all the *Passions*.——Every one knows best to what his Nature is most prone, and how far he has the Means of *prejudicing others*, by *pleasing himself*; and it is that *favourite Inclination*, to whatsoever Object it tends, that we are most to guard against; for even *Devotion* may become a *Crime*, when the Excess degenerates into *Superstition* or *Enthusiasm*.

You have answer'd in the Manner I expected, return'd *Ethelinda*, and I am glad to find a Person of *Aristo's* allow'd good Understanding, of the same Way of thinking with myself. But, continued she, tho' I agree with you in the main Point, methinks you ascribe rather too much to Constitution, and thereby diminish the Merit of *good Actions*, as well as soften that Aversion we ought always to conceive for *ill ones*.

Pardon me, Madam, resumed he, hastily; I only said that Constitution may incline us

strongly, but not compel us to any Thing.—
We have Reason given us to discover the weak Part in our Minds, and to call in the Assistance of Virtue to fortify it. So that the Errors our Inadvertency plunges us into, find no Shadow of Excuse from my Argument.

This is clearing yourself but by Halves of the Injustice *Ethelinda* has charg'd you with, said *Bellimante*; for if Errors find no Excuse from Constitution, the Good arising from it loses also its Merit,—and to have regular and innocent Inclinations is rather a Blessing than a Virtue.—Indeed, *Aristo*, human Nature is little obliged to you, for pretending to assert it must have a corrupt and vicious Propensity, in order to deserve the Name of virtuous.

O Madam, cried *Philetas*, you refine too much on the Argument; I dare undertake to answer for *Aristo*, that he never meant true Virtue could alone be prov'd by subduing a Propensity to vile Actions.—There is no Necessity a Man should be born with the Inclinations of *Socrates*, to merit the Praises given to that Philosopher for his Virtue. Perfection is not the Portion of Flesh and Blood; and as we all have some things in us to correct, whoever is capable of doing that, wants nothing of consummate Virtue.—Of this, Madam, continued he, bowing to *Bellimante*, I need go no further than yourself for a Proof.—I am certain you never look in your Glass without beholding Charms which might, in a manner, authorise your Contempt of every thing you can see out of it; yet with what
Sweetness

Sweetness, what Affability do you treat all the World!—And shall any one presume to say this is not Virtue in you!—A Self-denial, which, it must be own'd, equals all that can be said of the Temperance of *Scipio*, or that other great Conqueror, who, tho' perishing for Thirst, refus'd the proffer'd Cup, because it contained not sufficient for his whole Army to participate.

Bellimante blush'd excessively, and *Ethelinda* laugh'd at the Turn *Philetas* had given to this Dispute. *Aristo*, who began to think he had gone too far, and was possibly a little perplex'd how to bring himself handsomely off, thank'd him for this seasonable Relief; and the Conversation had doubtless continued longer on this Head, if a titled Coxcomb had not that Moment roll'd into the Room, and, with an Innundation of Impertinence, interrupted the Current of good Sense.—He had been that Morning at the Rehearsal of a new Play, and we were teiz'd near three-quarters of an Hour with his ridiculous Remarks on the Scenery, the Plot, and Diction. The Poet, it seems, had not consulted him in the Affair, and he was resolv'd to damn it, at least in the Opinion of those to whom his Quality gave a Sanction to his Judgment. Had any one been inclined to take the Part of either the Work or Author, it had been impossible, without being possess'd of an equal Share both of Assurance and Volubility, to introduce one single Word of Contradiction; and 'tis probable his unweary'd Tongue wou'd have run on, for a considerable Time, in the same Manner

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ner it had begun, if we had not been reliev'd by the Entrance of a Gentleman whom *Ethelinda* not having seen for a great While, receiv'd with extraordinary Marks of Satisfaction ; on which his Lordship, who possibly came more out of respect to her Quality than Merit, took his Leave.

The Person to whom we were indebted for this Ease, was of an advanced Age, but had all the Sprightliness of Youth, without its Levity ; of a most graceful Appearance, and as I afterwards heard, was not only possess'd of one of the greatest Estates in the Kingdom, but also of a Disposition to make the best Use of it. This it was which gain'd him so much the Esteem of the excellent *Ethelinda*, that there was few, if any of her Acquaintance, for whom she had a greater Value.

After chiding him, in the most obliging Manner, for his long Absence, she told him there was no other Way to expiate his Offence, than by a faithful Confession of the Motives which had render'd him guilty of it.

How infinitely agreeable are all the Tasks impos'd by the amiable *Ethelinda*, cry'd he ! What I have to say will not only be a Pleasure to myself in the Repetition, but also, for its Singularity, afford some Entertainment to those who hear me.

The History of *RODOMOND*,
AND THE
BEAUTIFUL *INDIAN*.

YOU may remember, Madam, said this worthy Person, addressing himself to *Ethelinda*, that I have sometimes made Mention of a Friend who was very dear to me. He was the Companion of my Youth, and when both arriv'd at Maturity, were as seldom apart as our different Avocations would permit. He was once Master of a competent Estate; but vexatious Law-suits, with some other Misfortunes in the Family, deprived him of it; and some Years before his Death, his only Dependence was a Post he held about the King's Person. Those Agonies, which Nature feels at an approaching Dissolution, were greatly heighten'd by the Reflection, that he must leave three Sons, the eldest of whom had not then seen seven Years, entirely unprovided for: I was so unhappy as to be out of the Kingdom when he died, and at my Return found these poor Orphans destitute indeed.—Relations they had, and some in whose Power it was to have protected them; but Friendship does not always follow Blood, and had not my Assistance seasonably interpos'd between them and Misery, I know not to what Extremes their helpless Infancy might have been reduced.—
In fine, I took them under my Care; dispos'd
them

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them in a proper Manner, and did for them what I should have expected their Father would have done to Children of mine, if in the same Situation. As they grew up, I made it my Business to observe their different Inclinations, and what Profession each of them wou'd best become, and be most likely to succeed in.—The eldest discover'd a martial Genius ; so I procur'd him a Pair of Colours, and he is since promoted to be a Captain. His next Brother, being of a grave and sedentary Nature, I sent to the University, where he soon made a great Progress in the Study of Physick.—The Third had Talents more adapted to Business than either of the others, and I found took an extreme Delight in reading and talking of mercantile Affairs ; I used my Interest with some of the Directors of the *East-India* Company, and got him sent over to one of their Factories.—The Recommendations he carried with him, and the genteel Manner in which I took Care he should appear, engaged a very obliging Reception from the Governor, and all the Gentlemen on the Coast, which I was glad to hear his own Behaviour afterwards improv'd into a more than ordinary Regard. As he went extremely young, he became what they call a junior Merchant before he was One and Twenty ; and from the Time that he began to trade for himself, was successful beyond Expectation.—Every Ship that arriv'd from those Parts brought me Intelligence of some new Accession of good Fortune ; and it is certain that in less than six Years, he found himself
Master

Master of Twenty Thousand Pounds : It was however his Interest to stay some Time longer in a Place he found so advantageous to him, and I expected nothing less than to see him, when last Week I receiv'd a Letter from him dated at *Deal*. ——— As it was extreamly short, I believe my Memory will serve me to repeat it.——I think it contain'd these Lines.

S I R,

The most extraordinary Accident in the World returns me to my Native Country some Years sooner than I design'd. ——— I am but this Moment arriv'd, and find the Stage just setting out for London, so must defer an Explanation of my Affairs 'till I have the Honour and Happiness of throwing myself at your Feet, to beg the Continuance of that Goodness to which I owe all that I am, and which I shall never cease to acknowledge by all Acts of Gratitude, Duty and Veneration, 'till I cease to be,

RODOMOND.

The Surprise this Letter gave me on first Reading, and the Impatience that succeeded it, were more strong than is usual in a Man of my Years ; but I must own, that though I took an equal Care of all the Children of my deceas'd Friend, yet this *Rodmond* more particularly shared my Tenderness.——He had discover'd in his Infant Years such a Sweetness of Disposition, as had always interested my Affections in his Behalf, and I know not if I were happy enough to have such a Son,
whether

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whether it were possible for me to love him more.

At length he came, and receiv'd the Embraces I gave him with a Politeness which one might rather have expected from a young Man bred up in a Court, than in a Factory of Merchants; but indeed we, who happen to be born to Estates, and have nothing to do but to improve our Minds, are apt to be a little too tenacious of that Advantage, and imagine that *Commerce* and *Good Manners* are Things incompatible; whereas nothing can be more unjust.—Most Merchants are the younger Sons of good Families,———often have Relations in the highest Rank, with whom they converse, and I see no Reason why, being employ'd in a Business, which is in itself the Strength and Glory of this Kingdom, should make them derogate from that genteel Turn of Behaviour inculcated in their Childhood.—We have many present Instances that a Merchant may be a fine Gentleman, and of those who act in a Manner which it were to be wish'd some in a superior Sphere would endeavour to imitate. Those Gentlemen, indeed, who, like *Rodomond*, are sent Young into our Colonies abroad, cannot be said to have many Opportunities of improving themselves in the politer Studies; therefore that he is so well qualified for Conversation, is the more to be applauded in him, as he owes it merely to Nature, and that happy Propensity which directed him to make Choice of those, for the Companions of his leisure Hours, with whom he could be in no danger of losing what he had learn'd in *England*.

I have already confess'd, continued he, that this young Merchant is very dear to me, therefore you'll pardon the Overflowings of my Heart in this Digression ; but I ought to consider before whom I speak, and that it is with other Matters than an old Man's Fondness I should entertain this Company.

Here I could perceive several Mouths were open to assure him that what he said stood in need of no Apology ; but he went on and they would not interrupt him.

After the first Demonstrations, pursued he, of Respect and Gratitude on his Part, and Tenderness on mine, were a little over, I began to question him on the Motives of his Return ; not that I blamed him for it, as I told him, because I thought he had already acquir'd a Fortune sufficient to content any Man that was not avaritious ; but as his last Letter from the *Indies* had declar'd a Resolution of continuing there some Time, I had an Impatience to know what had wrought so great a Change in his Sentiments. On which he gave me the Account I expected from him, in these or the like Words.

On my first Arrival at *Bombay*, I was too young to be made a Companion for those of riper Years ; and in my Nature rather too serious to partake the Diversions of those who were nearer my own Age ; so pass'd most of those Hours I could spare from the Service of the Company, in learning the *Malayan* Language, in which I became so great a Proficient in a short Time, that I could converse with the Natives with as much Ease as if I
had

had been born among them. I cannot say I foresaw any great Advantages would accrue to me by this Study ; but it afforded me, at that Time, a good deal of Pleasure to inform myself concerning the Religion, the Laws, the Customs, and the Humours of the People I was among, in a more particular Manner than I could else have been.

It prov'd, however, of much more Consequence than I expected ; for our Interpreter dying, the Company suffer'd greatly by being oblig'd to trust to the *Indians*. This I perceiv'd, and as the Governor, and indeed all the Gentlemen of the Factory had been extreamly obliging to me, I was prevail'd upon, by my own Inclinations as well as their Entreaties, to take upon me that Office, which I no sooner did, than I detected several Impositions, obliged those who had been guilty of them to make Allowances in the next Bargain ; and, I may venture to say, sav'd the Company above an Hundred Thousand Pounds in two Years Time.

This, Sir, endear'd me very much to the Factory ; but it render'd me so hateful to the Natives, who before lov'd me, that they resolv'd, at any Rate, to get rid of a Person who depriv'd them of making those Advantages they would otherwise have done.

It was my Custom every Morning to ride out before the Heat of the Day came on, and, as I suspected no Treachery, went frequently alone, and sometimes would make an Excursion several Miles into the Country.

This Dependance had like to have prov'd fatal to me. In one of those Airings, as I was
passing

passing by the Side of a thick Wood, in which that Country very much abounds, the Bridle of my Horse hanging carelessly over the Pommel of the Saddle, and my Mind entirely taken up with a Book I had in my Hand, I heard the Sound of several Voices, and on a sudden found myself encompass'd by five Men, arm'd with Cutlasses, who, without speaking a Word to me, seiz'd me, dragg'd me off my Horse, bound me Hand and Foot, and ty'd me on one of their own Horses, while one of them mounted mine, and rode away with him. As I was entirely unarm'd, it was in vain to attempt any Resistance: All I could do was to ask the Meaning of this strange Usage; what was their Design, and how I had offended their Master, for I knew two of them to be Servants to a *Banyan* with whom I had a particular Acquaintance, and who had always express'd a more than ordinary Friendship for me. But there is no trusting to the Professions of those People; they frequently seem most kind when they have most the Intention of destroying, and no liking of a Person is sufficient to prevent them from seeking his Ruin, when their own Interest comes in Place.

They made no Answer to any of my Questions, nor seem'd the least affected with the Remonstrances I made of the Injustice, and Cruelty they were guilty of, in treating an innocent Man in this Manner; and when I found they made their Way with me into the Wood, I expected nothing but immediate Death, and that this was the Place where my Tragedy must be acted; but I soon found they had
other

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other Orders, and contenting themselves with passing through one Corner of it, carry'd me directly to the House of the *Banyan*, where they threw me into a Hole, which had but just Light enough to shew me the Horribleness of it ; and there left me bound in the same Manner I have describ'd.

I would be difficult, Sir, continued he, to make you sensible of what I felt in this Situation ; none but those who have inevitable Death stare them in the Face, can be able to conceive it. I must confess I wanted both Fortitude and Patience.—— I thought it hard to die at my Years, and in the Fulness of Strength and Vigour, and yet harder to fall a Sacrifice to the Cruelty of these Barbarians.—— I accus'd myself of Cowardice and Stupidity, that I had not, by opposing the Wretches who laid hold of me, provok'd them to end me at once, rather than have suffer'd them to bring me where my Fate was to be no less certain, and perhaps more dreadful than it could have been by their Weapons. Amidst these sad Reflections, not one flattering Idea rose.—— There was, indeed, not the least Room to hope I could make my Escape, bound as I was, and under the Roof of one who I might well judge had not taken this Pains to have me in his Power to leave me any Possibility of getting out of it ; and I was giving way to a Despair, which would have been highly criminal in one who ought to have remember'd nothing is impossible to Divine Providence, when all at once I saw the Shadow of something at the Entrance of my Cavern, and heard a Voice.

Voice cry, *Rodmond*. I look'd up, and perceiv'd, from the horrible Depth in which I was plung'd, that it was a Woman that spoke to me. — *Rodmond*, continued she, my Heart is pierced with Shame and Sorrow, at the Cruelty of my Father. — He is determin'd to kill you ; — it is, he thinks, a Service he owes his Country, and the Moment he returns from the Town, where one of the Servants is now gone to acquaint him with your being taken, is design'd to be the last of your Life.

Here she ceas'd to speak, and I could easily perceive, by the Sound of her Voice, that it was her Tears put a Stop to her Words. I had often seen this young Maid, and thought her extremely amiable, but had no Acquaintance with her ; and the Pity she seem'd to feel for my Distress, added to the advantageous Idea I had before of her. I was about saying something that might express my Gratitude, when she, having recover'd herself a little, resumed her Discourse in these Terms :

I flatter myself, said she, it is in my Power to save you ; but no Time is to be lost in the Attempt. — You must therefore bind yourself by a solemn Vow, to perform three Things I shall injoin ; which, if you consent to do, be assur'd I will either preserve, or perish with you.

I then told her, That I should ever look upon her as my Guardian Angel ; that I would bind myself eternally to her Service, and refuse no Command she should lay upon me, provided Obedience was not inconsistent with my Duty to Heaven, or what I ow'd to my own Honour.

Did

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Did I think you capable of infringing either, answer'd this charming Maid, I would not run the Hazard I now do to save you. But to ease you of all Apprehensions on that Score, know the Articles which I require your strict Performance of are these: First, If I am so fortunate to deliver you from my Father's Power, you shall never be publickly seen again in *Bombay*, but quit the Place with all possible Expedition; and as I cannot hope to be forgiven what I do for you, make me the Partner of your Flight.—— Secondly, That during the Voyage, and on your Arrival in your Country, or wherever you shall think fit to go, you will never make any Attempts on my Virtue, either by Persuasions or Force, but suffer me to live in the Way I shall chuse.—— And Lastly, That you will make no Discovery of my Father's Treachery, in order to draw on him the Revenge of your Countrymen, but keep what has pass'd an inviolable Secret.

With these Words she gave over speaking, expecting me to reply, which I did in this Manner: The two First of your Demands are too agreeable to my own Inclinations and Principles not to be readily agreed to; but the Last is more difficult: I shall, however, not hesitate to forgive, and bury in Silence all the Faults of the Father, in Consideration of the Daughter's Merits, and the Obligations she lays me under; and here invoke that Power, we *Europeans* worship, to bless me as I observe, with the utmost Exactness and Fidelity, what is now requir'd of me.

I am satisfied said she, and now behold the Contrivance I have form'd for you ; with this she struck a Flint upon a Steel, and setting a Bundle of Straw she had brought with her for that Purpose, on Fire, threw it down to me ; be not alarm'd, said she, but let it burn the Cords that tye your Hands,—a little Scorching will be the worst that can befall you ; for when the Fire has done its Work, I have Water here to pour down, and prevent it from going farther than is necessary.

I cannot say, but the Method appear'd somewhat extraordinary, and the Blaze in that narrow Cavern very terrifying ; but my Condition was desperate, and I roll'd myself, as well as I could towards that Part where the Fire was, and continued 'till not only the Cords, but my Cloaths were on Fire. As soon as my Hands and Feet were at Liberty, I tore off my Coat, and being then able to stand upright, stamp'd upon the Blaze 'till I entirely extinguish'd it without the Help of the Fair *Indian's* Bucket, which she however empty'd to prevent any Danger from its rekindling before I was got out, which still seem'd to me an insuperable Difficulty, considering the Height I was to clamber ; but my Protectress had provided also an Expedient for this ; she had brought with her a Rope of great Strength, and Thickness, in which having made several Nooses for me to put my Feet in, she fastened one End to the Trunk of a Tree, with so many Knots, that it was impossible for it to slip, and let the other down, telling me I must make Use of it instead of a Ladder. I did so, tho'

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tho' with incredible Pain, for my Hands being very much scorch'd, not only the Skin, but the Flesh in some Places came off, by grasping the thick and rough Cord.—My Feet were in the same Condition, my Shoes and Stockings having been burnt off.—At length, however, I reach'd the Top; but certainly a more lamentable Object could not be seen.

Zoa, for so the *Banyan's* Daughter is call'd, clapp'd her Hands together, in Token of Astonishment and Pity; but as this was not a Place for either of us to express the Passions with which we were actuated, she made a Sign to me to follow her, which I did as fast as the Soreness of my Feet would permit, into the Wood, where having chose the most thick and unfrequented Part of it, she bad me lye down under the Cover of some Shrubs, which grew high, and not to move from that Place 'till her Return.

I will not trouble you, Sir, pursued my young Merchant, with the Particulars of my Contemplations during my waiting for *Zoa*; I shall only say, that in the Midst of that Hurry of Spirits I was in, from the Time of my first Seisure, to my strange Deliverance from that dreadful Pit, whence I had expected to rise no more, I did not forget to bless the Divine Power, which had so miraculously preserv'd me, nor to invoke the Continuance of his Goodness. °

It was about two Hours, as near as I can guess, that I continued in the Posture *Zoa* had left me, without hearing the Sound of any human Feet approaching that Way.—At
left

last a certain Rustling in the Thicket inform'd me some living Creature was not far off; as I had some Apprehensions concerning the mischievous Animals that haunt those Woods, I ventur'd to lift my Head above my leafy Cover, in order to discover what it was, and be upon my Guard against any Attack of the Nature I imagin'd; but my Consternation very much encreas'd, when I saw a *Negro* Slave with a Bundle under his Arm, come directly where I was; I crouched down again with all the Haste I could, when the Person who had given me this Palpitation eas'd me of it, by calling me by my Name, in a Voice which I soon knew was that of my fair Deliverer. *Rodmond*, said she, do you think it possible even for my own Father to know me in this Disguise? I then had Courage to rise, and indeed cou'd scarce be convinc'd, that under the Form of a crooked and deform'd *Negro*, I saw the beautiful *Zoa*. The Astonishment she saw me in, forc'd a Smile from her, in spite of the Anxiety she must of Consequence be in, at what she had undertaken; but finding she was sufficiently conceal'd, she open'd her Bundle, which contain'd the Habit of a Slave; this she made me put on, and afterwards rub my Face with a certain black Ointment, which made me seem as much a *Negro* as if I had been born in *Guinea*.

When she had thus provided against all Discovery, in case we had been seen by any that knew us, she told me that when she left the House, her Father was not come home, but

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was expected every Moment ;——That no body as yet had been near the Pit, and my Escape was not dreamt of.——Therefore, said she, you must now consider what Friend you can best depend upon to conceal us, till some Ship goes off ; for it will be wholly improper to go to your own House, as you are under an Obligation to keep all this a Secret.

I did not long hesitate on whom I shou'd rely ; there was a Gentleman, who above all the rest had given me signal Marks of his Esteem, and who I knew was entirely free from all that Levity of Nature which occasions a Curiosity of diving into Affairs improper to be reveal'd. The Pain I was in, by that desperate Way I was oblig'd to take in order to get rid of my Bonds, would not suffer me to walk, without supporting myself with a Bough of a Tree, which I with some Difficulty tore off, and lean'd upon : Yet I know not, in the Condition I was, whether I should have been able to have reach'd the Factory, if Providence had not sent an unexpected Relief ; as we were walking, or rather creeping, for my kind Companion was obliged to keep my Pace, I saw my own Horse grazing at Liberty, with the Saddle and every thing just as when I had been forc'd from his Back.——I presently mounted him, and Zoa got behind me, till we arriv'd very near my Friend's House, when, by her Advice, we quitted him, and went on foot to the Door : By our good Fortune he happen'd to be at home, but under the Appearance I was, I found some Difficulty of being admitted : The Servants told me he was busy,
and

and insisted on my telling them from whom I came, or they would not disturb him ; and I was oblig'd to name my own Name, and say I was sent by myself, on an Affair of very great Importance, before they would go in to him ; at last I was introduc'd, but *Zoa* was left in an outer Room. As soon as I found myself alone with him, I discover'd who I was, told him that a very extraordinary Occasion, which I beg'd he wou'd dispense with my revealing, at least for some Time, render'd it absolutely necessary I shou'd quit *Bombay* with the first Ship, and that I chose not to appear any more while I continu'd there ; so desir'd he would now give a Proof of that Friendship he had always profess'd, by permitting me, and a Companion I had with me, to remain privately in his House till we had an Opportunity of departing.

He was very much amaz'd, as indeed he had Reason to be, both at my Transformation and Request, but assur'd me, that I might depend on every thing in his Power to serve me ; but added, if I had had the Misfortune of doing any thing for which the Law might take hold of me, that his House would be an improper Place to take Shelter in, as it would probably be first search'd, on Account of the known Intimacy between us.

This giving me to understand he imagin'd I had either kill'd a Man, or committed some very gross Misdemeanor ; I thought it proper to let him know, that neither myself, nor the Person for whom I equally begg'd his Protection, had been guilty of any thing offensive ;

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and that it was for the Crimes of others, not our own, that we were oblig'd to leave *Bombay*. I added, that I was at present under a most solemn Engagement not to reveal the Secret; but he would soon be convinced, when I should be miss'd in the Factory, by what would be said concerning me, that whatever Search might be made for me, wou'd be occasion'd more by Friendship than Revenge.

He then beg'd my Pardon for his Mistake, which he justly said might well happen, on seeing me in that Disguise, and order'd the other seeming *Negro* shou'd be call'd in.

You will easily believe, Sir, my sudden absconding caus'd a great Surprise in the Colony; but no one being able, after the most diligent Enquiry, to hear any thing of me, and my Horse being afterwards found, it was suppos'd I had been torn to Pieces by some wild Beast, and I had the Satisfaction to find I was enough lov'd to have my imaginary Death very much lamented.

My Friend all this Time labour'd under an Astonishment at the Motives of my Behaviour, which with all the Pains he took was impossible to be conceal'd; the generous *Zoa* perceiv'd it, and also the Constraint it was to me to hide any thing from a Friend who so well deserv'd my Confidence; and seeing me one Day more than ordinarily thoughtful,——*Rodmond*, said she, I should be sorry the Life I have preserved should be attended with any Disquiet on my Score.——I consent your Friend shall be made acquainted with our whole Adventure, provided you engage his
Promise

Promise not to divulge it to any other Person, or seek any Revenge on my Father.

I cannot express how much this Goodness charm'd me, nor the Satisfaction I took in unbosoming myself entirely to my Friend, who heard the Story with the utmost Surprise: As much Horror as he conceiv'd at the Proceeding of the treacherous and mercyleless *Banyan*, the Virtues of his Daughter indemnified him in his Opinion, and he repeated the Vow to her, he before had made to me, never to mention the Affair. She then told him that her Father had no personal Ill-will to me; but on the Score of my taking upon me to be an Interpreter, he thought it was doing a Service to his Nation to get rid of me.—That the Thing had been long concerted between him and some others, and Wait laid for me, and that the Pit I was thrown into was intended to be my Grave, after they had shot me. She added also, that having over-heard this Design, and detesting the Baseness of it, she had it in her Thoughts to give me some Warning of it by a Letter, but having no Person in whom she cou'd confide, on the one Part, and the Apprehensions of my discovering it on the other, and thereby drawing the Resentment of all the *English* on her Father, had deterr'd her; but that on hearing I was taken, the Horror of my Fate so struck her, that she immediately resolv'd to forsake Father, Fortune, Friends, and Country, and hazard every Thing, rather than not prevent it, if there was a Possibility.

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My Friend understood not a Word of the *Malayan* Language, and she spoke no *English*, so I was oblig'd to interpret the little Narrative she made, and the many Praises he gave in Return, which were so great, that when I repeated them to her, her Modesty would not suffer me to go on, and I was oblig'd to stifle many of them: It is certain he spoke out of the Abundance of his Heart.——He often told me afterwards, that he had never read or heard of any Thing that affected him so much, and in his Opinion she had shewn more of the real *Heroine*, than any who had adorn'd Antiquity.

As all the Enquiry made after me by the Governor, and the Gentlemen of the Factory, could inform them nothing, it was believed by every body that I was dead; and accordingly, my Effects deposited under the Care of twelve of the Principals, as is the Custom on the Decease of any one, in order to be remitted to my Relations in *England*.——That Friend at whose House I was, was one of them, and as I inform'd him of all the Particulars of my Fortune, he was able to gather in much more than would ever have been produc'd, had I been dead in Reality.

Zoa all this Time would not be prevail'd upon to quit her Disguise, nor suffer me to do so, tho' we were both lodg'd in Chambers of which the Master of the House kept the Keys, and permitted no body to enter but himself, so fearful was she lest by any Accident either of us should be seen, and the Mystery unravel'd, to the Prejudice of her Father.——Care was taken, however, to provide her Habits, and every

every thing necessary for a Person of her Sex and Condition, against we went on board, which was in about six Weeks after the Accident.

My Friend agreed with the Captain for the Passage of two Persons, whose Names were to be conceal'd ; but told him he would be answerable that, tho' we chose to go in private, no Crime could be laid to our Charge, which should occasion his being call'd to an Account for receiving us on Board.

The Day we were to embark, I drest myself as I had been accusom'd to do, and *Zoa* also wash'd the black Ointment from her Hands and Face, and put on an *English* Habit, which, tho' altogether new to her, she appear'd perfectly easy and genteel in. My Friend, who had never before seen her as a Woman, was dazzled and transported when he first came into the Room.—He confess he had never beheld any Thing so lovely, and was restrain'd from yielding his whole Soul to a Passion more tender than Admiration, only by the Imagination he always had, that there was some *Love* join'd with the *Pity* which had engag'd her to go such Lengths for my Sake. Indeed, Sir, continued *Rodomond*, with a Sigh, her Person is not less amiable than her Mind.—Her Mother, it seems, was an *European* ; and she retains only so much of her Father's Colour as to render her what may be call'd a brown Woman.—Her Eyes are sparkling, and full of Fire.—All her Features regular ; and there is an enchanting Sweetness about her Mouth, which no Description can

come up to ; but as I flatter myself you will permit me to bring her to wait on you, I shall leave the Decision of what she is to your Judgment.

Here, said this generous Person, I could not forbear interrupting my young Merchant, by saying to him ; perhaps, *Rodomond*, I may not see with your Eyes. These few Words, pronounc'd in a more serious Tone than ordinary, and accompanied with a Look that I believe had somewhat in it of austere, put him into such a Confusion, that I was oblig'd to tell him I expected the Conclusion of the Narrative he had begun, before he cou'd recover himself enough to pursue his Discourse.

As soon, said he, as the Approach of Night favour'd our Departure with the Secrecy we wish'd, I wrap'd myself up in my Cloak, and *Zoa* pluck'd a Hood over her Face, and thus, accompany'd by our worthy Host, went down to the Port, where the Ship was lying at Anchor. He wou'd needs see us on Board, and continued with us in the Cabin 'till we were ready to sail, then recommended us to the Care of the Captain, and went on Shoar. To comply with the Timidity of *Zoa*, who still trembled for her Father, I kept close in the Cabin, 'till after we had weigh'd Anchor, and were out at Sea ; but her Apprehensions being then over, I shew'd myself to the Captain, with whom I was well acquainted. Never was Surprise greater than he was in, to find me living, after the whole Colony had bewail'd my Death, and that I quitted *Bombay* in so odd a Manner. — He ask'd me many Questions, which

which I evaded answering directly, and presenting *Zoa* to him, gave him Liberty to think it was for some Reasons relating to that beautiful Partner of my Voyage, that I took it either so suddenly or so privately.

This, Sir, continued *Rodmond*, is all I have to acquaint you with, except that the Friend I mention'd, has order'd it so, that all my Effects will follow me the next Ship.

I then told him that I found something so singular in his Escape from the *Banyan*, that it might almost be look'd upon as miraculous, and I thought all Gratitude was owing to the fair Maid that had contriv'd it; but, said I, willing to fathom his Inclinations, I have observ'd that thro' the Course of your Story you have spoke of her with a Warmth, which makes me fear, that however punctual you have been in one Part of the Promise she exacted from you, you have not been able to fulfil the other, and she perhaps might not so strenuously insist on your keeping it, as she at first affected to do.——Come, *Rodmond*, pursued I, perceiving he was in an extream Perplexity, confess the Truth of this Affair.——I now, indeed, am past those Pains and Pleasures which are call'd Love, but yet I am not so old as to have forgot the Desires and Impatiencies of Youth.——I know how difficult it is to preserve Moderation, when Beauty, Love, and Opportunity invites, and in so long a Voyage.

Ah Sir! I conjure you, interrupted he, throwing himself at my Feet, entertain no Thought in Prejudice of the Virtue of the ad-

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mirable Zoa——I will lay open all my Soul to you.——'Tis true, I love her.——My Inclination goes Hand in Hand with the Gratitude I owe her, as the Preserver of my Life; and both together, make up the most perfect Passion that ever was in the World.——I confess too that I have declar'd it to her, and that I have been happy enough to make an Impression on her Heart.——That she has consented to be mine by such Ways as are approv'd by Heaven, and warranted by the Laws of Man; but, Sir, I conceal'd nothing of my Affairs from her, I told her I had a Patron, a Benefactor, a more than a Father, to whom I ow'd my All, and without whom I could do nothing.—She approved the dutious Respect;—prais'd my just Gratitude, and protested that in case I ever swerv'd from it, the Regard she now had for me would be lessen'd.——This, Sir, added he, is the true State of the Affair between us.——Dear as she is to me, she never shall be mine without your Permission; but, if you think proper to refuse it, grant, I beseech you, that I may bestow on her one Half of what my Industry has acquir'd, either as a Dowry for some happier Man, or to live single, independent on the World. This is the least she ought to expect from me; after having quitted every Thing for me, and you, I am certain, are too good, too just to oppose it.

The Earnestness with which he spoke these Words, convinced me at once of his Honour, and the Ferveency of his Passion. at least I fancied so, and was very much affected by it; to
maintain

maintain however, the Gravity of my Character, and, at the same Time, to be more assur'd he was not deceiv'd by his Inclinations for the *Indian Maid*, into a better Opinion of her than she deserv'd, I reply'd to him in these Terms :

Rodomond, said I, after raising him from the Posture he was in, I do not pretend by what I have done for you, to assume any Power over you ; but my Years, and the Experience I have of the World, ought to give my Advice a Claim to your Attention.——I acknowledge the Obligations you have to *Zoa*.——Whatever View she might have in setting you free, the Advantage has yet been wholly yours ;——therefore it would be monstrous in you not to make easy the Life of a Person to whom you are indebted for your own ; but as to Marriage, I would have you consider from what Race she sprung, and that she is of a People famous for Treachery.

Here he was about to interrupt me, but I prevented him by crying, hold, *Rodomond*, I accuse her not ;——she may be no less amiable in her Mind, than your fond Passion paints her Person.——I will see her, and after that give you my Sentiments.

He then told me, that during the Voyage he had taught her *English*, which she now spoke tolerably well, and that he wish'd no more than that I would admit her to my Presence ; he said he had left her at the Inn where the Coach set up, 'till he could provide a Lodging for her, and would bring her immediately. To this I readily consented, and withal bad him think of seeking no other Home at present, either

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either for her or himself, than my House.—
He seem'd transported at this, and took his Leave ; but in less than half an Hour return'd, and presented to me the Object of his Affections.

On the first Sight I found indeed his Passion had not given a flattering Description of her.— Besides the Beauty of her Features, there is something irresistibly engaging in the Air of her whole Person ; and I must own that out of this Company, I never beheld any Thing more lovely and attractive. I receiv'd her with all the Civilities she could expect, and made her the Offer of an Apartment in my House, with which she seem'd extremely pleas'd, and told me in broken, tho' very agreeable *English*, that she believ'd I was the universal Father of the Distress'd.

But I have already too much prolong'd my Narrative, so I will put an End to it by assuring you, that a few Days serv'd to convince me she was well worthy of *Rodmond*.— She seem'd desirous of being initiated into the Christian Faith. the Articles of which *Rodmond* had fully instructed her in, on which I prepar'd for the Ceremony, and was myself her Godfather. After her Baptism I gave a ready Consent to the Nuptials of two Persons who seem'd design'd by Nature for each other ; they still remain with me, and it will not be with my Consent if they ever leave me.

This, Madam, continued he, to *Ethelinda*, has been the Cause of my being a Kind of Truant in my Devoirs, and if it is insufficient
to

to obtain my Pardon, I am ready to submit to any Penance you shall enjoin.

No, answer'd that charming Lady, it must be own'd you have made ample Reparation ; but it is your Way by giving a seeming Offence, to confer a real Obligation ; not but I must tell you that you are a little revengeful too ; you foresaw the amiable Picture you gave me of *Zoa*, wou'd lay me under the Necessity of becoming your Petitioner to see the Original ; but that's a Humiliation I am very well content to bear, provided you gratify my Impatience.

The Person to whom these Words were address'd, was about to make some Reply, when *Bellimante* prevented him, by saying, *Zoa* has doubtless her Perfections, but *Rodmond* is my Favourite : In my Opinion she run too great a Risk, and with a Man of less Virtue, her Pity might have prov'd fatal to her.

O Madam, cry'd *Philetas*, a truly generous Mind thinks every Thing like itself.---- Besides, the Character of *Rodmond* might not be unknown to her ; and if he even shou'd have chanced to have fail'd in that Part of it, which indeed most Men are frail in, if we may judge of her Ingenuity by the Means she contriv'd for his Escape, we may reasonably believe she would have found some Means for the Preservation of her Honour.

For my Part, rejoin'd *Ethelinda*, I find them both so worthy, that I know not which most shares my Esteem and Admiration ; and when I express'd a Desire to see *Zoa*, I did not mean to exclude her Husband. Examples of Gratitude

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tude and Constancy in Love, are so very rare in this Age, that where they are met with, they cannot be treated with too much Respect.

I am of your Opinion, Madam, said *Bellimante*; but those are Virtues which Time alone can prove, and it was for this Reason I trembled for *Zoa*, when I found she had rashly trusted herself in the Power of a Man whose Principles she was unacquainted with.

I should have done the same, cry'd *Dorinthus*, if *Acasto* had not inform'd us *Redmond* was a Man of Sense; and one who is truly so, cannot be guilty either of Levity or Ungenerosity, at least a late celebrated Poet has given it us as a Maxim.

*Were you, ye Fair, but cautious whom you trust;
Would you but think how seldom Fools are just;
So many of your Sex would not in vain,
Of faithless Men, and broken Vows complain.
Of all the various Wretches Love has made,
How few have been by Men of Sense betray'd?
Convinc'd by Reason, they your Power confess, }
Pleas'd to be happy, as you're pleas'd to bless, }
And conscious of your ill worth, can never love you less. }*

The Poets, resum'd *Bellimante*, will say any thing to heighten a Character, but I think Mr. *Rowe* a little forgot himself in this, for I don't find *Lethario*, tho' a Villain, either says or does any thing throughout the whole Play, that can make him be look'd upon as a Fool; and I shan't take his Word against that of another Author, whose Wit and Understanding was never call'd in Question, yet who, by his own
Confession,

Confession, was the most inconstant Creature in the World.-----'Tis *Cowley* I mean.----Hear his Chronicle of Mistresses.

I.

*Margarita first possess'd,
If I remember well, my Breast,
Margarita first of all ;
But when a-while the wanton Maid,
With my restless Heart had play'd,
Martha took the flying Ball.*

II.

*Martha soon did it resign
To the beautiful Katherine ;
Katherine gave Place ;
Tho' loath and angry she to part,
With the Possession of my Heart,
To Eliza's conquering Face.*

III.

*Eliza 'till this Hour might reign,
Had she not evil Councils ta'en ;
Fundamental Larus she broke,
And still new Favourites she chose,
'Till up in Arms my Passion rose,
And cast away her Yoke.*

IV.

*Mary, then, and gentle Anne,
Both to reign at once began,
Alternately they sway'd ;
And sometimes Mary was the Fair,
And sometimes Anne the Crown did wear,
And sometimes both I obey'd.*

V.

*Another Mary then arose,
And did rigorous Laws impose,
A mighty Tyrant she !
Long, alas ! should I have been
Under that Iron scepter'd Queen,
Had not Rebecca set me free.*

VI.

*When fair Rebecca set me free,
'Twas then a golden Time with me ;
But soon those Pleasures fled :
For the gracious Princess dy'd
In her Youth and Beauty's Pride,
And Judith reigned in her stead.*

VII.

*One Month, three Days, and half an Hour,
Judith held the Sovereign Power ;
Wondrous beautiful her Face,
But so weak and small her Wit,
That she to govern was unfit,
And so Sufannah took her Place.*

VIII.

*But when Isabella came,
Arm'd with a restless Flame,
And the Artillery of her Eye,
While she proudly march'd about,
Greater Conquests to find out,
She beat out Susan by the bye.*

IX.

*But in her Place I then obey'd
Black eyed Bess, her Vice-Roy Maid ;*

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*To whom ensued a Vacancy :
Thousand worse Passions then possess,
The Interrégnum of my Breast.
Bless me from such an Anarchy !*

X.

*Gentle Henrietta then,
And a third Mary next began ;
Then Jane, and Joan, and Audria,
And then a pretty Thomafine,
And then another Katherine,
And then a long Etcætera.*

XI.

*But should I now to you relate
The Strength and Riches of their State ;
The Powder, Patches, and the Pins,
The Ribands, Jewels, and the Rings,
The Lace and Paint, and warlike Things,
That make up all their Magazines.*

XII.

*If I should tell the politick Arts,
To take and keep Mens Hearts ;
The Letters, Embassies, and Spies,
The Frowns, and Smiles, and Flatteries,
The Quarrels, Tears, and Perjuries,
Numberless, nameless Mysteries !*

XIII.

*With all the little Lime-twigs laid,
By Matchiavel, the waiting Maid ;
I more voluminous should grow,
(Chiefly if I, like them, should tell
All Change of Weathers that befall,
Than Hollinshed or Stow.*

XIV.

XIV.

*But I will briefer with them be,
 Since few of them were long with me.
 A higher and a nobler Strain,
 My present Empress doth claim;
 Eleonora, first o' th' Name,
 Whom I wish long may reign.*

Now, continued this charming Lady, I will leave it to the Judgment of the Company, if it is not possible for a Man of Wit to be ungrateful, perfidious, and in fine, to have all the Qualities that make the Name of Love so justly terrible to our Sex.

Nothing, cry'd *Dorinthus*, hastily, could make the Author Reparation for the wrong Construction you put upon his Verses, but the enchanting manner in which you have repeated them, since they were evidently intended rather to shew the Errors and ill Conduct of some Ladies he happen'd to be acquainted with, than the Inconstancy of his own Nature.

As to his Intentions, reply'd she, I will not dispute them with you. ----- A Man given to change will always find an Excuse for it, by laying the Blame on the Person he forsake, which, in my Judgment, is so far from alleviating, that it greatly aggravates the Crime, by adding Injustice to Levity. The more Wit he has, the more capable he is of doing this, and therefore the more dangerous; and such, I think, *Cowley* must have been.

Take care, lovely *Bellimante*, said *Arista*, how you pass too severe a Censure on a Man

who

who, in his Time, was the Darling of the Fair, and who in all his Works, discovers a certain Sweetness of Disposition, which could never suffer him to be ungrateful or unkind. But as he is now almost forgot in the World, I must not lose Sight of the Argument, and beg Leave to give my Vote for the Part *Dorinthus* has taken in it, and to add, that if a Man of Sense is guilty of Inconstancy, he will be at least ashamed of it.—He will endeavour to conceal, if he cannot vanquish his Error; whereas a Fool takes Pride in publishing the Conquests he has made, and perhaps values them for no other Reason.

Indeed, my dear *Bellimante*, said *Ethelinda*, I must give it against you; whenever our Sex are weak enough to throw off the Guard of our own Honour, and trust to that of another, we certainly have less to fear from the Man of solid Sense, than the vain airy Coxcomb: The Woman deceiv'd by the one may be unhappy, but will never be expos'd; but the unthinking She, who falls a Prey to the other, is undone for ever, in her Reputation as well as Peace of Mind.—But, I think, continued she, enough has been said on this Subject; indeed I think too much, since it has made us neglectful of the Share *Acasto* had in the Adventure he has related, without whose Generosity and Benevolence the Virtues of *Rodomond* might probably never have had the Opportunity of shewing themselves.

True, Madam, reply'd *Philetas*, many a Genius, who might shine forth to the Glory of this Country, is bury'd in Obscurity, for want of
of

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of Encouragement to call it forth ; and I know no greater or more laudable Instance of publick Spirit, than that of supplying, as much as is in our Power, the Deficiencies of Fortune to *indigent Merit*. Charity, Compassion, and Generosity, indeed, are noble Virtues, though indiscriminately, and without Distinction, exercis'd on all who may seem proper Objects. but when our *Pity* is guided by *Discernment*, and the Favours we confer are proportion'd according to the *Worth* of the *Receiver*, we do Honour to ourselves, and Service to the Commonwealth. How memorable, how worthy Imitation is that penetrating Judgment, to which we are indebted for a *Prior* ! The noble Duke saw into the Value of that Diamond through all its native Roughness, vouchsafed to lift it from the Earth, where, but for him, it might have lain for ever unregarded, gave Orders for its polishing, and made it fit to adorn the Cabinet of the best of Queens.

Neither ought it ever to be forgot, said *Derinthus*, that when a Genius not inferior to that of him you have nam'd, was under the Persecution of unjust Rage and Party Malice, he found Protection from an illustrious Person, who generously espous'd the Cause of Wit and Virtue against even the Menaces of Power.

Ethelinda had probably made some Answer to these Words, as she was very much concern'd in them, had she not been prevented by the coming in of four Ladies, who all at once increas'd the Assembly. These were all Persons of Quality, but more distinguish'd by the Peculiarity of their Characters. *Alcitha*, the
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first that enter'd, had been marry'd extremely young, to a Man of Sixty, and who, besides the Disproportion of his Age with her's, had no one good Quality to recommend him to her Affections ; but as she obey'd the Dictates of her Duty to her Father, in sacrificing herself in this Manner, she was no less punctual in observing that of a Wife, and all the Time he liv'd behaved to him as if Love had dispos'd her to him. Her Conduct was no less exemplary after his Decease ; and though left a very young and rich Widow, refus'd all Offers of a second Marriage, was look'd upon as a Pattern the most worthy Imitation ; she was generous, humane, affable, and charitable ; had a becoming Gravity in her Dress and Deportment, nor could Envy, or the most penetrating Malice, find any thing to condemn ; 'till at an Age when others begin to throw off whatever Vanities their Youth might have been guilty of, she on a sudden assum'd all those Airs which are least excusable, even in the Youngest and most Beautiful, became a Coquet at Sixty, and forgot all those Virtues, and even that Decorum for which she had been so much fam'd ; went every Day to St. James's, gave into all the Modes and Manners of that Place ; her Dress was fancied with the Gaiety of Fifteen ; her whole Study was employ'd to repair the Damages of Time, by all the Aids of Art. — Her Conversation was all on Operas, Plays, and Balls. — The Height of her Ambition was to be thought in Favour with the Princesses ; her Religion consisted in paying constantly her

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her Devoirs to them, and the Heaven she languish'd for was a *Birth-Day*.

The next that enter'd was *Lamara*, a Lady to whom Nature had given Wit and Beauty enough to have commanded Veneration, but not an intolerable, and indeed ridiculous, Arrogance of Behaviour taken away all the Charm both of the one and the other. Tho' of mean Extraction, small Fortune, and yet small Stock of Reputation ; she was married to a Man of a vast Estate, and who was thought to have good Sense, 'till the strange Power she had over him made him descend to Submissions in order to obtain a Title, which instead of heightening the Respect he before had in the World, has render'd him contemptible, even in the Eyes of those who reap the most Advantage by his Perversion. This neither of them can be insensible of ; but whatever uneasy Moments he may suffer from Reflection, she seems equally regardless of his ill Humour, as of the Censure of the World, and exulting in her new Dignity, which she imagines a Sanction for saying and doing whatever she pleases, never did Pride, Vanity, ill Manners and ill Nature discover themselves in so extravagant a Manner, as in her Words and Actions.

After her came *Flavia*, young and handsome, but too conscious of it, and aiming to render every Beauty more conspicuous, she quite disguis'd and put out of Order all the handy Work of Nature. — The lovely Mouth was stretch'd beyond its Compass, &c.
that

show the white even Teeth. — The finest Pair of Eyes in the World were roll'd so many different Ways, that the agreeable Languishment of them degenerated into a Squint. — One Moment the Head hung, lulling down upon the Breast, so that the Neck made a kind of Arch behind ; the next held so stiff and upright, that with the Force she did herself, the very Sinews of her Throat seem'd strain'd. — Sometimes one Shoulder was exalted almost to the Ears, — sometimes the other ; in fine, every Feature, every Limb, was screw'd into more Postures in the Space of a Minute, than a whole Hour would be sufficient to describe. So I shall say no more of this extraordinary Lady, who is so ingenious in finding out Ways to excite Laughter in the room of Admiration ; and proceed to *Colonia*, who was the last of this fair Troop, and no less to be pitied for her want of Judgment in what is truly agreeable to the Taste of Mankind.

This Lady, as I have been inform'd by those that know her well, passes four Hours at her Toilet every Day, in consulting what Look will best become her, and having fix'd on that she thinks most engaging, never dares to smile, to speak above a Whisper, to move her Head either to one Side or the other, or even to turn her Eyes, for fear of disconcerting that particular Form in which she has set her Features ; so that when she walks, or turns, or looks, let the Occasion be ever so different, she is still the same, and seems more a Piece of Clock-work, than real Flesh and Blood.

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It may easily be suppos'd that these Ladies were not extremely welcome to *Ethelinda*. She, notwithstanding, receiv'd them with the Civility their Rank demanded, and offer'd little in Opposition to what they said ; so that each had a full Opportunity of verifying the Characters I had heard of them. The Conversation now took a different Turn from that it had before this Accession to our Assembly ; and having nothing in it capable of affording either Instruction or Entertainment in the Repetition, I shall take leave of my Reader 'till next visiting Day, when *Ethelinda* was so good to honour me with an Invitation.
