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THE  
**T R I C K S**  
O F  
**L O N D O N**  
L A I D O P E N :

Being a true **CAUTION**  
TO BOTH SEXES

**IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| I. A General Reflection on the Town, with a Description of the present State of it.                    | VI. The Villainy of Money droppers is exposed, and the roguish Methods they take to impose on Countrymen.       |
| II. A Diffusive against Idleness, with the Character of a Sor.   | VII. The Tricks of Bawds and Whores are detected, with a Description of a Bawdy House, and the Art of Trapping. |
| III. The Character of a Beau and a Gamester.   | VIII. The Character of a Bully, Setter, and Spunger.  |
| IV. The Humours, Customs, and Tricks of the Playhouse, are discovered and exposed.                     | IX. Particular Observations and Reflections upon several distinct Occurrences of the Town, &c. &c.              |
| V. The Tricks of Cockers, Cock Matches, and the Cheats of Horse-races and Foot Matches are discovered. |   |

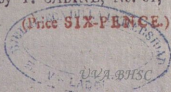
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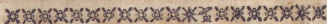
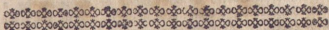


Y R I C K S

L O N D O N

Being a true CAUTION

TO THE COUNTRY



T H E  
TRICKS OF LONDON  
L A I D O P E N.

I Intend to expose the town to you, as our fathers of old were wont to do to their children, to wean them betimes from the vicious inclination to wine and debauchery. I intend to lead you from one seat of action to another, and give you a short view of most of the dangerous tricks and villainies which you will consequently be exposed to when you come to it.

As to the town itself, " 'Tis a kind of large forest of wild beasts, where most of us range about at a venture and are equally savage, and mutually destructive one of another." I wish it were possible to give you a distant view of the state and manner of it. I am confident the spectacle (if you were not really bewitched) would be so horridly odious and ungrateful, that you'd have small lust to come at it, notwithstanding the fury of your present inclination.

The first thing that you'd be encountered with, would be the dismal prospect of universal poverty, and crowds of miserable people, either racked with their own guilt or folly, or groaning under the intolerable want of bread,

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or



or mad, or infatuated by oppression, or desperate by a too quick sense of a continued infelicity: here you'd see us all generally busied to trepan, undermine, and deceive one another, which we are forced to do to make good our mistaken pretence to a life of sensuality and delight.

If you cast your eye upon the court, you will see but few there but flatterers and hypocrites, except it be some nauseous creatures that are only fixed there for shew, and indeed are fit for nothing else.

If you look into Westminster Hall, among the lawyers, there'll you'll be entertained with little else but hideous complaints for want of money and business, and find them all so sour and ill natured, that you can hardly speak to any of them without endangering your nose. Look among the religious pretenders, and you will see them in the very same condition, all furiously hating, and uncharitably censuring one another, soaping snarling, grinning, and biting, and almost every party wishing all the rest damped, but just those few that agree with them in their own opinion and judgment.

Observe the shops, and you'll see an universal discontent and melancholy hanging in the faces of their respective owners. You would see all these things, and many other unpleasant and tormenting objects. And what sensible man then would not be mightily rejoiced and satisfied that his better fortune hath removed him from hence, cut of the noise and participation of all those evils and calamities and be constantly alarmed, afraid and disturbed, that some cross and malicious accident should serve him hither? Consider, I beseech you, what are the advantages and goods of this town, that can give you any just reason to be so fond of it; or what evils in the country that can render it so odious and obnoxious to you, and engage you to forsake it in such a hurry.

First then, to tell you my thoughts, in short, I'm afraid your chief argument for leaving the country will be this, viz. That you have too much time upon your hands, and to be rid of it, you will venture to hazard yourself, your estate, health, liberty, and retirement, and all for company; nay, what is worse, take in the assistance of toilsome and laborious vice, and call it by the false name of pleasure, rather than be idle. And what?

Could

Could the country afford you no instruments for relief in this case? Had you no books to divert you, nor no opportunities to come at any? I am confident Lincolnshire did not use to be so barren; I have often heard your good old father say, that you never wanted innocent diversions there, and that a country gentleman might make his passage through human life in that country, with as much ease and satisfaction as in any part of the world beside; but the scene is altered now, it seems your father was a dull, old phlegmatic fellow, and only hugged himself in a little old-fashioned country happiness, a little good, honest, downright house-keeping, &c. all which in these latter days, are grown the scorn and aversion of our new-fashioned gentry.

A gentleman here is in the main a creature that is composed of nothing but pleasure and idleness, and thinks he hath little else to do in the town but to make his pastime in it. I will give you a short account how some of our bred city gentlemen manage their time, and then leave you to make your own inference.

In this town we have three distinct sorts of idle companions, which may be properly differenced by the respective titles of Sots, Beaus, and Gamesters; and perhaps it may not be much amiss if I trouble you with a short character of each of them, as far as it is consistent with my present design. At worst, it will either divert or caution you; and if it does but one of them, I am satisfied.

## THE TRUE CHARACTER OF A SOT.

**A** Sot is a kind of sluggish, filthy animal, that by a continued course of lewdness and debauchery, has entirely razed out the goodly impression Nature at first made upon him; and is degenerated in the strictest sense from a man to a beast. He is distinguishable from the rest

## 6 THE TRICKS OF LONDON

of his species, both by his smell, garb, shape, and aspect: you may discern him by his dirty hands and face, his foul linen, sore eyes, stinking breath, and twenty other badges of his character, which he constantly carries about him. His method of living is generally thus—

About twelve or one he commonly rises, and when he has carelessly hung on his equipage, he steers his course directly for the tavern; and to quench the flames of his last night's debauchery, calls first for a cooler of white-wine and ale mixed together, and when he has taken a swinge or two of that, he sends for the master of the house—Faith, says he (with a kind of vanity) I was damnably drunk last night, and my stomach is a little uneasy this morning; I think we had best try what a quart of hock for a wet will do. By the time this is drank, and perhaps another, and a pipe or two of tobacco smoked into the bargain, in comes the dinner. If he can eat a bit, but it is ten to one whether he can or not: however, he can drink as well as the best of them, and therefore sits down with them for company. Here the half flask must be called for in course, and the good mistress of the house's health began in a bumper, with so many other endearing healths, that it is ten to one but he is more than half seas over before the cloth is laid.

If he can get any body to bear him company, here he fixes, till he is so thoroughly drunk that a posse of drawers and porters are forced to be called in to lug him into a chair, or coach, to carry him out of harms way to his own lodgings. But if he can prevail with nobody to do him the favour to stay here, and be drunk with him, then in a sort of hazy condition he blunders to the play house, (the general place of rendezvous) where he sleeps, farts, and stinks, for an hour or two, and so returns perhaps to his former vomit. The pit know him well, and keep as far out of his reach as they can, especially the beaux; for if he chance to fall foul of one of them, he certainly ruins him for that voyage, or at least forces him, upon the inconvienency, to steer to the next barber's shop, to sew rig and mendify. Perhaps some antiquated whore, that for company sake can drink and smoke a pipe, and be drunk as well as he, for want of a better adventure, hauls him to her, and lays him abroad; and if she can  
but

but once decoy him to a tavern, she plies him so very warmly, that she soon makes him quite drunk, then dexterously picks his pocket, and so leaves him.

And this is the way a great many of these sort of gentry pass away their lives, till an habitual course of sottishness and debauchery hath either made them insensible, or thrown them into a fever, or some other dangerous distemper, which carries them off entirely; or at least brings the gout, stone, gravel, stranguary, or some such thing upon them, by which the whole remainder of their lives is rendered bitter and uncomfortable.

But, Sir, I remember the caution you gave me in your last, i. e. to make my letters as short as I could; and so I'll give the character of the other two idle companions in my next.



C H A R A C T E R S  
OF A B E A U A N D G A M E S T E R,  
T O G E T H E R W I T H

Some short Reflections upon Idleness in  
general.

The CHARACTER of a B E A U.

A B E A U is a creature of a nature so different and disagreeable to the former, that you'd hardly take him to be of the same species, and his time cut out to quite contrary uses; some of it is spent in the idle pursuit of modes and fashions, in contriving his cloaths, and putting them on to the most advantage: another part of his time is consumed in admiring himself, or projecting to be admired by others, and the rest in hearing of flatteries, reflecting and ruminating upon them. The first three

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hours

## THE TRICKS OF LONDON

hours of every day are constantly dedicated to the setting his wig and cravat, rolling his stockings, redening his lips, and painting his nauseous phiz, and the like.

When he thinks he has managed him'self in the best order as may be, perhaps he st lks majestically to the coffee-house, where he teazes somebody w th an hour's impertinence, drinks his dish of tea, and is laughed at, and then forsooth, he must have a chair called, to carry him to a lady (it may be) who does him only the honour, after all, to let him dine with her dogs and her Abigail; or perhaps, if she be in a very good humour, and wants a little sport, will admit him to the favour to play a game at cards with her, till she has won his money, and made him the common buffoon to the company, then she dismisses him with a jest. From hence, perhaps, he marches to another, and tells her a thousand stories——how kind my lady —— was to him, what a plentiful dinner they had, and how earnestly she pressed him to stay longer with her: in short, 'tis ten to one but his company grows ungrateful there too. Ladies don't often love such fools, that are fit for nothing else but to be stuck up in a garden to fright the birds from the fruit; and so to be rid of him, one of the maids has the sign given her to take him aside, and tell him that her mistress expects v fitors, and his company won't be convenient.

From hence, it may be, he walks to the play-house, where his chief business is to observe the ladies in the boxes, and to expose himself to them. When the play is done, he paces himself at one of the doors of the house, and stands ready to offer his hand to help them severally into their coaches; if there be ever a one that will take him home with her, well and good; if not, by the help of a link, he picks his way to the Groom Porters, where he lolls about for another hou. or two, and then the business of the day is done with him. If there be any broken intervals, which cannot be so well devoted to these set and solemn sopperies, those are commonly gleaned up by some other insignificant trifles; so that the main of his whole life is nothing else but one continued scene of folly and impertinence.

THE

THE  
C H A R A C T E R  
O F A  
G A M E S T E R .

A Gameller is a sort of composition of both these together, half Sot, half beau; and in his nature and constitution, worse than either of them. Indeed, I want a name for him; and if he be a professed gamester, and has taken up the trade purely for a livelihood, he's no more fit to be admitted into the society of county gentlemen, than a mad dog is to be turned loose into a kennel of beagles; where if he sets his venomous teeth into any of them, they consequently run mad too, and so are fit for nothing but to be wormed or hanged, to prevent the infection of the rest of the company. These, forsooth, range the town in the garb and under the characters of gentlemen; and indeed some of them are originally so, but then in their practices they are not only a reproach to their family, but to their title too. 'Tis a worthy employment for a gentleman—is it not? To make it his business to find out young heirs of much wealth, and little prudence, and to rook them at play, or entangle them into surtyship, or perhaps betray them into some mean and unequal matches.

This is their common practice; and when they have hit of such a one, they seize upon him with as much eagerness, and observe him with the same joy, as a vulture does the fall of a carcass. But I shall have other opportunities to speak of them in their proper places, and therefore I'll wave them now. As to the gentlemen who use gaming as their ordinary method to squander away their time, their usual custom is this—to spend their morning at the Tennis Court, their afternoon at the Bowling Green, their evening at the Play house; from thence to their mistress; from her to the Groom Porter's; from the Groom Porter's to the Tavern; and from thence perhaps,

perhaps (if they don't commit some outrages, that obliges the watch to secure them from further mischief) about four or five in the morning they get drunk to bed.

In short, Sir, a Gamester is a composition of almost all the vices of the town jumbled together: his ordinary dialect is swearing and cursing, and his occupation solely depends upon lying, falsehood, and perjury. His life is a perfect lottery and hazard table; to-day he's an Esquire and so proud and insolent nobody can speak to him; to-morrow he's a beggar, and as meek as a lamb, and but lend him a guinea to set him up, you may say or do what you will to him. To have done with him—his time is so equally divided between vice, folly, and impertinence, and commonly so taken up and forestalled by his designs and projects, and which way to manage his cheats and adventures; or, at least, he is so harassed and fatigued with his losses and disappointments, that his whole thoughts, and that together, are lost in the hurry. And thus he lives an absolute slave, and dies a perfect wretch.

You see, Sir, how these sort of sparks apply their time; and truly, most of your country gentlemen, that comes to London, purely to spend their money to see fashions, fall under one of these denominations. Well, what can make men, gentlemen especially, (that are distinguished by several extraordinary advantages from the rest of their kind) suffer themselves to be imposed upon by these kind of follies, I know not: idleness is certainly the grand cause; and, according to that common principle of nature, they must be doing mischief when they can find no other employ. But then, has virtue lost her prerogative? Is the gown in this last age so old and deformed, that she has quite lost all her charms and endearments? No, no, my friend, she is still the same, as charming and as beautiful as ever—The world is grown worse, 'tis true, but virtue never changes. If you would but actuate your own reason, and disenchant yourself from this unlucky resolution, you'd soon find she'd propose a method to you, both to delight and direct you in your country life, a thousand times beyond any thing in the most gustful sensualities the city can pretend

to.

To



To sum up all, there is a kind of justice that obliges a gentleman to stay in the country and live upon his estate; this he should do, not only for the sake of charity and hospitality, but likewise upon the account of his poor neighbours and tenants, to whose sweat and labour a great part of the profits and advantages of his land is owing. They, I'm sure, should be encouraged, supported, and assisted——But, how can that be, when the whole profits must be sent up to support the grandeur, equipage, and extravagance of a lewd town? And 'tis some odds, too, whether the annual rents will do the business or no: it is very often seen that such kind of luxuries and inconsiderate methods of living, not only destroy the crop, but the soil likewise; prey upon the very heart and vitals of an estate; and many have staid so long in town, until they have had nothing left to retire into the country.

There's much to be said to prove this town to be the forge of vanity, a nursery of vice, a snare to the young, a curse to the old, and a perpetual spring of new temptations. But I've said enough already, to let you see my sentiments of the matter. My next business shall be to discover and expose to you several of the most practick and common humours and tricks of it; some of which you'll certainly be encountered with, almost upon your first arrival.

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T H E

Humours and Tricks of the Playhouse  
are exposed.

**H**AVING finished the first part of my design, and, as I said exposed the town to you, as our fathers were wont to do to their children, I come now to the second thing: first, to lay before you some of the humours, tricks, and cheats of it, which as a young gentleman

tleman and a stranger, you are in most danger of; and secondly, to give you some general directions and advice, how you may best guard yourself against them. And first, Sir, I will wait upon you to the playhouse, (for thither I'm confident your inclinations, or curiosity, or both together, will soon lead you) and bear you company according to the best of my judgment, through the different accidents and adventures which, as a stranger, you may soon expect to be encountered with as soon as you come there. In our play-houses at London, besides an upper gallery for footmen, coachmen, mendicants, &c. we have three other different and distinct classes; the first is called the boxes, where there is one peculiar to the King and Royal Family, and the rest for the persons of quality, and for the ladies and gentlemen of the highest rank, unless some fools that have more money than wit, or, perhaps, more impudence than both, crowd in among them.

The second is called the pit, where sit the wits, judges, and censurers, or, rather, or rather the censurers, without either wit or judgment. These are the bully judges, who damn and sink the play at a venture. It is no matter whether it be good or bad, but 'tis a play, and they are the judges, and so it must be damned, cursed and censured in course. In common with these sit the Esquires, Sharpers, Beaus, Bullies, and Wh——s, and here and there an extravagant male and female Cit. The third is distinguished by the title of the Middle Gallery, where the Citizens wives and daughters, together with the journeymen, apprentices, serving-men, and Abigail, commonly take their places; and now and then some desponding mistresses and superannuated poets: into one of these you must go; and, considering your circumstances, I think the pit is the most proper.

Well, when you come there, the eyes of every body are presently upon you, especially the whores and sharpers, who immediately give out the word, to try if any body knows you, and if they find you are a stranger, then a lady in a mask, alias whore, which (as they express it) is a good tongue pad, is forthwith detached to go and sound you; and in the mean time a cabal of bullies and sharpers are consulting which way you must be  
mana-

managed, and passing their judgment upon you. The lady comes up to you with a kind of formal impudence, and fixes herself as near to you as she can, and then begins some loose and impertinent prate, to draw you into discourse with her.

If she finds you a man fit for their turn, and a true Esquire, with some sort of subtle and insinuating civility, she leaves you a little, to go and make her report to her friends and allies, in another part of the pit, who are earnestly waiting to know the success of her negotiation. Here some proper measures are soon resolved upon, and she is dispatched to you again with new instructions, and will be sure to stick to you until the end of the play; and in all the interludes be constantly chattering to you, to screw herself as far as possible into your acquaintance and familiarity.

When the play is over, she certainly marches out with you, and, by the way, perhaps, does you the favour to let you have a glimpse of her painted face, &c. If she sees you take no notice of her, and seem insensible of her design, she comes to a close parley with you, and must needs know which way you go; be it which way it will, her way is the very same; and so, to avoid the trouble of calling another coach, if you'll set her down, she will give you a cast some other night. 'Tis ten to one but this is agreed to.—And now she has got you by herself, she begins to c jole and flatter you; to commend some particular part; your shape, mien, carriage, good-nature, and civility: but, above all, the kindness of taking her into your coach; in consideration of which, if you'll do her the favour to go home with her to her lodging, she'll exert her best endeavours to make you ample amends.

When you come thither, the first part of the entertainment is, with her own character and circumstances, which she commonly makes use of for an introduction of enquiry into yours. When she has fully equipped herself with your whole state and condition, if she finds you worth her trouble, why then she's so much captivated with your genteel deportment, free disposition, your even temper, and conversation, that she must beg leave to insist on your company to-morrow to dine with her. And

thus

thus the train is laid that will effectually blow you up and ruin you inevitably, if you give her a second opportunity of touching it with the fatal match.

You are hardly gone out of the room when in comes the rest of the confederacy, a set of bullies, sharpers, and whores; and then the tables are soon turned, and you, that were but the last moment one of the most accomplished persons in the universe, are now made the grand laughing-stock for the night. Your dress must be anatomized; your mien and dialect buffooned and ridiculed: in short, they conclude you fit for nothing but a culley, and that they resolve, by some means or other, to make of you.

But to return again to the Playhouse. If they find their whore can do no good with you, they then try another expedient. An ingenious gentleman, that is born westward of Eng'and, makes up to you; and he, forsooth, must know what countyman you are, or what is a clock by your watch; or what part of the town you lodge in, or where you sup? These sort of sparks are commonly well stocked, I mean with confidence and impertinence, and therefore don't stand much upon forms and ceremonies with you; but, by his soul, if you'll go along with him to a tavern, and drink the health of an honest gentleman of your country, which, perhaps, he either knows, or has heard his name, he will take you to a glass of the best wine in London. His business with you is of the same nature with the former. If he can wheedle you thither, first to make you drunk, then to draw you into gaming, and then by the help of his false dice, slight of hand, and other tricks, (the only arts that he is master of) he soon gets your ready money, and takes your notes for more; by which means he links you so fast, that, without the greatest caution, you are insensibly ruined before you can disentangle yourself.

But if this don't pass upon you, neither, why then comes a third; and his business is to draw you into a quarrel, or, at least, to try whether you will fight upon occasion, and if you won't, they naturally conclude that a coward and a cully are convertible terms, and so will be constantly teasing you, until they have gained their point. His way of proceeding with you, is either to  
tread

tread upon your toes, cough in your face, ruffle, crowd, or discompose you. But, after all, if he finds you resent this behaviour, and grows rough upon the matter, he instantly flies to his grand reserve, begs your pardon, and sneaks off.

When neither of these can do your business, then comes up a forlorn hope, a worthy old matron, deeply skilled in the famous science of procuration, and accosts you, first with a Scripture phrase or two, perhaps; or if she finds that don't so well agree with your palate, for some of you country gentlemen are not over fond of Scripture) she changes her discourse into bawdy, and so, with a little of one and the other, and a chuck under the chin into the bargain, she whippers you in the ear, and tells you in plain terms, she perceives you are a young country gentleman, and if you have a mind for a taste of the town, she lives in Bow Street, Covent Garden; and if you'll come and sup with her, she can shew you three or four couple of the choicest strumpets (ladies she calls them) about the town.

You see, Sir, how naturally these beasts of prey hunt a country squire; and if they can but once blow him a little, that he becomes obnoxious to the herd, they seldom lose the scent till they have set him up (as you phrase it) and brought him to a bay, and then they soon pull him down and mangle him as they will.

If you can pass these pikes, and come safe off from the Whor, the Sharper, the Bully, and the Bawd, which I hope you will do by the assistance of the cautions I have just given you, then you'll be a little at liberty to look about you, and make your observations. The stage, I must own, (till so many immoral practices and irregularities broke in upon it) was originally of admirable use and design.—'Twas a kind of looking-glass to the nation, where a man of sense might form as true a judgment of the humours and inclinations of the better sort of the kingdom, as in any part of the town besides.—How it came to lose so much of its beauty and ornament in these latter years, is no great matter to our purpose.

C

If you will come here now, you must take it as men do their wives, for better or worse. 'Tis already in a state of declension; and, for my part, I am not so much a friend either to the mob or fanaticks, to give my vote for its utter extirpation. To go on then, if it be a new play, the house is commonly very full, especially if the author be a new one too; upon such occasions, every body that has an inclination for the play-house, is willing to gratify his desire with such a novelty.

Though, indeed, I must confess, when I look into the plays that were wrote formerly, and compare them with the generality of those which have been written here of late, in my poor judgment, the plots and characters, and what is more strange, the stile too, is grown so profoundly dull and flat, that a man must have a very good appetite who can digest such intolerable trash without a surfeit. Well, let it be what it will, provided it be stamped with a new name and a strange title, it certainly raises the mob, calls together the Whoes and Bawds, the Esquires, Beaus, Cits, Bullies, &c. who come all crowding in shoals, to hear what this wonderous new man can say.

The third day, if, by the help of a good prologue and epilogue, good acting, dancing and singing, good scenes, and the like, the sickly, half-got brat can be kept alive so long, is commonly the grand day; then you may observe the general humours of the house. In one part of it you'll see the judges and wits, with abundance of hangers on and interlopes, censuring and mistaking the sense, if there be any, for nonsense. It is ten to one, if there be any part above the rest, but some of these pretending Coxcombs unluckily pitch upon that for their subject to laugh at.—The reason of this is very plain; perhaps they may know a little of the *Merry Andrew* parts, the dull jokes and drolls, which at best are but the rubbish and lumber of the play; but, for the flights and extasies, and the shining parts of it, those are utterly out of their element; and so, consequently they are forced to damn and censure them in course, because they don't understand them. The poor poet must be confounded and mauled; and what is still worse, if there be ever a fanatick that sets up for a judge, if there is but  
a few



a few accidental expressions that don't exactly square with his opinion and inclination, the whole play, upon the score of one single character or paragraph, must be esteemed a satyr against the government, and have an embargo laid upon it; and the poor author be doomed as an enemy to the public, to be taken into custody and whipt, &c. This, within the small compass of my own knowledge, has been the fate of some of them; and, indeed, I have known one of the best tragedies that ever was written, stopped upon such a pique.

In another part of the house sit the poet's friends, who are resolved to carry him off right or wrong; 'tis no matter to them whether the play be well or ill done, they're engaged, either from friendship, interest, or a natural spirit of contradiction, to oppose the other faction; and those you'll observe straddling upon the seats, hallowing, capping, and flouncing, making such an impertinent clatter and noise, and using so many insolent and indecent actions, that I advise you as a friend to keep as far from them as possible.

But, what is worse still, perhaps, in the very nick of all, comes in a drunken Lord, with a party of low country warriors; or, what is more common, a country esquire, that has lately taken up the noble profession of scowring and revelling; and, to shew their parts and their courage, raise a quarrel, and put the whole house in confusion; then you'll see fine work indeed: the whores tumbling over the seats, and the Esquires and Beaus tumbling after in a horrible fright and disorder; the whole pit's in arms in a moment, and every man's sword drawn to defend himself; so that, if the uproar be not instantly suppressed, it is great odds but there is some body murdered.

These insurrections, I confess, do not often happen, and it is well they do not, for if they did they might even play by themselves; for, who but a madman would run the risk of being stabbed, or trodden to death, to gratify himself with an empty, insignificant curiosity? And, indeed, most of our novel farces have little else but barely that to recommend them.



But, Sir, if after all, you will still go to the play-house, (which I hope will be very seldom, especially when you have any business of moment to divert or call you off otherways) why then if you'll take a few short instructions along with you, I'm confident, if they do you no good they can do no harm; at worst, I presume, you'll esteem them a well intended impertinence, and that's the most pardonable error of any thing of that kind.

Well then, upon the former proviso, that you have a few leisure hours that are entirely upon your hands, and are resolved to make use of the play to fill up those idle intervals, the best way is to fix yourself in some advantageous part of the pit, where with the least disturbance and interruption, you may not only observe the action and behaviour of the actors, but likewise hear every individual part distinctly, by which means you may be able to understand the plot and design of the play, and to judge of the several characters, and what they drive at; for unless you do this, the best play that ever was written can seem nothing else but an empty din of words, and a jumble of things fluck together without any manner of order. 'Tis true, the greatest part of those that frequent the playhouse, come thither upon a quite different errand, perhaps to see the passionate love, or hate of some great queen, or lady represented; the destruction of some prince or hero; or the rape of a virgin; or, what is more usual, to hear the singing and see the dancing; to observe some of the little drolling humours and scenes, and fine dresses of the players: but I hope you would not herd among such a mob. If this be all you propose to yourself from the stage, even save your money, and step to Moorfields, where a Mountebank and his Andrew will divert you as well. No, no, Sir, the true design of the stage is utterly foreign to this: i. e. to expose and detect rebellion and faction, and vice in general, and to exalt and commend loyalty, honour and virtue; and truly, there is scarcely a play (if you take it right) that is acted at either of the houses in London, but makes some kind of advance towards one of these ends. It is true, that players like the money of a fool as well as they do of the man of sense, and in some measure are

as willing to please him with their trifles and baubles, as divert the other with their encomiums and satyrs; tho', by the way, I must tell them they had best take care that by their farces and drolls, and their Jack-pudding tricks, they do not at last pull their houses upon their own heads; but it seems they are above advice, and so I won't go out of my road to trouble my head about them. It is well there are more fools than men of sense that are their customers; if there were not, for all their huffings, their sh-res might be soon drawn into a narrow compass.— Well, Sir, to have done with them and the subject too, if you please to observe what I have told you, with this one thing more, i. e. never to embark yourself, upon any pretence or account whatsoever, in any of the quarrels, humours, intrigues, or factions of the stage, you may then pass away an hour or two at the play-house, once in a month, but no oftener, without any great matter of hazard, and with some kind of advantage.

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## T H E

## \* T R I C K S O F T H E C O C K - P I T S,

## A N D T H E

C h e a t s o f H o r s e R a c e s a n d F o o t -  
M a t c h e s a r e e x p o s e d.

**H**AVING discovered so many of the cheats and tricks of the town to you already, you may now think it high time to wind upon my account. I can assure you I have no vanity in reporting these matters; they are as odious and unpleasant for me to write as they can be for you to read. But still, Sir, I remember my

promise: I engaged to shew a little of most of the follies and villainies of the town, which as a gentleman and a stranger, you are most in danger of being trapped, and imposed upon by, when you come into it. To proceed then to the rest, for once I'll take you to a cock-match; and if you love that diversion. I'll shew you a battle or two, in order to prove how much our sparks in London manage their affairs beyond a gentleman in the country.

Cock-fighting is an ancient, barbarous sort of diversion, that for some years has been of high repute, even among the Nobility and chief of the Gentry in England: it is now, indeed, in a state of declination. Gentlemen, perceiving the constant charge, folly, and inconvenience that depended upon it, have in a great measure wisely laid it down.

And the sharpers, rooks, and scoundrels, together with some few fools, have taken it up, or else the cruel sport, (for that's the best title I can give it, and I think the best it deserves) had been happily worn out and lost, and there had been an end of it. For my part, I cannot conceive where the great diversion of cock fighting lies; the bear-garden and cock-pit are both alike; and truly, in my judgment, are both inhuman and unnatural, neither gives but little satisfaction. But this is nothing to the purpose: it passes under the notion of a harmless recreation among the rest, the rooks and sharpers get money by it, and therefore we'll go and see how their point is managed.

Their first business is to insinuate themselves, with bribes, into an acquaintance with the feeders, and to learn each cock's particular marks, breed, manner of fighting, &c. When they are thoroughly equipped with these, and each other intelligence that can give them the least advantage in point of judgment, they make their bets, but still their eyes are fixed upon the cock for the better observation of each wound and turn of the battle; and most of the old Cockers are so extreme sharp and quick sighted, in those cases, that for the most part they can discover the nicest advantage, and therefore either take or lay the odds to bring themselves off. So far it is fair enough; every man is to be commended for  
 makin.

making the most of his business; and, indeed, it is impossible for them to use their talents in a fair match further than this comes to, unless it be to wrangle off their bets when lost, and bring some of their gang to give false judgment, which is too common amongst them.

All this is but little to their business; for if there was nothing else in it but the advantage in point of judgment, they must soon be forced to find some new adventure, or prepare to fight battles of a different nature. Their business for the most part cothes on when the grand match is over, (unless the whole be one of their making) then, perhaps, there is a bye-match or two to divert the company at parting, in order to their interest.

Here is set down one of the sharpest narrow keeled cocks belonging to them, against one they well know to be a perfect slug; and 'tis ten to one too, to make all things sure, but they crack his beak, or thrust a pin into the roof of his mouth, or blunt the point of his gaffles, or cramp him with a hair about his thigh; for in such cases all things must be made secure on their side: but then the force of their designs chiefly depends on the managing point, against their cock comes to be set down; in order to which, one of the more reputable sort of sharpers, offers large bets upon the cock that is to lose, and withal several sham wagers are laid among themselves. This, says he, is a brother to the pile that killed Squire G——'s hen, and my Lord C——'s duck-wing, that won the famous battle at New Market; and perhaps be a slightly cock, and good in nature too.

By these, and such like stratagems, 'tis odds but there are several snapped. To colour the matter, when the business is over, they pretend he received a wound in the body, in the sparring blows; and if he had not been accidentally disabled, he would without doubt have won the battle, and will fight one of the same brood with any cock in England, for an hundred pounds.

I would not wish, Sir, to be too troublesome with this kind of stuff, but leave you to judge from this short draught what these gentlemen would be at. Their sole business is flat sharpening and rooking; and if you'll venture

ture in amongst them. and hazard some cash, depend upon it, if a stranger, they'll have some device, either fair or foul, to cheat before you part with them.

After all these maxims laid down, I cannot conceive what should induce a gentleman to hazard himself and reputation among such a gang of varlets! Where can the diversion or felicity be, to see a kennel of deep-mouthed ruffians (standing round a pair of foolish creatures) hallowing, cursing, and swearing, whilst they mangle one another to death? This is a very unaccountable method of disposing of yourself, indeed! Well, Sir, I will not trouble you more about it; you see how matters stand, and as there is no absolute reason for plunging into such manifest inconveniences, even take it for your pain, and set down with the loss.

And next for horse-racing. Why, that's in the main, a cheat as bad, if not worse than the former, for many an honest gentleman has been bubbled out of his whole estate. As to the great matches between Noblemen and Gentlemen, and the plate matches, &c. that's all country business, and don't fall within the compass of my design; and I am glad it does not, for if it did, I should be apt to mention something that would not perhaps have agreed so well with their respective characters.

However, if you are for a course, and will be betting with them, take this among the rest, that unless you have a true knowledge of the horse and rider, more especially the design of the owner, you may as well be taken in by a Jockey, Lord, or Esquire, as by an hostler, or horse-courser: and what is worse, must not complain neither; if you do, you affront them, and then wars will ensue.

In short, I think you have no great business to go among them. But since we are upon the ramble, we'll make a short trip to Banstead Downs, or Hackney-marth, and see what company is there. There, I will warrant, if you are for such sort of sport, diversion need not be wanted. Well, I would not keep you long among them, for they're a dangerous set, therefore let it be remembered, there is not a match in twenty run but what is a cheat. The heart of the company is made up of nothing but Jockeys, Horse courers, Hostlers, and Farriers,

Farrers, with some extravagant Citizen, who are learning to gallop and manage their racers, against they are forced to mount them upon another occasion.

A genteel cit, who does not ride above ten or eleven Stone, after he has wisely raced himself out of his shop, makes as accomplish'd an highwayman as the best butcher, Coachman, or Hostler of them all. But, Sir, I am sure you won't like this company; besides you have enough of it in your own country, and therefore we'll leave them to manage their cheats by themselves, and make the best of our way to Hyde Park, to try if we can have any better diversion at a foot-match.

Foot racing is just of the same nature with the former, only with this difference, that they rob on foot, the other on horse back; the one is a highwayman, the other a pad: in short, the general business of each is to make sham matches, to draw in strangers, and to impose upon them by their villainous cheats and tricks, which are now grown so common and well known in town, that there is few but the rabble take notice of them. I could have entertained you with some of their scandalous stratagems and devices, but that I think them both below the ear and pen of a gentleman. They are only fit for the correction of the mob, so even let's leave their trial to them, whether a horse-lead, or horse of vice will work towards their reformation.

## THE

### Villainies of Guinea Droppers and Sweetners are expos'd.

**G**UINEA dropping, or sweetning, is a paltry little cheat, that was recommended to the world about ninety years ago, by a memorable gentleman, that has since



since had the misfortune to be taken off, I mean hanged for a missemeanor upon the highway. However, he left the mystery behind him, which has ever since been managed with pretty good success, by some of the worthy members of his gang, and is now improved to that high perfection that 'tis become a perfect occupation, and several emarkable persons live upon it.

The general places where the masters of this art rendezvous, is in Moo fields, Covent Garden, and in most other public places between Westminster Hall and Temple Bar; especially in the two former; and 'tis some odds if a countryman, or a stranger passes through either of them, but he is attacked by them. The manner of this cheat is thus, as I had it from one of the chief masters of the faculty, that, it seems, has quitted the business upon some dislike.

Says he, to make us a compleat set there must be three of us, one to personate a merchant, the other a country-gentleman, and the third a tradesman. When we have hit of our cully, and they have commonly a damnable notion of a person for their turn, one of our gang marches directly before him, and another follows close behind, until they are come to a convenient place, where the mouth, (as they are pleased to term him) must needs observe; and then the spark that is in the front drops the guinea. Faith, says he, (turning about to the stranger) I have found a piece of money here, I think 'tis a guinea, and then if he that is in the rear, perceives he is insensible of the cheat, up he starts, and claims halves.

After a little sham squabble between the two cheats, says the first—If any body has a right to a snack, it is this gentleman who saw me take it up: but to prevent disputes, Come, saith he, 'tis a lucky hit, we'll even go all to the tavern, and spend the odd money, and then divide the remainder fairly amongst us.

The third still continues at a distance to observe the success of their management, and in what tavern they house him, which is one where they commonly have a thorough acquaintance and familiarity. When he is fixed, then in comes he in a great hurry, and pretended confusion, for the loss of a bill, which he says he supposes he dropped just now, in the very room where they

are



are drinking; and to colour the matter, one of the other two conveys a sham bill under the table, which he immediately takes up, and as a testimony of his joy for the recovery of it, will needs call for his pint.

After they have drank two or three pints, and begin to grow a little warm, up starts one of them, and pretends to have discovered a pack of cards, which he has before placed in some convenient part of the room for his purpose. Ha! says he, here's a pack of cards.—Come, faith, I'll shew you one of the prettiest tricks that I was taught by a Dutchman the other day, that ever I saw in my life. And to possess their cully of their innocence, &c. they shew several of the common tricks upon the cards.

At last, he that is the most dexterous, starts the grand trick; which they call preaching the parson. How the dogs came to call it that name, I know not, unless it be, that some honest clergyman, above the rest, have been imposed upon by it. As to the manner of their trick, it is no great matter, my design is not to teach you tricks, but how to avoid them. It is a palm and a slip that they have, a sort of *Deceptio Visus*, which if you have a mind to see, there's enough in town will equip you.

If this cheat takes, then there's no need for the trial of another expedient; but if this don't pass, then they will with false dice, rug and the leather, or several other projects, that they have at hand upon such occasions. For, in short, your money will soon be in their pockets, or rather than fail, knock you down, and rifle, or pick your pocket.

You have this account of this piece of roguery, in the same words, as near as my memory will serve me, as I had it from one of the masters of the gang; and indeed I have been something the longer upon it, that it may serve as a general caution against embarking with strangers, upon any pretence whatever. For, give me leave to inform you, a considerable part of the mischiefs of London are derived to us upon that account, and will be more and more so, considering the present posture of men and things.

This

This town degenerates hourly; honesty and virtue are almost dwindled to nothing. Roguery, folly, and vice, are ever increasing, and growing more public and insolent; so that notwithstanding coming to London, believe me, it will require the greatest care and wisdom to guard against these notorious villains.

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THE  
T R I C K S  
O F  
B A W D S A N D J I L T S

Are exposed, together with some Reflections upon the Art of Trapping.

I Am now entering upon the tricks of Bawds and Jilts, two ranks of degenerated animals, so impious, and quite wicked, and scandalous to their very names, the title of a Bawd and Whore, is sufficient to fright a sober man from their embraces, conversation, and even out of all manner of lustful thoughts and inclinations.

In the first rank I place the Bawd, or Procurer; for though the latter has usurped a name a little more modest and decent than the former, and perhaps will have a little more business among people of fashion, but are both practitioners in the same arts and sciences, and will be sure to agree in the main of their occupation. There is no difference that ever I heard between Sall Browne and Nan Mackenzie, or my Lady D—— either, only in point of price. Sall and my Lady D—— won't equi-  
you

you under a guinea, perhaps; and Nan will furnish you as well for half-a-crown; and rather than lose a customer, for a shilling and a quarter of peppermint.

In short, one helps to a common Miss, and the other to a common Whore; there's no odds but in the name. And these are all works of darkness beside, and then according to the old proverb,—“Joan's as good as my lady.”

However, for method sake, I'll take them to pieces, and shew you a few of their tricks and managements, under the characters of a Procurer, Bawd, and Jilt.

First then for the Procurer. Her chief place of rendezvous is at the play-house, that's the change she never fails to be upon, and indeed is the most proper place for her to put off her damaged commodities. She seldom wants chapmen there, especially for her maiden-heads, which she pretends is the only part of her merchandize.

You will soon discover whereabouts in the pit she keeps her office, by the concourse of whores and gallants that are perpetually crowding about her, either for advice or assistance. If you should be once so happily vicious to make use of her, she will lay so many snares and temptations to entangle and deceive, that 'tis almost impossible to escape her wicked delusions.

Sometimes she will have the delicatest woman in the world, for a gentleman: at other times, a fine young creature about fourteen, a perfect pattern of innocence and virtue, and a pure virgin; besides, she has one that sings like an angel; another that dances to a miracle; a fourth that has an incomparable shape and mien, and a fifth that's an absolute wit, and the most pleasant companion of her sex.

In short, she has them, or at least pretends she has them of all sorts and prices, from a guinea to five, and from five to twenty; but let me tell you, that to deal with her for any of them would be better luck than our neighbours, that venture their flocks upon such brittle ware, if it don't prove a dear bargain at the making up of the account.

D

A race

A race whore, or a pad strumpet, as they order their business, will stand a gentleman in five times as much money in a twelvemonth's keeping, as a race horse and a pad together, nay more than a whole stable of racers, pads and hunters too. They must be kept well cloathed, and finely dress'd, and have good meat in their bellies beside, or else they'll turn jades in a short time.

But perhaps you will like the humour of roving better than keeping of these cattle for riding. Hire a Hackney whore, as Citizens do their horses for a journey, and no more.

But then, unless you can have them at the same price too, eighteen pence a side, if you should have occasion to ride often, and find it a great expence.

Which of these methods is the best I cannot tell, but I must confess, I abominate them both; but there's enough in town that can; 'tis true, the citizens are forced to walk it now, or if they do mount (which is very seldom) 'tis either upon a cast hunter, or some poor pad that has had the farcy or fistula, or some surfeit, or other foul distemper, that has made them fit for the hounds.

However, to acquaint you sufficiently, you will be informed in their looks, their legs will direct that they have rode hard in former times, and will give a sad account, how dangerous such journies are, both in regard to health, wealth, and reputation.

In short, if one of these Bell Dame forceresses should once bewitch you into their net, beside the folsomeness of the vice itself, and the hateful and loathsome qualifications that are incorporated with it, she has so many black arts and infernal stratagems and devices linked together, to keep you fast in their clutches, that 'tis almost impossible for to disengage from her till she has had her ends, and that will terminate in your ruin.

'Tis unaccountable indeed, when they hear of a beautiful woman, (in the first place) what strange contrivances and devices, what projects and designs to ensnare, she will get into her company and corrupt her.

The deluding and ruining both men and women is the whole business of several agents and factors. A sort of  
mer-

mercenary hell-hounds, which they turn out to hunt the town, to catch what game of either sort they can find; and if they chance to make their set upon a country-gentleman, or a stranger, be sure the dog will never forsake the haunt, till his mistress (if he has not been disturbed and drawn at before) finds some means or other to entangle them in her net.

And now for the bawd; she's a sort of viperous creature, that has all the bad properties of the former, with so many additions of her own, that she's a monster, both without parallel and beyond description. She's the very dregs both of a jilt and a procurer; a wretch, that having lost all grace, modesty, or humanity, has sued out her indentures in the Devil's company, and bound herself to deal in other commodities.

These sort of practitioners generally keep a seraglio of their own, with the superscription of Chocolate, Coffee, and Wines over their doors, which are constantly guarded with three or four painted harlots, that are always ready either by surprize or assault, to make you their prisoner.

If they can any ways get you into their case (as they call it) and rather than fail, they will impudently hawl you to; why then in course you must call for your half pint of raspberry, and so one of them begins a beastly health, to let you know what occupation they follow.

Before this is drank; in steps the governess, in a mighty rage, that the gentleman is not shewed into a better room — Come, Sir, says she, and snatches up a candle. So you must either go with her, or stay with those vermin in the dark. Follow me, and I'll light you up myself. When they have got you there, then they conclude you are fixed, and so three or four couple of her choice whores are presently let loose to live at discretion upon us.

If they can by any sort of vicious lewdness entice you into debauchery, the next thing is, which of the ladies you pitch upon, and the terms. Mrs. Frances, she's but just come out of the country, and has not been upon duty these four months, there's but little difference between her and a maidenhead, and she can't be afforded for less than Ten shillings, besides half a crown for her-

self. Mrs. Margaret's a good clean woman, and very modest and innocent, a pretty harmless creature, three half crowns is the price, and she never went under. Mrs. Betty, Mrs. Nancy, and sweet Mrs. Sukey, are all three sound and active, but because trading is dead, and money is scarce, and you look like a civil gentleman, and because I'd encourage you to come again, you shall have one of them for a crown, and that is the lowest: but, for Moll, Kate, Joan, Margery, Abigail, &c. you know the fare I suppose, and though I say it myself, there is never a gentlewoman in the whole town can shew a better warehouse of such sort of goods than I can, nor afford a better pennyworth.

With this kind of prate the old mistress of iniquity entertains her guest, whilst a kennel of hungry brutes are yelping their falsome ribaldry, swearing, cursing, and blaspheming, and ravenously swallowing and devouring every thing they lay their hands upon.

This is rare company, is it not, for a gentleman to run himself into? Nay, besides all these, there is a strong party of rogues and bullies below, if you should not comply with their insolent demands, or scruple to pay their extravagant reckoning, ready upon occasion to hector and insult you, to strip and murder you.

To have done with them, I cannot suspect that you should ever give up so much of your reason, as to hazard yourself into such a labyrinth of mischief as this is. No, no, I am confident you never will. A bawdy house! why it is the very gate of hell, an inlet to disgrace, ruin, and contempt, and more to be avoided by far than a jakes or a pest house, and in all respects as loathsome as the one, and as contagious as the other.

I come in the next place to the jilt, which is a sort of creature a little more private and designing, but in the main, as lewd and dissolute, and more dangerous than either of the former.

These sort too, would be counted virtuous and religious whores; Misses they will own themselves to be, but whore is a term a little too rough to go down with such nice palates, the name of a Miss relishes better with them. Well, let them be Misses then; but for all their Miss ship, I passionately caution you never to come  
near



rear any of them, for if you do, you will find they can ruin you as soon as the best procurer or bawd of them all.

These vermin play at high games, nothing will serve some of them less than a settlement of two or three hundred per annum, a coach, fine lodgings, plate, china, and other things suitable to a whore of rank, and upon these considerations she will be faithful to you, or at least she'll promise to be so; but this is only a promise *de facto* neither so long as your estate lasts, and you can maintain her in her extravagance and grandeur, but when that fails, so does the obligation too, she has the grand political reasons ready as well as the best statesmen of them all, and commonly makes the best use of it.

She can pray, cant, shed a few crocodile's tears, and rather than fail, sham a fit, as a token of the tenderness she has for you; but then your back's no sooner turned, but she tells her station, you are a nasty, sickly, feeble fellow, and as soon as she has persuaded you out of the settlement, and the new furniture, she'll first affront you, and then leave you.

If she finds you are a cully, and will be often imposed upon by her, then she has a thousand little wheedling tricks and artifices to decoy you. Sometimes she's breeding forsooth, and then sure you cannot be so barbarous to your own flesh and blood, but you will take some care of the young one; besides, she wants night gowns, and damask for clouts, and a thousand other necessaries for a lying-in woman.

There is my Lord B——'s, and Sir James A——s, and Colonel E——s Misses lay-in, in as much state the other day, as the best lady in the kingdom. Nay, Mr. G——n, that is but an ordinary Citizen, presented his mistress with a new bed, and the furniture of a room that cost him above a hundred and fifty pound; and what has she, I wonder, done, that she should not deserve as much as the best of them? Why sure, she's as handsome and as young, and is as well descended, and has been as well bred as any of them: and do you think that she'll be put off with your nasty, shabby, forty or fifty guineas? No, truly, she thinks, that as cases stand between you and her, you ought to cut off the entail of your estate,



and sett'e a good part of it upon her for life, and then let the child heir it afterwards; and perhaps all this too may be only whore craft and pretences, and so she must be forced (to bring herself off) to sham a miscarriage; and that your cruelty and hard-heartedness, in not settling your estate upon her, and answering her demands, has been the cause of it, and will at last force her to make herself away. Well, but if you loved her as well as she loves you, you could not be so barbarous to deny her any thing.

Besides, she has been no chargeable mistress to you; she has been your drudge for at least these seven months, and has not cost you fifteen hundred pounds in the whole. If you had lived with some she knows in town, so long, (but she is an easy fool) 'twould not flood you in a penny less than three thousand.

Their tricks and devices are numberless, and not to be paralleled by any thing but their ingratitude and inhumanity; there indeed they exceed themselves; nothing in nature being so perfectly brutish and cruel, as one of these kind of creatures: the very moment you stop your hand, they grow rude and insolent; and when they find they have done your business, and turned you a grazing, who so ready as that very Syren that has spent your estate, to laugh at, revile, and scorn you; and you are not less her buffoon now than you were her property before.

To have done with her—A jilt is a procurer, bawd, and whore compounded together. A vermin so ravenous and malicious, and withal so subtle and designing, not chaste, and hypocritically virtuous, and yet so scandalously wicked and impudently lewd, and above all so insolently ill-natured, that in the title of a jilt are comprehended all the vices, follies, and impertinencies of her whole sex.

At last for their art in Trapping. This is a mystery that they usually manage either by the assistance of a pregnant whore, and by the help of some letters and papers that they find in your pocket, that gives them an inlet into your affairs. The first is carried on by procurers, bawds, and jilts; and the latter by sharpers, setters, and bullies.

If they are once so fortunate as to get a big-bellied whore into their confederacy, then they carry her about in a kind of triumph among all their cullies and novices, every one forsooth under the notion of being the true father, must subscribe an individual maintenance for the strumper and the brat likewise; or else a warrant must be got immediately, or the church-wardens of the parish called in to their assistance to force you to it. 'Tis needless to contest it, for if you do, they'll force the woman to swear it to you, and then your reputation is lost; and withal you have the charges of a whore, and a bastard entail'd upon you *ad infinitum*.

If they get your etters and papers into their clutches, those are their credentials for their sharpeners, setters, and bullies, to commence their villainies: in such cases, they pretend that the harlot who riss'd you was an honest gentlewoman, and the wife of a person of credit and reputation; and you must either make satisfaction, and compound the business, or else they will expose you first, and bring their action afterwards.

And what can a man do, when he has brought himself into such a dilemma of his folly? For my part, the case is so very bad and desperate, I cannot direct you in it. If you compound with them now, and do but lay open to their mercy, and render yourself a bubble, and a property for the future—and to resist them, then your credit is lost—they will be as good as their word in that point however, to misrepresent and abuse you in all companies, and upon all occasions: so that this business of whoring seems to have a malevolent influence upon your reputation and person, and soon terminates in destroying them both.

To conclude this loathsome relation, you will learn from this rough account what kind of creatures Procurers, Bawds, Jilts, and Whores are.

THE  
H U M O U R S

OF

Bullies, Setters, and Hangers-on,  
Are expos'd, together with  
Reflections on GAMING in general.

I Shall now change the sex, and expose to you some of the base practices of the males, as they fall in order, under the distinct characters of Bullies, Setters, and Hangers-on.

And first for the Bully; which (if I take him right) is a kind of lawd, blustering animal, that, having rendered himself unfit (by a complication of vicious and degenerate actions) for the conversation and society of sober and rational creatures, is forced to throw himself into the company of bawds and whores, in order to get subsistence from their contributions.

I shall not enlarge much upon his character, or method of living, they being both so well known in town and country; at best, it would be but impertinence to spend much time about him. As I told you before, his common rendezvous is among the bawds and whores: he eats their bread, and fights their battles, hectors, and insults their cullies, gathers their contributions, and, when necessity requires, pimps, betrays, and sets as well as the best.

You may discern him by his insolent and saucy behaviour, but above all, by his Atheistical language, swearing, cursing, and ribaldry. If ever you should be so unhappy as to fall in with him, he consequently entertains

tains you with the dismal relation of the men he has murdered, and the women he ravished; the famous battle he fought with such a watch, or the bloody rencounter he had with a detachment of balliffs, or some such romantic lies and forgeries, and if he can so far impose upon you, that he perceives you inclined to believe him, it is ten to one but he draws you into a quarrel, or some other inconveniency, and then by a cowardly stratagem, brings himself off, and basely deserts you to shift for yourself.

I need not tell you that a bully is a coward, the appellations are too synonymous to need an explication. The whole stress of his valour and prowess depends solely upon his ignorance and oaths; but ruffle him once thoroughly, that he may perceive you know both his trade and temper, he will fawn upon you for ever afterwards like a spaniel. Kick, cuff, pinch, or use him how you will. He has had the misfortune to kill a man lately, he will tell you, and is under an obligation at present not to fight but when his time is expired, woe be to you.

I hope, Sir, you won't think this a conversable creature—for, notwithstanding all his cowardice and ignorance, and for all he is an animal so perfectly below the character of a man, he can betray you in gaming, quarrels, a bawdy-house, and into the company of rogues, thieves, jilts, and whores, as well as the wittiest sharper, or stoutest spark of the town.

The next gentleman that falls in order is the Setter,—His way of recommending himself is quite contrary, by sly insinuations and flatteries, hypocritical cringes and fawnings, smooth and knavish pretences, and formal dissimulations. But notwithstanding his outside looks so fair and plausible, take heed, there's a legion within him.

All the cheats and villainies in nature are concentrated in his breast; his very soul is as black as jet, and holds itself in readiness for the earliest opportunity to execute the next advantageous offer.

His ordinary occupation is to attend the motion of young heirs; to draw and trepan them into unequal matches, and so impose upon them jilts and whores, under the character of heiresses and virtuous girls; and this he does with so much dexterity, so many subtle arts and crafty stratagems, that it is almost impossible, should you be

be once so unfortunate as to fall into his hands, to escape out of them again, without being undone for the remainder of your life.

Here, in course, the entail of your estate must be cut off to make room for a settlement on the harlot; and she must have a handsome present made her too, of four or five hundred pounds value. If you have no money, they will procure it from your own bond in judgment, and a friend or two withal, that shall stand bound with you for the payment, till you receive your lady's fortune; but then you must do them the same favour. Only enter into a bond in judgment with one of them, just for a thousand or so, but for one month, and that is a return of civility which you cannot possibly deny.

In such instance the whole business of your life is finished in the course of a week; you are married to a whore; your estate is disjointed and torn in pieces, and perhaps seized upon by a combination of villains: and, what is as great an aggravation as any, you are become the bye-word and laughing stock of your friends and acquaintance. And all this is kindly done for you by your new associate, under the smooth pretence and hypocritical coverture of singular honesty and sincerity.

If this business of a wife does not pass upon you, he will try in the second place, if he can draw you into sham projects and chimeras.

He and his friends have a new-invented engine upon the stocks, by the help of which you may walk with as much freedom and ease at the bottom of the sea, as in your garden; and withal, that they have intelligence, upon oath, of a wreck where there is several millions, and it will be all their own in four or five months at most. If you don't like this, they have a water-engine, that will discharge a thousand tons an hour, out of the deepest mine; or they have a mine where there is a rib of ore, of a prodigious bigness; and for a sum of money, to carry on their work, you may be admitted into their society, and become an equal sharer in the whole, whereby you cannot fail of getting a considerable fortune in a few years.

Here

Here you are entangled again if you embark with them; and not only lose all the present money you part with, but are in danger of being drawn into future bonds and obligations, so consequently ruined at last.

I should only intrude too much on your time, Sir, were I to enumerate the respective rogueries and tricks of a setter, and therefore intend to leave him with the following short character.

His whole life is a compendious history of deep and deliberate villainy. His only business, nay, even his diversion, consists solely in betraying and trepanning: his food and substance depends entirely upon lying, falshood, and perjury. In a word, he has the devil's motto stamped upon him in large characters, and is perpetually ranging to seek whom he may devour.

I now come, in the last place, to the Hanger on, or Spunger; and this is commonly a sort of sottish lazy creature, though naturally not so dangerous and mischievous as the former, yet equally troublesome and impertinent; and, indeed a far greater clog to any man of sense than either of them.

He has little to recommend him, unless it be a few drunken jests, or scraps of poetry; or, perhaps, some broken characters of men and things, with a little of the news and humours of the town: and by virtue of these mighty qualifications, he thinks himself a fit companion for the best gentleman in the kingdom; and will be sure, upon the most trivial invitation, to crowd himself upon him whenever the smallest encouragement offers, and it is ten to one but by degrees he grows familiar, after that impudent, and at last intolerable.

In one point, indeed, he is a perfect philosopher, for he carries all he has along with him, and that, indeed, is but trifling. His furniture in general is so wretched and scandalous, that you may as soon read a spunger by his garb, &c. as a bully by his cursing, swearing, and ribaldry, or a setter by his deceitful fawning and dissimulation. A bawdy song or two, a few drunken healths, and about half a dozen dull puns set him up; and with these he will be perpetually grating and dunning your ears, till he has worn them as thread-bare as his coat; and after

all,



all, must be forced to be laughed at, or kicked out of them before he will quit them.

As for money he never has any, nor ever pretends to have any, unless it be now and then the fragments of a reckoning which he pinches from the drawer, to recruit his tobacco-box, or heel-piece his shoes.

In short, these hangers-on are drones in the strictest sense and definition; and if you once suffer them to creep into your hive (to keep up to the nature of the infection) they will be sure to besmear and disturb your cell, devour your honey, and in all respects be as burthenome and pernicious to the persons they can fasten upon, as drones and wasps are to bees, &c.

London so swarms with this sort of insect, that a country gentleman can scarcely set his foot into it, but there are several incessantly humming and buzzing about him. I have already given you my opinion of idleness; and I tell you again, in the words of a great man, that it is so scandalous and reproachful, that neither Heaven, Earth, nor Hell itself will patronize it.

## PARTICULAR

## OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

## UPON

Several distinct Occurrences of the  
Town.

**F**IRST, as to their garb. You will find some of our city gentry so ridiculously bawdy and extravagant in their dress, that, comparatively speaking, a ship may be rigged for the Indies as cheap and easy. Most of the  
trades



trades in the commonwealth are some way or other concerned in their equipage—such a strange multiplying faculty has this sort of vanity, that it has improved nature's simple necessity of covering, the first fig leaves, (so termed by that excellent author of the gentleman's calling) to such a luxuriant growth, that those hercynian oaks, which Mela tells such wonders of, are but a sort of pigmy plants in comparison of them.

But these are only a kind of butterfly sparks; a few insignificant insects that flutter about town for a year or two, and are afterwards obliged to creep into holes and corners in a dress, perhaps, no less contemptible, wretched, and loathsome, than the former was gay, fulsome, and pedantic.

This is a folly I cannot suspect a gentleman of your sense would be guilty of; and yet, vain and foolish as it is, I could quote you a considerable number that have been undone by it; who have laid out their estate in a few gaudy trappings, that they may make a figure, (as they call it) have carried it on to such a length, that at last they have figured themselves into rags, or a prison, and thereby rendered the contempt and laughing-flock of the whole town.

Next to these we have another rank of unthinking creatures, a sort of nice palated sparks, that nothing will go down with but dainties and curiosities. Tell them of good beef, mutton, veal, or any of our own productions, which we ought to prefer beyond any other, they will swear they are nothing but porters fare; and that, unless they are adulterated with some studied mixtures, and forced from their native property by some new and costly sauces, they are far too mean and common for their tables.

These, in the strictest sense, may be said to incur the vulture's fate, i. e. to eat up themselves; and truly so, that it frequently falls out. I have known, within the compass of my own experience, a great number of these luxurious prodigals, that have so long tantalized themselves with delicious morsels, that in time they have wanted food to support nature.

E

Others

Others we have, that affect the reputation of making costly treats and entertainments. An hundred pounds is but a mean sum to spend upon an evening's collation for a mistress or two, which, pe haps, after all, does him the favour to laugh at his prodigality.

I heard a fool (who is now shirking about town, and glad that any body will give him a pint of beer, or a roll and cheese) bragging, not many months before—— That an entertainment he made for three or four ladies cost him one hundred and twenty pounds.

Such wretches are below all kind of pity. I could almost grudge them even the husks their extravagance confines them to, and heartily wish them some fate more scandalous and durable, that might not only nauseate but deter the rest of the world from the like extravagance.

As there are several things beside, that might be mentioned, not less dangerous than ridiculous, I must beg you'd be guarded against such follies——But pray do not mistake me: notwithstanding I detest all extravagance and singularity, yet must admit of a decent garb and genteel, friendly entertainment occasionally, whilst kept within the bounds of moderation, as equally necessary and commendable in a gentleman.

Besides all the dangers and inconveniences I have already related, there are still two others, which you are to guard yourself against: the first is, against innovations and unsettled in your religion; and the second against embarking in cabals and confederacies, in matters belonging to the state and government.

We have temptations and tempters, of all sorts at London, great numbers of persons that make it their business to snap up strangers, and watch all occasions if they can to impose their rubbish upon them.

Caballing and embarking with sects and factions has a dangerous tendency; for numbers of gentlemen of strict honour and religious principles have been ruined by it; therefore, I earnestly entreat those gentlemen who have had the said experience, to advise others from becoming the victim of such folly.

THE  
H U M O U R S   A N D   T R I C K S  
O F   T H E

TENNIS COURT are exposed.

**T**ENNIS is one of the most manly and active diversions we have in England; and heretofore was seldom used but by the young nobility and gentlemen of the first rank. King Charles the second was a great master and judge of it; and would very often divert himself with a set or two in the Royal Court at the Cock-pit, with a great deal of satisfaction.

This is a game that depends much upon skill and activity, and not to be acquired without considerable expence and practice, upon which account it has had the advantage of most others; and a number of sharpers and cheats have been kept out of it, for want of cash to support the charge of the court, and other expences that are attending it. But this, however harmless and inoffensive in its original design, has, of late, incurred the same fate with most of the diversions of that nature, and is strangely degenerated from a noble and genteel exercise, into a perfect trade for Rookers and Sharpers, who, perceiving it would be a good foundation for them to get a base living, have artfully twisted themselves into the knowledge of it.

A person that has seen this game but once, can make but little on it, except it be diversion to him to see three or four persons furiously running after a few little balls, and bandying and tollings them about from one to another; if this be all, 'twere well enough, but when he hears the marker calling Forty, love, and a Chace, and sees them changing their sides, and hears the players

wrangling and swearing about the taking of Bisks and Faults, and talking of Cuts, Twits, and Forces, &c. he presently concludes there must be some wonderful secret in all this, and therefore is determined to satisfy himself a little farther.

Among those gentry that come here to bet, if a stranger gets into the den, and has the misfortune to declare his ignorance, which is done by asking questions, the item is immediately given.—Here's a Squire come; and then two or three of the sharpest of the gang comes up to him, in order to give him some little insight into, and directions of the game, that thereby an opportunity should be sooner ascertained for taking him in after such preparation. Here, he's told, it is all even, a perfect lottery, and that 'tis no odds which side he ventures his cash, for 'tis all equal; and so, indeed, in some sets it is, for such noblemen and gentlemen who are acquainted with the game, and play it upon the square, more for the reputation of good gamesters than for interest, make their matches so equal, that the greatest sharper or judge among them (before the set's begun) can but guess how to bet. Perhaps he now wins half a piece, or a guinea, which induces him to think this must be a fair game; that a stranger has as great chance to win as a gamester; and, indeed, as long as this match lasts, he is in no great danger.

This game is no sooner ended, than another set is made to step into court, that will be certain to do the business.

The managers tell him, 'tis all equal now, too—that Squire A—— is a good Striker-out, but Squire B—— is a better Back hand; that Mr. C—— judges a ball finely, but Mr. D—— gives a chace much better than he; so that, upon the whole, it may be concluded a good and equal match, and that he'll see these gentlemen will make better sport than the former.

In this he is offered his choice, or to throw cross and pile which side he will take: if he complies, and they have taken him in, as far as it will admit of at once, then the signal is given to the players, how to manage their parts.

When

When this set is over, which, according to all appearance, plays with as much seeming eagerness, and as equal as can be, why then, with some little sham quarrels and wranglings, about adjusting the odds, &c. agree upon another.

Here the stranger is attacked again—Come, Sir, you had the misfortune to be on the wrong side last time, though it was a hard match; for 'twas impossible to determine who had the best of it, till the advantage game; and therefore take your choice—we do not mean to take off your cash.

From one set to another, this is their method to take in stranger; and so, from little bets to great ones, till he is stuck, (as they term it) and then, to keep up their own language, till they have sent him away sweet and clean.

I was once a tolerable master of this game, I studied it at Oxford, together with my logick and ethicks, and at last was arrived to such perfection, that but few scholars in the town durst encounter with me upon equal terms, (I wish I could have said the same with respect to the other) but for all these mighty parts of mine in the University, when I came to London, I soon found my insufficiency; and that I must be new documentized before I could pretend to set up for myself.

They would now and then take me in with them, to keep a back-hand, which was indeed my master-piece; but of my back hand business I was soon surfeited.

In short, I perceiv'd their aim was to make a property of me as well as of all other strangers, and therefore resolv'd to knock off in time, as I soon became acquainted with their humours and tricks, and saw that there were but few matches made, in which some bribed marker was not concerned; or some gentleman that had first lost his estate, and then his honour; so forced to agree with the sharpening and tricks of the town to get his bread; or some scoundrel that never had an estate or honour either, but had acquired the game by a diligent attendance upon the courts, crowded in among them; and there was scarcely a set played but there was some kind of deceit practis'd, which made me wisely dispose of my rackets

and inclination together, and leave them to manage all such matters in future.

But, supposing the game, as they would fain have the world believe, to be equal and upon the square, yet one of these sparks, who make it their business to hunt about from court to court, have such a great advantage over a stranger who knows little of the game, that it is morally impossible but he must be taken in.

There are several in town that have no other means of living but upon the Tennis Court, (and live well too) if such means may be so termed; but then they have such a perfect idea of a set, and such various methods to turn and wind their bats, so as to bring themselves off when they have the worst, that a person must have a natural sharpness of genius, backed with a long practice and experience, before he can be a tolerable master of the faculty.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough on this head to deter you from entering into such kind of company, as they, like sharpers of the different orders before mentioned, have all their various intrigues and devices to trepan and ensnare you into debaucheries and gaming.

## T H E

## Humours of the GROOM PORTERS,

## AND THE

Tricks and Cheats of Ordinaries and other Gaming Houses are briefly exposed.

**T**HE Groom Porter's has been always looked upon as the most reputable and convenient place in town for



for a gentleman to venture into, -that has a mind to know whether his good fortune will suffer him to keep his estate himself, or force him to commit it into the hands of somebody else to do it for him. There is a whole sale business, I can assure you, several thousand pounds bartered for most nights, so that if Fortune should play the jilt, (as she often does in such cases) you will soon be un-squired in two or three hours; nay, if you will, in two or three hands.

The ordinary game they play at there is hazard, and hazard indeed it is, and a great one too, if you go in among them with two or three hundred guineas in your pocket, whether you bring ever a one out with you again.

I have known an honest gentleman come thither in a new coach, with a pair of fine horses, and hath found it so hazardous, that in a night or two afterwards he has been forced to hazard it home in a hackney coach. But they say, all things there are quite square and honest, good wine, good attendance, good company, and all other suitable conveniences to accommodate a gentleman, whilst he is comfortably gaming away his estate. All this may be, it is true; and it may not be too, for I have seen a spark, by the help of good fingers, and a slight of hand, manage their mathematicks something queerly upon occasion.

Well, but we must not dive too far into their secrets neither, they would grow angry perhaps, if we should, and I would not incur their displeasure upon any account. And yet I hope I may give you a little advice as a friend, without being offensive to any of them; it is, that you never come within their reach upon any account, or pretence whatever; it is a dangerous infectious place for a gentleman but to put his head into; and many one, by venturing too far, has caught such a contagion at once, that has made him droop a great while, and at last carried him clear off.

The old proverb says—Fore warned fore armed; and truly it is as good as any in the whole catalogue. If a man will plunge himself into ruin, and squander away his estate, and reduce himself to the wretched condition to be forced to sneak after every little coxcomb for a supper,



per, or for a crown to buy him a pair of shoes, as I know several gentlemen of good families, and have had good estates too, till they wisely consumed them in the study of these sorts of mathematicks, at this time are; let him even take it for his pains. But the circumstances in their own nature, are beyond aggravation, and so I will leave them, and go and see what is doing at the Ordinaries.

The ordinaries are a kind of gaming houses, inferior and subservient to the Groom Porter's, and are either managed by one of his domesticks, or else tolerated and allowed by his particular licence and deputations, as most of the other games are.

These ordinaries are a receptacle for all sorts of gamers, and are indeed very convenient nurseries to draw up youngsters, and to qualify them against their estates come into their hands, to play them decently away at the Groom Porter's. How such kind of seminaries as these come to be suffered, I know not; but this I know, it is a shame and disgrace to the kingdom, that there is not some regulation or stop put to them.

These gentlemen pretend to be much upon the Mathematicks too; and that all things are carried extraordinary and well among them, as well as at the Groom Porter's; but, by their leave, I have seen their mathematical flats, and bars, nay, (for a need) mathematical fullams too; and abundance that will run mathematically high or low: these are a sort of false dice, that are cut and flaired so exactly like the true, and withal marked with the same mark, that it is impossible for a stranger that does not suspect the cheat, to discover it; and these the box-keeper has in readiness, when he has the sign given him to put in: or if he has them not of his own, there's those about him that never go without them.

When they have got a gentleman who they design to rook in among them, whilst some are sharpening him out of his money within, others are tampering with his servants without, to find out the strength and manner of his estate and circumstances, and where he lodges, and friends and acquaintance, he has in town: and if they find that his effects will answer, he is a person that may be ventured upon.

As

As soon as they perceive he has lost all his stock, then one of the gang that's constantly watching there for such opportunities, takes him aside—sir, says he, I believe you are an honest gentleman; I am sorry to see you have lost your cash, and would not have a civil man exposed, and therefore, if you please, I have five or ten pounds at your service. If he accepts of the favour, then he tells him the custom in such cases, as well here as at the Groom Porter's, is to take nine for ten, and to allow him a call upon a good hand.

When this is lost too, (as it always is in a little time) then they conclude he's fixed; and so the gentleman that has done him the favour to cheat him of his cash, will needs (under pretence of a great deal of formal civility) invite him to the tavern to take a glass, and eat the wing of a fowl with him.

When they have got him thither, the person that did him the great friendship to lend him the ten guineas, must be instantly sent for too, who in the interim has made up a new purse, and is very ready to lend him the other ten, till to-morrow morning, if he has a mind to try his luck; but he will not advise him.

Here the box and dice must be called for, and the honest drawer, that knows his duty in such cases, brings in the box with a pair of their own dice, which they have conveyed into his hand in the interim, &c.

And now there's no room for suspicion, but every thing is carried with the greatest frankness and indifference; and so at it they go, till the other ten pounds is gone after the rest, and what must be done then? This worthy friend has no more money about him; if he had, he might command it. And therefore thinks, since they have won the gentleman's cash, they can do no less than give him a cast or two upon honour; with a great deal of seeming uneasiness, and a thousand perfidious oaths and execrations, that they never did the like before, and upon condition, too, that the gentleman will give his note to pay it to-morrow morning, if he should happen to lose any thing, this is complied with.

And here begins the fatal catastrophe: if they think that he has too much regard for his reputation, or too  
much

much modesty to make use of the statute for his defence, or perhaps, (what's more prevalent with him than either) will be unwilling that the town should know he has been a bubble, they then stick him in earnest so deep, it may be, that he must be forced to cut off a limb of his estate to get out of their clutches, and not to be seen with them again.

We have too many sad instances every day in view, to convince you of the truth of it, without enlarging upon it; so that I hope from this caution I have given, you'll have enough of these kind of ordinaries; however, for your better satisfaction, we'll see what the rest of them are doing in the other part of the house.

Why there is some playing at back gammon, some at trick track, some at picket, some at cribbage, and perhaps at a bye-table in a corner, four or five harmless fellows at put and a il-fours. Here's no respect of persons; here comes apprentices, journeymen, footmen, cobblers, or any body, provided they bring money in their pockets and come either to cheat or to be cheated. Pro hac vice, they have as extensive a qualification to swear, blaspheme, and hector, as the most renowned sharper in the whole gang.

That each of these in his respective station is a cheat I suppose you'll take for granted; you may as well be cheated at cards as at dice, and at back gammon and trick track, as at hazard: the false dice and flights of hand will serve for one, as well as the other, there's no difference as I know of, but only the former is a little longer about the business.

But besides all this, if a man could be secured to guard himself against these false dice and flights of hand, and was equal with them too in point of judgment and experience, what business has a country gentleman, or indeed any body else, to venture himself among such a rude herd of wild unthinking creatures?

I'm sorry to say it is shameful that gentlemen should so much debase themselves in such an unaccountable manner—When I see one of these wretches flurking about town in rags, as there are numbers living monuments of their own vicious indiscretion, it does not excite in me the least

least pity, as I'm in hopes it will deter all others from violently plunging himself into the like misfortune.

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THE  
H U M O U R S,  
T R I C K S A N D C H E A T S  
O F

The BOWLING GREEN expos'd.

**B**OWLING is a game for diversion, recreation, and exercise, as well as Tennis, and was formerly, like that, for few else but gentlemen; but as men and things are in general grown worse and worse, so is this likewise, and most strangely degenerated from an innocent, inoffensive diversion, to be a perfect trade—a kind of set calling and occupation for cheats and sharpers.

The number of bowling greens that we have in and near this town are unaccountable; and the number of bowlers, betters, and rooks that depend upon them, and live by them, it is almost miraculous. How such an amazing number as do live by this, and in such high and extravagant a manner is to me unknown, but that they do live is most undoubted. However, I shall set forth some part of their art, and leave the rest to your own judgement.

With your leave, therefore, we will just take a short trip to Marylebone, (for that is the chief place of rendezvous) the bowling greens there having, in these latter years, gained a vast pre-eminence and reputation above the rest. Thither most of the noblemen and gentlemen  
of

of the town, that affect that kind of recreation, generally resort. I have seen at least an hundred at a time following one block, and the greatest part of them, five to one I am confident, were rooks and sharpers.

When a match is made, which they are commonly excessive nice in, (but not so nice neither, but a subtle old one better knows presently where the odds lie) then you'll find the sport begins.

Here you'll hear five, ten, twenty pieces offered, the Leader against the Follower, or the Follower against the Leader, sometimes upon the Main End. Oftentimes you will see five or ten pounds betted upon a single bowl; and as nothing but gold is ever betted here, a man ought to have a good stock that pretends entering into an engagement with them.

The chief secret and mystery of all is, how one of these professed betters manage their point; for, let the game go for or against them, it is great odds but they turn a penny to their own advantage, or, at least, save themselves at the winding-up.

So strange as this may appear to an unguarded gentleman, it is certainly true; for I have heard one of these sharpening geniusses declare, that notwithstanding he had lost five pieces by the bargain, yet he should be a clear gainer of three guineas in the main, which could be done by no other means than his cunning and artful contrivances in hedging, and his taking and laying the odds, which is most certain the chiefest part in betting.

This, Sir, is an art that is not to be learned on a sudden; and, indeed, it is much beneath a gentleman's notice, unless he has some inclination to lose his estate first, and, being reduced afterwards to the necessity of turning rook for a livelihood.

Marylebone, as I told you, is the chief place about town; but, for all its greatness and pre-eminence, it lies under shrewd suspicions of being guilty of sharpening and crimping as well as the rest.

The noblemen and gentlemen, indeed, I firmly believe, are far above any thing so excessive base and forbid; but there is great cause for jealousy on the part of these sharpening interlopers before-mentioned; for, when-

ever

ever they find a convenient Green, with a number of citizens, monied fools, and strangers, they are always sure to have a match prepared for the diversion of such adventurers.

Oftentimes have I observed, with much pain and anxiety of heart, the scandalous, unequal, and unfair dealings, so frequently practised among those kind of sharping gentry; and what has still greatly heightened my admiration, and given me inexpressible dissatisfaction, was to see a number of gentlemen, not interested the least in their tricks, winking and conniving at them.

In short, Sir, I'm convinced it will be your best way never to come there at all, and then you will be both out of danger and the temptation too; for unless you are so much the master of yourself, as I know some that are, only to divert yourself with walking about, and making observations on the tricks and humours of the company, you will most certainly be in excessive great danger of being seduced or ensnared into some sort of gaming, which you may perhaps have occasion to repent for ever after.

Here you may be equipped with each kind of game. If you are for the famous one of two dice, well known and properly distinguished by the memorable title of Hazard, there the Groom Porter has a gentleman in ordinary continually in waiting to catch at whatever of this kind may offer. If you are for Back-gammon, Trick-track, Piquet, Cribbage, or for an honest upright game at Whist, there are chapmen enough willing to accompany you at either.

But, by the way, Sir, give me leave to offer this small portion of friendly advice, which I doubt not will have the desired effect on your good understanding.—Beware of their artful insinuations to betray you into their artful snare; for it is ten to one, if they once bring you down, (as they term it) if ever they suffer you to rise again, without being stripped of every shilling.

However, Sir, I would not wish to be too troublesome or tedious upon this head, as it would be taking up too much of your time, if you will be so condescending as to do me the honour of taking a walk on the other side of the water, there you will meet with bowling greens, and

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perhaps



perhaps bowlers and betters too of a different stamp, and well worth observation.

A gang of such unaccountable creatures there are mixed and jumbled together, and such a strange and horrid din of blasphemy and swearing, (too common indeed in most of these scandalous kind of assemblies) that I know not where to begin, or when to end my sad, shocking, and dismal account of them.

Well, Sir, to have done with them as fast as possible, their common way of proceeding is this—There are generally five or six that play at one of these Greens, who are looked upon to be the Cocks or chief Bowlers, and these always keep together, unless they can draw in a younker to make a property of.

Their method of making their matches is, as at most other Greens, by drawing the dice, which, where the gamesters are equal, is well enough; but then, on the other hand, it serves only for a bind, in order to impose upon those gentlemen who are strangers, and quite unacquainted with their cheating designs; for, let the dice fall which way they will, their friends and allies, the Betters, give the sign which side must win; and each of these has always his familiar or two near him to direct him, whether he shall bowl on or off, either of which they will do for the interest of sixpence advantage.

When they are in want of a fourth person, which sometimes happens to be the case, they are under the necessity of taking in a stranger to make up the set, and then matters cannot be quite so well managed in their favour.—However, to make the best of it, they all three bowl against him; and none more earnestly than his own partner.—He, of course, must lead; and then, if he puts in a good cast, and leaves him best at the block, if the game be in any danger, he will be sure to be two or three turns over; and either wrest him off, or strike up the adversary; and, to blind the stranger, will impudently pretend to justify the thing, notwithstanding the miscarriage, to be the judgment of the game; and if he could have struck the other out, which he never intended, they had been up.

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In short, they manage the matter so, that unless the stranger be able to beat them all three, he must necessarily lose his money; and yet they carry on the game so equally, and with so much seeming fairness and policy, that it is almost an impossibility to find them out.

If they get a stranger to engage them hand to hand, let him be ever so exact and judicious a bowler, they will find out some means to cheat him of his game.

The following are some of the methods frequently used for that purpose; some will be crossing the ground, others bawling and confounding him with impertinent advice, just on the delivery of his bowl, to make him forget his lengths; or, perhaps, one of the gang will pretend to have betted on his side, and so endeavour to persuade him to take false ground.

When such like mean artifice fails, they have yet another expedient. Just as he is become acquainted with the running and biases of the bowls, they pretend a gentleman is come who owns them, and must have them. Here is another pair of the same size and weight, and equally as good; only it is the gentleman's humour to bowl with none other. And these, perhaps, are back biased, pegged, loaded, or played some other tricks with; so that it is impossible to come near the mark with them.

I could enumerate a number more of their artful tricks but they are neither worth your time to read, nor mine to write; for, besides these cheats and tricks, after the diversion is over, you must accompany them to drink a bottle at some friend's; so, as they, like all other gamblers, have their whores, setters, and pick-pockets, false dice, and cards, and every other dangerous engine on all occasions, I hope my caution, as well in every other as in this particular, will have the desired effect, and prevent you country gentlemen from entering into such destructive delusions, which too frequently end in utter ruin.

Having therefore said as much of each of the diversions and games in and about London, which are in themselves simply innocent and healthful, and serve for recreation both to body and mind, as may guard the unwary from falling a prey to such dangerous sets of human monsters, I hope every gentleman will have it in his power to discern the difference between such deceitful wretch-

es and real gentlemen, who, having a few leisure hours upon their hands, do frequently exercise and amuse themselves with such sorts of diversion, but always with a cautious eye upon strangers, lest by engaging too far in their company, as well knowing their cunning devices, they sooner or later become, like too many others, the fatal victims of the tricks of the town.



THE

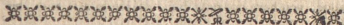
C H A R A C T E R

O F

HIGHWAYMEN, OR SCAMPS.

**T**HESSE are generally persons that have been accustomed to extravagant living and lewd women, and thus exhausted their substance. If successful in business, they appear as gentlemen, and get acquainted with the ostlers on the road, and some landlords to obtain intelligence. Gentlemen travellers frequently call for the landlord to take a glass with them; and in the course of conversation discover what cash or notes they have, and where they lie, the road they are going, and the inn they use. When Mr. Scamp comes, he calls for a bottle or bowl, and asks, What news? when, perhaps, the landlord, undesignedly, informs him that such or such company are in the house, who have given intelligence concerning various particulars, which he repeats, if time permits. For these reasons many gentlemen are pursued on the road, though more are met by chance. Highwaymen generally cross you before they salute; but I advise all gentlemen travellers not to divulge what substance they have with them to any landlord or ostler, especially within forty miles

miles of London; as they generally discover all the information they can get, either through ignorance or design.



T H E  
T R I C K S A N D C H E A T S  
O F  
S H A R P E R S .

**T**H E S E are the more delusive, as most of them are men of reputable extraction, tolerable education, and decent appearance; but through vicious pursuits have squandered their fortunes, and lost their reputation. They range the town in the garb, and under the character of gentlemen of independent fortunes; and make it their business to find out young heirs of much wealth, and less prudence, who having left their rural abodes, and being captivated with the novelty of a town life, often affect the company of those who, according to the common phrase, are said to know life. They commonly resort to the billiard table, the cock-pit, the race course, the tennis court, and bowling green; in the respective games belonging to which they are generally well versed by a long and once costly experience.

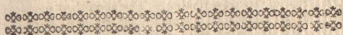
Having been as they call it taken in themselves, they falsely infer their right to take in others; and accordingly turn their whole minds to that base purpose. Constant practice teaches them almost at a glance to discern the gamester from the cake, as they term it; and such a one is no sooner entered their place of resort, but they devise means to draw him in for the plate; and generally strip

his pockets before he departs. So fallacious are they, that they will, even under the mask of friendship, draw an unguarded generous man into the most destructive measures, and share with their base confederates the product of their treachery. If you hazard your money in bets with a sharper, as cheating is his inseparable qualification, you have not only blind chance to deal with, but such a combination of deceit, and such a train of tricks and flights linked together, that even good fortune itself is not sufficient to guard and secure you against them. Nay, if you could arise to a degree of eminence in any particular game, he would even then devise means, either by working up your passion, or eluding your inspection, to frustrate your point and carry his own.

He will inveigle you, from time to time, into one sport or another, amongst others of his clan, who are adepts in dissimulation, till they have genteely fleeced you of perhaps your all, and treat you afterwards with as much indifference as he at first affected respect. When you can no longer administer to his iniquitous purposes, he will not only desert you, but make a scoff of your inexperience and credulity. To sum up the character of a sharper, he is one who supplies his exigencies by studying and practising every means that may deceive the credulous, allure the inexperienced, trapan the ignorant, and mislead the well disposed. His conscience is seared, as it were, with a hot iron, he is regardless of the laws of God and man, as far as is consistent with his security, and is so absorbed in vice, that he is insusceptible of every humane or honourable sentiment. To avoid the fatal effects of connexion with these snakes in the grass, if you have no acquaintance in town, be very cautious of keeping company. If any one behaves with extraordinary civility towards you, or affects to desire your friendship, beware of him, listen not to his enticements, for as you are a stranger to him, his desire of cultivating an acquaintance with you must arise from base or selfish views. If you are accosted in the street, Park, or any place of public resort, in the ordinary way of converse, concerning the topic of the time, or any incidental subject, affect either not to hear, or turn aside. This is a very common method of proceeding with those gentlemen.

In

In short, take nothing on trust, nor make any acquaintance, till assured of their way of life and moral character.



THE  
T R I C K S  
O F  
K I D N A P P E R S.

**T**HESE are lazy vagrants of ruined characters, who are employed to trap ignorant unsuspecting men to enter into the service of the Merchants, or in time of war into the army or navy. They haunt night houses, petty ale houses, and the streets of the town. Their usual method is to accost a countryman in the common manner of salutation, and if possible inveigle him into a house to drink. If poor John catches at the bait, they then put the liquor about briskly, and if they find it begins to operate, they question him concerning the time of his being in town, the profession he follows, or intends to follow, &c. If he has been bred to any trade, they intimate to him the superiority of a gentleman soldier's life, who is in the road both to fortune and preferment; if of no trade, and in quest of a place of service, they assure him they will provide him with every requisite for a gentleman, without the drudgery of menial life. It is very common at their places of rendezvous, to have two or three fellows attired in serjeants regimentals, who are ready to assure them of their speedy preferment, and that they need not doubt of the same. When he becomes intoxicated, they frequently slip money into his pocket,  
and

and in an hour or two afterwards, salute him as a brother foldier; if the poor countryman discovers any surprize at this salutation, they then apply to their perjured comrades, who are ready to attest his acceptation of bounty money in consideration of enlisting: and to prove it, he is referred to his own feeling. The astonished innocent then puts his hand into his pocket, if capable, finds the money, and is struck with amazement. If the liquor operates according to the base desire of those who administer it, they save themselves further trouble after they have palmed the money on the unsuspecting man, by conveying him to bed, locking the door of the room, and leaving him to his morning reflections.

The reader may readily conceive the astonishment of the honest countryman, when he awakes in a strange place, finds a cockade in his hat, or the money in his pocket. In vain he expostulates with the merciless myrmidon, who is ready to swear it was an act of his free will, and if he desires to be exempted from the obligation, he must come down something handsome. Thus the poor harmless, honest man, is trapp'd either into a state of slavery, (for in many cases it is no better) or obliged to purchase his deliverance at an extortionate rate.

This is the common method in which these enslavers of the unwary commonly proceed: and such the two general consequence of their vile crafts, and the credulity of inexperienced youth.

To caution you against these seducers of the unthinking, observe that many of them, dress in the garb of officers, and stand often at the door of an alehouse, in order to accost passers by. Some of them appear in other garbs and their business is to allure you to the house where the principal villain is ready to receive you. The first you may know by his dress; the latter you may suspect from his impertinent address: you have therefore only to remember these descriptions, and avoid whatever tallies in the least with them.



T H E  
C H A R A C T E R

O F

P I C K P O C K E T S .

**T**H E S E rabble of cheats are such as from their youth have been trained to the base art, which consists of a kind of flight in picking your property from you imperceptibly. Their chief resort is Black Boy Alley, the ruinous buildings about Chick Lane, and such like places. They attend on public occasions; such as public days, processions, extraordinary fights, &c. They generally go in clans of a man, a woman, and children, each of whom have their respective departments. In crowds they affect a great desire of passing, and the usual method is for the man to jostle the person pointed out as the mark, while a boy or girl does the business, and conveys the plunder to a woman, and then makes off frequently under a coach or two, if there are any at hand. They also frequent places of public worship, that are generally crowded through fashion or the popularity of a preacher, from which they frequently carry off a good booty; and indeed embrace every opportunity, when there is likely to be a concourse of people. These are the most difficult of all cheats to guard against in London, because they are more in number, and often in pursuit of prey. The most effectual method I can prescribe is, to avoid all crowds, which are frequently raised by these means, and if you go to places of public resort, leave every thing valuable behind you, and always be upon your guard. Ladies in particular should be careful of their watches and tweezers, as these are easily cut from their sides.

T H E



THE  
C H A R A C T E R

O F A

Q U A C K D O C T O R.

**T**HESSE are arrogant miscreants, that rob thousands, not only of their money but their health. They pretend to a knowledge in physick and surgery, on the mere foundation, perhaps, of having done the menial offices of gentlemen of the faculties; or perhaps a few receipts from some of their own vile fraternity. They have nothing to recommend them but a consummate effrontery, and no other means of palming their pestiferous compounds upon the unwary, than puff, groundless assurances, and insolent detraction. They have also a convenient back door, and private room, a regular surgeon and physician to attend, and a thousand such like allurements, to entice you to the ruin of your constitution.

Country people are more especially liable to be caught in their snares, from want of acquaintance in town, and if their case is venereal, through shame of divulging it to those with whom they reside. To caution you against these murderers of the constitution, I shall lay before you their general method of treating the unhappy patient in venereal cases particularly.

When the infected person applies, they judge of his circumstances generally by his appearance, and take care to make him come down before they proceed to business. After examination, if they find him a novice, they endeavour to intimidate him, by representing the state of his case to be much worse than it really is; but yet, to extort money, promise, notwithstanding the malignant nature of it, a speedy and effectual cure. Having given him

him some of their compounds, with directions concerning the application of them, they appoint an interview at a certain time and dismiss him. He then must produce another present, and is dismissed as before: Their common method is to dally with you as long as possible, and then either deceive you with a patched up cure, or more dreadful symptoms than appeared on your first application, but the former is the most common case, of which there are daily instances in this town. To avoid all connection with these worst of deceivers, apply, on all occasions, to persons of established repute from a regular education and fair character.

T H E  
T R I C K S  
O F  
K I D L A Y E R S.

**I**N this cheat there are always two or three sharpers concerned; and it is generally practised at night.— One goes on one side of the street, the other on the other; and if they meet a countryman with a post-horse, box, or bundle, they follow him until he rests it. One of them then goes up to him, and says, I'll give you a shilling to carry this letter to that house, because I do not care to go myself, but do not stay. In the meantime they pick off with the booty. If he rests not on the way, one of them will go up to him and ask him where he is going, and if unacquainted with the trick, will gain from him certain intelligence. He then informs his partner, who being genteely dressed, goes forward to the house, and having left his hat with a comrade,  
comes

comes from the door just as the countryman arrives, and cries, What made you stay so long? then takes the things from him, and bids him go over the way to that house or tavern for some beer, or a bottle of wine, and says, Bring change for a guinea, or I cannot pay you. While the person is gone over, the things are brushed, that is, carried off, to the great surprize of the bearer.

If they see a countryman with a bundle asking the way, they will accompany him, pretend to direct him, and carry the bundle or box for him; and whilst one takes the person forward, the other gives them the drop, down some yard or alley, having previously agreed where to meet again with the booty; so the poor ignorant man is left in the lurch.

THE  
C H E A T S  
OF  
D U F F E R S.

THESE sons of rapine generally ply in publick places, and their usual method of proceeding is as follows. When they see a novice or countryman passing they beckon to him, and if he listens, inform him, that they have various foreign commodities to dispose of at less than half price, but as they are run, privacy is requisite, and they must therefore beg the favour of him to step with them to a place convenient for the purpose. If the cheat succeeds thus far, the stranger is conducted through some lane, alley, or bye path, to an obscure corner provided for their design. When he is enter'd, and the Duffer begins to bring out his commodities, in  
comes

comes an accomplice, as pretended, on the same errand, and to carry on the delusion, cheapens and pretends to purchase different articles. Their cargo chiefly consists of handkerchiefs, silk and cotton stockings, remnants of old silk, &c. which being stolen, picked up in Rag Fair, or else bad of the kind, and therefore bought at a cheap rate, they impose frequently on the novice as foreign, and thereby extort from him treble the value. If suspecting the cheat, he is tardy, and by his behaviour indicates an unwillingness to deal, they begin to bounce, and affect to wonder at his impudence in bringing them thus far to the loss of their time, and perhaps a good customer, for nothing. If this prevails, they threaten, which generally forces the intimidated stranger to deal for something. If he sends for change, he seldom sees his money again, and as they always lead him to intricate holes and alleys, can seldom get any redress. In short, if they once trapan an ignorant person into their clutches, it is rare he escapes, without much cost or vile abuse.

These being described, will be shunned by turning a deaf ear to their solicitations.

A N

A C C O U N T

O F

M O C K A U C T I O N S.

**A**UCTIONS, or selling goods of any kind by advance to the highest bidder, are in general delusive, and seldom answer the end of the purchaser, as he frequently

G

quently

quently obtains his commodity at a very exorbitant rate.

The credulity, vanity, and ambition of mankind prompted their institution, to subvert the purposes of those who make a trade of the folly of others. If the best are seldom free from devices, what must we say of those we are about to describe? A more palpable delusion prevails not in London, that seat of fraud. I term them Mock Auctions, because they are deceits throughout. Their advertisements set forth the sale of persons who never existed, and owners that never possessed such property. These auctioneers are generally fellows who have forsworn honour and modesty; and being reduced to a crisis of fortune, devise this base expedient for a living.

Having taken a petty shop, they bring together their stock of goods, which, for the most part, are faulty; they then employ three or four infamous puffers of each sex. These puffers are such as they find necessary to promote trade on two accounts, both affecting to purchase, and thereby stimulating strangers to bid, and also by advancing, preventing many commodities from going off under a certain stipulated sum.

Preparations thus made, up mounts Mr. Orator, and the cheat begins by putting up part of his stock.

He harangues, perhaps, on the excellency of a silver watch made by an eminent hand, and put up at the small rate of only two pounds ten shillings.

To carry on the device, and attract the notice of passers, the watch is handed round the company, though consisting of puffers alone; one bids, another advances, and the business is carried on with great spirit.

When the bottle has brought in a few strangers, and they find a novice disposed to bid, they cautiously avoid dallying when a moor is near the mark.

In like manner they proceed in other respects, and as their commodities are ever defective in some point or other, and they employ the meanest hirelings to delude the ignorant to bid their utmost value, and often much more, they cannot fail of deceiving all who, through inexperience, are allured to become purchasers at so fraudulent a market.

Many

Many novices and countrymen have thought they have bought bargains of this rabble; but time has soon convinced them of a palpable delusion. If my country friends, in the course of a visit to London, are disposed to purchase any commodities it affords, I would advise them to repair to the fair tradesman, who scorns to avail himself of their inexperience, and will treat them on the same terms as the most skillful in the articles for which they deal; then will they shun fraud, and enjoy a future satisfaction, in having expended their money on a valuable acquisition.

T H E  
T R I C K S  
O F

*I N T E L L I G E N C E O F F I C E S .*

**T**H E R E is not a more palpable fraud imposed upon the town than that practised by most of these offices.

They are generally carried on by persons wholly illiterate, or those of ruined fortunes and characters, whose only recommendation is a tolerable coat, a powdered wig, and a consummate effrontery.

Their windows are always filled with fictitious wants, in order to make a parade of business to draw in the unwary for intelligence.

On your entrance, the book is opened, your name inserted, your shilling paid, and you become a candidate for a place of considerable profit, according to your capacity; or, if a master, stand entitled to a good servant. If you are desirous of raising money on an

estate, or any kind of goods, they will help you to a cogger, who shall advance the ready at a trifling interest and moderate premium: in short, they will assist you in the disposal of any incumbrance of estate or effects, in the most genteel and expeditious manner.

They live by bubbling masters and servants, pretending to do that for you which they never designed, and promising that which they are certain they can never effect. Country people, for want of acquaintance in town, have often been made a prey by these voracious animals, after dancing attendance on them every day for several months together, making a thousand applications in vain, and being fooled out of some pounds.

But these offices are attended with more destructive effects. They have often been the markets of the pimp, bawd, and procurefs, who have resorted to them, to see what goods came in, and hear where a pretty country girl was to be found, by means of the Register. It might with ease be proved that some of these gentry have been in see with the pimping profession, and that many innocent girls owe their ruin to their combined fraud.

Country people of neither sex can with reason propose to themselves any advantage from applying to those offices, whereas they are liable, if connected with them, to be bubbled, cajoled, and trapped.



THE  
C H E A T S  
O F  
F O R T U N E T E L L E R S .

**T**H ESE gentry, by dint of astrology, impiously pretend to prescience or knowledge of future events. With respect to astronomical predictions, we have had abundant proofs of their verification; but every sober thinking man must be convinced of the absurdity, as well as presumption of a short-sighted mortal's claiming a certain knowledge of what shall befall an individual in the course of a transitory and uncertain life.

Such is the credulity of mankind in general, that many live in this as well as in other countries, by absurdly amusing the curiosity of ignorant men and silly women.

In the countries, the mysterious art is professed and practised by gypsies, and many have daily recourse to their all-exploring faculty.

In town, the surprizing mystery is arrogated by a few noted professors, whose houses are as much crowded on particular occasions as a courtier's on a levee day.

Thither repair a crowd of desponding swains, to be assured concerning the affections of their sweet hearts; thither flock a train of youthful virgins to learn their future destiny; thither flies the loser to recover darling property, and thither the fond mother to know the situation of an absent child.

In short, to these repositories of fare daily repair the credulous, the inquisitive, the desponding, and the doubtful.

On their entrance, they are shewn into a room set apart for the reception of the customers, as but one at

a time can be admitted into the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, where sits this prodigy of science. When you are admitted to an interview, you first compliment him with a present, which, if you desire minute information, must be in proportion to the importance of the event, and your anxiety concerning it. With solemn aspect he demands the subject matter of your enquiry; which told him, he pauses some time, then asks you many circumstantial questions, and after another pause, reveals the important secret, and dismisses the credulous enquirer with the air of a most profound philosopher.

The minds of these persons are, doubtless, affected according to the predictions of Mr. Infallible; which must certainly have an influence on their future conduct. Many have been so elated by assurance of future success, that, grown insolent in their stations of life, they have lost the very means of living.

Others, depressed by ill-fated predictions, have sunk into despair, and neglected the common concerns of their rank and station.

As a proof of human credulity, I shall present the reader with a singular instance of dexterity practised with as singular success in the black art.

A young gentleman falling in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, but being deprived of the consummation of it, through the disagreement of their respective parents, went on his travels, and among other places came to Hamburgh, where he happened to be in the company of a gentleman, who speaking of his brother at London, said he was lately married to the daughter of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ a merchant in that city.

The gentleman hearing a name mentioned, which was the same with that of his former mistress's father, enquired where the person, who was lately married, lived, and being certified of his name and place of abode, sailed for England the first opportunity. On his arrival in London, he went to the house according to the directions given him at Hamburgh, and enquiring for the gentleman, found that he was in the country, and would not return that night. He then enquired for the lady (whom he well knew, though she remembered not him, being much altered by the cutting

cutting off his hair and marks of the small-pox) and pretending to have letters of recommendation from her husband's brother at Hamburgh, desired to be entertained as a servant. The Lady replied, that her husband being absent, she could not give him a decisive answer; but as he had a letter from her brother-in-law, he should be welcome to a night's lodging in the house.

He embraced her offer with much apparent cheerfulness, and immediately entered the house. The lady pretended indisposition, was for going to bed, in order to hurry him away supperless, which he observing, desired a little beer. When the maid was gone to fetch it, he had leisure to look about, and espied, amongst other things, a cloth laid in an ample manner as if for some banquet, from whence concluding that this preparation could not be for the next day, but that some person was to come in her husband's absence to partake of the dainties, he determined to watch their motions. Now it proved according to his surmise, this entertainment being provided for the regale of a gallant who had made an assignation for that night.

He accordingly came at the appointed hour, and was received with marks of the most endearing respect. This caused the first lover to regret his hard fate; nevertheless, he resolved to know the event of the affair.

They had no sooner sat down to their regale, than a knocking was heard at the door, and the maid discovered it to be her master. This put them into such a consternation, that had she not been a woman of ready invention and extraordinary presence of mind, they must have been detected; but thrusting her spark, the provision, table, bottles and all, into an adjoining closet, she betook herself to her couch with her prayer book in her hand.

Her husband entering, thought himself happy in a wife who was constantly at her prayers, and told her, after some little discourse, that he was going to Gravesend, to give orders about the lading of a ship, but had heard she had fallen down to the Nore, and coming off the water, he was hungry, and must have something for supper. His virtuous wife told him, that he being abroad she had prepared nothing.

The

The stranger now took an opportunity to shew himself, and being demanded by the master who he was; the lady informed him, that he was one who had letters of recommendation to be a servant from her brother-in-law at Humburgh. The old Don then asked him his qualifications.

“ I have,” replied the other, “ been bred a scholar, and taken some degrees at the University. I can write a good hand, and understand accounts well; besides which, during my residence at Oxford, I spent some time in the study of magick, or the black art, for which I was expelled. I can perform something wonderful, yet without danger, I can discover private enemies, prevent robberies, help right owners to goods stolen or lost, and to ships becalmed procure a wind, that shall bring them to their desired port.”—“ I wish then,” said the old gentleman, “ you could procure me a supper to-night, for my appetite is very keen.” With this wish he promised to comply, and the lady fearing the discovery of the intrigue, opposed it violently, till the sham conjuror assured her, by a private sign, that he would preserve her honour inviolate; she consented, on condition that she should have nothing to terrify her.

Our magician then began his incantation—Mephorbus! Mephorbus! Mephorbus! thrice have I invoked thee my familiar, be thou now assistant to my desires, supply whatever a hungry appetite requires.

After making the twelve signs on the Zodiac, and muttering some unintelligible jargon, he paused, and stood as if listening to an invisible speaker; then told them that they might fall to and eat heartily of the meat that was provided for them, which stood upon the table ready furnished in such a closet. When the master of the house had appeased his hunger, he desired to be informed by what means all this provision was brought into the closet, as he heard no noise. “ Sir, (says the conjuror) ’twas done by a familiar that I have command of, and you shall see him if you please.”—“ By all means, (says the other) that I may thank him, for I would, according to the old proverb, *give the devil his due*; upon which, the stranger renewed his invoca-

invocations thus—Mephorbus! that lurkest here, put on human shape, appear visible to our eyes, and come forth in the likeness of a fine well dressed gentleman, such as may please this lady.

Upon this, the young gallant came forth, and the door being opened for him, he passed through the room making a bow, and went into the street.

Thus the pretended conjuror came off with applause on all sides. The master of the house was obliged to him for procuring an elegant repast at a time he wanted it—the lady for getting rid of her gallant—and the gallant for such a favourable opportunity of escaping from her husband.

Whether this relation be true or fabulous, it is as well authenticated as the present faculty to which our modern fortune tellers pretend, notwithstanding, thro' the credulity and folly of mankind, such infamous cheats are protected and encouraged.

As a further detection of these vile impostors, I shall cite a particular instance, wherein their absurdity appears most glaring.

There now lives in this town a famous wise man, who is a great pretender to the art of fortune-telling, and has acquired such reputation among the lower class of people, that he has forty or fifty fools to attend him every morning; some women to know when they shall be married; some married women, whose husbands are at sea, or in foreign plantations, to know if he can give them any tidings concerning their state and circumstances; some persons to know whether they shall be prosperous in their marriage, voyage, or business in hand, and others about stolen goods and the like. An ingenious married lady, having heard much of Mr. Tell-truth's name, resolved to be determined whether his pretensions were well founded, or his followers were fools. She accordingly applies to the Oracle, and on her approach to the chair of infalibility, told him, in a submissive manner, that she desired to be informed when Providence would bless her with a husband.—Having examined her physiognomy, the prophet told her the man was yet unknown to her, who would certainly marry her within a few weeks, by whom she  
should

should have three children, then bury him, and marry a second time soon after, very much to her advantage as well as satisfaction, and should live happily with him to a great age.

The lady then remonstrating with the impostor on his fallacy, and declaring that she had had a husband nine years, he desired to see her hand once more; upon a review of which he cried—“I was mistaken, for I now find thou hast a husband, but he is such a very small one that I can with much difficulty discern his signification in thy palm.” Happening to guess right in this particular, the lady burst into laughter, and being well pleased with the cunning of the cheat, went away confirmed in her opinion, that there was nothing in his pretended skill but mere guess and subtilty.

A country gentleman, strangely insatuated with an opinion of astrology, had recourse to this famous planet Juggler, and resolving to venture some money in the lottery, gave him a guinea to assign him a lucky hour for that purpose.

After the impostor had jumbled together a parcel of figures to amaze the querist, he fixed on a certain time, wherein he should be fortunate. The gentleman, pursuant to the star-groper's directions, bought a ticket, which coming up an hundred pounds, he presented the old fox with ten guineas, and desired he would mention another day in which he might again be fortunate.

The bait was greedily swallowed, and the day fixed on which the gentleman purchased ten tickets; but to his mortification, they all came up blanks; and his only recourse was, to go back and curse the philosopher, and his misguiding stars.

There lived a few years ago, in the county of Surry, a famous Astrologer, who, to deceive people, had several bells placed in a study above stairs, the ropes of which hung down the wall of a dark stair-case; one signifying lost sheep, another cloaths stolen off the hedge, another strayed or stolen horses, which were the chief things about which the country people repaired to him.

A butcher



A butcher having lost some sheep, went to the astrologer's house, and having acquainted the servant with the nature of his business, the sheep bell was tinkled, upon which the Doctor came down, put on his fur cap, and conjuring countenance.

He immediately addressed himself to the butcher, with—How now, friend! I'll warrant you have lost some sheep, and you want me to give you tidings of them.—Yes, noble Doctor, (says the man.) Come, (says the Doctor) walk into my parlour, and I will endeavour to give you satisfaction. The butcher followed, and happened to have a dog with him, which crept unobserved under one of the chairs: the servant, according to custom, had dressed himself up in a bull's hide, waiting for his summons to appear. This given, he made his appearance, and the dog being of the true breed, seized the Doctor's assistant, and made him roar like the beast he represented. The conjurer rising in a great passion, cried out, Take off your dog, you rogue, take off your dog. The butcher having discovered the cheat, replied—Not I, by my troth, Doctor, I know he's as good as ever run: let them fight fair, Doctor. If you'll venture your devil, I'll venture my dog. The Doctor, at length, was glad to pay the man for his sheep, to prevent a further discovery of his notorious frauds.

In short, a train of misadventures have attended this diabolical cheat, and many live to rue their credulous regard to it.

I would therefore particularly admonish my country friends, to contemn such arrogant pretenders to an attribute of the Deity; to banish all idle and groundless suggestions, and prosecuting the paths of honour and virtue, leave other concerns to an unerring Providence.



THE



THE  
C H A R A C T E R  
O F  
G O S S I P S.

**T**HIS is the last of the pernicious characters we proposed to display to the view of our readers, as of injurious tendency to all who are influenced by them.

Though at first view these may appear harmless and inoffensive, yet their disposition must divert them from those pursuits on which depends their most important interest.

Gossips I consider as referring to the female sex, and would understand by the term, persons who through habit or inclination, are addicted to perpetual chit-chat, and therefore always know more of their neighbour's concerns than their own.

Converse with Gossips always encourages a spirit of detraction, cherishes envy, and foment's animosities.

They are led by their practice to lye, neglect their duty, and squander their time. Which consequence will inevitably render the rich despicable, and the poor destitute; and every considerate person knows, to what trying temptation penury reduces, when characters are staired, or reputation lost.

Shun therefore all converse with Gossips, because—  
“ Evil communications corrupt good manners.”

F I N I S.











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