

THE NEW  
**CHEATS OF LONDON**  
*Exposed;*

Or the FRAUDS and TRICKS of the TOWN LAID OPEN  
**TO BOTH SEXES.**

*Being a GUARD against the iniquitous Practices of the*  
**Metropolis.**

containing

A new and clear discovery of all the various CHEATS, FRAUDS, VILLANIES, TRICKS, SEDUCTIONS, STRATAGEMS, IMPOSITIONS and DECEPTIONS, which are daily practised in London, by

|                   |                        |                           |                 |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Bawds and Bullies | Insolvents             | Procurers                 | Swindlers       |
| Duffers           | Kidnappers             | Procureesses              | Smugglers       |
| Fortune Tellers   | Lottery Office Keepers | Quacks                    | Shop-lifters    |
| Gamblers          |                        | Receivers of Stolen Goods | Street Robbers  |
| Gossips           | Mock Auctioneers       | Setters                   | Trappers        |
| Hangers-on        | Money Droppers         | Spungers                  | Way-layers      |
| Jilts             | Ring Droppers          | Sharps                    | Waggon Hunters  |
| Intelligencers    | Pimps                  |                           | Whores, &c. &c. |
| Jew Defaulters    | Pretended Friends      |                           |                 |

*Interspersed with*

Useful reflections and admonitions, salutary hints and observations, whereby rogues and cheats are not only exposed, but may be avoided, by the instructions herein contained.

The whole laid down in so plain and easy a manner, as to enable the most innocent country people to be completely on their guard, how to avoid the base villainies of those vile and abandoned wretches, who live by villany and fraud.

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*Herein are shewn the various fates  
 Of Whores, Rogues, and other Cheats;  
 Here Youths are taught those snares to shun,  
 By which too many are undone.*  
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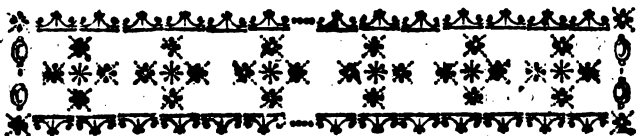
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## TO THE READER.

IN order to render the plan of this little treatise sufficiently obvious to every reader, we shall range the various abandoned, and vicious characters of both sexes under their respective heads; wherein will be given a succinct account of their detestable practices, and to which will be subjoined, the most effectual methods to avoid their pernicious tendency. By these means we shall not undertake to guide our countrymen of all ranks safe to London, but to preserve them when there; nor shall at the same time be deficient in endeavouring to keep inviolate the morals of our townsmen. To pursue our intended plan, we will begin with the character of *Highwaymen or Scamps*.



THE  
New Cheats of London  
EXPOSED, &c.

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*Highwaymen or Scamps.*

THESE are generally persons who 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 hostlers 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, inform him that such and such company are in the house, who have given intelligence concerning various particulars, when he repeats if time permits. For these reasons many gentlemen are pursued on the road, though more are met by chance. Highwaymen generally cross before they salute; but I advise all gentlemen travellers not to divulge what substance they have with them to any landlord or hostler, especially within forty miles of London, as they generally discover all the information they can get either through ignorance or design.

*Sharpers.*

**T**HESSE are the most 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 independant fortunes, and make it their business to find out 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 the bowling-green, in the respective games belonging to which they are generally well versed by a long, 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 mind 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 has 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, they will, even under the mask of friendship, draw an unguarded generous man into the most destructive measure, 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 inseperable qualifications, 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 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 could even then devise means, either by working up your passion, or eluding inspection, to frustrate your point and carry his own.

He will inveigle you, from time to time, into one sport or other, amongst others of his clan, who are adepts to dissimulation, till they have genially 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

plies his exigencies by studying and practising every means that will deceive the credulous, allure the inexperienced, trepan 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 unsusceptible 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 entreaties, for as you are a stranger to him, his desire of cultivating an acquaintance with you must arise from base and 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 subjects, affect either not to hear, or turn aside. This is a very common method of proceeding with those gentlemen.

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

### *Kidnappers.*

THESE are lazy vagrants, ruined characters, who are employed to trepan ignorant unsuspecting young men, to enter into the army or navy. They haunt night-houses, petty ale-houses, and the skirts 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, &c. If he be bred to any trade, they imitate to him the superiority of a gentleman soldier's life, who is in the road to fortune and preferment: if of no trade and in quest of a place of service, they assure him they will provide him every requisite for a gentleman, without the drudgery of a 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 affirm their speedy preferment, and that they need not doubt of the same. When he becomes intoxicated, they frequently slip money into his pockets, and in an hour or two afterwards, salute

salute him as a brother soldier ; if the poor countryman discovers any surprize at this salutation, they then apply to their perjured comrades, who are ready to attest his acception 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 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 own free will, and if he desires to be exempted from the obligation, he must put down something handsome. Thus the poor harmless honest man is trepanned, either into a state of slavery (for in many cases it is no better) or obliged to purchase his delivery at an exorbitant rate.

This is the common method in which these enslavers of the unwary commonly proceed ; and such the too general consequence of their vile crafts, and the credulity of the 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 ale-house 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 principle villain is ready to receive you. The first you may know by their dress, the latter you may suspect from his impertinent address, you have therefore only to remember these descriptions, and to avoid whatever tallies in the least with them.

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### *Gamblers.*

THOUGH these are included, as well as many others we shall mention, under the characters of sharpers, we think it necessary to our purpose, to consider separately, in order to discover to our honest readers their various tricks and resources for the better discovery of them, and their surer escape.

They are versed in most games practised by men of principal for diversion only; we shall point out their various methods of cheating, trepanning, and deluding the unwary, and inexperienced, and begin with the morning diversion of tennis.

This is a manly and active diversion, skill in which is not to be acquired without considerable practise and expence, and therefore well adapted to the fraudulent purposes of Gamblers.

If a country gentleman allured by curiosity, goes to the tennis-court, gets into the den among the gentry that comes to bet, and declares his ignorance by asking any questions, the word is immediately given out that a squire's come.— Soon after two or three of the most expert of the gang, come up towards him, in order, as they pretend, to let him into the nature of the game. After he has listened to them for some time with astonishment, they insinuate to him that 'tis all even and odd, a perfect lottery, that he may venture his money on either side, for the players then in are as equally matched as possible. They then concert matters so, that perhaps he wins a guinea or two, which induces him to think this is a very fair game, as strangers can win money by it at first sight. The stranger thus allured by success, the match is finished, and another set prepared to step into court, that will be sure to do his business. The bye-standers tell him it is all equal now too, and that he will soon see these gentlemen make better sport than the former: they then offer him his choice, if he complies, and they have taken him as far as they think will conveniently bear at that time, the sign is given to the players, that they may manage their parts. When the set is over, which is commonly played with the utmost spirit, and with the greatest equality that can be, they then, with some little sham quarrels about adjusting the odds, agree upon another. Here they accost the stranger again, insinuating that though he had the misfortune to take the wrong side last time, 't was a tight match, and no body could tell who had the best of it till the advantage came. To draw him on still farther, they offer him his choice, assuring him they covet not to carry off his money. In this manner the unguarded, deluded country gentleman is drawn on from set to set, and from small bets to large ones, till they have stuck him as they call it, and then according to their language they seldom part with him till he is sweet and clean. In some of these matches, there

there is either a bribed marker, some gentleman that has lost his estate and honour; or some scoundrel that never had estate or honour, but acquired the game by constant attendance at court. There are many in town who live merely upon the tennis-court: and these have such a perfect notion of a set, and so many intricate methods of turning their bets, that a person must be naturally acute, as well as inured to the game by long experience, before he can be an adept at it. Upon the whole I can honestly assure the country gentleman, that if he chance to fall in among them, they will cheat him if they can; if they cannot entice him to bet, they will endeavour to entice him to some other house or game, and 't is odds if he leaves them in the same plight of pockets as he found them.

BOWLING, as well as TENNIS, was formerly a game for few but gentlemen; but is now become too much a trade for cheats and sharpers. If those who live by this game get a stranger to engage with them hand to hand, though the most expert bowler, they'll devise some means to defraud him. Some will cross the ground upon him; others will bowl to him just upon the delivery of the bowl or confound him with impertinent advise, to make him forget his lengths. Perhaps one of the gang will pretend to have betted on his side, and so amuse him with giving him false ground. If these tricks fail, and the stranger seems a master of the game, there is a person ready to claim a right to the *bowls* then in hand; this affords them an opportunity to put false ones into his hand, either black biased, pegged or loaded; or to fasten on some device, that does their purpose in the end. But what I have urged concerning the games of tennis and bowls, I mean not to dissuade any person from the practice of them, as they are both of them manly and innocent amusement of themselves: but to caution the unwary from the snares of gamblers, that prostitute them to their fraudulent purposes, by picking the pockets of the honest, but unguarded country gentlemen.

To avoid these, never visit a tennis-court, or a bowling-green, without strict inquiry into the company, who ordinarily frequent them: and then it would be best to take a friend with you, who is accustomed to the ways of the town.

COCK-FIGHTING, though an ancient custom, and practised by the nobility and gentry of this kingdom is a scandalous and barbourous diversion, and reflects a disgrace on human nature; permit me, therefore, to dissuade my readers



readers in general from ever appearing in such scenes of cruelty, which are ever practised to most notorious villanies, and which are fit for the attendance of Gamblers only.

HORSE RACING may at first view be supposed within the compass of the country man's knowledge, but I apprehend I can discover many tricks in that diversion, to which the greater part are utter strangers. It is certain, these are all frequented by a number of London Gamblers, who take the rout from one course to another throughout the kingdom; and have studied the various means of fraud in this branch of sport, as a tradesman does his art of profession; it is often in these matches pre-concerted who is to be the winner, by which means thousands are taken in. Gamblers getting-together, pretend to make a great bustle, to be very sanguine for this or the other horse, by which means by-standers are often induced to bet and lose their money, as they know the winner before they come into the course. Sometimes at a fair match, when judgment can only decide the wagers, one of the clan having made a bet, another steps up, and the money by consent of parties is deposited in his hands. If the match goes in favour of the fair sportsman, away pikes the kiddy with the money, the stranger stares the gamblers swear, but all to no purpose; the former must put up with the loss, and the latter slinks off with an hypocritical concern for being accessory to the money's being deposited in the hands of a rogue; having taken down the residence of the deluded man, and promised, on the bilk, to give immediate notice. To insure yourself from this kind of cheat, it is best not to make any kind of bets; or only trifling ones with those of your own acquaintance.

BILLIARDS is a genteel ingenious game, and requires much dexterity and practice: but like others is perverted with gamblers. I venture to affirm, there are more idle fellows live by this kind of diversion in London, than by any other, and the reason is evident: because it is more practised. These by overing over tables from morning to night acquire in time a tolerable proficiency in the game; as well as a knowledge of the various fraud practised in it. When a stranger enters the room, they all, to use their own phrase, stag him, and can soon, if he speaks concerning the subject, discern if he is a pigeon. By a pigeon, I mean a person, who is either a novice at the game, or an obstinate conceited fool, who will play with a superior to gratify his

own vanity, if they cannot by proposing great odds get the novice to play, they will draw him on to bet, and as at Tennis, let him win three or four times, till at length the tables turn upon him, and he is decently fleeced of his cash. The obstinate, vain man, generally serves their turn better than even the novice. He thinks, because he has been deemed an adept, at a table resorted to by gentlemen and tradesmen for their diversion only, he is a match for any player, and therefore to spread his fame, visits different tables. But such a one cannot but be a dupe to his own vanity, and a pigeon to the gambler; because the skill of the former is only the result of playing occasionally for his amusement, while that of the latter is the effect of daily practice and study to his sole-livelihood. The country gentlemen, when in town may avoid the snares of gamblers at the game of billiards, by declining all bets, and all plays with strangers.

**GAMING-HOUSES** Besides the various sports, professed to the fraudulent purpose of this infamous clan, there are houses in this town let apart for that vile use.—These are receptacles for all sorts of gamblers, and very inconvenient nurseries to train up youngsters, and qualify them to play away their estates when they come into their hands. The adepts at these houses pretend to proceed to mathematical rules, and the doctrine of proportion; and that all things are therefore carried fairly and squarely amongst them; but many of them have been detected in the vilest frauds. Hazard is their chief game, and they have (if gamblers) a sort of false dice, that are cut and stamped so exactly like the true, and withal marked with the same mark, that it is impossible for strangers that do not suspect the cheat, to discover it. The box keeper has commonly in readiness, to put forth on a sign given

When they have got a gentleman, who they design to rook in among them, while some are sharpening him out of his money within, others are tampering with his servants without, to find out his circumstances, and the place of his residence in town. If they find his effects will insure them, and that he is a person who may be ventured on, as soon as they perceive he has lost his stock, one of the gang calls him aside, and after telling him of his genteel appearance, and generous spirit, to prevent his being exposed, offers him five or ten pieces. If he accepts of the favour, he tells him the custom in such cases, is to take nine or ten

and to allow him to call upon a good hand. When this is lost too, (as it always is in a little time,) then they conclude he is fixed. The gentleman who has done him the favour to cheat him of his money, invites him to the tavern (under a pretence of civility) and when they have decoyed him thither, the person who did him the extraordinary service to lend him the ten pieces is sent for. He in the main time has made up his purse, and is ready to credit him the other ten till next morning, if he is disposed to try his luck. If he consents, that likewise is soon lost, and what resource has he then? he worthy friend has no more cash about him, but declares it has his opinion, that since they have won the gentleman's ready money, they ought to give him a cast or two upon honour. With much seeming reluctance this is complied with. Thus begins the fatal catastrophe; if they think he has too much regard for his reputation, or too much modesty to make use of the statute for his defence, or is unwilling that the town should know he has been a bubble, then they stick him so deep, that he must cut off a limb of his estate to deliver himself from their clutches. I have been particular in defining this species of gamblers, as they are of all others most injurious to society, both from their deceitful appearances and their views being directed to country gentlemen of property. This very relation of their infamous proceedings we deem a sufficient caution to avoid them.

### Setters.

THESE are servile, despicable wretches, capable of every action base and sordid, such as insinuation, flattery, hypocrisy, dissimulation, and whatever may contribute to their flagitious purposes. All the villainies and cheats in nature unite in their abject minds, and they stand ever ready to prosecute advantageous mischief. Their common employ is to watch young heirs, to draw and trepan them into mean and unequal matches, and impose upon them jilts and whores for women of character and fortune. This they practise with such art and dexterity, that it is almost impossible, if you once fall into their management, to escape from it, without being totally ruined. Those who unfortunately attend to their guileful insinuations often sully their honour by marrying a harlot; and render themselves the bye word and laughing stock of all their acquaintance; and the

the ignominy is brought on them through means of a new associate, under the hypocritical pretence of singular honesty and sincerity. If these setters cannot palm a wife upon you, they will endeavour to draw you into sham projects chimeras. If you embark into any of their schemes, you are sure to be entangled; and not only lose the ready money you part with but you are in great hazard of being drawn into future bonds, and consequently ruined at last. The whole life of a Setter, is, in a few words, a continued scene of deliberate villany; his business consists in betraying and trepanning; his sustenance depends upon fraud, and he may be deemed a snake in the grass.

### *Hangers-on; or, Spungers.*

THESE are a kind of sottish indolent wretches, and though not so mischievous as the former, are as troublesome and impertinent, and indeed more offensive to a man of sense and understanding than either of such spunging thieves as them. They recommend themselves to superficial persons, by a pretence to a taste of literature, and a knowledge of the humours of the town. By virtue of these qualifications they think themselves companions for the best gentlemen in the kingdom, and will be sure, upon the smallest invitation, to crowd themselves upon them, if they meet with encouragement; and it is much if by degrees they grow not familiar, after that impudent, and at last intolerable. A spunger's whole stock of entertainment, is generally a bawdy song or two, a few drunken healths, and half a dozen dull puns; with these he will be perpetually gratifying your ears till he has tired your patience, and you are obliged to rid yourself from him by very rough treatment. The town swarms with these drones; and a country gentleman can hardly set his foot into it, but he is surrounded by them. How unreasonable, I may add how infamous it is, to pick up such loose and profligate persons and make their companions. I have often beheld with surprize several of them stalking before a country gentleman, and crowding themselves into all company and business with him, sucking and spunging upon him, and, in a literal sense, eating him up alive. These you may know by the description given of them, and if you retain the least ingenuity of temper, you will doubtless treat them with contempt they deserve.

## Money Droppers.

THE rendezvous of these petty cheats, is in the most popular parts of the town, such as Moor-fields, Covent garden, and other public places between Westminster-hall and Temple bar, especially the two former; and it is some odds if a country man passes through either of them but he is attacked by a party. The manner of the cheat is as follows, the first is to make a complete set, there must be three of them; one to personate a merchant, the other a country gentleman, and the third a tradesman. When they hit of the cully, one of the gang marches directly before him, and another follows close behind, till they come to a convenient place, where the mouth, as they term him, must needs observe. The spark that is in the front then drops the guinea; "Faith, (says he, turning to the stranger) I have found a piece of money here, and I think it is a guinea." Then if he that in the rear perceives he is insensible of the cheat, up he steps and claims halves. After a little sham squabble between the two cheats, says the first, "if any has a right to snack, it is this gentleman who saw me take it up; but to prevent disputes, we will all go to the tavern and spend the odd money, and then divide the remainder equally 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 generally one to which they are accustomed; when he is fixed, then in he comes in a mighty hurry and pretended confusion for the loss of a bill, which he says, he supposes he dropt just now, in the very room they were drinking. To give colour to the fraud, one of the two conveys a sham bill under the table, which he immediately takes up, and as a testimony of his joy, calls for his pint.

After they begin to look 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, "I'll shew you one the smartest tricks, that I was taught by a Frenchman a few days ago." Then to possess their cully of their innocence, they shew several of their ordinary tricks upon the cards. At last he that is most dexterous starts the grand trick: on which wagers ensue, and the mouth is generally taken in. If this does not pass upon

him,

him, they try him with false dice, rug and the leather, or twenty other projects, which they have ready on such occasions: In short, rather than fail they will knock him down, rifle him, or pick his pocket. If you observe the manner in which this cheat, is described, you need no caution against it.

### *Pick Pockets.*

THESE rabble of cheats are such as from their youth have been trained up to the base art which consists of a kind of slight in picking your property from you imperceptibly. Their chief resort is Black Boy alley, the ruinous buildings about Chink 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 department. 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. 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 good booty, and indeed embrace every opportunity, when there is likely to be a concourse of people. These are 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.

### *Quacks.*

THESE are arrogant miscreants, that rob thousands, not only of their money but of their health. They pretend to knowledge in physic and surgery, on the meer foundation, perhaps, of having done menial offices of gentlemen of the faculty, or perhaps, a few precepts from some of their own fraternity. They have nothing to recommend them to a consummate

confuminate effrontry, and no other means of polluting their pestiferous compounds upon the unwary, then 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 liable to be caught in their snares, from want of acquaintance in town, and if their case is venereal, thro' shame of divulging it to those whom they reside to caution you against these murderers of the constitution. I shall lay before you their method of treatment the unhappy patient in venereal cases particularly.

When the infected person applies, they judge of his circumstances generally by his appearances, 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 his case to be really worse than what it is, but yet, to extort money, promise notwithstanding the malignant nature of it, a speedy and effectual cure. Having given him some of their compounds with directions concerning their application of them they appoint an interview at a certain time and dismiss him. He must then 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 more common case, of which there are many instances in town. To avoid all connection with these kind of deceivers, apply on all occasions to persons of established repute from a regular education, and fair character.

### *Trappers*

THESE carry on there vile purposes by the assistance of a pregnant whore, and the help of some letters and papers, they pick out of your pockets, which give them an inlet into your affairs. If they once are so fortunate to get a big-bellied whore into their confederacy, they carry her about in a kind of triumph among all their cully and novices, every one forsooth, under the notion of being the true father, must subscribe an individual maintenance for the strumpet and the child, or a warrant must be got immediately, and the officers of the parish called in to their assistance to force you to it. If you contest the case with them, the

jade is ready to swear it upon you, and all is settled. If they get your papers and letters, these are the credentials for them to commence their villanies in such cases they pretend that the haolot who rifled you, was an honest woman, and a person of credit, and you must either make satisfaction, and compound the business or, they will expose you first, and bring their action against you afterwards. In such circumstances a man is at a loss how to act. If he compounds, he lays himself open to their mercy, and renders himself a bubble and a property for the future. If you contest it with them, you injure your credit, as they misrepresent you, abuse you in all companies and upon all occasions that this abominable unhappy connection terminates but with your destruction. To escape this embarressment, you must cautiously avoid petty brothels, and houses frequented by the verse with such kind of men.

### *Bullies.*

THESE are lewd blustering fellows, who have rendered themselves unfit, by a complication of vicious actions, for the society of sober and rational persons, are forced to thorw themselves upon bawds and whores, and live upon their contribution. Their rendezvous is among bawds and whores; they eat their bread, and fight their battles; hector and insult their cullies, gather sometimes their contribution, and occasionally pimp, betray and set. If you unhappily fall into converse with them, they generally entertain you with the dismal relation of murders and rapes they have committed, the battles they have fought with the officers of the night, the recounters they have had with a party of bailiffs and their followers, or some such romantic lies and forgeries. If they can palm this stuff upon you for truth, it is much if they draw you not into a quarrel, or some other scrape, and then by a base stratagem bring themselves off, and leave you to shift for yourself. The main strength of a bully's valour and process depends upon his insolence, ignorance, and oaths; and if you once baffle him effectually, so that he may perceive you know both his business and temper, he will fawn upon you afterwards like a spanial and you may, use him at your pleasure. If you then chastise his insolence, he will tell you, perhaps, that he has a battle to answer for, and therefore is at present restricted from fighting, but when that obligation ceases, woe be to you. I presume none of my country friends will think this



a conversable object, who for all his cowardice and ignorance, and though he is so below the character of a man, can betray you into gaming, quarrels, into a bawdy-house, and into the company of rogues, thieves, and whores, as well as the whittiest sharper, or stoutest spark of the town. Bullies are of two degrees, those who hover about and belong to petty brothels, and those who live upon whores of fashion. The former are made use of to introduce countrymen or strangers into compliance with the extortionate demands of the bawds whores. If, after you have regaled yourself with a strumpet, and their poisonous liquour, you call to pay, and finding they charged exorbitantly, scruple their account, one or two of these gentlemen will walk into the room, and advise you to make no disturbance there, but punctually pay what you know you had both called for and received; otherwise they must proceed to compulsive means; if you then comply not, they will not only force from you your property, but tumble you out neck and heels, and probably do you much hurt.

Those bullies who live upon whores of fashion, affect the dress and airs of men of rank and fortune, and by strutting occasionally by the side of a gay lady, add a consequence to her and themselves, and induce the ignorant cully to think that mis's confers her favour on gentlemen alone, and that he cannot therefore dream of a favour from her without an adequate return, which in proportion to her splendid appearance, must be considerable. They also frequently call in by appointment, when the lady has a cully with her, in order to trepan him to cards, and by that means send him away fleeced of his money. Various are the snares they lay for the ignorant and unwary, but those who are warned of them in this plain manner, it is to be hoped, will be able to detect, and resolute enough to shun them.

### *Kid-Layers.*

IN this cheat there are always two or three sharpeners 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 country-man with a portmanteau, 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 dont stay; in the mean time they pike off with the booty.

ty. 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 genteelly dressed, goes forward to the house, and having left his hat with a comrade, 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 going 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 him 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.

### *Duffers.*

THESE sons of rapine generally ply in public 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, informs 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 him to step with him to a place convenient to the purpose. If the cheat succeeds thus far, the stranger is conducted through some lane, alley or by-path, to an obscure corner provided for their design. When he is entered, and the Duffer begins to bring out his commodities, in 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, piked 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 unwillingness to deal, they then 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 don't prevail, they

they threaten, which generally forces the intimidated stranger to deal for some thing; if he sends for change, he seldom sees his money again, and they always lead him to intricate holes and alleys, can seldom get him redress. In short, if they once trepan an ignorant person into their clutches, it is rare if he escapes without much cost or vile abuse.

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

### *Mock-Auctions.*

AUCTIONS, 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 obtains his commodities at an exorbitant rate.

The credulity, vanity, and ambition of mankind promoted their institution, to subserve 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 deceit throughout their advertisements, set forth the sale of persons never existed, and owners that never possessed such property. These Auctioneers are generally fellows who have forsworn honesty 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 a stock of goods, which for most part are faulty; they then employ three or four infamous puffers of each sex. These 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, prevent many commodities from going off under a certain stipulated sum.

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

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

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

When the bustle has brought in a few strangers, and they find a novice disposed to bid, the cautiously avoid dallying when a mouth 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 the 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 novices and countrymen have thought they have bought bargains of this rabble; but time soon convinced them of a palable delusion. If my country friends, in the course of a visit to London, are disposed to purchase any commodities it affords: I would advise 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 skilful in the articles for which they deal; they will shun fraud and enjoy a future satisfaction in having expended their money on a valuable acquisition.

### *Whores and Filts.*

SO many are the instances of misery, consequent on associating with abandoned women, that few in this kingdom are ignorant that such depravity is incident to human nature and productive of such fatal effects: It may thence, perhaps, be deemed needless to divert your attention from more important subjects by enlarging on this. But when we reflect that notwithstanding the general warning, such is the impetuosity of youthful passion, and such the chicaneries of the vicious, that not only the inexperienced countrymen, but many who have long resided in town, daily fall victims to the same; this subject, of all others, claims particular regard, and deserve the most minute and elaborate discussion.

To treat these with perspicuity, it will be necessary to range them into different classes, in doing which I shall invert the common method, and begin, with the Hackney Strumpet, and then proceed gradually to the whore of fashion, referring at the same time, particularly to those who come under the denomination of Filts.

By the Hackney Strumpet I mean the lowest class of whores, who having been always accustomed to lowlife, or else through extravagance, the desertion of former charmes,

or other incidents, reduced to penury and therefore ply in the common streets, and endeavour to haul men by force to their disgustful embraces.

Those are a miserable compound of whatever can nauseate and pall, lost to every sense of shame, and, for the sake of bread, devoted to every flagitious purpose, that heated lust can possibly incite.

As their necessity compels them to prostitute their carcasses for the smallest consideration, and to every reptile of the earth? they are scarcely ever free from a complaint of all the loathsome diseases incident to human-nature, and are, in fine, a mass, hedious even in the conception, and rather antidotes than incentives to venery.

The next class are those who live in petty brothels, and infest particularly the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, &c. These are little better than the former, and differ chiefly in dress, being arrayed in the paulty habit of the bawd, whose slaves they are, and by whom they are generally attended, lest, as they term it, they should pipe off with the duds, or carry the cully, from their shops of iniquity.

As the former, they, for the benefit of an infamous host or hostels, submit to all that can disgrace their sex, or shock a modest ear, as well as poison their health by gorging themselves with pestiferous liquor.

When they allure a person to their baneful residence, they endeavour by plying him with the very dregs of drink, to deprive him of reason, in order to perpetrate their fraudulent designs.

This done, he wrought from one degree of passion to another, till he becomes a passive dupe to his doxy, who takes care to avail herself of the opportunity, by making as profitable a cully of him as possible.

Thus he looses his money, injures his health by drinking the most pernicious liquors, and may think himself lucky, if he escapes nautious distempers.

The next class we shall mention are those who reside, as they term it, in private lodgings, but in reality, only a genteeler sort of bawdy houses. Among whom are included, those bagnio ladies, who also wear the bawd's apparel; but as the bawds are of superior rank for the former, so are they whores in point of appearance and company.

Those ranks of doxies frequent the park, the play, jelly-houses, W---th---by's, &c. all of which we shall speak hereafter.

hereafter. They are mostly indebted for their tawdry habit to a woman who furnishes ladies with suits according to their value, at so much per suit per day, also with occasional watches and trinkets.

These are devoured by landlords, servants, or favourite fellows, who hating industry, and lost to all sense of honour, meanly live upon the contributions of unfortunate women.

In reality, they are as miserable as the former, and obliged often to submit to as odious means of procuring money.

If they can seduce a stranger, they insinuate to him their superiority to the common class of the woman of the town, the expence of their lodgings, and genteel appearance, and thence infer their title to a much more considerable gratuity for a favour done him.

If you associate with these through the allurements of a silk gown, you will be liable to expences, and equally to diseases with the former.

The whore of fashion is generally the refuse of a man of rank or fortune, who being left in a deplorable plight as to clothes and money, supports on appearance of grandeur, resides in a gay part of the town, and reserves herself for those alone who are capable of amply retaliating her favours.

She has generally a train of followers, is a mighty toast among the red coat gentry, her converse is therefore claimed, as an instance of taste and good breeding.

Her snares are more bewitching than any of the former, as her embraces are certainly more eligible, and consequently create a strong desire of repeating them.

As the smallest of her favours are not dispensed without a considerable acknowledgement, to keep up her acquaintance, in a short course of which, so many incidental expences will occur, as require an ample fortune.

Many country gentlemen owe their ruin to an unfortunate connexion with these first rate whores, who having dismembered their estates, and impaired their constitutions, have only to lament the residue of their lives, their want of knowledge to elude the art, or resolution to avoid the temptation of these banes of their future peace of mind.

The JILT, though a little more private and designing, is as lewd and dissolute, and more dangerous than either of the former. They would be counted, forsooth, virtuous and religious whores, who despise common creatures, and affect to blush at a smutty joke.

By a demure look and oily tongue, they work upon the credulous, who if they obtain the smallest favour, rate it as an extraordinary conquest.

If they vouchsafe to become your occasional bedfellow, they must have a handsome settlement, elegant lodgings, plate, china, and all things suitable to a woman of rank. On these considerations she would be faithful to you, or at least promise so to be; but her fidelity will last no longer than you can maintain her in her extravagance, with which the obligation on her part be sure to fail. She can pray, shed crocodile tears; sham a fit, as a token of her affection for you, but in your absence will ridicule you to her favourite man, as a foolish impotent fellow, and assure him that as soon as she can persuade you out of the settlement, and the new furniture, she will affront and then leave you.

Sometimes she will pretend to pregnancy, and then natural affectation must induce you to take care of your little one, and allow the mother the necessaries for a lying-in woman.

She will remind you that Lord A——'s, Sir John B——'s and Colonel D——'s misses lay in with as much state as the best lady in the kingdom; nay Mr. F——, that was but an ordinary citizen, presented his mistress with a new bed, and the furniture of a room which cost him near two hundred pounds. After this parade, she will insinuate, that her merit being equal to the best, she has a right to demand the same usage, and therefore will treat any paltry offers with the contempt they deserve. Nay, she will carry her effrontery so far as to tell you, that as cases stand between you and her, you ought to cut off the entail of your estate, and settle a good part of it upon her for life, and from her to devolve upon the child.

The tricks and devices of a jilt are numberless, and can only be paralleled by their ingratitude and inhumanity.— Nothing can be more perfidious than these creatures, who after a profusion of favours, on the least remissness, will grow rude and insolent, laugh at, revile, and scorn you, and you will become no less their buffoon now, than you had been their bubble before.

To sum up her character, we may, with truth assert, that in a jilt are comprehended all the vices, follies, and impertinencies of the whole sex.

### *Bawds.*

THE BAWD is a creature infamous and destructive be-

yond description, a wretch, who being list to all sense of modesty and humanity, is capable of any action, base and injurious as it may be to society, to serve her own infamous purposes. These ladies generally keep seraglio's of their own, the entrances of which are constantly graced with three or four painted harlots, that are ready to seize the unwary who pass by them. If they can any ways trepan the inexperienced into their care, as they term it, (and rather than fail, they haul you in) you must then call for your bottle or bowl, after which a smutty toast is given to acquaint you with the nature of their occupation. Soon after, in comes the governess, in a pretended rage, snatching up the candle, desires you to follow, and she'll light you up herself.

When they have got you up stairs they conclude you are six; five or six of her choice whores, therefore, are let loose to play upon you at their discretion, if by a lewd course of behaviour, they can entice you into debauchery, the next thing is, which of the laides you pitch upon, and the terms.

There's Miss Jenny is but just come out of the country, there being little difference between her and a maidenhead, and stated terms are ten shillings, besides a crown for the use of the room. Miss Fanny, a good clean girl, and as harmless as a lamb, may be allowed at three half crowns, a rate she never went under. Miss Mary, Miss Nancy, and sweet Miss Sukey, are all free, sound, and active girls, but because trading is dead and money is scarce, and you look a civil gentleman, and the bawd would encourage you to come again, they shall any of them divert you for a crown, allowing another for the room, as usual.

From this description, my country reader must be sensible, that such wretches are more to be avoided than a pest-house, being in every respect as contagious.

### *A Procuress.*

AS these monsters in iniquity are more particularly the bane of the fair-sex, I shall for the sake of the honest country girl, whose lot it may be to come up to town, present an account of a notorious one, as verbally related to me by way of a letter.

“ Dear Cousin,

Our pious aunt has frequently warned us of the danger which we must be inevitably exposed in town. I have been



been convinced of the truth of her representation, by an accident which threatened my utter ruin, and from which I escaped in a extraordinary manner; the circumstances was as follows:

Returning from a visit to a relation, I was overtaken in Cheap-side, by an elderly woman of creditable appearance, who having accosted me in a civil manner, asked, if I did not come to town, to seek some genteel place. Upon my replying that I did, she informed me of a vacancy, which she was certain would prove agreeable and to which, as she liked my appearance, she would reccommend me.

I expressed my acknowledgement, took directions, and immediately enquired for a certain lady near Soho. When I entered the house, I was shewn into an elegant parlour, where I had not long sat, before the gentlewoman came in, to whom having presented my reccommendation, she seemed well pleased and ordered a servant to bring in a bowl of warm liquor, called negus, consisting of wine, water, orange, &c. which she said, was for some friends she expected shortly: but as I was warm with walking, desired me to drink some of it, telling me it was an innocent, pleasant liquor, and that she always used her waiting maids as herself. Pleased with her condescention, and being warm and thirsty, I drank pretty freely. She then made me sit down by her, assuring me of her aversion to pride: and that when she had no company, she would always treat me in like manner, if I behaved well. She then enquired concerning wages, and was satisfied with my first proposal. Affairs thus settled, I rose up to take my leave, telling her I would wait on her any day the ensuing week, and bring my cloaths with me. Upon this I was not a little surpris'd to find her insist on my staying that night, as her own maid was gone away, and she had invited several ladies to spend the evening with her. Mindful of my aunt's advice, I peremptorily refused, and could perceive displeasure in her countenance, when she found me resolv'd. She again plied me with liquor, which began to turn my head, and disorder'd my stomach. I entreated once more to depart, on promise of returning immediately, which caus'd my new mistress with sullen voice to declare, I should on no account stir out of the house; and leaving the room in a pet, took the key in my hearing out of the door. This circumstance greatly alarm'd me, and in the mean time a beautiful girl enter'd the parlour, elegantly dress'd, and every way genteel.

teel. Having gazed on me for some time with solemn astonishment, she rose from the chair, bolted the door, and breaking into a flood of tears, thus expressed herself:

*“ Dear Young Woman,*

I cannot make you sensible of the pain I feel on your account, and from a desire to serve you, I run the hazard of involving myself into greater misery, if it be possible, than I have yet experienced. But my heart will not suffer me to draw others into the same snare with myself. You are now in a notorious brothel! and if you escape not in a few hours, you are inevitably ruined? — I was once as innocent as now you seem to be: my virtue was unspotted, and my mind as uncorrupted, when I first entered these accursed doors, whither I was sent on an errand for the same cause that brought you to them. I was by force detained all night, as you are designed to be, robbed of my virtue, and fearing the displeasure of my friends, for staying without their knowledge, as well as being in the utmost confusion how to proceed, I was obliged to repeat my guilt, and hardly time to reflect on its fatal consequences. My liberty I implored in vain, and my grief served for the cruel sport of all around me. Indeed I have been so long confined, that I am ashamed to appear among my friends and acquaintance. In this dreadful situation I have been perplexed with disgusting opportunities from different men. Thus in shameful round of guilt and horror have I languished out ten months, subject to inconceivable miseries. The same fate awaits you: however, as my wretchedness will scarce admit of addition, I will assist you in what I can, and not, as the infamous procuress, contribute to make you as unhappy as myself.

You may imagine the horror with which this sad relation struck me: I was dumb for some time trembling every joint, but, recovering a little, I thanked the unhappy fair, and earnestly craved the proffered assistance. The lucky moment soon arrived, when a gentleman coming to the door, she stepped up herself for the key, which the unsuspecting procuress gave her, I took the opportunity to run out of the house in such a hurry, that I left my cloak and bonnet behind me.

I am assured you rejoice with me for my deliverance, and desire you will take an opportunity of making it public, that others warned by the unhappy fate of the injured innocent,

may guard against the wiles of our own sex, as well as those of the other.

I am yours, affectionately,

M. D.

The chief places of resort for these vilest of their sex, are the play houses, some coffee houses, and public places. They assume various forms, and are capable of acting divers parts. Sometimes they have the most delicate woman in the world for you, at other times a fine young creature of about fourteen, a perfect pattern of innocence and modesty, and a pure virgin: besides she has one that sings like an angel, another that dances to a miracle, a third that has an incomparable shape and main, and a fourth that is an absolute wit, and the only diverting companion of her sex.

In short, she has them, or at least pretends she has them, of all prices, from a guinea to five, and from five to an hundred; but let me assure you, that if you deal with her for any, you have better luck than most men, if it does not prove a dear bargain on the making up of you account.

Country girls to avoid their snares, must turn a deaf ear to any who may accost them in the street or any place whatever.

### *Waggon Hunters.*

THE infamous device contained in this title, is practised by both sexes, in various manners, and from different motives. There are always a number of despicable hirelings in the service of bawds and procuresses, who attend at inns, to observe the number and state of the passengers immediately on their arrival in the country waggons. If they fix on a person, especially of the female sex, whom they think fit for their base purposes; they make it their business, to watch their motions; and if they find her disposed to stop at the inn, insinuate themselves to converse with her, and if possible gain some intelligence relating to her future proceedings.

If they succeed in the first point, it furnishes them with an opportunity of contracting an acquaintance with the poor country girl, and next offering her service to get employ. The fraud is generally carried on by women, who are capable of all the insinuation, as well as perpetrating the basest designs under a mask of the most disinterested friendship. They will warn the unsuspecting innocent of the dangers to which they are exposed in a strong town, and offer

offer their counsel and direction from a pretended motive of good will.

If their hypocrisy prevails, and their proffered service is accepted, when they recommend the poor girl to some infamous patroness of iniquity, and prostitution and misery too frequently ensue.

I remember an instance of an unhappy fair, who lost her virtue, and commenced her destruction the very day of her arrival in the ensnaring town.

She had hardly allighted, when she was accosted by one of these seducers under a pretence of having seen her before in the country. The girl expressed her surprise, but the sole abetter of fornication persisted in claiming a knowledge of her, and insisted on her taking a lodging and a bit of mutton with her, till she could provide herself agreeably to her own mind. The girl still expresses much wonder at her, but being at length wrought on by importunity, enforced by some crocodile tears, which she called forth as a testimony of her sincerity, accepted the kind offer, and departed from the inn, under the guidance of this pernicious conductress.

As they were passing together through the streets, by her vile hypocrisy, she insinuated herself into the confidence of the girl, who, relying on her friendship, cheerfully followed her, till they arrived at the destructive habitation in an alley adjoining to Bow-lane. On their entrance she informed two young woman, whom she had kept in bondage some time, of the extraordinary circumstance of her meeting with her country friend, and of the pleasure she had in being able to entertain her till she could change her residence, in a manner suitable to her design of coming to town.

Through fear of incurring the displeasure of the old caterpillar, the deceit is carried on, till the approach of night, when a grave citizen enters in consequence of notice sent him by the bawd, who informs the girl that she has procured her a wealthy husband, that the nuptials shall be shortly consummated, so that the same bed may hold them both that night.

The astonishment of the deluded fair on this occasion is inconceivable; she fell on her knees, let fall a flood of tears, and in the most moving accents, begged the liberty to depart.

The hardened miscreant, unaffected by this scene of woe, plainly told her, that all resistance was vain; for that though she contradicted her own interest, it was the duty of a friend who

who knew what course would best tend thereunto, to compel her to prosecute the same.

She then repeated her importunity to depart, which being again denied, she begged that the affair might be postponed, but all proved unavailable, she was forced into the embraces of the lascivious spoiler of her virtue, but happily did not survive its fatal loss.

There is a series of male Waggon Hunters, whose motives are purely to gratify their libidinous desires.

These are generally delibitated fellows, who, tired of the prostitutes of the town, are fond of a fresh country girl, from whom they have no occasion or reason to expect any injury but pleasure.

### *Intelligence Office.*

THERE is not a more palpable fraud imposed upon the town, than that practised by most of the offices.

They are generally carried on by persons wholly illiterate, or those of ruined fortunes and characters, whose only recommendation is a tolerable coat, 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 stands intitled 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 codger, who shall advance the ready money 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 never can 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 for the pimp, the bawd.

awd, and the procurefs, who have reforted to them, to fee what goods come in, and hear whether a pretty country girl was to be found by means of register. It might with eafe be proved, that fome of thefe gentry have been in fee with the pimping profefion, and that many innocent girls owe their ruin to their combined fraud.

Country people of neither fex, can with reafon propofe to themfelves any advantage from applying to thofe offices, where they are liable, if connected with them, to be bubbled, cajoled, and trepanned.

### *Fortune Tellers.*

THESE gentry, by dint of Aftrology, impioufly pretend to prefcience or knowledge of future events. With refpect to all astronomical predictions, we have had abundant proofs of their verification, but every fober thinking man muft be convinced of the abfurdity, as well as prefumption of a fhort-fighted mortal's claiming a certain knowledge of what fhall befall any individual, in the courfe of a tranfitory and uncertain life.

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

In the country the myfterious art is profefed and practifed, by gipsies, and many have daily recourfe to their all-exploring faculty.

In town, the furprifing myftery is arrogated by a few noted profefors, whofe houfes are as much crouded on the particuar occafions, as a courtier's on a levee day.

Thither repair a crowd of defponding fwains, to be afured concerning the affections of their sweethearts, thither flock a train of youthful virgins to learn their future deftiny: thither flies the lofer to recover darling property, and thither the fond mother to know the fituation of an abfent child.

In fhort, to thefe repositories of late, daily repair the credulous, the inquisitive, the defponding, and the doubtful.

On their entrance, they are fhewn into a room fet apart for the reception of the customer, as but one at a time can be admitted into the Sanctum Sanctorum, where fits this prodigy of fcience. When you are admitted to an interview, you firft compliment him with a prefent, which if you defire minute information, muft be in proportion to the importance of the event, and your anxiety concerning it.

With folemn afpect he demands the fubject and matter of your

your inquiry! 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 indolent in 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 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 went to Hamburgh, where he happened to be in company with a certain gentleman, who speaking of his brother in London, said he was lately married to the daughter of Mr. A——, 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, he was in the country and would not return that night. He enquired for the lady, whom he well knew, tho' she remembered not him, being much altered by the 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, when he observing, desired a little beer. When the maid was gone to fetch it, he had leisure to look

about

about, and espied, amongst other things a cloth laid in ample manner, as if for some banquet, from whence concluded 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 set 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, tables, bottles, and all into an adjoining closet: she betook herself to her coach with a 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 that he heard that she had fallen down to the Nore, and coming off the water, he was hungry and must have something to supper. His virtuous wife told him, that he being abroad, she had prepared nothing.

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 Hamburgh. 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 magic, or the black art, for which I was expelled. I can discover private enemies, reveal 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 con-



jurer, assured her by a private sign, that he would preserve her honour inviolable, she consented, upon condition, that he 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 an assistant to my desires, supply whatever a hungry appetite requires.

After making the twelve signs on the Zodiac, and muttering some intelligible jargons: he paused, and stood as if listening to an invisible speaker, then told him that they might fall too and eat heartily of the meat that was provided for them, which stood upon a table ready furnished in such a closet. When the master of the house had appeased his hunger, he desired to be informed, by what manner 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 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, through the credulity and folly of mankind, such infamous cheats are protected and encouraged.

As a further detection of these vile imposters, 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. Telltruth's name, resolved to be determined whether his pretensions were well founded. or his followers were fools. She accordingly applied to oracle and on her approach to the chair of infallibility, told him, in a submissive manner, that she desired to be informed when providence would bless her with a husband. Having examined her phisognomy, the prophet told her, the man was yet unknown to her, who would marry her in a few weeks, by whom she should have three children, then bury him and marry a second time soon after very much to her advantage, and satisfaction and should live happy with him to a great age.

The lady then remonstrating with the impostor on his fallacy, and declared that she had a husband nine years, he desired to see her hand once more; upon a review of which he cried, I was mistaken, for now I 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 guesses and subtilty,

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 uttering providence.

### *Pretended Friends.*

BEFORE I lay open to my country readers the fraud which often lies hid, in feigned pretensions to friendship, it will be necessary to describe some general properties of a knave or false friend, that they may be upon their guard and avoid their guileful insinuations.

Though some are of an opinion that a knave may be known by his looks, and that the countenance is an index to the mind, there are hypocrites, who have art enough to manage their very faces, so as to indicate the strictest honesty, or profound stupidity. A knave I would distinguish from

from a false friend, by observing, that those he wrongs are not such as he professes friendship for: but practises upon all whom chance throws in his way; whereas a treacherous friend, after the most solemn protestations, and strongest obligations, breaks through every bond, and evidently discover a want of conscience, honour and common honesty; he as much exceeds a knave in the atrociousness of his conduct as perjury and treachery are more injurious than a common cheat. Mere pretensions to friendship are a combination of fraud and deceit of every kind, as well as the produce of the meanest cowardice for, as by their disguise, they obviate the suspicion of the open-hearted generous man, they frequently stab him in the dark, with respect to character or property.

In short, in point of strict morality, they differ not from the murderer, for though they evade the letter of the law, they are guilty of violating every sacred tie, that can connect the interest of mankind, or promote social happiness.

Various are the methods which these pretenders pursue to insinuate themselves with the ignorant or the generous.

### *Swindlers.*

VICE like fashion is for ever fluctuating in its modes, a stale villany becomes obsolete, and is supplied by some enormity of a more modern date; it is therefore necessary for the information of the public, and to caution the unwary to trace it through its varieties, and expose every atrocious invention in its proper colours, as its being new may make it successful, its being exposed may prevent the mischief.

There are usually a number of swindlers connected together, they hire a genteel house, one appears as master, others as clerks; and some as menial servants. They order all kinds of goods, gaining credit from their apparent opulence, and as soon as they are delivered, sell them for ready money at perhaps 50 per cent under prime cost, to some tradesmen who are mean enough to encourage such wretches. An old proverb says, without a receiver there could be no thief. And without such tradesmen there could be no swindler.—However among the Jews there is always a certain receptacle for the spoils obtained by every kind of villany.

In the country the make use of a forged bankers' checks, properly filled, and apparently good, and in town they usually offer payment in promissory notes, indorsed on the

back

back with several names, which make them appear extremely respectable, and by such impositions, not only obtain goods, but even ready money in exchange.

But the most artful deception of the swindlers, and what the public ought to be more particularly cautioned against, is what is called going upon the mace, that is, answered advertisements inserted in the public papers by tradesmen, who upon some particular emergency have an occasion to borrow money. The swindlers trace out an object of this kind, appear as a gentleman, seem to be possessed of many valuable papers, pretend great humanity and promise to raise the money directly, provided the tradesman will give his note of hand payable in a prescribed time; the necessitous and deluded person immediately complies and gives his note very readily; one of the swindlers takes it and assures him that he will be back within an hour's time with the sum requisite. The tradesman waits impatiently but neither sees nor hears of him again, nor indeed of his note till it becomes due, for the swindler repairs with it in triumph to his companions. Now these reptiles who exist upon the ruin of families, and commit the most atrocious villanies, pretend to be conscientiously scrupulous with respect to perjury and therefore in order to avoid this crime, which is their only bugbear, one of the fraternity, in the sight of two others as witnesses, sell some goods, it matters not of what kind, to the swindler who has the tradesman's note, the goods are paid for with the note, and a trifle of change given, as soon as the note is due, the poor tradesman is arrested upon it. If he gives bail, and tries the action, the person who arrested him swears that he gave the value for the note, and two confederates corroborate his evidence, and the poor tradesman is cast and obliged to pay the debt with cost of suit.

If trade is dead, and no suitable advertisement appears, the swindlers themselves advertise, sometimes to borrow money, when they contrive by specious appearances to inveigle the lender out of his money upon his note of the swindler, who seems to have occasion to borrow it, and the security of two confederates, who appear in responsible characters; when the note becomes due, then securities are not to be found, nor perhaps the swindler neither, but if the lender should trace him out, and arrest him, his comrades bail him to wait the issue of a trial, but at the time, neither principal or bail are to be heard of.

The gang of swindlers are composed chiefly of Jews, some Frenchmen and Germans. They sometimes assume titles, or at least appear as capital merchants always wear the face of business, and give themselves many consequential airs.

However they may easily be observed by the eye of observation by overacting their parts, for they are always in a great hurry, appears to be overwhelmed with business, and make a great parade of seeming substantial persons, frequently pulling out their pocket books, as if accidentally, and display a great number of fictitious bank notes: they often vary the subject of their discourse, and always keep their eyes fixed upon the eyes of the tradesman, or person they intend to impose upon, bailiff like to circumscribe his attention that they may with the greater ease deceive and destroy him.

### *Gossips.*

THIS 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.

Tho' at first view they 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 neighbours' concerns than their own.

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

Gossips of all ranks, from my Lady to Moll the kitchen maid delight in idle stories, lying reports, and defamatory accusations.

They are led by their practice to lie, neglect their duty, and every considerate person knows, to what trying temptation penury reduces, when characters are stained, or reputation lost.

I mention the soible of tittle tattle, especially, as it abounds in this town, and has, to my certain knowledge been an insuperable obstacle in the preferment of many country girls who having imbibed it by example, have acquired such qualities as have proved their disgrace if not

ruin, and have incurred them the disapprobation of the wise and good.

Shun therefore all conversation with Gossips, because  
 "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

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## General Remarks

on the

PRESENT STATE and CONDITION of the TOWN,

*interspersed with*

ADMONITIONS TO

Persons of Both Sexes.

**L**ONDON has been justly described as a world by itself in which we may discover more new countries, and surprising singularities, than in all the universe besides.

It may justly be compared to a large forest of wild beasts, where thousands range about at a venture, are equally savage, and mutually destruction one to another.

It abounds with hurry and impertinents, scramblings and underminings, villanies, cheats, and impostors.

Survey it from the court to the dunghill, you will see most of its inhabitants appear in mask, even at noon day, affecting to be busy in the service of society, but basely subserving their own passions, as if deceit was virtue.

Its very pomp, the innumerable and splendid equipages, retinue we see in every corner, afford but a melancholy token of an universal poverty, and the dismal prospect of crowds of miserable people, either tortured with the agonies of their own guilt and follies, groaning under the wants of the necessaries of life, mad or infatuated by oppression, or desperate from an urgent sense of irretrievable losses sustained in conscience, reputation, or poverty.

In short, if one grand idea could contain a just representation of the motley tribe, which daily exhibits in this scene of action, we could not entertain it without confusion and astonishment. Here are displayed a perfect drama of human life; and a just portrait of human nature, and a striking picture of men and things,

The court is an epitomb of this city, as well as the world,

and abounds with glaring instances of the lawless sway of pride, ambition, and avarice.

The avenues leading to it are agreeable to the prospect, and all terminate in the same point, honour and self-interest.

At first view, the end seems easily attainable, but experience will prove, that before any can arrive at the desired goal, many bye path-ways must be crossed, many intricate mazes explored, many convictions of right and wrong, and many arts invented and practised.

At Westminster-hall you may hear hedious complaints for want of money and business, much harangue to little purpose, effrontery and froth getting the better of modesty and good sense, and dignified rogues oppressing the helpless but honest.

Observe the sticklers for religion, and you will find them inveterately hating, Uncharitable, censuring each other, and almost every part denouncing anathemas on the rest.

If we lead the countrymen from one scene of action to another, it will excite at once his curiosity and surprise.—When he beholds the reverend robe of authority, he will be disposed to honour the wearer; but when he finds it to be a sanction for iniquity, it will incur his contempt.

The park is famous for being the rendezvous of the gay and gallant, who assemble there to see and be seen, to censure and be censured; the ladies to shew their finery, and the fruit of much pains taken at the toilet, and beaux to expose their sopperies, observe the beauties, and fix on a toast for the approaching evening. Every one here is curious in examining those who pass, and most are malicious as well censorious.

In this place of general concourse, people often join in the company of those whom they either hate or deride, for company is not sought here for the benefit of conversation, but joined to acquire a degree of confidence, and embolden persons against the common restrictions of the place. They talk to be taken notice of by them that pass by, for which reason they raise their voices, that those who know them, may not meet with a bow when passing. Here ladies walk four or five miles in a morning, with all the alacrity imaginable, who at home think it an unsupportable fatigue to journey from one end of their chamber to another. You may observe a beau reconnoitering the Mall, as much divided in mind as a lady in a lace chamber, determining what company she should join, and to avoid the fatal choice, use as

much precaution as a prudent parent would do in the disposal of a daughter in marriage.

A plain Irish lord shall lead half a dozen laced coats up and down during the pleasure; and another time be as much neglected as an honest man in distress, upon the sight of a ribbon, tho' every ribbon bears attraction according to colour.

The park is likewise a resort for usurers, who ply there in quest of young spendthrifts, with whom they deal cent. per cent. way, and many of whom they ease of the third part of their estates by the time it comes into their possession.

Here are likewise to be seen a number of tawdry misses, who are rambling up and down in quest of a cully, a dinner, and a crown, as well as many sharpers lying in wait for a fool of fortune, or an inexperienced country man. In short the Mall exhibits a motley scene of vanity, folly, and knavery; though it may afford recreation and improvement to the stranger of either sex, provided they are sufficiently guarded against the snares and intrigues.

I would admonish the country girl to be cautious of frequenting that or any other place of public resort in this town without proper company.

The play-house, under regulation, is a place of rational entertainment, and pleasing instruction, much of which is lost through the self-interested compliance of the managers, with the vitiated taste of the pernicious town, I call vitiated, because people of all ranks in general delight either in the representation of obscenity, nonsensical operas, farces, &c. which tend to corrupt and enervate the minds of the rising generation.

Here the indolent loll away their precious time, the critic comes to indulge his vanity, the sharper to trepan the courtesan to allure and decoy, the bawd and procurers to seduce, and the beaux and belles to see, be seen and mutually captivate.

In this epitomb of the world, are four classes; the first is composed of persons of quality, and are seated in the boxes, though fools and impertinents too often intrude amongst them. The second class, whose province is the pit, consists of citizens and their ladies, wit and critics, sharpers and courtesans; the third rank occupies the middle gallery, and is composed of mechanics, and the middling degree of people; the fourth and last comprehend the refuse of the town, and is the heat of noise, impertinence and confusion.

There



There are nightly in the play-houses, both in middle gallery and pit, a number of gilding\* whores, ready to seduce any person who has the least appearance of a stranger. When such a one is scarce, one of these ladies comes up to him with a kind of formal impudence and fixes herself as near him as possible, then begins some impertinent prate to draw him into conversation with her. If she finds a man fit for her turn, and a true squire with a subtle and insinuating ability, she leaves him a little perhaps to acquaint some hanger-on that she has a bubble in tow; some proper measures are then resolved on, and she returns and will be sure to stick by him to the end of the play, by frequently forcing her discourse to him, and contracting a kind of familiarity with him. When the entertainment is over, she will take care to march out with him, and by the way contrive to let him have a glimpse of her painted face.

If this prevails not, and he still seems insensible of her design, she comes to close parley, and desires to know which way he goes, which is always sure to be hers. Here she takes occasion to insinuate, that if he will call a coach, and set her down she will give him a cast another night.

If this succeeds the business is half done; and now she has got him to herself, she begins to cajole and flatter, to commend his good nature and civility; but, above all, the kindness of taking her into his coach; in consideration of which, if he will do her the favour to go home with her to her lodging, she will do her best to make him amends.

When he arrives there she will ask him to know his circumstances and characters in life, &c. which, if they answer her expectation, she affects to be so captivated with his department, that he must needs dine with her to-morrow, and thus the train is effectually laid, and he his generally taken in for both.

The bawd and procuress, also frequently lay wait here for the unwary of both sexes, and various are the arts which they practice, to the injury of the one and the ruin of the other.

There are also a set of male decoyers in this scene of allurement, whose business it is to inveigle the stranger or countryman into destructive paths.

One of these officious fellows will find some occasion to accost him, and after a little converse, as they seldom want confidence and impudence, and stand little upon forms and ceremonies, will ask him after the play, to accompany him

to the tavern, and drink to the health of an honest gentleman of his country, Whom he either knows or has heard of. If he can wheedle him thither, the first business is to make him drunk; draw him into gaming, and then rob him of his money.

Various also are the traps laid for the unsuspecting fair in this enchanted place; and to avoid which, I advise my country readers of both sexes, not to be immoderately fond of pleasures and never to use them without considering their design, and the company of discreet experienced friends.

London coffee-houses comprehend a variety of characters, and are frequented by good, bad, idle, and insignificant persons.

Here you may find the man of business, the philosopher, the critic, the beau, the sharper, and the spunger; some transacting their commercial concerns, some ruminating, some displaying their logical talents, some lolling between sleep and slumber, some looking out for their prey, and some by their vacant faces, indicating no emotion at all.

Frequently the coffee-houses in the different parts of the town, will afford the stranger a very good notion of the inhabitants in general, as well as a striking display of the different characters in it; and if he be on his guard, will not prove in the least detrimental to him.

So various are the avocations of the town, and so different are the times for attending them, that there are some houses of entertainment open all night as well as day, in order according to their original design, to accommodate those whose callings oblige them to attend at the earliest hours.

But, as customs degenerate in time, so these are likewise rendered subservient to base purposes and fraudulent designs.

These houses are mostly frequented by loose disorderly fellows, who ply there in quest of persons either intoxicated with liquor, or ignorant of the town, in order to trepan them by various artifices into measures, beneficial to the seducer, and destructive to the seduced. Nothing is more common, than for persons, after they have suffered themselves to be detained beyond their usual hour of departure, to betake themselves to one of these kind of houses, where they will find a number of chairmen, coachmen, and others, the refuse of mankind, together with some of the same plight as themselves.

It is extraordinary, if pretence is not found to quarrel, especially with one who seems to be a countryman, unless  
you

you will comply with their exorbitant demands, either in gaming, dringing, or spending your money lavishly on them: in such cases, the stranger never fails of being foiled: for if they cannot conquer him by dint of manhood, they will by numbers. If you chance (as it is very probable) to fall asleep, you may expect to awake without your hat, watch, money, &c. and it will be very difficult for you to obtain indemnity for property lost in so promiscuous a company.

In most of the passages and avenues leading to these night houses, you will be accosted by the most miserable of all whores, who are either excluded a lodging, through wantonness or poverty; if you comply not with their desires, they will revile you: and if you resent their abuse, it is much if you escape the rigorous discipline of some attendant bullies. Whereas compliance will almost certainly be attended with the most pernicious consequences.

To avoid these disasters, the stranger should regularly and punctually comply with the forms and hours of the house in which he resides when in town.

Among the rest of the many diversions and amusements contrived by the ingenious and necessitous, to entertain the rich, the fortunate, the foolish; besides plays, operas, pantomimes, cat's operas, puppet shews, &c. there has been practised among us a piece of old gallantry, called a masquerade, an institution, wherein the most abandoned may indulge the excess of luxury and lasciviousness, and wallow in the extravagance of concupiscence. To the honour of the present day; this extravagance of vice has been rather discountenanced than encouraged of late; but as it sometimes is allowed under the disguised title of an assembly, and has from experience, I am assured of its baneful influence, especially on strangers; I think it incumbent on me, to exhibit a concise view of the same, in order to excite the aversion of the reader, to an amusement so repugnant to the laws of reason and virtue.

As the curiosity of country persons is naturally excited by various things that present themselves in this town, and as many of them may be seen both with amusement and improvement: so there are other scenes at which he cannot be present, without incurring much danger, if not sustaining great loss both in pocket and constitution.

Covent-garden and its purloiners, have many snares, which often entice the inexperienced heated youth to his destruction,

destruction, and therefore should be entered with great caution, and circumspection.

Here are a vast variety of allurements, such as taverns, bagnios, jelly houses, and lodging houses, some adapted to the purpose of assignation, and other, to that of the consummation of amorous desires.

The jelly houses have, within these few years, been resorted to by ladies of pleasure, who ply there as cattle to a market, or servants at a statute hall, where you may reap and choose such goods as best suit your taste.

Those who frequent these houses have certainly lost that shame and delicacy, which are the ornaments of the fair sex, as well as contracted the most bare-faced effrontery, being capable of exposing themselves to the lewd embraces of an absolute stranger for a trifling consideration.

They are likewise the resort of idle fellows, who meanly live on the contribution of prostituted wretches, and are therefore bound to appear there, in order to assert their cause, and fight their battles.

In short every sober person, who regards his interest or character, will avoid such places as are most frequented by persons of indolent dispositions, and tainted morals, and are in the highest sense derogatory to his honour, subversive of his happiness, and repugnant to his interest.

From these houses, the female train, and their abandoned as well as their deluded followers commonly adjourn to other scenes of debauchery, where there is nightly rendezvous of whores, pimps, pensioners, bullies, and cullies.

The busy scene generally opens about midnight, and closes about four in the morning. Here are disregarded vows of oaths and execration, ribaldry and nonsense, blasphemy and obscenity; all that can shock a modest ear, offend a serious mind, or disgust a rational observer, is practised without remorse, respect of persons or sex, or respect to the superiority of the human or brutal creation.

As the landlords of both houses cannot be supposed to have lost all sense of honour and justice, the guest cannot reasonably expect fair treatment or good liquor: and indeed as their view of frequenting them proceeds from different causes, they are generally careless about the quality or quantity of what they gorge, to the destruction of their health and the profit of the most abandoned of mankind.

The unguarded youth not only injures his constitution, though means of intemperance, by frequenting such houses, but

but also too often contracts such an acquaintance, as prove an eternal barrier to his future success.

The stranger cannot pass any of the streets of this scene of luxury, without being exposed to the temptation of lewd women, either in passing or from the windows.

Through the force of white and red paint, and the glaring of a few tawdry rags, they some of them appear at a distance desirable objects, and have hereby allured to their embraces many innocent inexperienced countrymen, who have had reason to rue their unfortunate captivity.

Besides these dangers to which the honest countrymen, must be exposed from this quarter of the town, he will likewise, at night, be liable to the insults of banditti, whose business is to seek occasion to quarrel, abuse, and thereby draw him before a justice, and extort money by falsely swearing he was the aggressor.

The very officers of justice have availed themselves, of the ignorance and timidity of a stranger, whom they have apprehended, carried to a round house, and obliged to see them, to obtain dismissal, though detained contrary to all law of reason or the nation.

The first point of advice I would enforce is, not to hurry him into the society of strangers.

I would also remind him of his character, his birth, education, and estate, and if he considers himself a gentleman, not nominal, but real, he will doubtless deport himself consistently with that title, and regulate his behaviour by the unerring maxims of reason and justice.

With respect to ladies of fortune, as it is customary for them to receive good tation in the country, they may form a tolerable idea of the nature of the town; suffice it therefore to admonish them not to value the sopperies and pleasures of it, in an inordinate degree, but to beware of the devices and intrigues of rakes, fortune hunters, &c.

Persons of inferior rank of both sexes, will be more liable to the fallacies of an ensnaring town, as from their situation in life, they are deprived of that knowledge of it which results from reading and converse; but it is presumed that a precise adherence to the rules we have laid down, and observation of the various arts, cheats, and tricks we have detected and exposed, will prevent their falling a prey to the same, and will enable them to render a town visit both amusing and profitable.

We would especially dissuade country persons of all ranks

from harbouring the least desire of quitting a rural residence for the noise, hurry, and confusion of a city life.

Any person of reflection cannot behold, without much concern, so many stately buildings, mouldering into ruin in divers parts of this kingdom for want of inhabitants.

If the rural inhabitants urge diversions as a plea for preferring a town residence, we may certainly with justice reply that hunting, fishing, fowling, and the like, are noble and manly recreations, and do not cloy nor satiate, but are still improving and growing daily more delightful. They are not spent or wasted by fruition as ours are, for the more they are pursued, the more they entertain and gratify.

Besides, it will be necessary to consider the expences which inevitably result from the pursuit of the pleasures of this town, whereas those of the country are free and open, and derived, as it were from the general grant of nature.— Add to this that all the pleasures of the town may be run through in the narrow space of two or three days: which done, you do but traverse the same foolish road, and tread the same stage over and over again, and what can be more ungrateful to an ingenious, enquiring mind, than the dull repetition of the same scene. If these marks are weighed in the balance of sober reason, their salutary effects need not be doubted.

If education in the pretended motive, I would ask what kind of education is sought after in London.

A genteel and liberal one may be obtained in the country, and every necessary qualification for a tradesman or a gentleman.

Those persons, who hope to improve in every useful or ornamental branch of education, should embrace precious opportunities of quiet and sedateness, which cannot be expected in a noisy town, the very bane of study and meditation.

In the country all things are generally calm and still; there you have fewer cares to bend and torment you. There are no hurryings nor scramblings, no countermining of one another: but all the busy actors are innocently and industriously proceeding in their proper stations, and, as far as human nature is capable of, hushed into perfect repose.

Surely none of my country friends can think of these superior advantages, and retain their giddy resolution of quitting them all for a noisy paltry city.

I am far from advising any to a reclude life; I grant that  
music,

music, dancing, fencing, and the like, are very proper amusements to pass away an idle interval, but I would not have these preferred to such pursuits as tend to aggrandize the mind, and enable the soul.

There is but one thing within the compass of my knowledge, by which this town can improve their education; I mean in point of conversation. If you were well settled both in judgment and principal, if you could run through the different societies and humours of it, without being infected or seduced by them, and withal, could extract from them some good morals and useful observations, these considerations might justify a visit to London; but to leave business to the management of servants, and your bottles and gardens to go to ruin, come up hither to waste your time and money, merely under pretence of better company, diversion and education, than your own country can afford you, is such a mixture of folly and madness, as cannot fail to expose you to pity scorn and wonder.

If the desire of company prompts any to exchange a country for a city life, let me assure them, from long experience, they will soon find themselves deceived in their expectations.

They may form what chimerical notions they please, concerning the men and things of the town, but if they fondly imagine, that it exceeds the country in those qualities, which are the ornaments of human nature, they are greatly mistaken. It in reality is so corrupt, and so exceedingly over-run with vanity and folly, that little improvement can be expected from the society found in it. There are, indeed, as in all places some persons whose company and converse tend to the edification of their associates; but these are so rare, and withal so hard to be discerned, and come at by a stranger, that much time may be spent in fruitless search.

I can assure him for mine own part, that either many years unavoidable residence in town, the expence of much money, and loss of much time: there are very few within the circle of my acquaintance on whom I can confidently rely, and with whom I can familiar converse.

The general topics of most companies here are of a frothy insignificant nature, neither tending to amusement nor instruction; though almost every body claims a knowledge of politics, and our very sailors do arraign the measures of the state. I am sorry to say, that our companies in general, abound with ignorance and impertinence, ribaldry, and with nonsense, noise and vanity, and therefore no reasonable

person can propose to himself any advantage from frequenting them.

These remarks, though apparently harsh, are literally true: therefore if the countrymen comes hither, he must expect to find men and things as they are, and not as he would have them; and if he has sense enough to despise them, he will incur the character of a proud ill-natured unmannerly fellow.

Now, upon the whole, if the advantages of a country life are set in opposition to town residence, respecting the health of body, and the improvement of the mind: it only remains to determine which on a solid foundation is most eligible; with respect to health, it will not admit of controversy, not only as it is clear air, and the salutary exhalations of the earth are productive of the same but also, as in general, persons in the country are not so liable to debaucheries of every kind, as they are in a depraved town, because whatever may be their inclinations, there are not so many various precedents.

Besides in all parts of the kingdom there are men of probity, genius and learning, who assured of the truth of what I am endeavouring to prove, have fixed on a little rural spot to enjoy the blessings of health and reflection, and pass their life, retired from the bustle of capering mortals, in sweet solitude, and delightful contemplation.

To such as these you may repair, with these you may converse with pleasure and advantage, from these you will reap the highest instruction.

If such considerations carry with them any weight surely we need not pause a moment to decide the case.

The country life must as far exceed that of the town, as health is preferable to sickness, the mind to the body, pleasure to pain, or substance to shadow.

The End.