

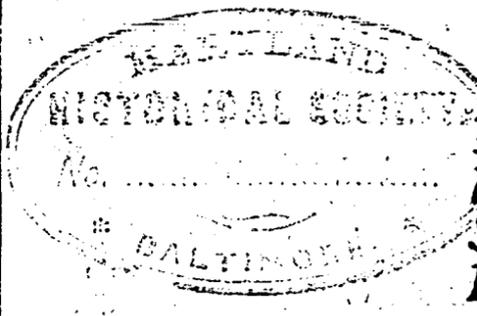


The Maryland Gazette



Samuel Johnson

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Look round the habitable World how few
Know their own Good! or knowing it pursue!
How void of Reason are our Hopes and Fears!
What in the Conduct of our Life appears
So well design'd, so luckily begun,
But when we have our Wish, we wish undone?

Dryden's Ju

S I R,

IN my second Paper, I intimated my Design of improving the FAIR-SEX, by giving some finishing Touches to Them who are already the most beautiful Pieces in human Nature: I propos'd to divert their Minds from useless Trifles, and instead thereof to fill their Breasts with valuable Knowledge; to point out those Imperfections which are the Blemishes, as well as those Virtues which are the Imbellishments of the Sex, so as in the End to set them upon the Level with Men in their boasted Superiority of Reason. How unmerciful is that Custom which for many Ages has excluded the most amiable Creatures on Earth from the Divine Pleasures of Learning, and confin'd them chiefly to the Business of the Needle! How rarely are they taught or led to think out of the Common Way, and beyond the limits of the Nursery. They who under proper Directions have acquired the most refined Knowledge, are so capt by a silly Education, that generally speaking, they know little more than their Work, a small Share of Housewifery; and a great deal of Gossiping. I would ill become the PLAIN-DEALER to commend his Fair Pupils at the Expence of Truth, I therefore think it incumbent on Me to treat them with Sincerity; and to be excus'd for mentioning the Defects in their Education, when I have assur'd them that in my Opinion, their Imperfections proceed rather from their mistaken Tutors, than from any Perverseness in their own Disposition. To rectify these Defects, I would earnestly advise them to READ with Attention: From Books they may receive Improvements, as will make them lovely, when the Wrinkles of their Faces lie buried in Wrinkles. Good Writers have it in their Power to furnish the tender Sex with Charms more lasting than those which they derive from Beauty, and which can supply the want of Youth and Gaiety with more valuable Qualities; few Authors have taken sufficient Pains to point out proper Employments, and Diversions for the Fair Readers: Pieces which they generally meet with, are too serious and too loose, for their Pursuit. I shall therefore in the Course of these Papers, endeavor to entertain them in a more agreeable Manner; and to entice them to Reading, I shall at my

Leisure present them with a Set of Histories, collected from the Records of a powerful, invisible People, with whom I hold some Correspondence. My gentle Reader will undoubtedly be curious to know the Transactions of the FAIRIES, of whom they have heard so many Tales from their Nurses; but I must take Notice in this Place, that I shall never offer them a Fairy-Tale, which will not instruct as well as amuse them. As the first Specimen of this kind, I recommend the following Relation to my Fair Pupils.

THERE was a Country-Woman, who upon her Intimacy with a Fairy, desired her to come and assist her in her Labour: The Good Woman was deliver'd of a Daughter. When the Fairy, taking the Infant in her Arms, said to the Mother; make your Choice: The Child (if you choose) shall be exquisitely Handsom, excell in Virtue more than in Beauty, and be the Queen of a mighty Empire, but withall, Unhappy: Or (if you had rather) shall be an ordinary Ugly Country Creature like you, but contented with her Condition. The Mother immediately chose Wit and Beauty for her Daughter, at the Hazard of Misfortune!

As the Child grew, new Beauties open'd daily on her Face; till in a few Years, She surpass'd all the Beauties that the oldest People had ever seen. Her turn of Mind was gentle, polite and insinuating: She was of a ready Penetration; and soon learnt every Thing so as to outstrip her Teachers. Every Holiday, She danced upon the Green with a superiour Grace to any of her Countrywomen. Her Voice was sweeter than any Shepherd's Pipe, and she sung the Songs, which she us'd to sing.

For some Time she was not apprized of her Beauty, when diverting her self with her usual Play, she saw the flowery Border of a Fountain, the Reflection of her Face: She was surpris'd at her Features and her Complexion, and desired to have the Company; and admir'd her self from Day to Day to obtain a more sensible of her Beauty, she believ'd the Predictions of the Fairy Queen, and spoil'd her self. A Damsel would neither so much as look at a Sheep: Her whole Attention was to dress her Hair with the