

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

TUESDAY, February 24, 1747.

*The following Letter from a Gentleman to his Friend, being a strong Dissuasive from Going to Law, may not perhaps be unacceptable to many of our Readers.*

S. I. R.

Am sorry to hear, that the Difference between you and Mr. A—— is at last like to be brought to a Law-Suit: I wish you would take it into your serious Consideration before you begin, because it will hardly be in your Power to end it when you please; for you immediately put the Master out of your own Hands into the Hands of those, whose Interest it is to protract the Suit from Term to Term, and who will as absolutely prescribe to you in it, as your Physician in a dangerous Illness. The Law, my good Friend, I look upon, more than any one Thing, as the proper Punishment of an over-hasty and perverse Spirit, as it is a Punishment that follows an Act of a Man's own seeking and chusing. You will not consent perhaps now to submit the Matter in Dispute to Reference; but let me tell you, that after you have expended large Sums of Money, and squander'd away a deal of Time and Attendance on your Lawyers, and Preparations for Hearings one Term after another, you will probably be of another Mind, and be glad *seven Years hence* to leave it to that Arbitration which you now refuse. He is happy who is wise by another Man's Misfortunes, says the common Adage; and why, when you have heard from all your Acquaintance who have tried the Experiment, what a grievous Thing the Law is, will you notwithstanding pay for that Wisdom which you may have at the Cost of others? The Representation that once hung up as a Sign in the Rolls Liberty, on one side a Man all in Rags, wringing his Hands, with a Label importing *that he had lost his Suit*, and on the other a Man that had not a Rag left, but stark naked, capering and triumphing *that he had carried his Cause*, was a fine Emblem of going to Law, and the infatigating Madness of a litigious Spirit: But it is said, that Sir J. Tr——, Master of the Rolls, caused this Sign to be taken down, on the Clamour it occasioned among the Lawyers. How excellent to this Purpose is the Advice of our Blessed-Saviour, rather than seek *this Redress* against any who would even take one's Coat, to give him his Coat also; for besides the Christian Doctrine inculcated by this Precept, it will be found, as the Law is managed, and the Uncertainty which attends even the best grounded Litigations, that such a pacific Spirit may be deemed the only Way to preserve the rest of one's Garments; and to prevent being stripp'd to the Skin. Moreover, what wise Man would rush upon a Proceeding, where oftentimes the principal Men of the Profession are not ashamed, under the specious but scandalous Notion of doing *the best they can for their Clients*, to undertake for the sake of a paltry Fee, to nibble over the blackest Cause, and to defeat the *justest*? where your Property may depend altogether upon the Impudence of an eloquent Pleader, asserting *any Thing*, and a perjur'd Evidence, swearing whatever will do for his Suborner's purpose; where the Tricks and Mistakes of Practitioners, and what of trifling Forms may Nonsuit you; where Deaths of Persons made Parties to the Suit, may cause all to begin again; what wise Man, I say, would subject himself to these Vexations and common Incidents in the Law, if he could any Way avoid it; together with the intolerable Expences; and Attendants consequent on a Law-Suit? besides the Fears, the Cares, the Anxieties, that revolve at every Term, and ingross all a Man's Thoughts? Where *legal Proofs* must be given to the *plainest Facts*, that a living Man is living, and identically himself; and that a dead Man is dead; and buried by Certificates

where Evidence must be brought at a great Expence to Hands and Seals affix'd to Deeds and Receipts, that never were before questioned; til a Cause shall be split into several under Ones; these try'd Term by Term, and Years elapse before the main Point comes to be argued; tho' originally there was but one single Point, as you apprehended in the Question. As to the Law Part, only observe the Process; first, comes the Declaration, 2dly, the Plea, 3dly, the Demurrer to the Plea, 4thly, a Joinder in Demurrer, 5thly, a Rejoinder, 6thly, a Sur-rejoinder; which sometimes is conclusive, sometimes to begin all over again: Then may succeed Trials upon the Law Part, and Trials upon the Equity Part; oftentimes new Trials or Rehearings, and these followed by Writs of Error: Then you may be plunged into the bottomless Gulf of C——, where you begin with Bills and Answers, containing Hundreds of Sheets at exorbitant Prices, 15 Lines in a Sheet, and 6 Words in a Line, as if purposely to contrive to pick your Pocket: Then follows all the Train of Examinations, Interrogatories, Exceptions, Bills amended, References for Scandal and Impertinence, new Allegations, new Interrogatories, new Exceptions, on pretence of insufficient Answers, Replies, Rejoinders, Sur-rejoinders, Butters, Rebutters, and Sur-rebutters, til at last, when you have danced through this blessed Round of Preparation, the Hearing before the Master of the Rolls comes next; Appeals follow from his Honour to the Chancellor; then from the Chancellor to the House of Lords; and sometimes the Parties are sent down for a new Trial in the Courts below. — Good Heavens! What wise Man permit me to repeat it, would enter himself into this confounding Circle of the Law! I hope, dear Sir, you will think of this Matter most deliberately, before you proceed in your present angry Purpose; and if you shall judge it proper to take my Advice, and avoid a Law-Suit, I am sure you will have Reason to thank me for it, and for the Zeal wherewith I am, &c.

H A G U E, October 18.

SOME private Letters from Paris advise, that his most Christian Majesty will in a short Time declare the Marriage of the Dauphin with a Princess of Prussia, and that every Thing relating thereto is settled between the two Courts.

Paris, October 21. 'Tis said, that the Marriage of the Dauphin with the Princess Maria Joseph of Poland and Saxony, will soon be declared at Court. Several Englishmen have been lately taken up here, and sent to the Baltic. Orders are given to fortify Port L' Orient. 'Tis assured that the Effects which were in the Town when the English made a Descent in that Neighbourhood, are valued at 15 Millions of Livres, and that there were also seven large Indiamen, and two Men of War of sixty Guns each, newly built, belonging to the Company.

Lyon, October 22. It is impossible to express the Hurry and confusion we are in here, on Account of the Invasion with which the Kingdom is threatened by the Austrians and Piedmontese. It is said, they will attempt to take Winter Quarters in Provence with 50,000 Men; and that in the Spring they will enter Dauphiny with an Army of 60,000 more; the first of these Corps is to be attended by an English Squadron, which adds to our Terror not a little, from the Remembrance of what passed in the late War, when their Fleet under the command of Admiral Shovel, lay before Toulon, and Prince Eugene besieged the City, and absolutely ruined the Country round it. The last Advice from our Army left them intrenched on the Vaz, in a very bad condition, and with great Animoshies between our and the Spanish Officers, occasion'd chiefly by the Misunderstanding between Marshal Maillebois and the Marquis de Las Minas; but