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MARTLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, June 27, 1754.

From a late WESTMINSTER JOURNAL.

Vita morti proprior est quotidie. Phædrus.

T is impossible to think of any Subject in Nature that more unavoidably leads a Writer into Triteness and Common Place, than the Consideration of our Mortality; and yet it is never improper, never unseasonable, nor is it ever unnecessary, seeing most Men lead their Lives in such a Manner, as if they thought, that either their Bodies were immortal in this World, or that their Souls would be mortal in that which is to come. You cannot (fays the learned and huto come. You cannot (tays the learned and humorous Dr. South) do the Devil a more eminent, nor a more acceptable Piece of Service, than by denying his Existence; for by so doing you take away all Terror from Sinners; and what you take away from their Fears you add to their Impiety, and render them more effectually his own. Upon the same Method of Argumentation a Writer cannot do a greater Difference to Mankind, than by not do a greater Differvice to Mankind, than by publishing such Tracts as have the least Tendency publishing such Tracts as have the least Tendency to decoy any one's Attention from the Contemplation of his approaching Distolution: A Man, who does not (as St. Paul nobly expresses it) DIE DAILY; that is, who has not Death as it were perpetually before his Eyes, can scarcely think of making due Preparation for that invincible Enemy, that is every Moment on the Advance. Not only therefore all Books of an Atheistical Turn (which cannot, I apprehend, be written without the immediate Assistance of the Devil himself, and with which to the Scandal of this Nation and the Offence of all Christendom we abound) not only these, I say, but Christendom we abound) not only these, I say, but all Books that contain nothing more than idle Amulement, nay, fome that are professedly on a momulement, nay, some that are professed on a moral Plan, are of infinite Detriment to the human Species. The Soul (size Monsieur Paschal) discovers nothing in herself, that can surnish her with Contentment. Whatever she beholds there, afflicts her, when she considers it sedately. This obliges her to have Recourse to external Enjoyments, that the may lose in them the Remembrance of her real State. In this Oblivion confifts her Joy; and, to render her miserable it suffices to oblige her to enter into, and converse with hersels. But however irksome a mental Commerce with one's self may be, 'tis certain the most falutary Thing in the World; and when a Man flies from himself, it is a terrible Symptom, that all is not right within him. Hence it is, that our Theatres are crowded, and our Churches are empty: Hence it is, that the most despicable of all despicable Amusements, even the Italian Burlettas find an Audience: Hence it is that the Bible is neglected, whilft a * Book wrote avowedly against it, and which ought to be burnt by the common Hencetta abusing Black in the by the common Hangman, obtains a Place in the Studies of some of our Divines: Hence, shoally it is, that Acting, Dancing, Fiddling, Dressing, Gaming, Mimicking, Whoring, Drinking, and some Ekinds of Preaching, have banished Virtue, Religion, and common Sense from the triumphant Majority of an abandoned World. It is strange that Death, which in Fact can never be remote even from the longest Liver should not be terrifying till the very Instant of his Arrival. How affecting he is at that Time, we have a sine Description in Shakespear's Measure for Measure.

Age, but to die, and go we know near Mare, To lie in cold Obstruction, and to of This sensible warm Motion to becor proving his A knealed Clod; and the delighted To bathe in fiery Floods, or to reside In shrilling Regions of shick ribbed lee? Or blown with refless Violence about The pendant World; or to be worfe than averft Of those that lawless and uncertain thought

Imagines Howling; 'tis too borrible!
The weariest and most loathed wordly Life,
That Pain, Age, Penury, and Imprisonment,
Can lay on Nature, is a Paradist
To what we sear of Death.

Our shunning an Acquaintance with ourselves, and not frequently weighing in the Coolees of Speculation the precarious Instability of our Natures occasion this Dread. But were we to familiarize Death to our Imaginations by repeated Me ditations thereon, it would not only have a very great Ir fluence on our Lives, but difarm him of a great Number of his Terrors. He would then ap pear rather in an amiable, than a formidable Light, as he is drawn by Dr. Gartb.

'Tis to the Vulgar Death too harsh appears: The Ill we feel is only in our Fears.
To die is landing on some filent Shore,
Where Billows never break, nor Tempests roar; E'er well we feel the friendly Stroke 'tis o'er. The Wife thro' Thought th' Affaults of Death defy, The Fools thro' bleft Infensibility,
"Tis what the Guilty fear, the Pious erave,
Sought by the Wretch, and wanquish'd by the Brave:
It eases Lovers, sets the Captive free,
And, tho' a Tyrant, offers Liberty.

The reading of good Books written on this truly interesting Subject must have a necessary Tendency to feafon and moralize our Minds. Many of the Ancients have render'd their Names immortal by finely handling the Subject of their own Mortality.

Many of our own Countrymen have done the
fame: But above all Writers either ancient or mo dern, Mr. Addison has distinguished himself in the following most inimitable Passage: "When I "look upon the Tombs of the Great (says that in comparable Author) every Emotion of Envy dies within me; when I read the Epitaphs of the Beautiful every inordinate Defire goes out; when I meet with the Grief of Parents upon a Tombstone, my Heart melts with Compassion; when I see the Tombs of the Parents themselves, I consider the Vanity of grieving for those, whom we must quickly follow; when I see Kings lying by those that deposed them; when I consider rival Wits placed side by side, or the holy Men that divided the World with their "Contests and Disputes, I restest with Sorrow and Assonishment on the little Competitions, Fac tions, and Debates of Mankind. When I read the several Dates of the Tombs, of some that "the feveral Dates of the Tombs, of some that
"died Yesterday, and some fix hundred Years
"ago, I consider that great Day, when we shall
"all of us be Contemporaries, and make our Ap"pearance together." The human Mind may be
greatly assisted, relieved, and even entertained by
Emblems of its approaching Separation from the
corporeal Mass. There is a Place in the Gardens
of Mr. Jonathan Tyers at Denbeigh's near Darking
in Surry, a Walk or two in which will do a Man
more good than any practical Discourse in the in Surry, a Walk or two in which will do a Man more good than any practical Discourse in the World. You are conducted thro' a very pleasant winding Walk down into a little deep Valley, in the Center of which, upon a small Grass Plot is erected the Figure of a naked Woman treading on a Mask—an apt Emblem of TRUTH. On the left Hand side of this little Spot, which honest Jonath Nature have conspired, to make delight and Nature have conspired, to make delight

A LO Cartiff Mr. Hayman. The one is a LO Cartiff Mr. Hayman. The one is a whereon is a good Man. The Rake is Rooms, a good Stable, it with his gouty Leg supposed with the utmost with Horror, agonized with the utmost with Tortion of Despair, and stable nothing but Colouring and Canvals) server. and (tho' nothing but Colouring and Canvais) ter-rible in the highest Degree to the Beholder. Before him flands the Figure of Time with a most formidable and menacing Afpect shewing him that there are, few, very sew Sands less in his Glass. A-

round him is a Study of Books written by Men fallely called Witt, falsely indeed, for they are the worst of all Ideots, wim. Habber, Spinsma, Toland, Tindal, Shaftefoury, Balingbroke, and several more of the same infernal Stamp. After the Spectator is sufficiently shocked, and (I hope) improved by this became the may relieve and feet his five with the Picture; he may relieve and feast his Eye with the other, which is in every Respect a Contrast to this.

The expiring Saint is in his Bed, his Hands stretched out in a devotional Posture, and (tho' the I-mage of Death stands full before him) his Aspect mage of Death stands still before him) his Aspect is ferene, full of Christian Confidence, and illuminated with a Smile, which, corrected as it is by the convultive Throws of his Departure, gives yet a Signal of the Beatification, that is at Hand. His Study is adorned with the Works of Tillotson, Sharp, Sherlock, Nelson, Barrow, Lecke, Addison, West, and Leckler, with many other Christian Head. Weft, and Lyttelton, with many other Christian Heroes, who have purchased for themselves and all that duly attend to them, the eternal Laurel. I think Mr. Tyers can never be sufficiently commended for turning Organisms into Morals, and making his Garden the Vehicle of Instruction; for by this Means People may be some Times alarmated with Thoughts they come thinker on Purpose to ed with Thoughts they come thither on Purpole to shun, and be surprised into a Sense of their Duty. It would be well perhaps, it there was something of this Nature at Vauxhall, where too many Folks go merely to be fiddled out of their Reflection, and to drown their Sorrows in Champaign.—I cannot take my leave of this useful, tho melancholy Subject, without condoling with my Countrymen on a late great and national Loss, no less than that of the right honourable Henry Pelbam, Esq.; a Gentleman, who both at home and abroad maintained the Character of a most worthy and able Statesman. The Violence of Party, the Clamour of Faction, the Discontent of the Unprovided, nor the Ambition of the Unstaissy'd, could ever raise Clouds enough to obscure the Character of this Minister. He obtained his Place by Merit, he retained it without Envy, nothing but Death or Disease could go merely to be fiddled out of their Reflection, and without Envy, nothing but Death or Disease could have made him refign it; for happy in his Prince's Favour, in his Kindred, his Alliance, his Attachments, in the Clearness of his Head, and the Integrity of his Heart, he could not possibly have a Competitor, much less a Supplanter. It is much to the Honour of this great Man, that Mr. Pope, who was no Platterer or Ministers in the Meridian of their Power, has thought him worthy of an high

God knows I praise a Courtier, when I can. When, I confess, there is who feels for Fame, And melts to Goodness, need I scarb'row Name? Pleased let me own, in Esher's peaceful Grove (Where Kent and Nature vie for PELHAM's Love) The Scene, the Master opening to my View, I sit, and dream, I see my Craggs aniw!

In a Note to this Passage on the Word Effer, Mr. Pope expresses himself in this Manner. The House and Gardens of Ester in Surry belonging to the honourable Mr. Pe'ham, Brother to the Duke of Newcostle. The Author could not have given a more amiable Idea of his Character, than in comparing him to Mr. CRACOS.

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LONDON, March 9.

HIS Week furrendered hersels at the OldBailey, and gave in unexceptionable Bail for
her Appearance at the April Sessions, to an Indicament for Perjury, Elizabeth Canning; who, if in-noceat, is doubtlefs the most injured Subject in Great-Britain. Nothing, indeed, has yet appeared in Court to prove her otherwise, although the foli-cited-Recantation of a common Profitute, the daily Exaggerations of a Writer equally shameless, and the simfy Reasonings of nameless Pamphletteers, may have been termed unanswerable by Folly and Prejudice, because Elizabeth Canning's Friends