The Maryland Gazette

Samuel Thomas

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The following Piece is taken from a Pamphlet entituled, THE INTELLIGENCER.

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Nataram expellas furca licet, usque recurret. Hor.

THERE is an old Heathen Story, That *Prometheus*, who was a Potter in *Greece*, took a frolick to turn all the Clay in his Shop into Men and Women, separating the Fine from the Course, in order to distinguish the Sexes. The *Males* were formed of a Mixture of *Blue* and *Red*, as being of the toughest Consistence, fitter for Creatures destin'd to Hardships, Labour, and difficult Enterprizes: The *Females* were molded out of the most refined Stuff, much of the like Substance with *China* Ware, Transparent, and Brittle; designing them rather for Show and Beauty, than to be of any real Use in Life, further than that of Generation. By the Transparency, he intended the Men might see so plainly through them that they should not be capable of *Hypocrisy*, *Falshood* or *Intrigue*; and by their Brittleness, he taught them, they were to be handled with a Tenderness suitable to their Delicacy of Constitution.

IT was pleasant enough, to see with what Contrivance and Order, he disposed of his Journey-men in their several Apartments, and how judiciously he assigned each of them his Work according to his Natural Capacity, and Talents, so that every Member, and Part of the Human Frame, was finish'd with the utmost Exactness and Beauty.

IN one Chamber, you might see a *Leg-shaper*; in another, a *Skull-roller*; in a third, an *Arm-stretcher*; in a fourth a *Gut-winder*; for each Workman was distinguished by a proper Term of Art, such as *Knuckle-turner*, *Tooth-grinder*, *Rib-cooper*, *Muscle-maker*, *Tendon-drawer*, *Paunch-blower*, *Vein-brancher*, and such like; but *Prometheus* himself made the *Eyes*, the *Ears*, and the *Heart*; which, because of their nice and intricate Structure, were chiefly the Business of a Master-Workman. Beside this, he compleated the Whole, by fitting and joining the several Parts together, according to the best Symetry and Proportion. The Statues are now upon their Legs. *Life*, the chief Ingredient is wanting, *Prometheus* takes a *Ferula* in his Hand, (a Reed of the Island *Chios*, having an Oily Pith,) steals up the Back Stairs to *Apollo's* Lodgings, lights it clandestinely at the Chariot of the *Sun*, so down he creeps upon his Tip-Toes to his Warehouse; and in a very few Minutes (by Application of the same) to the Nostrils of his *Clay Images*, sets them all a stalking and staring thro' one another, but intirely insensible of what they were doing. They look'd so like the latter End of a *Lord-Mayor's* Feast, he could not bear the Sight of them. He then saw it was absolutely necessary to give them *Passions*, or *Life* would be an insipid Thing, and so from the Super-abundance of them in other *Animals*, he culls out enough for his Purpose, which he blended and temper'd so well, before Infusion, that his Men and Women became the most amiable Creatures that *Thought* can conceive.

LOVE was much like a pure Vestal Flame, not made up of sudden Joy, Transports, and Extasies, but constant, friendly and benevolent.

ANGER did not appear horrid, and frightful, by Turbulent Emotions of the Breast, and Distortions of the Face, but preserved a Dignity of Resentment in the Countenance, commanding a Reverential Awe in the Offender.

FEAR did not in the least encroach upon the Bounds of Fortitude, by a Slavish Dejection of Spirits, nor was it ever seen upon any Occasion, but as a Monitor, to prevent the Doing of any Action, which might be attended with Disgrace, or Repentance.

IN the same Manner was every Passion and Appetite under the best Regulation and Dominion of Reason. The World would have been a most delightful Scene, had People continued in this Scituation, but alas! there can be no Happiness here without a Mixture of Misery.

Prometheus is apprehended for his Theft, and Presumption, bound fast in Chains to a Rock, with a *Vulture* to prey upon his Liver.

HIS Journey-men get drunk for Joy, they were now their own Masters, during which Interval, they fall to Man and Woman-making with excessive Precipitation and Hurry. Now you might see a small Head set upon a Pair of broad Shoulders; a Nose too long, too short, too thick, too small or awry, on the Face; A large heavy Carcass rear'd upon a small Pair of Spindle Shanks, by which Means they become bandy; a long Chin to a short Face; One Arm longer than the other; Eyes too big for their Sockets; Mouths three times too wide, or too narrow; every Part and Limb almost chosen and put together at random. But to conclude the Farce; when they came to the Passion-Work, instead of blending and tempering them in true Proportion, they took them from the worst of *Animals* simply, and by guess. To one was given the Rage and Fury of a *Wolf*. Hence came a most virulent, persecuting, malicious Villain; from whom has descended those boistrous and outragious Pests of Society, who every Day disturb our Peace; the only Blessing we can enjoy upon Earth. To another the Poison and Rancour of a *Toad*, from whom sprang the Revengeful; who upon the least Touch of Offence, are ever upon the Watch, to ruin the Inadvertent.

TO another the Subtility and Cunning of a *Fox*, from whom we trace the *Politician*, who turns all the Motions of his Soul to *Seducing*, *Betraying*, *Surprizing*, *Fair-Promises*, *with foul Intentions*, *perpetual Stratagems to his own Advantage*, *under the specious Appearance of the publick Good.*

TO another the Alertness of a Monkey. He begat a large Family of Sibers, Buffoons, and Mimicks; these are a numerous Breed and dispersed over the Face of the whole Earth.