

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, November 15, 1749.

From the Newcastle GENERAL MAGAZINE.

On the General Wants of Mankind.

Indigentia est libido inextinguibilis.

WHEN we speak of persons in want, we usually mean, that they stand in need only of those common supports of nature, food and raiment; but if we make the least observation, or reflection, we shall soon perceive, that the wants of mankind are by no means so confin'd and limited, but are spread and branched out, and in a manner overflow us, be our condition what it will; and we might as well undertake to stop the course and current of the tide, as thus pretend to set bounds and limits to the wants of human nature.

All the world, for ever want something, and are continually complaining, some with reason, and some without; and we are more or less sensible of it, according as we are more or less concern'd in the world, and frequent the multitude and most populous places in it. — London, therefore, as it is the metropolis of the British empire, is for that reason, our capital of human want; where it is continually breaking out in every shape it's nature is capable of, and publish'd a thousand ways to all who are inclined to see and consider.

The London cries, which never cease, are only, properly speaking, a proclamation of some of our wants: Beggars all, and unhappy in some respect or other. There is no less thing as walking the streets, with the sense of sight and hearing, without being continually put in mind of it: Pray remember the poor, the blind, the lame, the sick, the prisoner, the desolate, the fatherless, and the widow: This house to be let, the landlord wants a tenant, and may have twenty for one that will pay him: Lodgings to let, proclaimed on half the doors and window shutters in town; the owners all want tenants (if they have them; and then they want their rent; and what they may, most of them) then they want them out, and to get better; a thing by no means less difficult than the former: Even every sign signifies want.

Some there are who really want food and raiment; but when that is not the case, want is such a thing as none can escape of get out of the reach of: Those who have really enough, want more than enough; and when really is satisfied, up starts fancy with a bottomless appetite, which creates wants for ever, and is apt to be of so teeming a nature, that nothing but mortality can put a period to it. The child continually wants a thousand nicknacks, and so indeed does the man; for the appetite of want is inexhaustible, a desire that will be, and will be in want. The child, besides innumerable other wants, wants sadly to be a great boy or a girl; and when that is come to pass, is then in as great necessity to be a man or a woman, promising itself then most wonderful things, which it creates and magnifies in imagination, and seldom meets with much of in any more real sense; for the phantom Happiness keeps hopping at a distance a little before, and is so kind as not to run quite out of sight, but not to be catch'd or touch'd, tho' mortals live upon the hope of it; which seems to be a just denudation of human happiness.

When we are grown up, and arriv'd at what we call years of maturity, coarse affections arise in the mind that require their proper objects, and hanker after and sigh for the want of them. We are not content with what we have, but we have them; and

we want and wish to be dispossessed of what we have: So that the satisfaction of a former want begets another, and causes what may properly enough be called a generation of wants: We want society and company; and when we have it, we commonly want to be released, and to get rid of it before we can; fancying that we were, or shall be, happier without it than with it.

When we are sick, we really then want health; and when we have it, we have more wants than we had when we were sick; for perfect health and vigour create a multitude of wants, as the respective wants of every appetite are then in force, and the various wants of pride and ambition call about them, and mightily importune for gratification, which perhaps the world and nature of things will not admit of; or if it does, in so doing itself does no more than satisfy one want and create another, leaving us still in a longing condition. Such is our nature; such our condition; such, in reality, is the life of man.

BASLE (in Switzerland), July 11.

THE affair relating to the conspiracy at Bern, proceeds in much the same manner as most enterprizes of the like nature do, when they are discovered before the actors are ready to execute their designs. Three of the principal conspirators; who, upon the strictest examination that could possibly be made, were found guilty on Friday last, have had sentence pronounced against them, viz. One, that is to say, the Sieur F. was to have his hand cut off first, and then to be beheaded; and the two others H. and V. to be beheaded only. These rebels were executed, pursuant to their sentence, on the 16th instant, where the lowest malefactors are usually hanged. During all the time of their trial, a certain number of drummers were ordered to beat without ceasing; and on the day of execution the same drummers surrounded the scaffold, and had express orders to beat up directly, in case any of the criminals should presume to harangue the mob; which, however, none of them attempted. There are still seventeen of their accomplices, who are close confined and double fettered, thirty, who are prisoners in their own houses, and eight have been acquitted and discharged. Four of the last mentioned eight have been at Solcure, and have had the assurance to make their application to the French minister for his protection, but that minister, instead of giving them the least encouragement, threatened to have them apprehended. Whereupon they thought it most advisable to move off the premises as fast as possible, and make the best of their way into Italy. Their excellencies, who have the administration of all public affairs at Bern, continue to take all the prudent precautions imaginable, for securing the peace and tranquillity of the state. On the day of the execution they ordered two squadrons of dragoons to march into the city, besides a large detachment of foot soldiers, who continue to mount guard. The commissioners, who are invested with full power and authority to proceed in the trials of the rest of the conspirators, are very assiduous and constant in their business. They both dine and sup in the town-hall, and seldom break up, all between ten and eleven at night. Tho' Mr. Michael Duerer has not indeed been re-examined, yet he is now closer confined than ever.

Bern (in Switzerland), July 20. All the inferior courts of justice in this capital continue shut, and the supreme council have been wholly taken up in reading the examinations, and in passing sentence upon three of the principal persons concerned in the late conspiracy, which was accordingly done on Wednesday last, and they were all beheaded the next morning, without difference, namely the Lieutenant of the garrison, and his