

T H E N^o. 343.

M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, November 20, 1751.

From a late Public Print.
An EPISTLE from a Society of Young LADIES.

GENTLEMEN, what Charms has the dull, stupid, sauntering Life of a Batchelor above that of a married Man? What are his Advantages? Where is the Joy of living on the Earth without having any one Place in it that he can call his Home? What Pleasure is there in a selfish Unconcern for all the World? What Comfort in having none concern'd or interested for you?

The dry, dull, drowfy Batchelor surveys,
Alternate, joyless Nights and lonesome Days;
No tender Transports wake his fullen Breast;
No soft Endearments lull his Cares to rest;
Stupidly free from Nature's tend'rest Ties.
Lost in his own sad *Self* he lives and dies.

Not so the Man, to whom indulgent Heaven
That tender Bosom-Friend a Wife has given.
Him, blest in her kind Arms, no Fears dismay,
No secret Checks of Guilt his Joys allay;
No Husband wrong'd, no Virgin's Honour spoil'd,
No tender Parent weeps his ruin'd Child;
No fell Disease, no false Embrace is here,
The Joys are safe, the Raptures are sincere.
Does Fortune smile? How grateful must it prove,
To tread Life's pleasing Round with one you love!
Or does she frown? With one whose soft'ning Art
Will sooth your Woes, or bear a willing Part.

Forgive us Gentlemen, this Start of Poetry; the Warmness of our Hearts occasion'd the Elevation of our Stile: But if we have said nothing but what is true, nothing but what is just and reasonable, we hope the Strikingness of the Contrast, and the Strength of the Sentiments will co-operate together to make you ashamed of yourselves; and as the First Fruits of your Repentance, throw yourselves at our Feet, and with humble and contrite Hearts confess your past Follies, and joyfully embrace the Forgiveness, which our tender Bosoms will undoubtedly be dispos'd to favour you with.

But come, we have hitherto carry'd it against you with a higher Hand than we at first intended. We will now endeavour, if we can, in some measure to apologize for you. Ah Gentlemen! Gentlemen! we are very much afraid your Ideas of the Sex are taken from the bad Part of them, which you are so much inclin'd to keep Company with; and because you have been surfeited with stinking Fish, you imagine all Fish tainted! Because you have unluckily had the keeping of a Magpye, you think every Bird must chatter, and wag its Tail. — Indeed, indeed, Gentlemen, this is doing us great Injustice. But we will not dwell on so ticklish a Point.

Another Reason which may perhaps deter you from Matrimony is the Expence of it. This Point hath been argued with great Accuracy, and much hath been said on both Sides. But after all, set the Extravagance of Tavern-Bills, against the additional Expence of a Table; the lavish Presents to an insatiate Mistress, against the moderate Expence of a modest Wife; the Surgeon's Bill against the Nurse and the Midwife's; oppose all these fairly to each other, and the Balance of Expence will undoubtedly fall on the Batchelor's Side. Add to all this, who would not rather be the Father of Children, than the Begetter of a vagrant Race? To whom (if impudent Custom did not harden you till past a Sense of Shame) you durst not give the

sweet Appellations of Sons and Daughters.

Another Hindrance to your engaging in the Marriage State; may be the unhappy Examples which may here and there present themselves to your Observation. I will not indeed assert that all Women are Angels; tho' a great Man hath said, that some Women are better Things: But I will maintain, in spite of any ill natured Fellow, whose Imperiousness is generally the Cause of such Examples, that Matrimony is the only Heaven on Earth; and your entering into that State, is literally entering in at the strait Gate that leadeth to Life; and that pursuing the loose and idle Course you at present do delight in, is following the broad and beaten Way that leadeth to Destruction.

L O N D O N, August 5.

ON Thursday, the 25th ult. die:; aged about Ninety, Mr. Thomas Bird, of the Parish of Claines, near the City of Worcester, who was formerly a Rope Maker, and having acquired a handsome Fortune, left off Business, and lived very recluse: It is remarkable that he died in the same Room where he was born, and never lay out of it but two Nights in his whole Life, neither had he been known to be at any Place of Worship for these forty Years past, except at such Time as the Bells wanted new roping. About two Months before his Death, he made his Will, and left his whole Substance to his Housekeeper (who had lived with him several Years) except a Barrel of Ale, which he ordered should be drank out at his Funeral; but one Day having a Mind to take the Ale, to judge whether it was likely to be fit for that Purpose, it had such an Effect upon him, that he grew better, and lived to see it quite out; yet, still being persuaded he should not live long, he had another Barrel of Ale brewed, which was tapped; and drank out by the Persons who attended his Funeral, on Saturday the 27th in the Evening. Soon after he was taken ill, he expressed great Uneasiness on Account of a Sum of Money he had out at Use, declaring he could not die satisfied till it was called in, which being done, he once more had an Opportunity of counting over his Treasure, he afterwards seem'd indifferent whether he died or lived; and about two Hours before his Death, bespoke his Coffin, ordering it to be done as speedily as possible; but before it was quite finished, his Corpse was ready for it.

August 15. All our Accounts from Paris are full of the Difference that subsists at present between the Court and Parliament, on the Affair of the Management of the Hospitals, which is pushed to Extremity. Most People seem astonished at the Firmness of that wise Body, and the Thinness of the Minority (consisting only of two) while the Politicians are no less amazed, that the Ministry not yet reconciled to the Clergy, should imbarass themselves also with this respectable Assembly, purely to demonstrate the Extent of the Royal Prerogative, of which no Body in France makes any Doubt.

There has been a Rumour about Town within these few Days, of War with a certain neighbouring Power, but how it took Rise we cannot ascertain; however, we are assured, that some Ships of very extraordinary Dimensions are building, in Case there should be any Occasion.

From Cadiz we have Advice, that four Ships sailed from thence for America, about three Weeks ago, with Land Forces on board; under Convey of two Men of War.

August 20. The Honourable Commodore Keppel has sent, as a Present from Algiers, two fine Ostriches, and a Lioness, to his Majesty, four Ostriches to his Royal Highness the Duke; and two Ostriches to the Right Honourable the Earl of Sandwich.