

ON IMPUDENCE.

Impudentia omnia vincit.

Few modern languages can boast of more melody of sound, strength of expression or variety of phrase, than the English; yet with all these advantages, it has one defect of no ordinary magnitude; I mean the loose, vague, and indeterminate ideas affixed to many of its terms. Though obscurity be a fault common to most languages, yet in none is it so prominent or conspicuous, as in our own. The word, *Impudence*, the theme of our present discourse, has by no lexicographer, as far as I am acquainted with, ever been justly or accurately explained. Were I called upon to give a definition of the term, I would say, it was that peculiar habit of the mind, which prompts the possessor, free from the suggestions of pride, vanity, or selfishness, to display to the world his bodily and mental accomplishments, for its sole use, benefit and improvement.

Having thus laid down our premises, the next step in our inquiries after truth, shall be, to illustrate a few of the many advantages, which result to society from an ardent, incessant and unwearied attention to this splendid accomplishment. Impudence adds ease to the carriage of a person, grace to his deportment, expression to his countenance, and vigour to his understanding; it renders his manners smooth, urbane, and elegant; his conversation natural, unaffected, polite, and entertaining; and his wit, (should he be so fortunate as to possess any,) universally relished, admired and applauded. The society of the impudent has ever been, and will continue to be courted, not only by the rich and accomplished, the gay and the witty, the poor and the needy, the vulgar and illiterate, but also by the whole circle of the literati, virtuosi, delectani, and cognoscenti.

To complain that my fair countrywomen or countrymen are too remiss in the cultivation of this necessary and highly important accomplishment, would be doing them a manifest and shameful piece of injustice. For the honor of my native country, I am happy to observe daily issuing from the bar, the pulpit, and the drawing room, myriads of those who have devoted their whole lives to the service of this unblushing goddess. Among the circles of elegance and fashion, we, however, it is true, occasionally meet with a solitary instance of a young and beautiful female, who is so totally devoid of taste and refinement, as thoroughly to despise it. By being educated, perhaps, in a remote part of the country, she is taught to believe modesty and reserve to be no inconsiderable virtues. And so fully have these antiquated notions taken possession of her mind, that no lapse of time is ever able to efface them. On her entrance into high life, she feels an unconquerable aversion to enter into all the pursuits and amusements of her fashionable acquaintance. So preposterous are her ideas of delicacy, and so unreasonable her false shame, that no persuasion can ever induce her to expose to the eye of every gazing spectator, the elegance of her form, or the symmetry of her shape, by the thinness or transparency of her dress. From the want of this invaluable attainment, she passes through life without much admiration or eclat. The high-born blood, the swelling fop, and the honorable cockcomb are seldom found dangling in her train; and the poor girl is at last, perhaps, *O mirabile dictu!* so extremely weak and foolish as to bestow her hand and heart on one whose virtues and talents are his principal recommendations.

These absurd opinions, and ridiculous notions are however justly reprobated by the fashionable belle

and high-bred lady. They ever feel the utmost repugnance to conceal the splendour of their native charms, by a useless superfluity of ornaments. So hardy, indeed, is the constitution of a veteran belle, that I am actually persuaded she suffers less from the deprivation of dress than an inhabitant of Otaheite, or a native of Pelew. To render herself attractive and engaging, her every wish and action is directed for this highly praiseworthy end. She frequents all places of public amusement where her charms can be displayed to most advantage. The theatre, the ball-room and the card table, are her favorite and constant haunts, these are elements perfectly congenial to her nature, here she always has it in her power, by the help of a bold and confident air, by loud and incessant talking, by frequent ogling and repeated staring, to attract universal attention, admiration and applause.

Impudence is of the utmost importance, not only in the private but also in the public concerns of life. Behold that illustrious politician (who with about as many particles of sense, lodged beneath his pericranium, as there are grains of gold in a brass farthing, and with about as much political and scientific knowledge as is usually acquired at one of our public seminaries) boldly plunging in the vast and interminable gulf of politics, bustling at elections, spouting at political meetings, flattering the vulgar, and cajoling the populace, in order to ascend to posts of profit, pre-eminence and power. Here every engine of his impudence is put in motion, no art is left untried, and no stone unturned to promote his political elevation. At length the wished-for object is accomplished, and now behold our political chieftain decked in the robes of office administering the affairs of government, with no other views, hopes, or expectations, than his own private interest and the aggrandizement of his family, friends and dependents. Should his conduct after a lapse of time become a subject of public animadversion, (through the fickleness of his constituents, the intrigues of his enemies, or the aspersions of the slung-whangers,) he immediately enters into its defence and justification, and loudly proclaims to the world his own honor, integrity and patriotism; should he be accused of malversation, bribery, or corruption, in a bold and decisive tone he replies, that were he an Aristides, a Phocion, an Epaminondas, or a Cato, (which the better part of the world well knows he is) still he could not escape the censures of the envious, illiberal and malignant. Thus does our political pilot aided by the divine gift of impudence, stem, with the utmost facility, the rough and rugged tide of public indignation, steer clear of the rocks and quicksands of popular inconstancy, and ride triumphant through the stormy waves of politics, and lastly, reach in safety the blissful haven of immortal honour.

Impudence in youth has ever been considered as a promising sign. Observe with what anxiety and care a fond and partial mother watches over the tender years of her infant son; with what tremulous emotions of delight does she view in her offspring the seeds of a great and aspiring temper. When she beholds him playing some boyish tricks or mischievous pranks, she immediately augurs from these trifling circumstances, that her son is born to the fame, the fortunes and immortality of ad Alexander, a Caesar, or a Buonaparte: nor in the event is the doating mother disappointed in her sanguine expectations. Let us here for a moment stop and contemplate the glorious career of this youthful Hector. At an early age he is transferred from the nursery to some public school or academy, (where discipline and severity being for the most part out of fashion) he is allowed to give a free and unlimited scope to all his youthful propensities, being naturally fond of superiority, he seeks every opportunity to dis-

play it, by thrashing those that are younger or weaker than himself. Should they at any time chance to prefer a complaint to their tutor, he instantly repairs to him, mistakes the case, perverts the facts, palliates his own fault, and exaggerates that of his opponents, and thus by his bold effrontery, and dauntless impudence, escapes without a flogging. After having here, by his heroic achievements, acquired the enviable character of a lad of spirit, he is next perhaps removed to some celebrated American University. A wide and extended field now opens itself to his view. Here his whole time and attention is employed, not indeed in the profound and indefatigable study of the classic, but in contriving how he may best quiz the professors, or execute some deep laid plan of mischief. The college windows and the neighboring buildings here repeatedly makes the subject of his attacks, and even the professors themselves, men venerable for their years, & respectable for their talents, to whom the modest look up at with an eye of awful respect and reverence, are not always secure from the impetuous assaults of this valiant and redoubted Achilles. During the three first years of his collegiate course, his principal operations are however confined within the walls of the college, but when this term is expired he begins to feel completely ashamed of his former inglorious feats, and henceforward seeks to enjoy a more honorable and extended fame. In order more fully to accomplish this desirable end, he is constant in his attendance at the ball-room, the theatre and the billiard table. In the first of these he is instructed in the polite and manly accomplishment of dancing. In the second, the arts of gallantry and intrigue, and in the third, the most fashionable and expeditious method of increasing his fortune, improving his morals, and augmenting his fame. So enthusiastically attached is he to those ennobling pursuits, that he gives it as his firm and unalterable opinion, and who will pretend to dispute the truth of it, that they are of infinitely more importance to a man of the world, than all the philosophy of a Locke, the erudition of a Boerhaave or the science of a Newton. Being now master of at least as much classical and scientific knowledge as when he first entered on his literary career, he anxiously waits for that happy period which is to free him from the trammels of college authority. Commencement at length arrives, the long-wished for moment approaches, he mounts the rostrum and without fear, dismay or apprehension, boldly pronounces a sublime, pathetic and original composition with the energy of a Demosthenes, the grace of a Chatham and the elegance of a Burke. Having thus gloriously terminated his collegiate course, he next enters the great theatre of the world with all the accomplishments, both bodily and mental, necessary to constitute the finished gentleman, the polite scholar, the intrepid warrior, and patriot statesman.

If such as we have enumerated, therefore, be the advantages which impudence is calculated to confer, who would not be sedulous and unremitting in its cultivation? Without it we behold the highest attainments are of no avail, the noblest genius is neglected, the brightest talents are overlooked, wit is redundant, and knowledge superfluous; but with it, there is scarcely anything in this sublunary world worth the acquisition that is not easily attainable—riches, esteem, admiration, applause, honor and immortality.

DE COURCY.

Nine Points at Law.

To him that goes to law, nine things are requisite:—In the first place, a good deal of money: 2dly, a good deal of patience: 3dly, a good cause: 4thly, a good Attorney: 5thly, a good Counsel: 6thly, good evidence: 7thly, a good Jury: 8thly, a good Judge: 9thly, good luck.

An old paper.

Burlesque on Quackery.

[The following odd jumble of absurd items, was handed us by a friend, who picked it up on one of our wharves, where it had probably been dropped by some emigrant from England. Although it is somewhat too local to be fully understood by Pennsylvanians, yet its general outline is quite applicable.—We have many quacks in this city and its vicinity, who are as profound adepts in the science of "gulling simples," as the great surgeon Nick-bias, or even our successful vender of the "Balm of Iberia," everlasting itch ointment, setter-on of decapitated heads, &c. Patients may die under the hand of ignorant pretenders, but then the empirics very seldom are out.]

True copy of an extraordinary and very eminent.

SURGEON'S BILL,

Exhibited in the high court of wags to found and confound a process: Waterford, December 31, 1816.

- Mr. Dennis Done-over.
- In account with Mr. Surgeon Nicholas.
- Sept. 2. Repairing your right arm, and setting it below your left shoulder, 1 12 6
 - Three new fingers to your left hand, 0 15 6
 - 12. One new foot to your left leg, 1 12 6
 - Taking out 8 of your old ribs, and putting in 5 new ones, 6 11 6
 - 95. Taking out your intestines, washing, turning, and putting them in again, 1 12 6
 - Nov. 4. Filling your old bones with hog's marrow, 1 14 0
 - Filling your veins with sheep blood, 1 12 0
 - 15. Mending your skull, and filling the empty place with dog's brains. A new tongue, repairing your mouth, and altering your face, 2 10 6
 - 21. One new eye and brightening the other, 4 13 6
 - Clearing the four parts of your heart, 1 12 6
 - Rubbing up your bad memory, and repairing your nose, 1 17 6
 - Dec. 8. A new cheek, and mending your wind pipe, 3 12 6
 - A set of new lungs, placing them and sundry repairs to your person, 4 17 6

(True copy, 31 7 1 The Doctor, by a borough process, having sued the unfortunate man, the following is a catalogue of effects, which are to be sold by auction, by

W. NEVERSILL.

On Monday the 33d instant. The sale to begin at half past 12 in the forenoon. Catalogue of the property of DENNIS DONE-OVER.

- 1. A copper cart saddle, a leather hand-saw, two woollen frying pans, and a glass wheelbarrow.
- 2. Three pair of pea-straw breeches, and a glass headstead, with superlative copper hangings.
- 3. One deal coal-grate, with a paper smoke-jack, a mahogany poker, a leather tea kettle and a pair of gauze bellows.
- 4. An iron leather bed, six pair of brass boots and a steel night cap.
- 5. One pewter looking glass, a buckskin warming pan, a calumance hog trough, and a pinchbeck swill tub.
- 6. Four sheep skin milk pails, a wheat straw tunnel, a leather hatchet, a dimmy coal box, and sundry other necessary kitchen requisites.

Arts of Knavery in China.

"One of my countrymen," says a traveller in China, "who bought some chickens, the feathers of which were curiously curled, found in a few days time the feathers growing straight, and that the chickens were of the most common sort. The Chinese had curled the feathers like a wig a little before he was going to sell them."

"Sometimes you think you have bought a capon, and you receive nothing but skin, all the rest has been scooped out, and its place so ingeniously filled, that the deception cannot be discovered until the moment you are going to eat."

"The counterfeit hams of the Chinese are also curious: They are made of a piece of wood cut in the form of a ham, and coated over with hog's skin. The whole is so curiously prepared, that a knife is necessary to detect the fraud."