

P. S. I have received the following letter, which rallies me for being witty sooner than I designed; but I have now altered my resolution, and intend to be facetious until the day in October heretofore mentioned, instead of beginning from that day\*.

“ Mr. BICKERSTAFF, Sept. 6, 1710.

“ By your own reckoning, you came yesterday about a month before the time you looked yourself, much to the satisfaction of

“ Your most obliged, humble servant,  
“ PLAIN ENGLISH.”

N<sup>o</sup> 226. Tuesday, September 19, 1710.

STEELE †.

— *Juvenis quondam, nunc femina, Cæneus,  
Rursus & in veterem fato revoluta figuram.*

VIRG. ÆN. vi. 448.

CÆNEUS, a woman once, and once a man;  
But ending in the sex she first began. DRYDEN.

From my own Apartment, September 18.

IT is one of the designs of this Paper to transmit to posterity an account of every thing that is monstrous in my own times. For this reason,

\* See N<sup>o</sup> 217, ADV. ad finem.

† This paper appears to have been ascribed to ADDISON in the list delivered by STEELE to Mr. Tickell, as it is reprinted

reason, I shall here publish to the world the life of a person who was neither man nor woman; as written by one of my ingenious correspondents, who seems to have imitated PLUTARCH in that multifarious erudition, and those occasional dissertations, which he has wrought into the body of his history. The life I am putting out is that of MARGERY, alias JOHN YOUNG, commonly known by the name of Doctor YOUNG; who, as the town very well knows, was a woman that practised physick in a man's cloaths, and, after having had two wives and several children, died about a month since.

“ S I R,

“ I here make bold to trouble you with a  
“ short account of the famous Doctor YOUNG's  
“ life, which you may call, if you please, a fe-  
“ cond part of the farce of the *Sham Doctor*.  
“ This perhaps will not seem so strange to  
“ you, who, if I am not mistaken, have some-  
“ where mentioned with honour your sister  
“ KIRLEUS\*, as a practitioner both in physick  
“ and

printed in his edition of ADDISON's "Works" in 4to, vol. II. p. 320. It is likewise marked as a paper of ADDISON in the MS. notes of C. BYRON, Esq. communicated by J—N H—Y. M. See TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 74, Note.

Of the hero or heroine of this story the annotator has not been so fortunate as to meet with any other account.

\* See TAT. N<sup>o</sup> 14, Note, p. 157; and N<sup>o</sup> 41, Note p. 66.

There

“ and astrology: but, in the common opinion  
 “ of mankind, a she-quack is altogether as  
 “ strange and astonishing a creature, as the  
 “ Centaur that practis'd physic in the days of  
 “ ACHILLES, or as king PHYS in the *Rebearfal*.  
 “ ÆSCULAPIUS, the great founder of your art,  
 “ was particularly famous for his beard, as  
 “ we may conclude from the behaviour of a  
 “ tyrant, who is branded by heathen historians  
 “ as guilty both of sacrilege and blasphemy;  
 “ having robbed the statue of ÆSCULAPIUS of  
 “ a thick bushy golden beard, and then al-  
 “ ledged for his excuse, That it was a shame  
 “ the son should have a beard, when his fa-  
 “ ther APOLLO had none. This latter instance  
 “ indeed seems something to favour a female  
 “ professor, since, as I have been told, the an-  
 “ tient statues of APOLLO are generally made  
 “ with a head and face of a woman: nay, I  
 “ have been credibly informed by those who  
 “ have seen them both, that the famous APOL-  
 “ LO in the Belvidera did very much resemble  
 “ Doctor YOUNG. Let that be as it will, the  
 “ doctor was a kind of Amazon in physic, that  
 “ made as great devastations and slaughters as  
 “ any of our chief heroes in the art, and was  
 “ as fatal to the English in these our days, as

There were two she quacks of the name of KIRLEUS,  
*Susannah*, the widow of *Thomas*, and *Mary*, the widow of  
*John*, who advertised upon one another. They were equal-  
 ly skill'd in *astrology* and *physic*.

“ the

“ the famous JOAN D'ARÉ was in those of our  
 “ forefathers.

“ I do not find any thing remarkable in the  
 “ life which I am about to write until the year  
 “ 1695; at which time the doctor, being about  
 “ twenty-three years old, was brought to-bed of  
 “ a bastard child. The scandal of such a mis-  
 “ fortune gave so great an uneasiness to pretty  
 “ Mrs. PEGGY, for that was the name by which  
 “ the doctor was then called, that she left her  
 “ family, and followed her lover to London,  
 “ with a fixed resolution some way or other to  
 “ recover her lost reputation: but instead of  
 “ changing her life, which one would have ex-  
 “ pected from so good a disposition of mind,  
 “ she took it in her head to change her sex.  
 “ This was soon done by the help of a sword  
 “ and a pair of breeches. I have reason to  
 “ believe, that her first design was to turn man-  
 “ midwife, having herself had some experience  
 “ in those affairs: but thinking this too narrow  
 “ a foundation for her future fortune, she at  
 “ length bought her *a gold-buttoned coat*, and  
 “ set up for a physician. Thus we see the  
 “ same fatal miscarriage in her youth made  
 “ Mrs. YOUNG a doctor, that formerly made  
 “ one of the same sex a pope.

“ The doctor succeeded very well in his bu-  
 “ siness at first; but very often met with acci-  
 “ dents that disquieted him. As he wanted  
 “ that deep magisterial voice which gives au-  
 “ thority to a prescription, and is absolutely  
 “ necessary

“ necessary for the right pronouncing of these  
 “ words, ‘Take these pills,’ he unfortunately  
 “ got the nick-name of the Squeaking Doctor.  
 “ If this circumstance alarmed the doctor, there  
 “ was another which gave him no small dis-  
 “ quiet, and very much diminished his gains,  
 “ In short, he found himself run down as a su-  
 “ perficial prating quack, in all families that  
 “ had at the head of them a cautious father, or  
 “ a jealous husband. These would often com-  
 “ plain among one another, that they did not  
 “ like such a smock-faced physician; though in  
 “ truth, had they known how justly he deserved  
 “ that name, they would rather have favoured  
 “ his practice, than have apprehended any  
 “ thing from it.

“ Such were the motives that determined  
 “ Mrs. YOUNG to change her condition, and  
 “ take in marriage a virtuous young woman  
 “ who lived with her in good reputation, and  
 “ made her the father of a very pretty girl. But  
 “ this part of her happiness was soon after de-  
 “ stroyed, by a distemper which was too hard  
 “ for our physician, and carried off his first  
 “ wife. The doctor had not been a widow  
 “ long before he married his second lady, with  
 “ whom also he lived in very good understand-  
 “ ing. It so happened, that the doctor was  
 “ with child at the same time that his lady  
 “ was; but the little ones coming both toge-  
 “ ther, they passed for twins. The doctor  
 “ having entirely established the reputation of  
 “ his

“ his manhood, especially by the birth of the  
 “ boy of whom he had been lately delivered,  
 “ and who very much resembles him, grew  
 “ into good business, and was particularly fa-  
 “ mous for the cure of venereal distempers;  
 “ but would have had much more practice  
 “ among his own sex, had not some of them  
 “ been so unreasonable as to demand certain  
 “ proofs of their cure, which the doctor was  
 “ not able to give them. The florid blooming  
 “ look, which gave the doctor some uneasi-  
 “ ness at first, instead of betraying his person,  
 “ only recommended his physic. Upon this  
 “ occasion I cannot forbear mentioning what  
 “ I thought a very agreeable surprize; in one  
 “ of MOLIERE’S plays, where a young wo-  
 “ man applies herself to a sick person in the  
 “ habit of a quack, and speaks to her patient,  
 “ who was something scandalized at the youth  
 “ of his physician, to the following purpose  
 “ —I began to practise in the reign of  
 “ FRANCIS the First, and am now in the hun-  
 “ dred and fiftieth year of my age: but, by  
 “ the virtue of my medicaments, have main-  
 “ tained myself in the same beauty and fresh-  
 “ ness I had at fifteen. For this reason HIP-  
 “ POCRATES lays it down as a rule, that a stu-  
 “ dent in physic should have a sound consti-  
 “ tution, and a healthy look; which indeed  
 “ seem as necessary qualifications for a physi-  
 “ cian, as a good life and virtuous behaviour  
 “ for a divine. But to return to our subject.  
 VOL. IV. S About

“ About two years ago the doctor was very  
 “ much afflicted with the vapours, which  
 “ grew upon him to such a degree, that about  
 “ six weeks since they made an end of him.  
 “ His death discovered the disguise he had act-  
 “ ed under, and brought him back again to his  
 “ former sex. It is said, that at his burial the  
 “ pall was held up by six women of some  
 “ fashion. The doctor left behind him a wi-  
 “ dow, and two fatherless children, if they  
 “ may be called so, besides the little boy be-  
 “ fore-mentioned. In relation to whom we  
 “ may say of the doctor, as the good old ballad  
 “ about The Children in the Wood \* says of  
 “ the unnatural uncle, that he was father and  
 “ mother both in one. These are all the cir-  
 “ cumstances that I could learn of Dr. YOUNG’S  
 “ life, which might have given occasion to  
 “ many obscene fictions: but as I know those  
 “ would never have gained a place in your Pa-  
 “ per, I have not troubled you with any im-  
 “ pertinence of that nature, having stuck to  
 “ the truth very scrupulously, as I always do  
 “ when I subscribe myself,

“ S I R,

“ Yours, &c.”

I shall add as a postscript to this letter, that I am informed the famous *SALTERO* †, who

\* See Dr. BEATIE’S “Minstrel,” B. I. 47, 48, and 49.  
 † See N<sup>o</sup> 34, Note.

sells

sells coffee in his museum at Chelsea, has by him a curiosity, which helped the doctor to carry on his imposture, and will give great satisfaction to the curious enquirer.

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N<sup>o</sup> 227. Thursday, September 21, 1710.

S T E E L E.

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*Omnibus invidias, Zoile, nemo tibi.* MARTIAL.

‘Thou envy’st all; but no man envies thee.’

R. WYNNE.

From my own Apartment, September 20.

**I**T is the business of Reason and Philosophy to sooth and allay the passions of the mind, or turn them to a vigorous prosecution of what is dictated by the understanding. In order to this good end, I would keep a watchful eye upon the growing inclinations of youth, and be particularly careful to prevent their indulging themselves in such sentiments as may im-bitter their more advanced age. I have now under cure a young gentleman, who lately communicated to me, that he was of all men living the most miserably *envious*. I desired the circumstances of his distemper; upon which, with a sigh that would have moved the

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most