

same uniform Order in the News-papers, as their Consequences do in real Life.

Our Curiosity may be extended by observing the various Effects the different Article of Intelligence have on different Persons. Thus a Marriage will mortify the Breast of an old Maid, and hurt the Pride of a young One, while it gives Consolation to many a poor dejected Husband, who reads that another has fallen into his Situation. A Death (if it is a Wife) will make Husbands envy the Widower, Wives and Widows pity the deceased, and hurt at the Husband's good Fortune, exclaim against the Monster for not shewing a proper Degree of Sorrow on the Occasion, while one of them, perhaps, marries him in a Month after. If it is the Death of a young Virgin, she is indeed generally pitied (except by a Rival) and her Fate is attributed by Females, to some cruel, hard-hearted Brute whom she was too good for, and whose ill Usage had broke her Heart. A Paragraph of an Accident gives (if the Object is rich) Pleasure to the Surgeon, Caution to the World, and Anxiety to his Relations and Friends. A Commission of Bankruptcy deals out Hope and Fear in equal Succession: indeed, all the Passions incident to the human Frame, are elated and put in motion by a News paper. It is a Bill of Fare, containing all the Luxuries, as well as Necessaries of Life, Politics are now the roast Beef of the Times, and a Dish equally sumptuous to the King and the Cobler; Poetry is Plumb-pudding, and palatable only to the Lovers of the Muses. There are others that act as Vegetables, to complete the Course; while our M<sup>rs</sup> from France and Spain serve up nothing but Kickshaws and Fricasees.

The four Winds (the Initials of which make the Word *News*) are not so capricious or so liable to change, as our public Intelligencers; we have on Monday Morning, a *Whisper*—on Tuesday, a *Rumour*—on Wednesday, a *Conjecture*—on Thursday, a *Probable*—on Friday, a *Pessimus*—and on Saturday, a *Premature*. And thus are our Hopes and Expectations, for five Days regularly, and almost mechanically increased, till the sixth compliments us with a total Disappointment.

Its Defects, however, bear no Comparison to its Beauties, which are equally celebrated in the Court as on the Taylor's Shop-board. It is a Caricature, happily calculated to hit the ordinary and unbounded Prejudices of Society. One person's Affections lie in the Price of Stocks and the Arrival of our East and West-India Fleets; another's in a dreadful Battle, either by Sea or by Land, in which he solaces himself that he can read the Account free from its Dangers; a third places his Delight in a curious Anecdote; a fourth in a Tale of Scandal; a fifth, in Horse Races; a sixth, in theatrical Intelligence; a seventh, in Songs and Poetry; and I really know a Person of a humane Disposition, whose inward Feelings are gratified in a Degree proportioned to the bloody Circumstances that accompany the Relation of a Murder. Thus is a News-paper, a Magazine, or a Toy-Shop, where every one has his Hobby-Horse; and thus all Capacities and Descriptions are periodically furnished with Instruction, Amusement and Information. Without it, Coffee Houses, Ale-Houses, and Barber's-Shops, would undergo a Change next to Depopulation; and our country Villagers, the Curate, the Exciseman, and the Blacksmith, would lose the Self-Satisfaction of being made as wife as our first Minister of State.

From the EDENBURGH EVENING POST.

On the Advantage and Amusement derived from the reading of News-Papers.

It has been often observed, that the *News-Paper* is not so inconsistent, so incoherent, so heterogeneous, although so useful and agreeable a Thing as a public News-paper. The very ludicrous Contrast in Advertisements, the contradictory Substance of Foreign and Domestic Paragraphs, the opposite Opinions and Observations of contending Physicians, with premature Death, spurious Marriages, Births, Bankruptcies, &c. &c. form a Fund of Entertainment for a World, of which it is in itself no bad Epitome.

A News-paper is so true a Type of that Caprice and Levity, for which our Countymen are remarked by Foreigners, that it may be justly piled, an Englishman's Coat of Arms; and our modern Herald's would do well to adopt so striking an Emblem of our Air, Soil, and Constitution; and yet the Turkish Alcoran is not half so sacred to a rigid Mahometan, a Parish Feast to an Overseer, a strength-dispensing Haunch to an Alderman, or a General Election to a Freeholder, as a London Gazette extraordinary is to an English Politician. He enters upon it with all the Pomp and Veneration of the first, swallows and gorges it with the voluptuous Avidity of the second and third, and concludes with the Inoxication of the last. If the delectable Paper is an Account of a naval Achievement, he toasts the Admiral and Captains in half-pints a piece, gets Drunk with Loyalty, and goes to Bed with his Head full of seven ty fours, Sixty-fours, Fifties, Frigates, Transports, and Fire-ships.

A News paper, whose Magnitude is much Superior, and the Chief of its Contents are not sanctified by royal or official Authority, is obliged to become the Receptacle of Invention and Embellishment, hence it is a Museum of, *we hear—they write—it is said—a correspondent remarks*—with a long List of *sfs* and *supposes*, that at once serves to please, amuse, divert and inform; and yet the Evils of Pandora's Box do not operate more powerfully, or diffuse themselves more extensively, than these Paragraphs do over the Face of the whole Earth. I have known a *we hear*, alter a man's Face as the Weather would do a Barometer, and an *it is said*, distort his Features with the force of an electrical shock. I have seen an *if* make a Man cry, while on the contrary a *suppose* has provoked his Risibility. And thus do they operate, like Physic, according to the Constitutions, Temperis and Principles of the Patients.

Abstracted from politics, the general Tenor of our domestic Information is not a little Curious: whether it arises from Accident or Design I know not; but I have frequently seen, after a Paragraph reciving the Elegance of an Entertainment, a Commission of Bankruptcy has immediately followed: after a city Feast, I have often seen a melancholly Account of a sudden Death of an Alderman by an apoplectic Fit: after an Advertisement of the Art of Fencing, taught by Monsieur Longsword, the Circumstances of a Duel followed, wherein one of the Combatants had been run through the Body: after a Marriage, a Divorce; and thus have I seen these Paragraphs as naturally follow, in the