



Henry Fielding

APPLE MARKET

*Covent-Garden
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Hand-made Art & Design

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By Sir ALEXANDER DRAWCANSIR, Knt. Censor of
GREAT BRITAIN.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1752. Numb. 1.

To be continued every Tuesday and Saturday.

Cedite Scripores

Anglice,

By your leave, Gentlemen.

THE World, it is certain, never more abounded with Authors than at present; nor is there any Species more numerous than of those Writers who deal forth their Lucubrations in small Parcels to the Public, consisting partly of historical, and partly, to use their own Word, of *literary* Matter. So great, indeed, is their Multitude, that Homer's Simile of the Bees gives us scarce too vast an Idea of them. Some of these visit the Light daily, so that we may apply strictly to them the

Ἄλει νέον ἐρχομενάων

Some of them again fly abroad only every other Day; some send forth their Works once a Week; others once a Fortnight; and others more sparingly indulge us only at the End of every Month with their Labours.

When I survey all these wondrous Works in my Mind, I am struck with no less Astonishment, than was the Foreigner when he saw Leadenhall Market; nor can I more conceive what becomes of all this Quantity of Paper, than he could find Consumers for so much Meat. The same Solution will, indeed, serve us both; for there

are certainly as many B-ms in the World as there are Mouths.

Here, perhaps, I may seem to have advanced an Argument against my own Appearance, and it will possibly be said, since we have so many, (perhaps, too many,) of these Writers already, what Need have we of adding a new one to the Number?

To this I shall first give the same Answer which is often made by those who force themselves into crowded Assemblies, when they are told the Place is too full already, "Pray, Gentlemen, make Room for me; -- I am but one. Certainly you may make Room for one more."

Secondly, I believe it is usual in all such Crowds to find some few Persons, at least, who have sufficient Decency to quit their Places and give Way to their Betters. I do not, therefore, in the least question, but that some of my contemporary Authors will immediately, on my Appearance, have the Modesty to retire, and leave me sufficient Elbow Room in the World. Or, if they should not, the Public will, I make no Doubt, so well understand themselves, as to give me proper Marks of their Distinction, and will make Room for me by turning others out.

But, in Fact, had the great Numbers of contemporary Writers been any Argument against assuming the Pen, the World would never have enjoyed the Works of that excellent Poet Juvenal, who tells us, that they swarmed in a most prodigious Manner in his Time; but, so far from declining the Poetical Function on that Account, he assigns this as the very Reason of taking it upon him.

---Stulta est Clementia, cum tot ubique

Vatibus occurras, periturae parcere Chartae.

These Reasons, and this Authority, will, I believe, be sufficient Apologies to my Readers; but it may be, perhaps, more difficult to satisfy my Brother Authors themselves, to whom, I would, if possible, avoid giving any Kind of Umbrage. These Gentlemen, I say it with great Concern, are sometimes guilty of adopting Motives unworthy of the Followers of the Muses; and, instead of consulting the true Interest of the Republic of Letters in general, are too apt poorly and meanly to consider their own; and, like mere Mechanics, to be envious and jealous of a Rival in their Trade.

To silence, therefore, effectually, all such Jealousies, and Fears, I do here declare, that it is not my Intention to encroach on the Business now carried on by my Contemporaries, nor to deal in any of those Wares which they at present vend to the Public.

First then I disclaim any Dealing in Politics. By Politics, here, I cannot be understood to mean any Disquisitions into those Matters which respect the true Interest of this Kingdom abroad or which relate to its domestic OEconomy and Government; with none of which these Writers have ever yet concerned themselves. By Politics, therefore, I mean that great political Cause between WOODALL OUT, and TAKEALL IN, Esqs; which hath been so learnedly handled in Papers, Pamphlets, and Magazines, for above thirty Years last past,; and in which the Nation in general are as greatly interested, as they were in the late Contest between Thamas Kouli Kan, and the Sophy of Persia.

Secondly, I renounce all Pretensions to deal in personal Slander and Scurrility, a very extensive article, and of