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OR,
UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE.

From FRIDAY JULY 20, to FRIDAY JULY 27, 1764.

*O sacred Hunger of pernicious Gold,
What Bands of Faith can impious Lucre hold!*

IT is to me astonishing, says that immortal Prince, that Christian Heathen, Marcus Antonius, that Man, (allowing Mercy to be the most amiable Attribute of the Gods, and having daily Instances of their Forbearance, notwithstanding the repeated Affronts offer'd) can have the Heart to injure his Fellow Creature, or even to return Wrongs; for if the Gods were so severe in their Punishment, and measur'd with the same Measure Mortals do, one only Offence would be sufficient to deprive us of Life. Who, continues he, can be cruel, either through Wantonness, Revenge, or filthy Lucre, deserves not the Appellation of Man; for Man the Gods (as is evident by his Make) design'd an inoffensive sociable Creature: He is not furnished with one natural Instrument for Cruelty, but with many for Mercy and Compassion: He has two Eyes to behold and commiserate the Indigent and Helpless: He has two Feet to carry him to the Temples, to praise the Gods; and to those who want his Assistance, to imitate their Goodness, he has two Hands to distribute on either Side: He has a Tongue to plead for the Widow, Orphan, and helpless Prisoner; he has a Heart to love the Gods, Understanding to know Evil, and Discretion to chuse what's Good: He has not the Horns of a Bull, the Hoof of a Horse, the Claws of a Tyger, the Teeth of a Lyon, or the Venom of a Serpent; for as the Gods are merciful, so have they design'd us mild and compassionate, and Nature

has given us no Means or Instruments for Revenge and Mischief.

Thus far that good Emperor, in a Letter to his Friend *Antigonus*. But where the Love of Money has taken Possession of the Heart, there is no Beast so cruel as Man: They seek their Prey to satisfy their Hunger, which may be appeas'd; but the Avaricious can never be satisfy'd, and none escapes him with whom he is able to cope. Covetousness banishes not only every Virtue, but even Humanity itself; and changing Nature, the Groans of the Oppressed become Musick, and the Miseries of Mankind a grateful and delighting Spectacle. What Miseries has not this Vice brought upon whole Nations? How many have been made desolate by Avarice? There is scarce a Crime which does not take Rise from the *Auri sacra fames*. This makes the Minister betray his Trust, and sell the Prosperity of his Country: Instigated by this insatiable Thirst of Riches, Men not only prostitute their Wives and Daughters, but give up their Liberties, and joyfully exchange their native Rights for gilded Fetters. There is nothing the Avaricious will stop at: Murder, Treason, Sacrilege, are puny Crimes, and Gold renders them imperceptible, appeases or prevents the Stings and Remorse of Conscience, argues and convinces. Avarice corrupts the Judge, sides with the Powerful, and treads the Poor under Foot. Where a Man once is enslaved by the Love of Money, he never asks what's just, but what's lucrative; nor what's reasonable, but what makes for his Interest. Did the Life of a Son or Father stand in the Way of such a Man's Gain, he would think it no Crime to remove him. But what