

THE CAROLINA GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

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The TEMPLE of HYMEN. A VISION.

A Few Days ago I had an Account of the Marriage of a Friend. When Occurrences of this Nature make an Impression upon the Mind, it is inevitably betrayed into little Inadvertions upon them. This was my Case in an extraordinary Manner; for having taunted some time on this Incident, I fell into an easy Slumber, when Fancy assumed the Subject and fall'd out in the following excursion.

I thought I was in an Instant placed on the Boundaries of a vast Plain; in the Center of which was presented to the Eye a large Temple consecrated to *Hymen*, the God of Marriage. At a small Distance from me I observed a giddy Crowd of both Sexes, who were making towards the Building, in order to celebrated the Ceremony of the God. There was shuffled in among them, a Dæmon, whose Form was so peculiar, and whose Sway with the Multitude so universal, that I shall here give my Reader a particular Description of him: It bears the Name of this Fury was *Leif*; in the upper Part of his Body, he carried the Likeness of a human Figure, from the Middle downwards he bore the Resemblance of a Goat, his Eyes were turgid sparkling, and in his Feet, his Complexion was very irregular, attended with the most sudden Transitions from a sanguine Red to a livid paleness, and a Tremor frequently seiz'd every Member.—Close followed him *Disgrace*, with a sickly Countenance and supercilious Eye; and *Remorse*, with his Hat flapp'd over his Face, and a Worm gnawing his Vitals. I was shocked at these monstrous Appearances, and the more so, to observe how readily my Fellow-Creatures gave into the impious Suggestions of the Dæmon. But my surprize was somewhat abated on a nearer Approach; for I took notice that his Breath was of such a malignant Nature, that all those who rashly advanced within its Influence, were presently intoxicated, and deprived of their Reason.

I was in such a Consternation at this Discovery, that I hesitated for a while, whether I should enter into Conversation with the blithe Adventurers formerly mentioned. In the midst of my Suspence there came towards us a grave old Gentleman of a steady and composed Aspect, whose Name was *Deliberation*. He was one of the principal Agents belonging to the Temple, and so high in the God's Esteem, that *Hymen* was very rarely known to give his Benediction at the Conclusion of the Ceremony to any Couple who were usher'd into his Presence, by this venerable Officer. Upon his joining the Company (to the Majority of which I found he was a perfect Stranger) there was expressed an universal Uneasiness and Discontent; and many of them industriously avoided all Conversation with him. But it was very remarkable that all those, who thus imprudently turned their Backs on this valuable Monitor, in their Return from the Temple, were seiz'd by one or both of the melancholy Attendants of the Fury.

At my Entrance into the Building, I observed the Deity, marching at a small Distance towards it.—The first in the Procession was *Love*, in the Form of a *Cupid*, who was continually practising a thousand little Arts and Graces, to draw upon him the Smiles of the God; and by the tender Regards which *Hymen* cast upon the Child, I found he was a very great Favourite.

The God followed next, holding in his Hand a flaming

Torch; which shone the brighter the longer it burn'd; he approach'd us supper.—by *Virtue*, a Lady of the most engaging Form that I had ever beheld. She was clothed in a white resplendent Garment, and her Head was encircled with Glory.

The next Attendant was *Beauty*, arrayed in the most gorgeous Apparel, and full of herself, even to Distraction. She was handed along by *Youth*, a gay Stripling, wearing a Chaplet of Flowers on his Head, and Wings on his Shoulders.

Then appeared *Wealth* in the Figure of an old Man, meanly attired; his Eyes were the Eyes of a Hawk, and his Fingers curved and pointed inwards, like the Talons of a Raven; He was noisy, impudent, and presuming.

The Retinue was closed by *Fancy*, ever varying her Features and Dress; and what was very extraordinary, methought she charm'd in all.

The Deity immediately after his Entrance into the Temple, ascended his Throne; and sat with his Head gently reclin'd on *Virtue's* Bosom. *Love*, and *Beauty*, took their Station on the Right Hand; and on the Left, were disposed *Wealth* and *Fancy*.

The God quickly proceeded to the Celebration of the Nuptial Rites; but there was such a confused Sound of Sighs and Laughter, that I could not give the Attention which was requisite, in order to present my Reader with the several Circumstances that occurred; only I took Notice, that many of the Matches were so very unequal, that the God yok'd them with Reluctance, and but half consented to his own Institution.

After the Ceremony was over, Silence was proclaimed in Court; for *Hymen* was determined to decide a Contest, which had been of long standing, between the Personages that attended the Altar. Upon this Declaration, the whole Multitude divided, and according to the particular Impulses of their Passions, took the Party of the several Competitors. The Young had ranked themselves on the right Hand of the Throne, while others of more advanced Years, had posted themselves behind the Disputants on the Left.

Love began with entering his Complaint against *Wealth*; setting forth, that his Antagonist had seduced such large Numbers to his Sentiments; that as to himself, his Interest very visibly declined every Day, to the great Prejudice of that State, wherein the Gods had design'd him the Pre-eminence. While he was pursuing his Arguments with great Warmth, *Poverty* stepp'd forth from amidst the Crowd, and stared the young Plaintiff full in the Face; who was so frighten'd at his sorrowful Countenance, that he fluttered his Wings in order for Flight. When *Wealth* rising up addressed the Judge, with shewing the Necessity of his Presence, to make the Married State as replete with Happiness, as it was originally intended by its Institution; together with many other Arguments, which, if they had been delivered with the same Modesty as Force, could not have failed of creating a Multitude of Converts to his Side. This his Speech was followed with a Shower of Applause from the Company behind. Upon an Incident the old Man began to triumph, and to receive his Discourse when, through the Violence of his Emotions, his Countenance flew open, and betrayed to View, *Cares* in the Form of *Vultures*, hanging at his Breast. Hereupon *Love* stood up, and would fain have reassum'd his Cause. But *Hymen*, who well knew that the Presence of both was of the utmost Importance in the Performance of his Institution;