

THOUGHTS on CONVERSATION
and SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

NOBODY but a blockhead, proves tedious to a company. A man of the world presently comprehends whether he ought to stay or go, and knows to a moment the time it is fit for him to leave those who wish him at a distance.

If we were seriously to consider how uninteresting, frivolous, and unwise, we generally are in ordinary conversation, we would be ashamed both to speak or to listen, and perhaps to condemn ourselves to a perpetual silence.

The spirit of public conversation does not so much consist in showing we have some wit as in behaving in such a manner that others may think they have some themselves. He that goes out of your company well pleased with himself, and with his own parts, is perfectly pleased with you. Men do not love so much to admire others; but they are disposed to draw approbation themselves, & choose not so much to be instructed as applauded. The most delicate pleasure is that of contriving to please others.

It is both irreligious and shocking to support all we say in common conversation, be it ever so uninteresting, by much swearing and repeated oaths. An honest man, who says yes or no, deserves to be believed. His character swears for him, gives credit to what he says, and makes every body trust him.

He who is incessantly affirming that he is a man of honour and integrity, and wishing that he may suffer all the evil he would do to others, & swearing to make you believe that he is sincere in such a wish, does not make a cunning use of the mask of honesty.

Neither of the houses of Parliament assembled, upon an affair of the greatest importance, discover so much solemnity as a table of gamblers engaged in deep play. A fallen severity reigns in their faces. Implacable against each other, and irreconcilable foes while the firing lasts, every tie of friendship and of relation, and all regard to high birth and distinction, are utterly forgot. Chance only, a blind and brutal divinity, presides over the circle, and rules it imperiously. Every body there honours her with the greatest silence, and with such attention as they would be incapable of any where else. Every passion but one is for the time suspended. There the countenance is no longer smooth and soft, flatters no longer and is no longer complaisant.

Many people ruin themselves by gaming, and tell you coldly that they cannot help it. What an excuse! Is there any passion, be it ever so violent and shameful, that might not offer the same plea? would you be allowed to say that you cannot help stealing, or murdering? A frightful, incessant, and boundless gaming, that tends utterly to destroy your adversary, that makes you drunk with eagerness, that makes you desperate when you lose, that resigns you over to avarice that makes you venture on a card or a die, both your welfare and that of your wife and children, are things so pernicious, that, to be thought lawful, one must plead an impossibility to help them.

It often happens, among men, in their daily intercourse, that truth and simplicity are the very best policy.

A hundred years hence the world will still be such as it is to day; it will then be the same theatre, and its decorations will be the same. The actors only will be different: There are already other men appearing between the scenes, who are going to act the same characters in the same play. They shall be gone in their turn, and new actors shall still succeed.

LONDON, October 2.

The following is his Swedish Majesty's Speech, on the dissolution of the Dyet, on the 31st of September.

" Noble, Honourable, Learned, Worthy, & good Swedes,

AS I this day dissolve the Dyet, which dissolution undoubtedly will be very remarkable in the universal history, I cannot dismiss you without renewing my gratitude and thankfulness to Heaven, who very visibly shewed his particular grace, and saved this oppressed country, and its afflicted inhabitants, from their insupportable yoke of slavery. This Dyet began under the mourning of your most beloved King, mine and your most tender father;

whatever was concluded upon in this Dyet was done in dispassion, partiality, hate, selfishness, & other foul and unchristian-like views. It seems as if Providence itself would preserve our posterity from those grievances which have oppressed their ancestors during a time of an hundred years; & such a preservation could not have been acquired without exposing the views & black intentions which guided the legislators, before the eyes of the public, which at last inspired by a spirit of true patriotism, nothing but a revolution could have been a disastrous consequence it. I repeat it, and say, nothing but a revolution, sent by the hand of Providence, could have destroyed the most wicked scheme, which had been carried on these last hundred years, in a time when every navigable country has flourished in prosperity, and our blessed country came day after day in greater distress, poverty, and in a most deplorable state. Nothing but the present form of government could have restored the liberty, independance, freedom & power of a mighty nation. In such hopes I receive now the nation in its most corrupt state, but in the future liberty shall be re-established; the laws confirmed; unity and concord promoted; and the national sleep, or rather dying spirit, revived.

" You can very easily imagine in what a tender sensation I see you now assembled before my throne these few days, which have passed since this great & important change happened, gave me a most clear and moving example of your love and entire confidence placed in me. It is an infinite pleasure to me, to see that virtue & greatness of soul, which honoured the time of your ancestors, and lay hidden in your hearts, & guarded to a time of opper unity, now shining most gloriously by your deeds! your manlike courage, resolution, steadiness; your indefatigableness, devotion, attachment towards your king and country; by which marks the ancient Swedish knights were known; how happy I am now to see all these virtues renewed and set in motion in my reign.

" I separate myself from you this day with great easiness of mind, with a grateful & thankful heart, after your having supported me in the case of restoring the Swedish ancient liberty, now founded upon unmoveable grounds and foundation, and to its preservation you confirmed with me the new system of government. Thus we depart from one another with the greatest hopes that prosperity will crown the future, and we ourselves (please God) will be personally witnesses of the good & blessed fruits of it.

" I do assure you that all my thoughts, my unbounded industry, shall be only to strive to gain my subjects hearts, by their own welfare and prosperity; for which (you are witness) I have hazarded my crown, my dignity, nay, my life!

" Would you in the future remain in the same virtue you are now in, be assured, that we, very soon shall attain the end of our wishes; namely, to see the Swedish nation in a most flourishing state!

" And ye, noble, honourable, learned, worthy, and good Swedes, if you will remain united, mild, soft, and tender hearted towards your brothers, faithful in supporting the welfare of the nation, peaceable and quiet, then I shall assemble you again, after six years as it becomes a true, happy, united, free, and independant nation's representatives.

" With you a happy return each to his seat and home, &c. &c. remaining with my royal grace inclined and affected for you."

A letter from Stockholm dated Sept. 1, says, on this day, about noon, the ending of the sessions of the senate was proclaimed by a herald under the sound of drums, when his Majesty ordered the Revd Dr Kerstern to preach a sermon before the new senators and to take his text from the 57th psalm, verbe 1. " The Lord lifteth up the meek he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

Stockholm, Sept. 12. On Saturday morning the King accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Ostrogothia went up to the Town-house, where the Magistrates and the fifty elders of the Burghers, were assembled; when his Majesty was pleased to thank them in the most gracious manner, for the loyalty and zeal which the Magistrates and Burghers had shewn, in assisting the measures taken for their security, and that of the public.

His Majesty was also pleased farther to declare that in memory of the change procured by their support he had resolved to permit, for the future

the officers of the corps of Burghers as well out of service as in service, to wear gold faced hat and yellow cockades; and likewise that as a recompence for their loyalty, he had ordered medals to be struck of gold and silver, in order to be distributed, the former to those who had shewn the greatest zeal on the occasion, and the latter to those who had not so great opportunities of testifying theirs: The golden medals to be worn at the button hole, with the same ribbon as the orders of the sword; and the silver medals with a white ribbon.

Warsaw, Sept. 16. It is remarked, that the formidable alliance, offensive and defensive, concluded between three certain great powers hath caused the greatest consternation and much discontent to the Court, and to the Ministry; on the other hand, it is manifest, that the inhabitants of this kingdom have received with pleasure the news of the breaking off the congress.

Field Marshal Count de Romanzow hath sent orders for eight regiments of infantry, & four of cavalry, which are now in Poland, to march immediately to reinforce the grand Russian army.

Thorn, Sept. 16. In the instant when there was all the reason to believe that the Confederates were annihilated, Marshall Magowicki has re-entered Poland with considerable sums of money and published a manifesto, wherein he assures the Confederates, that a misunderstanding cannot fail of happening sooner or latter, among the foreign troops which occupy that kingdom, and therefore that it will be the easier for them to succeed in their designs, and fight for their country.

Minsk, in Poland Sept. 18. The Russians after the example of the Prussians and Austrians have taken possession of Polish Livonia and White Russia; on the 21st of this month, the inhabitants of this new province are to do homage to the Empress of Russia, and her successors. The Courts of Justice are to remain upon the old footing. No new taxes are to be laid in this Province and customery revenues are already paid to the Russians.

Wilna, Sept 22. The Russians yesterday took possession of the country assigned to them, at the late division which is about a third of Lithuania viz. beginning at the North, & following the course of the rivers, Duna, Ula, Ula, and the Neiper, together with Polish Livonia the Palatines of Potzick, Whiteplock, Orsa, Mociaw Rohaczaw, Rzeczica, to the River Dezna. This vast extent of country is divided into two grand governments: The first towards the North, the capital of which is Polockz, under General Kreczetnikow; and the second towards the South, the capital of which is Mohilaw, under Colonel Roknowiki.

Letters from Dantzick inform us, that the Prussian Resident had declared, by order of his master, that the new toll established on the Weßerdiep, or water of Dantzick, must continue to be paid, he being determined not to recede from his demand; in case of which that city must abolish their own duty, or by containing it they would entirely destroy their commerce.

London, October 3. By advices from Madrid we are informed, that the Court has come to a resolution of suffering the import laid upon tobacco from England, brought into Spain to be taken off.

A report prevails, that the King of Prussia has very recently made some demand upon the Electorate of Hanover, which prove highly disagreeable to this court.

To so low an ebb is the present state of affairs of a certain great Company reduced, that the Bank of England has refused lending the directors any more money, till the present business be liquidated; and it is in consequence of this refusal, that the conference for a loan is begun with government, through the intercession of Lord North.

We learn from Dantzick, that the king of Prussia has lately made some very great regulations there; and by moderating some of the imposts, that bare heavy on the poor, and laying them on the rich, has in some measure restored peace to that city.

We hear from the Hague, that the treaty now going forward between the States General and the Court of Madrid, in respect to the Algerines and Moors, will shortly be ratified by both parties.

A messenger was sent off from St. James's on Sunday night last, with advices for the court of Petersburg.