



The Plain Dealer. N<sup>o</sup> 51.

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*Fallacia*

*Alia aliam trudit.*

TEREN.

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MONDAY, September 14. 1724.

**C**REDULITY is a Weakness, from which very few are exempted. It is the Ground-work of Craft and Imposture; and the Means by which they are propagated.

I HAVE often reflected, with Concern, upon the Condition of Humanity, in this Regard: And nothing can be more afflicting, than to behold one Part of the rational World making a *Trade* of misguiding the other! If all the Errors, into which People are drawn, had but the Marks of *Truth*, some Excuse, might be found for their *Credulity*; but the Shame is, in their receiving what is *new*, at the Expence, even of *Probability*.

*bability*. Vulgar Minds are most struck with what is most incredible; and the Way to *convince*, is, to *amaze* them. *Reason* makes few Proselytes: But *Mystery* rarely fails. And the less they know why, the sonder they grow of the Imposture.

BECAUSE I would not dip into Controversies, wherein *Religion*, and *Government*, are concern'd; I must descend into Low Life, and only touch the little Artifices which owe their Reputation to this Weakness.

THE World is wearied with Stories of *Witches* and *Fairies*, and begins to see thro' the Imposture. The Craft of *Astrologers*, *Conjurers*, and *Prophets*, begins also to be exploded, by the Vulgar, whose *Oracles* they have long been. But I am not a little amaz'd to find, that, instead of the Delusions, once practis'd on the Multitude, They, now, work strongest among the polite and fashionable People. What Staring, what Clapping, what Waste of Time and Money have *Harlequin* and *Faustus* occasion'd? The Madness, both of *Actors*, and *Spectators*, has so provok'd me almost to Tears, that I could even have *wept over the City!*

I WILL not be so partial, to our Worshipful Society of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, as to forbear reproving them, on this Occasion, for the unaccountable Pother and Noise they have lately made in the World. What Stories have been told to amuse, and engage the *Credulous*? What  
Reflections,

Reflections, what Reproach, have they brought upon That ANCIENT ORDER, by making Profelytes, in so cheap and so prostituted a Manner? It afflicts me sensibly, when I see Coxcombs introduc'd into our *Lodges*, and made privy to our *Secrets*. I have often enter'd my Protest against this Abuse, in private Society; and must use the Freedom to offer this Memorial, in my publick Character. 'Tis my Opinion, That the late Prostitution of our *Order* is in some Measure, the betraying it. The weak Heads of *Vintners, Drawers, Wig-makers, Weavers, &c.* admitted into our *Fraternity*, have not only brought Contempt upon the Institution, but do very much endanger it. And I have heard it ask'd, Why we don't admit *Women*, as well as *Tailors*, into our *Lodges*? I must confess I have met with as *sufficient* Heads among the *Fair Sex*, as I have found in the BROTHERHOOD: I have some Reasons to fear, that our SECRETS are in Danger. There is, in the Conduct of too many, since their Admission, the

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*Cæcus amor sui,  
Et tollens vacuum plus nimio Gloria verticem;  
Arcanique Fides prodiga, perlucidior vitro;*

which is expressly prohibited by our Excellent RULES and CONSTITUTIONS; and, which is the very Characteristick of the Fools, that were received into the LODGES at *ROME*, in the Days of *AUGUSTUS CÆSAR*;  
and

and whereof our Brother *HORACE* complain'd vehemently, in an *Ode* to *VARUS*, who was then *GRAND MASTER*. But whatever Freedoms others imagine they may lawfully and discreetly use, my Conscience cannot brook them.

— — — — — *NON EGO TE* — — — —  
*INVITUM QUATIAM: NEC* — — — —  
*SUB DIVUM RAPIAM* — — — —

My Female Readers, and, I'm afraid, some of the *Brotherhood* may stop here, and stare, as if I had blabb'd out the whole *Mystery*. They may be doubtful whether the above Words, and Dashes may not be *decypher'd* into the famous *Mason Word*? But I leave the Ignorant to their *Wonder*; and proceed to assure my *Brethren*, that they have promoted *Superstition and Babbling*, contrary to the Peace of our Sovereign Lord, the King, by their late Practices, and Condescensions. Alarming Reports, and Stories of *LADDERS, HALTERS, DRAWN SWORDS,* and *DARK ROOMS,* have spread Confusion and Terror: And, if the Government does not put the Laws against us in Execution, it will be an extraordinary Favour, or *Overfight*. For my own Part, I am so faithful a Subject, and have the Weal of *Our Ancient Order*, so much at Heart, that unless the *GRAND MASTER* puts a Stop to these Proceedings, by a peremptory Charge

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Charge to the BROTHERHOOD, I wish I cou'd  
honourably enter into ANOTHER.

AND, now I have hinted at ANOTHER  
Order, I must entertain my Readers with  
Two Letters; the first address'd to my self,  
and the last written from *Rome*, to the Au-  
thor of the first.

HANG CHI to the British PLAIN-  
DEALER: *Health.*

*Sage S I R,*

“ BY the Help of my *Secretary* and *In-*  
“ *terpreter* I peruse your *Lucubrati-*  
“ *ons*; and write this *Epistle*, to assure you  
“ of my *Esteem*.

“ I AM inform'd, that you have taken  
“ Notice of the *Advertisement* I caused to be  
“ publish'd in the *News-Papers*; and that  
“ you call'd at the *Castle*, to be satisfy'd of  
“ the *Truth* of my *Arrival* in this *Place*.  
“ Your *Enquiry*, and the *Conversation* you  
“ had with my *Secretary*, give me *Occasion*  
“ to gratify you farther; and I am proud to  
“ have it in my *Power* to distinguish one of  
“ your *Merit* in the *Manner* I intend.

“ THE *Laws* and *Constitutions* of the  
“ most ancient and illustrious *Order*, of the  
“ *GORMOGONS* oblige us to be *cau-*  
“ *tious* and *frugal*, in admitting *new Mem-*  
“ *bers*. Remarkable *Virtues* have always re-  
“ commended the *Candidates*. No *Rank*,  
“ *Station*, or *Condition* of *Life*, intitles a  
“ *Person*

“ Person to be of our *Fraternity*. We know  
 “ neither *Prejudice*, nor *Partiality*, in con-  
 “ ferring this Honour; and all the *Interest*  
 “ in the World to procure it, would be  
 “ fruitless, without *Merit*.

“ MY Residence here will be short. It  
 “ cannot therefore be expected, that I shou’d  
 “ invite many worthy Persons to enter into  
 “ our *Order*; nor dare I render it cheap and  
 “ contemptible, by admitting every Preten-  
 “ der: But I know several who deserve to  
 “ be received, and to whom I have promis’d  
 “ the Distinction.

“ I SHALL consider it as an Ornament  
 “ to our *most ancient* and illustrious ORDER,  
 “ which is the Honour and Ornament of all  
 “ its Members, if you, *Sage Sir*, will be  
 “ pleas’d to accept the Privileges that I am  
 “ empower’d to bestow on the *Deserving*. I  
 “ confess, you must first be DEGRADED,  
 “ as our Laws require, and renounce, and  
 “ abandon, the Society of *Falsè-Builders*.  
 “ But, as your great Judgment must distin-  
 “ guish the Excellence of our *Order*, I hope  
 “ you will prefer being a *Fellow* with *Us*.  
 “ Nothing would more sensibly concern me,  
 “ when I leave *London*, than not be able to  
 “ transmit your Name in the List, that I  
 “ must send to the OECUMENICAL  
 “ VOLGEE in *China*.

I am,

Sage SIR,

Your Affectionate Friend,

HANG CHI.

SHIN

SHIN SHAW, to HANG CHI,  
at London: *Health*:

*Most Illustrious Brother and Friend,*

“ I CONGRATULATE you on the  
 “ speedy Progress you have made from  
 “ the Court of the *Young SOPHY*, and  
 “ your safe Arrival in the *Ile of Britain*.  
 “ Your Presence is earnestly expected at  
 “ ROME. The Father of High Priests is  
 “ fond of our *Order*, and the CARDINALS  
 “ have an Emulation to be distinguish’d.  
 “ Our Excellent Brother GORMOGON,  
 “ *Mandarin*, CHAN FUE, is well, and  
 “ salutes you. Since my last, I had Advices  
 “ from *Pekin*, which confirm former Accounts,  
 “ that our new Emperor is an open  
 “ Enemy to the *Jesuits*: But I pray, their  
 “ Disgrace in *China* may not provoke the  
 “ *Europeans* to use *Us* ill. Take Care of  
 “ your Health. Farewell.

SHIN SHAW.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the Honour done me, by  
 the illustrious *Mandarin* HANG CHI;  
 and, though I cannot prevail with my self  
 to be DEGRADED, in the *Manner* requir’d  
 by the *Laws* and *Constitutions* of the  
 Order of GORMOGONS, I approve, and  
 applaud, their admitting none, but  
 whom *Merit* recommends into the Fellowship  
 of the OECUMENICAL VOLGEE.  
 Moreover,

Moreover, I propose the Good Conduct, and Regularity of the GORMOGONS, as a Pattern to the FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, for the Future : And, if I shall be enabled to make any useful Discoveries for the Service of the *Brotherhood*, they may depend on my watchful Fidelity.

THE Letters, sign'd MÆCENAS, communicated to us, by PHILANTHROPOS, are come to Hand, and deservedly claim a Place in this Paper the first Opportunity.

Our Fair Correspondents, the one from *Edinburgh*, the other from *Surrey*, who, both so beautifully, and pathetically, pour forth their Complaints to the PLAIN DEALER, shall meet with a proper and early Regard.

THE ANONYMOUS Gentleman, who requests our speedy Opinion of a certain Case, which, he says, is *urgent*, is desired to suspend his *dangerous* Advice to his Friend ; and we shall touch upon that Subject, in an ampler Manner, than is consistent with the Haste he requires.

