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JOSEPH ADDISON Esq^r

BELL'S EDITION.
The POETS of GREAT BRITAIN
COMPLETE FROM
CHAUCER to CHURCHILL.



ADDISON.
For ever consecrate the day
To music and Saint Cecilia

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THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

JOSEPH ADDISON.

WITH THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

No charms are wanting to thy artful song,
Soft as Corelli, but as Virgil strong:
From words so sweet new grace the notes receive,
And Music borrows helps she us'd to give.
Thy style hath match'd what ancient Romans knew,
Thy flowing numbers far excel the new,
Their cadence in such easy sound convey'd,
That height of thought may seem superfluous aid;
Yet in such charms the noble thoughts abound,
That needles seem the sweets of easy sound.

Accept, great Monarch of the British lays!
The tribute-song an humble subject pays:
So tries the artless lark her early flight,
And soars to hail the god of Verse and Light.
Unrivall'd as thy merit be thy fame,
And thy own laurels shade thy envy'd name.

TICKELL.

EDINBURG:

AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS,

Anno 1778.

THE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
JOSEPH ADDISON.

CONTAINING HIS
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS,
&c. &c. &c.

If bus'ness calls, or crowded courts invite,
Th' unblemish'd statesman seems to strike my sight;
If in the stage I seek to sooth my care,
I met his soul, which breathes in Cato there;
If, pensive, to the rural shades I rove,
His shape o'ertakes me in the lonely grove:
'Twas there of just and good he reason'd strong,
Clear'd some great truth, or rais'd some serious song;
There, patient, show'd us the wise course to steer,
A candid censor, and a friend severe;
There taught us how to live, and (oh! too high
The price for knowledge) taught us how to die! TICKELL.

EDINBURG:
AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS.
Anno 1778.

THE LIFE OF
JOSEPH ADDISON.

THIS elegant writer, to whom the world owes so many obligations, was born at Milton, near Ambrosbury, in the county of Wilts, (of which place his father, Mr. Lancelot Addison, was then Rector) on the 6th of May 1672, and being not thought likely to live, was baptized on the same day, as appears from the church register. When he grew up to an age fit for going to school he was put under the care of the Rev. Mr. Naish at Ambrosbury. He afterwards removed to a school at Salisbury, taught by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, thence to the Charter-house, where he was under the tuition of the learned Dr. Ellis, and where he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Steele, afterwards Sir Richard, which continued as long as Mr. Addison lived. He was not above fifteen years old when he was entered of Queen's College, Oxford, in which his father had been placed, where he applied himself so closely to the study of classical learning, that in a very short time he became master of a very elegant Latin style, even before he arrived at that age when ordinary scholars begin to write good English.

In the year 1687 a copy of his verses in that tongue fell into the hands of Dr. Lancaster, Dean of Magdalen College, who was so pleased with them that he immediately procured their Author's election into

that house*, where he took the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts. In the course of a few years his Latin poetry was justly admired at both the Universities, and procured him great reputation there, before his name was so much as known in London. When he was in the twenty-second year of his age he published a copy of verses addressed to Mr. Dryden, which soon procured him the notice of some of the poetical judges in that age. The verses are not without their elegance; but if they are much removed above common rhymes, they fall infinitely short of the character Mr. Addison's friends bestowed upon them. Some little space intervening, he sent into the world a translation of the Fourth Georgie of Virgil, of which we need not say any more than that it was commended by Mr. Dryden. He wrote also that discourse on the Georgics prefixed to them by way of preface in Mr. Dryden's translation, and chose to withhold his name from that judicious composition, because it contained an untried strain of criticism, which bore hard upon the old professors of that art, and therefore was not so fit for a young man to take upon himself; and Mr. Dryden, who was above the meanness of fathering any one's work, owns the Essay on the Georgics to have come from a friend, whose name is not mentioned, because he desired to have it concealed.

* Tickell's Preface to Addison's Works.

The next year Mr. Addison wrote several poems of different kinds, amongst the rest one addressed to Henry Sacheverell, who became afterwards so exceedingly famous. The following year he wrote a poem to King William on one of his campaigns, addressed to the Lord Keeper, Sir John Somers. That excellent statesman received this mark of a young author's attachment with great humanity, admitted Mr. Addison into the number of his friends, and gave him on all occasions distinguishing proofs of a sincere esteem*.

While he was at the University he had been pressingly solicited to enter into holy orders, which he seemed once resolved on, probably in obedience to his father's authority; but being conscious of the importance of the undertaking, and deterred by his extreme modesty, he relinquished, says Mr. Tickell, all views that way; but Sir Richard Steele, in his letter to Mr. Congreve, prefixed to *The Drummer*, who had a quarrel with Tickell on account of an injurious treatment of him, says that those were not the reasons which made Mr. Addison turn his thoughts to the civil world; "and as you were the inducement, " (says he) of his becoming acquainted with my Lord " Halifax, I doubt not but you remember the warm " instances that noble lord made to the head of the " college not to insist on Mr. Addison's going into " orders; his arguments were founded on the gene-

“ ral pravity and corruption of men of business who
“ wanted liberal education; and I remember, as if I
“ had read the letter yesterday, that my Lord ended
“ with a compliment, that however he might be re-
“ presented as no friend to the church, he would
“ never do it any other injury than by keeping Mr.
“ Addison out of it.”

Mr. Addison having discovered an inclination to travel, the above-mentioned patron, out of zeal as well to his country as our Author, procured him, from the crown, an annual pension of 300 *l.* which enabled him to make a tour to Italy the latter-end of 1699. His Latin Poems, dedicated to Mr. Montagu, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, were printed, before his departure, in the *Musæ Anglicanæ*, and were as much esteemed in foreign countries as at home, particularly by that noble wit of France Boileau. It is from Mr. Tickell we learn this circumstance in relation to Boileau, and we shall present it to the reader in his own words. “ His country owes it to Mr. Addison that the
“ famous Monsieur Boileau first conceived an opinion
“ of the English genius for poetry, by perusing the
“ present he made him of the *Musæ Anglicanæ*. It has
“ been currently reported that this famous French
“ poet, among the civilities he shewed Mr. Addison
“ on that occasion, affirmed that he would not have
“ written against Perrault had he before seen such
“ excellent pieces by a modern hand. The compli-

ment he meant was, that these books had given him a very new idea of the English politeness, and that he did not question but there were excellent compositions in the native language of a country which possessed the Roman genius in so eminent a degree." In 1701 Mr. Addison wrote an Epistolary poem from Italy to Lord Halifax, which is much admired as a finished piece in its kind, and indeed some have pronounced it the best of Mr. Addison's performances: it was translated by the Abbot Antonio Mario Salvini, Greek Professor at Florence, into Italian verse, which translation is printed with the original in this edition of Mr. Addison's works. This poem is in the highest esteem in Italy, because there are in it the best-turned compliments on that country that, perhaps, are to be found any where; and the Italians, on account of their familiarity with the objects it describes, must have a higher relish of it. This poem likewise shews his gratitude to Lord Halifax, who had been that year impeached by the Commons in parliament, for procuring exorbitant grants from the crown to his own use and further charged with cutting down and wasting the timber in his Majesty's forests, and with holding several offices in his Majesty's Exchequer that were inconsistent, and designed as checks upon each other. The Commons had likewise addressed the King to remove him from his councils and presence for ever. These were the causes of his retiring, and Mr. Addison's address at this time was

a noble instance of his fidelity and steadfastness to his friends.

On his return to England he published an account of his Travels, dedicated to Lord Somers : he would have returned earlier than he did, had not he been thought of as a proper person to attend Prince Eugene, who then commanded for the Emperor in Italy, which employment would much have pleased him ; but the death of King William intervening caused a cessation of his pension and his hopes.

For a considerable space of time he remained at home ; and as his friends were out of the ministry, he had no opportunity to display his abilities, or to meet a competent reward for the honour his works had already done his country. He owed both to an accident. In the year 1704 Lord Treasurer Godolphin happened to complain to the Lord Halifax that the Duke of Marlborough's victory at Blenheim had not been celebrated in verse in the manner it deserved, and told him that he would take it kind if his Lordship, who was the patron of the poets, would name a gentleman capable of writing upon so elevated a subject. Lord Halifax replied, with some quickness ; that he was well acquainted with such a person, but that he would not name him ; and observed, that he had long seen, with indignation, men of little or no merit maintained in pomp and luxury at the expense of the public, while persons of too much modesty, with

great abilities, languished in obscurity. The Treasurer answered, very coolly, that he was sorry his Lordship had occasion to make such an observation; but that in the mean-time he would engage his honour that whoever his Lordship should name might venture upon this theme without fear of losing his time. Lord Halifax thereupon named Mr. Addison, but insisted the Treasurer should send to him himself, which he promised. Accordingly he prevailed upon Mr. Boyle, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to go, in his name, to Mr. Addison, and communicate to him the business, which he did in so obliging a manner, that he readily entered upon the task *. The Lord Treasurer saw the poem before it was finished, when the Author had written no farther than the celebrated simile of the Angel, and was so much pleased with it, that he immediately made him Commissioner of Appeals in the room of Mr. Locke, who was promoted to be one of the Lords Commissioners for Trade, &c.

His poem entitled *The Campaign*, was received with loud and general applause: it is addressed to the Duke of Marlborough, and contains a short view of the military transactions in the year 1704, and a very particular description of the two great actions at Schellemburg and Blenheim.

In 1705 Mr. Addison attended the Lord Halifax to Hanover; and in the succeeding year he was

* Budgel's Memoirs of the Boyles.

made choice of for Under Secretary to Sir Charles Hedges, then appointed Secretary of State. In the month of December, in the same year, the Earl of Sunderland, who succeeded Sir Charles in that office, continued Mr. Addison in the post of Under Secretary.

Operas being now much in fashion, many people of distinction and true taste importuned him to make a trial whether sense and sound were really so incompatible as some admirers of the Italian pieces would represent them. He was at last prevailed upon to comply with their request, and composed his *Rosamond*. This piece was inscribed to the Duchess of Marlborough, and met with but indifferent success on the stage. Many looked upon it as not properly an opera; for, considering what numbers of miserable productions had borne that title, they were scarce satisfied that so superior a piece should appear under the same denomination. About this time our Author assisted Sir Richard Steele in a play called *The Tender Husband*, to which he wrote a humorous prologue. Sir Richard, whose gratitude was as warm and ready as his wit, surprised him with a dedication, which may be considered as one of the few monuments of praise not unworthy the great person to whose honour it was raised.

In ^{Feb} 1709 he went over to Ireland as Secretary to the Marquis of Wharton, appointed Lord Lieutenant of that kingdom. Her Majesty also was pleased,

as a mark of her peculiar favour, to augment the salary annexed to the Keeper of the Records in that nation, and bestow it upon him. While he was in Ireland his friend Sir Richard Steele published *The Tatler*, which appeared for the first time on the 12th of April 1709. Mr. Addison (says Tickell) discovered the author by an observation on Virgil he had communicated to him. This discovery led him to afford farther assistance, inasmuch that, as the author of *The Tatler* well expressed it, he fared by this means like a distressed prince who calls in a powerful neighbour to his aid; that is, he was undone by his auxiliary.

The superiority of Mr. Addison's papers in that work is universally admitted; and being more at leisure upon the change of the ministry, he continued assisting in *The Tatler* till 1711, when it was dropt.

No sooner was *The Tatler* laid down, but Sir Richard Steele, in concert with Mr. Addison, formed the plan of *The Spectator*. The first paper appeared on the first of March 1711, and in the course of that great work Mr. Addison furnished all the papers marked with any letters of the Muse Clio, and which were generally most admired. Tickell, who had no kindness for Sir Richard Steele, meanly supposes that he marked his paper out of precaution against Sir Richard, which was an ill-natured insinuation; for in the conclusion of *The Spectators* he ac-