THE

ORATORS.

In which is introduced

THE

TRYAL

OF THE

COCK-LANE GHOST.

and a view of the

Robin-Hood-Society

As it is performed at the Theatres in London and Dublin.

Written by Mr. FOOTE.

Where more is meant than meets the ear.

IL PENSEROSO.

DUBLIN:

Printed for THOMAS RICHEY, at *Euclid's-Head*, in *Essex-street*, M,DCC,LXII.

LECTURER,	Mr. *Foote*,
PUPILS,	Mr. *Weston*, Mr. *Mac George*, Mr. *Quin*, Mr. *Bannister*, Mr. *Williams*, Mr. *Young*, Mr. *Booth*, Mr. *Palmer*, Mr. *Kickill*, Mr. *Somers*, Mr. *Pearce*.

THE ORATORS.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter WILL TIREHACK *and* HARRY SCAMPER, *booted, with Whips in their Hands, into a Side Box.*

SCAMPER.

PSHAW! zounds! prithee, Will, let us go; what ſignifies our ſtaying here?

TIREHACK.

Nay, but tarry a little; beſides, you know we promis'd to give Poll Baylifs and Bett Skinner the meeting.

SCAMPER.

No matter, we ſhall be ſure to find them at three at the Shakeſpear.

TIREHACK.

But as we are here, Harry, let us know a little what it's about?

SCAMPER.

About. Why lectures you fool? Have not you read the bills, and we have plenty of them at Oxford, you know?

TIREHACK.

Well, but for all that, there may be fun.

SCAMPER.

Why then, ſtay and enjoy it yourſelf; and I'll ſtep to the Bull and Gate, and call upon Jerry Lack-Latin, and my horſe. We ſhall ſee you at three. [*Riſing.*

TIREHACK

Nay, but, prithee, ſtay.

SCAMPER.

Rot me if I do. [*Going out of the box.*

TIREHACK.

Hollo, Harry; Harry—

SCAMPER.

Well, what's the matter now? [*Returning.*

TIREHACK.

Here's Poll Bayliſs juſt come into the gallery.

SCAMPER.

No——

TIREHACK.

She is by—

SCAMPER [*Looking.*

Yes, faith! it is ſhe ſure enough.—How goes it, Poll?

TIREHACK.

Well, now, we ſhall have you, I hope?

SCAMPER.

Ay, if I thought we ſhould get any fun.

TIREHACK.

I'll make an enquiry. Hollo! ſnuffers, ſnuffers.

CANDLE SNUFFER.

Your pleaſure, Sir?

TIRE-

TIREHACK.

What is all this business about here?

SNUFFER.

Can't say, Sir.

SCAMPER.

Well, but, you could if you would; let us into the secret.

SNUFFER.

Not I, upon my honour!

TIREHACK.

Your honour, you son of a whore! D'ye hear, bid your master come hither, we want to ask him a question?

SNUFFER.

I will— [*Exit.*

TIREHACK.

Scamper, will you ask him, or shall I?

SCAMPER.

Let me alone to him—

Enter FOOTE.

TIREHACK.

O! here he is—

FOOTE.

Your commands with me, gentlemen?

SCAMPER.

Why, you must know Will and I here, are upon a scheme from Oxford; and because cash begins to run low—How much have you, Will?

TIREHACK.

Three and twenty shillings, besides the crown I paid at the door.

SCAMPER.

And I eighteen; now, as this will last us but

but to-night, we are willing to husband our time; let us see Will, how are we engag'd?

TIREHACK.

Why at three, with Bett and Poll, there, at the Shakespear; after that to the Coronation; for you know we have seen it but nine times—

SCAMPER.

And then back to the Shapespear again; where we sup, and take horse at the door.

TIREHACK.

So there's no time to be lost, you see; we desire, therefore, to know what sort of a thing this affair here of yours is? What, is it damn'd funny and comical?

FOOTE.

Have you not seen the bills?

SCAMPER.

What about lectures; ay, but that's all slang, I suppose; no, no. No tricks upon travellers; no, we know better—What, are there any more of you; or do you it all yourself?

FOOTE.

If I was in want of comedians, you, gentlemen, are kind enough to lend me a hit; but, upon my word, my intentions, as the bill will inform you, are serious—

TIREHACK.

Are they? then I'll have my money again. What, do you think we come to London to learn any thing?—Come, Will. [*Going.*

FOOTE.

Hold, gentlemen, I would detain you, if possible. What is it you expect?

SCAMPER.

To be jolly, and laugh, to be sure—

FOOTE.

At what?

TIRE-

TIREHACK.

At what—damme, I don't know—at you, and your frolicks and fancies—

FOOTE.

If that is all you desire; why, perhaps we shan't disappoint you—

SCAMPER.

Shan't you—why, that is an honest fellow—come, begin—

FOOTE.

But you'll be so kind as not to interrupt me?

SCAMPER.

Never fear—

FOOTE.

Ladies and gentlemen—

[Suds *from the opposite box calls to* Foote, *and stops him short.*

SUDS.

Stop a minute; may I be permitted to speak?

FOOTE.

Doubtless, Sir—

SUDS.

Why the affair is this. My wife Alice—for you must know my name is Ephraim Suds, I am a soap-boiler in the city, took it into her head, and nothing would serve her turn, but that I must be a common-council man this year; for says Alice, *says she*, It is the *onliest* way to rise in the world.

FOOTE.

A just observation—you succeeded?

SUDS.

Oh! there was no danger of that—yes, yes, I got it all hollow; but now to come to the marrow of the business. Well, Alice, says I, now I am chosen, what's next to be done? 'Why now, says Alice, *says she*, thee must

'learn

'learn to make speeches; why dost not see 'what performent neighbour Grogram has 'got; why man 'tis all brought about by his '*speechifying*. I tell thee what, Ephraim, if 'thee can'st but once learn to lay down the 'law, there's no knowing to what thee may'st 'rise—'.

FOOTE.

Your lady had reason.

SUDS.

Why, I thought so too; and, as good luck would have it, who should come into the city, in the very nick of time, but master professor along with his lectures—Adod, away in a hurry, Alice and I danced to Pewterers Hall.

FOOTE.

You improv'd, I hope?

SUDS.

O Lud! It is unknown what knowledge we got; we can read—oh! we never stop to spell a word now—and then he told us such things about verbs, and nouns, and adverbs, that never entered our heads before, and empháris, and accent; heav'n bless us, I did not think there had been such things in the world.

FOOTE.

And have you *speechify'd* yet?

SUDS.

Soft; soft and fair; we must walk before we can run—I think I have laid a pretty foundation. The Mansion-house was not built in a day, Master Foote. But to go on with my tale, my dame one day looking over the papers, came running to me; now Ephraim, says she, thy business is done, rare news, lad; here is a man at the other end of the town, that will make thee a *speecher* at once, and out

out ſhe pull'd your propoſals. Ah Alice, ſays I, thee be'ſt but a fool, why I know that man, he is all upon his fun, he lectures—why, 'tis all but a bam—well, 'tis but ſeeing, ſays ſhe, ſo *welens volens*, ſhe would have me come hither; now if ſo be you be ſerious, I ſhall think my money wiſely beſtow'd; but if it be only your comical works, I can tell you, you ſhall ſee me no more.

FOOTE.

Sir, I ſhould be extremely ſorry to loſe you; If I knew but what would content you?

SUDS.

Why, I want to be made an orator *on*; and to ſpeak ſpeeches, as I tell you, at our meetings, about politicks, and peace, and addreſſes, and the new bridge, and all *them* kind of things.

FOOTE.

Why, with your happy talents I ſhould think much might be done.

SUDS.

I am proud to hear you ſay ſo. Indeed I am, I did *ſpeechify* once at a veſtry concerning new lettering the church buckets, and came off cutely enough, and to ſay the truth, that was the thing that provok'd me to go to Pewterers-Hall. (*Sits down again.*

FOOTE.

Well, Sir, I flatter myſelf, that in proportion to the difference of abilities in your two inſtructors, you will here make a tolerable progreſs. But now, Sir, with your favour, we will proceed to explain the nature of our deſign, and I hope in the proceſs, you, gentlemen, will find entertainment, and you, Sir, information.

Mr.

Mr. Foote then proceeds to his lecture.

My plan, gentlemen, is to be consider'd as a superstructure on that admirable foundation laid by the modern professor of English, both our labours tending to the same general end; the perfectioning of our countrymen in a most essential article, the right use of their native language.

But what he has happily begun, I have the vanity to think I have as happily finish'd; he has, it is true, introduc'd you into the body of the church, but I conduct you into the quoir of the cathedral: Or, to explain myself by a more familiar allusion, tho' he is the Poitier who teaches you the step and the grounds; yet I am the Gallini who gives you the air, and the grace of the minuet.

His aim is propriety alone; mine propriety with elegance.

For tho' reading, so shamefully neglected, not only by those of tender years, but the adult; not only by children, but even by grown men and women; not only in our private seminaries, but in our publick universities, is allowed to be a necessary ingredient towards the formation of an orator; yet, a great many other rules, a great many other precepts, are requisite to obtain his perfection.

Nay, perhaps we might, to support an argument without the danger of a defeat, at least if we may trust observation, that of all the professions that require a verbal intercourse with the public, there is no one to whom reading is of so little utility as that of oratory.

I need

I need not insist upon this head, as I believe every gentleman; experience will furnish him with instances of men eminent in oratory, who, from an early vivacity, have neglected, or the indulgence of their parents have been emancipated from the attention and application necessary, it is true, to acquire this rugged art; but at the same time so ill-suited to their tender years, and so opposite to those innocent amusements in which children are known universally to delight. *Thwart not a child, for you spoil his temper*;—is, or at least ought to be, an English proverb, as it is an universal practice.

I would not here be understood to depreciate the usefulness of reading, or to detract from the exceeding merit of the professor's plan; no, my meaning is only just to drop a hint that I may occasionally use him as a walking-stick; a kind of an *elegantly clouded Mocoa*, or an *airy Anamahoo*: yet, that it is by no means my intention to depend upon him as *a support*, or lean upon him as *a crutch*; in a word, he will be rather ornamental than necessary to me.

But useless as his plan is to me, I sincerely wish it success for the sake of the public; and if my influence was equal to my inclination, I would have a law enacted, upon the plan of the militia bill, that annually, or biennially, draughts should be made from every parish of two, three, or more, as in that act of able bodied, so in this of intelligent persons, who, at the expence of the several counties, should be sent to the capital, and there compelled to go thro' as many courses of the professor's lectures as he shall deem sufficient: thus, by those

those periodical rural detachments, the whole nation will in a few years be compleatly serve d and a stock of learning laid in that will last 'till time shall be no more.

Would our rulers but adopt this scheme! how superior would England be even to the most illustrious periods of Greece and Rome! what an unrival'd happiness for us, what an eternal fund of fame for them! ye Solons, ye Lycurguses, ye Numas hide your diminish'd heads, see what a revolution two laws in a few years have produc'd, see a whole people sunk in more than Gothic ignorance, accustom'd to no other iron implements than the pacific plough-shear, or the harmless spade, start out at once profound scholars and veteran soldiers: If at this happy period, a Frenchman thinking any thing out of his own country worthy his attention should condescend to pay this kingdom a visit; methinks, I anticipate the account he will give of us at his return, (like his countryman of old, who at the taking of Rome, bursting into the capitol, and there finding the senate fix'd and immoveable in their seats, declar'd them an assembly of kings), so will he at once pronounce the whole British nation to be an army of generals, and one congregation of doctors. Happy country! where the *Armu & Toga* are so fortunately blended, as to prevent all contention for the pre-eminence.

I know but one objection that can be made to this plan, and that merely a temporary one; that the culture of our lands will sustain an infinite injury, if such a number of peasants were to deparochiate, there being already scarce hands sufficient, from the recruits constantly made for Germany, &c. &c. &c. to carry

carry on the common business of husbandry.

But what are riches, perishable commodities, glittering, transitory, fallacious goods, when compar'd to the substantial incorruptible endowments of the mind: this truth is indeed happily inculcated by an old English adage;

When lands and goods are gone and spent,
Then learning is most excellent.

This sensible and poetical distich, I would recommend to Mr. Professor, as a motto for his intended treatise; but I suppose he is already well provided with an apt *Latin*, if not a *Greek* one, to either of which I must yield the preference.

But to wave this ethical argument. I think I can easily foil the force of this objection, by a natural and obvious *Succedaneum*. Suppose a clause was to be added to the bill for the importation of tallow, raw hides, and live cattle from Ireland, that during this literary emigration, a sufficient number of inhabitants of that country may be transported hither to supply the vacancy; but here it must be observ'd, that for this purpose an act of parliament is indispensably necessary; for tho' it would be difficult, if not impossible for us in our present condition, to get in even our harvests, without the aid of hands annually exported for that purpose from Ireland; yet this is at best but an illicit trade, and the men themselves are to be consider'd under the article of smuggled goods: a very heavy penalty being laid by statute on all masters of vessels, who shall venture to import any of the above cited commodity into this realm, without special li-

 cence;

cence; to this purpose I recollect a case in point, the fifth of William and Mary, Ban. Reg. The king contra Oflaarty. Vide V. Rep. vol. 3. chap. 9. page 4.

But if this should be thought by the people in power too great an indulgence to the Irish, as we have never been remarkably profuse in our favours to our loyal and affectionate sister; I see no other method of redressing the imaginary evil, than by exempting from this service all the males 'till a general peace, and accepting in their room, a suitable number of discreet middle aged females; and these, when they have been properly perfected in the mysteries of our language, may be return'd to their several parishes, and there form little infantine communities of literati, which will be a stock for the succeeding generation; and indeed upon consideration, I don't know whether this won't prove the best method for the introduction and universal propagation of the plan.

For the English common people, naturally sullen and obstinate, and religiously attach'd to their old customs, might be shock'd and scandaliz'd to see at one bold stroke, the fescues, and fasces, which have been from time immemorial consign'd to one, or more matron in every village, ravish'd at once from their hands, and deliver'd over to the administration of the opposite sex.

But to return to my own subject, from which my zeal for Mr. Professor's success, has tempted me to make rather too long a digression.

When I ventur'd to affirm that the profession of an orator, might exist independently of an accurate knowledge of the arrangement, and different

different combinations of the four and twenty letters, so far as *(in the words of the Professor)*, they relate to their being the arbitrary marks of meaning upon paper; yet, I would not be understood to assert this generally, as to every species of oratory, but to confine myself to those particular branches, only where the orator's own mind suggests the matter that his own mouth discharges: For instance, now, as when affairs of state are weigh'd at a common-council, religious points militated at the Robin-hood, the arts and sciences handled in the Strand, or politicks debated near Westminster-abby; here the arguments, and words given are suppos'd to arise from the immediate impulse of the giver; but where there are concurrent agents, as in the oratory peculiar to the pulpit, and the stage, where one individual furnishes the matter and another administers the manner, the case is widely different.

In the first instance, a tolerable proficiency in reading is indispensably requisite, as scarce any memory but the late Mr. Heydigger's could retain to any degree of certainty, the various parts of the liturgy, the old, and new testament, briefs, faculties, excommunications, &c. &c. &c. and a lapse on those solemn occasions might be attended with very aukward circumstances: nor would I here be suppos'd to insinuate, that the pieces of oratory deliver'd from the pulpit, are not the composition of the deliverer, no—This is so far from being generally the case, that I have often heard complaints made against particular agents, that they have forc'd upon their congregations their own crude, and insipid productions when at

the ſame time, their native language would furniſh them with ſo extenſive, and noble collection of admirable materials. But here the auditor, unleſs he be well read in theology, may be led into a miſtake; for there are ſome men, who, by a particular happineſs in their manner, have the addreſs to make the works of other men ſo abſolutely their own, that there is no diſtinguiſhing the difference; at this the poet hints in his *male dum recitas*, &c. For theſe various reaſons, I think a warm application to the art of reading, cannot be too ſtrongly recommended to the profeſſors of this kind of oratory.

With regard to the profeſſors of the ſtage, tho' reading is undoubtedly uſeful, yet, as the performer is to repeat, and not to read, the deficience may be ſupply'd by the introduction of a third agent, viz. a perſon to read to him 'till the words are rooted in his memory. This expedient, tho' tedious, I have known frequently practis'd with good ſucceſs: little blunders will now and then unavoidably ariſe, either from the miſapprehenſion of the ſecond agent, or the ignorance, or waggery of the third; but theſe ſlips are generally unobſerv'd, or thro' inattention, or indulgence, overlook'd by an audience. But to return to the conſideration of my own plan, from which, no temptation ſhall for the future ſeduce me to digreſs.

We will firſt, then, conſider the utility of oratory.

Secondly, the diſtinct and various kinds, or ſpecies of that ſcience, as they are practis'd at this day in this kingdom.

Thirdly, we will demonſtrate that every branch of Engliſh oratory is peculiarly our own,

own, owes its rise, progress, and perfection to this country, and was not only unknown to the antients, but is entirely repugnant to all those principles they have endeavour'd to establish.

Fourthly, that any rhetorical system now existing, instead of a cross in the hands, with letters to direct you on your road, will prove only, but a Will in the Wisp to confound, perplex, and bewilder you.

Fifthly, from hence will result a necessity, for the immediate establishment of an academy, for the promulgation and inculcation of modern oratory.

To which academy, the author of these proposals, does hope, sixthly, that he shall be appointed perpetual professor.

Perhaps, it may not be impertinent here to observe, that the author has industriously avoided, and will in the course of this treatise avoid all poetical allusion; all grandeur of expression, all splendor of diction, in short, renounce every rhetorical prop, as knowing that on didactic subjects, order, simplicity, and perspicuity are the means to gain his end, which is not to gratify the imagination, but to improve and polish the understanding of my countrymen.

First, then, we are to demonstrate the utility of oratory: and, this we flatter ourselves will, in a great measure be evident from the consideration of its universality, and the distinctions it procures, both lucrative and honourable, to any man eminent in the art.

There is, by the constitution of this kingdom, an assembly of many individuals, who, as the seventh son of a seventh son, is born a phy-

a physician, are orators by hereditary right; that is, by birth they are enabled to give their opinions, and sentiments on all subjects, where the interest of their country is concern'd: To this, we are to add another assembly, consisting of 558 individuals, where, tho' the same privilege is enjoy'd as in the first instance; yet this advantage is not possess'd in virtue of any inherent natural right, but is obtain'd in consequence of an annual, triennial, or septennial deputation from the whole body of the people; if then we add to this list the number of all those candidates who are ambitious of this honour, with the infinite variety of changes that a revolution of twenty years will produce, we cannot estimate those funds of national orators in *esse*, *posse*, and *velle*, to a smaller quantity than 20,000; and this, I believe, by the disciples of Demoivre, will be thought a very moderate computation.

The two orders of the long robe next demand our attention; and as the pre-eminence is unquestionably due to the priesthood, let us consider what number of persons is necessary to supply that service? England is divided into nine tho'and nine hundred and thirteen parishes: now, if we suppose two pastors for every parish, this learned body will be found to consist of nineteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-six individuals; but as the most sacred characters are no more exempted from the fatal stroke that puts a temporary period to our existence, than the prophane, it is necessary that a provision should be made of fit and able persons; so that at all events there be no lack of labourers in this plentiful vineyard; nor has the policy of this nation been so blinded

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as not to guard against this possible contingency, by erecting schools, seminaries, and universities, in which a convenient quantity of our youth are properly trained, in order to fill up chasms which may be occasionally made by the insatiable scythe of death. If then we estimate this corps de reserve at the half only of the standing force, we shall find the army entire amount to 29, 739.

I foresee that the objection will be made to this calculation, viz. That two pastors to every parish is a most exorbitant and improbable charge; for that many parishes, from impropriations, appropriations, and other accidents, instead of two are scarce able to support one pastor; and that this complaint is almost general throughout the whole principality of Wales, where many individuals of this respectable order, to the great damage of their dignity, are oblig'd to have recourse to very unclerical professions for the support of themselves and families.

This objection we will allow its full force; but then if it be consider'd that in our original estimate we omitted all deans, canons, prebends, heads and fellows of colleges, chaplains to ships, regiments, and private families, together with the whole body of dissenting ministers of all denominations, field-preachers and parish-clarks, I believe we shall be thought rather to have diminished than exaggerated the real quantity.

As I have not been able to get admitance to the archives of the several inns of court in this metropolis, I am afraid we shall not be able to determine with the same degree of certainty, the exact number of those who have devoted.

devoted their lives and labors to the explanation and due execution of our municipal laws: I am therefore obliged to depend on circumstantial evidence, which in some cases is admitted even in our courts to have equal force with proof positive.

And here the reason of the law (as the law is the perfection of reason) is extremely clear. To illustrate this by an instance.

A. swears a robbery against *B.* *A.* may lye, or at least be mistaken; but if the goods stolen from *A.* and previously described by him, are found with their mark in the possession of *B.* *B.* not being able to account for such possession, that circumstance shall be deem'd of at least equal weight against *B.* as if *A.* was to swear positively to the personal identity of *B.* This being the practice of the courts, we shall proceed with all possible expedition (which indeed is not the practice of the courts) to produce our proofs circumstantial. As in the former instance we have grounded our calculation on the number of parishes, we shall in this derive our computation from the number of houses in the kingdom.

To any man tolerably acquainted with the country of England it is unnecessary to observe that not only in every town, but almost in every hamlet thro' which he travels, his eyes are constantly caught by the appearance of a smart house, prefac'd with white rails and prologu'd by a red door with a brass knocker; when you desire to be acquainted with the name and quality of the owner of this mansion, you are always told that it belongs to lawyer such a one: now, if a hamlet containing thirty houses, with perhaps an environ of an equal number, where

where labour and the fruits of the earth are the only ſources of wealth, can ſupport one attorney in this rural magnificence; what an infinite number of lawyers can a commercial capital ſuſtain? But becauſe I would rather retrench than exceed, I will only quarter one attorney upon fifty houſes. The number of houſes in the reign of George the Firſt (ſince which time the quantity is conſiderably encreas'd) was computed at 1,175,951. The number of attorneys then will be 23,518, and if we reckon one barriſter to twenty attorneys, the ſum total is 24,693.

I know it will be here objected that but one ſmall part of this numerous body can be benefited by my plan, the privilege of ſpeaking publickly being permited to the ſuperior order, the barriſters alone: but this criticiſm is confin'd to the obſervation of what paſſes merely in Weſtminſter-Hall, without conſidering that, at every quarter and petty ſeſſion at all country-courts, courts-leets, courts-baron, &c. &c. &c. full power of pleading is permitted to every practitioner of the law.

As the number of thoſe who incorporate themſelves to promote, not only with their caſh but their counſel, the progreſs of the arts and ſciences, is unlimited, it will be impoſſible for any fix'd period to aſcertain their quantity: nor can we, with any certainty, as the Court-Regiſter has been ſilent to the members of common-council, determine the amount of the city orators; beſides, as what has been already offered is more than ſufficient to prove the utility of our ſcheme from its univerſality, we ſhall not trouble our readers nor ourſelves with any further calculations; for tho' they

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are replete with great depth of knowledge, are the result of intense application, and the vehicles of mathematical truths, yet to the million the disquisition is but dry and tedious, and our purpose always was and is to mix with our instruction, a proper portion of delectation.

We will therefore, for there reasons, hasten to the consideration of the second point propos'd, viz. An enquiry into the various kinds of oratory now existing in this country. And we shall not, on his occasion, trouble ourselves with the investigation of all the smaller branches of this art; but, like the professors in anatomy, contenting ourselves with the dissection of the noble parts, remit the examination of the ignoble ones to the care of subaltern artists. Leaving, then, to the minute philosophers of the age all the orators of vestries, clubs, and coffee-houses, *Paulo majora canamus*, and for the better illustration of this head, permit me, reader, to be a little fanciful. We will suppose oratory to be one large tree, of which tree science is the *radix*; eloquence the trunk; from which trunk sprout four distinct ramifications; from which ramifications depends a fruit peculiar to each.

But here, reader, let me not arrogate to myself the merit of this happy explication; I own the hint was first given me with my Grammar. The ingenious, profound Lilly, after he has led his pupils thro' the various, and almost impervious provinces of nouns, pronouns, verbs, participles, and adverbs, conducts them to the foot of that arduous and stupendous mountain *Qui Mihi*: here dreading lest his youthful ardour might be dampt with the steep ascent, he re-animates his slacken'd nerves with

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the myſtick picture of an apple-tree, the acceſs to whoſe boughs, tho' tedious and difficult, will yet be amply rewarded by leave to revel uncontroul'd thro' the whole region of pepins. May the luſcious fruit ſprouting from the apex of each of my ramifications prove an equal ſpur to every beardleſs orator.

I don't know whether the mentioning another order of orators, as they are not at preſent exiſting in this kingdom, may not be deemed an impropriety. But as I am a ſincere lover of my country, I can't help recommending an immediate importation of ſome of thoſe uſeful and able artiſts. Sir William Temple, in his Eſſay on Poetry, has recorded their virtues; and as the race was not extinguiſhed in his time, it is to be hoped that it ſtill remains.

In Ireland, ſays Sir William, the great men of their ſcepts, amongſt many officers of their family, had not only a phyſician, a huntſman, a ſmith, and ſuch like, but a poet and tale-teller.

The firſt recorded and ſung the actions of their anceſtors, and entertained the company at feaſts. The latter amuſed them with tales when they were melancholy and could not ſleep; and a very gallant gentleman has told me of his own experience, that in his wolf-hunting there, when he us'd to be abroad in the mountains three or four days together, and lay very ill at nights, ſo as he could not well ſleep, they would bring one of thoſe tale-tellers, that when he lay down would begin a ſtory of a king, or a giant, a dwarf and a damſel, and continue all night long in ſuch an even tone that you heard him going on whenever you awakened. And he believ'd nothing any

any physicians could give had so good and so innocent an effect to make men sleep in any pains or distempers of body or mind. These are Sir William Temple's words, which contain an amazing instance of the power of those orators over the passions, it requiring full as much art and address to assuage and quell, as to blow up, and excite a tumult in the mind.

In a bill not long since depending in parliament for the better regulating the city-watch, a clause was recommended by a late respectable magistrate, that to prevent the watchmen from sleeping at nights on bulks (the source of many disorders) the said watchmen should be compelled to sleep six hours in the day; an arch member seconded the motion, and begg'd to be included in this clause, for that being grievously afflicted with the gout, he could not for many days sleep a single wink; now if he could be compelled to take a six hours sleep every day, he apprehended that his fits would be of a much shorter duration. Upon this dry comment the motion was rashly rejected; but if the house had received the least intimation of the astonishing abilities of the Rockers (for by that appellation I choose to distinguish this order of orators) I am convinced that the above clause would not only have been receiv'd, but that proper encouragement would have been given by parliament for the introduction and establishment of this useful oratorical sect.

Nor, indeed, considering the vast addition to our customary cares, from the unaccountable fluctuation of our funds, the cause of concern to many thousand individuals, do I think a visit from a convenient quantity of those

thoſe artiſts would be now out of ſeaſon; but how this honour is to be obtain'd, whether any of theſe great men are now reſiding amongſt us, under the diſguiſe of chairmen and hackney coachmen? or, whether it would not be more adviſeable to employ thoſe gentlemen, who have ſo lately and ſucceſsfully rummaged the Highlands of Scotland and Ireland for the remains of Runic poetry in ſearch of the ableſt profeſſors, is ſubmitted to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts?

I am aware that on this occaſion ſome arch wag, poſſeſs'd of the ſame ſpirit with the above ſenator, will object to my ſcheme of importation, by alledging, that we have of our own growth, an ample proviſion of rockers, and refers us for proof to our ſeveral churches and chapels, during the hours of eleven and two on a Sunday, where the ſleep-compelling power, will be experimentally demonſtrated to exiſt in its full force amongſt us; but not to derogate from the abilities of my countrymen, ſurely the ſhortneſs of the time, the cauſe of the nap, rarely continuing above fifteen or ſixteen minutes, will not admit of a proper experiment: beſides, how can one orator ſupply a whole pariſh, unleſs, indeed, our churches were to be converted into dormitories, which I can't think will happen, as this would be attended with inconveniencies too obvious to need a recital.

Abſtracted from this laſt order, the Engliſh orators are to be divided into four diſtinct claſſes, the pulpit, the ſenate, the bar, and the ſtage; with the firſt of theſe branches, the pulpit, I ſhan't interfere, and indeed, ſo few people now of conſequence and conſideration

frequent she churches, that the art is ſcarce worth cultivation. The bar—

SCAMPER.

Pſhaw! there's enough of this dull proſing; come give us a little of ſomething that's funny; you talk'd about pupils. Could not we ſee them?

FOOTE.

Rather too precipitate, Sir; but however, in ſome meaſure to ſatisfy you, and demonſtrate the ſucceſs of our ſcheme; give me leave to introduce to you a moſt extraordinary inſtance, in the perſon of a young highlander. It is not altogether a year ſince this aſtoniſhing ſubject, ſpoke nothing but Erſe. Encourag'd by the prodigies of my brother profeſſor's ſkill, whoſe fame like the chevalier Taylor's, pierces the remoteſt regions, his relations were tempted to ſend *this* young genius to Edinburgh; where he went thro' a regular courſe of the profeſſor's lectures, to finiſh his ſtudies; he has been about ſix weeks under my care, and conſidering the time, I think you will be amaz'd at his progreſs. Donald.—

Enter DONALD.

What's yer wull, Sir?

FOOTE.

Will you give theſe ladies and gentlemen a proof of your ſkill?

DONALD.

Ah, ye wad ha' a ſpecimen of my oratorical art.

FOOTE

FOOTE.

If you pleaſe.

DONALD.

In gude troth on ye ſal; wol ye gi me a topick?

FOOTE.

O! chuſe for yourſelf.

DONALD.

It's aw one to Donald.

FOOTE.

What think you of a ſhort panegyrick on the ſcience we are treating of.

DONALD.

On oratory; wi aw my heart.

FOOTE.

Mind your action; let that accompany your words——

DONALD.

Dunna heed man——The topick I preſum to haundle, is the miraculous gifts of an orator, wha, by the bare power of his words, he leads men, women, and bairns as he liſts——

SCAMPER.

And who?

DONALD. [*Tartly.*

Men, women, and bairns.

SCAMPER.

Bairns; who are they?

FOOTE.

Oh! children———his meaning is obvious enough.

DONALD.

Ay, ay; men, women, and bairns where-ever he lists; and first for the antiquity of the art—ken ye, my lads, wha was the first orator?——mayhap, ye think it was Tully the Latinist, ye are wide o'the mark; or Demosthenes the Greek? In gude troth, ye're as far off as before——Wha was it then? it was e'en that arch-chiel, the Deevil himsel——

SCAMPER. [*Hastily.*

The devil it was; how do you prove that?

DONALD.

Guds zounds, mon, ye brake the thrid of my harang; an ye'll but had yer tongue, I'se prove it as plain as a pike-staff.

TIREHACK.

Be quiet, Will, and let him go on.

DONALD.

I say it was that arch-chiel, the Deevil himsel. Ye ken weel, my lads, how Adam and Eve were planted in Eden, wi plenty o' bannocks and cail, and aw that they wish'd, but were prohibited the eating of pepins.——

SCAM-

SCAMPER.

Apples——.

DONALD.

Weel, weel, and are na pepins an apples, aw the ſame thing?

FOOTE.

Nay, pray, gentlemen, hear him out. Go on with your pepins.——

DONALD.

Prohibited the eating of pepins; upon which what does me the orator Satan, but he whiſpers a ſaft ſpeech in her lug, egad our grannum fell to in an inſtant, and eat a pepin without ſtaying to pare it——(*addreſſes himſelf to the Oxonians*) ken ye lads, wha was the firſt orator now?

TIREHACK. *To Scamper.*

What ſay you to that?

SCAMPER.

By my ſoul the fellow's right——

DONALD.

Ay, but ye wan'na ha patience---ye wan'na ha patience, lads——

TIREHACK.

Hold your jaw, and go on——

DONALD.

Now, we come to the difinition of an orator; and it is from the latin words *oro, orare,*

to intreat, or perſwad; and how, by the means o' elocution, or argument, which argument conſiſts o'letters, which letters join'd mak ſyllables, which ſyllables compounded mak words, which words combin'd mak ſentences, or periods, or which aw together mak an orator, ſo the firſt gift of an orator is words——

SCAMPER.

Here, Donald, you are out——

DONALD.

How ſo?

SCAMPER.

Words, the firſt gift of an orator! No, Donald, no, at ſchool I learn'd better than that: do'ſt not remember, Will, what is the firſt perfection of an orator? action. The ſecond, action. The third, action.

TIREHACK.

Right, right, Harry, as right as my nail; there, Donald, I think he has given you a doſe——

DONALD.

An ye ſtay me, i' the midſt o' my argument——

SCAMPER.

Why don't you ſtick to truth?

DONALD.

I tell ye, I can *logically*.——

TIRE-

TIREHACK.

Damn your logick——

DONALD.

Mighty weel——Maſter Foote, how ca ye this uſage?

FOOTE.

Oh, never mind them—proceed.

DONALD.

In gude troth, I'ſe nat ſay nay ane ward mare.

FOOTE.

Finiſh, finiſh, Donald.—

DONALD.

Ah! they have jumbled aw my ideas together; but an they wall enter into a fair argumentation, I'ſe convince 'em that Donald Macgregor is mare than a match.—

SCAMPER.

You be—

DONALD.

Very weel—

FOOTE.

Nay, but my dear Donald—

DONALD.

Hands aff, Maiſter Foote—I ha finiſh'd my tale, the De'el a word mare ſal ye get out o' Donald—yer ſervant, Sir. *(Exit.*

FOOTE.

FOOTE.

You ſee, gentlemen, what your impatience has loſt us.

SCAMPER.

Rot him, let him go; but is this fellow one of your *pupils*, why, what a damnable twang he has got, with his men, women, and bairns.——

FOOTE.

His pronunciation is I own a little irregular; but then conſider he is but merely a novice; why, even in his preſent condition, he makes no bad figure for his five minutes at the *Robin-hood*; and in a month or two, we ſhan't be aſham'd to ſtart him in a more *reſpectable place*.

But now, gentlemen, we are to deſcend to the peculiar eſſential qualities of each diſtinct ſpecies of oratory; and firſt for the bar—— but as no didactic rules can ſo well convey, or words make a proper impreſſion, we will have recourſe to more palpable means, and endeavour, by a lively imitation, to demonſtrate the extent of our art. We muſt, for this end, employ the aid of our pupils; but as ſome preparation is neceſſary, we hope you will indulge us in a ſhort interruption.

ACT

ACT II.

SCENE, *A Hall of Justice.*

Enter FOOTE.

THE first species of oratory we are to demonstrate our skill in, is that of the bar; and, in order to give our lecture an air of reality, you are to suppose this a Court of justice, furnish'd with proper Ministers to discharge the necessary functions. But, to supply these gentlemen with business, we must likewise institute an imaginary cause; and, that the whole may be ideal, let it be the prosecution of an imaginary being; I mean the phantom of Cock-lane, a phænomenon that has much puzzl'd the brains, and terrify'd the minds of many of our fellow-subjects.

We are to consider, ladies and gentlemen, that the language of the bar is a species of oratory distinct from every other. It has been observ'd that the ornaments of this profession have not shun with equal lustre in an assembly near their own Hall; the reason assign'd, tho' a pleasant, is not the true *one*. It has been hinted that these gentlemen were in want of their briefs; but was that the disease, the remedy would be easy enough: they need only have recourse to the *artifice* successfully practis'd by some of their colleagues; instead of having

having their briefs in their hands, to hide them at the bottom of their hats.

[*Calls to his pupils, who enter'd dress'd as a justice, a clerk, a serjeant at law, and a counsellor.*]

You will remember, Gentlemen, your proper pauses, repetitions, hums, has, and interjections: now seat yourselves, and you the counsel remember to be mighty dull, and you the justice to fall asleep. I must prepare to appear in this cause as a witness. (*Exit.*

JUSTICE.

Clerk, read the indictment.

CLERK. *Reads.*

Middlesex, to wit.

Fanny Phantom, you are indicted, That on or before the first day of January 1762, you, the said Fanny, did, in a certain house, in a certain street, call'd Cock-lane, in the county of Middlesex, maliciously, treacherously, wickedly, and wilfully, by certain thumpings, knockings, scratchings, and flutterings against doors, walls, wainscots, bedsteads, and bedposts, disturb, annoy, assault, and terrify divers innocent, inoffensive, harmless, quiet, simple people, residing, in, at, near, or about the said Cock-lane, and elsewhere, in the said county of Middlesex, to the great prejudice of said people in said county. How say you, guilty, or——

COUNSELLOR *stops the Clerk short.*

May it please your worship—hem——I am counsel in this cause for the ghost—hem—— and before I can permit her to plead, I have an objection to make, that is—hem—I shall object

ject to her pleading at all.——hem—it is the ſtanding law of this country—hem—and has —hem—always been ſo allow'd, deem'd, and practis'd that—hem—all criminals ſhould be try'd *per pares*, by their equals—hem—that is—hem—by a jury of equal rank with themſelves. Now, if this be the caſe, as the caſe it is; I—hem——I ſhould be glad to know, how my client can be try'd in this here manner. And firſt, who is my client? She is in the indictment call'd a phantom, a ghoſt; what is a ghoſt? a ſpirit. What is a ſpirit? a ſpirit is a thing that exiſts independently of, and is ſuperior to fleſh and blood. And can any man go for to think, that I can adviſe my client to ſubmit to be try'd by people of an inferior rank to herſelf? certainly no—I therefore, humbly move to quaſh this indictment, unleſs a jury of ghoſts be firſt had, and obtain'd, unleſs a jury of ghoſts be firſt had and obtain'd. *Sits down.*]

SERJEANT.

I am, in this cauſe, Counſel againſt Fanny Phantom the ghoſt;——eh,——and notwithſtanding the rule laid down by Mr. Proſequi, be—eh——right in the main, yet here it can't avail his client a whit. We allow—eh——we do allow, pleaſe your worſhip, that Fanny *quoad* Phantom,—eh——had originally a right to a jury of ghoſts; but—eh—if ſhe did, by any act of her own, forfeit this right, her plea cannot be admitted. Now, we can prove, pleaſe your worſhip, prove by a cloud of witneſſes, that ſaid Fanny did, as ſpecified in the indictment, ſcratch, knock and flutter;—eh—which ſaid ſcratchings, knockings, and flut-

terings

terings—eh—being operations, merely peculiar to flesh, blood, and body—eh—we do humbly apprehend—eh—that by condescending to execute the aforesaid operations, she has wav'd her privilege as a ghost, and may be try'd in the ordinary form, according to the statute so made, and provided in the reign of &c. &c. &c.

Your worship's opinion?

TIREHACK.

Smoke the justice, he is as fast as a church.

SCAMPER.

I fancy he has touch'd the tankard too-much this morning; he'll know a good deal of what they have been saying.

JUSTICE.

[*Is wak'd by the Clerk, who tells him they have pleaded.*

Why the objection—oh—brought by Mr. Prosequi, is *(whispers the Clerk)* doubtless provisionally a valid objection; but then, if the culprit has, by an act of her own, defeated her priviledge, as asserted in Mr. Serjeant's replication; we conceive she may be legally try'd—oh,——besides—oh,——besides, I, I, I can't well see how we could impannel a jury of ghosts; or—oh—how twelve spirits, who have no body at all, can be said to take a corporal oath, as requir'd by law—unless, indeed, as in case of the peerage, the prisoner may be try'd on their honour.

COUNSELLOR.

Your worship's distinction is just; knockings, scratchings, &c. as asserted by Mr. Serjeant.—

SER-

SERJEANT.

Asserted—Sir, do you doubt my instructions?

COUNSELLOR.

No interruptions, if you please, Mr. Serjeant; I say as asserted, but can assertions be admitted as proofs; certainly no——

SERJEANT.

Our evidence is ready——

COUNSELLOR.

To that we object, to that we object, as it will anticipate the merits—your worship—

SERJEANT.

Your worship—

JUSTICE.

Why as you impeach the ghost's priviledge, you must produce proofs of her scratchings.

SERJEANT.

Call Shadrach Bodkin.

CLERK.

Shadrach Bodkin come into court.

SERJEANT. [*Enter* Bodkin.

Pray, Mr. Bodkin, where do you live?

BODKIN.

I sojourn in Lukener's-lane.

SERJEANT.

What is your profession?

BODKIN.

I am a *teacher* of the *word* and a *taylor*.

SCAMPER.

Zounds, Will, it is a methodist.

TIREHACK.

No sure!

SCAMPER.

By the lord Harry, it is.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

Do you know any thing of Fanny the phantom?

BODKIN.

Yea—I do.

SERJEANT.

Can you give any account of her thumpings, ſcratchings, and flutterings?

BODKIN.

Yea—manifold have been the ſcratchings, and knockings that I have heard.

SERJEANT.

Name the times.

BODKIN.

I have attended the ſpirit *Fanny* from the firſt day of her flutterings, even to the laſt ſcratch that ſhe gave.

SERJEANT.

How long may that be?

BODKIN.

Five weeks did ſhe flutter, and ſix weeks did ſhe ſcratch.

SCAMPER.

Six weeks—Damn it, I wonder ſhe did not wear out her nails.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

I hope the court is convinced.

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

Hold, Maſter Bodkin, you and I muſt have a little diſcourſe. A taylor, you ſay, do you work at your buſineſs?

BODKIN.

No—

COUNSELLOR.

Look upon me, look upon the court—Then your preſent trade is your teaching?

BODKIN.

It is no trade.

COUNSELLOR.

What is it then, a calling?

BODKIN.

No, it is no calling—it is rather—as I may ſay—a *forcing*—a *compelling*—

COUNSELLOR.

By whom?

BODKIN.

By the ſpirit that is within me—

SCAMPER.

It is an evil ſpirit, I believe; and needs muſt when the devil drives, you know, Will.

TIREHACK.

Right, Harry—

COUNSELLOR.

When did you firſt feel theſe ſpiritual motions?

BODKIN.

In the town of Norwich, where I was born;—One day as I was ſitting croſs-legged on my ſhop-board, new ſeating a cloth pair of breeches of Mr. alderman Crapes—I felt the ſpirit within me, moving upwards and

downwards, and this way and that way, and tumbling and jumbling—at first I thought it was the cholic—

COUNSELLOR.

And how are you certain it was not?

BODKIN.

At last I heard a voice whispering within me, crying, Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach, cast away the things that belong to thee, thy thimble and sheers, and do the things that I bid thee.

COUNSELLOR.

And you did?

BODKIN.

Yea, verily.

COUNSELLOR.

I think I have heard a little of you, Master Bodkin; and so you quitted your business, your wife, and your children?

BODKIN.

I did.

COUNSELLOR.

You did—But then you commun'd with other men's wives?

BODKIN.

Yea, and with widows, and with maids.

COUNSELLOR.

How came that about, Shadrach?

BODKIN.

I was moved thereunto by the spirit.

COUNSELLOR.

I should rather think by the flesh—I have been told, friend Bodkin, that twelve became pregnant—

BOD-

BODKIN.

Thou art deceived—They were barely but nine.

COUNSELLOR.

Why this was an active ſpirit.

SERJEANT.

But to the point, Mr. Proſequi.

COUNSELLOR.

Well then—you ſay you have heard thoſe ſcratchings and knockings?

BODKIN.

Yea—

COUNSELLOR.

But why did you think they came from a ſpirit?

BODKIN.

Becauſe the very ſame thumps, ſcratches, and knocks, I have felt on my breaſt bone from the ſpirit within me—

COUNSELLOR.

And theſe noiſes you are ſure you heard on the firſt day of January?

BODKIN.

Certain—

SERJEANT.

But to what do all thoſe interrogatories tend?

COUNSELLOR.

To a moſt material purpoſe; your worſhip obſerves that Bodkin is poſitive as to the noiſes made on the firſt day of January by Fanny the phantom: now if we can prove an *Alibi*, that is, that, on that very day, at that very time, the ſaid Fanny was ſcratching and flut-

tering any where elſe, we apprehend that we deſtroy the credit of this witneſs—call Peter Paragraph.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUNSELLOR.

This gentleman is an eminent printer, and has collected for the public information, every particular relative to this remarkable ſtory; but as he has the misfortune to have but one leg, your worſhip will indulge him in the uſe of a chair.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUNSELLOR. [*Enter* Par.]

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, where was you born?

PARAGRAPH.

Sir, I am a native of Ireland, and born and bred in the city of Dublin.

COUNSELLOR.

When did you arrive in the city of London?

PARAGRAPH.

About the laſt autumnal equinox: and now I recollect, my *Journal* makes mention of my departure for England, in the Beſsborough Packet, Friday October the tenth, N. S. or Stile.

COUNSELLOR.

Oh! Then the Journal is yours?

PARAGRAPH.

Pleaſe your worſhip, it is; and relating thereto I believe I can give you a pleaſant conceit—

ceit—Laſt week I went to viſit a *peer*, for I know *peers*, and *peers* know me. Quoth his lordſhip to me, Mr. Paragraph, with reſpect to your Journal, I would wiſh that your paper was whiter, or your ink blacker; quoth I to the peer, by way of *reply*, I hope you will own there is enough for the money; his lordſhip was pleaſed to laugh, It was ſuch a pretty repartee, he, he, he, he—

JUSTICE.

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, what might be your buſineſs in England?

PARAGRAPH.

Hem—a little love affair, pleaſe your worſhip.

COUNSELLOR.

A wife, I ſuppoſe—

PARAGRAPH.

Something tending that way; even ſo long ago as January 1739-40, there paſt ſome amorous glances between us: ſhe is the daughter of old Vamp of the Turnſtile; but at that time I ſtifled my paſſion, Mrs. Paragraph being then in the land of the living.

COUNSELLOR.

She is now dead?

PARAGRAPH.

Three years and three quarters pleaſe your worſhip: we were exceeding happy together; ſhe was indeed a little apt to be jealous.

COUNSELLOR.

No wonder—

PARAGRAPH.

Yes: they can't help it, poor ſouls; but not-

notwithſtanding, at her death, I gave her a prodigious good character in my Journal.

COUNSELLOR.

And how proceeds the preſent affair?

PARAGRAPH.

Juſt now we are quite at a ſtand—

COUNSELLOR.

How ſo?

PARAGRAPH.

The old ſcoundrel her father has play'd me a ſlippery trick.

COUNSELLOR.

Indeed!

PARAGRAPH.

As he could give no money in hand, I agreed to take her *fortune* in *copies*; I was to have the Wits *Vade Mecum* entire; four hundred of News from the Inviſible World in ſheets; all that remained of Glanvil upon Witches; Hill's Bees, Bardana, Brewing, and Balſam of Honey; and three eighths of Robinſon Cruſoe.

COUNSELLOR.

A pretty fortune!

PARAGRAPH.

Yes; they are things that ſtir in the trade; but you muſt know that we agreed to go halves in Fanny the Phantom. But whilſt I and two authors, whom I had hir'd to aſk queſtions, at nine ſhillings a night, were taking notes of the knockings at the houſe of Mr. Parſons himſelf, that old raſcal Vamp had privately printed off a thouſand eighteenpenny ſcratchings, purchaſed of two methodiſt

diſt preachers, at the public houſe over the way—

COUNSELLOR.

Now we come to the point—look upon this evidence; was he preſent at Mr. Parſons's knockings?

PARAGRAPH.

Never; this is one of the raſcally methodiſts——Harkee, fellow, how could you be ſuch a ſcoundrel to ſell for genuine your counterfeit ſcratchings to Vamp?

BODKIN.

My ſcratchings were the true ſcratchings.

PARAGRAPH.

Why, you lying ſon of a whore, did not I buy all my materials from the girl's father himſelf.

BODKIN.

What the ſpirit commanded, that did I.

PARAGRAPH.

What ſpirit?

BODKIN.

The ſpirit within me.—

PARAGRAPH.

If I could but get at you, I would ſoon try what ſort of a ſpirit it is—ſtop you villain.

[*Exit* BODKIN.]

The rogue has made his eſcape—I will but dog him, to find out his haunts, and then return for a warrant—his ſcratchings, a ſcoundrel; I will have juſtice, or I'll turn his tabernacle into a pigſtye. [*Exit* Par.

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

I hope, pleaſe your worſhip, we have ſufficiently eſtabliſhed our *Alibi*.

JUSTICE.

You are unqueſtionably entitled to a jury of ghoſts.

COUNSELLOR.

Mr. Serjeant, you will provide us a liſt?

SERJEANT.

Let us ſee—you have no objection to ſir George Villars; the evil genius of Brutus; the ghoſt of Banquo; Mrs. Veal.

COUNSELLOR.

We object to a woman—your worſhip.—

JUSTICE.

Why, it is not the practice; this, it muſt be own'd, is an extraordinary caſe. But however, if, on conviction, the panthom ſhould plead pregnancy, Mrs. Veal will be admitted on the jury of matrons.

SERJEANT.

I thank your worſhip: then the court is adjourned.

[Terence *and* Dermot *in an upper box.*

TERENCE.

By my ſhoul, but I will ſpake.

DERMOT.

Arrha, be quiet, Terence.

TERENCE.

Dibble burn me but I will; hut, hut, not ſpake what ſhould ail me; harkee you, Mr. Juſtice.—

SCAMPRR.

Hollo, What's the matter now, Will?

DERMOT.

DERMOT.

Leave off, honey Terence, now you are well—

TERENCE.

Dermot, be easy.—

SCAMPER.

Hear him—

TIREHACK.

Hear him—

TERENCE.

Ay, hear him, hear him; why the matter is this Mr. Justice, that little hopping fellow there, that Dublin Journal man is as great a liar as ever was born—

TIREHACK.

How so?—

TERENCE.

Ay prithee don't bodder me; what, dy'e learn no more manners at Oxford college than to stop a gontleman in the midst of his speech before he begins; oh for shame of yourself—Why the matter is this, Mr. Justice, that there, what the dibble d'ye call him Pra-Pra-ragraf, but by my shoul that is none of his name neither, I know the little bastard as well as myself; as to Fanny the phantom, long life to the poor gentlewoman, he knows no more of her than the mother that bore her—

SUDS.

Indeed! good lord, you surprize me?

TERENCE.

Arrha now, honey Suds, spake when you are spoke to; you ar'nt upon the jury, my jewel

jewel now; by my ſhoul your are a little too fat for a ghoſt.

TIREHACK.

Prithee, friend Ephraim, let him go on; let's hear a little what he would be at—

TERENCE.

I ſay he knows nothing about the caſe that is litigated here, d'ye ſee, at all, at all; becaſe why I hant ha been from Dublin above four weeks, or a month; and I ſaw him in his ſhop every day; ſo that how could he be here and there too? unleſs indeed he uſed to fly backwards and forwards, and that you ſee is impoſſible, becauſe why he has got a wooden leg.

SCAMPER.

What the devil is the fellow about?

TIREHACK.

I ſmoak him—harkee, Terence, who do you take that lame man to be?

TERENCE.

Oh my jewel, I know him well enough ſure by his parſon, for all he thought to conceal himſelf by changing his name—

SCAMPER.

Why, it is Foote, you fool.

TERENCE.

Arrha, who?

TIREHACK.

Foote.

TERENCE.

Fot, what the lecture-man? Pa—

TIREHACK.

Yes.

TER.

TERENCE.

Arrah, be easy, honey—

SCAMPER.

Nay, enquire of Suds.

SUDS.

Truly I am minded 'twas he.

TERENCE.

Your humble servant yourself, Mr. Suds, by my shoul, I'll wager you three thirteens to a rap, that it is no such matter at all, at all.

SCAMPER.

Done—and be judg'd by the company.

TERENCE.

Done—I'll ask the Orator himself—here he comes; [*Enter* Foote] Harkee, honey Fot, was it yourself that was happing about here but now.

FOOTE.

I have heard your debate, and must give judgment against you—

TERENCE.

What, yourself, yourself!

FOOTE.

It was—

TERENCE.

Then faith I have lost my thirteens—— Arrha, but Fot, my jewel, why are you after playing such pranks to bring an honest gontleman into company where he is nat—— But what, is this selling of lectures a thriving profession?

FOOTE.

I can't determine as yet; the public have been very indulgent; I have not long open'd.

TERENCE.

By my ſhoul, if it anſwers, will you be my pupil, and learn me the trade?

FOOTE.

Willingly.—

TERENCE.

That's an honeſt fellow, long life to you, lad. *(ſits down.*

Enter M'GEORGE.

M'GEORGE.

Here is doctor Friſcano without.

FOOTE.

Friſcano—who is he?

M'GEORGE.

The German phyſician from James-ſtreet.

FOOTE.

Well; what is his buſineſs with me?

M'GEORGE.

He is in danger of loſing his trade.

FOOTE.

How ſo?

M'GEORGE.

He ſays, laſt ſummer, things went on glibly enough, for then he had the market all to himſelf; but this year there is an Italian fellow ſtarted up in the garden, that with his face and grimace has taken all his patients away:

FOOTE.

That's hard.

M'GEORGE.

Dreadful—if you was to hear the poor man's terrible tale you would really be moved to compaſſion: he ſays that his bleeding won't find

find him in bread; and as the tooth trade, excepting two ſtumps, for ſix-pence a piece, 'tis a month ſince he looked in a mouth—

FOOTE.

How can I help him?

M' GEORGE.

Why, he thinks oratory will do all with the Engliſh; and if you would but teach him to talk, he ſhould ſoon get his cuſtom again—

FOOTE.

Can he read?

M' GEORGE.

Oh Lord! poor man, no.

FOOTE.

Well let him attend here on—

M' GEORGE.

He hopes you will quickly diſpatch him, for if he finds he can't do as a doctor, he intends to return to the curing of horſes again.

FOOTE.

Well, tell him that he may reſt aſſured, he ſhall either bleed or ſhoe in a fortnight. [*Exit* M' George.

FOOTE.

Having thus compleated our lecture on the eloquence peculiar to the bar, we ſhall produce one great group of orators, in which will be exhibited ſpecimens of every branch of the art. You will have at one view, the choleric, the placid, the voluble, the frigid, the frothy, the turgid, the calm, and the clamorous; and as a proof of our exquiſite ſkill, our ſubjects are not ſuch as a regular education has prepared for the reception of this ſublime

ſcience, but a ſet of illiterate mechanics, whom you are to ſuppoſe aſſembled at the Robin-hood in the Butcher-row, in order to diſcuſs and adjuſt the various ſyſtems of Europe; but particularly to determine the ſeparate intereſt of their own mother country.

The End of the SECOND ACT.

ACT

ACT III.

SCENE, *The Robin Hood.*

The PRESIDENT.

Dermot O'Droheda, *a Chairman*; Tim Twist, *a Taylor*; Strap, *a Shoemaker*; Anvil, *a Smith*; Sam. Slaughter, *a Butcher*; Catchpole, *a Bailiff*. All with Pewter Pots before them.

PRESIDENT.

SILENCE, gentlemen; are your pots replenished with porter?

ALL.

Full, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT.

We will then proceed to the business of the day; and let me beg, gentlemen, that you will, in your debates, preserve that decency

and decorum that is due to the importance of your deliberations, and the dignity of this illustrious assembly—

[*Gets up, pulls of his hat and reads the motion.*

Motion made last Monday to be debated today, " That, for the future, instead of that " vulgar potation called porter, the honoura- " ble members may be supplied with a proper " quantity of Irish usquebagh.

" Dermot O'Droheda ⋊ his mark."

O'DROHEDA [*gets up.*

That's I myself.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. O'Droheda,

O'DROHEDA.

Mr. President, the case is this; it is not because I am any grate lover of that same usquebagh that I have set my mark to the motion: but because I did not think it was decent for a number of gontlemen that were, d'ye see, met to settle the affairs of the nation, to be guzling a pot of porter; to be sure the liquor is a pretty sort of a liquor enough when a man is hot with trotting between a couple of poles; but this is another guess matter, because why, the head is concerned, and if it was not for the malt and the haps, dibble burn me but I would as soon take a drink from the Thames as your porter. But as to usquebagh; ah long life to the liquor—it is an exhilirator of the bowels, and a stomatic to the head; I say, Mr. President, it invigorates, it stimulates, it—in short it is the onliest liquor of life, and no man alive will die whilst he drinks it.

[*Sits*

[*Sits down.* Twiſt *gets up, having a paper, containing the heads of what he ſays in his hat.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Timothy Twiſt.

TIM TWIST.

Mr. Preſident, I ſecond Mr. O'Droheda's motion, and, ſir, give me leave—I ſay, Mr. Preſident—[*looks in his hat*] give me leave to obſerve that, ſir, tho' it is impoſſible to add any force to what has been advanced by my honourable friend in the ſtraps; yet, ſir [*looks into his hat again.*] It may, ſir, I ſay be neceſſary to obviate ſome objections that may be made to the motion, and firſt, it may be thought—I ſay, ſir, ſome gentlemen may think, that this may prove pernicious to our manufacture—[*looks in his hat*] and the duty doubtleſs it is of every member of this illuſtrious aſſembly to have a particular eye unto that, but Mr. Preſident—ſir—[*looks in his hat, is confuſed and ſits down.*]

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Twiſt, O pray finiſh, Mr. Twiſt.

TWIST. [*gets up.*

I ſay, Mr. Preſident, that, ſir, if, ſir, it be conſidered that—as—I ſay—[*looks in his hat*] I have nothing farther to ſay. [*Sits down, and* Strap *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Strap.

STRAP.

Mr. Preſident, it was not my intention to trouble the aſſembly upon this occaſion, but when

when I hear insinuations thrown out by gentlemen, where the interest of this country is so deeply concerned, I own I cannot sit silent; and give me leave to say, sir, there never came before this assembly a point of more importance than this; it strikes, sir, at the very root, sir, of your constitution; for, sir, what does this motion imply? it implies that porter, a wholesome domestic manufacture, is to be prohibited at once, and for what, sir? for a foreign pernicious commodity. I had, sir, formerly the honour, in conjunction with my learned friend in the leather apron, to expel sherbet from amongst us; as I looked upon lemons as a fatal and foreign fruit; and can it be thought, sir, that I will sit silent to this? No, sir, I will put my shoulders strongly against it, I will oppose it *manibus totibus*. For should this proposal prevail, it will not end here: fatal, give me leave to say, will I foresee be the issue; and I shan't be surprised, in a few days, to hear from the same quarter, a motion for the expulsion of gin, and a premium for the importation of whisky.

[*A hum of approbation, with significant nods and winks from the other members. He sits down, and* Anvil *and another member get up together; some cry* Anvil, *others* Jacobs.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Anvil.

ANVIL.

Mr. President, sir—

[*The*

[*The members all blow their noses and cough*; Anvil *talks all the while, but is not heard.*

PRESIDENT.

Silence, gentlemen, pray gentlemen. A worthy member is up.

ANVIL.

I say, Mr. President, that if we consider this case in its utmost extent—[*all the members cough and blow their noses again*] I say, sir, I will. Nay, I insist on being heard. If any gentleman has any thing to say any where else, I'll hear him.

[*Members all laugh, and* Anvil *sits down in a passion, and* Slaughter *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Samuel Slaughter.

SLAUGHTER.

Sir, I declare it, at the bare hearing of this here motion, I am all over in a sweat; for my part I can't think what gentlemen mean by talking in that there manner; not but I likes that every man should deliver his mind; I does mine, it has been ever my way, and when a member opposes me I like him the better for it, it's right, I am pleas'd, he can't please me more, it is as it should be, and tho' I differ from the honourable gentleman in the flannel night-cap over the way, yet I am pleased to hear him say what he thinks; for, sir, as I said, it is always my rule to say what I think, right or wrong—[*a loud laugh*] ay, ay, gentlemen may laugh, with all my heart, I am used to it, I don't mind it a farthing, but, sir, with regard to that there motion, I entirely

tirely agree with my worthy friend with the pewter pot at his mouth. Now, ſir, I would fain aſk any gentleman this here queſtion, can any thing in nature be more natural for an Engliſhman than porter? I declare, Mr. Preſident, I think it the moſt wholeſomeſt liquor in the world. But if it muſt be a change, let us change it for rum, a wholeſome palatable liquor, a liquor that—in ſhort, Mr. Preſident, I don't know ſuch a liquor. Ay, gentlemen may ſtare; I ſay, and I ſay it upon my conſcience, I don't know ſuch a liquor. Beſides, I think there is in this here affair a point of law, which I ſhall leave to the conſideration of the learned, and for that there reaſon, I ſhall take up no more of your time.

[*He ſets down,* Catchpole *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Catchpole.

CATCHPOLE.

I get up to the point of law. And tho', ſir, I am bred to the buſineſs, I can't ſay I am prepared for this queſtion. But tho' this uſquebaugh as a dram may not (by name) be ſubject to a duty, yet it is my opinion, or rather belief, it will be conſider'd, as in the caſe of horſes, to come under the article of dry'd goods—But I move that another day this point be debated.

SLAUGHTER.

I ſecond the motion.

[Catchpole *gives a paper to the preſident, who reads it.*

PRE-

PRESIDENT.

Hear your motion.

"That it be debated next Thurſday, whether the dram uſquebaugh is ſubject to a particular duty; or, in the caſe of horſes, to be conſidered under the article of dry'd goods."

ALL.

Agreed, agreed.

FOOTE.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, having produced to you glaring proofs of our great ability in every ſpecies of oratory, having manifeſted in the perſons of our pupils, our infinite addreſs in conveying our knowledge to others, we ſhall cloſe our morning's lecture, inſtituted for the public good, with a propoſal for the particular improvement of individuals. We are ready to give private inſtructions to any reverend gentleman in his probationary ſermon for a lectureſhip; to young barriſters who have cauſes to open, or motions to make; to all candidates for the ſock or buſkin; or to the new members of any of thoſe oratorical ſocieties with which this metropolis is at preſent ſo plentifully ſtock'd.

FINIS.