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Vermischte Aufsätze in englischer Prose

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Hamburg, 1777

VD18 13177109

Scheme for a new Memorandum-Book for the use of the Ladies, with a specimen.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-15506

you will not damp our happiness with so melancholy an event: I will venture to pledge myself for her ladyship.

Sir Benjamin Dove. Well for your sake perhaps I may prolong her departure for one day; but I'm determin'd, if she does stay to-morrow, she shall set the first dish upon the table; if 'tis only to shew the company what a refractory wife in the hands of a man of spirit may be brought to submit to. Our wives, Mr. Belfield, may tease us and vex us, and still escape with impunity; but if once they thoroughly provoke us, the charm breaks, and they are lost for ever. (*Exeunt.*)

Scheme for a new Memorandum-Book for the use of the Ladies, with a specimen. *)

Among the many Pocket-Companions, New Memorandum-Books, Gentleman and Tradesman's Daily Assistants, and other productions of the like nature, calculated for the use of those who mix in the bustle of the world, I cannot but applaud those polite and elegant inventions, The *Ladies Memorandum-Books*, as these seem chiefly adapted to the more important businesses of pleasure and amusement. I shall not take upon me to determine which is the most preferable: each of them being, if you believe the solemn asseverations of their proprietors, "the best and most complete of its kind that has hitherto been published.,,"

The utility of these little books, with respect to the fair sex, is on the first view apparent; as they are divided for each day of the week into distinct columns, allotted to the several branches of *Engagements*, *Expences*, and *Occasional Memorandums*. These, indeed, comprehend every thing that can either attract their regard, or take up their time: I shall therefore point out some particular advantages that will arise from a right use and regulation of them.

With regard to *Engagements*, it is very well known, what embarrassments, jealousies, and quarrels, have arisen from an erroneous management in that most essential part of female transactions, the paying and receiving of visits. It has hitherto been usual to trust entirely

*) The Adventurer (by Mr. Hawkesworth) Lond. 1766. 4 Vol. 8.

entirely in this point to the care of an illiterate footman, or heedless porter, who is to take account of all the raps at the door, and to enter the names of the several visitants in a regular journal. Hence it frequently happens, that the bond of amity is dissolved, and perpetual variance created between families, by the mistake or forgetfulness of a servant. *Lady Formal* and *Mrs. Prim* were once the most intimate females living: they courted to one another regularly at church and the play-house, talked together where ever they met, and left their names once a month alternately at each other's house for several years, till it happened that *Lady Formal's* Swiss forgot to set down *Mrs. Prim's* last visit to her ladyship; which occasions them now to stare at one another like perfect strangers, while each considers the other as guilty of that most atrocious crime, the owing a visit. A card was sent two months beforehand to invite *Mrs. Gadabout* to a rout; but by the negligence of the maid it unfortunately miscarried, before the date of it was posted in the day-book, and consequently she was prevented from going. The affront was unpardonable; her absence rendered one whist-table useless; the neglect was told every where; and the innocent *Mrs. Gadabout* wonders at the reason why she is so seldom invited at a party in card-assemblies. These lamentable mistakes are therefore, effectually guarded against by the use of the *Memorandum-Book*, which puts it in every lady's power to keep a more exact register of all her *Engagements*, and to state the balance of visits fairly between debtor and creditor.

And as there is certainly no virtue more amiable, or of greater emolument, than female œconomy to which nothing contributes more than a just knowledge of expences, the *Memorandum-Book*, has also wisely provided for this; in which, under the article of *Expences*, the lady may set down the particular sums laid out in masquerade thickets, subscription concerts, wax-lights for routs, drums or hurricanes, birth-day suits, chair-hire and the like: she may also know the true balance between her winnings and loosings, and make a due registry of her debts of honour. For want of this method many widows of distinction have imperceptibly run out the whole income of their jointures in a few months, and been forced to retire the rest of the year into country lodgings; and many married ladies have been con-

strained to petition the brutes their husbands for the advance of a quarter's pin-money, to satisfy the importunate dunnings of a needy honourable gamester.

The blank allotted for *Occasional Memorandums* may be filled up from time with the lye of the day, topics of scandal, names and abodes of miliners, descriptions of new fashions, and a hundred other circumstances of equal importance. This will greatly relieve the memory, and furnish an inexhaustible store of matter for polite conversation.

There is another very pleasing advantage arising from the use of these books, as we are informed by one of the compilers, who acquaints us, that "if preserved, they will enable any lady to tell what business she has transacted, and what company she has been in, every day, during any period of her life.," How enchanting, how rapturous, must such a review prove to those who make a figure in the polite world? to live over their days again! to recall the transporting idea of masquerades, plays, concerts, cards, and dress! to revive lost enjoyments, and in imagination to tread over again the delightful round of past pleasures!

I was led to the consideration of this subject by a visit I the other day made a polite lady, whom I found earnestly employed in writing. I would have withdrawn immediately; but she told me she was only entering some particulars in her memorandum-book, which would soon be finished, and desired me to take a chair. I expressed some curiosity to know her method; upon which she very frankly put the book into my hand, bidding me peruse it; "for," says she, "I do nothing that I need be ashamed of.," As she was soon after called out of the room, I took the opportunity of transcribing her first weeks account, which I shall faithfully present to my fair readers, as a farther illustration of the use of these books, and if they please, as a pattern for their practice.

Engagements.

January.

1. *Monday.* To call at Deard's in the morning. To dine with my husband's uncle, the city merchant.

2. *Tues-*

Occasional Memorandums.

City politeness intolerable! Crammed with mince-pies, and fatigued with compliments of the season!

2. *Tuesday.* In the morning with the Miss Flareits, to drive to the silk-mercens, &c. At night to go to the Genii.

3. *Wednesday.* Expect Mademoiselle de la Toure to try on my French head. In the evening to pay forty-three visits.

4. *Thursday.* My own day at home. To have a drum major and seventeen card-tables.

5. *Friday.* To go to the auction with Lady Nicknack. To dine at home with a parcel of my husband's city relations.

6. *Saturday.* Monsieur Le Frise all the morning to dress my head. At night (being Twelfth-night) at court. To dance, if I can, with the handsome Bob Brilliant.

7. *Sunday.* If I rise soon enough, St. James's church. In the afternoon to write a defence of Hoyle to Miss Petulant at Bath, who has controverted some of his principles. Lady Brag's in the evening.

season! Play at Pope Joan for pence; O the creatures!

A beautiful new French brocade at Silvertongue's on Ludgatehill. Mem. To teize my husband to buy me a suit of it. Engaged the stage-box for Woodward's night.

Mademoiselle the milliner tells me Lady Z's in the straw — Told it as a great secret at Lady F's, the countess of L's, Mrs. R's, &c. &c. &c.

Miss Sharp is a greater cheat than her mamma. Company went before five. Stupid creature Mrs. Downright! never to have read Hoyle!

Lady Nicknack finely taken in. The whole day a blank. Head-ach. Could not dress. Went to bed horrid soon; — before one. Husband drunk. Lay alone, my maid sat by me.

My left temple singed with the curling iron, Several fine French dresses at court; but lady Homebred's, paultry English! Sir John Dapperwit whispered me, that Miss Bloom was almost as charming as myself. She must paint I am certain.

Not up till two. Finished my letter at six, and sent John express with it. Bad luck at night. Never could win on Sundays. Miss Serious, who hates cards, says it is a judgment.

Among the Articles under *Expences* I found the following.

January.	l.	s.	d.
1. Bought at Deard's, a bauble for a new year's gift to my little god-child - -	5	5	0
3. To Mrs. La Toure in part of her bill -	31	10	0
To ditto for extraordinary trouble -	3	12	0
5. Bought at an auction, a china lap dog	4	9	0
6. Monsieur le Frise, for dressing my head, &c.	0	10	6
7. Lost at cards, at Lady Brag's - -	47	5	0

I intend in a future paper to take notice of some other advantages to be drawn from such a use of those *Memo-randum-Books*, as above stated; and shall at present conclude with desiring my female readers to supply themselves immediately, and to send me an account of the use they make of them.

THE CHARACTER OF A GAMESTER DEFENDED. *)

If gaming does an aged fire entice,
Then my young master swiftly learns the vice,
And shakes, in hanging sleeves, the little box and dice.
Dryden.

To the *Adventurer*.

Sir,

It is a remark of some Philosophers, that there is a malignity in human nature, which urges every man to depress him who is already sinking. The *Gamester* is a character, at which the artillery of the Legislature has been long levelled: the practice of his profession has been rendered extremely difficult, and the instruments of it have been destroyed wherever they could be found; he has been persecuted by Justices, Constables and Watchmen; he has languished in Newgate, and toiled in Bridewell. Under this accumulated distress, he is not the object of pity but contempt; every mouth is open against him; he is cursed by the mechanic and the trader, derided by wits, and hooted by the mob. In defence of this injured character, which I have long born, and of which I am not yet ashamed, permit me to appear in your paper.

In

*) The *Adventurer*, &c.