

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, January 27, 1747.

Mr. Green,

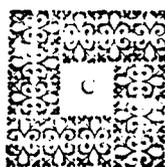
Be pleased to insert the following piece in your Gazette, in doing which you will much oblige, Your constant Reader,

and humble servant,

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*Obit et ipse pater Pluton, cetera ferens
Tartoream monstrum: det illi cuncta in ora,
Tum sacra facies, tot simul et uera uisura.*

Virgilius.



CURIOSITY sways all Mankind, more especially the Fair Sex, who have ever been fond of strange uncommon Appearance, and out of the way Things. Prompted by this, many, otherwise close and saving of their Pence, have not scrupled generously to bestow a *Shilling* or *half a Crown*, to see a *curious* *thing*, when they could spare nothing to the Poor. This furnishes them with a large subject for chat in a Winter's Evening, concerning the *prodigia* or *portents* of Nature, and the *marvellous productions* and *inventions* of Art: This supplies matter of Discourse for *missing Hours* over a bowl, when there is a scarcity of News. In fine, this serves for *pastime* and *amusement* to the Ladies, since of late *Slackness* has become an unfashionable Topic. Those that thus wisely apply their Labour, and lay out their Money, reap a double Advantage; for besides the pleasure of having their Eyes regaled with strange Objects, they lay in a Stock to furnish copious, learned, and entertaining Discourse among Friends and Acquaintances.

BUT to prevent needless Expence, and lavishing of Money upon vain idle Shows, which only encourages the levity of *Juglers*, be it known to all *curious admirers of Pleasure*, that if they will lend but a little Attention, and not suffer themselves to be deluded by empty Spectacles, and mercenary *showmen*, they may daily entertain their sight with a *Monster*, the most hideous and deformed of any ever yet known or heard of; and this they may see *gratis*, without the Trouble of travelling far from home; for her Figure is so large and extended, to exceed the View of all who have their Eyes open, that she may be seen in every City, Hamlet, and Houset; and more especially in *small towns* and *Villages*, where the most delights to dwell. It was said indeed of old, that she never came near *Shepherds Huts*, *Biggars Hovel*, or *Hermits Caves*; but in this our polite Age, in which all Arts and Devices are brought to the utmost Perfection, she is alike familiar to all Stations and Conditions of Men.

HER Progeny is uncertain; many noble Personages have contended for the Honour of being her Parents, as, of old, the seven Cities of Greece did for the Birth of *Heracles*; but I am apt to think she is an *Aboriginal*, or a *Miscellum* of a spontaneous Growth, having neither Father nor Mother. However, some derive her from a very ancient honourable stock, and affirm she is of an *angelical Breed*, the great *infernal Dragon* himself being her Sire: Others say, that she was begot by that mangy Cur *Cerberus*, upon a deformed Hag of Hell called *Erynnis*. Some again pretend that she was begot by *Pride* upon *Ignorance*. Other Geneologists will not allow her any Father, but affirm that she sprung of her own Accord from the Womb of *Envy*. Others again find her a Father, but deny her a Mother, alleging that she was beich'd up by *Nemesis*, the Dispenser of human Plagues and Curses, after a gormandizing bout at a solemn Feast of the Gods. Be this as it will, it is certain she is of a very ancient Stock, has now grown to an enormous size, and is much followed in these latter Times by all Ranks and De-

grees of People, being entertained at Court, in the City, and in the Country. But now I proceed to give you her Picture.

HER Body is of a strange Shape and Proportion, so that she may be said to be a perfect *Chimera*, for she resembles more the random Draught of a distracted Fancy, than any Thing natural. She has more Heads than the famous *Hydra*, and her vital Powers are so strong and unconquerable, that should you lop off any of these Heads, ten such, more frightful if possible, would start up in its Place; so that to subdue her would prove a harder Task than all the twelve Labours of *Hercules* put together. I shall not pretend to number her Heads, but shall only name some of the most remarkable: She has the Head of a Lion, a Viper, a Fox, a Monkey, an Ais, a Hog, a Crocodile, a Vulture, an Owl, a Goose, a Parrot; and in the Middle of her numberless Heads, there is a double human Face, or *Effigies*, such as *Janus* is painted with; one of these Faces seems to be distorted with Passion, the other to appearance mild and smiling; but this is but a Visor or false Face, which, when taken off, there appears under it a ghastly, pale, meagre Countenance, which looks as if it had been blasted, and wear still the Marks of Discontent: She has many Tongues and many Ears, but no Eyes, for she gives and takes every Thing upon bare *Halfjoy*, and knows nothing of *ocular Evidence*, which makes some believe her to be the Daughter of *Caton's Fame*, that notorious Strumpet: She has large turgid Breasts, of which some are full of Gall, some of Verjuice, and a hundred other poisonous Draughts; she is always pregnant, and always bringing forth a Multitude of *Monsters*, if possible, more deformed than herself, which run about and pollute and stain every Thing they touch; her Tail resembles that of a Polecat, from whence proceeds an abominable Stench.

THIS *Monster* is endued with several strange Faculties; she speaks all Languages to Perfection, and is well versed in the various Dialects of every particular Language; at Court she flatters, lyes, cringes, cries down all Virtue and Worth as a vain Dream, an idle Notion, preached up by doating Philosophers to gull Mankind, a fair Phantom, trigg'd up by sly Politicians, to help them to climb the faster the *Ladder of Ambition*, and proclaims Vice and Luxury as Gentleman-like Accomplishments, true Signatures of Politeness, and Pride and Oppression as Marks of shrewd Policy and superior Wisdom, for transcending the dull Concerns of the Vulgar; here she will inculcate Arts of Circumsppection and Cunning, affected Secresy, an apparent servile Obsequiousness to the Humours of Superiors, and a mean tho' eager Attention to Self-Interest or private Gain, whether at the Expence of *Patrons* or *Country*. Among the better sort of Gentry, she wears her artful Disguise of Humanity and Compassion; for she is a *Proteus*, and can change her Shape at pleasure, according to the Company she is in; among such, she will faintly extoll some of their Vertues, but be sure to mix with her Encomiums a competent Number of *Isis*, *Onions*, and *Were it not*, by which means she makes the whole a couched *Lampoon*. She will often counterfeit Friendship, and then she is most dangerous; for, by this Means, creeping into the innermost Folds of a Man's Heart, she picks out all his Secrets, and reveals them even to his Enemies, much to his Damage. Here she speaks soft and fair before Faces, but behind Backs she throws out loud Peals of poisonous Defamation to every common Ear; and all under pretence of being sorry, that Persons she so much respects should be so rash, foolish, or ungrateful. She is very inquisitive into all Affairs, especially such as are transacted in private Families; to discover which, she constantly employs a Tribe of mean *Scouts*, *Spies*, *Eavesdroppers*, *sly Whispersers*; and pick-thank *Talk-bearers*, with whom she holds

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