

# THE SCRIBBLER.

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Beauty, thou wild fantastic ape,  
Which dost, in every country, change thy shape ;  
Here black, there brown, here tawny, and there white ;  
Who hast no certain what or where,  
But variest still, and dost thyself declare,  
Inconstant as thy she professors are.

COWLEY.

*Admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum.*

VIRGIL.

Before the admiring eyes of crowds be placed,  
All light, fantastic, things, with humour graced.

*Qui non vetat peccare cum possit, jubet.*

SENECA.

Who does not prevent a crime, when it is in his power,  
commands it.

The modes and materials of female dress, in the various parts of the world, and the different ages of human society, have always been interesting topics, with the community at large, with men of pleasure and men of research, with philosophers and courtiers, and with women of all ranks, and at all periods of their lives.

Addison, Steele, Johnson, and generally all the essayists, have with more or less freedom, censured or praised the various fashions and dresses of their days, and from the unwieldy hoop-petticoated belle of the *ancienne cour*, down to the slender half-transparent muslin-enveloped form of a modern miss, almost every species of female apparel, or ornament, have passed in review before them.

A great admirer of the unequalled symmetry of the female

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