

Command, no exercise; for as soon as ever I pronounce, "Flutter your fans," the place is filled with so many zephyrs and gentle breezes as are very refreshing in that season of the year, though they might be dangerous to ladies of a tender constitution in any other.

There is an infinite variety of motions to be made use of in the flutter of a fan. There is the angry flutter, the modest flutter, the timorous flutter, the confused flutter, the merry flutter, and the amorous flutter. Not to be tedious, there is scarce any emotion of the mind which does not produce a suitable agitation in the fan, insomuch, that if I only see the fan of a disciplined lady, I know very well whether she laughs, frowns, or blushes. I have seen a fan so very angry, that it would have been dangerous for the absent lover who provoked it to have come within the wind of it; and at other times so very languishing, that I have been glad for the lady's sake the lover was at a sufficient distance from it. I need not add, that a fan is either a prude or coquette according to the nature of the person who bears it. To conclude my letter, I must acquaint you that I have, from my own observations, compiled a little treatise for the use of my scholars, entitled, "The Passions of the Fan;" which I will communicate to you, if you think it may be of use to the public. I shall have a general review on Thursday next; to which you shall be very welcome if you will honour it with your presence.

I am, &c.

P.S.—I teach young gentlemen the whole Art of Gallanting a Fan.

N.B.—I have several little plain fans made for this use, to avoid expense.

L.

STEELE.

(*Spectator*; No. 134.)

July the 5th, 1711.

SIR,—In your *Spectator* of June the 7th, you transcribe a letter sent to you from a new sort of muster-master who teaches ladies the whole exercise of the fan; I have a daughter just come to town, who, though she has always held a fan in her hand at proper times, yet she knows no more how to use it, according to true discipline, than an awkward school-boy does to make use of his new sword. I have sent for her on purpose to learn the exercise, she being already very well accomplished in all other arts which are necessary for a young lady to understand; my request is, that you will speak to your correspondent on my behalf, and in your next paper, let me know what he expects, either by the month, or the quarter, for teaching; and where he keeps his place of rendezvous. I have a son too, whom I would have taught to gallant fans, and should be glad to know what the gentleman will have for teaching them both, I finding fans for practice at my own expense. This information will in the highest manner oblige,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

WILLIAM WISEACRE.