

without, however, galling them too sorely. As to such exhibitions of them as tend to create nothing but harmless pleasantry, of which there are many, particularly in my reports of public and private parties, and of intended nuptials, I will not make any apology for them; for whoever takes umbrage at such things, I will liken to the

“fox who’d a wound, but could not tell where,  
So he look’d at his tail, and found it was there.”

Wit regard to the legitimate objects of satire, they are almost innumerable. There are some matters that ought to be carefully abstained from, in the abstract, yet, when united to others, instantly become proper subjects of ridicule or reprehension. You will better comprehend my meaning on this point, upon referring to No. 65, where, in the instructions to my deputy-inspector-general, you will find personal defects, obscurity of birth, and poverty, stated as never, of themselves, being proper objects of reproach, whilst when allied to follies, faults and vices, they assume a very different character; to them I am inclined to add ignorance, the want of education, and even natural stupidity, but these are almost always accompanied by conceit, presumption, and impudence, and then ought not to fail of being exposed to censure and contempt.

Impardonable offences cognizable in my court, are, open irreligion, in which I include that vice of blackguards, profane swearing; barefaced whoredom and adultery, where no shame is practised, or veil sought for, for I do not seek to pry into private immoralities, except in cases where notorious slanderers and faultfinders, are guilty of the same excesses which they condemn in their neighbours, or where public sanctimoniousness covers private vice; the seduction and