

**THE BRITISH ESSAYISTS, WITH
PREFACES BIOGRAPHICAL,
HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL. IN
FORTY-FIVE VOLUMES. VOL. V**

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The British essayists, with prefaces biographical, historical and critical. In forty-five volumes.
Vol. V by Lionel Thomas Berguer

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LIONEL THOMAS BERGUER

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THE

BRITISH ESSAYISTS;

WITH

PREFACES

BIOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL,
AND CRITICAL,

BY THE

REV. LIONEL THOMAS BERGUER,

LATE OF ST. MARY HALL, OXON; FELLOW EXTRAORDINARY OF THE
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THE
TATLER.

N^o 210. SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1710.

Sheer-lane, August 10.

I DID myself the honour this day to make a visit to a lady of quality, who is one of those that are ever railing at the vices of the age; but mean only one vice, because it is the only vice they are not guilty of. She went so far as to fall foul on a young woman who has had imputations; but whether they were just or not, no one knows but herself. However that is, she is in her present behaviour modest, humble, pious, and discreet. I thought it became me to bring this censorious lady to reason, and let her see she was a much more vicious woman than the person she spoke of.

'Madam,' said I, 'you are very severe to this poor young woman, for a trespass which I believe Heaven has forgiven her, and for which, you see, she is for ever out of countenance.'—'Nay, Mr. Bickerstaff,' she interrupted, 'if you at this time of day contradict people of virtue, and stand up for ill women—'—'No, no, Madam,' said I, 'not so fast; she is reclaimed, and I fear you never will be. Nay, nay, Madam, do not be in a passion; but let me tell you what you are. You are indeed as good as your neighbours; but that is being very bad. You are a