SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY. BY THE SPECTATOR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649705399

Sir Roger De Coverley. By the Spectator by Joseph Addison

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

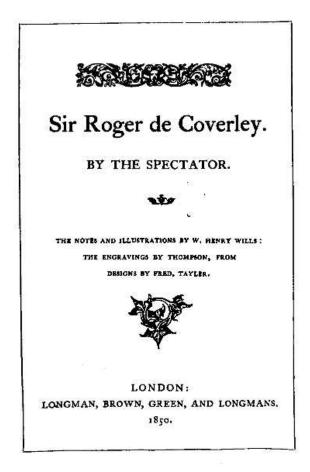
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

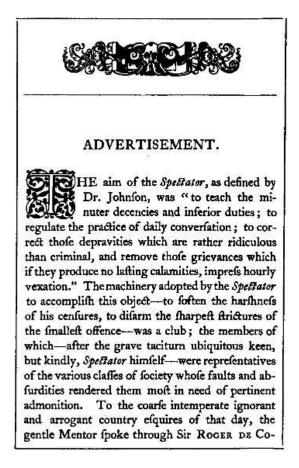
www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH ADDISON

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY. BY THE SPECTATOR

Trieste





VERLEY: no model magistrate, or felf-righteous cenfor; but a hearty humorous plain old gentleman—one of themselves—with enough of their foibles tastes and prejudices to win their fympathies and to charm them into reformation.

None of the characters were elaborated with fo much care-to none was imparted fuch thorough completenefs, as that of Sir ROGER DE COVERLEY; between which (to quote a faving of Horace Walpole) and Sir John Falstaff-though a wide interval-nothing like it exifts in literature for truthfulnels and finish. Sir ROGER's eccentricities do not, as fome have written, difturb the confiftency of the character : on the contrary they ftrengthen its individuality. If they be difcords, inftead of jarring, they enrich the harmony. They are precifely the humours of an honeft elderly fenfitive bachelor, whole early history had been dashed with the romance of his having been jilted. Sir ROGER does nothing and fays nothing which might not have been faid and done, in his day, by any warmhearted ruftic gentleman who had been irredeemably croffed in love. Indeed, turning thus from Nature to the confummate Art which copied her, it can fcarcely be denied that the character owes its immortality to the quaint traits of extravagance

iv

which have been ftigmatized as blemifhes: without impairing the efficacy of Sir ROGER as a fpecial admonitory example to the country equire of the reign of Queen Anne, his oddities were defined to rivet the intereft and excite the affectionate fmile of all readers in all time.

The effays which feparate the Coverley papers from one another, however exquisite in themselves, break the fpell which binds the reader while lingering over the benevolence or humour of the Worceftershire baronet. Even when arranged more conveniently in a fequence, as in this book, it is not pleafing to remember that fo captivating an Identity was originated and wrought out by "feveral hands." Every fresh lineament of the good Sir ROGER fo ftrengthens the fense of Unity, that we rather love to be deluded with the notion that the whole was the work of one mind. With all art fo perfect that it conceals art, we prefer the ignorance which is our blifs, to the knowledge that reveals the companionships, contrivances, or agonies of authorcraft. Though curiofity is gratified, fentiment is hurt, when we are told that the outlines of Sir ROGER DE COVERLEY were imagined and partly traced by Sir Richard Steele; that the colouring and more prominent lineaments were elaborated by

v

Jofeph Addifon; that fome of the back-ground was put in by Euflace Budgell; and, that the portrait was defaced by either Steele or Thomas Tickell with a deformity which Addifon repudiated and which is not here reproduced.

The fum of the account in hard figures flands thus; --Sir ROGER DE COVERLEY's adventures, opinions, and converfations occur in thirty of the Spectator's papers. Of these, Addifon wrote twenty, Budgell two, and Steele eight; if it be certain that he was the author of the obnoxious portion of No. 410; which has also been attributed to Tickell.

But over this divided labour, all evidence proves that Addifon exercifed a rigid and harmonifing editorial vigilance. In the words of an accurate critic, "Addifon took the rude outlines into his own hands, retouched them, coloured them; and is, in truth, the creator of the Sir ROGER DE Co-VERLEY and the WILL HONEYCOME with whom we are all familiar." The habits of Addifon and Steele were those of a close literary partnership. What Steele's quick impatient genius planned, Addifon's rich taste and thoughtful industry executed : what were, and would perhaps have ever remained, dreams in Steele's brain, came out diftinst realities

vi

vii

from under Addifon's hand. Between them Pope's maxim was fully obeyed :---

"To write with fervour and correct with phlegm."

Steele fupplied fome of the fervour: Addifon all the finish, all the phlegm.

But, it muft be repeated, thofe who love Sir ROGER DE COVERLEY love not these ungenial revelations. They like to feel that the fine-hearted creation comes from a fingle fource; —from those nicely-balanced flores of touching pathos and refined humour; of found common-sense and polished wit; of keen fatire and kind words; of fharp observation and genial description which exist in the single gentleman who paints his own portrait in the first pages, and who is known wherever English letters can be read, as

"THE SPECTATOR."

	1
LIST OF ENGRAVINGS FROM DESIGNS BY FREDERICK TAYLER.	ĺ.
	Page
COVERLEY HALL You would take his Valet de Chambre for his Bro- ther, his Butler is grey-headed, his Groom is one of the graveft Men that I have ever feen, and his Coach- man has the Looks of a Privy Counfellor.	19
THE COVERLEY GUEST As I was Yetterday Morning waiking with Sir Roger before his Houle, a Country-Fellow brought him a huge Fifth.	33
THE COVERLEY LINEAGE We were now arrived at the Upper-end of the Gal- lery, when the Knight faced towards one of the Pic- tures, and as we flood before it, he entered into the matter, after his blunt way.	39
THE COVERLEY SABBATH As Sir Roger is Landlord to the whole Congrega- tion, he keeps them in very good Order, and will fuffer nobody to fleep in it belides himfelf.	51
SIR ROGER IN LOVE Her Confident fat by her, and upon my being in the laft Confusion and Silence, this malicious Aid of hers turning to her,	57