

## The SPECTATOR.

*Sævis inter se convenit Urſis. Juv.*

Wednesday, March 12. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,  
**T**HE Materials you have collected together towards a general History of Clubs, make ſo bright a Part of your Speculations, that I think it is but a Juſtice we all owe the learned World, to furniſh you with ſuch Aſſiſtances as may promote that uſeful Work. For this Reaſon I could not forbear communicating to you ſome imperfect Informations of a Set of Men (if you will allow them a Place in that Species of Being) who have lately erected themſelves into a nocturnal Fraternity, under the Title of *The Mohock Club*; a Name borrowed it ſeems from a ſort of *Cannibals* in *India*, who ſuſiſt by plundering and devouring all the Nations about them. The Preſident is ſtiled *Emperor of the Mohocks*; and his Arms are a *Turkiſh* Crescent, which his Imperial Maſteſty bears at preſent in a very extraordinary Manner engraven upon his Forehead. Agreeable to their Name, the avowed Deſign of their Inſtitution is Miſchief; and upon this Foundation all their Rules and Orders are framed. An outrageous Ambition of doing all poſſible Hurt to their Fellow-Creatures, is the great Cement of their Aſſembly, and the only Qualification required in the Members. In order to exert this Principle in its full Strength and Perfection, they take Care to drink themſelves to a Pitch, that is, beyond the Poſſibility of attending to any Motions of Reaſon or Humanity; then make a general Sally, and attack all that are ſo unfortunate as to walk the Streets thro' which they patrol. Some are knock'd down, others ſtabb'd, others cut and carbonado'd. To put the Watch to a total Rout, and mortify ſome of thoſe inoffenſive Militia, is reckon'd a *Coup d'eclat*. The particular Talents by which theſe *Miſanthropes* are diſtinguiſh'd from one another, conſiſt in the various kinds of Barbarities which they execute upon their Priſoners. Some are celebrated for a happy Dexterity in tipping the Lion upon them; which is perform'd by ſqueezing the Noſe flat to the Face, and boring out the Eyes with their Fingers: Others are call'd the Danc-

ing-Maſters, and teach their Scholars to cut Capers by running Swords thro' their Legs; a new Invention, whether originally *French* I cannot tell: A third Sort are the Tumblers, whoſe Office it is to ſet Women upon their Heads, and commit certain Indecencies, or rather Barbarities, on the Limbs which they expoſe. But theſe I forbear to mention, becauſe they can't be but very ſhocking to the Reader as well as the SPECTATOR. In this Manner they carry on a War againſt Mankind; and by the ſtanding Maxims of their Policy, are to enter into no Alliances but one, and that is offenſive and deſenſive with all Bawdy-Houſes in general, of which they have declar'd themſelves Protectors and Guarantees.

I muſt own, Sir, theſe are only broken incoherent Memoirs of this wonderful Society, but they are the beſt I have been yet able to procure; for being but of late Eſtabliſhment, it is not ripe for a juſt Hiſtory: And to be ſerious, the chief Deſign of this Trouble is to hinder it from ever being ſo. You have been pleas'd, out of a Concern for the Good of your Countrymen, to act under the Character of SPECTATOR not only the Part of a Looker-on, but an Overſeer of their Actions; and whenever ſuch Enormities as this infeſt the Town, we immediately fly to you for Redreſs. I have reaſon to believe, that ſome thoughtleſs Youngſters, out of a falſe Notion of Bravery, and an immoderate Fondneſs to be diſtinguiſhed for Fellows of Fire, are inſenſibly hurried into this ſenſeleſs ſcandalous Project: Such will probably ſtand corrected by your Reproofs, eſpecially if you inform them, that it is not Courage for half a Score Fellows, mad with Wine and Luſt, to ſet upon two or three ſoberer than themſelves; and that the Manners of *Indian Savages* are no becoming Accompliſhments to an *Engliſh* fine Gentleman. Such of them as have been Bullies and Scowlers of a long ſtanding, and are grown Veterans in this Kind of Service, are I fear too hardened to receive any Impreſſions from your Admonitions. But I beg you would recommend to their Peruſal your Ninth Speculation: They may