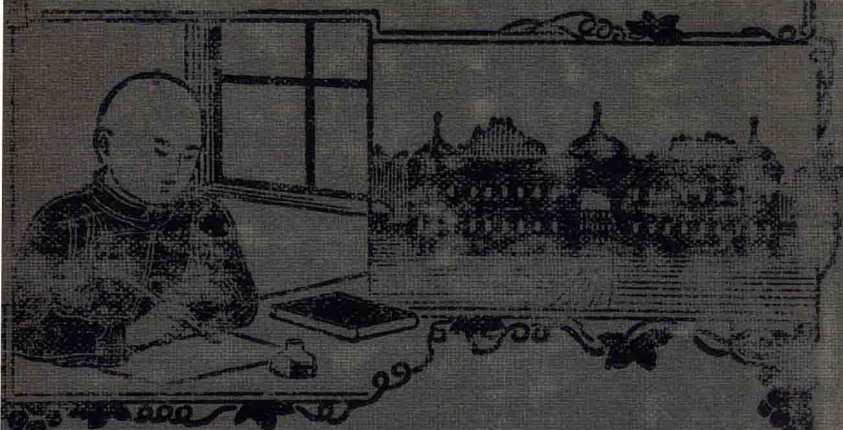


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THE

Sir Roger De Coverley Papers

WITH CHINESE NOTES

Commercial Press, Limited

PUBLISHERS

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THE
SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY
PAPERS

FROM THE SPECTATOR

BY

ADDISON, STEELE, AND BUDGELL

WITH CHINESE NOTES

BY

MA SHAO-LIANG, B.A.
(ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, SHANGHAI)

AND

KAN TSAO-LING
(NANYANG COLLEGE, SHANGHAI)



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(With Chinese Notes)

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著編纂者

Addison Steele & Budge

作註釋者

青浦馬永驥
平湖甘永龍

人校訂者

香山徐銑

發行人

上海棋盤街中市模

印刷人

上海北河南路北首寶山路

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此書有著作權翻印必究



J. Addison.

凡 例

一羣言液瀝權輿神州妙諦筌蹄流傳海外取則不遠同軌是徵本館爰采西籍之菁英擷名家之著作特輯是書以餉學者滄海一波椎輪初製冀以增進誦讀之興味喚起文學之觀念而已

一名家著作文義艱深故書中列有釋義一門惟是書專爲英文程度較高者而設句詮字釋取足達意而止其淺近而易知者則概不闌入

一書後漢文釋義均經無錫王君尊農校訂王君學識兼長此書尤悉心勘正故句斟字酌雖文義不求高深而題蘊畢宣閱者無詞不達意之憾

一詮釋之字句原書中均用斜體字爲記其有一字數解者則祇釋其在本書中之義其一解而未能了然者則更重言申明俾無模糊影響之弊每解之右方并註明某頁以便檢閱

一一字或一句之列有數解者每一解均以半支點 (Semi-colon 卽;) 爲記惟文句較長而字數又較多不能連貫讀下者則用一逗點 (Comma 卽,) 爲記示其異於半支點也

一文學爲優美高尚之科學，況又出諸名家之手，本館謬爲註釋，知不免爲大雅所譏。倘蒙隨時指正，俾得改良，曷勝欣幸。

The words in italics refer to Chinese notes in the back of the book.

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible to get an adequate ^想idea of the "Spectator" without some knowledge of the "Tatler," of which it was the direct outcome. ^成English newspapers had been for many years under government control, and gave only such news as the government allowed. The "Tatler" was a London newspaper founded by Richard Steele, and issued ^三three times a week. It was designed to form and direct public opinion. Its price was one penny. Steele said its name was chosen in honour of the fair sex. [★]The papers were signed ^手"Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq.,"—a name borrowed from one of Swift's characters. The first number was issued April 12, 1709. The news was grouped under the titles of the different public assembly houses, where the men of that day met to discuss and gossip over current topics of state, literature, and society, much as they do in the social club-houses to-day. Thus, under the title "White's Chocolate House" was grouped the news of pleasure and entertainment; "Will's Coffee House," that of poetry and the drama; the "Grecian," learning; "St. James's," domestic topics, etc. The paper began by merely reporting the actions of men, but soon assumed the right to discuss the propriety of such actions. In the fifth number of the "Tatler" Addison discovered the identity of "Mr. Bickerstaff;" and he soon became one of the regular contributors, his first paper being No. 18. Addison and Steele had been friends from boyhood, having

attended Charterhouse School together, and afterwards Oxford. In the "Tatler" the essay soon took the place of that which was strictly news.

For the "Tatler" Steele wrote one hundred and eighty-eight papers, and Addison forty-two. There were two hundred and seventy-one in all. The "Tatler" attacked the immorality of the stage, gambling, dueling, and other public evils. It was discontinued on Jan. 2, 1711. As Steele was a Whig, and accepted office under a Tory ministry, he thought it inconsistent to continue a Whig paper, which, because of its sentiments, might cost him his place in the government. The "Spectator" was started two months after the discontinuance of the "Tatler;" viz., March 1, 1711. It was a daily, and ran as such for five hundred and fifty-five numbers, to Dec. 6, 1712. Its circulation was from three thousand to twenty thousand daily. For an interim of eighteen months it was discontinued. It then appeared three times a week, and died Dec. 20, 1714.

The "Tatler" was essentially a newspaper. The "Spectator" was meant particularly for those who had leisure to read, and were themselves thinkers. In place of the coffee and chocolate houses, and "Mr. Bickerstaff," was "The Spectator" and members of a "Club," including the following characters and types representing different qualities. Sir Roger de Coverley stood for simplicity and a high sense of honour; he was full of reminiscences of the past, while his character represented a country gentleman of the best kind. Sir Andrew Freeport was the enterprising, hard-headed, and hard-hearted money-maker. Captain Sentry represented the army and all its interests; the

Templar, the world of taste and learning ; the Clergyman, theology and philosophy ; and Will Honeycomb was the elderly man of fashion, and the man about town.

The chief object of the "Spectator" was to establish a rational standard of conduct in morals, manners, art, and literature. It abstained from politics, and consisted of essays on the model gradually reached in the "Tatler." Of the six hundred and thirty-five papers contributed to the "Spectator," Addison wrote two hundred and seventy-four ; Steele, two hundred and forty ; Budgell, thirty-seven ; Hughes eleven ; Grove, four ; unknown writers, sixty-nine.

Dr. Johnson said, "Of the half not written by Addison, not half was good ;" and that "whoever wishes to attain an English style familiar but not coarse, elegant but not ostentatious, must give his days and nights to the volumes of Addison."

The stamp of Addison is distinctly seen on the "Spectator," as that of Steele is upon the "Tatler." He once wrote that he wished it said of him when he died, that "he had brought philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and assemblies, at tea-tables and coffee-houses." He grasped the idea of making knowledge popular, and both Steele and he are said to have opened a new world to women. Conduct was the very groundwork of the essays.

It is said that the literary model adopted by Addison was taken from a distinguished Frenchman, La Bruyère, but that in his "Characters," La Bruyère described only what he saw, while Mr. Addison added to this the moral earnest-

ness of a reformer. The papers comprising the "Spectator" must always maintain a high position in English literature, because of their quaintness of conceit, delicacy of touch, and purity of style and language. No careful student of our literature can afford to omit a conscientious study of these specimens of English style. Among the choicest essays of the "Spectator" are the thirty-three papers comprising the "De Coverley" series. Of these, Addison wrote twenty-one; Steele, nine; and Eustace Budgell, three.

Addison signed all that he wrote by the letters "C.," "L.," "I.," or "O." Steele usually signed his paper "R." or "T.;" and Budgell, "X."

The chief events in Addison's life are briefly noted as follows. He was born May 1, 1672, at his father's rectory, near Amesbury, Wiltshire, England. In 1683 his father became dean of Lichfield, where young Addison attended school, soon changing for the famous Charterhouse School in London, where he first met his friend Richard Steele. In 1687 he entered Queen's College, Oxford, where he early distinguished himself writing Latin verses. He took the degree of M.A. in 1693, and a fellowship in 1698, at Magdalen College. His Latin scholarship soon gave him prominence in London, for he had in 1693 written a "Poetical Address praising Dryden's Translations," which soon brought him to the attention of that poet. Montagu, through Lord Somers, secured a pension for him of three hundred pounds in recognition of his literary services. He was expected to qualify for diplomatic services thereby. After travelling on the Continent for several years, he returned to England in 1703, and joined the famous Kitcat

Club. In 1704 he was appointed commissioner of appeals, succeeding John Locke, and secured at the same time further prominence by writing a poem celebrating the victory at Blenheim, called "The Campaign." Later in the year he was appointed undersecretary of state.

In 1705 he published "Remarks on several Parts of Italy," and in 1706 he was appointed undersecretary to Sir Charles Hedges. Lord Halifax, in 1707, paid a complimentary visit to the Elector of Hanover, and Addison accompanied him. This year he wrote the opera of "Rosamond," and a book called "The Present State of the War." He was elected to Parliament in 1708; but, the election being set aside, he was reelected shortly after, standing for Malmesbury, and held his seat for life.

In 1711, at the age of thirty-nine, we find him alert, polished, cultivated, full of experience, ready for the work which was to give him lasting fame,—his contributions to the "Spectator." Besides the "De Coverley Papers," he wrote many others, humorous, critical, and serious, and seemed to put his most intense efforts and life into his contributions. His most important critical papers were those on "Paradise Lost," seventeen in number, published in the "Spectator" during 1712. His serious contributions were published in 1711, and included some exquisite hymns, the most familiar of which is "When all thy mercies, O my God." In 1713 he wrote the tragedy of "Cato," which had a long run at Drury Lane Theatre. It was quickly translated into French, Italian, German, and Latin. After the death of the "Spectator," Steele established the "Guardian," to which Addison contributed fifty-one papers in 1713. 佐補助

In 1714 Queen Anne died ; and the Whigs were again restored to power, and Addison to politics. He was appointed to several important secretaryships, and became one of the lords commissioners of trade. In 1715 he published the "Freeholder," to which he contributed fifty-five papers. On Aug. 3, 1716, he was married to the Countess of Warwick, and the next year was appointed secretary of state in Sunderland's ministry. In consequence of ill health he resigned his position in 1718.

He died of dropsy and asthma, June 17, 1719, and is said to have sent for his stepson Warwick, and said to him, "See in what peace a Christian can die."

Richard Steele was born in Dublin, March 12, 1672.—the same year as Addison. His father was a lawyer. At twelve Steele entered Charterhouse School, and in 1690 entered Christ Church, Oxford. The next year he became postmaster at Merton College. Not long after, he entered the army as a cadet. The death of Queen Mary furnished him with material for a poem, which he published in 1695 under the title of "The Procession." While still in the army, he published the "Christian Hero," and a comedy,—the "Funeral," acted at Drury Lane, 1701. During the three following years he wrote several successful plays. In May, 1707, he was appointed gazetteer and gentleman in waiting to Prince George of Denmark. The same year he married Miss Mary Scurlock, a Welsh lady.

The "Tatler" was published in 1709, Steele the next year being made commissioner of stamps, and also losing his appointment as gazetteer. In 1711 the "Spectator" occupied most of his attention, while on March 12, 1713,

he commenced the "Guardian," which ran a hundred and seventy-five numbers. The same year he both entered Parliament, and started the "Englishman." The year 1714 saw many contributions from his pen, largely critical and political.

He was expelled from the House of Commons in March, appointed surveyor of the royal stables at Hampton Court, deputy-lieutenant of the County of Middlesex, and supervisor of the Theatre Royal. He became, in 1715, patentee of Drury Lane Theatre, was knighted by George I., elected member of Parliament for Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, published "An Account of the State of the Roman-Catholick Religion throughout the World," and began "Town Talk." He was appointed commissioner for forfeited estates in Scotland in 1716.

During 1719 the "Plebeian" was begun, as well as "The Spinster." Steele was again elected to Parliament in 1722, for Wendover, Bucks, and produced at Drury Lane, Nov. 7, "Conscious Lovers." He died Sept. 1, 1729, at Carmarthen, and is buried in St. Peter's Church there.

In addition to those mentioned above, Steele started five other papers, which had more or less success; namely, the "Englishman," "The Lover," "Tea-Table," "Chit Chat," the "Theatre." An eminent English critic has said of him, "As a prose writer, Steele does not rank with the great masters of English style. He claimed, indeed, in his capacity as a Tatler, to use 'common speech,' to be even 'incorrect' if need be and, it may be added, he sometimes abused this license, writing hastily and under pressure. His language is frequently involved and care-

less; and it is only when he is strongly stirred by his subject that he attains to real elevation and dignity of diction."

Eustace Budgell was born in the year 1685. His father was Gilbert Budgell of St. Thomas, Exeter. He was a cousin of Addison, and owes what small literary reputation he has to this fact. He entered Oxford in 1705 at Trinity College, and afterwards entered the Inner Temple. He was called to the bar, but his intimacy with Addison diverted him from his profession. His contributions to the "Spectator" were thirty-seven in number, mostly imitations of Addison's style.

In 1714 he published a translation of "Theophrastus." He became in this year a member of the Irish House of Commons. Through Addison's influence he became accountant-general in 1717, at a salary of four hundred pounds, which he lost in South Sea speculations. Many political pamphlets are attributed to him. He contributed to the "Bee," the "Craftsman," and other papers, the former being started by him. In 1732 he published "Memorials of the Life and Character of the Late Earl of Orrery and the Family of Boyles." He committed suicide in 1736, after having ruined his character by improper money transactions. He is said to have been of unsound mind during the latter part of his life.

CONTENTS



	PAGE
THE SPECTATOR	ADDISON 1
THE SPECTATOR CLUB	STEELE 6
SIR ROGER ON MEN OF FINE PARTS	STEELE 12
SIR ROGER AT HOME	ADDISON 16
SIR ROGER'S SERVANTS	STEELE 20
SIR ROGER AND WILL WIMBLE	ADDISON 24
SIR ROGER'S ANCESTORS	STEELE 28
NIGHT FEARS AT COVERLEY	ADDISON 33
A SUNDAY WITH SIR ROGER	ADDISON 37
SIR ROGER IN LOVE	STEELE 41
SIR ROGER'S ECONOMY	STEELE 47
BODILY EXERCISE	ADDISON 51
SIR ROGER AND THE CHASE	BUDGELL 55
MOLL WHITE, THE WITCH	ADDISON 61
LOVE-MAKING AT COVERLEY	STEELE 65
COUNTRY MANNERS	ADDISON 70
SIR ROGER'S POULTRY	ADDISON 73
THE ADAPTATION OF ANIMALS	ADDISON 78
SIR ROGER AMONG HIS NEIGHBOURS	ADDISON 84
THE STORY OF FLORIO AND LEONILLA	ADDISON 88

	PAGE
PARTY SPIRIT	ADDISON 94
POLITICAL DISSENSIONS	ADDISON 98
SIR ROGER AND THE GYPSIES	ADDISON 103
THE SPECTATOR SUMMONED TO LONDON	ADDISON 107
THE JOURNEY TO LONDON	STEELE 110
A DEBATE AT THE CLUB	STEELE 114
SIR ROGER IN LONDON	ADDISON 119
SIR ROGER IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY	ADDISON 124
SIR ROGER AND BEARDS	BUDGELL 128
SIR ROGER AT THE PLAY	ADDISON 132
WILL HONEYCOMB AT THE CLUB	BUDGELL 136
SIR ROGER AT SPRING GARDEN	ADDISON 140
SIR ROGER'S DEATH	ADDISON 143

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY PAPERS

THE SPECTATOR

[ADDISON, in *SPECTATOR*, No 1. Thursday, March 1, 1710-11.]

I HAVE observed, that a reader seldom *peruses* a book with pleasure till he knows whether the writer of it be a black or a fair man, of a mild or *choleric disposition*, married or a bachelor, *with other particulars of the like nature*, that *conduce* very much to the right understanding of an author. *To gratify this curiosity*, which is so natural to a reader, *I design this paper*, and my next, as *prefatory discourses* to my following writings, and shall give some account in them of the several persons that are engaged in this work. As the chief trouble of compiling, *digesting*, and correcting will *fall to my share*, I must ^{3 in 17} *do myself the justice* to open the work with my own history.

I was born to a small *hereditary* estate, which, according to the *tradition* of the village where it lies, was *bounded* by the same hedges and ditches in *William the Conqueror's* time that it is at present, and has been delivered down from father to son *whole and entire*, without the loss or acquisition of a single field or meadow, during the ^{space} of six hundred years. There *runs* a story in the family, that my mother dreamt that *she* had *brought forth* a judge.