POEMS

Micellany

MERCURY and the ELEPHANT.

A Prefatory FABLE.

A S Mercury travel'd thro' a Wood,
(Whole Errands are more Fleet than Good.)

An Elephant before him lay,
That much encumber'd had the Way:

The Messenger, who's still in haste,
Would fain have bore'd, and so have past;

When up aro'e the unwieldly Brute,
And would repeat a late Dispute.
Miscellaneous POEMS.

In which he (the late) he'd gained the Prize;

From a wild Bore of monstrous Size:

But Fame (grace be) with all her Tongues;

Who Lawyers, Ladies, Soldiers wrong'd;

His, to my Distraction, told

An Action throughout Bright and Bold;

Had laid my Track about his Brain:

Before his Tulips could be drawn:

Had friend him with a hideous Roar;

And twenty-thousand Scandals more:

But I defy the Talk of Men,

Or Voice of Brutes in every Den;

And how it stands Recorded there.

And amongst you Gods, pray, What is thought?

To impartial Skies are all my Care;

Solicitous thus should I be:

For what's said of my Verse and Me?

Quoth Mercury—Then have you Fought!
Miscellaneous Poems.

Or you'd my Friends Excel at frame,
And beg the Critics not to blame.

Defects in Judgment, or in Wit,
They'd but reply—Then has the Writ!

Our Vanity we more betray,
In asking what the World will say,

Then, if in trivial Things we show,
Nor make long Prefaces, to bow,

What Men are not concern'd to know;
For still untaught hope we succeed,

Whilst that proceeding to requites,
Tis for our Selves, not them we write.

They care'st there,
And the Prize

What is thought?

That have you fought!

Willing her Tongues,
And Brawn;

Fortitude, and bold;

You and Me;
All is Vanity.

I.

How vain is Life! which rightly we compare
To flying Puffs, that haste away;
To Plants, that fade with the declining Day;
To Clouds, that fall amidst the yielding Air;
To Extent into that they flow;
Till by Extent, on the World below,
Are loft and gone, ere we can they were;
To Autumn-Leaves, which every Wind can chase;
To Ruffling Bubbles, on the Waters Face;
To fleeting Dreams, that will not stay.

M. y.