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THE
NEW GAME OF CARDS,
OR A PACK OF CARDS CHANGED INTO A
COMPLETE AND PERPETUAL
ALMANAC,
IN A
DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A NOBLEMAN AND HIS SERVANT.

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FIRST, Shewing the use of his Almanac, by the Quarters, Months, Weeks, and Days of the Year.

- SECONDLY, Shewing how he converts his Cards into a complete Monitor, or Prayer Book; with his curious Remarks on the Knave.

The whole adapted to the Entertainment of the Humorous, as well as to the satisfaction of the Grave, Learned and Ingenious.

A PACK OF CARDS TURNED INTO AN
ALMANAC.

A CERTAIN Nobleman living in the city of London, and having a considerable number of servants, among them having one in whom he reposed great confidence; one of his fellow servants becoming jealous of him, went to make a complaint to his master, in order to get him turned out of his service; and all that he could impeach him with was, that he was a great gamester at cards.

At which the Nobleman being highly displeased (for gamesters were a set of people that he mortally hated and detested) took an opportunity to call him to an account, in order to chastise him for the same.

Jack, says the Nobleman, what 's this I have heard of you?

Jack. I can't tell, please your Lordship, what is it?

Nobleman. Why I am informed you are a great gamester at cards.

Ja. My Lord, who was it that informed you so? it is a false report, I wish I could know who told you.

Nobl. 'T is no matter, are you really a gamester or not?

Ja. My Lord I am so far from a gamester, I never played a card in my life, nor do I know even what a card means.

Nobl. Well I am glad of that on your account: however, we shall call the informer to the fore, till we know whether these reports be true.

Ja. With all my heart, my Lord, I am satisfied. The informer being called and come to the fore.

Nobl. Did you not tell me that Jack has become a great gamester at cards?

Informer. I did my Lord, indeed.

Nobl. Why then you villain, how dare you belie any one to me?

Inf. I did not, my Lord.

Nobl. Why Jack utterly denies it.

Inf. I dont care my Lord, I'll prove it to his face, that he is one of the greatest gamesters in London; and to convince your Lordship of the truth of what I say: search him, and you will find a pack of cards in his pocket. Jack being searched the cards were hauled out of his pocket.

Nobl. You audacious, impudent rogue, how dare you be guilty of such falsehood before my face? Did you not tell me that you never played a card in your life, nor could tell me what a card meant, and now I find them in your pocket, you villain: Seeing you were guilty, what reason had you to deny it: Had you confessed your fault, I would

be apt to forgive you, but now I will punish you with the utmost severity, not only because you are a gamester, but because you are a liar also.

Ja. My Lord, your Lordship may use your pleasure, but I hope you will not condemn me for a fault that I am not guilty of.

Nobl. You villain, what stronger evidence need there be than the cards being found in your pocket, how can you speak for yourself?

Ja. My Lord, if you call these cards, I do not, neither do I use them as such.

Nobl. Why what do you call them?

Ja. My Lord, this is my Almanac.

Nobl. Your Almanac? you dog, did ever any one make an Almanac of a pack of cards; you villain, what sense could any body make of them?

Ja. My Lord, I am no scholar, and for that reason I use them as an Almanac to govern the year by.

Nobl. Well Jack, if so, let me hear how you manage your cards, and if I find you convert them to a proper use, I will not in the least be angry, but will freely forgive you.

Ja. Why then, My Lord, consider in the first place that the four suits in the cards, intimate the four quarters in the year; then as there are thirteen cards in every suit, that's just as many as there are weeks in a quarter; there are as many lunations in a year, as there are cards in a suit; there are twelve court cards which intimate the

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twelve months of the year; there are fifty-two cards in a pack, and that directly answers the exact number of weeks in a year. Examine the cards a little further, and you'll find as many spots in them as there are days in a year, there being three hundred and sixty-five spots in a pack of cards and exactly the number of days in a year, these I multiply by 24, and by 60, which brings me out the exact number of hours and minutes in a year.

Nobl. Very well Jack, I can't say but you apply your Almanac exceeding well; but prithee, Jack, do you make no further use of your cards?

Ja. Yes my Lord, I do a great deal.

Nobl. Why prithee, Jack, what further use do you make of them?

Ja. Why my Lord, sometimes I convert my cards into a prayer-book.

Nobl. A prayer-book, you villain, I am sure if you make an Almanac of your pack of cards, you can never make a prayer-book of them.

Ja. My Lord, I'll make it appear; you know I told you I could neither read nor write, and for that reason these cards answer my purpose as well as the best prayer-book in England.

Nobl. Prithee, Jack, let me hear it out, I like the beginning very well.

Ja. Why then my Lord, when I look upon these four suits of the cards, they present to me the four principal religions that are predominant in the

world, viz. Christianity, Judaism, Mehomatanism and Paganism; when I look over the twelve court cards, they remind me of the twelve patriarchs from whom proceeded the twelve tribes of Israel, the twelve apostles, also, the twelve articles of the Christian faith in which I am bound to believe; when I look upon the king, it reminds me of the allegiance due to his Majesty: When I look upon the queen, it puts me in mind of the allegiance due to her Majesty; then when I look upon the ten, it puts me in mind of the ten cities in the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by fire and brimstone from Heaven, the ten plagues of Egypt wherewith God afflicted the Egyptians, when he brought the children of Israel out of the land; also the ten commandments, and the ten tribes of Israel which were cut off for their wickedness: When I look upon the nine, it reminds me of the nine Hierarchies, the nine Muses, and the nine noble orders among men; when I look upon the eight it reminds me of the eight beatitudes, the eight altitudes, the eight persons saved in Noah's ark, the eight persons mentioned in the scripture to be released from death to life: When I look upon the seven, it puts me in mind of the seven administring spirits that stand before the throne of God, the seven seals wherewith the book of life is sealed the seven angels with the seven vials filled with the indignation of the Lord, wherewith they were to plague the earth, as mentioned in the apocalypse of

St. John, the seven liberal arts and sciences given by God for the instruction of man, the seven wonders of the world, the seven planets that rule the seven days of the week: The six puts me in mind of the six petitions contained in the Lord's prayer, the six days in the week that we have to work for our bread, and that I am appointed to keep the seventh holy: The five reminds me of the five senses given by God to man, viz. hearing, seeing, feeling, tasting, and smelling: The four reminds me of the four theological virtues, the four evangelists, the four last things, death, judgment, heaven and hell, and the four seasons into which God hath divided and disposed the year for the use of man, viz. spring, summer, autumn and winter: The three reminds me of the Trinity, in which are three distinct persons, co-equal and co-eternal; it also puts me in mind of the three days Jonas was in the whale's belly, and the three hours that our Saviour hung upon the cross, and the three days that he lay interred in the bowels of the earth: The two reminds me of the two testaments, the old and the new, containing the law and the gospel, the two contrary principles struggling in man, viz. virtue, and vice: then, my Lord, when I look upon the ace, it reminds me I have but one only God to adore, worship and serve, one faith to believe, one truth to practice, one baptism to cleanse us from original sin, and one only master to obey.

Nobl. Very well, Jack, I can't say but you con-

vert your cards to a good use; but now I perceive there is one particular card in the pack that you have not yet explained to me.

Ja. Which is that, my Lord.

Nobl. Jack, when you were shuffling the cards you passed from the queen to the ten, and laid by the knave; doth that put you in mind of nothing?

Ja. That is right, my Lord, I had like to have forgot that, when I look upon the knave, it puts me in mind of your Lordship.

Nobl. What you villain, do you account me a knave before my face?

Ja. No, my Lord, you misapprehend me; I mean your Lordship's informer.

Nobl. If so Jack, I freely forgive you: 'tis pretty well turned.

On which the Nobleman was so highly pleased with the ready turns of wit and humour which he found in Jack, that he preferred him to the highest place in his service, doubled his wages and discharged the informer, who soon after died.

TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS.

- May we always be able to resist the assaults of prosperity and adversity.
- May virtue be always amply rewarded.
- May candour and honesty always be our governing principles.
- May our consciences be sound though our fortune be rotten.
- May temptation never conquer virtue.
- May virtue always prove victorious.
- May temporal concerns never break in upon spiritual duty.
- May power be influenced only by justice.
- May we never taste the apples of affliction.
- May we be rich in friends rather than money.
- May we be loved by those whom we love.
- May he who wants friendship also want friends.
- May our distinguishing mark be merit rather than money.
- May he not bind him whom honour can't.
- May we be incorruptible by interest, and uninfluenced by power.
- May authority be amiable without debasing its dignity.
- May we never seek applause from party principles, but always deserve it from public spirit.
- May we, as Christians, be zealous without uncharitableness, as subjects loyal, without servility; and as citizens free without faction.