

32 *The CASE is Alter'd : Or,*

make me easie; **Six Foot**, at last, will
 be enough for your *Length and Breadth* :
 And I the rather believe this, as there's
 not one Line in my **Printed Case**, but
 what I'll prove and assert with my last
Breath : “ But let me have the best Cause
 “ in the World, I must ex-
 (a) As I “ pect, (z) that Men of a nar-
 hinted in my “ row Soul will be raising of
Printed Case. “ Lyes, and that my Enemies
 “ will triumph over me ; but Ill Husban-
 “ dry having had no hand in my Ruine, I
 “ am yet above such Treatment. For, *The*
 “ *Sun that sets, will rise again* ; or if it don't,
 “ I have some Friends that have Souls brave
 “ enough to own a Friend in Adversity: Or if
 I had not a Friend in the World, yet **TRUTH**
AND INNOCENCE is like the *Sun* ; it may be
 fogg'd, clouded, may eclipsed, yet at last
 it will shine forth with the greater Splen-
 dor.

*Think not (my Dear) because a Cloud
 Dots now thy purer Brightness shroud,
 Thy wondering Eye
 Can stoop to Common Beauties of the Sky.*

*Rather be kind, and this Eclipse
 Shall neither burden Eyes, nor Lips ;
 For we will meet
 Within our Hearts, and kiss when none shall
 see it.*

Nor canst thou at **St. Albans** be
Without some loving Signs of me:

When thou dost spy
A **Sun-beam** peep into thy Room, 'tis I:

For I am hid within that Flame,
And thus into thy Chamber came,
To let thee see
In what a Martyrdom I burn for thee.

There's no sad Picture that doth dwell
Upon thy **Sampill Gold**, but well
Resembles me,
No matter tho' our Age do not agree.

Love can make Old, as well as Time;
And he that doth but Twenty chime,
If he dare prove
As true as I, shows Four-score Tears in Love.

To Conclude.— You have now such an
Opportunity to Oblige me, as will never
fall out again; nor will the Kindness I ask
be more to me than your self: For a *Wife*
shines by her *Husband's Honour*, but must be
darkned, if he suffer an *Eclipse*.— Then
(prithee *Valeria*) grant my Request; for
we took each other for **Richer for Poorer**;
or if you understood it otherwise, we
mistook each other in the Marriage-Vow,
and ought to be **Re-marry'd**, and the

sooner the better ; for *in Love, the greatest Danger is Delay.* 'Tis true, our Parting has tarnish'd our First Marriage ; but nothing is so dear to me as my Wife ; and cou'd I but see as great a *Resemblance in our Tempers as there is in our Faces,* I shall think (when we are Re-marry'd) I have the Best Wife in the World. However, " If we'll
 " both learn the **Art of Memory,** and
 " the greater **Art of Forgetfulness,** we
 " shall not fail of being Happy still: That
 " is, Remember all the kind Things, for-
 " get all that's harsh or ungrateful, at least
 " never repeat 'em ; which will be the best
 " way to forget 'em.—*My Dear,* I wou'd ha' sent you a **TOKEN** with this Letter, (to confirm the Truth of what I here write) but part of my Estate is in Woods, and my Aunt has her Life in the rest ; so that I can send you nothing but kind Wishes : For my (present) Income wou'd not support me, did I not *stoop so low as to turn Author,* (for the turning Author is the *last shift of a Man in Distress*) yet even in these Streights, if you'll live in *Wales,* or some cheap Place, where my Pen will maintain you, you shall not want: So that to talk of a **Separate Maintenance** is a Jest, (suggested to prevent our Re-Marriage) for if you have a Fancy *to starve in the midst of Plenty,* we'll do it in *Wales,* where *Beggars are Gentlemen,* and not in *London,* where

where 'tis sufficiently known we have a good Estate, had we Hearts to use it. . . But I don't see any need for a *Law-Suit*, (except you fear I shou'd love you too much) for the same Minute my Debt is Discharg'd, I'll turn your *Testature* into a *Deed of Gift*, (which will double the Value of it) write to you every Day, visit you twice a Week, and when we are Re-Marry'd, will make it the Study of my whole Life to please you; and then (the *Case* being Alter'd) we'll both live in *London*, and if possible, out-love all the Husbands and Wives in the World. But whilst you force me to live in Debt, I must either study the *Art of living Incognito*, or like a Soldier (I mean an *Author*) of Fortune, be-take my self to my *Sword*, ('tis a *Sword* presented me by my Friend *Lutwiche*) and I now wear it for *Safety*, and when my Debt is discharg'd will wear it for *Dyna-ment*; for I'm writing *A Farewell to Trade*, and being come from behind the Counter, sure my Estate will maintain a *Sword*, or where's the *Honour* of being Heir to *Sampsil*?— I shall only add, God Almighty send us both *Patience*, you at *St. Albans*, and me in my present *Banishment*, and give us Heaven for our last Country: For tho' the *Manner* of *Sampsil* is a goodly Sight, yet he (or she) that looks up

to Heaven, will not care for the World.
Then, my Dear, Farewell: I will
 ever pray for your Happiness; and if the
 first of your good Fortunes should be my
 Death, (and not a Re-Marriage, which I
 passionately desire) I shall only then be
 Happy that you are pleas'd, for that I am
 (with as much Sincerity as I was on the
 Day of our *First Marriage*)

Yours, Now, and for Ever,

JOHN DUNTON.

Ladies, if you compare this Letter with
 my *Danted Case*, you'll plainly see the
Case is Alter'd, with respect to me; and
Valeria thought so too, and therefore sent
 this *Answer* to it, *viz.*

My most Endear'd Heart,

I Receiv'd your *Obliging Letter*, and send
 this to assure you, I hourly pray, that
 God would remove this *Cruel Distance*,
 and bring us together; for I as much de-
 sire your Company as you can mine; I
 don't know what you mean by a *Re-Mar-
 riage*, but I live in Faith, and hope we
 shall meet again, tho' it be long first: I
 am sorry this *Cruel Distance* should be
 the Occasion of our Separation; but if I
 cou'd

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. 39

cou'd help it, it should not be so; but if I part with my **Jointure**; I must break my **Oath** to my Mother, and that I will never do. But (my Dear) let not your want of Money keep you from me; for if you come in never so mean a Condition, and your Cloaths be never so tatter'd, yet if your Love be true, you will not be ~~found~~ **found** in my **Eyes**; I shall love you as well with just Necessaries of Food and Rayment, as if you had all the Riches in the World; and my Mother also will receive you kindly, if you do not ask her for Money: If you can promise that, come when you will, we shall live and meet all in Peace; or if you won't come to *St. Albans*, if you desire it, I'll come to you; for, if it cou'd be done, (if you wou'd not ask me for Money) I wou'd break through Stone-Walls to see you: But as to Money, I can part with none, having sworn to the contrary before Marriage. My Dear, You must not take this amiss; for you are part of my self, and I love you as my own Soul. It must be confess'd, We then begin to be Miserable, when we are totally bent on some **One** **Temporal** **Object**; for, as much as I love you, I must say, What one Sublunary Centre is there, which is able to receive the Circles of the Spreading Soul? But your kind Letter has so endear'd you to me, that I can't help thinking of you every
Minute

38 *The CASE is Alter'd: Or,*

Minute; and I find now, by your *Absence*, that to some Things we so dedicate our selves, that in their *Parting* they seem to take away even the Substance of our Soul along; as if we had laid up the Treasure of our Lives in the frail and moveable Hold of another. But, as much as I love you, 'tis impossible I shou'd help you to *Money*; but as to all the other Expressions of Love, (*with which your Letter abounds*) I return 'em to the full, and resolve never to be out-lov'd, for that I am

*Your most Tender, and Loving Wife,
till Death,*

SARAH DUNTON.

Thus, *Ladies*, you see that the Case is *Alter'd* with me, as well as with my Honour'd Mother: *Who wou'd ha' thought it?* Our Parting has but encreas'd my Love: For tho' *Valeria* (on the account of her Oath) won't part with a Foot of Land, yet I still love her with that Tenderness, that I cannot be easie without her. *No Crosses do so much afflict, as those that befall us in the things we love.* When Man and Wife part, 'tis like a Bone out of joint; there can be no Ease, 'till it be set by a *Re-marriage.*

Then,

Then, Happy Swain!
Go back again,
Where thy Valeria stays;
Happy they,
Once more, to be
Bless'd with her peaceful Rays.

Thus the touch'd Steel
Does quake and reel,
And round the Compass bover,
Until it rest
Upon the Breast
Of its dear Northern Lover.

But (as Solomon says) *There's a Time to Embrace, and a Time to refrain from Embracing*: For tho' I sent for Valeria by a special (a) Friend, she refus'd to come. 'Tis true, A good Wife sticks to her Husband; as Sarah did to Abraham, in all Changes and Chances whatsoever. But I can't blame her for not coming; for as yet she scarce dreamt of a **Re-marriage**; and therefore, like a kind Wife, she stuck to her Mother, to oblige her Husband. But to Parted Lovers every Minute is a tedious Age; for a few Months after this, the Case was so alter'd with her, that she came to London on purpose to see me. 'Tis true, she left me in a few Days; but I can't blame

(a) Mr. George Larkin, Sen.

40. *The CASE is Alter'd : Or,*

blame her for this : For tho' she left me with **Empty Pockets**, yet like the *Glow-worm*, (*the Emblem of True Friendship*) she still shin'd to me in the Dark ; or, in other Words, she no sooner return'd to *St. Albans*, but she sent me this kind Letter, viz.

My Dear,

I Bless God, I got safe to *St. Albans*, but I cannot say well ; for I'm *half Sick* with parting with you : But *London* does not agree with me, and therefore I hope you'll be so kind, as not to think I love you the less for my leaving of you. My Mother was pleas'd that you let me come down before the City had made me worse ; and so there was no Anger, but all Love. But I wou'd not have you think I am so wedded to this Town, that I can live no where else : The kind manner you receiv'd me in, when I came to *London*, convinces me now, you love me, not my Fortunes ; you did not once upbraid me, nor scarce mention our late Parting. My Dear, You have so alter'd the Case, by this kind Treatment, that I am now willing to live with you in any convenient Place : Nay, if you'd have me come to *London* again, I will come, tho' I anger all my Friends ; for you are dearer to me than all the World : Neither shou'd any thing keep me from you, tho' it was with the Hazard of my Life, if I might do what I wou'd.

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. 41

I wou'd; In the mean time; pray, my Dear, take all the care you can of yourself, and let me have the comfort of seeing your Hand-Writing, *tho' it be but one Line*, for I shall have no rest without hearing from you. My Dear, you can't imagine how many hours Sleep you break me of, for want of your Company, and therefore don't think I deny you Money out of love to the World, for if it were in my Power, it should be the first thing I would do to make you ealie. Child, if you think otherwise, you little know what *Martyrdom* (to use your own Expression) you put me to; but *tho' I can't help you to Money*, yet (which should be dearer to a kind Husband) I'm willing to send even my self to you, and should be glad, cou'd we (presently) meet in each others Arms. 'Tis true, I did not come when you sent for me, for I won't leave this place in Company of any but your dear self. Yet I can't bear the thoughts of living asunder. *I shall only add*, this Letter was writ in my Chamber, where I think I always have you before me. *I passionately long to see you*; and that I may find you in health, do not write or study too much, for it is bad for your Head, which I'de have you preserve, that you and I may remain whole now we are *New join'd*. This, with sin-

G

ccre

42 *The CASE is Alter'd: Or,*

sincere Love to your dear self, wishing I
 cou'd bring you out of your Troubles,
 is all at present from

St. Albans,
Sept. 18. 1700.

Your Loving
and Dutiful
Wife till Death,

SARAH DUNTON.

THIS Letter shews, that *the Case is al-*
ter'd with the Dear *Valeria*; for,
tho' in my *Printed Case*, 'tis said, *She'd ra-*
ther burn than part with her Jointure, yet
now she tells me, *I'm dearer to her than*
the whole World; this is a tender Expres-
sion, and (if confirm'd by Deeds) proves
her the best of Wives, for she must needs
love me more than her Jointure, if she
loves me more than the whole World;
for, the Jointure I made her is but like
a *Mole-hill on the Globe of the Earth*, or
like *Great Britain in the Map* (which
scarce fills one single Line in the de-
scription of the Globe,) if compar'd
with the whole World. If *Valeria* be thus
alter'd, I shall think my self happy with-
out the additional conquering Graces of
Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, that
make such a noise in the World, her very
Let-

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. 43

Letters (if my Debts were paid) will be sweeter to me than the fruition of any other Woman ; for *Smithfield* Bargains are grown so common, that she must needs be a very Angel of a Wife that prefers her Husband to the whole World. And when we *re-marry*, I shall find more Pleasure in Possession, than I now do in Expectation ; for if I wed *Valeria* again, my own *Venus* shall be suppos'd all that's excellent in Woman-kind : for what has the whole Sex more than in one alone that is kind and loving ? And so I'll think the Person I *re-marry*, were she a meer *Xantippe*. When the Sacred Knot is once ty'd, every Man should think his Wife, and every Wife her Husband, the fittest for them of any in the World : *This will bring Honour to Religion, Comfort to our Lives, and a Blessing on all we have.*—

And thus *the case is alter'd* with the dear *Valeria*, and wa'n't *the Devil in Money*, it wou'd not be long 'till our *re-marriage* : However, that I might hasten it all I could, I sent this Answer to the foregoing Letter. —

My Dearest Life,

I receiv'd yours, wherein you declare, you heartily wish you cou'd bring me out of all my Troubles, all which Troubles (I

44. *The CASE is Alter'd:—Or,*

blush to speak it) are but the mighty business of 300*l.*; and that you may for it, and our living together. This shews that the case is alter'd; tho' at the same time you assure me, you think it a sin (considering the Oath you took) to effect my deliverance. But (my Dear) shew me another Instance of a young Woman that wou'd prefer 300 *l.* (or 3000 *l.* if she had it) to the Company of a tender Husband. Shew me one such Instance as this from the Creation of *Adam*, to this Hour, and I will own my self much in the wrong, to expect you shou'd be as ready to part with any thing to make me easie, as I wou'd be to make you so, tho' it were to part with my whole Estate; for they have no Sense of that entire Friendship Marriage requires, that don't endeavour to make it as easie and comfortable as they possibly can; for, 'tis certain, **LOVE** constitutes all the happiness of a Married Life. —

*When Essence meets with Essence, and Souls join,
In mutual Knots, that's the true nuptial twine.*

A Married Life without Mutual Trusts and Confidence, is a daily *Martyrdom*, and therefore I thought it my Duty and Interest (as the surest means to prevent all mistrusts) to give my Fortune, without reserve, to whom I gave my Person, which

A Re-Marriage to the Same Wife. 49

which I value much more; and nothing shall be wanting on my part to make *Vas* *lex* esteem me as much; for, if I had any thing in my Power besides my sincere and entire Confidence in her, that could convince her of my Love, I could not be satisfied till I had added that to all the rest; and therefore 'twas I added the reversion of 1500*l.* to your Jointure un-ask'd, and now passionately desire a *re-marriage*; that the World may see I have no reserve where a kind Wife is to be oblig'd. Reserve! There's *Amorous Treason* in the very word, for one end of our coming together, was for the *Procreation* of such Children as must bear the Image and Nature of us both, and this makes our Possessions and Interest the same; but when a Wife carries on two Interests, and most undutifully turns her whole Forces against her Lord and Husband, when she uses that *Dreadful Weapon* which was given her to fright away Enemies from his House, most ungratefully to fright away the right owner, I must needs say, this is a little of the most, and she ought either to lose her Tongue (for one Tongue is too much for some Women) or to be shamed into due obedience by a *Publick Riding*. But my Dear, thee and I Married for nobler Ends, love at a better rate than this; for

46. *The CASE is Alter'd: Or,*

for; when the Reveren'd Mr. *Rochford* ty'd our loving Knots; (October 23d. 1697.) we then left all the World for each other, and when we are re-married, shall love like a *Pair of Turtles*; and if we love too much, 'tis an Error, on the right-hand, as jocular as this looks, it seems likely to be true, for I find that every thing conspires to make us love, even my traveling abroad (as unkind as it looks in other Husbands) is so far from estranging our Affection, that it makes it more strong and ardent. It was an ample addition to *Penelopes Honour* to have an Husband so far distanc'd from her, to be encounter'd with such confluence of Suitors to live in the prime of her Youth divided from her Mate, and to preserve her Fame so unblemish'd. When *the Case is thus alter'd* with us, every occasional Journey will but render us more impatient of meeting; and the thousand tender things we have sent to each other since we parted, proves that nothing can divide us; so that all we say or do, whether present or absent, give us reason to think that a re-marriage will make us happy. For tho' *Smithfield Bargains* have been made to add Land to Land, not Love to Love, and to unite Houses to Houses, not Hearts to Hearts, which hath been the occasion that

Men

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. 47

Men have turn'd Monsters, and Women Devils; yet if we truly Love, (I mean, Marry again, without any respect to Interest,) the longer we live together, the closer still is the Knot ty'd, and that our Love may be ever encreasing, 'tis my advice that you listen to no body (let 'em promise never such fine things) that shall go about to divide us. — That you forsake Mother, Uncle, Tenants, and all other Persons, to live with me, when I send for you; that you account your Interest and mine the same, and to your utmost, promote whatever may make me easie. — If this seems unreasonable to you; methinks it should not after I've told you, these Conditions perform'd on your part, I'll refuse nothing that is in my Power to gratifie you, and don't doubt (for I'll promise to forget all that's past) but to make you happy by a re-marriage. But my Dear, as much as I love thee, my Affection must not lessen my Authority over thee. — I ought to take into my Hands that Power, with which both God and Nature has invested me. I would be Lord at home, and rule there as I please. — I'd keep a Table according to the Heart and ability that God has given me; for to flatter ourselves is what they call Self-Murther. Whenever my Friends visit me, I'd give 'em

48 *The CASE is Alter'd : Or,*

ten such a Welcōme as I thought became me, and my Word shall be a Law to my whole Family.— By such methods as these I resolve (which is half the work) to govern my Wife and Servants, neither wou'd I, 'bate a Hair of this Authority, for the whole Mannor of Sampill, &c. For, the Husband who lets his Wife Rule for a little Interest, deserves to wear the Petticoat, having re-nounc'd the Prerogative of his Sex, and therefore deserves not the least pity. My Dear, don't startle at this Doctrine, for tho' I'de be Master of my own House, yet would I neither doat nor tyrannize; and if I Rule, (as 'tis my place) 'tis because you wou'd obey; yet will I not suffer you by too low a Submission, to render your self cheap, *Wives are not to be Slaves, but Companions*, and when a Wife has once given me a Test of her Love, (which to be sure can consist with no reserve of either *Love or Fortune*) she shall rule both my Person and Purse, my Time and every thing; and for this reason, a Rich Milanois was wont to say, *That the strings of his Purse were never so hard tied, but his Betty had a Charm to loose them.*
' *When such a Man and such a Woman meet*
' *together, like the most excellent Theophilus,*
' *and the Elect Lady, in two Bodies, they have*
' *as it were, but one Soul, a thousand uncommon*
' *Joys*

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife 49

Joys attend the loving Pair; they walk hand in hand to Heaven, and the tediousness of the way is greatly lessen'd by the Pleasure of their Conversation. Such a Man and such a Woman are like *Adam* and *Eve* before the Fall, no Jarrs nor Disagreement, their Thoughts are pure, their Discourse Heavenly, and all their Actions guided by Reason. Surely we that know this, shou'd deny one another nothing; for, who in his Senses ever fell out with himself, or wou'd not agree with his own Fleth? And therefore 'tis a Miracle you can pretend so much Love, and yet continue me in Debt; 'tis true; my Dear, you love me above every thing, except Money; but I'de part with all to make you easie, for I love you to Impatience; and as you think on me every Minute, so I receive Life from serving of you; and cannot, will not love you less. Yes, *Valeria*, I love you dearly: Nay don't be so incredulous, I protest I do; the longer I live, the more I love you; and shou'd you cease to return it, (which I hope you will not, but if you do) my Flame is now grown self-sufficient, and wou'd unwaisted, as the bright Planet of the Day, maintain it self to Eternity; 'tis so constant, that it wou'd follow you to the abyss of Wretchedness; and so Vertuous, that when my Soul shall be unbodied, and refin'd from all the Dregs of Sense, she'll still retain these Sentiments for you, and deliver to the Post-Angel, a Packet for the Dear *Valeria*.

*For ill does he deserve a Lover's Name,
Whose pale weak Flame
Its Heat cannot retain
In spite of Absence, Hatred, and Disdain;
But does at once, like Paper set on fire,
Burn and Expire.
That Noble Flame that my Breast keeps alive,
Shall still survive;*

*That shall walk with me to the lower Shade,
 And never fade,
 When my Soul's fled ;
 Nor shall my Love die, when my Body's dead ;
 My very Ashes in their Urn,
 Shall, like a hallow'd Lamp, for ever burn.*

So much for this Time, of *Spiritual Love* ;
 I shall next come to a more *Sensual Adventure*.
 our *Re-Marriage* ; which will be soon effected, if
 you will look upon me, not as I am a *M A N*,
 but as a *B O N E*, thy Husband, thy Friend, who
 long has had admission to thy Heart, and there
 studies the Vertues of thy Mind, thy *Constancy*, thy
Devotion, and thy matchless *Knowledge of the Scrip-
 ture*, (for thy Memory (b) is as good as a *Concor-
 dance*).

*Let Fools great Cupid's Yoke disdain,
 Loving their own wild Freedoms better ;
 Whilst proud of my Triumphant Chain,
 I sit and Court my Beauteous Fetter,
 Your Murd'ring Glances, Snaring Hairs,
 And your bewitching Smiles so please me,
 That he brings Ruin who repairs
 These sweet Afflictions that disease me.*

For this Reason, tho' you should not assist me
 with one Farthing, I still love you, and had you
 not a *Rich Mother*, I should think it my Duty to
 beg for you, rather than you shou'd want any
 thing ; but when I beg, *Pray Remember the Poor*,
 (a poor miserable Couple, that have a good Es-
 tate, but no Hearts to see it) 'twill be thought,
 such *Rich-Beggars* deserve Whipping ; but if you'll
 leave all for your Husband, shou'd you be sick,
 and my self in a Prison, even there I'll nurse

(b) As is hinted in the *Post-Angel*, p. 444.

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you, and shew as much real Tenderness to you, as you (if you continue me in Debt) only pretend-
ed to me. Thus my Humour carries every thing to
Excess, and I love *Valeria*, beyond the *Practice*, and
even *conception* of others: 'Tis true, I en't much
for *Hanging and Drowning*, ('tis a flight of Affecti-
on, I don't approve of) but my Love makes all
things easie to me, and if you cou'd but love me,
you'd have no more *Scruples*, or, at least, none a-
bout breaking an *Oath*, which 'tis a *sin* to keep; and
' this *Oath* will appear yet the more Unlawful,
' by putting this following Case: Suppose by some
' unexpected Disaster you had fallen into a Ditch,
' and thought none wou'd be so ready to help
' you out as your Husband, that had Married you
' for *Richer* for *Poorer*; well, you send to him, and he
' sends you word, (as you do to me) that he leaves
' you in the Ditch for his Health — That your be-
' ing there breaks him of his Sleep, — That he
' always has you before him, — That he can't
' bear the Thoughts of living from you, — — — And
' that you are dearer to him than all the World:
' But truly, says he, to help you out of the *Ditch*,
' is what I can never do; for tho' I'm able to do it,
' yet I have taken an *Oath* never to help you out;
' but still, my Dear, (says he) *I love you above all*
' *the World*. Now, this is my very Case, and to
say, you want any thing, when you can enable
me to supply you with it, and won't, is but to add
one Unkindness to another. For, can *Valeria* want,
that may have her Purse cramm'd with Guineas,
and her Neck shining with Pearl, and all for a
word speaking; but, (my Dear) 'till you help me
out of the Ditch, aff'ct me no more with your
kind Expressions, for, all leis than this, is *Policy*
and not affection: And therefore if 'tis a Comfort
to you (as you say it is) to see my *Hand-Wri-*
ting, you must consent I shall pay my Debts,
for I'll answer no more of your Letters, whilst
thro'

thro' your abundant Love I am made a Vagabond ; but we have Souls to be sure, and whilst they can meet and caress, you need not repine at this forc'd Silence ; I call it so ; for, having sent you an hundred Condescending Letters to no purpose, my Silence now is the only plank that is left to keep me from Sinking ; for sink I must, without your assistance. But (my Dear) don't you remember the Fatal Words, **for better for worse**, Will you obey him, serve him, love, honour, and keep him in Sickness and in Health, so long as you both shall live ; and you answer'd and said, I will, do you mind that, and that all this, and more you solemnly swore to in the Presence of God, and the whole Congregation. Now, if I was a Drunkard, and a Thief, if I was a Liar, a Smearer ; If I was ungodly, pettish, unkind, any thing but a Whore-master, Valeria, you must take it for your Pains, and bear it with a Christian Patience ; such is God's Law, such is Man's Law, 'twas your own doing ; (it had your Mother's Consent) you can blame no-body. *Volenti non fit injuria* : If you are ship'd with the Devil, you must Sail with the Devil: 'Tis true, these Vices are common in this Age, but are often owing to the sower carriage of Wives. For the ill Fruits of the Wife's unquietness (as the Duty of Man observes) are so notorious, that there are few Neighbourhoods but can give some Instance of it ; how many Men are there, to avoid the noise of a froward Wife, have fallen to Company-keeping, and then to Drunkenness, Poverty, and a multitude of Mischiefs ; but I never was guilty of these Vices, and challenge the worst Enemy I have, to prove Black is my Eye, with respect to Women, Avarice, Injustice, or to prove I was once Drunk in my whole Life ; not but that Single Loss I am forc'd to, will make People the more censurous ; and some that have been in the Oven will be raising Eyes of me, perhaps, as well as of better Men : But by the Grace of God, I shall endeavour to live so, as I may have a

Conscience

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. § 3

Conscience void of Offence both towards God and towards Man.— Thus, my Dear, is the Case alter'd with me, but with you only in fine Words: But, if Real Love can make a Woman kind, it can't be long e're you send my Deliverance, and Compleat it in a Re-Marriage. However, deal with me as ye please, I shall ever be, as in Conscience bound,

Your truly Tender and most Affectionate
Husband, till Death,

JOHN DUNTON.

Thus have I shewn how the Case is alter'd, with *Plowden, Dunton, his honour'd Mother, and the Dear Valeria*; neither are we four the only Instances of Persons, whose Case is alter'd. Change is the great Lord of the World; Time his Agent, that brings in all things to suffer; his unstaid Dominion not a day, nor an hour, but gives some Examples of the mutability of all Humane Affairs; 'tis true, the vast Spheres above, and the Starry Heaven, they seem not at all to alter, but keep the same steady, and regular Motions which they ever had; but all things under the Moon, are perpetually altering and changing, but more especially Man. Were Man but constant, he were perfect; that one Error fills him with Faults, makes him run thro' all Sins; he alters so often, that every Breath of Wind fans him to a various shape, as if his Mind were so near a-kin to Air, as it must with every Motion be in a perpetual change. The Mind of Man, like an Instrument cunningly play'd on, it does rise, and fall, and alter all of a sudden: This lower World is subject to Vanity, and groans under a thousand alterations. *The Case is altering every Day with Kingdams, Cities, Families, and pri-*
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THE CASE is Alter'd: Or,
vate Persons. How is the Babylonian Monarchy
alter'd by the Persian; the Persian by the Gre-
cian, and the Grecian by the Roman; and the
Roman that was so famous, was at length di-
vided and alter'd by the Innundations of Goth
and Vandals. What's now become of the
Mausolæum, the Colossus of Rhodes, the walls
of Babylon, and how strangely is the Case
alter'd with the Egyptian Pyramids? No For-
tifications can hold against the cruel devasta-
tions of Time: What strange Alterations have
late Years produc'd in Turkey, in Savoy, in
France, and among our selves in England? I
could give a thousand Instances of this, but I
shall only Instance in Sir C. — D. —
Of whom 'tis said,

Born to the useful Labours of the Plow,

The Cart-whip grac'd him, as the Chain does now;

Nature and Fate resolv'd they wou'd promote him,

And first a Knave, and then a Knight they vote him.

— True-born English Man.

Where's a Town in the three Kingdoms,
 in which Seven Years has not made *great al-*
terations as to Families, or private Persons?
 And you will not find one acquaintance in a
 Place you left but a Year ago, but has *chang'd*
 their Minds more than their Faces; and yet
Time is an ill layer up of Faces, as we see
 every where. There is nothing we can con-
 fidently call our own, or, that we can surely
 say, we shall either do or avoid. Today we
 look with Satisfaction upon a Wife, a Bro-
 ther, a Child, and to Morrow, *the Case is al-*
ter'd with him, the Flower is wither'd, and he
 is not, even *the Houses of the Dead, and the*
Urned Bones, have sometimes met with rude
 Hands

A Re-Marriage to the same Wife. 53

Hands that have *alter'd* their Property. Who wou'd have thought, when *Scanderbeg* was laid in his Tomb, that the *Turks* should after rifle it, and wear his Bones for Jewels? And as the *Case* alters with Kingdoms, Cities, and Families, so also their Customs, their Laws, their Language, and their Garb change; and what was applauded in one Age, becomes ridiculous, and is slighted in the next. Again, if we consider the *Comforts* of this World, how do they pass away, and *alter*? How many times do those that were once our Friends turn our Enemies. There's not a Friend on Earth without a *but* in their Commendation; Friends themselves are apt to take Exception, (*Why else did Valeria and I part*, to mistake, to be weary of us, (especially, **SUMMER FRIENDS**, whose Character I shall write hereafter) and the *Case* does so alter with them, that there's none in the World, whose friendship is not founded on Grace, can be so much my Friend now, but he may be as much my Enemy hereafter; or, if we could find any Friend, whose temper does not thus *alter*, how do the thoughts of parting abate the comfort of enjoying? *Alas*, we dare not think of it; and not only our Friends, but our familiar Companions, by reason of Riches or Honours are *alter'd* so much, that they'll scarce know us. How many times do believ'd, misinterpretations cause them to have undue or evil Opinion of us, and our innocent and faultless Actions, and for this very Reason, *I will never deny my self an honest Solace for fear of an any censure*. Why should another Man's Injustice breed my Unkindness to my self? — And the *Case* is as often *alter'd* with respect to
the

56 *The CASE is Alter'd : Or,*

the Inclinations of Men; what they affect one Day, they hate the next. How usual is it for a Man to admire his *Mistress*, and to slight her when she becomes his *Wife*; and for this Reason 'tis commonly said, *Marriage is the best Cure for Love*. All Ages have their different Inclinations: The Pleasures of Youth are all disrelish'd in a feeble and decaying Age. Man has very little in him that is durable; he is compos'd of Fleth and Blood, and Spirits, and his *Case is alter'd* almost every Hour. *How frail a Nature have we!* So delicate a Contexture is there in our Body, in our Veins, our Fibres, and our Spirits, that a very little thing can spoil its Beauty, and disturb its Ease: *One corrupt Humour, one uneasie Thought, or any thing that we eat or drink, if not well digested, or distributed, may alter our whole Frame, and may cause a Disease that may end in Death.* And at the Great Day, even the *World it self will be alter'd*, Psal. 102. 28. It shall then be melted and refin'd, and after the Conflagration, serve to greater and higher Purposes than it now does. — Then seeing the *Case is alter'd* with every thing here below, I will never Purchase any thing with much Hazard: Yet if I lose *Valeria*, I will endeavour to find her in a *Re-Marriage*; Or if I don't, (which God forbid) I will comfort my self with this, *That I knew the World was Changeable.*

Thus, Ladies, have I given you (in *Two Letters*) a brief Account of my Printed Case, and the various Subjects I shall treat of in this Essay; and have also shewn, how the *Case is Alter'd* with *Plowden, Duntou, my Mistress, my Wife, with Kingdoms, Families, and particular Persons.* They that would further know how the *Case will be Alter'd in this World, or the next, I'd wish 'em to read that Useful Book, Entituled, The Changeableness of this World.* — But, Ladies, tho' the *fashion of the World passeth away*, yet (if I know my Heart) I shall never alter from being

Valeria's Faithful Husband, and

your most Obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN DUNTON,