



THE AMERICAN

Weekly Mercury,

From TUESDAY February 4th, to TUESDAY February 11th, 1728-9

The Busy-Body. N^o 2.

All Fools have still an itching to deride;
And vain would be upon the laughing side. Pope.



Our *seigneur* Rochefocaut tells us somewhere in his Memoirs, that the Prince of Conde delighted much in Ridicule, and us'd frequently to shut himself up for Half a Day together in his Chamber with a Gentleman that was his Favourite, purposely to divert

or even some Personal Defect; and the Height of his low Ambition is to put some One of the Company to the Blush, who perhaps must pay an equal Share of the Reckoning with himself. If such a Fellow makes Laughing the sole End and Purpose of his Life, if it is necessary to his Constitution, or if he has a great Desire of growing suddenly fat, let him treat; let him give publick Notice where any dull stupid Rogues may get a Quart of Four-penny for being laugh'd at; but 'tis barbarously unkind some, when Friends meet for the Benefit of Conversation, and a proper Relaxation from Business, that one should be the Bait of the Company, and Four Men made merry at the Cost of the Fifth.

How different from this Character is that of the