[*two rules*]

# AQUIBBLER

I2s a Jugler of Words, that ſhows Tricks
with them, to make them appear what they
were not meant for, and ſerve two Senſes at
once, like one that plays on two *Jews* Trumps.
He is a Fencer of Language, that falſiſies his
Blow, and hits where he did not aim. He
Has a fooliſh Slight of Wit, that catches at
Words only, and lets the Senſe go, like the
young Thief in the Farce, that took a Purſe,
but gave the Owner his Money back again.
He is ſo well verſed in all Cafes of Quibble,
that he knows when there will be a Blot upon
a Word, as ſoon as it is out. He packs his
Quibbles like a Stock of Cards, let him but
ſhuffle, and cut where you will, he will be
ſure to have it. He dances on a Rope of Sand,
does the *Somerſet*, *Strapado*, and half-ſlrapado
with Words, plays at all manner of Games

with *Clinches*, *Carwickets*, and *Quibbles*, and
talks *under-Leg*. His Wit is left-handed, and
therefore what others mean for right, he ap-
prehends quite contrary. All his Conceptions
are produced by equivocal Generation, which
makes them juſtly eſteemed but Maggots. He
rings the Changes upon Words, and is ſo ex-
pert, that he can tell at firſt Sight, how
many Variations any Number of Words will
bear. He talks with a *Trillo*, and gives his
Words a double Reliſh. He had rather have
them bear two Senſes in vain and impertinent-
ly, than one to the Purpoſe, and never ſpeaks
without a Lere-Senſe. He talks nothing but
Equivocation and mental Reſervation, and
mightily affects to give a Word a double Stroke,
like a Tennis-Ball againſt two Walls at one
Blow, to defeat the Expectation of his An-
tagonift. He commonly ſlurs every fourth or
fifth Word, and ſeldom fails to throw Dou-
blets. There are two Sorts of Quibbling, the
one with Words, and the other with Senſe,
like the Rhetoricians *Figurae Dictionis & Figurae*
*Senteniae* — The firſt is already cried down,
[^1]: *Without a Lere-Serſe] A Lere-Sterſe* is a ſecond or supernume-
rary Scale, as a Led-Horſe was formerly called a Lere-Harſe,
See *Bailey’s* Dictionary.

and the other as yet prevails; and is the only
Elegance of our modern Poets, which eaſy
Judges call *Eaſineſs*; but having nothing in it
But *Eaſineſs*, and being never uſed by any laſt-
ing Wit, will in wiſer Times fall to nothing of
itſselſ.