

[two rules]

AN
Astrologer

It's one that expounds upon the Planets, and teaches to conftrue the Accidents by the due joining of Stars in Conftruction. He talks with them by dumb Signs, and can tell what they mean by their twinckling, and fquinting upon one another, as well as they themfelves. He is a Spy upon the Stars, and can tell what they are doing, by the Company they keep, and the Houfes they frequent. They have no Power to do any Thing alone, until fo many meet, as will make a Quorum. He is Clerk of the Committee to them, and draws up all their Orders, that concern either public or private Affairs. He keeps all their Accompts for them, and fums them up, not by Debtor, but by Creditor alone, a more compendious Way. They do ill to make them have fo much Authority over

the Earth, which, perhaps, has as much as any one of them but the Sun, and as much Right to fit and vote in their Councils, as any other : But becaufe there are but feven Electors of the German Empire, they will allow of no more to difpofe of all other ; and moft foolifhly and unnaturally depofe their own Parent of its Inheritance; rather than acknowledge a Defect in their own Rules. Thefe Rules are all they have to fhew for their Title ; and yet not one of them can tell whether thofe they had them from came honeftly by them. Virgil's Defcription of Fame, that reaches from Earth to the Stars, tam ficti pravique tenax, to carry Lies and Knavery, will ferve Aftrologers with-

out any fenfible Variation. He is a Fortune-Seller, a Retailer of Deftiny, and petty Chapman to the Planets. He cafts Nativities as Gamefters do falfe Dice, and by flurring and palming fextile, quartile, and trine, like fize, quater, trois, can throw what chance he pleafes. He fets a Figure, as Cheats do a Main at Hazard ; and Gulls throw away their Money at it. He fetches the Grounds of his Art fo far off, as well from Reafon, as the Stars, that, like a Traveller, he is allowed to lye by Au-

thority. And as Beggars, that have no Money themfelves, believe all others have, and beg of thofe, that have as little as themfelves : So the ignorant Rabble believe in him, though he has no more Reafon for what he profeffes, than they.
