

[double rule]

A
RIBALD

IS the Devil's Hypocrite, the endeavours to make himself appear worse than he is. His evil Words and bad Manners strive which shall most corrupt one another, and it is hard to say which has the Advantage. He vents his Lechery at the Mouth, as some Fishes are said to engender. He is an unclean Beast that chews the Cud ; for after he has satisfied his Lust, he brings it up again into his Mouth to a second Enjoyment, and plays an After-game of Letchery with his Tongue much worse than that which the Cunnilingi used among the old Romans. He strips Nature stark-naked, and clothes her in the most fantastical and ridiculous Fashion a wild Imagination can invent. He is worse and more nasty than a Dog ; for in his broad Descriptions of others obscene Actions he does but lick up the Vomit of ano-

ther Man's Surfeits. He tells Tales out of a vaulting School. A lewd bawdy Tale does more Hurt, and gives a worse Example than the Thing of which it was told ; for the Act extends but to a few, and if it be concealed goes no further ; but the Report of it is unlimited, and may be conveyed to all People, and all Times to come. He exposes that with his Tongue, which Nature gave Women Modesty, and brute Beasts Tails to cover. He mistakes Ribaldry for Wit, though nothing is more unlike, and believes himself to be the finer Man the filthier he talks ; as if he were above Civility, as Fanatics are above Ordinan-

ces, and held nothing more shameful than to be ashamed of any Thing. He talks nothing but Aretine's Pictures, as plain as the Scotch Dialect, which is esteemed to be the most copious and elegant of the Kind. He improves and husbands his Sins to the best Advantage, and makes one Vice find Employment for another ; for what he acts loosely in private, he talks as loosely of in public, and finds as much Pleasure in the one as the other. He endeavours to make himself Satisfaction for the Pangs his Claps and Botches put him to with

vapouring and bragging how he came by them. He endeavours to purchase himself a Reputation by pretending to that which the best Men abominate, and the worst value not, like one that clips and waxes false Coin, and ventures his Neck for that which will yield him nothing.
