

A QUIBBLER

Non-Specific Humans Jugler of Words One that plays on two Jews Trumps Fencer
of Language young Thief the Owner His Antagonist Rhetoricians Our Modern
Poets Wit

Animals Maggots

[two rules]

A QUIBBLER

I²s a Jugler of Words, that flows Tricks
with them, to make them appear what they
were not meant for, and ferve two Senfes at
once, like one that plays on two Jews Trumps.
He is a Fencer of Language, that falsifies his
Blow, and hits where he did not aim. He
Has a foolish Slight of Wit, that catches at
Words only, and lets the Senfe go, like the
young Thief in the Farce, that took a Purfe,
but gave the Owner his Money back again.
He is fo well verfed in all Cafes of Quibble,
that he knows when there will be a Blot upon
a Word, as foon as it is out. He packs his
Quibbles like a Stock of Cards, let him but
fhuffle, and cut where you will, he will be
fure to have it. He dances on a Rope of Sand,
does the Somerfet, Strapado, and half-flrapado
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 expert, 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 impertinently, 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 Antagoniſt. He commonly flurs every fourth or fifth Word, and ſeldom fails to throw Doublets. There are two Sorts of Quibbling, the one with Words, and the other with Senſe, like the Rhetoricians *Figurae Dictionis* & *Figurae Sententiae* --- The firſt is already cried down, [¹]: Without a Lere-Serſe] A Lere-Serfe is a ſecond or ſupernumerary Scale, as a Led-Horſe was formerly called a Lere-Harfe, 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 laſting Wit, will in wifer Times fall to nothing of itſelf.
