

[*two rules*]

## A QUIBLER

I<sup>2</sup>s 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 *fews* 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 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 Cases 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 *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 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 againft two Walls at one  
 Blow, to defeat the Expectation of his An-  
 tagonift. He commonly flurs every fourth or  
 fifth Word, and feldom fails to throw Dou-  
 blets. There are two Sorts of Quibbling, the  
 one with Words, and the other with Senfe,  
 like the Rhetoricians *Figurae Dictionis* & *Figurae*  
*Sententiae* — The firft is already cried down,  
 [^1]: *Without a Lefe-Serfe*] *A Lere-Serfe* is a fecond or supernume-  
 rary Scale, as a Led-Horfe 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 eafy  
 Judges call *Eafinefs*; but having nothing in it  
 But *Eafinefs*, and being never ufed by any laft-  
 ing Wit, will in wifer Times fall to nothing of  
 itfelf.

---