[*two rules*]

# A QUIBBLER

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 *fews* 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 Lefe-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.