Mary Barber, â??To Dr. Richard Helsham. Upon my Recovery from a dangerous Fit of Sicknessâ?•

Description

[MARY BARBER]

â??To Dr. Richard Helsham. Upon my Recovery from a dangerous Fit of Sickness*â?*•

For fleeting Life recallâ??d, for Health restorâ??d,
Be first the God of Life and Health adorâ??d;
Whose boundless Mercy claims this Tribute due:
And next to Heavâ??n, I owe my Thanks to you;
To you, who feel the Ease your Medâ??cines give,
And, in reviving Patients, doubly live;
You, who from Natureâ??s Dictates never stray;
But wisely wait, till she points out the Way:
Where-eâ??er she leads, unerring, you pursue
Her mazy System, opâ??ning to your View.

In you revivâ??d we RATCLIFFâ??S Genius see,
Heightenâ??d by Learning and Humanity.
With Ease all Natureâ??s Secrets you explore,
And to the noblest Heights of Science soar.
Your Thoughts, unbounded, travel with the Sun;
And see attendant Worlds around him run;
Which trace their distant Courses throâ?? the Sky,
Nor fly his Throne too far, nor press too nigh.
The wise and wondâ??rous Laws you clearly know,
Which rule those Worlds above, and this below.
The World of Life, which we obscurely see,
In all its Wonders, is surveyâ??d by thee:
And thou in evâ??ry Part canst something find,
To praise thy Maker, and to bless thy Kind:
Quick to discern, judicious to apply,
Your Judgment clear, and piercing, as your Eye:
Evâ??n Medâ??cines, in your wise Prescriptions, please;
And are no more the Patientâ??s worst Disease.
Goodness, and Skill, and Learning less than thine,
Raisâ??d AESCULAPIUS to the Realms divine.

NOTES:

Title *Dr. Richard Helsham* (1683-1738), Irish physician and natural philosopher; like Barber, he was also a member of Jonathan Swiftâ??s Dublin circle.

11 *RATCLIFF* John Radcliffe (1650-1714), physician and politician, served as royal physician to William and Mary.

18 *nigh* â??Close at hand, nearbyâ?• *(OED)*.

25 j*udicious* â??Proceeding from or showing sound judgement; done with or marked by discretion, wisdom, or good senseâ?• *(OED)*.

30 *AESCULAPIUS* Greek god of medicine.

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (London, 1735), pp. 30-31. [*Google Books*]

Edited by Ivan Li