Mary Leapor, â??The Beauties of the Springâ?•

Description

MARY LEAPOR

â??The Beauties of the Springâ?•

Hail happy Shades, and hail thou cheerful Plain,
Where Peace and Pleasure unmolested reign;
And the cool Rivers murmur as they flow:
See yellow Crowfoots deck the gaudy Hills,
While the faint Primrose loves the purling Rills:
Sagacious Bees their Labours now renew,
Hum round the Blossoms, and extract their Dew:
In their Livâ??ries the green Woods appear,
And smiling Nature decks the Infant Year;
See yon proud Elm that shines in borrowâ??d Charms,
While the curlâ??d Woodbines deck her aged Arms.

When the streakâ??d East receives a lighter Gray,
And Larks prepare to meet the early Day;
Through the glad bowers the shrill Anthems run,
While the Groves glitter to the rising Sun:
Then *Phillis* hastens to her darling Cow,
Whose shining Tresses wanton on her Brow,
While to her Cheek enlivâ??ning Colours fly,
And Health and Pleasure sparkle in her Eye.
Unspoilâ??d by Riches, nor with Knowledge vain,
Contented *Cymon* whistles oâ??er the Plain;
His Flock dismisses from the nightly Fold,
Observes their Health, and fees their Number told.
Pleasâ??d with its Being, see the nimble Fawn
Sports in the Grove, or wantons oâ??er the Lawn,
While the pleasâ??d Coursers frolick out the Day,
And the dull Ox affects unwieldy Play.

Then haste, my Friend, to yonder *Sylvan* Bowers,
Where Peace and Silence crown the blissful Hours;
In those still Groves no martial Clamours sound;
No streaming Purple stains the guiltless Ground;
But fairer Scenes our ravishâ??d Eyes employ,
Give a soft Pleasure, and quiet Joy;
Grief flies from hence, and wasting Cares subside,

While wingâ??d with Mirth the laughing Minutes glide.
See, my fair Friend, the painted Shrubs are gay,
And round thy Head ambrosial Odours play;
At Sight of thee the swelling Buds expand,
And opâ??ning Roses seem to court thy Hand;
Hark, the shrill Linnet charms the distant Plain,
And *Philomel* replies with softer Strain;
See those bright Lilies shine with milky Hue,
And those Fair Cowslips drop with balmy Dew;
To thee, my fair, the cheerful Linnet sings,
And *Philomela* warbles oâ??er the Springs;
For thee those Lilies paint the fertile Ground,
And those fair Cowslips are with Nectar crownâ??d;
Here let us rest to shun the scorching Ray,
While curling Zephyrs in the Branches play.
In these calm Shades no ghastly Woe appears,
No Cries of Wretches stun our frighted Ears;
Here no glossâ??d Hate, no sainted Wolves are seen,
Nor busy Faces throng the peaceful Green;
But Fear and Sorrow leave the careful Breast,
And the glad Soul sinks happily to Rest.

NOTES:

5 *Crowfoot* â??A name for various species of Ranunculus or Buttercupâ?• (*OED*).

6 *Primrose* *â??*An early flowering European primulaâ?• (*OED*).

11 *yon* â??A demonstrative word used in concord with a noun to indicate a person or thingâ?• (*OED*).

12 *Woodbines* Name for a climbing plant.

14 *Larks* â??A name generally used for any bird in the family of alaudidaeâ?• (*OED*).

18 *Tresses* Braids on a woman.

22 *Cymon* A swain, or young man.

25 *nimble* Quick.

27 *Coursers* Horses.

29 *Sylvan* â??Consisting of or formed by woods or treesâ?• (*OED*).

32 *Purple* A reference to blood.

42 *Philomel* â??A poetic/literary name for the nightingaleâ?• (*OED*).

50 *Zephyrs* God of the west wind.

Source: ***Poems Upon Several Occasions*** **(London, 1748), p. 15. [Google Books]**

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