Anonymous, â??A Simile for the contending Poets at Dublinâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??*A* Simile for *the contending Poets at* Dublinâ?•

So, in the streets, when trollops jar,
Contending high in wordy war;
With burning ire their venom fries,
Reproach and clamour rend the skies,
The hubbub fell, is heard aloud,
And round them rakes a blackguard crowd;
With scornfull hiss, the listâ??ning rabble,
And laughter loud, foment the squabble,
With fiercer rage, their sound inspire
To keener lust of vengeance fire;
Fresh peals of spite tumultuous rise,
New *Billingsgate* in vollies flies,
Foul on each otherâ??s fame, they fall,
â??Till each leaves either, none at all.
And when thâ??inglorious rout expires,
Hissâ??d, railâ??d, and laught at, each retires.

NOTES:

1 *trollops* A â??morally loose woman,â?• especially suggesting slovenly dress and manners (*OED*).

2 *Jar* To make unpleasantly loud and inharmonious noises. To abruptly and violently effect, as in a fight.

6 *blackguard* A person, generally a man, who behaves in a dishonorable or otherwise despicable way (*OED*).

8 *foment* To encourage, incite or instigate.

12 *Billingsgate* Originally a fish market in London infamous for the vitriolic language of its fishmongers, at some point the term came to denote verbal abuse in general (*OED*).

16 *railâ??d* Verbally attacked.

Source: *The Gentlemenâ??s Magazine,* Vol. 5 (January 1735), p. 48.

Edited by Joseph Watkins