

Priscilla Pointon, "Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasion"

Description

PRISCILLA POINTON

"Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasion"

Inserted by Desire.

You bid me write, Sir, I comply,
Since I my grave airs can't deny.
But say, how can my Muse declare
The situation of the Fair,
That full six hours had sat, or more, 5
And never once been out of door?
Tea, wine, and punch, Sir, to be free,
Excellent diuretics be:
I made it so appear, it's true,
When at your House, last night, with you: 10
Blushing, I own, to you I said,
"I should be glad you'd call a maid."
"The girls," you answer'd "are from home,
Nor can I guess when they'll return."
Then in contempt you came to me, 15
And sneering cry'd, "Dear Miss, make free;
Let me conduct you—don't be nice—
Or if a bason is your choice,
To fetch you one I'll instant fly."
I blush'd, but could not make reply; 20
Confus'd, to find myself the joke,
I silent sat till TRUEWORTH spoke:
"To go with me, Miss, don't refuse,
Your loss this freedom will excuse."
To him my hand reluctant gave, 25
And out he led me very grave;
Whilst you and CHATFREE laugh'd aloud,
As if to dash a Maid seem'd proud.
But I the silly jest despise,
Since well I know each man that's wise; 30
All affectation does disdain,
Since it in Prudes and Coxcombs reign:
So I repent not what I've done;
Adieu—enjoy your empty fun.

NOTES:

8 *diuretics* â??Having the quality of exciting (excessive) excretion or discharge of urineâ?• (OED).

17 *nice* â??Precise or particular in matters of reputation or conductâ?• (OED).

18 *bason* Variation of â??basin,â?• â??a circular vessel of greater width than depth, with sloping or curving sides, used for holding water and other liquids, especially for washing purposesâ?• (OED).

22 *TRUEWORTH* An allusion to Mr. Truworth, a character in Eliza Haywoodâ??s novel *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless* (1751) who represents the ideal gentleman.

27 *CHATFREE* An allusion to Mr. Chatfree, a character in the same novel who represents a less-than-ideal gentlemanly figure.

28 *dash* â??To destroy, ruin, confound, bring to nothing, frustrate, spoilâ?• (OED).

32 *Coxcombs* â??A vain, conceited, or pretentious man; a man of ostentatiously affected mannerisms or appearance; a fop. In later use usually in form coxcombâ?• (OED).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (1770), pp. 31-34. [Google Books]

Edited by Michelle Yu