

Rev. Tipping Silvester, â??Venusâ??s Girdle; or Advice to a Wifeâ?•

## Description

[REV. TIPPING SILVESTER]

### â??Venusâ??s Girdle; or Advice to a Wifeâ?•

â??LET nothing your unsullyâ??d beauties cloud;  
Be always chearful, but be never loud.  
Evâ??n *Juno*â??s self set deities at odds,  
And oft made uproars in the blest abodes:  
For, if we may believe what poets sung, 5  
Imperial *Jove* was pesterâ??d with a tongue.  
Where pets prevail, sweet concordâ??s broken soon;  
The string, which jars, is always out of tune.  
LET no *distrusts* your settled peace disturb;  
Which irritate the mind, but seldom cure: 10  
So the cold humour, which on lime we pour,  
Inflames those parts, which quiet were before  
Reproaches seldom cure our loose desires,  
But leave a stink, and raise domestick fires.  
MAY no *surmises* lie concealâ??d below; 15  
A rankling breast create a sullen brow:  
The sulphur rages most in caverns pent,  
And shocks that earth, which cannot give it vent.  
JUST wit to furnish the politer Joke;  
A *spirit*, just enough not to provoke: 20  
Genteel *demeanour*, and superior *sense*,  
And *ease* at just remove from *indolence*:  
*Oeconomy*, which nought superfluous spends;  
And is least frugal, when we have our friends:  
These be your aim: the *something* further still, 25  
Which hits the good mens humours, when theyâ??re ill;  
There goes to feed a hymeneal flame,  
Thâ?? engaging *somewhat*, which still wants a name:  
The wiser wife alone this Secret knows;  
This is the *girdle* beautyâ??s queen bestows. 30

## NOTES:

**Title** This is an extract from Silvesterâ??s poem of the same title which first appeared in his volume, *Original Poems and Translations* (London, 1733), pp. 55-56.

**3** *Juno* Roman goddess and female counterpart to Jupiter; [she] was connected with all aspects of the life of women, most particularly married life (Britannica).

**6** *Jove* Poetic form of Jupiter, the Roman name for Zeus.

**11** *cold humour* Likely a reference to phlegm, one of the four humours associated with cold and moisture; *lime* The alkaline earth which is the chief constituent of mortar; it is powerfully caustic and combines readily with water, evolving great heat in the process (OED).

**21** *Genteel* Courteous, polite; obliging (OED).

**23** *Oeconomy* Archaic spelling of economy.

**27** *hymeneal* Pertaining to marriage (OED).

**SOURCE:** *The Gentleman's Magazine*, (February 1734), p. 99. [Google Books]

*Edited by Liv Wisely*