

Elizabeth Tollet, "In Memory of the Countess of Winchelsea"

Description

ELIZABETH TOLLET

• In Memory of the Countess of Winchelsea •

— Effugiunt avidos carmina sola rogos. Ovid.

Sad *Cypress* and the Muses Tree
Shall shade *Ardelia's* sacred Urn:
These with her Fame and Fate agree,
And ever live, and ever mourn.

While every Muse with vocal Breath
In moving Strains recites her Praise:
And there assumes the *Cypress* Wreath,
And on her Tomb resigns the Bays. 5

What Power shall aid the Virgin Choir
To make her Worth and Virtue known?
Who shall the Sculptor's Art inspire
To write them on the lasting Stone? 10

The honour'd Streams of ancient Blood,
And Titles, are by Fortune given:
But to be virtuous, wise, and
good,
Derives a kindred Claim from Heaven. 15

Virtue, and Wit in Courts admir'd,
The shining Pattern shall diffuse:
Nor, though to private Life retir'd,
Are lost, but flourish with her Muse. 20

Of those the *Sister-Nine* shall sing,
Yet with their Voice their Verse shall pass:
And Time shall sure Destruction bring
To wounded Stone, or molten Brass.

Though Titles grace the stately Tomb,
Vain Monument of mortal Pride!
The Ruins of the mould'ring Dome
Its undistinguish'd Heap shall hide. 25

