

Till *Fame* and *Eccho* almost burst,

Yet hardly dare one Line Rehearse. 60

AND last, my Vengeance to Compleat,

May you Descend to take Renown,

Prevail on by the Thing you hate,

A [Whig] and one that wears a Gown.

NOTES:

Dedication *Ardelia* Anne Finch's poetical name for herself.

1 *PHOEBUS* [Ancient Greek name of Apollo] god of light, poetry and music (QED).

2 *Northern Tropic* Tropic of Cancer, which includes Britain (Britannica).

4 *Royal Dame* Finch was appointed Maid of Honour to Mary of Modena in 1682. Mary became queen in 1685 when her husband ascended the throne as James II, though Finch had resigned her court position in 1684 after marrying.

7 *Bays* Leaves or sprigs of this tree, esp. as woven into a wreath or garland to reward a conqueror or poet; hence figurative the fame and repute attained by these (QED).

14 *Bards* A lyric or epic poet, a singer; a poet generally (QED).

18 *Styx* A river of the lower world or Hades, over which the shades of the departed were ferried by Charon, and by which the gods swore their most solemn oaths (QED).

21 *OVID* Roman poet (43BC-17AD), famous for *Metamorphoses*.

30 *all the Nine* The muses.

39 *Thalia* The eighth of the muses, presiding over comedy and idyllic poetry (QED).

47 *Pallas* Epithet for Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and war.

64 [Whig] A person who supported the exclusion of James, Duke of York (later James II), from the succession to the thrones of England, Scotland, and Ireland on account of his Roman Catholicism during the late 1670s and 1680s (QED); added in later printings of the poem; *one that wears a Gown* Swift himself.

SOURCE: *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse* (London, 1711), pp. 399–403. [Google Books]

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