William Whitehead, â??A Second Epilogue. Spoken by Mrs. Pritchardâ?•

Description

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD

â??A SECOND EPILOGUE. Spoken by Mrs. PRITCHARDâ?•

Stay, Ladiesâ?? Thoâ?? Iâ??am almost tirâ??d to Death
With this long Partâ?? and am so out of Breath-
Yet such a lucky Thought kind Heaven has sent,
That if I die forâ??t, I must give it Vent.
The Men you know are gone. And now, suppose,
Before our Lords and Masters are rechose,
We take thâ?? Advantage of an empty Town,
And chuse a House of Commons of our own.
What think ye, cannot we make Laws?â?? and then,
Cannot we too unmake them, like the Men?
O place us once in good St. Stephenâ??s Pews,
Weâ??ll shew them Women have their public Use.
Imprimis, they shall marry; not a Man
Past twenty-five, but what shall wear the Chain
Next, weâ??ll in earnest set about Reclaiming,
For, by my Life and Soul, weâ??ll put down Gaming.
Weâ??ll spoil their deep destructive Midnight Play;
The Laws we make, weâ??ll force them to obey;
Unless we let them, when their Spirits flag,
Piddle with us, ye know, at Quinze and Brag.
â??I hope, my Dearestâ?• says some well-bred Spouse,
â??When such a Bill shall come before your House,
â??That youâ??ll consider Men are Men- at least
â??That youâ??ll not Speak, my Dearâ?•â?? Not speak?â?? The Beast!
What, would you wound my Honour?â?? Wrongs like these-
For this, Sir, I shall bring you on your Knees.
â??Or, if weâ??re quite good-naturâ??d, tell the Man
Weâ??ll do him all the Service that we can.
Then for ourselves, what Projects, what Designs?
Weâ??ll tax, and double tax their nasty Wines;
But Duty-free import our Blonds and Laces,
French *Hoops,* French *Silks,* French *Cambricks, and-* French *Faces.*
In short, my Scheme is not compleated quite,
But I may tell ye more another Night.
So come again, come all, and let us raise
Such glorious Trophies to our Countryâ??s Praise,
That all true Britons *shall with one Consent,*

Cry out, â??Long live the Female Parliament!â?•

THE END.

NOTES:

Title *Mrs. Pritchard* The actress Hannah Pritchard (1711-1768), who played the lead role in *Creusa.*

11 *St. Stephenâ??s Pews* The House of Commons sat in the pews of the royal Chapel of St. Stephenâ??s until 1834, when it was destroyed by fire.

12 *Imprimis* First; â??in the first placeâ?• (*OED*).

17 *Midnight Play* Gambling.

20 *Piddle* â??Depreciative. To work or act in an ineffectual or wasteful way; to mess about or aroundâ?• (*OED).*

20 *Quinze* â??A card game resembling pontoonâ?• (*OED*).

20 *Brag* â??A game at cards, essentially identical with the modern game of â??poker'â?• (*OED*).

31 *Blonds and Laces* â??A silk lace of two threads, twisted and formed in hexagonal meshes; orig. of the colour of raw silk, but now white or black. Now usually written *blonde*, as always in Frenchâ?• *(OED).*

32 *French Hoops* Hoop skirts, a rigid undergarment worn by women to hold their skirts or gowns in a fashionable shape away from the body.

32 *French Silks* At this time, France produced some of the finest dress silks in Europe.

32 *French* C*ambricks* â??A kind of fine white linenâ?• (*OED*); by the 1750s, the importation of French cambric cloth had become something of a political issue because of high tariffs.

32 *French Faces* Garment trimmings; with the available double entendre of French men.

Source: *CREUSA, Queen of ATHENS. A TRAGEDY.* As it is Acted at the Theatre Royal in *Drury-lane* By His MAJESTYâ??s Servants. Written By Mr. William Whitehead. (London: Printed for R. and J. Dodsley in *Pall-mall;* And Sold by M. Cooper in *Pater-noster-Row.* 1754). [Google Books]

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