

George Woodward, "Upon an Ugly Fellow"

Description

GEORGE WOODWARD

"Upon an Ugly Fellow, who Thought Himself Handsome, because the Girls Gaz'd upon Him So Much"

Poor *Jack*'s of late grown
The Talk of the Town,
 The merest *Self-Dotard* in Fashion;
From a *Sloven* turns *Smart*,
And thinks from his Heart, 5
 He's the Handsomest Man in the Nation.

If a Girl does but place
Her Eyes on his Face,
 In order her Laughter to move;
The Fool seems in Anguish, 10
Looks aside with Languish,
 And concludes the poor Girl is *in Love*.

Come, *Jack*! then attend,
I speak as a Friend,
 Prithee! never look out with that View: 15
Don't think to prevail,
Where a Thousand may fail,
 Perhaps, ten Times as *Pretty* as You.

Should You think *every Miss*
In Love with that *Phyz*, 20
 Who looks at You, as I may do now;
E'en think you're a Bait,
And enjoy your Conceit,
 By my Soul! you'll have *Lovers* enough.

NOTES:

3 *Dotard* "An imbecile; a silly or stupid person" (OED).

4 *Sloven* "An untidy or dirty person; a person who is habitually indolent, negligent, or careless with regard to appearance, personal hygiene, household cleanliness, etc." (OED); *Smart* "A person who affects smartness in dress, manners, or speech" (OED).

11 *languish* â??A tender or amorous look or glanceâ?• (OED).

13 *attend* â??To turn oneâ??s ear to, listen toâ?• (OED).

15 *Prithee* â?? â??I pray theeâ?â??, â??I beg of youâ?â?; pleaseâ?• (OED).

20 *Phyz* â??A face or facial expression; countenanceâ?• (OED).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (Oxford, 1730), pp. 150-51. [Google Books]

Edited by Estrellita Rui