Jacob Axford, â??On my sudden going on board the Orford and her leaving the Landâ?•

Description

JACOB AXFORD

â??On my sudden going on board the Orford and her leaving the Landâ?•

And must I go? so sudden the Surprize!
Not one last Look to feed my longing Eyes?
No Time to tell the Partâ??ner of my Heart,
How long, or wherefore we so soon must part?
Be torn from all, that ALL my Soul held dear?
My Life, my Love, my Bliss, my All was her.
The kind Companion of each anxious Hour,
Fair Natureâ??s Pride, and Virtueâ??s choicest Flower:
Whose Conversation charmâ??d the tedious Day,
Whilst the wingâ??d Hours stole unperceivâ??d away:
Who softâ??ned Anguish with the Sweets of Love,
The last best Blessing of all bounteous Jove.
The Orford now, impatient for the Seas,
Waits the Conveyance of a gentle Breeze.
Thâ?? expectant Seaman now with eager Eyes
Sees the kind Zephyrs oâ??er the Waters rise.
The Waters whiten with thâ?? auspicious Gales
That fan the Air, and fill the swelling Sails:
The lofty Vessel throâ?? the liquid Way
Triumphant rides, and cuts the yielding Sea:
To fair *Britannia* bids a long Adieu,
And with far distant Countries in her View
Mounts oâ??er the Billows, glides along the Main,
Nor leaves thâ?? Impression on the watry Plain.
Adieu, fair *Britain*, native lovely Isle,
On whom Heaven deigns propitiously to smile;
Bright regal Seat of Princes and of Kings,
To whom each distant World its Tribute brings:
Blest Soil, where Plenty reigns throâ?? every Part,
Where bounteous Ceres chears each honest Heart:
Where every Blessing Nature can demand
The GOD of Nature gives with liberal Hand;
And all that Luxury can require, or Pride,
Is by the obedient Sea from far suppliâ??d:
Where pure Religion shines divinely bright;
Untainted here, and in its native Light:
Where Heaven born Liberty uprears its Head,

Its Godlike Influence throâ?? the Land to spread;
Where beauteous Virgins crown each amouros Swain,
And happy Subjects bless great Georgeâ??s Reign:
Farwel fair Isle! may every Blessing crown
Thy happy Shore, and mark it with Renown:
Thy mighty Arms may Conquest still attend,
Till haughty *Spain* shall sue to be thy Friend:
Till *Europeâ??s* Foes be greatly overthrown,
France find Submission and *Lorrain* a Throne:
O may no Faction vex thy friendly Shore,
But Peace prevail, and Discord be no more:
May differing Parties lay their Hatred by,
Ambition cease, and baneful Envy die:
Bliss, Love, and Union reign throughout thy Isle,
And Joys eternal on thy Natives smile.
The mighty Vessel labâ??ring with the Wind,
By narrow Seas no longer now confinâ??d,
To the vast Ocean wings her watry Way
And cuts her Passage throâ?? thâ?? Atlantic Sea.
So when thâ?? immortal Soul and Body part,
And Natureâ??s Call oâ??er-powers the Strength of Art;
Thâ?? aerial Mind from the embodying Clay
At the dread Summons breaks like Light away;
And, from the narrow Bound of Time set free,
Plunges into thâ?? Abyss of vast Eternity:
Stupendous Thought! here stop my Soul, and know
Thâ?? amazing Change that all must undergo:
When pale Disease proclaims thy parting Breath,
And sickâ??ning Nature tells approaching Death:
When the grim King of Terrors shall appear,
Thy tottâ??ring Frame when strong Convulsions tare:
How wilt thou dare to view thy future State?
Or stand the Shock of thy incumbent Fate?
Darâ??st thou reflect upon that awful Day,
When the great Judge in terrible Array,
To doom the guilty and the just to clear,
In all his Fatherâ??s Glory shall appear?
Leaves conscious Guilt no Stain upon thy Mind?
Hast thou no unrepented Vice behind?
Within the secret Chamber of thy Breast,
Lurks there no guilty no deceitful Guest?
Is all serene, and calm, and clear within?
Does Recollection tell no darling Sin?
Then boldly venture on the unknown Shore;
Death with his Terrors can affright no more:
Beyond the peaceful Mansions of the Grave,
No dismal Views thy guiltless Mind can have:
No Hopes, no Cares, thy Peace shall eâ??er annoy,

But Death shall prove thy Entrance into Joy:
When on the Bed of Sickness thou shalt lie,
And thy weak Frame shall totter, sink and die,
Thy conscious Innocence thy Mind shall chear,
And glorious Prospects opâ??ning shall appear:
Blest Choirs of Angels wait thy fleeting Soul,
And circling Joys throâ?? endless Ages roll.
Eternity shall short livâ??d Time devour,
And Guilt, and Pain, and Sorrow be no more.

NOTES:

Title *Orford* Ship possibly named after the Royal Navy Officer Edward Russell, the first Earl of Orford 1653-1727. Edward was one of the â??Immortal Sevenâ?• who encouraged William of Orange to usurp James II (â??Edward Russellâ?• *Wikipedia*).

12 *Jove* â??The supreme deity of the ancient Romans, corresponding to the Greek Zeus; the ruler of gods and men, and the god of the heavens, whose weapon was the thunderboltâ?• *(OED)*.

16 *Zephyrs* â??A soft mild gentle wind or breezeâ?• *(OED)*.

23 *Billows* A swelling wave of the sea produced by a high wind, but often used as a poetical reference to â??the seaâ?? *(OED)*.

23 *Main* As in mainsail, which is â??the principal sail of a shipâ?• *(OED)*.

26 *Propitiously* â??Of God, the fates, etc.: disposed to be favorable; gracious; merciful, lenientâ?• *(OED)*.

30 *Ceres* â??In Roman religion and mythology, goddess of grain; daughter of Saturn and Ops. She was identified by the Romans with the Greek Demeter. Her worship was connected with that of the earth goddess and involved not only fertility rites but also rites for the deadâ?• (*Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia*).

35 *pure Religion* Protestantism.

39 *amouros Swain* A male servant who is in love, enamored, or fond *(OED)*.

40 *Georgeâ??s Reign* George III (1738-1820), reigned from 1760.

43-46 *Thy mighty armsâ?¦France find Submission* The Second Hundred Yearsâ?? War consisted of a series of military conflicts between France and England, including the Seven Yearsâ?? War over the colonization of North America. Such conflicts caused England and France to be bitter rivals, while Spain and France remained allies (â??Second Hundred Yearsâ?? War,â?• *Wikipedia*; â??Pacte de Famille,â?• *Enclopedia Britannica)*.

46 *Lorrain a Throne* Dominion over Lorraine was exchanged between France and the Habsburgs of the Holy Roman Empire throughout the seventeenth century. â??Lorraine was given to StanisÅ?aw I, the former king of Poland and father-in-law of the French king Louis XV, by the treaties (1738) ending the War of the Polish Succession.â?• After Stanislaw Iâ??s death in 1766, Lorraine was officially under French rule (â??Lorraine Region, France,â?• *Encyclopedia Britannica*).

50 *baneful* â??Destructive to well-being, pernicious, injuriousâ?• *(OED)*.

68 *tare* â??The weight of the wrapping, receptacle, or conveyance containing goods, which is deducted from the gross in order to ascertain the net weightâ?• *(OED)*.

Source: ***Poems on Various Subjects, Divine, Moral and Entertaining: The Posthumous Works of Mr. Jacob Axford, Of the city of Bath, Late Surgeon of his Majestyâ??s Ship, Scipio; Written for his own Amusement.*** **(Bath: S. Martin, 1764), pp. 16-19). [*Google Books*]**

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