

No; I have curâ€™d myself of that *disease*;
Nor will I be provokâ€™d, but when I please:

But let me half that *cure* to you

restore; 35

You give the *salve*, I laid it to the *sore*.

Our kind relief against a rainy day,
Beyond a tavern, or a tedious play,
We take your book, and laugh our spleen away.

If all your *tribe*, too studious of *debate*, 40

Would cease false hopes and titles to create,
Led by the *rare example* you begun,
Clients would fail, and *Lawyers* be undone.

NOTES:

Title *Henry Higden* (fl. 1686-1693), poet, dramatist, translator; as a member of Middle Temple, he was also a barrister. Drydenâ€™s poem was one of three celebratory verses published in the front matter of Higdenâ€™s *A Modern Essay on the Tenth Satyr of Juvenal* (London, 1687); *Juvenal* (b. 55-60? CE, d. in or after 127 CE), the most powerful of all Roman satiric poets (Britannica).

1 Grecian wits The most well-known early Greek satirists included Aristophanes (446 BC-386 BC), and Lucian (c. 125-after 180).

2 pasquins Composers of lampoons, satirists (QED).

4 durst not That is, dared not (QED).

7 drolls A funny or waggish fellow; a merry-andrew, buffoon, jester, humorist (QED).

9 fop A foolish person, a fool (QED).

13 Court of Chancery "Court of equity to provide remedies not obtainable in the courts of common law" (Britannica).

14 Horace (65 BC-8BC), Latin lyric poet and satirist (Britannica).

16 yours Juvenalâ€™s [Publisherâ€™s note].

32 fray A disturbance, esp. one caused by fighting; a noisy quarrel, a brawl (QED).

SOURCE: *Original Poems, and Translations, in Two Volumes, vol. II* (Edinburgh, 1776), pp. 215-16 [Google Books]

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