

next they take their Flight:

Delville, where all the Wise resort, 35
Where oft the Muses keep their Court;
And veil'd from ev'ry mortal Eye
Thro' all the *Doctors* Rooms they pry,
They search his arbour'd Seats, and Garden,
(Fit Place to find a *Muse* or *Bard* in:) 40
Then turn'd his Papers o'er with Care,
And plainly found she had been there,
Such Learning, Elegance, and Ease,
Appear in all *Delany's* Lays,
Such Beauties in his Numbers shine, 45
As prove their Origin divine.

With these their Disappointments vex'd,
They fly to fair *Saphira* next,
And found her, forming into *Rhime*
A Thought exalted and Sublime, 50
Perceiv'd such Excellence and Wit,
Such Charms in all she spoke and writ,
As soon convinc'd their wondering Eyes,
The *Muse* was with her in Disguise,
And, fond the rising Age to bless, 55
Assum'd *amortal* Form and Dress.

The *God*, delighted, calms his Rage,
And crys, there Live, to charm the Age,
Be thou a gay inspiring Guest,
And fill, the soft Delights, her Breast, 60
That Breast with all that's good replete,
But *Clio*, this will be thy Fate,
Thou shalt contrive the deathless Lays,
But see *Saphira* win the Praise.

NOTES:

1 *Clio* - Proper name of the Muse of epic poetry and history (*QED*).

4 *Pindus* A range of mountains in west central Greece, stretching from the border with Albania southwards to the Gulf of Corinth (*OED*).

7 *God of Numbers* Apollo, God of poetry (*OED*).

15 Pope Alexander Pope (1688–1744), an English poet and a major figure of the Augustan age who is famous for his caustic wit and metrical skill, in particular his use of the heroic couplet (*OED*); *Delany* Patrick Delany (?1685–1768) an Irish clergyman and writer, friend of Jonathan Swift (*OED*); *Gay* John Gay (1685–1732) an English poet and playwright who is chiefly known for *The Beggar's Opera* (1728) (*OED*); *Swift* Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) an Irish satirist, poet, and Anglican cleric; known as Dean Swift. He is best known for *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) (*OED*).

18 Bards Poets (*OED*).

20 Hermes – In Greek mythology, a deity, the son of Zeus and Maia, represented as the messenger of the gods, the god of science, commerce, eloquence, and many of the arts of life (*OED*).

24 Eblana Name recorded in Ptolemy's geography (2nd cent. ad) for the site of what is now Dublin (*OED*).

26 Apollo The god of the sun, truth, music, poetry, dance and healing. Poets and bards put themselves under his protection (*OED*).

34 Delville The Delany estate located in Glasnevin, Ireland; a separate village in the eighteenth century, now part of Dublin.

48 Saphira Mary Barber (c. 1685-c.1755), poet and friend of Swift and Delany (*Memoirs of Laetitia Pilkington*, vol. I, ed. A.C. Elias, Jr, 393).

49 Rhime – Metre, measure (in verse) (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (1730), pp. 52-58. [Google Books]

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