Mary Darwall, â??To my Gardenâ?•

Description

[MARY DARWALL]

â??To my Gardenâ?•

Fair Abode of Rural Ease,
Scene of Beauty, and of Peace!
When with anxious Care opprest,
Charm, O! charm my Soul to rest!
In thy Walks I musing trace
Youthful *Floraâ??*s various Race;
In thy fragrant Shades reclinâ??d,
Soothe with Song my vacant Mind.
When the God of Verse and Day,
Lends the Western World his Ray;
While the Virgin Queen of Night,
Sheds around her Silver Light;
While *Favonius* breathes a Gale,
Sweet as oâ??er *Sabeaâ??*s Vale;
Here retirâ??d, in artless Lays,
Natureâ??s Daughter sings her Praise.
While the blushing Rose-bud vies
With the fringâ??d Carnationâ??s Dyes;
While chaste *Daphneâ??*s Branches twine
With the balmy Eglantine;
Beautyâ??s Powâ??rs my Mind inspire,
Bolder now I strike the Lyre.
But the trembling Strings rebound,
â??Sweet *Philander*!â?• Darling Sound!
Not the friendly Western Gales
Dancing oâ??er the verdant Vales,
Nor the Black-birdâ??s Evening Strains,
Soothe the Breast where *Cupid* reigns.
*Floraâ??*s Charms no more I view;
No more the Heavâ??nâ??s etherial Blue;
Unheeded *Philomel* complains;
In vain fair *Cynthia* gilds the Plains:
Beauty fades, and *Pleasureâ??*s flownâ??
My Mind contemplates *him* alone.

NOTES:

6 *Flora* The Roman â??goddess of the flowering of plantsâ?• *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

9 *God of Verse and Day* Apollo, god of the sun and poetry *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

11 *Virgin Queen of Night* Diana, Roman goddess of wild animals, the hunt, and later the moon after connections were made between her and the Greek goddess Artemis *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

13 *Favonius* Roman god of the west wind, also known as Zephyrus in the Greek tradition, who kissed a nymph named Chloris and turned her into Flora *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

14 *Sabea* Pre-Islamic Southwestern Arabia *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

16 *Natureâ??s Daughter* Persephone, queen of the underworld and daughter of Demeter, Greek goddess of agriculture *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

19 *Daphneâ??s Branches* A reference to a laurel tree; according to Greek mythology, Daphne asked her father to turn her into a laurel tree in order to escape Apolloâ??s advances (*Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*).

20 *Eglantine* Small, prickly wild rose with fragrant foliage and numerous small pink flowers *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

28 *Cupid* The Roman god of â??love in all its varietiesâ?• *(Encyclopedia Britannica)*.

30 *etherial* Archaic spelling of â??ethereal,â?• â??heavenly, celestialâ?• *(OED)*.

31 *Philomel* Also known as â??Philomela;â?• here the mythological personification of the nightingale.

32 *Cynthia* â??A poetic name for the Moon personified as a goddessâ?• *(OED)*.

Source: *Original Poems on Several Occasions. By Miss Whateley* (London 1764), pp. 98-99. [*Google Books*]

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