

Priscilla Pointon, Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasion

Description

PRISCILLA POINTON

Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasion

Inserted by Desire.

You bid me write, Sir, I comply,
Since I my grave airs can't deny.
But say, how can my Muse declare
The situation of the Fair,
That full six hours had sat, or more, 5
And never once been out of door?
Tea, wine, and punch, Sir, to be free,
Excellent diuretics be:
I made it so appear, it's true,
When at your House, last night, with you: 10
Blushing, I own, to you I said,
I should be glad you'd call a maid.
The girls, you answer'd are from home,
Nor can I guess when they'll return.
Then in contempt you came to me, 15
And sneering cry'd, Dear Miss, make free;
Let me conduct you don't be nice?
Or if a bason is your choice,
To fetch you one I'll instant fly.
I blush'd, but could not make reply; 20
Confus'd, to find myself the joke,
I silent sat till TRUEWORTH spoke:
To go with me, Miss, don't refuse,
Your loss this freedom will excuse.
To him my hand reluctant gave, 25
And out he led me very grave;
Whilst you and CHATFREE laugh'd aloud,
As if to dash a Maid seem'd proud.
But I the silly jest despise,
Since well I know each man that's wise; 30
All affectation does disdain,
Since it in Prudes and Coxcombs reign:
So I repent not what I've done;
Adieu enjoy your empty fun.

NOTES:

8 *diuretics* • Having the quality of exciting (excessive) excretion or discharge of urine • (OED).

17 *nice* • Precise or particular in matters of reputation or conduct • (OED).

18 *bason* Variation of • basin, • a circular vessel of greater width than depth, with sloping or curving sides, used for holding water and other liquids, especially for washing purposes • (OED).

22 *TRUEWORTH* An allusion to Mr. Truworth, a character in Eliza Haywood's novel *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless* (1751) who represents the ideal gentleman.

27 *CHATFREE* An allusion to Mr. Chatfree, a character in the same novel who represents a less-than-ideal gentlemanly figure.

28 *dash* • To destroy, ruin, confound, bring to nothing, frustrate, spoil • (OED).

32 *Coxcombs* • A vain, conceited, or pretentious man; a man of ostentatiously affected mannerisms or appearance; a fop. In later use usually in form coxcomb • (OED).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (1770), pp. 31-34. [Google Books]

Edited by Michelle Yu