

Anonymous, "Second Thoughts are Best"

Description

ANONYMOUS

• Second Thoughts are Best •

Sung by Mrs. WRIGHTEN at VAUXHALL.

Composed by Mr. Hook.

Come list to me, ye gay and free,
And ye whom cares molest,
War, Wine, and Love, but tend to prove,
That *second Thoughts are best!*

The Queen of Charms, the God of Arms, 5
Gay *Bacchus* and the rest,
When ask'd ne'er flounce, but all pronounce
That *second Thoughts are best!*

The jealous boy, if *Daphne's* coy,
'Gainst *Cupid* will protest; 10

His nymph disdain, then think again;
For *second Thoughts are best!*

The fair-one too, unus'd to woo,
Drives *Henry* from her breast,
Then seeks the elf, makes love herself, 15
For *second Thoughts are best!*

And *Mars*, who doats on scarlet coats,
I'm sure will stand the test,
Nor frowns on her, who dares aver,
That *second Thoughts are best!* 20

Men *Neptune* too, our fleet in view,
Kept *Gallia's* fleet in *Brest*,
They meant to fight, he put them right"
Their *second Thoughts are best!*

Again but mark the tippling spark, 25
When feated as a guest,
At first resign his darling wine,
But *second Thoughts are best!*

And you, I see, will side with me,

Some, louder than the rest, 30

Will cry, no more, and then encore,

But *second Thoughts are best!*

NOTES:

Subtitle *Mrs. Wrihten* Mary Ann Wrihten (1751-1796) English singer, actress, and composer in the eighteenth century (Wikipedia); *Vauxhall* Eighteenth-century London pleasure garden, located on the south bank of the River Thames, that hosted many forms of entertainment such as art, poetry and music (Vauxhall Gardens • Wikipedia); *Mr. Hook* James Hook (1746-1827), English composer and organist who performed regularly at Vauxhall Gardens for forty-six years (Wikipedia).

6 *Bacchus* The god of wine; hence, wine, intoxicating liquor (OED).

9 *Cupid* God of love.

17 *Mars* God of war.

21 *Neptune* God of freshwater and the sea.

22 *Gallia's fleet* The French navy; Gaul is the ancient name for the region which today includes France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

25 *Tippling* Habitual alcohol use (OED).

Source: *The Gentlemen's Magazine* (July, 1781) p. 334.

Edited by Fernando Mendoza