Anonymous, â??Second Thoughts are Bestâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??Second Thoughts are Bestâ?•

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,
Gay *Bacchus* and the rest,
When askâ??d neâ??er flounce, but all pronounce
That *second Thoughts are best!*

The jealous boy, if *Daphneâ??s* coy,
â??Gainst *Cupid* will protest;
His nymph disdain, then think again;
For *second Thoughts are best!*
The fair-one too, unusâ??d to woo,
Drives *Henry* from her breast,
Then seeks the elf, makes love herself,
For *second Thoughts are best!*

And *Mars*, who doats on scarlet coats,
Iâ??m sure will stand the test,
Nor frowns on her, who dares aver,
That *second Thoughts are best!*
Eâ??en *Neptune* too, our fleet in view,
Kept *Galliaâ??s* fleet in *Brest*,
They meant to fight, he put them rightâ??
Their *second Thoughts are best!*

Again but mark the tippling spark,
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,
Will cry, no more, and then encore,
But *second Thoughts are best!*

NOTES:

Subtitle *Mrs. Wrighten* Mary Ann Wrighten (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 (â??Vauxhall Gardensâ?• 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; â??hence, wine, intoxicating liquorâ?• (*OED*).

9 *Cupid* God of love.

17 *Mars* God of war.

21 *Neptune* God of freshwater and the sea.

22 *Galliaâ??s fleet* The French navy; Gaul is the ancient name for the region which today includes France, Belgium, and Luxenbourg.

25 *Tippling* Habitual alcohol use (*OED*).

Source: *The Gentlemenâ??s Magazine* (July, 1781) p. 334.

Edited by Fernando Mendoza