

Mary Darwall, "To my Garden"

Description

[MARY DARWALL]

"To my Garden"

Fair Abode of Rural Ease, Scene of Beauty, and of Peace! When with anxious Care oppress, Charm, O! charm my Soul to rest! In thy Walks I musing trace	5
Youthful <i>Flora</i> 's various Race; In thy fragrant Shades reclined, Soothe with Song my vacant Mind. When the God of Verse and Day, Lends the Western World his Ray;	10
While the Virgin Queen of Night, Sheds around her Silver Light; While <i>Favonius</i> breathes a Gale, Sweet as <i>Sabea</i> 's Vale; Here retired, in artless Lays,	15
<i>Nature</i> 's Daughter sings her Praise. While the blushing Rose-bud vies With the fringed Carnation's Dyes; While chaste <i>Daphne</i> 's Branches twine With the balmy Eglantine;	20
Beauty's Powers my Mind inspire, Bolder now I strike the Lyre. But the trembling Strings rebound, Sweet <i>Philander</i> ! Darling Sound! Not the friendly Western Gales	25
Dancing o'er the verdant Vales, Nor the Black-bird's Evening Strains, Soothe the Breast where <i>Cupid</i> reigns. <i>Flora</i> 's Charms no more I view; No more the Heav'n's etherial Blue;	30
Unheeded <i>Philomel</i> complains; In vain fair <i>Cynthia</i> gilds the Plains: <i>Beauty</i> fades, and <i>Pleasure</i> 's flown My Mind contemplates <i>him</i> alone.	

NOTES:

6 *Flora* The Roman goddess of the flowering of plants (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 *Nature's Daughter* Persephone, queen of the underworld and daughter of Demeter, Greek goddess of agriculture (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

19 *Daphne'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 Apollo'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 love in all its varieties• (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

30 *etherial* Archaic spelling of ethereal, heavenly, celestial• (*OED*).

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

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

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

Edited by Jordie Palmer