

Anonymous, *â??A Picture taken from the Lifeâ??*•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??A PICTURE taken from the LIFEâ??•

NATURE and Fortune one day meeting
Each other hailâ??d with courteous greeting.
And Fortune first, â??Where have you been,
Sister! that youâ??re so seldom seen?
What youth, or what romantic fair, 5
Is now the object of your care?â??
Nature replyâ??d, with accent grave,
â??A favâ??rite charge indeed I have.
A maid with every virtue gracâ??d,
Is in a calm retirement placâ??d. 10
Her heart with goodness is replete,
Her wit is keen, her temper sweet.
Good-humour brightens evâ??ry feature;
She is a most engaging creature.â??
â??Indeed, cries Fortune, with a sneer, 15
You know not what you say, my dear.
You cannot think, in these our days,
Virtue a modern femaleâ??s praise.
Send her to me, and Iâ??ll engage
Three months shall fit her for the age. 20
The glare of dress, the charms of play,
Shall chace her sober thoughts away.
Wealth and ambition shall combine
To make this fair-one wholly mine.â??
Says Nature, â??You have my permission, 25
But it must be on this condition:
If, as I trust, she shall refine,
And from temptation brighter shine,
To me henceforth youâ??ll quit the field,
And Fortune shall to Nature yield.â?? 30
Things thus agreed, thâ?? accomplishâ??d maid
To distant regions is conveyâ??d.
Drawn from her scene of private life,
The virgin soon became a wife:
Her consortâ??s brow, with laurel crownâ??d, 35
In chains the vanquishâ??d Nabob bound:
Like Philipâ??s son in warlike state,

Thrice conquerâ??d India, owns him great.
 Returning home, what triumphs rise!
 Enough to dazzle female eyes: 40
 His riches Polandâ??s crown would buy,
 His glories with his riches vie.
 Fortune enragâ??d, to Nature hies,
 â??I thought your paragon was wise;
 Sure such a mother, such a wife, 45
 Was never seen in courtly life.
 When I bestowâ??d a son and heir,
 I never dreamt â??twould be her care,
 That he not only should inherit
 His fatherâ??s fortune, but his merit. 50
 Sheâ??d rather wipe the widowâ??s tears,
 Than wear a province at her ears.â?•
 Nature replyâ??d, â??The contest end,
 Be Fortune once true Virtueâ??s friend:
 And let it be our mutual care 55
 To bless throâ?? life this matchless pair.
 From us they must their joys derive:
 Nature and Fortune join for CLIVE.â?•

NOTES:

36 *Vanquished Nabob* A reference to Indian vassals under British rule.

37 *Philipâ??s son* A reference to Alexander the Great (356 BC-323 BC), who ruled Macedonia and conquered a large amount of land stretching from eastern Europe into Asia.

38 *Thrice conquerâ??d India* Reference to the exploits of Robert Clive (1725-1774), known as â??Clive of India,â?• who established British colonial power in India.

58 *CLIVE* This final statement implies that Robert Clive was the embodiment of all the best virtues given by Nature and Fortune.

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine* (February, 1780), p. 91.

Edited by Serena McNair