

William Whitehead, *A Second Epilogue*. Spoken by Mrs. Pritchard

Description

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD

A SECOND EPILOGUE. Spoken by Mrs. PRITCHARD

*Stay, Ladies! Tho' I am almost tired to Death
With this long Part and am so out of Breath-
Yet such a lucky Thought kind Heaven has sent,
That if I die for't, I must give it Vent.*

The Men you know are gone. And now, suppose, 5
*Before our Lords and Masters are rechose,
We take the Advantage of an empty Town,
And chuse a House of Commons of our own.
What think ye, cannot we make Laws? and then,
Cannot we too unmake them, like the Men?* 10
*O place us once in good St. Stephen's Pews,
We'll shew them Women have their public Use.
Imprimis, they shall marry; not a Man
Past twenty-five, but what shall wear the Chain
Next, we'll in earnest set about Reclaiming,* 15
*For, by my Life and Soul, we'll put down Gaming.
We'll spoil their deep destructive Midnight Play;
The Laws we make, we'll force them to obey;
Unless we let them, when their Spirits flag,
Piddle with us, ye know, at Quinze and Brag.* 20
*I hope, my Dearest says some well-bred Spouse,
When such a Bill shall come before your House,
That you'll consider Men are Men- at least
That you'll not Speak, my Dear? Not speak? The Beast!
What, would you wound my Honour? Wrongs like these-* 25
*For this, Sir, I shall bring you on your Knees.
Or, if we're quite good-natured, tell the Man
We'll do him all the Service that we can.*

*Then for ourselves, what Projects, what Designs?
We'll tax, and double tax their nasty Wines;* 30
*But Duty-free import our Blonds and Laces,
French Hoops, French Silks, French Cambricks, and- French Faces.*

*In short, my Scheme is not compleated quite,
But I may tell ye more another Night.
So come again, come all, and let us raise* 35
*Such glorious Trophies to our Country's Praise,
That all true Britons shall with one Consent,*

Cry out, â??Long live the Female Parliament!â?•
THE END.

NOTES:

Title *Mrs. Pritchard* The actress Hannah Pritchard (1711-1768), who played the lead role in *Creusa*.

11 *St. Stephenâ??s Pews* The House of Commons sat in the pews of the royal Chapel of St. Stephenâ??s until 1834, when it was destroyed by fire.

12 *Imprimis* First; â??in the first placeâ?• (OED).

17 *Midnight Play* Gambling.

20 *Piddle* â??Depreciative. To work or act in an ineffectual or wasteful way; to mess about or aroundâ?• (OED).

20 *Quinze* â??A card game resembling pontoonâ?• (OED).

20 *Brag* â??A game at cards, essentially identical with the modern game of â??pokerâ?• (OED).

31 *Blonds and Laces* â??A silk lace of two threads, twisted and formed in hexagonal meshes; orig. of the colour of raw silk, but now white or black. Now usually written *blonde*, as always in Frenchâ?• (OED).

32 *French Hoops* Hoop skirts, a rigid undergarment worn by women to hold their skirts or gowns in a fashionable shape away from the body.

32 *French Silks* At this time, France produced some of the finest dress silks in Europe.

32 *French Cambricks* â??A kind of fine white linenâ?• (OED); by the 1750s, the importation of French cambric cloth had become something of a political issue because of high tariffs.

32 *French Faces* Garment trimmings; with the available double entendre of French men.

Source: *CREUSA, Queen of ATHENS. A TRAGEDY. As it is Acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane By His MAJESTYâ??s Servants. Written By Mr. William Whitehead. (London: Printed for R. and J. Dodsley in Pall-mall; And Sold by M. Cooper in Pater-noster-Row. 1754).* [Google Books]

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