Matthew Concanen, â??A Balladâ?•

Description

MATTHEW CONCANEN

â??A Balladâ?•

Sung in the Same Play, by Mr. Layfield, *who Acted the* Inn-Keeper.

I.

How void of Ease,
He spends his Days,
Who wastes his Time in Thinking?
How like a Beast,
That neâ??er can taste
The Pleasures of good Drinking?

May Curses light upon the Sot
That ever kennels sober,
Or rises eâ??er without a Pot
Of lovely Brown *OCTOBER*.

II.

Let others raise
Their Voice, to praise
The *Rhenish* or the *Sherry*,
The Sparkling *White*,
Champaign so bright,
The *Claret* or *Canary*.

â??Tis true, theyâ??ll thaw the freezing Blood,
And hinder our being sober;
But what for that was eâ??er so good
As lovely Brown *OCTOBER*?

III.

What Knaves are they,
Who cross the Sea,
To bring such Stuffs among us?
How blind are we,
Who will not see

How grievously they wrong us?

They spoil the Products of the Land,
And of her Coin disrobe her;
But yet their Dregs can never stand
Against our Brave *OCTOBER*.

IV.

My jolly Boys,
Let us rejoyce,
And cast away all Sorrow.
Letâ??s never think,
While thus we drink,
What may fall out tomorrow.

Letâ??s waste our Wealth, enjoy Content,
And never more live sober:
By *Jove*, the Coin is brightly spent,
Thatâ??s melted in *OCTOBER*.

NOTES:

Subtitle The play in question is Concanenâ??s *Wexford-Wells*, which was performed at Dublinâ??s Smock Alley Theatre on November 7, 1720. Lewis Layfield played the role of Inn-Keeper (*The Dublin Stage, 1720-1745: A Calendar of Plays, Entertainments, and Afterpieces*, p. 94).

7 *Sot* â??One who dulls or stupefies himself with drinkingâ?• (*OED*).

10 *Brown OCTOBER* A brown ale generally associated with the harvest season.

13 *Rhenish* â??Wine produced in the Rhine regionâ?• of Germany (*OED*); *Sherry* â??White wine made near Xeres (now Jerez de la Frontera),â?• in Andalusia, Spain (*OED*).

16 *Claret* â??A name originally given (like French *vin clairet*) to wines of yellowish or light red colourâ?• (*OED*); *Canary* â??A sweet fortified white wine produced in the Canary Islandsâ?• (*OED*).

21 *Knaves* â??A dishonest unprincipled manâ?• (*OED*).

29 *Dregs* â??The sediment of liquors; the more solid particles which settle at the bottom of a solutionâ?• (*OED*).

39 *Jove* â??A poetical equivalent of *Jupiter*, name of the highest deity of the ancient Romansâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *Poems, Upon Several Occasions* (Dublin, 1722), pp. 33-35. [*Google Books*]

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