Anonymous, â??Epilogueâ?•

Description

ANONYMOUS

â??Epilogueâ?•

Hard is the task to trace the poetâ??s life,
Where praise and censure ever are at strife;
Where wit and weakness in succession reign
And hold, by turns, thâ?? enthusiast in their train.
He (to whose rapid eye the Muse hath givâ??n
â??To glance from Heavâ??n to earth, then earth to Heavâ??n,â?•)
Oâ??erlooks all vulgar arts and sober rules,
And leaves the world to knaves and thriving fools:
By all admirâ??d, rewarded, and carest,
No future cares perplex his anxious breast;
No gloomy wants the smiling hours oâ??ercast,
He paints each year propitious as the last;
Whilst his warm heart, forever unconfinâ??d,
Expands for all the wants of all mankind.
Hence private griefs from virtuous weakness flow;
Hence social pleasures prove domestic woe.
Oftâ?? on this spot the Muse, with solemn mien,
And artful sadness, fills the tragic scene;
The well-feignâ??d sorrows your attention gain,
Whilst the prompt tear attests the pleasing pain:
But our sad story needs no poetâ??s art
To tutor grief, and heave the swelling heart.
To you the deep distress is not unknown,
And, Britons, you have made the cause your own.
â??O may your gentle bosoms never prove
Thâ?? untimely loss of those you dearly love!
Since thus your feeling hearts the aid supply
To sooth the widowâ??s pangs, and orphanâ??s sigh.

NOTES:

6 *â??To glanceâ?¦ Heavâ??nâ?•* Quotation from Shakespeareâ??s *A Midsummer Nightâ??s Dream* (V.i.1842). The original reads: â??The poets eye, in fine frenzy rolling,/ Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to Heaven.â?•

9 c*arest* Caressed.

24 *Britons* British people.

SOURCE: ***The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*** **(June 1777), pp. 286-87.**

Edited by Cydnei Jordan