â??Tom Telltroth,â?• â??On the Hon. Masterâ??-who bled to Death, after a cross Incision on the Jugular, by a French Empiricâ?•

Description

â??TOM TELLTROTHâ?•

â??On The Hon. Masterâ??-who bled to Death, after a cross Incision on the Jugular, by a French Empiricâ?•

All Sciences a fawning Monsieur knows. London a Poem.

When thousands fall in spite of *skill*
What wonder *Ignorance* should kill?
Such, noble youth, was thy hard fate,
Thy life cut short before its date!
Whose ancestors *Britannia*â??*s* boast,
In thee a rising heroâ??s lost!
Resolvâ??d, the slaughtâ??rer oâ??er thee stood,
To have at all events thy blood,
Throâ?? thy arterial channels broke,
And butcherâ??d with repeated stroke.
But let this tale be never heard;
Still be the foreign tribe preferâ??d,
Trust them, ye great, their pockets fill,
They only rob, betray and kill.

NOTES:

Title *Empyric* Archaic spelling of empiric. A practitioner of medicine who lacks academic training and qualifications; a practitioner of traditional or folk medicine (*OED*).

Epigraph *All Sciences a Fawning Monsieur knows* Samuel Johnson, â??London,â?• line 115: â??All Sciences a fasting Monsieur knows.â?• For Johnsonâ??s *fasting* (Catholic, religious observation of abstinence of food) Telltroth substitutes *fawning* (cringing, servile flattery or homage) (*OED*).

5 *Britannia* Britain personified as a woman; the figure representing this, depicted wearing a helmet, holding a shield and trident, and usually seated, emblematic of Britain (or England) esp. as an imperial or sea power, or as a symbol of nationalism (*OED*).

7-10 *Resolvâ??dâ?¦stroke* These lines describe the process of extracting blood (from a person, animal, vein, or part of the body) for (supposed) therapeutic practices (*OED*).

11 *this tale* â??His Death is said to be from a Feverâ?• [Authorâ??s Note].

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine,* vol. 13 (April 1743), pp. 212-213.

Edited by Keith Roche