Priscilla Pointon, â??Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasionâ?•

Description

PRISCILLA POINTON

â??Address to a Bachelor, On a delicate Occasionâ?•

Inserted by Desire.

You bid me write, Sir, I comply,
Since I my grave airs canâ??t deny.
But say, how can my Muse declare
The situation of the Fair,
That full six hours had sat, or more,
And never once been out of door?
Tea, wine, and punch, Sir, to be free,
Excellent diuretics be:
I made it so appear, itâ??s true,
When at your House, last night, with you:
Blushing, I own, to you I said,
â??I should be glad youâ??d call a maid.â?•
â??The girls,â?• you answerâ??d â??are from home,
Nor can I guess when theyâ??ll return.â?•
Then in contempt you came to me,
And sneering cryâ??d, â??Dear Miss, make free;
â??Let me conduct youâ??donâ??t be niceâ??
Or if a bason is your choice,
To fetch you one Iâ??ll instant fly.â?•
I blushâ??d, but could not make reply;
Confusâ??d, to find myself the joke,
I silent sat till TRUEWORTH spoke:
â??To go with me, Miss, donâ??t refuse,
Your loss this freedom will excuse.â?•
To him my hand reluctant gave,
And out he led me very grave;
Whilst you and CHATFREE laughâ??d aloud,
As if to dash a Maid seemâ??d proud.
But I the silly jest despise,
Since well I know each man thatâ??s wise;
All affectation does disdain,
Since it in Prudes and Coxcombs reign:
So I repent not what Iâ??ve done;
Adieuâ??enjoy your empty fun.

NOTES:

8 *diuretics â??*Having the quality of exciting (excessive) excretion or discharge of urineâ?• (*OED*).

17 *nice* â??Precise or particular in matters of reputation or conductâ?• (*OED*).

18 *bason* Variation of â??basin,â?• â??a circular vessel of greater width than depth, with sloping or curving sides, used for holding water and other liquids, especially for washing purposesâ?• (*OED*).

22 *TRUEWORTH* An allusion to Mr. Trueworth, a character in Eliza Haywoodâ??s novel *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless* (1751) who represents the ideal gentleman.

27 *CHATFREE* An allusion to Mr. Chatfree, a character in the same novel who represents a less-than-ideal gentlemanly figure.

28 *dash* â??To destroy, ruin, confound, bring to nothing, frustrate, spoilâ?• (*OED*).

32 *Coxcombs* â??A vain, conceited, or pretentious man; a man of ostentatiously affected mannerisms or appearance; a fop. In later use usually in form coxcombâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *Poems on Several Occasions* (1770), pp. 31-34. [Google Books]

Edited by Michelle Yu