Anne Ross, â??Upon the Flight of a Favorite Owlâ?•

Description

ANNE ROSS

â??Upon the Flight of a Favourite Owlâ?•

It happenâ??d in the month of May,
A Ladyâ??s pet flew far away,
From a fine house as bright as day,
To seek a gloomy dwelling.

To thickest woods, as dark as night,
Where neither coal nor candle light,
Nor Ladies with their eyes so bright,
Would set his pipe a-yelling.

But Robin Redbreast, he comes in,
When Winterâ??s frosts and snows begin,
Says, â??Ladies, please to let me in,
To warm me by your fire.

Your hospitable care I claim;
The helpless you do oft maintain:
I only ask a little grain,
â??Tis all that I require.

Let Owls in solitude seek rest,
To me good company is best;
None ever was with want oppressâ??d
When under your protection.â?•

The Ladies smilâ??d to see their guest,
And kindly thus the bird addressâ??d:
â??Weâ??ll skreen you till the Winterâ??s past,
And warm you in our dwelling.

With bounteous hand we will maintain,
And keep you from the wind and rain,
That cheerful here you may remain,
And let the wind be bellâ??wing.â?•

Then Robin Redbreast made a bow:
â??Ladies, a thousand thanks to you,
Your kindness you shall never rue,

In granting my desire.

May Providence keep you from harm,
And fill your stack-yard and your barn,
And shield you safely from the storm,
And warm you in a caulâ?? day.

And when ye walk among your trees,
The ground thatâ??s damp Iâ??ll spread with leaves,
And spare the flowâ??rs to feed your bees,
That ye may still have honey.â?•

The bees that suck the summer flowers,
From labour, all their sweetness pours,
And plenty, in a golden shower,
Supplies the land with money.

The sun did shine, he took his leave,
And many a bow and glance did give,
Then gallantly his wings did wave,
â??Good-morrow to you Ladies.â?•

NOTES:

8 *pipe* â??The voice or vocal cordsâ?• (*OED*).

23 *skreen* Variant of â??screen,â?• â??to shelter or protectâ?• (*OED*).

33 *Providence* â??The care of God over all beingsâ?• (Johnson).

34 *stack-yard* â??A farmyard where stacks of hay are storedâ?• (*OED*).

36 *caulâ??* Variant of â??cauld,â?• Scottish form of â??coldâ?• (*SND*).

SOURCE: ***A Collection of Poems*** **(Glasgow, 1798), pp. 15-17. [Google Books]**

Edited by Grace Elfers