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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

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S I X

T O W N E C L O G U E S .

By the Right Hon. L. M. W. M.

M O N D A Y.

ROXANA, or, the Drawing-Room.

ROXANA from the court retiring late,
 Sigh'd her soft sorrows at St. JAMES's gate :
 Such heavy thoughts lay brooding in her breast,
 Not her own chairmen with more weight oppress'd ;
 They groan the cruel load they're doom'd to bear ;
 She in these gentle sounds express'd her care.

“ Was it for this, that I these roses wear,
 “ For this new-set the jewels for my hair ?
 “ Ah ! princess ! with what zeal have I pursu'd !
 “ Almost forgot the duty of a prude.
 “ Thinking I never cou'd attend too soon,
 “ I've miss'd my prayers, to get me dress'd by noon.

“ For

" For thee, ah ! what for thee did I resign ?
 " My pleasures, passions, all that e'er was mine.
 " I sacrific'd both modesty and ease,
 " Left operas, and went to filthy plays ;
 " Double entendres shock'd my tender ear,
 " Yet even this for thee I chose to bear.
 " In glowing youth, when nature bids be gay,
 " And every joy of life before me lay,
 " By honour prompted, and by pride restrain'd,
 " The pleasures of the young my soul disdain'd :
 " Sermons I fought, and with a mein severe
 " Censur'd my neighbours, and said daily pray'r.
 " Alas ! how chang'd !—with the same sermon mein
 " That once I pray'd, the *What-d'ye call't* I've seen.
 " Ah ! cruel princess, for thy sake I've lost
 " That reputation which so dear had cost :
 " I, who avoided every publick place,
 " When bloom and beauty bid me show my face ;
 " Now near thee constant ev'ry night abide
 " With never-failing duty by thy side,
 " Myself and daughters standing on a row,
 " To all the foreigners a goodly show !
 " Oft had your drawing-room been sadly thin,
 " And merchants' wives close by the chair been seen ;
 " Had not I amply fill'd the empty space,
 " And sav'd your highness from the dire disgrace.
 " Yet COQUETILLA's artifice prevails,
 " When all my merit and my duty fails :



- " That COQUETILLA, whose deluding airs
 " Corrupts our virgins, and our youth ensnares ;
 " So sunk her character, so lost her fame,
 " Scarce visited before your highness came :
 " Yet for the bed-chamber 'tis her you chuse,
 " When Zeal and Fame and Virtue you refuse.
 " Ah ! worthy choice ! not one of all your train
 " Whom censure blasts not, and dishonours stain.
 " Let the nice hind now suckle dirty pigs,
 " And the proud pea-hen hatch the cuckoo's eggs !
 " Let IRIS leave her paint and own her age,
 " And grave SUFFOLKA wed a giddy page !
 " A greater miracle is daily view'd,
 " A virtuous princess with a court so lewd.
 " I know thee, Court ! with all thy treach'rous wiles,
 " Thy false careffes and undoing smiles !
 " Ah ! princess, learn'd in all the courtly arts
 " To cheat our hopes, and yet to gain our hearts.
 " Large lovely bribes are the great statesman's aim ;
 " And the neglected patriot follows fame.
 " The prince is ogled ; some the king pursue ;
 " But your ROXANA only follows YOU.
 " Despis'd ROXANA, cease, and try to find
 " Some other, since the princess proves unkind ;
 " Perhaps it is not hard to find at court,
 " If not a greater, a more firm support."