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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

To a Lady, sent with a Present to Shells and Stones design'd for a Grotto.
By the Same.

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To a LADY, sent with a Present of Shells and
Stones design'd for a GROTTTO.

By the Same.

With gifts like these, the spoils of neighb'ring shores,
The Indian swain his fable love adores,
Off'rings well suited to the dusky shrine
Of his rude goddess, but unworthy mine :
And yet they seem not such a worthless prize,
If nicely view'd by philosophick eyes :
And such are yours, that nature's works admire
With warmth like that, which they themselves inspire.
To such how fair appears each grain of sand,
Or humblest weed, as wrought by nature's hand !
How far superior to all human pow'r
Springs the green blade, or buds the painted flow'r !
In all her births, tho' of the meanest kinds,
A just observer entertainment finds,
With fond delight her low productions sees,
And how she gently rises by degrees ;
A shell, or stone he can with pleasure view,
Hence trace her noblest works, the heav'ns—and you.

Behold,

Behold, how bright these gaudy trifles shine,
 The lovely sportings of a hand divine !
 See with what art each curious shell is made,
 Here carv'd in fret-work, there with pearl inlaid !
 What vivid streaks th' enamel'd stones adorn,
 Fair as the paintings of the purple morn !
 Yet still not half their charms can reach our eyes,
 While thus confus'd the sparkling Chaos lies ;
 Doubly they'll please, when in your Grotto plac'd,
 They plainly speak the fair disposer's taste ;
 Then glories yet unseen shall o'er them rise,
 New order from your hand, new lustre from your eyes.

How sweet, how charming will appear this Grot,
 When by your art to full perfection brought !
 Here verdant plants, and blooming flow'rs will grow ;
 There bubbling currents through the shell-work flow ;
 Here coral mix'd with shells of various dies,
 There polish'd stone will charm our wond'ring eyes ;
 Delightful bow'r of bliss ! secure retreat !
 Fit for the Muses, and STATIRA's feat.

But still how good must be that fair-one's mind,
 Who thus in solitude can pleasure find !
 The Muse her company, good-sense her guide,
 Refiftless charms her pow'r, but not her pride :
 Who thus forsakes the town, the park, and play,
 In silent shades to pass her hours away ;
 Who better likes to breathe fresh country air,
 Than ride imprifon'd in a velvet chair,

And

