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**A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands**

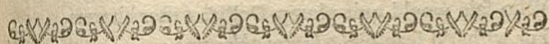
**Dodsley, Robert**

**London, 1758**

The Modern Fine Lady.

**urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1978**

Turns downright sharper, lives by sucking blood,  
 And grows, in short, the very thing he wou'd :  
 Hunts out young heirs, who have their fortunes spent,  
 And lends them ready cash at cent per cent,  
 Lays wagers on his own, and others lives,  
 Fights uncles, fathers, grandmothers and wives,  
 Till death at length, indignant to be made  
 The daily subject of his sport and trade,  
 Veils with his sable hand the wretch's eyes,  
 And, groaning for the betts he loses by't, he dies.



T H E M O D E R N

F I N E L A D Y.

————— *Miseri quibus*  
*Intentata nites.*

HOR.

S KILL'D in each art, that can adorn the fair,  
 The spritely dance, the soft Italian air,  
 The tofs of quality, and high-bred flier,  
 Now lady Harriot reach'd her fifteenth year.  
 Wing'd with diversions all her moments flew,  
 Each, as it pass'd, presenting something new ;

Breakfasts

Breakfasts, and auctions wear the morn away,  
 Each evening gives an opera, or a play ;  
 Then *Brag's* eternal joys all night remain,  
 And kindly usher in the morn again.

For love no time has she, or inclination,  
 Yet must coquet it for the sake of fashion ;  
 For this she listens to each fop that's near,  
 Th' embroider'd colonel flatters with a sneer,  
 And the cropt ensign nuzzles in her ear.  
 But with most warmth her drefs and airs inspire  
 Th' ambitious bosom of the landed 'squire,  
 Who fain would quit plump Dolly's softer charms,  
 For wither'd lean *right honourable* arms ;  
 He bows with reverence at her sacred shrine,  
 And treats her as if sprung from race divine,  
 Which she returns with insolence and scorn,  
 Nor deigns to smile on a plebeian born.

Ere long by friends, by cards, and lovers cross'd,  
 Her fortune, health, and reputation lost ;  
 Her money gone, yet not a tradesman paid,  
 Her fame, yet she still damn'd to be a maid,  
 Her spirits sink, her nerves are so unstrung,  
 She weeps, if but a handsome thief is hung :  
 By mercers, lacemen, mantua-makers press'd,  
 But most for ready cash for play distress'd,  
 Where can she turn ?—the 'squire must all repair,  
 She condescends to listen to his pray'r,  
 And marries him at length in mere despair.

But

But soon th' endearments of a husband cloy,  
 Her soul, her frame incapable of joy :  
 She feels no transports in the bridal bed,  
 Of which so oft sh' has heard, so much has read ;  
 Then vex'd, that she should be condemn'd alone  
 To seek in vain this philosophick stone,  
 To abler tutors she resolves t' apply,  
 A prostitute from curiosity :

Hence men of ev'ry sort, and ev'ry size,  
 Impatient for heav'n's cordial drop, she tries ;  
 The fribbling beau, the rough unwieldy clown,  
 The ruddy templar newly on the town,  
 Th' Hibernian captain of gigantick make,  
 The brimful parson, and th' exhausted rake.

But still malignant Fate her wish denies,  
 Cards yield superior joys, to cards she flies ;  
 All night from *rout to rout* her chairmen run,  
 Again she plays, and is again undone.

Behold her now in Ruin's frightful jaws !  
 Bonds, judgments, executions ope their paws ;  
 Seize jewels, furniture, and plate, nor spare  
 The gilded chariot, or the tossel'd chair,  
 For lonely seat she's forc'd to quit the town,  
 And *Tubbs* conveys the wretched exile down.

Now rumbling o'er the stones of Tyburn-road,  
 Ne'er prefs'd with a more griev'd or guilty load ;  
 She bids adieu to all the well-known streets,  
 And envies ev'ry cinder-wench she meets :

And

And now the dreaded country first appears,  
 With sighs unfeign'd the dying noise she hears  
 Of distant coaches fainter by degrees,  
 Then starts, and trembles at the sight of trees.  
 Silent and sullen, like some captive queen,  
 She's drawn along, unwilling to be seen,  
 Until at length appears the ruin'd *hall*  
 Within the grass-green moat, and ivy'd wall,  
 The doleful prison where for ever she,  
 But not, alas! her griefs, must bury'd be.

Her coach the curate and the tradesmen meet,  
 Great-coated tenants her arrival greet,  
 And boys with stubble bonfires light the street,  
 While bells her ears with tongues discordant grate,  
 Types of the nuptial ties they celebrate :  
 But no rejoycings can unbend her brow,  
 Nor deigns she to return one aukward bow,  
 But bounces in disdain once to speak,  
 And wipes the trickling tear from off her cheek.

Now see her in the sad decline of life,  
 A peevish mistress, and a fulky wife ;  
 Her nerves unbrac'd, her faded cheek grown pale  
 With many a real, many a fancy'd ail ;  
 Of cards, admirers, equipage bereft,  
 Her insolence, and title only left ;  
 Severely humbled to her one-horse chair,  
 And the low pastimes of a country fair :