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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

The Exception.

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The E X C E P T I O N.

STANHOPE has gain'd one branch of fame,
To which, I'll prove, he has no claim.

Say they—"His favours he extends,

"Without regard to wealth, or friends :

"Of such disinterested spirit,

"Nothing prevails, with him, but merit ;

"Nay, he'll dispense with merit too,

"When modest want can reach his view."

Mere prejudice ! 'tis plain to me,
No man takes sweeter bribes than he.

To clear this point from any doubt,

A parallel shall help me out.

The noble FULVIA spurns at gain :
Freely she heals her lover's pain :

But, surely, you'll allow me this,

That, when she grants, she shares the bliss.

So STANHOPE, in each gen'rous action,
Reaps more than half the satisfaction.