Landesbibliothek Oldenburg

Digitalisierung von Drucken

A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert London, 1758

An Ode to William Pultney, Esq.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1908

[210]

Now, methinks, I hear thee fay,

- " Drink alone thy mountain-whey!
- " Wherefore tempt the Irish shoals?
- " Sights like thefe are nearer Paul's.



An ODE to WILLIAM PULTNEY, Efq;

By the Same.

I.

R EMOTE from liberty and truth,
By fortune's crime, my early youth
Drank error's poifon'd fprings.
Taught by dark creeds and mystick law,
Wrapt up in reverential awe,
I bow'd to priests and kings.

II.

Soon reason dawn'd, with troubled sight I caught the glimpse of painful light, Afflicted and asraid.

Too weak it shone to mark my way, Enough to tempt my steps to stray

Along the dubious shade.

III. Rest-



[211]

III.

Reftless I roam'd, when from afar
Lo Hooker shines! the friendly star
Sends forth a steady ray.
Thus cheer'd, and eager to pursue,
I mount, till glorious to my view,
Locke spreads the realms of day.

Now warm'd with noble Sidney's page,
I pant with all the patriot's rage;
Now wrapt in PLATO's dream,
With More and Harrington around
I tread fair Freedom's magick ground,

And trace the flatt'ring scheme.

V.

But foon the beauteous vision flies;
And hideous spectres now arise,
Corruption's direful train:
The partial judge perverting laws,
The priest forsaking virtue's cause,
And senates slaves to gain.

VI.

Vainly the pious artist's toil
Would rear to heaven a mortal pile,
On some immortal plan;
Within a sure, tho' varying date,
Consin'd alas! is every state
Of empire and of man.

03

VII. What

[212]

VII.

What tho' the good, the brave, the wife,
With adverse force undaunted rise,
To break th' eternal doom!
Tho' CATO liv'd, tho' TULLY spoke,
Tho' BRUTUS dealt the godlike stroke,
Yet perish'd fated ROME.

VIII.

To fwell fome future tyrant's pride,
Good FLEURY pours the golden tide
On Gallia's fimiling fhores;
Once more her fields fhall thirst in vain
For wholfome streams of honest gain,
While rapine wastes her stores.

IX.

Yet glorious is the great defign,
And fuch, O PULTNEY! fuch is thine,
To prop a nation's frame.
If crush'd beneath the sacred weight,
The ruins of a falling state
Shall tell the patriot's name.