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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

An Ode to the Right Honourable the Lord Lonsdale.

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

An ODE to the Right Honourable the
Lord LONSDALE.

By the Same.

I.

LONSDALE! thou ever-honour'd name,
For such is sacred virtue's claim,
Say why, my noble friend!
While nature sheds her balmy powers
O'er hill and dale, in leaves and flowers,
Say, why my joys suspend!

II.

Here spreads the lawn high-crown'd with wood,
Here slopes the vale, there winds the flood
In many a crystal maze.
The fishes sport, in silver pride
Slow moves the swan, on either side
The herds promiscuous graze.

III.

Or if the stiller shade you love,
Here solemn nods th' imbow'ring grove
O'er innocence and ease;
Whether with deep reflection fraught,
Or in the sprightly stream of thought,
The lighter trifles please.

O 3

IV. And

IV.

° And should the shaft of treacherous spleen
Glance venom'd through this peaceful scene,
Unheeded may it fly.

Provok'd, not tempted to repay,
Tho' truth severer prompt the lay,
A mean profaick lie.

V.

Here with the pheasant and the hare,
Unfearful of the human snare,
Have statesmen pass'd a day.
While far from yon forbidden gate,
Pale care and lank remorse await
Their slow-returning prey.

VI.

○! blind to all the joys of life,
Who seek them in the storm of strife,
Destroying, or destroy'd.
Less wretched they, and yet unblest'd,
Who batten in lethargic rest,
On blessings unenjoy'd.

VII.

But come, my friend, the sun invites,
For thee the town hath no delights,
Distasted and aggriev'd;
While fools believe, while villains cheat,
Too honest to approve deceit,
Too wise to be deceiv'd.

^a Alluding to a certain scandalous libel.

VIII. Or