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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

Inscription near a Sheep-cote. 1745. By the Same.

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Begin, ye songsters of the grove!
 O warble forth your noblest lay;
 Where SOMERSET vouchsafes to rove
 Ye leverets freely sport and play:
 —Peace to the strepent horn!
 Let no harsh dissonance disturb the morn,
 No sounds inelegant and rude
 Her sacred solitudes profane!
 Unless her candour not exclude
 The lowly shepherd's votive strain,
 Who tunes his reed amidst his rural cheer,
 Fearful, yet not averse, that SOMERSET should hear.



Inscription near a Sheep-cote. 1745.

By the Same.

Shepherd, would'st thou here obtain
 Pleasure unalloy'd with pain?
 Joy that suits the rural sphere?
 Gentle shepherd! lend an ear.

Learn to relish calm delight,
 Verdant vales, and fountains bright;
 Trees that nod on sloping hills,
 Caves that echo tinkling rills.

If

If thou can't no charm disclose
 In the simplest bud that blows ;
 Go, forsake thy plain and fold,
 Join the crowd, and toil for gold.

Tranquil pleasures never cloy ;
 Banish each tumultuous joy :
 All but love—for love inspires
 Fonder wishes, fiercer fires.

Love and all its joys be thine——
 Yet, ere thou the reins resign,
 Hear what reason seems to say,
 Hear attentive, and obey.

“ Crimson leaves the rose adorn,

“ But beneath 'em lurks a thorn :

“ Fair and flowery is the brake,

“ Yet it hides the vengeful snake.

“ Think not she, whose empty pride

“ Dares the fleecy garb deride ;

“ Think not she who, light and vain,

“ Scorns the sheep, can love the swain,

“ Artless deed and simple dress,

“ Mark the chosen shepherdes ;

“ Thoughts by decency controul'd,

“ Well conceiv'd, and freely told.

“ Sense

" Sense that shuns each conscious air,
 " Wit that falls ere well aware ;
 " Generous pity, prone to figh
 " If her kid or lambkin die.

" Let not lucre, let not pride
 " Draw thee from such charms aside ;
 " Have not those their proper sphere ?
 " Gentler passions triumph here.

" See, to sweeten thy repose,
 " The blossom buds, the fountain flows ;
 " Lo ! to crown thy healthful board,
 " All that milk and fruits afford.

" Seek no more — the rest is vain ;
 " Pleasure ending soon in pain :
 " Anguish lightly gilded o'er :
 " Close thy wish, and seek no more."



NANCY