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

**Dodsley, Robert**

**London, 1758**

The Dying Kid. By the Same.

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## The D Y I N G K I D.

By the Same.

*Optima quæque dies miseris mortalibus ævi**Prima fugit*— VIRG.

A TEAR bedews my Delia's eye,  
 To think yoh playful kid must die;  
 From crystal spring, and flowery mead,  
 Must, in his prime of life, recede!  
 Erewhile, in sportive circles round  
 She saw him wheel, and frisk, and bound;  
 From rock to rock pursue his way,  
 And, on the fearful margin, play.  
 Pleas'd on his various freaks to dwell,  
 She saw him climb my rustic cell;  
 Thence eye my lawns with verdure bright,  
 And seem all ravish'd at the sight.  
 She tells, with what delight he stood,  
 To trace his features in the flood:  
 Then skip'd aloof with quaint amaze;  
 And then drew near, again to gaze.  
 She tells me, how with eager speed  
 He flew, to hear my vocal reed;  
 And how, with critic face profound,  
 And stedfast ear, devour'd the sound.

His

His every frolic, light as air,  
 Deserves the gentle Delia's care ;  
 And tears bedew her tender eye,  
 To think the playful kid must die. —

But knows my Delia, timely wife,  
 How soon this blameless era flies ?  
 While violence and craft succeed ;  
 Unfair design, and ruthless deed !

Soon would the vine his wounds deplore,  
 And yield her purple gifts no more ;  
 Ah soon, eras'd from every grove  
 Were Delia's name, and Strephon's love.

No more those bow'rs might Strephon see,  
 Where first he fondly gaz'd on thee ;  
 No more those beds of flow'rets find,  
 Which for thy charming brows he twin'd.

Each wayward passion soon would tear  
 His bosom, now so void of care ;  
 And, when they left his ebbing vein,  
 What, but insipid age, remain ?

Then mourn not the decrees of fate,  
 That gave his life so short a date ;  
 And I will join thy tenderest sighs,  
 To think that youth so swiftly flies !

