

Landesbibliothek Oldenburg

Digitalisierung von Drucken

A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

Verses to William Shenstone, Esq; On receiving a Gilt Pocket-Book. 1751.
By Mr. Jago.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-1957



VERSES TO WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Esq;

On receiving a Gilt Pocket-Book. 1751.

By Mr. J A G O.

TH E S E spotless leaves, this neat array
Might *well* invite your charming quill,
In fair assemblage to display
The power of learning, wit, and skill ;

But since *you* carelessly refuse,
And to my pen the task assign ;
O ! let your Genius guide my Muse,
And every vulgar thought refine.

Teach me your best, your best-lov'd art,
With frugal care to store my mind ;
In *this* to play the miser's part,
And give mean lucre to the wind :

To shun the coxcomb's empty noise ;
To scorn the villain's artful mask ;
Nor trust gay pleasure's fleeting joys,
Nor urge ambition's endless task.

Teach

Teach me to stem youth's boisterous tide ;
 To regulate its giddy rage ;
 By reason's aid, my barque to guide
 Into the friendly port of age :

To share what *classic* culture yields ;
 Thro' *rhétoric's* painted meads to roam ;
 With you to reap historic fields,
 And bring the golden harvest home.

To taste the genuine sweets of *wit* ;
 To quaff in *humour's* sprightly bowl ;
 The philosophic *mean* to hit,
 And prize the dignity of soul.

Teach me to read fair *Nature's* book,
 Wide-opening in each flowery plain ;
 And with judicious eye to look
 On all the glories of her reign.

To hail her seated on her throne ;
 By awful woods encompass'd round :
 Or her *divine* extraction own,
 Tho' with a wreath of rushes crown'd.

Thro' arched walks, o'er spreading lawns,
 Near solemn rocks, with *her* to rove :
 Or court her, 'mid her gentle fauns,
 In mossy cell, or maple grove.

