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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

Hymn to Miss Laurence, in the Pump-Room, Bath, 1753.

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 HYMN to Miss LAURENCE, in
 the PUMP-ROOM. BATH, 1753.

NAIAD of this healthful stream,
 Fair LAURENTIA, if I deem
 Rightly of thy office here,
 If the theme may please thine ear,
 Listen gracious to my lays,
 While the springs of HEALTH I praise:
 Nor will less thy glory shine,
 If their praise I blend with thine.
 For of their renown of old
 Stories many FAME hath told:
 Ancient bards their name have sung
 Heroes, kings, and gods among,
 And with various titles grac'd,
 While their fountain-head they trac'd.
 Whether a BLADUD, king of yore,
 Skill'd in philosophic lore,
 Mingling various kinds of earth,
 Metallic, gave the waters birth,

a BLADUD] See Mr. Selden's notes on the third song of
 Drayton's POLYOLBION, where, in an ancient fragment of
 rhimes, are enumerated all the ingredients which BLADUD im-
 ploy'd in making the baths.

KING'S

KING'S-BATH nam'd, beneath thy feet
 Boiling ay with mineral heat :
 Or, whether from his car on high
 Phœbus saw with amorous eye
 The fountain-nymph, with humid train,
 Light of foot, trip o'er the plain ;
 Strait the god, inflam'd with love,
 Swift descending from above,
 All in fervors bright array'd
 Prefs'd her bosom ; and the maid
 Gladly to his warm embrace
 Yielded : whence the happy place,
 Where the nymph he woo'd and won,
 Was call'd the ^b WATERS OF THE SUN.
 FAME that title widely spred ;
 Yet, ere Roman legions fled
 The wrath of sturdy British knights,
 Pallas claim'd religious rights ;
 British ^c PALLADOUR then rose,
 From the goddess nam'd, who chose
 Near her favourite streams to dwell,
 Guardian of the sacred well.

^b WATERS OF THE SUN] *Aquæ solis. Bath. Sol in hac urbe templum habuit, et nomen quod exhibet Antoninus, loco dedit.*

Antonini lter XIV. publish'd by Gale.

^c PALLADOUR] *Pallas etiam, teste Solino, fontibus hisce fuit præsul, suamque habuit ædem, ubi et perpetuus ignes. Ab eâ, appellabatur Britannis, Caer PALLADOUR: Urbs aquæ Palladiæ.*

Ibid.

But

But long since d HYGEIA fair
 Under her peculiar care
 Receiv'd the springs; for well she knows
 Each salubrious rill that flows
 Forth from subterranean vaults,
 Stor'd by NATURE's hand with salts,
 Steel, or sulphur: for *her* use
 NATURE opens every sluice,
 Which HYGEIA gives in charge
 To sev'ral nymphs: herself at large
 Roams o'er hill, and dale, and plain,
 Lack'd by a duteous train;
 Oreads, Naiads, Dryads pay
 Service glad: some smoothe her way,
 Or mists disperse, or brush the trees;
 Others waft the morning-breeze
 From mountain-tops; adown the hills
 Others pour refreshing rills,
 Or bathe her limbs in fountain neat,
 Aiding, all, her influence sweet.
 SHE with smiling eye surveys
 Rustic labours, and conveys
 STRENGTH to the active thresher's arm,
 To village-maidens BEAUTY's charm.
 Happy are the sons of earth
 Whom the goddesses at their birth

d HYGEIA] *The goddess of health.*

Shin'd



Shin'd on. Yet, her heavenly ray
 Numbers, not respecting, stray
 From her presence, and pursue
 LUXURY's paths, whose fordid crew,
 LUST inordinate, and SLOTH,
 And GLUTTONY's unwieldy growth,
 Lead them on to SHAME, and PAIN,
 And MALADIES, an endless train.
 Oft with pangs distracting torn
 They HYGEIA's absence mourn ;
 Bitter change ! their languid eyes
 Feel not joy in sunny skies ;
 Nor doth NIGHT, with slumber blest,
 Close them at the hour of rest.
 And oft with sighs, and tears, and pray'r
 Half-suppress'd by sad despair,
 They the queen of health implore
 Her wish'd presence to restore.

Nor unmindful of their woes
 Is the goddess ; for she chose
 Thee, LAURENTIA, loveliest maid
 Among thy sister nymphs, who play'd
 On the banks of e Avon, Thee,
 Bright-ey'd nymph, she chose to be
 Her substitute, and pow'r she gave
 Sov'reign o'er the healing wave

e Avon] *The river which runs by Bath.*

Which

Which thou rul'st with gentle sway,
 Thee the smoaking ties obey,
 Joyous; and at thy command
 Wash thy f rosy-finger'd hand;
 Thence in crystal cups convey'd
 Yield their salutary aid
 To all, whom Thou with look benign
 Smil'st on round HYGEIA's shrine;
 All of appetite deprav'd,
 Those whom pale-ey'd SPLEEN enslav'd,
 Cripples bent with gouty pain,
 Whom JAUNDICE ting'd with muddy stain,
 Or whose frame of nerves, with stroke
 Benumbing, tremulous PALSY broke.
 These the balmy, cordial stream
 Quaff, rejoicing; Thee, their theme
 Of praise, extoll; thy tender care,
 Thy soft address, and courteous air:
 And while § HARMONY, the friend
 Of HEALTH, delights to recommend
 Thy ministry, thy charms inspire
 Love, and joy, and gay desire:
 For the goddess, when she gave
 Rule imperial o'er the wave,
 To adorn the gift, and grace thy state,
 On Thee bade YOUTH and BEAUTY wait.

f Rofy-finger'd] *The effects of the hot water.*
 § HARMONY] *The music in the pump-room.*

Nor



Nor dost thou not taste delight
 Where thou sit'st in duteous plight;
 For the joy, thy hand bestows,
 Back to thee redounding flows,
 When the cheek of faded hue,
 Thou see'st displaying roses new.
 Thee suspended & crutches please,
 Signal trophies from DISEASE
 Won to HEALTH victorious. Hail,
 Comfort, and support of frail
 Human state! Hail, blooming maid!
 Nymph belov'd! without thy aid,
 He, who, greeting thee, his lays
 Now attunes to notes of praise,
 Mute had been, oppress'd with pain
 Of spasm rheumatic. Hail again,
 Priestesses of HYGEIA's shrine!
 Still dispense her gift divine,
 Still her vot'ries lead to HEALTH;
 Else, what profits Marlborough's wealth,
^h Eliza's form, and Stanhope's wit,
 And all the eloquence of Pitt.

& Crutches] *Over Bladud's image in the king's bath hang many crutches.*

^h Eliza] *Lady Betty Spencer.*

ΥΓΙΑΙΝΕΙΝ ΜΕΝ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΝ ΤΟ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝ
 ΚΑΛΟΝ ΓΕΝΕΣΘΑΙ ΤΡΙΤΟΝ ΔΕ ΠΛΟΥΤΕΙΝ.

LUCIAN.