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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

The Bears and Bees. A Fable. By the Same.

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The BEARS and BEES. A FABLE.

By the same.

AS two young Bears in wanton mood,
 Forth-issuing from a neighbouring wood,
 Came where th'industrious Bees had stor'd
 In artful cells their luscious hoard ;
 O'erjoy'd they seiz'd with eager haste
 Luxurious on the rich repast.
 Alarm'd at this the little crew
 About their ears vindictive flew.
 The beasts unable to sustain
 Th' unequal combat, quit the plain ;
 Halfblind with rage, and mad with pain ;
 Their native shelter they regain ;
 There sit, and now discreeter grown,
 Too late their rashness they bemoan ;
 And this by dear experience gain,
 That pleasure's ever bought with pain.
 So when the gilded baits of vice
 Are plac'd before our longing eyes,
 With greedy haste we snatch our fill,
 And swallow down the latent ill ;
 But when experiencè opes our eyes,
 Away the fancy'd pleasure flies.
 It flies, but oh ! too late we find
 It leaves a real sting behind.

A FRAGMENT.

