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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

Part of a Letter to my Sisters at Crux- Easton, wrote from Cairo in Egypt,
August 1734. By the Same.

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And all I've yet beheld or known
Serve only to endear my own.

The matters I shall next disclose,
'Tis likely may be wrapp'd in prose ;
But verse methought would suit these better,
Besides, it lengthens out my letter.
Read then, dear girls, with kind regard,
What comes so far, what comes so hard ;
And to our mother too make known,
How travelling has improv'd her son.

Let not malicious critics join
Pope's homespun rhimes in rank with mine,
Form'd on that very spot of earth,
Where Homer's self receiv'd his birth ;
Add, as I said, t' enhance their worth,
The pains they cost in bringing forth ;
While his, as all mankind agrees,
Tho' wrote with care, are wrote with ease.



Part of a LETTER to my Sisters at CRUX-
EASTON, wrote from CAIRO in EGYPT,
AUGUST 1734.

By the Same.

WHILE you, my dear girls, in your paradise stray,
Diverting with innocent freedom the day,
I wander alone in a barbarous land,
Half bak'd by the sun, half blind by the sand.

Then

Then your wood too and grotto so swim in my fight,
 They give me no respite by day nor by night ;
 No sooner asleep but I'm dreaming of you ;
 I am just wak'd from one,—wou'd to God it were true.

Methought I was now a fine gentleman grown,
 And had got, Lord knows how, an estate of my own ;
 Good-bye to plain Tom, I was rais'd a peg higher ;
 Some call'd me his worship, and others the squire.

'Twas a place, I remember, exactly like Easton,
 A scene for an emperor's fancy to feast on.

There I built a fine house with great cost and great care,
 (Your la'ships have form'd many such in the air)
 Not of stucco, nor brick, but as good Portland stone,
 As Kent wou'd desire to be working upon.

The apartments not small, nor monstrously great,
 But chiefly for use, and a little for state ;

So begilt, and becarv'd, and with ornaments grac'd,
 That ev'ry one said, I'd an excellent taste.

Here I liv'd like a king, never hoarded my self,

Kept a coach for my sisters, a nag for myself, [come,
 With something that's good when our Highclear friends
 And, spite of 'squire Herbert, a fire in each room.

A canal made for profit as well as for pleasure,
 That's about, let me see, two acres in measure ;

Both the eye to delight, and the table to crown,
 With a jack, or a perch, when my uncles come down.

An exceeding great wood, that's been set a great while,
 In length near a league, and in breadth near a mile.

