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A Collection Of Poems In Six Volumes. By Several Hands

Dodsley, Robert

London, 1758

On a Spider.

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Visual Library

On a SPIDER.

ARTIST, who underneath my table
Thy curious texture haſt diſplay'd;
Who, if we may believe the fable,
Wert once a fair ingenious maid:

Inſidious, reſtleſs, watchful ſpider,
Fear no officious damſel's broom,
Extend thy artful fabric wider,
And ſpread thy banners round my room.

Swept from the rich man's coſtly ceiling,
Thou'rt welcome to my homely roof;
Here may'ſt thou find a peaceful dwelling,
And undiſturb'd attend thy woof.

Whilſt I thy wond'rous fabric ſtare at,
And think on hapleſs poet's fate;
Like thee confin'd to lonely garret,
And rudely baniſh'd rooms of ſtate.

And as from out thy tortur'd body
Thou draw'ſt thy ſlender ſtring with pain,
So does he labour, like a noddy,
To ſpin materials from his brain.

He