

Landesbibliothek Oldenburg

Digitalisierung von Drucken

Frailties of fashion, or, the adventures of an Irish smock

interspersed with whimsical anecdotes of a Nankeen pair of breeches

Illustrated with some of the most striking and humorous descriptions in high and low life, that fancy can suggest ...

London, 1783

Chap. VI.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-17682

C H A P. VI.

Mr. Floyd returns.—Contrives to get possession of his wife's fortune.—Quits her in great distress.—She is obliged to commence governante.—Gets into Lady Brilliant's family to teach her daughters French.

UPON Mr. Floyd's return to the capital, he had great reason to suspect his wife's infidelity, and though love had been no part of the consideration that had brought them together, he resolved to get rid of her, but not her money. He accordingly artfully concealed his suspicions of her criminality, appeared more than commonly fond of her, and having laid in a fresh stock of health and vigour, which the air of the mountains of Wales had communicated, he rushed upon her with such lust, that like one of his country

country goats, he now approved himself of the most amorous disposition, though he had, in his first connubial extacy been found deficient, and only turned out what her *caro sposo* stiled at that time a very *mazette* for conjugal gratification.

His assiduities and abilities greatly pleased Mrs. Floyd, and she for some time forgot her Irish chairmen, and her other powerful gallants, who had solaced her during the reverend gentleman's absence. In fine, he so far ingratiated himself into his wife's good graces, that he prevailed upon her to sell out of the Bank, having persuaded her that she might place her money to far greater advantage in India Stock, as Peace was coming about, and Hyder Ally must submit to Sir Eyre Coote.

No

No sooner had he accomplished this design, and gained possession of all her cash, than he took a French leave, *a la fourdine*, and left her to curse her folly and credulity. He set off for Ireland, and at Holyhead wrote her a letter of the severest reproach, for her infidelities to the nuptial bed, which had justly incurred his resentment and revenge.

Mrs. Floyd read this curious epistle with remorse as well as indignation; but her distress soon roused her from reflecting upon her past follies and indiscretions; she was reduced to her last guinea, and did not know where to get another. In this situation, reading an advertisement in one of the papers, that a private tutoress was wanted in a nobleman's family, she immediately repaired according to the address, and
was

was soon after introduced to Lady Brilliant.

This lady had been one of the most celebrated toasts upon the *haut ton*, and still possessed such attractions as entitled her to rank a very fine woman, though she had at this time three female children, the eldest of whom was upwards of ten years old. The world had been pretty free with her ladyship's reputation, and Lord Brilliant had some doubts concerning his being the real father of his nominal children. His Lordship had declared to her Ladyship his apprehensions upon this subject; but when she fell on her knees, and swore in the most solemn manner that she never injured his bed—*till she was convinced of her being pregnant*; his Lordship appeared perfectly reconciled to his fate, and added, *if that is the*

botqobn

D 3

case,

case, I beg, my lady, you will never deviate from so eligible a plan.

Mrs. Floyd was introduced to Lady Brilliant at this very critical juncture, and overheard the greatest part of their conversation. As soon as her Ladyship had recovered herself from the surprize she was thrown into at seeing a stranger enter in her state of confusion, she enquired Mrs. Floyd's business? To which the latter replied, in consequence of the advertisement she had applied to Mrs. Lappet the milliner, who had directed her to wait upon her Ladyship. Mrs. Floyd replied to Lady Brilliant's question concerning her name, that it was *Convert*, thinking this Gallic appellation would recommend her more firmly than the unfortunate ancient British one, which she had lately so much to her sorrow adopted.

adopted. But alas! she found herself nearly in a predicament similar to that of Sam Foote, when he first went over to France with Frank Delaval. It may be necessary to premise, that Foote at that period spoke French very indifferently, and *Frank* was only a *Commang vous parlez vous* Gallic scholar. At the gates of Calais every traveller gives in his name; Frank, notwithstanding his dialect, passed muster immediately, as *Delaval* sounded so much like a French name, and his figure being so perfectly elegant and imposing, that the enquirers could not have resisted the impulse of being polite to him, even if his name had appeared to them as gross as that of *Sam*. But when the modern Aristophanes came to announce his appellation, being *Foote*, the reply was, "*Ne badinez pas Monsieur—*"

Monfieur—Fou-tre; (for fuch is the effect it has in French.) “*Il n’y a pas moi en que ce foit votre nom;*” which was, “Don’t joke with us, Sir;—*Fou-tre!* it is impoffible that can be your name.” Thus it was with *Mademoifelle Convert*;—Lady *Brilliant* burft out in laughter, when ſhe ſaid that was her name: “Impoffible, *Mademoifelle*; it is incredible your mother would, whatever your father might do, go by that name.” But *Convert* perfiſting in the truth of what ſhe ſaid, her Ladyſhip concluded, at all events, ſhe muſt change that horrid name and go by another. Accordingly Mrs. Floyd once more reſumed her matrimonial appellation, and ſhe was admitted into the family.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

*An Arabian amour in the highest glee.—
A sketch of a Prince à Quinze, by
way of a counter part of the Count à
Quatorze.—A curious soliloquy after
enjoyment.—An opinion of a celebrated
Doct̃or of the Sarbonne, upon procre-
ation, illustrated with some other opi-
nions upon the same subject.*

WE have now an opportunity of
being introduced to one of the
most accomplished Messalinas, in the
person of Lady Brilliant. She had
tried professed riding-masters of every
country in the world, except those of
Arabia, and she was resolved that the
stallions of that country should not be
omitted in her catalogue.

Abzamo, the son of a Moorish
king, was just arrived from Arabia ;
she