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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. XX.

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C H A P. XX.

Betty being burnt out of the new female coterie, this conflagration compelled her to seek for another place—Is hired by Lord Drowsy to superintend his wife's fidelity—no—infidelity.—A lecture apropos, from a late celebrated trial, with the agreeable close.

AFTER Betty was burnt out of the new coterie, when some of the members sanctum sanctorum were finged, as a methodistical reasoner would say, by way of judgment for their scandalous proceedings, she found it expedient to inquire after another place, and was recommended to *Lord Drowsy*; the *lawful* husband of *Lady Sprightly*, whose nuptials, however, were never legally consummated, though it was a consummation her ladyship had
 most

most devoutly wished, till she met with a gallant of amazing parts, in the person of the athletic Captain M'Intosh.

Notwithstanding his Lordship so much resembled the fabulous dog in the manger, he was extremely jealous of her Ladyship, and had many reasons to suspect (and indeed very justly) that her pin-money was converted into p-ntle-money. He accordingly wanted a female servant, who had address enough either to get into her ladyship's confidence, or make such observations upon her behaviour, and the different appearances that might occur in various modes, shapes, and descriptions, so as to lead to a detection of her infidelity, and thereby gain a divorce.— No female servant was better qualified for this enterprize than Betty.

However,

However, as his Lordship, when she was introduced to him was reading the trial of Mrs. Williams for crim. con. he thought it a lucky opportunity to give her a lecture, by way of instruction, out of that valuable work, at once so useful, and so obnoxious to the cornuted part of the creation.

After his Lordship had enquired in what places she lived, and finding she had been thoroughly bred in such seminaries as must have initiated her into all the mysteries of intrigue, and her responses being entirely satisfactory, he bid her be seated, as she was the very woman he required, and should want no encouragement if she exerted her abilities, and by her address brought matters to a wished-for issue. His Lordship then read

read to her those parts of the deposition of Susannah Reeves, which were the most striking and apposite, laying the proper stress upon r—r, and the femina! marks upon the Smock, which was so congenial to the plan of this work, as to prove an *Irish one*.

His Lordship's lecture was as follows: "She farther saith, that on the same day mentioned above, she delivered to her mistress a clean shift, before she set out for Exeter; and after her return to Exmouth that evening, when she went up to wait on her mistress to bed, she then ordered this deponent to put another clean shift by the fire, for her to wear the next morning; and this deponent suspecting a criminal intercourse between Captain Peyton and her mistress, examined the shift which she had worn the preceding

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ding day, and was then taken off: and this deponent observed several marks or stains thereon, which she verily believes was occasioned by carnal ——— between Captain Peyton and her mistress, as her master had been from Exmouth some days. She further saith, that some evening in November 1779, her mistress returning from a walk, ordered her to bring her a pillow into the parlour, which she did, and her mistress lay down on the carpet before the fire; that it was then dark, and she shut the windows by her mistress's orders: the deponent then brought in candles, which her mistress ordered her to put out, because she said she wanted to sleep. Some time after, her mistress ordered her to light the candles; she then went into the room with a lighted candle, and saw Cap-



tain Peyton walking up and down the room, and her mistress standing against the wall in a very indecent attitude; her dress likewise much tumbled and discomposed; and her mistress then ordered her to bolt the back-door (no person being in the house at that time but her mistress and Captain Peyton, and herself) and go to the bakehouse for hot bread; but she did not go; and suspecting a criminal intercourse between the parties, as before, she listened near the parlour-door, and heard them romping and playing together; and she plainly heard Captain Peyton ask her mistress to let him r---r her; that then a bustle and struggle ensued, and she soon heard them breathe short, in such a manner as she verily thought they
they

they were in the act of carnal ———, and did then commit the crime of adultery together: that her mistress had then on a flowered muslin apron, which was very much torn under the tongue of her stays (which was sharp) and which was not so in the morning, when the deponent delivered it to her mistress; she likewise says that, she carried her mistress a clean shift the next morning, and observed on that which Mrs. Williams had taken off, divers marks or stains as if two people had had c——l knowledge of each other.”

His Lordship then turning over a page or two, went on in the following manner:

“ That the floor *of the room* was new deals which had been washed

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by

by this deponent one particular night, but the exact time she does not now recollect; and, the morning following M. s. Williams and the Captain met there, and were together alone: that after some time, they quitted the aforesaid room; and then the Captain and her mistress returned to it; and this deponent observed several marks or scratches on the floor, of about half the length of a man, before the great chair that stood in the dark corner of the room; and which appeared to have been done with the points of boots, or shoes: and this deponent observing something on a chair that was in the room, which appeared like — —, and her mistress perceiving that this deponent saw it, wiped it away with her own handkerchief.”

Now,

Now, said his Lordship, I think I have given you sufficient hints from the most authentic documents, how to proceed in your researches, concerning a detection of her ladyship's infidelity, which, added to your own judgment and experience, cannot, in all probability, fail to bring the great object to a proper issue.

After saying this, and putting a ten pound in Betty's hands, he closed the book, and we shall close the chapter.

N. 3. C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

*Mrs. W—ms. returns from Norfolk—
Renews her acquaintance with Buckram—an agreeable connexion takes place, which is interrupted by a strange accident—She is mistaken by the D. of M. for the Perdita—receives a handsome present, and is taken into keeping.*

MR S. W—ms's campaign to Norfolk turned out very different to what she expected; and, upon her return to town, she immediately waited upon Mr. Buckram, who gave her a very friendly reception. He not only furnished her with cash for her present use; but took her a very decent lodging in Bloomsbury, where he constantly visited her. The Nan-
keen