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

interspersed with whimsical anecdotes of a Nankeen pair of breeches

Containing among a great variety of curious connexions between the most celebrated Demi Reps and Beaux Garçons upon the ton, the secret memoirs of Madame D'Eon as related by herself ...

**London, 1784**

Chap. XVII.

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## C H A P. XVII.

*Minionette enters into the service of Count D'Artois as a procurefs—succeeds in her negociation with Mrs. L-b-rt, is handsomely rewarded—Her intrigue with M. Pouffebien, a musqueteer—Her intrigue with M. Da—l—. The consequences of her itch for pilfering.*

**M**INIONETTE judged this a favourable opportunity of making an acquaintance with the Count, whose amours re-echoed through Paris, and in which she thought she could act a very useful part to his Highness, and a no less beneficial one to herself. With these sentiments she failed not to ingratiate herself as much as possible with

with the Count, and to enforce all the services she could render him. His Highness thought himself happy in meeting with a woman, so finely calculated for his purpose, as he had had for some time an English Lady in his eye, whom all the Parisian procureesses had ineffectually endeavoured to obtain for him.

His Highness communicated his design to Minionette, informing her, that he was well assured Mrs. L-b-rt, the Lady in question, was comeatable; but unfortunately she spoke very little French, and his Duennas could not speak a syllable of English. The case was very different with his present negociatress, as she spoke French and English almost equally fluent. Minionette accordingly entered upon the  
business

business, having previously *la patte graissée*, with a hundred Louis d'Ors.

She first made herself acquainted with Mrs. L-b-t's situation and connexions in England. She found this Lady had lately been separated from her husband, upon a detection in an intrigue with Captain S— of the guards, who had gained her affections by promising her an elegant *vis-a-vis*; but not having fulfilled his agreement, she broke with him, and had repaired to Paris in a fit of picque and resentment. Minionette, accordingly produced a letter, supposed to be written by the Captain, in which he apologized for his neglect, and promised if she would return, to fulfil all his agreements. The contents of this epistle exasperated her ten times more than ever; she tore it, and threw it into the fire, vociferating,

rating, "Treacherous villain!—do you think I am to be imposed upon a second time!" So far the embassy had the most happy effect that could be devised, and the Count having been previously made acquainted with her *penchant* for equipages, had ordered one of the most elegant that could be devised in Paris, with Mrs. L-b-t's cypher and crest. Upon a signal from Minionette he made his appearance in it, and being announced as the coach-maker he was introduced.

Mrs. L-b-t was greatly astonished when she was informed that the brilliant carriage at the door was her's. Her amazement increased at being informed that it was ordered by Count D'Artois, as she *declared* she had never spoken to his Highness in her life, though she must acknowledge it  
was

was an honour she could have wished for, as she was informed he was one of the most polite and accomplished gentlemen in France."

"You are mistaken, Madam, said the Prince, I have just had that felicity which surpasses all honour; when throwing off his great coat he discovered his star; and Mrs. L-b-t soon recognized his features. Thus taken by surprize, the Count flung himself at her feet, and intreated her to accept of the carriage. His importunities were so polite and persuasive, that she by degrees consented, and the next day she shone the meteor of all Paris, as this present was accompanied by several others, which enabled her to out-sparkle the most brilliant toast at the opera.

VOL. I.

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Finding the Count so extremely generous, and so completely to her mind, we may, without the aid of foresight, suggest, that he soon supplied the place of the discarded captain.

This intrigue was carried on for some week at Minionette's apartments, without the world's having any suspicion of it, as both the parties repaired thither constantly in disguise, and the duenna was so skilful in her operations, that the landlady of the house was an intire stranger to any amour being carried on under her roof.

All Paris, however, were thunderstruck at seeing Mrs. L-b-t on a sudden make so dazzling a figure, after having remained in obscurity for several weeks. She appeared at all public places, and gave the *ton*; for being  
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a very fine woman, tall and elegant, in her prime, and an Englishwoman, she introduced many English fashions, which appearing so uncommonly becoming on her, and every woman fancying she can look as well as another, if dressed the same, the Parisian ladies, in their dishabille, appeared in the Thuilleries and Palais Royal as if they were walking in St. James's Park.

We may suppose, that whilst Minionette was performing these good offices for Mrs. L-b-t, she did not entirely forget herself. No, she had soon after her coming to Paris had an intrigue with a Musqueteer, who was a reputed petticoat pensioner; he therefore, never dilated his purse-strings in behalf of the fair sex, as he, on the contrary, thought, as being a very fine

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fellow, and an admired *cicisbio*, that the ladies *pin-money* was *pin-money* for him. Upon this principle he never made Minionette but trifling presents of baubles and trinkets of no intrinsic value, thinking that by presenting her his dear self, she was sufficiently honoured, and that *love for love* was the greatest barter he could possibly make.

Although Minionette had a *penchant* for Monsieur *Poussébien*, she was not quite of so disinterested a disposition, as to think that her charms were not deserving of more solid tributes than transitory blifs. She resolved, therefore, to play a double game the first opportunity that offered, which was not far distant.

Monsieur Du——l, Count Artois's private secretary, frequently attended  
him

him upon his amorous parties, as his Highness could place the greatest confidence in his secrecy and attachment. Whilst his Highness was amusing himself with Mrs. L-b-t in the bed-chamber, he frequently entered into very agreeable *tete-a-tetes* with Minionette in the drawing-room, and the sofa often bore testimony of, and supported such amorous scenes, as can better be imagined than described. Mr. Du——l had not, however, the abilities of pleasing like the athletic M. Poussieben: but he gratified her in another respect, much more to her advantage. He made her some valuable presents, and gave her several pecuniary testimonies, which did not a little gratify her avarice, which seemed to be her predominant passion. She, therefore, judiciously settled her

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amorous system upon a two-fold basis  
—Du——l for profit; Pouffebien for  
pleasure.

Such was the train of affairs, when  
Minionette's natural itch for pilfering  
could not be suppressed; it appeared  
to be inherent in her; for at a time  
that she might be said literally to roll  
in money, she could not resist the  
temptation of making free with  
Du——l's gold repeating watch set  
with jewels of considerable value. He  
discovered the theft, and was so en-  
raged at her perfidy and ingratitude,  
that he resolved to punish her in the  
most exemplary manner, had she not  
made her escape from Paris *a la Sour-  
dine*.

C H A P.

## C H A P. XVIII.

*Minionette returns to England—Is robbed upon the road, and reduced to great distress—Advertises for a tutor-essè's place in a boarding-school, and is accordingly engaged—Her insidious arts of debauching the morals of the young ladies, by which several were enticed to follow such practices as nearly proved fatal to them—Is detected in her proceedings, turned away, and soon found in the greatest necessity—Her connexion with a jolly Jack Tar.*

**M**INIONETTE judged it prudent to return to England, thinking she had made as good an harvest as had been in her power on the Continent. We accordingly a few days after the late discovery find her at Ostend, ready to embark for England.

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