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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. XX.

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to appoint a successor to Thomas, with which the reader shall be made acquainted in the succeeding chapter.

C H A P. XX.

Epistolary correspondence between Lady W—y and Mr. N—n— Little Isaac is put to the test, and approves himself worthy of the recommendation he carries with him to Lady W—y.— Amorous frolic, in various Arétin's attitudes, &c.

AT the close of the last chapter we prepared our readers for a happy thought which struck Mrs. N—n. We shall soon reveal it. An epistolary correspondence had for some time subsisted between Mrs. N—n and Lady W—y; their ideas were so congenial, and their sentiments so sym-

N 2 pathetic

pathetic with respect to all that regarded the amorous passion, that they appeared to feel and see with the same organs; as the following billet from Lady W—y to Mrs. N—n, which the latter had just received will evince.

Lady W—y to Mrs. N—n.

“ The Captain acquitted himself last night tolerably well, owing, I believe, to an extraordinary dose of cantharides, which I administered without his knowledge in a glass of Champagne;—I shall administer a larger to-night, in hopes he will *discharge* his obligations in proportion; all my fear is, I shall find him in the morning like Gen. Armiger: In that case, if he is cut away from me, it cannot be near so bad as *Cæsarian* operation, I shall renew
my

my acquaintance with Lord D—h—t, who, tho' blind as love, seemed so greatly enamoured with me in our last *tete-a-tete* (some people for the double entendre may reverse it) that I think he was Cupid himself. Hower, if you have a supernumerary collection of *chers amis*; you may transfer them to me, though they do not rise superior to a coachman who drives with a footman, and understands his paces, or a postillion who mounts *secundem artem*. *Auresse*, I leave it to you.

Your's,

W—y.

Mrs. N—n had been ruminating upon this letter which she had just received from Lady W—y; and the idea of Lord D—h—t being so well qualified to afford delight, struck her

N 3

fancy

fancy very forcibly, and she began to form various projects for supplanting her Ladyship with her noble gallant. Tom the coachman was worn out in the service, and though she had, ere now seduced little Isaac to her arms, he played his game so cunningly for fear of meeting with a similar fate to his fellow-servant, that his mistress was not satisfied with his performances. Besides Mrs. N—n's pride was somewhat roused at the thought of having an intrigue with a nobleman, who had so eminently distinguished himself in the annals of gallantry.

Scarcely had she come to the final resolution of leaving no stone unturned to be happy in the embrace of Lord D—h—t, than Mrs. Lustring, her mantua-maker, was announced. Mrs. N—n was then sipping her chocolate
in

in bed, and she gave Mrs. Lustring an audience in that situation; after chocolate had been served to the worthy matron, and her spirits had been recruited by a cordial, she began to open her budget of scandal; gave an account of the different intrigues that were carried on at her house, which she declared was the most secret rendezvous for *tete-a-tete* parties of any in town, and concluded that Lord D—h—t was to meet Lady W—y there to-morrow evening by appointment.

Nothing could have been more grateful to the ears of Mrs. N—n than this information. My dear Mrs. Lustring, said she, pray take another drop of cordial, as it has done you great good, and much enlivened your spirits this cold morning. Mrs. N—n thus developed

developed the secret to her, of having resolved to supplant Lady W—y with Lord D—t; and that if Mrs. Lustring would afford her what assistance she could to carry the plan into execution, she would consider her as the best friend she had in the world, and should never think herself able to acquit the obligation.

The good Lady now inquired in what manner she could be effected. “Why,” resumed N—n, “let me personate Lady W—y to-morrow, my voice is not unlike hers, and I have the vanity to think I can afford his Lordship equal satisfaction to her Ladyship.” Mrs. Lustring hesitated a moment, and then said, “but, Madam, my honour, and the reputation of my house are at stake?” Nevertheless Mrs. N—n having applied a proper *douceur*;

douceur; Mrs. Lustring at length consented.

The only obstacle that now occurred to Mrs. N--n for the completion of her project, was the danger of meeting my Lady face to face at the time and place of rendezvous. However, after some minutes meditation, she resolved upon the following scheme: As Lady W--y had often signified to Mrs. N--n that she thought Isaac a fine young fellow, and that she envied her happiness in being possessed of such a lacquey; she resolved to send him with a billet, in answer to Lady W--y's last and to intimate that Isaac was much at her service, if she could prevail upon him to come to action. Accordingly the next day Mrs. N--n penned the following laconic epistle:

“ My

“ My dear Lady,

“ Your ideas of gratification charm me—Yet I tremble for the poor Captain, desist from administering *cantbarides*—give him a furlow, as I have with this sent him a substitute ; train him to your fancy, and make the best use you can of him. At present he is somewhat aukward in wielding his spontoon, but a little more practice and your Ladyship’s tuition, will, methinks, enable him to go through his exercise to your satisfaction.

I cannot conclude, my good lady, without repeating I admire your sentiments, they are so congenial with my own ; therefore,

Indulge, and to your Genius freely give,

For not to live as ease—it not to live.

Yours affectionately,

(*Au revoir.*) N—n.

Having sealed this billet, she dispatched Isaac with it at half past five in the afternoon, half an hour before the time of appointment with Lord D—t. No sooner had Isaac entered her apartment, and she had perused the letter, than she began to view the bearer very attentively. Isaac appeared more amiable and desirable in her ladyship's eyes than ever. Her passion began to operate in its full force. "Come nearer, said she, Isaac, you are not afraid of a woman, or you would not have lived so long with your mistress—you have a well turned leg and thigh, and those breeches display the manly contour of your limbs amazingly. Saying this, she stroked his Nankeen Breeches in such a manner, that poor Isaac lost two of his

his

his front buttons which were forced off in despite of his teeth.

Such an exhibition now presented itself, that Lady W—y could no longer subdue her rage for gratification; and as he had made no efforts to seize the opportunity that presented itself, she resolved it should not be lost. She with dexterity threw him upon his back on the sofa, mounted, and like another St. George, subdued the dragon, which had thus irritated her.

Isaac having surmounted all his fears of offending, and being presented with a refreshing glass of Madeira, his spirits and abilities were soon exhilarated and restored, and her ladyship was so perfectly satisfied with her own feats of horsemanship, which, in her opinion, far surpassed either Astley's or Hughes's that minutes and hours glided on imperceptibly

perceptibly; and it was near nine o'clock before she recollected her appointment with Lord D—h—t. She was at first somewhat mortified at having disappointed his Lordship; but she solaced herself with the reflection, that her time had not been mispent, and that his lordship probably could not have afforded her so much gratification, as little Isaac had done.

We had like to have omitted, that in the intervals of Lady W—y and Isaac's amorous dalliance, he entertained her with several anecdotes concerning Mrs. N—n, which her Ladyship was before unacquainted with; particularly the circumstance of Mrs. N—'s putting a paper into his watch case, (as mentioned in the Trial, vol. I. p. 4.) with this inscription in it.

Little Isaac, when'er your watch doth stand,
Remember always, I am near at hand.

VOL. I.

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CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

Mrs. N—n's interview with Lord D—t; the ample revenge she took upon Lady W—y,—reveals the secret to his Lordship, which greatly irritates him against Lady W—y.—An extraordinary adventure at Mrs. L—g's, —a female combat, accompanied with black eyes not natural, &c. &c. &c.

WHILST Lady W—y was thus amusing herself with Isaac, Mrs. Nn was not entirely idle at Mrs. Lustring's: she took ample revenge upon her ladyship, in the arms of Lord D—h—t.

His Lordship being introduced to Mrs. N—n as Lady W—y, he no sooner seized her hand, than without giving her time to speak, he almost devoured