

Address to the Ladies, Poem, 1767

ADDRESS to the LADIES.

YOUNG Ladies in town, and those that live round,
Let a friend at this season advise you ;
Since money's so scarce, and times growing worse,
Strange things may soon hap and surprise you :
First then throw aside your high topknots of pride,
Wear none but your own country linen ;
Of economy boast, let your pride be the most
To show clothes of your own make and spinning.
What if homespun they say is not quite so gay
As brocades, yet be not in a passion,
For when once it is known this is much wore in town
One and all will cry out 'tis the fashion !
And as one all agree that you'll not married be
To such as will wear London factory,
But at first sight refuse, tell them such you do choose
As encourage our own manufactory.
No more ribands wear, nor in rich dress appear,
Love your country much better than fine things,
Begin without passion, 'twill soon be the fashion
To grace your smooth locks with a twine string.
Throw aside your *Bohea*, and your *Green Hyson Tea*,
And all things with a new fashion duty ;
Procure a good store of the choice *Labrador*,
For there'll soon be enough here to suit ye.
These do without fear, and to all you'll appear
Fair, charming, true, lovely, and clever ;
Tho' the times remain darkish, young men may be
sparkish,
And love you much stronger than ever.

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