Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

# Poems

Poems on several occasions

**Gay, John**

**Edinburgh, 1773**

The equivocation. A tale

urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-263885

Visual Library

# THE

# EQUIVOCATION.

## A TALE.

AN abbot rich (whoſe taſte was good
Alike in ſcience and in food)
His biſhop had reſolv'd to treat
The biſhop came, the biſhop ate;
'Twas ſilence, till their ſtomachs fail'd;
And now at heretics they rail'd;
What hereſy (the prelate ſaid)
Is in that church where prieſts may wed!
Do not we take the church for life?
But thoſe divorce her for a wife;
Like laymen keep her in their houſes,
And own the children of their ſpouſes.
Vile practices! the abbot cry'd,
For pious uſe we're ſet aſide!
Shall we take wives? marriage at beſt
Is but carnality profeſt.
Now as the biſhop took his glaſs,
He ſpy'd our abbot's buxom laſs

Who croſs'd the room, he mark'd her eye
That glow'd with love; his pulſe beat high.
Fye, father, fye, (the prelate cries)
A maid ſo young! for ſhame, be wiſe.
Theſe indiſcretions lend a handle
To lewd lay-tongues, to give us ſcandal;
For your vow's ſake, this rule I give t'ye,
Let all your maids be turn'd of fifty.
The prieſt reply'd, I have not ſwerv'd,
But your chaſte precept well obſerv'd;
That laſs full twenty-five has told,
I've yet another who's as old;
Into one ſum their ages caſt;
So both my maids have fifty paſt.
The prelate ſmil'd, but durſt not blame;
For why? his Lordſhip did the ſame.
Let thoſe who reprimand their brothers,
Firſt mend the faults they find in others.