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Poems

Poems on several occasions

Gay, John

Edinburgh, 1773

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THE world, I believe, will take ſo little notice of me, that I need not take much of it. The critics may ſee by this poem, that I walk on foot, which probably may ſave me from their envy. I ſhould be ſorry to raiſe that paſſion in men whom I am ſo much obliged to, ſince they allow me an honour hitherto only ſhown to better writers: That of denying me to be the author of my own works.

Gentlemen, if there be any thing in this poem good enough to diſpleaſe you, and if it be any advantage to you to aſcribe it to ſome perſon of greater merit, I ſhall acquaint you, for your comfort, that, among many other obligations, I owe ſeveral hints of it to Dr Swift. And, if you will ſo far continue your favour as to write againſt it, I beg you to oblige me in accepting the following motto:

——Non tu, in Triviis, indocte, ſolebas
Stridenti, miſerum, ſtipula, diſperdere carmen?