
FROM

DELIA TO ALONZO.

WHO HAD SENT HER A SLIGHTING EPISTLE.

SIR, I your letter did peruse ;
So elegant the style you use,
Abash'd, confounded I did muse
Struck with amaze ;
Great wit and learning you diffuse
In all your lays.

You've been upon Parnassus' top,
More high than Alexander Pope ;
And wild Arabia's plains you grope
For Phenix rare,
That useful knowledge you may drop,
While dunces stare.

Your Pegafus, ftill on the wing,
More fweet than Philomel you fing ;
And fwift from diftant climes you bring

Notes hard to read :

Does Phenix, fir, from afhes fpring ?

'Tis ftrange indeed.

But more difficult 'tis to fcan,
That dire, deceitful creature man ;
Of all the work in Nature's plan,

Sure none can be

So intricate to underftan',

As myftic he.

His breaft is fill'd with mazy wiles ;
His count'nance ftor'd with fickle fmiles :
His flatt'ring fpeech too oft beguiles

Pure innocence ;

And when he writes, his lofty ftyle's

Replete with fenfe.

Such eloquence does merit praife ;
Deep erudition fwells your lays :

You seem the laureate of our days ;
 And all the nine,
 Your mighty character to raise,
 Do now combine.

'Tis pity, sir, that such as you
 Should agriculture's paths pursue,
 Or destin'd be to hold the plough
 On the cold plain ;
 More fit that laurels deck'd the brow
 Of such a swain.

Yet Homer's parts few did commend,
 Till death his doleful days did end ;
 Then seven cities did contend
 A right to claim ;
 Each vow'd from thence he did descend,
 So great his fame.

Perhaps, sir, in some future age,
 Struck with the beauties of your page,
 Old Scotia's chieftains may engage
 Your name to raise ;

More have they to excite their rage,
Than Homer's lays.

But I must drop the pond'rous theme,
Lest you my weak attempts should blame;
So sure your title is to fame,
Who runs may read;
Of such your merit to proclaim
You have no need.

Know then, that love within my breast,
Has never yet been known to rest;
Nor would I harbour such a guest,
To give me pain:
I wish you, fir, so much distress'd,
Soon well again.