

Kinross-House, 1776.

To ——— Esq; Member of the Capillaire Club.

LET every line convey a sifter's heart,
 And for thy health—her anxious fears impart.
 Think, O! my brother—alas! I have but one,
 The hour of riot, it may last too long.
 Folly and youth in all will have their sway,
 But reason too puts in a claim to-day.
 O! hear her voice! the worthy man prefer
 To the gay dissipate.
 While vain amusement takes up all thy time,
 These lines can show how I employ mine.
 Harmless at least, tho' now a sigh would break.
 To gayer scenes I fain would me betake;
 But soon suppress'd.
 In various arts my skill I do essay:
 To shade yon walk—and flowers of various kind,
 And various shrubs with sweetest woodbine bind.
 May some fair nymph, who all thy fancy takes—
 For you and her I plant it—for your sakes.
 But O! beware the noisy-coming she;
 May one more modest be design'd for thee;
 Temper—good-sense—nor can these grow familiar,
 Each day improves, tho' youth and beauty leave her.

Edinburgh,