

NAM 11/20/18

Monday next there will
be a Ball in this ~~part~~ ^{part} of the County,
at which I am to be introduced to the adorable
Miss H. Aged Seventeen — person tolerable
face better than one in three you meet with —
fortune £20,000 — a House & Park well stocked
with Geese — Birth to be sure, not thrice Noble
Education admirable — & from a fault in
the construction of her Pallat, she is less noisy
than the ~~generations~~ Misses of this Age
generally are — A qualification very desirable
in a Wife. Miss wants a Title, Master
wants her Cash; so that in all probability
matters may be adjusted without much
difficulty. The House is only Eight Miles
from Town, & a smart good chaise & four
shall always be ready to convey your Ladyship
to the Mansion. I propose making a very
brisk attack & don't doubt of success, my
personal Charms ^{mental} & accomplishments being
(as you know) absolutely irresistible. Your
presence will be expected at the solemnization

of the Nuptial Rites. As you're a Poet's progeny
send me some pretty Sonnets of your own
composing to Warble to the Lovesick Maid.
Let there be a proper proportion of Praise,
Bards, Loves, Graces, Cupids, Sighs, Groans
& Deaths — Something a la Shenstone
will do very well — for instance

1 What Whisp Hymens Doves import

2 What Happiness beam on each face

3 When ~~Clodia~~ ^{Clodia} gives up her Heart

4 And yields to her ~~Partner's~~ embrace

5 Let others of Courts boast the Pride

6 The raptures attendant on State

7 What Joys flow in luxury's Tide

8 What Transports on greatness wait

9 Yet Courts have no pleasure for me

10 State raptures afford me no ease

11 Ah Clodia when absent from thee

12 What is there on Earth that can please

13 Hymens Doves more clearly shall beg

14 More Happiness beam on each face

15 When Clodia resigns in her turn

16 And yields to her ~~W~~ ^M ~~ore~~ embrace.

I think such verses as these
must prevail — You'll find them more
harmonious if you read them according to
the Numbers prefixed to each Line. As I have

a fine Voice & a pretty taste for Music I
intend singing them to her & then if her heart
is not made of Marble I think she fortly
must surrender. Adieu. Yours sincerely & affect^{ly}

H

Belton House

3 Jan^{ry} 1779.



5 Stairs

James's.

